

# Southern Gables

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Serving Southern Gables and Valley View



SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com

FALL NEWSLETTER 2024

### ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Once in a while we get a call from a Realtor on behalf of someone who wants to move into our wonderful neighborhood, asking if it's true that the dues for our "HOA" are really only \$20. Well sure, and voluntary at that, but there's no HOA about it. It's simple really, just a bunch of people who volunteer their time and talents to do good things for the neighborhood, and

*Help make our great neighborhood even better.*

What the dues do? We sponsor block parties, neighborhood luncheons, neighborhood cleanup and maintenance projects, and Neighborhood Night Out. This year we had 750 neighbors come by and enjoy the big outdoor party, some reconnecting with friends they hadn't seen in years. Some lucky winners walked away with prizes from the free raffle, and lots of kids collected little prize goodies from games at our Selected Business Supporters' booths. At the end of each year we set aside what we will need to start up the next year, and then we do a very important task: making donations to organizations and charities that directly benefit our local area. To nominate a local organization to receive a donation, *Contact Us* on our website by the end of November with a proposal.

Sincerely,

*Bruce McDonald*

President, Southern Gables Neighborhood Association

### Southern Gables Holiday Mailbox Decorating Contest

Last year's holiday mailbox decorating contest was so popular we decided to do it again. It's easy to enter. Just do two things: (1) Decorate your mailbox and (2) Tell us. Then we'll do a third thing: Award prizes to three winners! All the details are on the next page.

### What Makes a Great Neighbor?

Throughout Southern Gables, we are fortunate to have many great neighbors. For many of us, it is a comfort to know and get along with the people around us, and we enjoy spending time with our neighbors. There are also neighbors who prefer to keep to themselves. Either way, it doesn't take a lot to be a good neighbor. Some possible ways to be a good neighbor are:

- Greeting each other with a smile
- Helping a neighbor carry in their groceries
- Sharing gardening techniques and plants, or being a part of the community garden
- Taking a meal to an elderly neighbor
- Helping a neighbor with their sidewalks when it snows, or their leaves in the fall.
- Engaging in conversation and relationships to help each other raise our kids or dogs
- Not setting off fireworks. Bang! Did that one surprise you?

In what ways are you a good neighbor? What do you consider a good neighbor? Easy questions, but important to consider.

– Christine Laursen

### Vote!

#### Key dates:

- Oct 11 – Ballots were mailed (got yours?) and the 24-hour drop boxes are available
- Oct 21 – Belmar Library Voting Center opens
- Oct 28 – Last day to mail your ballot
- Nov 1 – Lakewood Link & Green Mountain Rec Centers, and West Metro Fire Rescue Voting Centers open
- Nov 4 – Bear Valley Church Voting Center opens
- Nov 5 – **Election Day.** Vote until 7:00 pm.

To make sure your information is current, find voting locations and election security information, and track your ballot: [jeffco.us/elections](http://jeffco.us/elections).

## Halloween Tales from Jefferson County

Jefferson County is home to more than just stunning mountain views and outdoor adventures. It also harbors some spine-tingling supernatural stories that have captivated locals for generations.

One of the most famous haunted locations in the area is the Brook Forest Inn in Evergreen. Built in the early 1900s, this historic inn is said to be home to multiple spirits. Guests and staff have reported encounters with Jessica, a chambermaid who was allegedly murdered by her lover, and the ghost of the stable hand who took her life before ending his own.

In Golden, the Buffalo Bill Museum is believed to be haunted by none other than Buffalo Bill himself. Visitors have reported seeing objects move on their own and feeling unexplained cold spots throughout the museum. Some even claim to have seen the apparition of a woman who supposedly fell to her death on the premises.

The famous Red Rocks Amphitheater, known for its incredible concerts, also has a spooky side. Concertgoers and staff have reported sightings of a bearded man holding a bottle, believed to be the ghost of a miner, as well as a cowboy figure that appears and quickly vanishes.

For those seeking a more immersive paranormal experience, Jefferson County offers ghost tours that delve into the area's haunted history. The Colorado Haunted History tours in Golden explore tales of shootouts and other Wild West events that have left their supernatural mark on the town. Whether you're a skeptic or a believer, these ghostly tales add an intriguing layer to Jefferson County's rich history, reminding us that sometimes, the past isn't quite ready to rest.

– Joe Woelkers

Southern Gables Neighborhood Association dues are voluntary, \$20 per year, and help do good things for the community. You can pay dues by check to the P.O. Box address on the first page, by Venmo or PayPal (include name and address) or in person to any Board member.



**Venmo** @SGNA-Lakewood  
20.00 personal, 20.49 business



**PayPal**  
20.55

## Southern Gables Holiday Mailbox Decorating Contest

The holiday season will soon be upon us, and what better way to celebrate than by bringing our community together for a fun and festive Holiday Mailbox Decorating Contest!

### Here's How It Works:

Decorate Your mailbox. Get creative and deck out your mailbox with holiday cheer! Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or simply the winter season, use your imagination!

Email photos of your mailbox, your address and your contact information to [SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.com](mailto:SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.com) no later than December 20, 2024. (If you don't email, call Marci at 303-319-3177. I will come take the photos and get you entered!!) We'll have our panel of judges vote and notify the winners by December 22, 2024.

Prizes: 1st Place: \$100, 2nd Place: \$75, 3rd Place: \$50.

Tips for Success: Use weather-resistant materials to ensure your decorations last through the season. Be mindful of safety, especially with lights and other electrical elements. Most importantly, have fun and let your creativity shine!

We hope you'll join us in spreading some holiday cheer and making our neighborhood even more festive. If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to reach out to Marci DeMott.

Warm wishes and Happy Decorating!

– Marci DeMott

## Recurring Neighborhood Events

**Neighborhood Luncheons** are on first Thursdays at 11:30 at local restaurants. Next: November 3 at Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 3140 S. Wadsworth Blvd. RSVP: Judy Whitten, [jewhitten@comcast.net](mailto:jewhitten@comcast.net) or 303-986-7157. Location for each month is on the "Events" page on [southerngablesneighborhoodassociation.com](http://southerngablesneighborhoodassociation.com).

**Lakewood Ward 5 Meetings** are held monthly by our City Council members Jacob LaBure and Paula Nystrom at the Westwoods Community Church, 7700 W. Woodard Drive. Next: October 23 at 6:00 pm. To subscribe to Ward 5 notices for the topic of each meeting go to [bit.ly/ward5mtg](http://bit.ly/ward5mtg).

**Southern Gables Book Club** (bimonthly, third Wednesdays, book chosen each time for the next, rotating hosts) Next: December 18. Call or text Carolyn 303-915-5503 for book title and location.

## Drop your fall leaves at the Lakewood Greenhouse!

The Lakewood Greenhouse is at 9556 W. Yale Avenue, right around the corner from Southern Gables.

### November 16-25, 9:00-3:00

Staff will be available to assist residents on Saturday Nov. 16 and 23 only. The drop off site is open on Sundays but will not have staff available.

**Q: Why use the Lakewood Leaf Drop? Couldn't we just put the leaves in the trash? A: Oh no, please don't do that!** The leaves will be put to good use – making compost – instead of going to waste. The decomposition involved in composting is different from what happens in landfills. Landfills are oxygen-poor environments that cause decomposing organic matter to produce methane, a greenhouse gas that's 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere. Composting breaks down organic matter without creating methane, and it can help remove carbon from the atmosphere.

**Rules for the Lakewood Leaf Drop:** Lakewood residents only, leaves only, residences only. All leaves must be emptied on the pile. No bags, even if they are compostable bags. Remember too: it's against the law to sweep or blow leaves into the street.

**Another good option** is to rake leaves into your garden or perennial beds. They can serve as mulch rather than compost, still for good benefit. Leaves provide valuable organic matter and build up healthy soil. **Mulching** with fresh mulch into the winter will help roots and plants stay insulated, retain soil moisture, and slow the growth of weeds in the coming year. Mulching also makes a healthy home for microbes and worms underground, keeping your soil healthy through the winter. You can get free mulch at the Lakewood Greenhouse, load your own: Monday-Thursday 7:30 am - 2 pm, and Friday 7:30 am - 11 am.

### **Do you have a neighbor who can't rake their own leaves? Special Service for Elderly and Disabled.**

The Neighborhood Association organizes a free service by volunteer students from Denver Christian School for our residents who are elderly or disabled. Leaves will be raked on Friday November 1. To sign up yourself or recommend a deserving neighbor for leaf raking under this program, contact Judy Whitten, 303-986-7157 or [jewhitten@comcast.net](mailto:jewhitten@comcast.net).

## Falling for Fall: Seasonal Events & Festivities

**Glow at the Gardens, Oct. 22-27, Denver Botanic Gardens.** Wander an immersive, illuminated path to discover enchanted landscapes animated by live performers with hand-carved pumpkin displays around every bend. Whether you come in an elaborate costume or simply in a macabre mood – there's something for everyone at this one-of-a-kind experience!

**Denver Film Festival, Nov. 1-10.** Explore international cinema, virtual reality experiences, and creative conversations at various locations throughout Denver during this 10-day film festival.

**Of the Trees, Nov. 9-10, Red Rocks.** Enjoy an innovative electronic music producer famed for resonant basslines supporting atmospheric and ethereal sounds to create immersive soundscapes. Has headlined music festivals around the country this year. Will be something special.

**A Christmas Carol, Nov. 19 – Dec. 24, Denver Arts Complex.** Based on Charles Dickens' classic novel, the DCPA Theatre Company's "blessedly exhilarating!" production (*Westword*) illuminates the meaning of the holiday season in a way that has resonated for generations.

**Blossoms of Light, Nov. 20 – Jan. 12, Denver Botanic Gardens.** Celebrate the holiday season with a dazzling display of colorful lights. This annual tradition transforms the gardens into a winter wonderland.

**Denver Christkindlmarket, Nov. 22 – Dec. 23, Denver Civic Center Park.** Experience an authentic German holiday market right in the heart of Denver. Enjoy traditional Glühwein, Bavarian beers, and European treats while browsing handcrafted gifts from local and international vendors.

**Lakewood Lights, Dec. 5, Belmar Park.** Gather your friends, family and neighbors for this annual celebration! Join Lakewood Mayor and City Council for a lighting ceremony, then enjoy a stroll among the light displays, listen to festive live music and warm up with hot cocoa. Meet with jolly old Santa Claus or craft an ornament to commemorate this happy holiday. Free.

**Winter Solstice Celebration, Dec. 21, Bear Creek Lake Park.** Celebrate the first day of winter with a guided night hike! Then gather around the campfire for a marshmallow roast and celebration of the Winter Solstice that includes the traditional burning of the yule log. Bring your own mug to enjoy a hot beverage! \$5.

– Joe Woelkers

**SOUTHERN GABLES  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD**

**President:** Bruce McDonald, 303-526-8844  
bruce.mcdonald@hotmail.com

**Vice President:** Lisa Huntington-Kinn,  
303-808-8260 lisa@hkrealstateco.com

**Secretary:** Liza Patty, 720-980-2698  
LizaRPatty@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Bruce Loftis, 720-235-9830  
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**Area 1:** (Between Estes St, Garrison St,  
Woodard Ave, and Jewell Ave.) Marci DeMott  
303-319-3177 marcidemott@gmail.com

**Area 2:** (Between the Ag Ditch, Jewell Ave,  
Carr St, and Woodard Dr.) Carolyn Wolfrum  
303-915-5503 cwolfrum93@gmail.com

**Area 3:** (Between Evans Pl, Carr St, Woodard  
Dr, and Allison St.) Pam Engel-Livick  
303-903-6125 mthome2689@gmail.com

**Area 4:** (East of Allison St, west of Wadsworth  
Blvd) Sam Sotiros, 303-716-0581  
sam.sotirus@sotiros.com

**Area 5:** (Valley View: north of Morrison Road,  
both sides of Iliff Lane) Lisa Huntington-Kinn,  
303-808-8260 lisa@hkrealstateco.com

**Area 6:** (East of Estes St, south of Woodard)  
Joe Woelkers, 904-755-3523  
jw@zanerhardenlaw.com

**Area 7:** (Flower Way, Flower Court, Flower  
Street, Warren Drive west of Flower Street)  
Marcel Guajardo 720-939-9958  
marcelceliuss@gmail.com

**Area 8:** (Field Way, Field Street, Everett  
Street, Estes Way, west side of Estes Street,  
south side of Woodard Drive, both sides of  
Warren Drive between Flower Street and  
Estes Street.) ***Open, looking for a volunteer.***

**At Large:**

– Ken Fischer, 303-472-9746  
blazerwood@gmail.com

– Doug Whitten, 303-986-7157  
whittend@comcast.net

Newsletter editor: Bruce McDonald

For neighborhood information and events go to  
[SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com](http://SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com).  
“Subscribe” to get free notifications when  
weekly articles of local interest are published.



October 2024

Dear Southern Gables Neighborhood,

We are excited to share the latest news from Green Gables Elementary! We have had a wonderful start to the school year and it is hard to believe it is already October!

Our students are the heart of our school community, and their accomplishments never cease to amaze us. Whether it's academic achievements, artistic endeavors, or acts of kindness and leadership, our students embody the spirit of excellence that defines our school. We are proud of our Leprechauns!

We also have an incredible staff at Green Gables and I continue to be amazed by all they do for our students and community.

I would love to share a couple huge celebrations with you:

- Our facilities team, Mr. Luke Tran and Mr. Dennis Rojas, received an award for the BEST Elementary School Landscape. We have such a large school property and we are so fortunate to have such an incredible team.
- Our school was honored at the Board of Education meeting on October 17th for our incredible math growth on the spring Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) state assessment. We are one of thirteen Jeffco schools to have a Median Growth Percentile of 65 or higher. We are so proud of our staff and students as this is a huge accomplishment!

We are grateful for the Southern Gables community for your ongoing support and partnership Here's to a future filled with continued success and collaboration.

*Jenn Withee*

*Principal, Green Gables Elementary*

**This you gotta see!**

Our neighbor Ruby goes all out for all the big holidays when it comes to decorating. Drive by on Woodard just west of the school to see the Halloween extravaganza, and remember to check back at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Valentines Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July... for all the festival seasons, there's a show to see.

And Sean at 2166 S. Estes Way: Halloween is up now, and Christmas will follow – with lights dancing to music no less. Park nearby and tune to 91.9 FM. The show starts about 15 minutes past sunset and goes until 9pm Sunday thru Thursday and until 10:30 pm Friday and Saturday. For more information and updates follow the Facebook group "Lights on Estes by Accent Alarms." Please be kind and turn your headlights off, do not block traffic or driveways, and be noise conscious (not too loud) with radio volume while watching the lights.