

Southern Gables

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Serving Southern Gables and Valley View



SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com

SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2025

ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING Tuesday, May 6 at 7 PM

The Annual Membership meeting of the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association will be held at the Green Gables Elementary School Cafeteria on Tuesday, May 6 2025 at 7:00 pm. You can enter from the Woodard Drive side.

We have invited Mayor Strom and a representative of the Lakewood Police Community Action Team to talk with us about current items of interest in Lakewood. We will cover the Association annual report and election of Board officers. All Southern Gables and Valley View residents – Association members and non-members alike – are welcome.

Community Garage Sale Weekend Friday-Saturday June 6 and 7, 8 AM - 5 PM

A coordinated community-wide weekend has an advantage over doing it on your own. We will advertise the weekend of June 6-7 so everyone can get more potential buyers than by going it alone. To sweeten the deal we will provide a map online and at several sale locations to help buyers find all the sales.

Our neighbors in the development across Garrison to the west, Parkwest Ridge, will advertise their sale together with ours on the same weekend, to increase traffic for both of us.

Put your garage sale on the map

Call or text Marci DeMott at 303-319-3177 no later than Tuesday June 3 with your address, to be included on the map. If you have specialty items such as books, baby furniture, antiques, tools, sporting goods, etc., please be sure to mention that as well.

Did you know?

We have a website for and about Southern Gables. It's SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com and it has neighborhood information, events, and weekly articles of local interest. "Subscribe" to get free notifications when new articles are published.

**You already knew? OK, good.
Subscribe! It's free!**

SGNA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

When I first found our Southern Gables home, I knew right away that this is a place where neighbors are friendly, caring, and helpful. That good combination of qualities has only grown stronger as time goes on. It all makes our community a fantastic place to live, work, and play. This spirit of community makes it easy for our Southern Gables Neighborhood Association to do its job:

Help make our great neighborhood even better.

In this issue of our semiannual newsletter, you'll find updates on spring and summer activities:

- **May 6:** Join us for the annual Neighborhood Association meeting at 7:00 PM in the Green Gables Elementary cafeteria. Cookies and lemonade!
- **June 6-7:** Participate in the Community Garage Sale as a seller or shopper.
- **Host a Block Party:** We'd love to help sponsor your neighborhood gathering. Invite lots of people, get to know new neighbors, have a great time and we'll underwrite part of the hosting cost.
- **August 22:** Celebrate our annual Neighborhood Night Out with music, treats, games, a free raffle for cash prizes, and more—a perfect chance to connect with old friends and meet new ones.

... and lots more. Let's keep building this amazing community together!

— Bruce McDonald

Seasonal Renewal. As the warmth of spring arrives and turns to summer, join us for a series of vibrant events that celebrate growth, renewal, and community connection.

Wines Under the Sea Sip and Stroll, April 24, 7-10pm, Denver Aquarium. A one-of-a-kind Sip & Stroll in our Aquarium Exhibit and enjoy wines from Rioja. You'll get to enjoy the underwater exhibit with live entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and visits from ambassador animals.

Pikes Peak Birding and Nature Festival, May 15-18, Colorado Springs. A preeminent birding festival here in Colorado! 68 field trip opportunities, learning from a master falconer, hunting for high alpine birds on Pike's Peak, or even chillin in a chair waiting for the birds to come to you. This festival has it all.

Rockin Block Party, June 7, 5-11pm, Belmar. The evening will feature local food truck fare and Lakewood brews available for purchase alongside free family activities and kids crafts all evening long. With a beer garden. Free.

Big Foot Shares the Legend of Leave No Trace, June 7, 9-2, Roxborough State Park. Big Foot is a master when it comes to the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace. This legend leaves only footprints and has outdoor ethics down to a T! Join to learn more through activities, displays, games, and give aways.

Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique, Bravo! Vail, (Philadelphia Orchestra) July 11, 6pm \$35+, Vail. This symphony tells the story of a gifted artist's drug-fueled hallucinations, beginning with a ball and a scene in a field and ending with a march to the scaffold and a satanic dream. A muscular experience with lots of tuba. The Philadelphia Orchestra is a top world orchestra, not to be missed!

The String Cheese Incident, July 18-19, Red Rocks. A diverse and eclectic blend of various genres, reflecting their roots in bluegrass while incorporating elements from rock, electronica, calypso, country, funk, jazz, Latin, progressive rock, reggae, and psychedelia along with an improvisational flare.

Southern Gables Association dues are voluntary, \$20 per year, and help do good things for the community. You can pay dues by check to PO Box 36072, Denver CO 80236, or on our website, or using these QR codes (include name, address & email) or in person to any Board member.



Venmo @SGNA-Lakewood
20.00 pers, 20.49 bsns



PayPal or Credit Card
20.49

Volunteer? It's a good way to add enjoyment to life.

Volunteering can make you feel good. Some people say that means volunteers are selfish, doing things for others just for the benefit it gives them back. Ha! Don't let that stop you. The good that is done for the receiver is no small thing, however. Just to pick a random example, what if you were elderly or disabled and your house was getting neglected and the neighbors were calling the City to complain about it... and then someone came along and volunteered to paint it? Painting won't fix everything, but it helps make a neighborhood nicer.

PAINT-A-THON is a community-driven program sponsored by Brothers Redevelopment. It provides free exterior house painting services to older adults and individuals with disabilities who need help maintaining their homes. *You can do this.*

We can get up a group and volunteer. With at least 8 neighbors, we can organize and choose a project date that works best for us. The company provides all materials, safety equipment, and supervision. No prior experience needed! Paint-A-Thon Volunteer Day is July 19, 2025.

TO SIGN UP as a volunteer from Southern Gables, email us at SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.com and we'll put a list together. We will assemble a neighborhood group if there are enough volunteers, or if not then we'll see that you get connected to join others on Volunteer Day, July 19 2025. Get others to sign up with you, as a Southern Gables group or as individuals joining other groups! Decide and do it soon, even though July seem a long way off.

Another way you can help is by referring homeowners who may qualify for free painting services. If you know an older adult or individual with disabilities who owns and occupies their home and may need assistance, we encourage you to share this opportunity with them.

TO APPLY to have your house painted or to recommend others to have theirs done, email us (same as above) and we will point you to the application form.

It's good to be involved. It's healthy. It wakes you up. For a list of other local volunteer opportunities check out the list on our Southern Gables website. Shortcut to the list: bit.ly/sg-vol.

Spring? Already? Time to get going!

It's that time of year where we start to come outside more, and this year has given us many warm days to work on our yards. One thing that I love about living in a 60-year-old neighborhood is the diverse landscapes. The various ways we choose to landscape our yards adds to our neighborhood's charm.

Are you thinking of adding a new garden to your yard? One way to start a new garden is to cut down whatever is in the area where you want your garden as far down as you can (You do not need to dig it all up). Add a layer of cardboard and then a deep layer of mulch. You can also add some topsoil before the mulch. The best time to do this is in the fall, but the next best time is now. The cardboard will break apart and will create great soil for new plants. The key is patience... just let it sit, preferably until the cardboard breaks down, and that may take months. Regularly watering it helps the process speed up a bit. Even before it's all decomposed you can dig up where you add a plant and keep the cardboard in the rest of the area.

You will also want to give your yard some water, if we don't get any rain or snow. I try to do this once a week if there is no moisture. The number one way you will lose your flowers or plants here is lack of water. If you can wait to cut back your flowers from last year, you may be saving the eggs of some of the bugs that are good for the garden such as ladybugs and butterflies. You won't hear them thanking you, but they definitely will!

– Christine Laursen

City of Lakewood Mulch Giveaway Saturdays May 3 and 10, from 7 AM to 3 PM

Lakewood residents can get free mulch at the City Greenhouse, 9556 W Yale Ave. City staff workers will be available to assist with loading. Saturdays May 3 and 11, from 7 AM to 3 pm.

According to the Lakewood Forestry Department, Mulch helps landscaped areas retain water, which reduces the need for watering. It also assists with keeping soil temperatures consistent, which promotes the establishment of root systems. Mulch is an excellent weed barrier and beautifies landscaping.

Supporting local businesses

makes a better community.

Association Sponsored Activities

- **Southern Gables Neighborhood Luncheons** are held monthly, first Thursdays at 11:30 at local restaurants. The May 1 luncheon will be at Las Dalias, 7800 W Jewell Ave, Lakewood. RSVP to Judy Whitten, jewhitten@comcast.net 303-986-7157. For the venues each month you can check "Events" at southerngablesneighborhoodassociation.com.
- **Neighborhood Annual Meeting Tuesday May 6, 7:00 pm** at Green Gables Elementary. The Mayor will be there to provide a community update. We will give a report on neighborhood activities and hold the annual election of Association officers.
- **The Southern Gables Book Club** meets every other month, usually on the second Wednesday. The book and location are chosen each time for the following meeting. The book for May 14 is *The Wedding People* by Allison Espach. Call or text Carolyn 303-915-5503 to sign up for May and to get on the Evite list for future meeting notifications. Get the book soon and get reading right away!
- **Community Garage Sale Weekend** Friday June 7 and Saturday June 8. Southern Gables, Valley View, and Parkwest Ridge. Sign up to get on the list: see item on page 1. If you're signed up we will put your location on a map to be made available to garage-shoppers.

Neighborhood Night Out

Friday August 22, 5:00 - 7:30 PM

at the Green Gables Elementary
School Campus

See you there!

Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day Wednesday May 7, 2025 is a day to celebrate different environmentally friendly and physically healthy safe ways to get to school. Be especially aware of more students on our Southern Gables streets and sidewalks to and from school that day. **Easy volunteer opportunity!** Crossing Guard Volunteers are needed not only on that day but any school day! Please reach out to Jennifer Seltz at Green Gables Elementary School, Jennifer.Seltz@jeffco.k12.co.us or Amy Thompson amymalatesta@gmail.com.

SOUTHERN GABLES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD

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

Vice President: Marci DeMott,
303-319-3177 marcidemott@hotmail.com

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

Treasurer: Bruce Loftis, 720-235-9830
bruce.loftis@gmail.com

Area 1: (Between Garrison and Estes Streets, Jewell Ave and Woodard Drive) Marci DeMott 303-319-3177
marcidemott@gmail.com

Area 2: (Between Estes Street, Carr Street, Jewell Ave and Woodard Dr) Carolyn Wolfrum 303-915-5503
cwolfrum93@gmail.com

Area 3: (Between Carr Street and Allison Street, Jewell Ave and Woodard Dr) Pam Engel-Livick – 303-688-4705
mthome2689@gmail.com

Area 4: (East of Allison St, west of Wadsworth Blvd) Charles and Shannon Holiday 505-270-4691
highcountryskate@gmail.com

Area 5: (Valley View: north of Morrison Road, both sides of Iliff Lane)
Open – looking for a volunteer.

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

Area 7: (Flower Way, Flower Ct, Flower Street, Warren Dr west of Flower St) Marcel Guajardo 720-939-9958
marcelceliuss@gmail.com

Area 8: (Field St, Field Way, Everett St, Estes Way, Estes St, south side of Woodard Dr, both sides of Warren Dr between Flower and Estes)
Open – looking for a volunteer.

At Large:

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

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

Newsletter contributors: Bruce McDonald, Marci DeMott, Amy Thompson, Judy Whitten, Carolyn Wolfrum, Joe Woelkers.

Tote bags. We are settling final agreements with dozens of local businesses to get their promotional materials, flyers, discount coupons and passes in for our familiar green Southern Gables Tote Bags to be delivered to Southern Gables homes in the coming weeks. We will include a directory with all the businesses' information, and the same information is published on the Selected Business Supporters page of our website. Many of these same businesses will host booths at Neighborhood Night Out in August so you can get to know them better. Dealing with neighbors is good for everyone. Buy Local!

Summertime Block Parties

Sometimes with our winding streets, short cul-de-sacs and long through streets in Southern Gables it's hard to tell what a "block" is. We say it's however many people from around your house you can invite to make a good-sized crowd with lots of people. 30 homes, 60, 90? Call it a block. Neighbors get together on a cool summer evening, with a main dish provided or not but always potluck for sides and desserts, sit and visit with the summertime aromas of outdoor grills and the sounds of kids playing together. Longtime neighbors and new ones, getting to know and appreciate one another. Ahhh... summer!

The Neighborhood Association will sponsor block parties again this year in July and August (just not on Neighborhood Night Out), with stipends of \$100 to block party hosts. Apply by email to SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.com, tell us when and how many households you plan to invite, and we'll go from there.

You know... you can put a NO SOLICITORS sign on your door if you do not want salespeople knocking on your door. Remember you have every right to call the Lakewood Police at 303-987-7111 to report such disturbances if you have a sign.

You're still looking for something new, right?

How about this for fun? Want to test drive an electric car or an electric bike? Go to Lakewood's Earth Day Celebration at Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park on Saturday, April 26, 2025. The event is from 11 am to 4 pm and the test drives and rides will be from 11 until 2.

The Southern Gables Neighborhood Association is not an HOA. No covenants, no fines, no compliance boards. In Southern Gables we just get along with each other, cooperate, and help one another with friendliness and respect. But maybe – on rare occasions of course – you might wish you had an HOA to complain to about a problem that involves code enforcement. There *are* rules, after all, for all of us. Go to lakewood.org/codeenforcement to check the rules and take action.