



P.O. Box 280482
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Green Mountainside News

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**To register:
for GMCA
Bulletins
online, go to:**



President's Message

To the Residents of Green Mountainside,

I wish a happy New Year to all of our neighbors. We have completed a nice year, and look forward to 2014.

Highlights of 2013 are many. All of our events came off as planned with one exception, the Easter Bunny stayed out of a sudden spring snowstorm. We had a very well attended spring cleanup, and a good garage sale. The picnic with bounce house and music was a success, and the fall cleanup did its job. The fall Landscape judging went very well featuring a website display of about 20 homes. The Holiday Decorations advanced this year with reports in three categories including a sustainability category; and Santa one-upped the Easter Bunny with a wonderful visit to the kids at Foothills Elementary.

I feel that our website, www.GreenMountainEstates.org made substantial advances as it recast itself into an active site design to be useful to all neighbors from new neighbors first joining us, to neighbors that have been on the hill for 40+ years and are building the dream hot rod or perfecting the garden.

Our neighborhood is showing wonderful vitality as yards are being redesigned and additions to houses are being made. Through the real estate downturn, we developed a bit of a backlog of owners that wanted to sell their properties. Now with the upturn, these houses are turning quickly at ever-improving prices. Thanks to a beautiful neighborhood and a thriving community fueled by developments like the hospital and new government and commercial offices, our neighborhood is welcoming new neighbors and families of all ages.

GMCA will continue with our standard events calendar as well as ongoing activities. We hope that the Field of Dreams project between Foothills Park and Foothills Elementary breaks ground this year and reaches its full potential. The Field of Dreams project follows earlier GMCA successes like Foothills Park and our neighborhood entrance signs, and other successful activities like the Neighborhood Watch program which we expect to expand in 2014.

We are always looking for ideas that will improve our neighborhood both through property enhancement as well as quality of life. Ideas that are being kicked around are groups working on gardening and landscaping projects, and perhaps a photography group that could help by bringing graphic displays of our neighborhood to our website no matter what the season or reason. Speaking of gardening, we applied for the Neighborhood Participation Program Grant through the City of Lakewood for a Community Garden at Foothills Elementary. The city's final decision will be made in early 2014. We will keep you informed if we receive the grant.

I hope you all share the optimism and good spirit I feel as we move into 2014. And I want to thank the board and all the volunteers that made 2013 a success.

Rest assured we don't mean to have a corner on all the fun. GMCA is not a covenants-based HOA; GMCA is a volunteer civic association of neighbors. Sure it's a bit of work to do a picnic, or a cleanup, or a contest. But at the end of the day, it's fun. Come join us at a board meeting; or send a thought to LakewoodGMCA@gmail.org.

Sincerely,
Diane Rhodus
President,
Green Mountainside Civic Association

www.greenmountainstates.org

GMCA and the Electronic Age of Communication

GMCA has four methods of communication. Each is evolving, and we urge you to use and participate in each.

The year 2013 saw the expansion of the **GMCA Website**. The site now includes Landscape photographs, Cars of Green Mountain, a History section, many informational pages such as the New Neighbors section links to many other websites including Neighborhood Owned Businesses and Services. As a general feature, the website holds information of the most permanent nature when compared to the other three communication systems GMCA supports. Each of the other methods often refers to the website for more extensive information.

Bulletins are emailed to subscribing members a few times each month. Bulletins contain short descriptions of news events of interest to members on the mountain, community alerts including police and neighbor alerts, lost and found items of significance such as pets, and news about GMCA events and activities such as an upcoming picnic or the Holiday Lights event. Bulletins are sent to email addresses that have subscribed to them. We want to be a contributor to your day and not be spam. Anyone can subscribe to Bulletins on the form on the home page of GreenMountainEstates.org.

The **GMCA Newsletter** (you are reading now) is an annual printed mailing to every address in our membership. Other than our signs, this is the only time our association communicates with every address. The newsletter provides a brief review of the past year and a glimpse into what is coming up in the New Year. The newsletter is also the largest generator of revenue in our budget in that most of our neighbors make their annual contribution based on the coupon sent in this mailing. Because of the expense of producing the newsletter, we do this only once a year. This is possible because we have the other three communication components for more frequent communication. We're very interested in hearing your thoughts about how it can be most useful to you.

The newest of the four communication systems is **Nextdoor.com**. This system is an independent social network web site that is directed at a neighborhood. The Green Mountainside neighborhood in NextDoor.com is essentially the same as the GMCA membership geography. There is no formal organization to Nextdoor other than neighbors that have joined and share information. GMCA sees only benefit in our use of Nextdoor which has a key advantage: a member posts their own message and it goes instantly to all members. This is great for many things, such as lost cats, and does not have any intermediary like the GMCA webmaster. We encourage everyone to join.

Final Notes regarding your Email Address

Please use the website, GreenMountainEstates.org to subscribe to the GMCA Bulletin. Our privacy policy forbids GMCA from disclosing your email address to anyone for any reason **without your expressed permission**. Subscribing will make sure you are "in the loop" regarding your Green Mountainside neighborhood. **If you don't have an email address** please let **Dave Murphy** know **(303) 988-6433**. He'll work on figuring out a way to keep you "in the loop". **With or without an email address, you are a member of GMCA.**

Adopt-A-Family 2013

Every year for the Christmas holiday, GMCA participates in helping less fortunate families in our neighborhood. We were able to help four families have a very Merry Christmas! They received food, clothing, toys, and gift certificates.

Thank you to all our wonderful community volunteers and donations from Robyn Wood, Linda and Bill Pearson, Lois Wakefield, Stacey Mueller, Chris Jezek, Michael Babb, Tina and John Kulas, Jori Sjostrand, Adam Paul, Julie Sharpe, Gail and Dick Skaggs, Steve Schulte and Tina Atchley, Diane and Ed Rhodus, and Rick and Sheila Martin.

What do you want to do? (Subtitle: We are NOT an HOA.)

Some might say, “GMCA, it’s kind of like an HOA. (Home Owners Association)” Not much. In fact many of our newest neighbors are here because we are not a covenant-wielding HOA. We’re different.

We’re a volunteer organization of people that like where they live and want to make the neighborhood the best it can be. Sure we get into such things as “problem properties” and sometimes lobbying the city in our interests, and we’ve even hired lawyers to protect the mountain. But our real focus is on the events and activities that make for a happy and safe neighborhood.

How did these activities and events come to be? They all started with a person with an idea. What would it take to organize a garage sale day? What about getting some dumpsters and do a cleanup day? Or a picnic? Everything started with one person with an idea.

What’s your idea? What excites you and your neighbors? GMCA is actively working on gardening thoughts with an application to the city for funding of a community garden. How about a garden club? Maybe share some spring sproutlings.

Could we map the hill so that runners and walkers could put together their plan with mapped segments? How about adding to the history web pages with the narrative of your street or house or the builder or?? How about some photographs?

If you have a thought, share it; develop it. That’s what GMCA is all about. The Contact Us page on the Website is a great way to plant a seed. Or stop by a board meeting. Visitors get the best spot on the agenda...FIRST!

FIELD OF DREAMS AT FOOTHILLS ELEMENTARY

Foothills Field of Dreams is a public-private partnership to enhance the NW corner of Zinnia and Youngfield with public amenities including recreational facilities, landscaping and community gardens.

Benefits from this are, physical site improvements to beautify our neighborhood, maintain and increase local property values, increase neighborhood appeal to new businesses, new residents, and visitors, create a community garden for residents to engage in urban farming, increase youth after-school recreational and environmental education activities, strengthen Foothills Elementary School with improved physical activity and environmental education opportunities, create civic pride, community identity and personal responsibility through collaborative efforts.

Last year we applied for a grant through GOCO (Great Outdoor Colorado). We had to raise 30% of the total cost of the project to get the grant. Thanks to our wonderful community we made that happen!

On December 10 last year Sue Borzych, principal at Foothills Elementary, got a call from GOCO letting her know that the grant for the Field of Dreams was approved. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, to Sue Borzych, Reg Cox, City of Lakewood, GMCA, Foothills students, Adam Paul, Dave Weichman and everyone that donated money and their time to make this happen for our community!

We expect construction to begin in early spring. We’ll keep you informed so you can take a look. For more information check our web site and click on the menu item “Field of Dreams”.

Project description and master plan: <http://www.foothillsfieldofdreams.com/about-the-project/>

Overhead view (Project Brochure): <http://www.greenmountainstates.org/field-of-dreams.html>

A letter from the Principal of Foothills Elementary, Susan Borzych

To the Green Mountain Civic Association and all of our neighbors on Green Mountain:

I would like to share with you news from Foothills Elementary:

- Our PTA has gone through some transformation, and we are excited about what is to come. Our new president is Savina Lopez, and she has done some amazing things for our school in her short tenure. We have new donated playground balls that replace our old “popped” ones. We have activities such as BINGO night, Parents Night Out, Art/Science Fair, Read Across America Day, and Math Parent Night in the planning stages. We will also sponsor an ARC trailer (to be parked in our parking lot during spring break) for donations as we begin the process of spring cleaning. This trailer will be available for all community member donations, so clean those closets now! Our next PTA meeting is Monday, January 27th at 6:00 p.m. Babysitting will be available.

- Our initial assessment indications show that our kindergarten students are testing above grade level in math for the first semester. Additionally, our students in grades 4-6 have made astounding gains in writing, and our ELL students are experiencing great growth in reading and vocabulary skills. These are great celebrations for the Foothills staff and align with the hard work that teachers have engaged in this year.

- Our Field of Dreams project is moving forward. The committee will resume in late January with the goal of having all paperwork/contracts/drawing/engineering completed in time to break ground on the complex this spring.

- Open enrollment is now underway in our district, and kindergarten registration begins on January 21st.

- We are in the process of organizing additional after-school activities for our students – to include art club, dance classes, and after school sports programs. Stay tuned for additional information as we complete the planning process.

- Our sixth grade students will be attending Outdoor Lab Education School the week of January 20th – we are praying for good weather.

- Our enrollment is currently 358. Last year at this time we were at 343.

We sincerely thank you for the support of GMCA and all of our neighbors of Green Mountain,

Sue

Susan Borzych, Ph.D.
Principal
Foothills Elementary School

Preferred Provider for Trash Disposal and Recycle Collection

GMCA members that receive our email bulletins know that in early December GMCA requested proposals from various trash disposal services. Our motivation is to improve traffic and safety by reducing the number of collection trucks and their time spent in our neighborhood. Obviously, in evaluating the proposals and selecting a "Preferred Provider", costs to our neighbors was an important consideration, particularly in the face of substantial increases in billing by Waste Management.

The formal Request for Proposal ("RFP") responses submitted by five companies are on our website, www.GreenMountainEstates.org. If you examine the RFP data of each company that submitted responses, understand that this data was provided in the hopes of being selected as our Preferred Provider. Hence, pricing from companies not selected may or may not be available after this announcement. While there were 5 competitors, we narrowed these to two providers after carefully evaluating all data. In order to obtain the prices offer, we selected one company. By a majority vote, **the GMCA board recommends Republic Services as the Preferred Provider within the GMCA boundary.**

Advantages of Republic are

A consistent low rate of \$13.00 (basic collection) and \$14.50 (with recycle)

A price freeze for 2 years, with a ceiling of 5% annual increases thereafter

Provision of one or two 96-gallon containers which are required to be used

A one-time delivery charge for the containers of \$18.50, with no additional container charges

All current GMCA customers of Republic will have these rates available to them from this time forward. Republic will attempt to match our addresses to their customer list, but if a customer gets a bill that does not reflect these lowered rates, a call to Republic will correct the bill.

GMCA makes this selection of the Preferred Provider as a service to our community. It is appropriate to note that your association can not require that you use this Preferred Provider. GMCA will continue to encourage the use of Republic in recognition of the substantial discount and guarantee they provide. At the same time, we will tell you that the runner up in this process was **Pro Disposal**. While higher in cost, Pro returns trash containers to the Garage area, a desirable service for their customers. Pro does not provide or require any particular trash container.

Any member that has a particular requirement for a trash collector may perform their own research starting with the data found on www.GreenMountainEstates.org.

Phone Numbers To Call

Republic Services Customer Service 303 286-1200

Pro Disposal Customer Service 303 791-3827

Updates to the GMCA Bylaws

The GMCA Board proposes to change our fiscal year from ending on October 31 to ending on December 31. In doing this, we discovered, in using a strict interpretation of our bylaws, that a few other simplifications are in order. At the next meeting we will vote on four changes. These changes along with the complete bylaws are kept on the Website under the "About GMCA" menu item.

Membership Coupon

Dues are only \$25/year allowing neighborhood improvement and a voice in our community

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

Yes! I want to keep Green Mountain Estates a Wonderful Place to Live!

Enclose your \$25 check to GMCA and mail to: GMCA, PO Box 280482, Lakewood, CO 80228
or go to www.greenmountainestates.org to pay on-line

All residents are invited to attend the GMCA Board Meetings, held at Green Mountain United Methodist Church, 12755 W. Cedar Drive. Guests are invited to speak first, if they choose to, and/or stay through the meeting. This is a way for you to meet your Board members and hear what is going on with the Association.

2014 Board Meetings

All Board Meetings are held at the Green Mountain United Methodist Church at the top of Cedar Drive at 7:00 PM

January 2, 2014

March 6, 2014

April 3, 2014

May 1, 2014

August 7, 2014

Annual Meeting - October 2, 2014

November 6, 2014

December 4, 2014

2014 Scheduled Events for Green Mountain Civic Association

Event	Date	Time	Location
Easter Egg Hunt	April 12, 2014	11:00 AM	Foothills Park
Garage Sale	June 6 & 7, 2014	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	All Green Mtn Estates
Spring Cleanup	June 14, 2014	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	GMUMC* parking lot
Landscape Judging	August, 2014		
Annual Picnic	September 7, 2014	3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Foothills Park
Fall Cleanup	September 13, 2014	8:00 AM -11:00 AM	GMUMC* Parking Lot
Annual Meeting	October 2, 2014	7:00 PM	GMUMC*
Santa Visits	December 19, 2014	TBD	Foothills Elementary
Holiday Decoration Judging	December, 2014		

GMUMC* - Green Mountain United Methodist Church - at the top of Cedar Ave hill (12755 W. Cedar Drive)

Whiz Kids at Foothills Elementary

Whiz Kids is a faith-based program of volunteers helping children who struggle academically and socially. This program is very well organized and has had a very positive effect on the kids and Foothills. Volunteers come to Foothills Elementary every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45-5:00p.m. This program starts in October and ends in April.

We are in need of more volunteers! You would help a child one-on-one with prepared lessons in reading, writing and math for 1-1/2 hours on a Tuesday or Thursday or both days. Please contact Linda Rickstrew at [303-204-3263](tel:303-204-3263) or Diane Rhodus at [303-986-9400](tel:303-986-9400),

Comments, Concerns, or Ideas
