



P.O. Box 280482
Lakewood, Co. 80228

Green Mountainside News

VOLUME 20 NO. 1

JANUARY 2015

Volunteer Board

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303.986.4818

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



President's Message

Dear Green Mountain Estates Residents:

Field of Dreams:

Our Field of Dreams at Foothills Elementary School is finally finished!!! If you have not had a chance to see the finished fields, please take a few minutes to drop by and see how fantastic everything looks! Foothills will have a celebration party and ribbon cutting ceremony Friday, April 3rd, at 2:00 pm. We look forward to welcoming everyone in this celebration.

Thanks again to everyone that made this happen: Reg Cox and the congregation from Lakewood Church of Christ; Principal, Sue Borzych; Dave Wiechman, Lakewood City Council from Ward 4; City of Lakewood; Jefferson County School District; Lakewood Police Department; GMCA Board and members; Foothills Elementary students, parents and PTA, and other individual donations from our community. It is amazing what can happen when a community works together. We are so blessed to have this in our neighborhood.

Community Garden Meeting at Foothills Elementary School:

Our application is in for a community garden and our next step is to have a community meeting which will be held on FEBRUARY 19th, 6:30 pm, at FOOTHILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Denver Urban Garden's will be there to inform us about the process and answer any questions you may have. It will be on the school grounds west of the new playground. I will be heading this program and I need lots of volunteers to help me make this successful! I am so excited about this and I have had several calls from volunteers for this already. If you are interested in helping me with the Community Garden, please email me at dirho@comcast.net or call me at 303-986-9400.

GMCA Website:

I would like to personally thank Dave Murphy for all his endless hours and effort he has put into the GMCA website. He has done a fantastic job adding new items and keeping us all informed of what is happening in our neighborhood! If you have not seen our website, please check it out at www.greenmountainstates.org.

New Board Member:

We have a new board member, Mary Kealey. She is a realtor in our neighborhood. Mary will be heading our Welcome Committee that greets new residents. She also has started a Facebook entry for GMCA and wants to start a Parent's Club. Thank you, Mary, for all your help and new ideas for the Green Mountain Civic Association!

Thank you to all our board members for all you do to make Green Mountain Estates a great place to live!

Sincerely,
Diane Rhodus, President
Green Mountainside Civic Association

www.greenmountainstates.org

Check Your Trash Bill

Everyone should check their latest trash billing. It has been reported that Waste Management has increased charges by \$10.00. Last year's increase was 17%. In contrast, Republic has a special price structure for everyone in the neighborhood. No administration, dump or fuel fees. Just \$13.00 per month for trash and no other charges. So if you are paying more than \$39.00 per quarter for trash or \$43.50 for trash and recycling, consider a change. Go to www.greenmountainstates.org for more information on Republic. For an \$18.00 setup and delivery fee they will furnish you with 94 gallon easy roll trash and recycle bins if desired.

There are five trash services picking up trash and recycling each week in the neighborhood. I am unfortunate enough to live on a street where all five have customers. The majority of the trash collection services drive the street twice because of safety concerns or equipment that picks up the containers with an automated arm. That makes for a lot of truck traffic.

Go Paperless?

Did you know this Newsletter is available via email and is permanently available on the GreenMountainEstates.com web site?

GMCA was asked if we could stop mailing the newsletter to members who prefer to only receive the electronic version. If you would prefer to no longer receive the mailed version of the newsletter, check the box on the coupon page and mail back to us OR go to GreenMountainEstates.org and send us a note on the contact form to discontinue mailed newsletters. Save resources and money by going paperless.

No Computer?

GMCA uses four forms of communication. The **Newsletter** you are reading is the first and oldest. The next is the periodic **bulletin** delivered via email. Third is the **web site** with its permanent records. And the newest is our **Facebook page** which delivers copies of the bulletins as well as comments posted by neighbors. Three out of four require a computer.

We recognize that we have neighbors who don't have computers, or who might say, "It sits over there and I make it a point never to touch it!" We still want to hear from you. Send us a note, perhaps, with the dues coupon, or on a postcard. This is the first time we've asked this, and depending on the number of neighbors who want to stay in the loop without a computer, we will devise a way to keep you up to date. We hope the topics in this newsletter whet your appetite and you want to stay in the know.

Participate

GMCA is historically been referred to as "an all-volunteer organization". Volunteer is an interesting word – "freely offer to do something". Would you like to volunteer? Something?

In 2015 we hope to replace the word volunteer with a request for **participants**. "Take Part". This change would be to help us to be specific with the tasks at hand. Coming soon, we'd like you to participate in the "opening" of the **neighborhood signs**. Each year we start at the north sign and bring it to life. That involves two chores. First, we set up, check out and turn on the drip system that is fed from water up the street. While that chore takes place, we clean up and refresh the plantings around the sign. This is a fun and gratifying chore because the results are so pretty. And it doesn't take very long.

Depending on the participant count, the south sign may start at the same time with the same weeding/planting treatment. At the south sign, we check out the watering system which is fed by our generous property owner at the corner. Then we all congratulate each other, have a cup of coffee, perhaps a donut, and enjoy the fruits of our efforts.

Participation continues at the signs all summer long with spot weeding, particularly by those walking neighbors who pass by each sign or perhaps go a little out of their way to check a sign.

In addition to the signs, opportunities to participate include our annual **Easter Egg Hunt**, the spring and fall **cleanups**, the **Picnic**, **Santa's visit to Green Mountain Elementary School** and the **taking of pictures** of our neighborhood just for the fun of it.

A great opportunity to participate is at the **board meetings**. Any non-board member who comes to a board meeting automatically is placed at the top of the agenda. If you come, the board members will give you their attention. And, if you come and do not have an agenda, you can participate in the discussion of the various topics on the agenda. The agenda for the next meeting is on the website under "**About GMCA / GMCA Board**". Even if you have nothing to say, your presence is a boost. Having neighbors in our meetings just seems to sharpen everyone.

So participate. It's fun and helps us all.

Stay tuned

In Spring of 2015, look for the new **Green Mountain Estates Parent's Club!** Whether you're looking to meet other parents for play dates, for hiking/mountain biking on the hill or just a good recommendation for babysitters, this will be your group. Please sign up for the GMCA Bulletin to be notified when this group begins.

www.GreenMountainEstates.com

Our website progressed well in 2014. A new **menu system** was developed for ease of use. So far the reviews have been good. On the business side, we now have our **calendar** and **agenda** for the next board meeting easily seen under “**About GMCA**”. The current financials are also found there.

The “**New Neighbors**” tab covers all of the topic we think are most important for new arrivals. Next, we have information about our **Events and Activities** organized under their own dropdown menu. The biggest impact to ease-of-use is probably the “**Our Neighborhood**” menu which covers topics like security, lost animals, snow removal and problem properties.

The new “**Our Mountain**” menu includes a trail map of Hayden Park, articles on the animals that visit us from their homes on the mountain and a link to our neighbor-authored Green Mountain wildflower blog.

A planned emphasis for 2015 will be our “**History**” collection. Because the website is a great place to permanently store information of interest to our neighbors, history is a perfect section. ANYBODY with pictures or stories, please share so we can post them in our online history files.

2014 saw the web site feature several sets of **photographs** including landscaping, fall trees and holiday lights. The website for long term storage, and **Facebook** for fast sharing, will continue to be full of pictures, particularly if our neighbors share them with us. Our Contact GMCA web form allows for the attachment of one file so it can be a picture or a “zip” file collection. If you would like to send us more than one file, just sent that to our email address at **LakewoodMCA@gmail.com**.

A planned emphasis for 2015 is “**Our Favorite Links**” tab. Are you interested in taking art classes or piano lessons? Check out the “**Neighbor Services Offered**.” Are you looking for an auto repair service, an attorney, or a real estate agent? Consider frequenting the “**Neighbor-Owned Businesses**.” While we can’t endorse these local businesses, we can certainly make you aware of them.

GreenMountainEstates (Continued)

We know there are more neighbor-owned businesses on the hill. Please send us your information if you would like your service or business advertised on our website. It’s **free advertising**, and you just might get to know your neighbors in the process.

Remember that both the Association and its website are the product of unpaid participants in the interest of Green Mountain Estates. Sending in an article or picture automatically awards you the same proud and exalted title, “**Unpaid Participant**”. We hope you give it a try.



LakewoodGMCA

In January, we launched our **Facebook page, LakewoodGMCA**. Within minutes we had our first page “likes” and the numbers have been slowly growing. This page will be for fun communication and will mirror the information provided in the Bulletin. This can be another reminder of upcoming board meetings, fun events, and volunteer activities. We will offer a prize to the 228th person to like our page (since our zip code is 80228), so follow us for a chance to win!

Home Sales in Green Mountain Estates

Did you know that there were 43 homes sold in Green Mountain Estates in 2014? The homes were on the market for an average of 32 days and received 96% of asking price. Average year built in our neighborhood is 1970.

While the numbers are close, homes in Lakewood overall fared better than our neighborhood did in 2014. Lakewood had an average of 30 days on the market and received almost 99% of asking price. Lakewood homes on average were built in 1974.

To compare our own neighborhood activity year over year, 2013 saw 56 homes sold in Green Mountain Estates. The average was 38 days on the market and they received 95% of asking price. Homes turned more quickly in 2014 and also received a higher price than the year before. If you are thinking about selling your home this year, please let your real estate agent know about us. We think that the GMCA is a valuable resource for neighbors (and future buyers).

Adopt-A-Family

During the holiday season, GMCA helps neighborhood families in need. Foothills Elementary School gave us a list of eighteen needy families.

We were able to help six of the eighteen with food, clothing, shoes and toys. The following people helped these families have a very Merry Christmas: **Robyn Wood, Lois Wakefield, Gail Skaggs, Mary Kealey, Craig Kosal** and wife **Kathy Giess, Kacey Pace** and **Havoline Xpress Lube**.

We **thank all of you** for your **donations and time** to a very rewarding event!

Board Meetings

All residents are invited to **attend the GMCA Board Meetings**, held at Green Mountain United Methodist Church (GMUMC), 12755 W. Cedar Drive. Guests are invited to speak first, if they choose to speak, and/or stay through the meeting. This is a way for you to meet your Board members and hear what is going on with your Association. In addition, **all residents** are invited and encouraged to participate in **GMCA-sponsored activities!**

2015 Scheduled Events for Green Mountain Civic Association

MARCH	5th	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	GMUMC
	28th	Easter Egg Hunt	11:00 AM	Foothills Park
APRIL	2nd	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	GMUMC
MAY	7th	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	GMUMC
JUNE	5-6th	Garage Sale	8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Throughout Green Mtn Estates
	7th	Open Entrance Sign	10:00 AM—Noon	North & South Signs
	13th	Spring Cleanup	8:00 AM-11:00 AM	GMUMC Parking Lot
AUGUST	6th	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	GMUMC
	1-31	Landscape Contest		Throughout Green Mtn Estates
SEPTEMBER	12th	Fall Cleanup	8:00 AM-11:00 AM	GMUMC Parking Lot
	13th	Winterize Entrance Signs	10:00 AM	North & South Signs
OCTOBER	1st	Annual Meeting	7:00 PM	GMUMC
NOVEMBER	5th	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	GMUMC
DECEMBER	3rd	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	GMUMC
	1-31	Holiday Decorating Contest Santa Visit Adopt-A-Family	To Be Announced	Throughout Green Mtn Estates Foothills Elementary

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