

Being a good neighbor:

What does it take to be a good neighbor? Consider the following:

* Privacy

Our home is our castle. It is a place where we can be ourselves, entertain friends and be free of the intrusions of the outside world. Would it bother us if our neighbors had loud parties late at night? What if they had a dog that barked when we want to sleep? A good neighbor respects the privacy of others and does not intrude on their enjoyment of their home.

* Safety

In some neighborhoods people do not feel safe. It's awful feeling that someone might break into your home when you are away, or worse still, while you are at home. Even if your neighborhood is safe from crime, you should consider hazards. Would you want neighbors who let their children leave toys and bicycles on the sidewalk or road for someone to trip or run over? A good neighborhood is always aware of the happenings in the neighborhood and helps maintain the safety of others.

* Protecting the housing investment

The home you own is an investment. Usually, it is the largest investment you will ever make. That investment can grow as property values in the neighborhood increase. Property values in the neighborhood can increase if the neighborhood is kept attractive. Unfortunately, property values can and will decline if everyone doesn't keep their property and neighborhood safe, attractive and in good repair. A good neighbor maintains his or her home and property so that the property retains and increases its value and so it does not detract from the value of others' property.

We all want to be good neighbors. Here are some things you can do to reach that goal:

- * Keep your home painted and in good repair.
- * Make sure your grass and shrubs are trimmed and neat.
- * Do not leave junk lying around outside your home.
- * Do not leave your trash containers out after pick-up. Arrange for someone to move them if you can't.
- * Do not let your parties be loud enough and late enough to interrupt neighbors' activities and sleep.
- * Manage your pets so they do not annoy your neighbors. Do not let your animals run free, and do not allow your animals to "do their business" in a neighbor's yard.
- * Work with your neighbors to keep the neighborhood safe. Get to know your neighbors. You may want to plan a block party or picnic.
- * You may also ask the local police or sheriff's department to talk to you and your neighbors about starting a neighborhood watch program.
- * When we know and trust our neighbors, we can ask them to bring in our mail when we are away and then return the favor for them.



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Green Mountainside News

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Presidents Message

Spring has sprung and the days are getting longer, things are getting green again and I feel much better. I lean toward winter seasonal mood swings so I really like the spring time. Even with the snow on the ground as long as it was this winter, it looks like all of my plants are coming back. We have all our spring/summer events coming up which you may find listed in this issue.

In the interests of "pride in ownership" I have hired a landscape architect to design a landscaping renovation plan for my yard. My yard is so sixties in its landscape look, nothing but a lot of grass (water-feed-mow, water-feed-mow, repeat). I'll try to keep you informed as this project advances.

By the time this issue of the newsletter reaches you, the reader, the GMCA board of directors will have met with the Lakewood Police Department, our Ward Four City Council Representatives and Lakewood City Traffic Engineers to discuss traffic problems in our neighborhood.

The major issue is fast cars and children playing. I'm sure we will examine many options: speed bumps every house, stop signs every block, traffic calming, citizen monitoring and reporting, shoulder mounted armor piercing rocket grenade launchers, not allowing children to play, etc. The results of our meetings will be reported in upcoming issues of our newsletter.

One other item that has come up at times in the past and has reemerged recently is "Does GMCA enforce property maintenance issues?" The policy that GMCA has always tried to adhere to is that we are not a police force. We will try to help neighbors with their home up-keep challenges as best we can and as much as they will let us.

We will also advise neighbors of problem properties and of some of the options they have available to them in regard to things like code enforcement.

We have in the past sent letters to the owners of problem properties and told them what the issues are and asked them to be good neighbors and offered to help in some way. This approach has yielded successful results in many but not all cases.

Let us know what you think. Come to an association meeting to discuss issues.

GMCA Newsletter Editor Needed

GMCA is looking for someone to take over the reins of the newsletter. Because of work constraints the current editor must step down.

The job of editor requires someone to collect articles from the contributors, put the newsletter together, and email finished copy to the printers.

The editor will not be required to create any articles or pick up the finished newsletters.

Anyone interested in becoming the newsletter editor can email GMCA at lakewoodgmc@msn.com or call Lee Flower at 303-985-8549.

Residential Driving Concerns

GMCA will be meeting with city officials as to what we as a neighborhood can do about bad driving habits.

Residents report speeding; not stopping at stop signs and taking corners too fast. There are also problems of skateboards coming down Ohio and running the stop sign at full speed.

This problem has been identified as the largest concern for residents just behind property maintenance and values.

Stepped up enforcement will result in tickets but could save a child's life.



Community News

Spring Clean Up June 9

GMCA is sponsoring the annual neighborhood clean-up Saturday, **June 9** from **8 to 11 a.m. (or until full)** with three roll-offs dumpsters at Foothills Elementary School to dispose of big items the weekly service won't take.

A to Z Rentals is donating a wood chipper to mulch branches and shrubs - *free mulch available.*

This service is limited to Green Mountainside residents. Proof of residency is required. GMCA volunteers will accept donations to offset some of the cost of this service. Dues can also be paid at this event.

DBL Marketing Service will take steel and aluminum scrap, lawn mowers, barbecues, water heaters, major appliances even refrigerators and air conditioners.

We can't accept waste that is liquid, radioactive, toxic, ignitable, medical, corrosive or defined as hazardous.

Fall Clean Up Date September 29th

The date has been set for the Fall Clean Up. That date is September 29th. Any changes to the date will be published on the community events calendar on the web site. Also watch for yard signs announcing the event just prior to the date.

Summer Picnic July 21

Our annual summer picnic will be later this year to allow families to get back from vacation.

Set for Saturday, **July 21st** from 5 – 8 p.m., GMCA will supply the food and drink while you provide the fun.

The picnic will be held in **Foothills Park**, just north of Foothills Elem. School.

The picnic is open to all residents and their immediate families. If you have a special dish you would like to share, you're welcome to but not expected to.

Landscape Judging for 2007

The time has come to get prepared for the 2007 landscape contest. This year's judging will take place in August from the 19th to the 25th. This year we are going to have three categories. Best xeriscaped yard with a prize of \$125, Best yard with a prize of \$125 and most improved yard with a prize of \$100. Winners will be announced in the September newsletter.

Calendar of Events

Watch the calendar for event locations and dates. There are times that dates and location need to be changed after the newsletter is published because of scheduling conflicts. Yard signs announcing events are expensive and impossible to change so the location and start times may be incorrect.

For up to date information go to the following web site, neighborhoodlink.com. In the zip code search field type 80228 and click on Green Mountainside Civic Association. When our page comes up the first link is to our calendar.

GMCA is Looking for Board Members

The GMCA board is made up of people from all backgrounds and ages who live on the mountain. A few board members are retired but most are residents who still work for a living and want to make Green Mountain a great place to live.

We have two open seats on the board. The board meets one evening per month for two hours. If you would be interested in becoming a board member please attend one of the association meetings and if you want to become a member say that you would be interested in becoming a board member.

Remember, you do not need to be a board member to attend the meetings and be heard. There are many residents who attend meetings and join in the discussions.

The yard signs announcing the monthly meeting say GMCA Board Meeting. Even though the signs say Board meeting, the meeting is in reality an association meeting. The first item on the agenda each month is member's concerns and anyone who has a concern can have the floor. At the May meeting a resident brought up dangerous driving. The discussion which followed changed our June meeting to include city counselors and a police representative to hear concerns.

Newsletter Editor Reminder

GMCA is looking for an editor of the GMCA newsletter. See article on page one for information.

Members Comments and Concerns

A concern was voiced about unlicensed, junk and inoperable cars parked in the neighborhood. There were reports of multiple junk cars parked in the back yard of one residence. Lakewood code states nothing can be stored outside of a residence except stacked firewood, a barbecue and lawn furniture. All other items must be stored inside. Unlicensed cars (two maximum) can be stored in the side or back yards and must be screened from public view. These cars must also be parked on an improved surface designed for vehicle parking.

Solutions to problems of code violation are to politely talk to your neighbor about the problem, contact GMCA who will contact the person and explain the problem and try to come up with solutions or call code enforcement and report the problem by calling Community Code Enforcement at 303-987-7566.

Did You Know

If you find yourself out of the coverage area for your cell phone you can call 112 for the worldwide emergency number. 112 can be dialed without unlocking your keypad.

To find your cell phone's serial number call *#06# and the number will appear on the screen. Write this number down and if your cell phone is stolen, give the serial number to your service provider and they can block the handset from working, even if the thief changes the SIM card. If everyone disables a stolen cell phone, thieves would not have a reason to steal them and phone theft would stop.

Lock your car keys in the car? If your car has remote entry, try this. Use your cell phone and call the person who has the other remote for your car. Have that person point the remote at their phone while you hold your cell phone near the door of the locked car. When the other person presses the remote, the car door will unlock.

There were some comments in the survey about leaving the empty lot across from the school on Ohio as open space. This property is an investment owned by a family which is paying \$44,000 per year in property taxes on the property which is zoned commercial. The amount of property tax almost forces the owner to sell the property to a developer which they have done. Leaving the property as open space would require each and every homeowner to pay \$2,000 to purchase the property from the family and a yearly fee to pay the taxes plus the fees to have it rezoned as open space. While some members are willing to pay the \$2,000, most are not.

IMPORTANT DATES

- June 7: GMCA Meeting 7 p.m. (GM Presbyterian Church)**
- June 9: Spring Clean Up (Foothills Elementary School)**
- June 9: Ward 4 Meeting 9 a.m. (GM Presbyterian Church)**
- July 5: GMCA Meeting 7 p.m. (GM Presbyterian Church)**
- July 14: Ward 4 Meeting 9 a.m. (GM Presbyterian Church)**
- July 21: Summer Picnic (Foothill Park)**
- Aug 2: GMCA Meeting 7 p.m. (GM Presbyterian Church)**
- Aug 11: Ward 4 Meeting 9 a.m. (GM Presbyterian Church)**
- Aug 19-25: Landscape Judging**
- Sept 6: GMCA Meeting 7 p.m. (GM Presbyterian Church)**
- Sept 8: Ward 4 Meeting 9 a.m. (GM Presbyterian Church)**
- Sept 29: Fall Clean Up (Foothills Elementary School)**

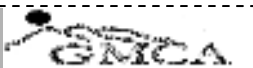
Mark your calendar

Help Keep Our Community Strong — JOIN GMCA TODAY

Did you know that Green Mountainside Civic Association (GMCA) membership dues allow us to conduct these useful neighborhood activities?

- Spring & Fall Clean Up
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Community Garage Sale
- Entrance Signage
- Holiday Lights Contest
- Adopt-a-Family Program
- Lower Trash Rates
- New Resident Welcome Committee
- Park Development
- Landscape Contest

Membership Coupon



Dues are only \$25 and allow us to improve the neighborhood, and give you a voice in the community. Please take a moment to join today.

YES! I want to keep Green Mountain Estates a wonderful place to live! Enclose your \$25 check to GMCA and mail to: GMCA, P.O. Box 280482 Lakewood, Co. 80228

Name: _____
 Phone: _____ E-Mail _____
 Address: _____
 Comments: _____

COYOTE CAUTION

TAKE PRECAUTIONS WITH WILD PREDATORS

We're living in coyote country -- The Lakewood Animal Control and the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) urge people to take precautions. Several recent coyote attacks on pets have taken place in open space areas and private yards.

In coyote country, January-March is breeding season, which can make these animals aggressive and territorial. "Coyotes are adaptable predators, found in most open habitats, including city neighborhoods, open space, parks and trails," said DOW District Wildlife Manager Crystal Peterson.

Coyotes should be treated with caution and respect:

PROTECT PETS

- * Do not allow pets to roam freely or to remain outside at night.
- * Keep pets on a leash or in fenced areas or kennels; remember split rail fences and invisible fences will not keep your pet safe from predators. Pet kennels and runs should have an enclosed roof.

PROTECT CHILDREN

- * Teach family members not to approach or feed any wildlife. Make sure your child understands that a coyote is wild and should be treated with caution.
- * Provide supervision while outdoors, even in your own backyard.
- * If children are threatened by the presence of coyotes or other wildlife, they should stay in a group and walk slowly to an area where adults are present.

DO NOT FEED COYOTES!

Coyotes are usually wary of humans and will typically avoid people when possible. Aggressive behavior towards people is not normal and is often a result of habituation due to feeding by humans.

When people feed wildlife, it doesn't take long to teach a wild animal to associate people with food. It's very difficult to convince a habituated coyote to return to wild ways. Coyotes that appear friendly may be mimicking behavior that before has been rewarded by food. When it becomes apparent that no food is forthcoming, the coyote's behavior can change abruptly.

Feed your pets inside in order to keep pet food from attracting coyotes and other wildlife.

DISCOURAGE COYOTES NEAR HOMES

- * Frighten coyotes with loud noises; use unnatural odors (such as ammonia) to clean trashcans.
- * Remove food attractants i.e. pet food, table scraps on compost piles, fallen fruit, and spilled seed beneath bird-feeders.
- * Remove vegetation and brush that provides cover for prey and hiding cover for coyotes; trim lower limbs of shrubs and conifers.
- * Use yard lights with motion detectors, the appearance of the sudden light may frighten coyotes away.

IN CASE OF AN ENCOUNTER

- * Never feed or attempt to "tame" a coyote.
- * Do not turn your back or run from a coyote.
- * If approached or followed by a coyote, make loud noises, yell and make your-self look big.
- * If the coyote approaches to an uncomfortably close distance, throw rocks or other objects at the coyote.
- * Adults should keep themselves between the coyote and small children.
- * Encounters with aggressive coyotes should be reported to the Colorado Division of Wildlife at 303-297-1192 or Lakewood Animal Control at 303-987-7114.

A COMPANION ALERT IS THAT NEXT UP THE FOOD CHAIN ARE MOUNTAIN LIONS!

The lions will follow the deer and coyotes that have been attracted by food left out in the neighborhood. **DON'T DO IT!** As harsh as this winter has been it is part of the natural cycle and it is how nature will cull the herd on Green Mountain.