Neighborhood Newsletter:

This newsletter was produced by Southern Gables community members in partnership with the City of Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhoods Program. We welcome your ideas, support, and participation.

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Visit www.GreenerGables.org
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Facebook.com/SustainableSouthernGables
Contact us SustainableSouthernGables@gmail

UPCOMING EVENTS for SOUTHERN GABLES

**January 13, 2014**
Community Garden Planning Session
Location: TBD

**January 30, 2014**
Energy Meeting
RSVP to SustainableSouthernGables@gmail

**February 11, 2014**
Sustainable Book Club—Book #2 Discussion
Location: Westwoods Community Church

**February 28, 2014**
Recycling Meeting
RSVP to SustainableSouthernGables@gmail

**March**
Waterwise Workshop (guest speaker TBD)
Location: TBD

**April 19, 2014**
Lakewood Earth Day (contact us to help volunteer)
Location: Lakewood Heritage Center

Sustainability isn’t sacrifice; it’s improving quality of life for now, for the future.

A few years ago, doing something “sustainable” often meant compromise. I think a great example is what we can do with our yards. Before, “xeriscape” conjured up images of barren and unwelcoming landscapes, compromising beauty. Now, xeriscape means filling our yards with beautiful drought tolerant plants. A gorgeous xeriscape example literally attracted Ooh’s and Ah’s when shown at our xeriscape workshop. Another example many of us love and admire is the xeric garden at our own Kendrick Lakes Park. With xeriscape, we use less water, so important in a state that goes through droughts, but also, you get to enjoy a gorgeous yard, with less maintenance.

Sustainability isn’t compromise; it’s improving quality of life for now, for the future.

Sustainability Means You Are Not Alone.

Why is community so important to sustainability? There are so many examples of what community can accomplish in this neighborhood, and Sam Sotiros highlighted some great achievements in the HOA newsletter.

I’d like to tell you what it’s looked like for me. This neighborhood has become like an extension to my family. You, neighbors, have helped me raise my kids, plant my tulips and my trees. You’ve shut my water off when I had a leak and helped me cut materials for home improvement projects. You’ve pumped my son’s bike tires, you’ve shared with me my favorite thing...happiness and fulfillment.

You’ve brought hot dogs, flyers and face paints for National Night Out. You’ve kept watch on our mailboxes and cars, and warned us about threats. You’ve taught me about what we can accomplish when we work together. Carpooling with me, laughed with me while trick or treating, read books, brainstormed, planned meetings, encouraged me, and now, you are teaching me what it means to be “sustainable” in Southern Gables.

Sustainability isn’t having less, it’s having more... well...happiness and fulfillment.

Neighbors, What’s Next For 2014?

We are doing our best to take full advantage of the opportunity to be in the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program and provide as many resources and opportunities for people to learn about and accomplish sustainable goals.

Share your ideas and feedback, we want to hear them. Included in this newsletter are the Top 10 ways to have a big impact under $100 (many of them are under $10) and take less than a few hours to accomplish. We hope you’ll pick one that fits in your life and try it. We have a full year of activities, events and workshops, covering a whole range of topics, and we hope they will be useful for you and that we’ll get to see you there.

Sincerely,

Dana
Southern Gables Sustainability Initiatives

COMMUNITY GARDEN at Westwoods Community Church in Partnership with Denver Urban Gardens (DUG)

This is a special project and opportunity to make a lasting contribution to our neighborhood that Southern Gables residents will enjoy for many years to come.

Plots will be available to church members and the Southern Gables community. Gardeners will have the opportunity to donate a portion of their crop to a food bank, providing fresh, organic produce to those in need. A truly amazing endeavor.

DUG sets us up for success with the plan, design, funding, and more. Also, Master Gardeners will host workshops on various aspects of gardening from youth education to composting on site.

We are meeting January 13th at 5:30pm to have a planning session. The community can share what we want in our garden, and from this DUG will create a design incorporating our ideas. The more ideas, the better the garden will be for everyone, so we really hope to see you there.

G.A.B.I.E.S. Blog Update

Did you know our neighborhood sustainability group has a blog? The website is http://greenergables.org/blog/.

Our focus areas are Good health, Active, Beauty, Living well, Eating well, and Simplicity. Check it out, leave a comment!

NEW FEATURE!

Do you love photography? Please send your beautiful Lakewood photos to mksevier@msn.com with a caption explaining the location and other interesting facts, and we may post it to showcase the beauty of our city! Check our blog for other details!

RECYCLE YOUR USED BATTERIES

By popular demand, we’re collecting used batteries for recycling. We will have a box at all of our events for you to recycle your old batteries. We can take all “regular” batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9 volt), but we are unable to take other batteries from computers, phones, etc. Please bring them with you when you come to our “Sustainable Neighborhood” events!

BOOK LIST RESOURCE

You can also find our new Sustainable book list on the blog website. Do you wonder what sustainability is all about? This is a great resource for you! Find a list of books about different sustainability topics: food, simplicity, solar, xeriscaping, and more! Listings marked with “JEFFCO” are available through Jefferson County Public Library. Each entry is also linked to the Goodreads website so you can find out more about the book.

Southern Gables Sustainable Neighborhood’s Focus

Ways to Have a Big Impact for Under $100 and Less than an Hour or Two of Work.

1. Use reusable grocery bags, produce bags and shopping bags everywhere you shop. Under $10 pop them back in the car after unloading groceries.

2. Switch all light bulbs to high efficiency light bulbs. Under $100/1 hour: LEDs last about 20 years, use 80% less energy, are the next best thing to daylight, and have no mercury.

3. Unplug all unused appliances and electronics. Switch the ones you use to power strips that can be shut off at night. Under $50/1 hour

4. Switch all shower heads to low flow. Under $50/1 hour: can save $100/year and 8,000 gallons/year.

5. Switch to Xcel’s WindSource to use clean energy to power your home. Under $1 hour and could be under $100/year.

6. Use reusable or reusable bags for all snacks, lunches and leftovers.

7. Use dishworms, cloth napkins, etc. instead of paper towels.

8. Can save over $100/year and reduces trash to landfill.

9. Switch sprinkler heads to rotary nozzle. Saves 60% water per nozzle.

10. Buy “Second hand” when possible. Find a new home for things you are finished with: clothes, furniture, etc. Cost-effective since it removes you from the production-waste-cycle.

Neighborhood Efforts


- Find bridesmaid dresses and non-formal wear to “prefab” your wedding. This will save you money, and all who wear the dresses will be unique.

- We are coordinating a Conservation contest to see how much of a difference we can make as a whole neighborhood in reducing our electricity and natural gas usage. Each home is encouraged to reduce electricity and natural gas consumption as much as possible; we’ll compare current usage with last year’s usage each month over the year to see who can make the biggest reductions.

- We will offer informative workshops, interesting newsletter updates, resources for improving efficiency while also improving home comfort, and more.

- We are currently working with a small group of homes on a pilot test of our contest. If you are interested in joining our pilot group, or if you want to be among the first to sign up for the official contest (to be launched in Fall 2014), email sustainablegables@gmail.com to get signed up.

- “I received some really great ideas at a xeriscape workshop, which I hope to implement in my yard at some point.” - Marlys Duran

Facebook.com/BalmoralSustainable

Southern Gables Sustainability Initiatives

ZERO WASTE

Have you heard about “Zero Waste” events? Zero Waste is a philosophy of reducing waste that goes to landfills and instead direct food waste to compost, and everything else to recycling. In an effort to move to a zero waste lifestyle, zero waste events seem to be popping up all over the place: sports arenas, entertainment venues, universities, schools, local governments and many others.

Principles of “zero waste” events include reducing overall waste that is created at events, working with all vendors to ensure that items like plates or giveaways provided to guests are compostable, reusable or recyclable, instead of items that must go to the landfill, and providing a recycling bin and compost bin next to every trash can. The Sustainable Southern Gables group is doing our part; our goal is to make all of our events “zero waste” too! Watch for recyclable, compostable, and reusable items at all of our events! Join us by volunteering at upcoming Zero Waste Events!

- Robert’s average water bill and maintenance time for his xeriscaped yard is $16.79, less than 30 min/week:

- “Our neighborhood has benefited greatly from the tremendous efforts put forth in the following activities (including) efforts to establish Lakewood’s Sustainable Neighborhood Program here and participations in its programs, such as the fun and successful Neighborhood Night Out, despite rainy weather.” - Sam Sotiros, HOA newsletter

- 36% less electricity usage than average Southern Gables Home.

- Christy achieved this by using all CFLs and LEDs, line drying clothes, and turning off unplugging all unused electronics.

- Switch to green cleaning products (this also improves home air quality).

- Use Tupperware or reusable bags for all snacks, lunches and leftovers.

- Use dishworms, cloth napkins, etc. instead of paper towels.

- Can save over $100/year and reduces trash to landfill.

- Switch sprinkler heads to rotary nozzle. Saves 60% water per nozzle.

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- “I think we can all benefit from learning and participating in activities about Sustainable Neighborhood. I applaud your interest and time in getting this started in our community.” - Frank Bontrager

- $16.79, less than 30 min/week: Robert’s average water bill and maintenance time for his xeriscaped yard.

- Saved 35% in 30 minutes or less:

- Amount of energy saved by Karen and Mike when they switched to power strips for TVs, computers and turning strips off before bed.

- “I received some really great ideas at a xeriscape workshop, which I hope to implement in my yard at some point.” - Marlys Duran

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