

West  
Colfax  
Association of  
Neighbors

Feb. 2010

Vol. 2, Issue 1

**First General Membership Meeting a Success**

The first general membership meeting of the West Colfax Association of Neighbors (*WeCAN*) was held January 12, 2010 in the main meeting room of Confluence Ministries. An attendance of nearly sixty residents was deemed to show a high level of interest in this new neighborhood association.

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Baker who has spearheaded the organization of this neighborhood association.

Denver City Councilman Rick Garcia welcomed the formation of this new neighborhood association. In a short speech highlighting the areas a neighborhood association can increase the quality of life within its boundaries Garcia urged the involvement of the residents in all areas affecting their lives.

State Representative Jerry Frangus spoke briefly encouraging the development of *WeCan*.

Officer Eric Denke of District One, City of Denver Police, spoke encouraging community involvement to further neighborhood safety and gave advice in response to questions from the floor.

In the business portion of the meeting a Board of Directors was elected with a show of hands. Those elected were Jonathan Austin, Barbara Baker, Bill Baker, Michael Garner, Fidel Hernandez, Suellen Mack, Kevin McCloskey, Jess Noe, Nathan Parish, Chad Reischl, Brad Smith, Tina Smith, Jacob Werther and Shane Wright.

**Become a member of *WeCAN*. Register at the next meeting or online:**  
<http://sites.google.com/site/westcolfaxneighbors/home>

It was also resolved that *WeCAN* would meet the second Tuesday of each month.

**WeCAN**

**General Membership Meeting**

**6:00pm February 9, 2010**

**Main floor meeting room**

**Confluence Ministries**

**1400 Quitman, Denver, CO**

**WeCAN Board of Directors proposes 2010 Officers**

The *WeCan* Board of Directors will submit the following slate of officers for approval by the general membership at the *WeCAN* meeting scheduled for February 9, 2010:

- Co-Presidents Barbara Baker & Jess Noe
- Secretary Chad Reischl
- Treasurer Suellen Mack

Committee chairpersons:

- Newsletter Jess Noe
- Neighborhood Watch Brad Smith
- Website Michael Garner
- Community Gardening Tina Smith
- Environmental Chad Reischl
- Marketing Shane Wright
- Land Use Jonathan Austin & Kevin McCloskey
- Spanish Outreach Fidel Hernandez

As the West Colfax Association of Neighbors, known as *WeCAN*, our mission is that together WE CAN provide community support, safety and education with our neighborhood through volunteerism, pro active programs, outreach and kindness, all the while preserving our neighborhood's history, unique character and vast diversity.

Contact your board members at [emailWeCan@gmail.com](mailto:emailWeCan@gmail.com). Cite the board member's name, as well as the topic, in the subject line.

## **WeCAN Agenda for February 9, 2010**

The focus of the February General Membership meeting will be updates by Dan Shah of the West Colfax Business Improvement District (BID) and City Councilman Rick Garcia will address the latest version of the new zoning codes.

- Call to order & announcements
- District One Police Officer: Neighborhood Crime Issues
- Election of 2010 *WeCan* officers
- Committee Reports
- Dan Shah, West Colfax Business Improvement District (BID): Update
- Councilman Rick Garcia: latest version of new zoning code
- Break to sign up for committees, register and meet your neighbors.

## **Street Trees**

Applications for free and low cost trees for street-side planting via the *Denver Digs Trees* program of the The Park People are available at their website: <http://www.theparkpeople.com>. The application PDF may be downloaded, completed and returned by email or fax. The cut-off date for applications is February 15, 2010. Availability is limited this year. Pickup is scheduled for April 17, 2010. *WeCAN* is working to gather volunteers to aid with the pickup and planting of street-side trees.

### ***Thank You!***

*WeCAN* would like to thank the Denver Democrats for their community service project in the West Colfax Neighborhood on Sunday, January 24.

On that cold blustery afternoon approximately twenty volunteers, including *WeCAN* members, cleaned alleys and dumpster areas. Thank you!

## **Community Gardening Begins Now**

All gardeners know that successful gardening begins long before the soil is turned and the first seed is planted. It is never truer than in planning a community garden.

The first emails concerning what to plant and when to plant have already begun to circulate. Also under discussion are the need to maintain gardening work schedules and divisions of labor. Tilling, planting, weeding, watering and harvesting are all equally important areas of gardening and volunteers are sought for participation.

Multiple small garden plots are to be developed by the *WeCAN* Community Gardens project. The intent is to use organic gardening techniques and reap the benefits of exercise and healthful food. Produce is to be shared among the participating volunteers.

To join this project, or donate the use of land for a garden plot, contact Tina Smith, Community Gardening chairperson. Visit the *WeCAN* Community Gardens website dedicated to this project at <http://wecancommunitygardens.webs.com>.

We wish to thank all the volunteers who distribute the *WeCAN* newsletter to the neighborhoods within our area and a special thanks to all the volunteers generated through Confluence Ministries. As always more volunteers are needed for all *WeCAN* activities. Volunteer and show WE CAN.