The Future of Dry Gulch Parks and Greenbelt
will be discussed by David Marquardt, a senior landscape architect with the City of Denver, at the West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN) general membership meeting: 6:30pm, January 11, 2010 at Confluence Ministries, 1400 Quitman.

Make plans to attend the potluck dinner prior to the business meeting from 6:00 – 6:30pm. Bring a neighbor – persons attending their first meeting and newly registered with WeCAN are eligible for a gift card drawing during the business session.

Healthcare Town Hall Meeting
Dan Pabon, Colorado State Representative-elect for District 4, will host a town hall meeting on the new Federal Healthcare Reform Bill (State Exchanges) on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 6:30pm in Zook’s Coffee Shop/Puppet Theater, 3156 W. 38th Avenue. The guest speaker will be Elizabeth Arenales of the Colorado Center on Law & Policy.

Plan Now for Free Trees:
Every spring Denver Digs Trees provides free street trees to resident of our neighborhood. The trees can be planted between the curb and the sidewalk or 10 feet in from the curb if you have an attached sidewalk or no sidewalk. If you have room for a tree in front of your place (or know of a neighbor who might like one) please call the Park People at 303-722-6262 or download an application at: www.theparkpeople.org/Programs/DenverDigsTrees.aspx

The application deadline is February 15, 2011.

Street trees beautify our neighbor and improve our quality of life, including traffic calming, decreased crime, improved air and water quality, and enhanced property values. Please think about adding one of these free trees to your
property this year. WeCAN will provide assistance in picking up and delivering your tree on April 16th, 2011.

**WeCAN Thanks Santa!**

WeCAN extends a big thank you to Santa (Bill Baker) for generously donating his time and effort during the holiday season. Baker appeared at several events during the season to raise funds for the WeCAN treasury with his portrayal of Santa Claus, a role he has been perfecting over the past twenty-five years.

**From the Denver Park and Recreation newsletter:**

“Critter Corner

**Be Coyote Aware this Winter!** by Ashley Delaup

Winter brings more potential conflict with our resident coyotes as food becomes scarce and coyotes begin to prepare for breeding and pups in the spring. Typically cautious animals may begin to see medium and large sized dogs (30 lbs +) as potential competition for resources and mates. Be especially vigilant mid December to mid March. Small dogs and cats let outside unattended may be easy targets as food is harder to find. Coyotes may be seen in larger groups, as several family members may openly walk in streets and parks trying to establish their territories.

Proactively protect your pets and work hard to haze (increase a coyotes natural fear of people) this time of year. When pups are born this spring coyotes will either teach them to disregard or avoid people, the choice is ours!

Keep cats inside and stay with small dogs when outdoors. Check yards before letting an animal outside, coyotes are ambush predator that learn our routines and may be waiting for that 10 pm potty time. Whenever you spot an animal, HAZE IT! Yell, chase, make noise and generally act like the biggest, baddest, toughest person that animal has ever seen. As the second fastest mammals in North America, coyotes are built to run and that will be a first response when confronted with danger. They can also remember areas, neighborhoods and even homes where they felt threatened, and can learn to avoid those specific places.

React as aggressively to multiple animals as you would a single coyote, no coyote want to get involved with people. If a coyote(s) does attack your pet, you can yell, scream and fight back, many pets can be saved if the owner is close enough to intervene.

The coyote is a creature of opportunity. Removing opportunity prevents conflict and injured or lost pets. And to the coyote rabbits taste better anyways!”

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