



January 2011

Vol. 2, Issue 1

www.wecandever.org

WeCAN January 11, 2010, 6:00 pm

General Membership Meeting Agenda

Confluence Ministries, 1400 Quitman St.

- **Potluck dinner 6:00 to 6:30 pm**
- Call to order
- Police report – Officer Hicks
- Josh David, candidate for City Council At-Large position
- Treasurer's yearend report – Suellen Mack
- Parks and Recreation guest speaker, David Marquardt, about the Dry Gulch Parks and Greenbelt's future plans
- Dan Shah, West Colfax Business Improvement District presentation of public art design

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.

Neighborhood Watch with Carolyn Bellicci

Research has found that Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective crime prevention programs a community could implement. So far, a block of Tennyson Street has held a meeting and begun the process to get Neighborhood Watch signs on their block. Another neighbor residing on Utica has also initiated the process of organizing a meeting to get Neighborhood Watch signs up. These signs again, are a way to acknowledge that your block is committed to crime prevention through keeping a watchful eye for suspicious activity in the area and potentially at a neighbor's house. As mentioned on December 2, 2010 on the WeCAN website, www.wecandever.org, burglaries are

up but overall crime statistics are down by over twenty per cent in the WeCAN area. Neighborhood Watch can help to identify suspicious activity and further reduce or eradicate these problems.

In an effort to build awareness on Neighborhood Watch, Officer Carlos Montoya, our Community Resource Officer, will be presenting at the February WeCAN General Meeting. In addition, Officer Montoya will be providing information on another crime prevention tool called Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED is also a fairly simplistic and cost effective tool citizens can implement in order to reduce the chance of crime or prevent crime at their homes, places of business, schools, and other areas in the community.

If you have questions regarding Neighborhood Watch and would like additional information about organizing Neighborhood Watch on your street, or reinvigorating a previously existing program, please contact Carolyn Billecci, WeCAN Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, at 720-480-4949.

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 left 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!”

Support WeCAN newsletter printing sponsors: This month's sponsor is



LAKE STEAM BATHS
The Most Exclusive Bath House in the West
Family Run Since 1927
“Where Sanitation and Courtesy Prevail”
303-825-2995 303-534-9993
3540 WEST COLFAX AVENUE, DENVER, COLORADO 80204

2011 WeCAN Board of Director

Officers

- Barbara Baker – Co-President
- Carmen Holston – Vice-President, liaison to neighborhood schools
- Brooke Williamson – Secretary
- Suellen Mack - Treasurer

Committee Chairs

- Jonathan Austin – Land Use Committee Chair
- Bill Baker – Newsletter Distribution Chair
- Carolyn Billecci – Neighborhood Watch Chair
- Michael Garner – Web Master
- Fidel Hernandez – Spanish Outreach Chair
- Chad Reischl – Environmental Committee Chair

Liaison Positions

- Reuben Gonzales – Liaison to Confluence Ministries
- Jacob Werther – Liaison to Community Organizations

Members-At-Large

- Staci Genchi – Member-at-Large
- Cindy Gillard – Member-at-Large
- Laurie King – Member-at-Large
- Wil Lopez – Member-at-Large, Environmental Committee member
- Ben Stetler – Member-at-Large, Land Use Committee member
- Shane Wright – Member-at-Large, neighborhood schools projects