

### **WeCAN General Membership Meeting**

Agenda for February 8, 2011, 6:00pm

Confluence Ministries, 1400 Quitman St.

- Call to order & announcements
- Police Report – Officer Hicks
- Strategies for Crime Prevention in Your Own Homes & Neighborhood Watch – Officer Carlos Montoya, DPD Community Resource Officer
- Please bring your suggestions for meeting topics and WeCAN projects.

**Crime Stats down again** in the WeCAN neighborhood. The latest statistical reports from the Denver Police Department show a decline of 19.1% in crime in the West Colfax district.

Officer Carlos Montoya, Community Resource Officer, will present a program to the WeCAN general membership meeting, February 8, 2011, 6:00pm, on Strategies for Crime Prevention in Your Own Home & Neighborhood Watch.

The revitalization of the Neighborhood Watch program in the WeCAN area continues under the guidance of Carolyn Billecci. To organize, or re-organize, your block contact Carolyn at 720-480-4949 or [c.billecci@gmail.com](mailto:c.billecci@gmail.com).

**RTD Fastracks** has announced the closure of Perry Street between 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The closing will commence on January 25<sup>th</sup> and may run through May of 2011. While an inconvenience to the neighborhood the reopening will mark another step towards the completion of the light rail project.

**The WeCAN adoption of the westbound** bus stop at Colfax Ave. and Irving St. has become official. The placement of a sign at the site is forthcoming and volunteers are being sought to perform the clean ups. Chad Reischl is heading this project.



The beginning of the **demolition of the Shuffle Inn** (see above), West Colfax Avenue and Zenobia marked the initiation of the Renaissance West End Flats project by the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. The project will result in a multi-story structure containing 101 units of mixed income housing.

“This is an exciting opportunity for the West Colfax neighborhood, the City of Denver, and Denver’s homeless population as this blighted building is transformed into a new housing community” said John Parvensky, president of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless.

“With the demolition of the Shuffle Inn, we will see the first high-density, mixed-use, transit-oriented redevelopment on West Colfax Avenue,” said Dan Shah, Director of Economic Development for the West Colfax Business Improvement District (BID). “This is exactly the kind of development that the West Colfax BID has sought for the corridor. We look to a fresh start for West Colfax in the New Year as this project gets underway.”

**Adolescent depression** is a major public health problem. [Major depressive disorder \(MDD\)](#) is common in adolescence. It is estimated that by the time adolescents reach the age of 17, 14 % will have experienced at least one episode of major depressive disorder. Even adolescents who have symptoms have significant functional impairments so early treatment is important.

The Depression Outcomes Study of Exercise (DOSE) (<http://www.doseforteens.org/>) is a National Institute of Mental Health-funded (R34MH082153) randomized controlled trial of exercise as a treatment for depressed adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17. Participants are randomized into either a public health dose or low dose of exercise for 12 weeks. They complete their exercise assignments at Denver recreation centers with a recreational therapist, who works with them one-on-one. Study personnel include Dr. Andrea Dunn, the previous PI of the adult DOSE study, and Dr. Donald Bechtold, an adolescent psychiatrist from the Jefferson Center for Mental Health. If you are a parent or guardian of a teen or are treating a teen who is interested in this study, please contact Jennifer, the Project Coordinator, at (303) 565-4321 x3673 or email [info@doseforteens.org](mailto:info@doseforteens.org). There will be rolling admission into the study until June 2011.

### **2011 Transit Alliance Citizens' Academy**

This unique program explores the complex linkages between transportation, community development and sustainability. Limited to 60 participants, the program requires a commitment over a 7 week span with an end goal being to use the training to further educate other citizens and continue to further transit development. Additional information is available online at [www.transitalliance.org/academy](http://www.transitalliance.org/academy). Applications are due Friday, February 11, 2011.

#### **Nonpartisan Mayoral Forum**

Saturday, **February 12, 2011 11:00am-2:00pm**

Barnum Rec Center, West 3<sup>rd</sup> & Hooker

Sponsored by a coalition of West and Southwest Denver Organizations.

Mayoral candidates will be introducing themselves and answering questions.

This month's printing sponsor is Renaissance West End Flats and Colorado Coalition for the Homeless:



**Lakewood Dry Gulch Park:** Development beyond the completion of the light rail.

David Marquardt, senior landscape architect for the City of Denver, spoke to the January general membership meeting of the West Colfax Association of Neighbors (*WeCAN*) regarding the long range planning for the Lakewood Gulch Dry Gulch and the park system within it. Speaking to the future of the Gulch Marquardt cited the development of the trail system, blue grass and prairie areas, access points (from turnarounds on dead end streets and bridges crossing the light rail) and the planning of community garden space.

A visit to the [Denvergov.org](http://Denvergov.org) website offers a page for the [Gulch Master Plan](#). Upon this page is a link to the [Lakewood Dry Gulch Park Concept Plan](#), dated 2005. An example from the concept plan shows community garden space on the north side of the gulch at Meade Street and infill residential property opposite on the south bank. Neighborhood meetings are proposed before the final implementation of the concept and citizen input will be heard and, it is to be hoped, acted upon.

**A coyote has been sighted** near Paco Sanchez Park in recent days. Be aware of the neighborhood wildlife when walking along the Gulch. Be aware of where your small pets are and watch over them. Most importantly, remember that wildlife is just that... wild.