



Vol. 5 Issue 5

ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORS
www.wecandenver.org

May 2014

Building a Stronger More Sustainable Community

West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN) is a Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO). WeCAN holds general membership meetings the second Tuesday of each month at 1400 Quitman St in Confluence Ministries main hall. WeCAN is dedicated to the advancement and well being of the West Colfax neighborhood.

**West Colfax Association of Neighbors
General Membership Meeting**

6:00 pm, Tuesday May 13, 2014

**1400 Quitman, Confluence Ministries
Main Room**

Agenda

- **6:00: Healthy Potluck Dinner**
- **6:20: Call to order and Announcements**
- **6:30: Police Officer Report**
- **6:45: Report by Susan Shepherd regarding possible changes to Paco Sanchez Park**
- **7:00: Update on the new public library at Colfax and Irving**
- **7:15: Vote to amend bylaws to better define membership and amend our boundaries to match Denver's definition of West Colfax.**
- **7:20 Adjourn**

Remember **May is a POTLUCK month**. Join WeCAN for the monthly general membership meeting and enjoy an informative session, good food and good company. A vote will be held to amend bylaws.

EarthLinks Second Annual Mother's Day Plant & Garden Sale. **Saturday, May 10, 2014 - 10am to 2 pm** 2828 Larimer Street, Denver.

Guests are invited to shop for organically grown flowers, herbs, and vegetable seedlings, transplants from EarthLinks' own garden, as well as hand-crafted gifts for mothers and all. Earthlinks is a non-profit that works to employ homeless and low-income residents of Denver in creating sustainable products, they will be moving their offices into the West Colfax area later this year.

Composting Class for WeCAN residents: May 14th at 6pm at the West Colfax Community Urban Gardens (12th and Utica). Local Master Composter candidate Cynthia Vitale will be teaching us the finer points of backyard composting so you can turn your table scraps

and yard waste into rich soil for your flowers and vegetables. Contact Cynthia at cynthiamvitale@gmail.com if you're interested in attending.

Sloan's Lake Plant Exchange: Saturday, May 17, 2014, 1445 Meade Street, 9am to noon. Bring plants, saplings, cuttings, bulbs, house plants, annuals and perennials from your garden, home or store. Leave what you bring, take what you need. This is a free event. Bring friends. Light breakfast snacks provided!

WeCAN Clean-Up Day May 17th 9am-12:30pm with picnic to follow. Please join other members of WeCAN and Extreme Community Makeover and other partner organizations to help clean-up the neighborhood. We'll be doing trash cleanup in alleys, parks, and some bus stops on West Colfax as well as painting over graffiti. We'll meet at Confluence Ministries at 9am, where the West Colfax BID will provide coffee, and head out into the neighborhood. We'll finish off the day with a picnic lunch at 12:30. Come out, meet your neighbors and help clean-up the neighborhood. Bring gloves and tools, i.e. shovels, brooms, buckets, etc.

WeCAN's 4th Annual Garage Sale will this year be raising funds to assist with necessary upgrades to the computer lab at Confluence Ministries, 14th Ave. and Quitman Street. Last year 55 residents graduated from the GED program at Confluence. The lab is also utilized for ESL, Whiz Kids, a tutoring program for Colfax Elementary School and adult citizenship classes.

The Annual Garage Sale will take place **Saturday, June 7, 8:00 am-3:00 pm** in the parking lot on the NW corner of West Colfax and Vrain St.. Donations of all kinds of used and near new resalable items and household furnishings are needed. Volunteers to assist with sorting donations now and working the day of the sale much needed. Please contact **Barbara Baker, 303-257-9808, thanksb@comcast.net**.

The **WeCAN Board of Directors** proposes the following **changes to the bylaws** to be voted for approval at the May general membership meeting:

1. To amend boundaries of WeCAN to include the entire neighborhood as defined by the City of Denver: Currently WeCAN's northern boundary stops at 17th Ave. although the City's definition of West Colfax extends to 19th Ave. A few

residents from that district have wondered why they were not included in *WeCAN* since they are technically in the "West Colfax Neighborhood". The board has voted to expand the boundary to 19th Ave. between Meade and Federal to encompass Lake Middle school and the remainder of the West Colfax Neighborhood to the East. A vote by the membership is needed to amend the bylaws.

2. To amend membership rules: The board has voted to incorporate the following membership guidelines into the bylaws.

A. Membership is Free to all residents who live, own property, or work in the West Colfax neighborhood.

B. When signed up you are active for 3 years, and can reset membership by signing into a meeting, opening an email blast, or contacting/being contact by a board member.

C. A member can resign from the organization at any time.

Northwest Denver COP Shops

May is a good time for reminding us how to protect our homes and property as we enter vacation season.

* Have good locks on all doors and windows and use them. Even the smallest window can provide access.

* Make sure your residence looks lived in, not empty.

* Stop all deliveries of your mail, newspaper and packages. Have someone check to make sure nothing gets left.

* Plug in timers to turn lights on at night and off during the day and a radio or television on and off at appropriate times.

* If you have a telephone in the house turn the bell or ringer on your telephone down low. If a burglar is around, he or she won't be alerted to your absence by a ringing telephone.

* Don't announce your absence on voice mail; don't post to Facebook or any other social media site announcing your absence. Also don't update your status while on the trip.

* Close and lock garage doors and windows.

* If you leave your car at home, park it as you normally would. Vehicles parked outside should be moved occasionally to appear that they are being used.

* Alert the District 1 Police Station when you will away for extended absences.

The District 1 COP Shops are still looking for a few good volunteers! If interested leave a voicemail at the office: 720.865.2240.

Food Bank Assistance in West Colfax Area

* Bienvenidos Food Bank, 303-293-8995, has food distribution at W. Colfax and Winona Ct. (VFW parking lot) the third Thursday of every month. May 15th is the next distribution.

* Families with students at Cheltenham and Colfax Elementary Schools can receive assistance from the Food Closets at their school. Contact school social worker.

* Open Arms Community Church meets at Cheltenham Elementary School every Sunday, 10:00 am, 16th Ave. & Julian

St. After services a food bank featuring fresh produce and various other items is open to the public.

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Support **WeCAN Fundraiser Recycling**: All scrap metal or items that can be resold on Craigslist are welcome. All donations are tax deductible, receipts on request.

Contact **Bill Baker**: 303.946.8230 or
bigbuddy2@comcast.net

WeCAN May Calendar

May 3 - Free Tree Mulch, Sloan's Lake, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, 17th & Sheridan

May 3 - Mile High 5 Race & Fun Run, Sloan's Lake, 7:30 am - 11:00 am.

May 5 - Cinco De Mayo

May 13 - *WeCAN* general membership meeting, 6:00pm, 1400 Quitman

May 14 - WCCUG Composting Class, 6:00pm, 12th & Utica

May 17 - *WeCAN* Clean up day, 9:00am-12:30pm

May 17 - Sloan's Lake Plant Exchange, 9:00am-12:00pm, 1445 Meade

May 21 - *WeCAN* Board meeting, 6:00pm, 1400 Quitman

Jun 7 - *WeCAN* Garage Sale, 8:00am-3:00pm, West Colfax & Vrain.

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