



Vol. 5, Issue 11

ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORS  
www.wecandenvver.org

November 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 November 11, 2014**  
**1400 Quitman, Confluence Ministries**

**Agenda:**

- **6:00 Pot-luck dinner**
- **6:20 Call to order and Announcements**
- **6:30 Police officers report**
- **Presentation & vote about a liquor license application at the commercial space at West End Flats, Yates and West Colfax**
- **Vote to fill the vacant Co-President seat**
- **6:40 WeCAN's 2014 Year in Review.**
- **6:50 Interactive planning for 2015 – with topics including 2015 Events, Communications, the Sustainability Program, Volunteer Development, Community/school garden support, General membership meeting topics, etc.**
- **7:30 Adjourn**

Chad Reischl, a founding member and three term co-president of WeCAN is making a career move and moving from West Colfax.



**A fond farewell to WeCAN**

Members, friends and neighbors,  
It is with much sadness, that I will be saying farewell to WeCAN in the coming month. Five years ago, when I sat down with a handful of other community members to

discuss the possibilities of forming a neighborhood organization, I hadn't any idea how successful it would become and how meaningful the organization would become to me. Aside from the wonderful neighbors I've met and the friends I've made, I am proud to have been an integral part of an organization that, among many other things, recently raised \$5,000 for the new library's endowment fund, provided input in selecting public art for the neighborhood, and guided the redevelopment process for St. Anthony's Hospital.

Unfortunately, it is time for me to move on. Two years ago I received my master's degree in urban planning and have worked diligently to find meaningful work that would keep me in the Denver area, but to little avail. Starting in November, I will be taking a position as town planner for Evans, Colorado and will be moving to the Greeley area. I am hopeful that WeCAN will continue to work toward building a more sustainable neighborhood in West Colfax and leave legacy for years to come. This future will only happen as a result of great leadership and volunteer support, however, and I hope that some of you reading this might consider getting more involved in WeCAN in order to continue this work. I hope that you will meet new friends and neighbors and reap the rewards of making a difference in the neighborhood just as I have.

Thanks again to all of you who have been a part of this organization; I wish you all the best. Know that I will miss you and the West Colfax neighborhood greatly. I hope to come back and visit in order to see all the wonderful changes that WeCAN has helped bring to the community.

Sincerely,

Chad Reischl – WeCAN Co-President

The **November General Membership** meeting will be devoted to **planning for WeCAN goals for 2015**. The following areas will be under discussion:

**Communications** – Discussion will surround the WeCAN website, newsletter and email blasts, as well as, what is involved, how volunteers can support and enhance what is already in place.

**Sustainability Program** – A review of what has been accomplished towards neighborhood certification, what is in progress and what still needs to be done will be the

focus of this group. Planning for about 2015 projects will take place.

**Volunteer Development** – This group will focus on developing strategies to enhance *WeCAN's* volunteer recruitment and make plans for 2015.

**Community/School Garden Support** – Representatives will be present with reports from 2014 community gardens in the West Colfax neighborhood, as well as, someone with information on plans for a garden at Colfax Elementary School. Discussion will surround plans for 2015 gardens.

**Events** – Planning for *WeCAN* 2015 annual events (Fund Raiser Garage Sale, Clean Up Day and Volunteer Appreciation Party) will be the focus, as well as, suggestions for special events that residents would like to see happen.

**The NW Denver COP Shops** is assisting the Denver Police Department in “Lighting the Night”. The number one crime in our neighborhoods (and the USA) is theft from automobiles. In District 1, the lack of off-street parking makes this area particularly prone to this type of crime in residential areas. These types of thefts are usually crimes of opportunity and darkness is their friend (as are keeping items of value in vehicles).

Many Denver neighborhood streets are extremely dark even with streetlights. Mature trees block the lights, lights go off and on randomly, and some streetlights are not working. Currently DPD District 1 is conducting a lighting survey looking for areas that need improved lighting. But, each of us can help by making the effort to keep our porch/front lights on. To help make this happen, District 1 and Northwest Denver COP Shops are handing out low energy use Compact Florescent Light (CFL) bulbs to help light our streets.

We have dropped off some of these bulbs in specific areas and when residents have installed and used these lights they make a significant difference on these streets at night.

If you would like one of these bulbs you can come by the West Colfax COP Shop at 5094 West Colfax (Monday or Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) or give us a call. Bulbs are available at District 1 as well. Please contact the District 1 Community Resource Officers.

If you notice a streetlight malfunctioning (dark, blinking, or seems dim) Xcel Energy services Denver city streetlights. You can either call Xcel at 1-800-895-4999 or file a report online at 'xcelenergy.com' and enter search term 'streetlight'. On each pole there is an inventory number/bar code on a tag attached. Providing this number simplifies the reporting and repair process.

Be safe out there! West Colfax and Federal COP Shops – 720.865.2240.

Denver's annual **Leaf Drop** starts the first weekend in November. The **Sloan's Lake** drop-off point is at 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Sheridan Blvd, 11:00am to 3:00pm, Nov. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16. Coupon for free leaf bag at Ace Hardware stores available here: <http://www.myhelpfulace.com/leaf>

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](mailto:bigbuddy2@comcast.net)

### **WeCAN November Calendar**

**Nov 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16** Denver Leaf Drop, 11am-3pm, Sloan's Lake, 17<sup>th</sup> & Sheridan

**Nov 3-7** Large Item Pickup, put your large items in allies for free pickup

**Nov 5** 10<sup>th</sup> & Perry Playground meeting, 6:30pm, Egleton Elementary School, 880 Hooker St.

**Nov 11 Veterans Day**

**Nov 11** *WeCAN* General Membership meeting, Potluck, 6:00pm, 1400 Quitman

**Nov 19** *WeCAN* Board of Directors meeting, 6:00pm, 1400 Quitman

**Nov 20** Councilwoman Shepherd, office hours, 2:00-3:00pm, COP Shop, 5049 W. Colfax

**Nov 23** Broncos vs Dolphins, 2:25pm, parking restriction in effect

**Nov 27 Thanksgiving**



Bring your Box Tops for Education to *WeCAN* meetings. Leah Rounds will distribute to local schools.

Please join **Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR)** in the planning and design of an existing **playground** located in Lakewood/Dry Gulch Park (**10th Ave. & Perry St.**) that is proposed to be replaced.

DPR will conduct a second meeting with the community to discuss two design alternatives, budgets, and schedule. DPR is interested in getting ideas and feedback from the community that could be applied towards the planning and design of this exciting project.