October 2015 Volume 6, Issue 10



# **Building a Stronger, More Sustainable Community**

The West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN) is the Registered Neighborhood Association (RNO) for the neighbors who live, work, or own property in the West Colfax neighborhood. WeCAN is a citizens group that meets the second Tuesday of every month, 6:00pm, in the main hall of the Confluence Ministries building, 1400 Quitman. Please join us!

WeCAN's mission is that together WE CAN provide community support, safety, and education within our neighborhood through volunteerism, proactive programs, outreach, and kindness; all the while preserving our neighborhood's history, unique character, and vast diversity.

## The next general meeting is Tuesday, October 13th, 6:00pm Agenda:

6:00-6:10 – WeCAN Announcements 6:10-6:20 – Report from DPD Community Resource Officer, Denise Gomez 6:20-6:35 – Reading Partners presentation 6:35-7:15 – DPS School Board Candidates Lisa Flores & Michael Kiley, District 5. Presentations and Q&A

Contact Us! www.WeCANDenver.org 'Like' us on Facebook-WeCAN Denver info@wecandenver.org 303-578-6263 PO Box 12474 Denver, CO 80212

Register to become a WeCAN member at: http://wecandenver.org/join/

### Letter from the WeCAN Board of Directors

We are pleased to bring you **Denver Public Schools Board of Education District 5 candidates, Lisa Flores and Michael Kiley, to our next general membership meeting.** Join us **Tuesday, October 13**<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm in the main hall of the Confluence Ministries building, 1400 Quitman. Each candidate will have time to introduce themselves and share what they hope to bring to the position, and there will be time for questions and answers. Please join us to get to know these candidates better before the November election. You can learn more about each candidate at their websites: Lisa Flores - http://www.floresfordenver.com/ and Michael Kiley - http://kileyforkids.com/

Join with WeCAN, Confluence Ministries and Extreme Community Makeover in the next clean-up day in the West Colfax neighborhood, Saturday, Oct 17th 9:00am. This is a great way to partner with your neighbors to: clean up trash on the streets and alleys, remove graffiti, help neighbors with exterior home maintenance/improvement projects, and build new relationships and make connections in the neighborhood. Lunch will be provided. Projects are generally completed by 4PM, but you can come for a half day. Children of all ages are welcome to come with an adult willing to work with and supervise them. Please contact Diana at 303-550-9853 or Diana@wecandenver.org to discuss projects and get registered for the day or just show to help out the day of.

At our September General Meeting, EFG was there to present the plan and rezoning request for Block 2 of the former St. Anthony's redevelopment site. The developers are asking that Block 2 be rezoned from 5 stories to 8 stories. WeCAN encourages you to contact our city councilman, Rafael Espinoza, with your thoughts on this rezoning request before the hearing in December. You can contact Councilman Espinoza at 720-337-7701 or Rafael.Espinoza@denvergov.org

Cheltenham and Colfax Elementary Schools are starting Reading Partners tutoring program at the schools. You can volunteer 1-2 hours a week tutoring an individual student at the school. All training and materials will be provided, no teaching experience is needed. If you would like to learn more about the program contact 720-409-9909 or volunteerco@readingpartners.org. More information about the program will be at this month's October 13th general meeting.

WeCAN needs volunteers to deliver the newsletter every month! The newsletter is the main way WeCAN communicates with the neighborhood, and getting it delivered door-to-door to all West Colfax neighbors is our goal. Routes take about one hour at the beginning of each month. Contact Leah@wecandenver.org to see if there is a route available near you.

# West Colfax Neighborhood Events Calendar

#### October

- **6** Councilman Rafael Espinoza, District 1 Constituent Forum, 6:30-8:00pm, 2401 Alcott St. (Riverside Baptist Church)
- 7 Councilman Rafael Espinoza, District 1 Constituent Forum, 6:30-8:00pm, 1820 Lowell Blvd. (Lake Middle School)
- 13 WeCAN General Meeting, 6pm, 1400 Quitman (main hall). Come meet DPS District 5 School Board candidates!
- 17 WeCAN Neighborhood Clean-up Day! 9am-4pm. Meet at 1400 Quitman.
- **19** Denver Police Department District 1 Commanders Advisory Group meeting, 6:00pm, 1311 W. 46<sup>th</sup> St.
- **21** WeCAN Board of Directors meeting, 6:00pm, 1400 Quitman (basement). Open to the public
- 27 Councilman Rafael Espinoza, District 1 Constituent Forum, 6:30-8:00pm, 2960 Speer Blvd. (Sandoval Lecture Hall)
- **28** Councilman Rafael Espinoza, District 1 Constituent Forum, 6:30-8:00pm, 1311 W. 46<sup>th</sup> Ave. (DPD Community room)

#### November

- 1 Broncos game, 6:30pm, Sports Authority Field
- **2-6** Denver Waste Management Large Item Pick-Up
- **10** WeCAN General Meeting, 6pm, 1400 Quitman (main hall)



You can help support WeCAN's newsletter by donating scrap metal. All donations are tax deductible and receipts are available upon request.

Contact Bill Baker to arrange a pickup of your metal donation. 303-946-8230 or bigbuddy2@comcast.net A big **THANK YOU** to Bill Baker and Don Austin for their dedication to WeCAN over the past six years! Bill has served as the Newsletter Distributor Chair and Don as the WeCAN newsletter editor. We will miss their help but are happy to know they are still in the neighborhood and helping in other ways.

### From the NW Denver Cop Shop:

There has been a recent increase in a scam called card cracking or card popping. It targets young people who are students, military or single parents that make use of social media, like Twitter or Instagram. It is estimated that over 85% of the people who have fallen for this fraud are under age 31.

The fraudsters target people by hunting for hash tags on social media that indicate student affiliations, military associations, financial institutions, or status like #singleaparent. Some of these criminal activities are a more direct pitch like #newscholarship. Once a potential target is identified they are contacted directly with an offer of easy money in the form of a kickback, offer of cash up-front, and in truly egregious examples - a scholarship. But to facilitate the transaction the consumer needs to provide personal and financial institution information, and in some cases, debit card numbers and pins.

This is a growing problem. So we need to get the message out to the young people we know or make contact with. Here are some tips to prevent this from happening:

- Do not respond to online solicitations for "easy money." Card cracking advertisements will suggest that this is a quick, safe way to earn extra cash. Keep in mind that easy money is rarely legal money.
- Never share your account and PIN number. Keep this information private at all times. By sharing it with others, you expose yourself to potential fraud.
- Do not file false fraud claims with your bank. By filing a false claim, you
  are a co-conspirator to fraud. Banks' detection techniques for card
  cracking are constantly improving and suspicious claims will be
  investigated.
- Report suspicious posts linked with scams. If you notice postings that
  appear to be linked with a possible scam, report them to the social media
  site. There is usually a drop down menu near the post to allow for easy
  reporting.

Be safe online, Northwest Denver COP Shops, 5094 W. Colfax Ave, Denver 80204, 720-865-2240. Like us at www.facebook.com/NWDenverCOPShops.

Denver Police District 1's Community Resource Officer is Officer Denise Gomez. If you ever have NON-emergency questions, comments, or concerns about what is going on in the West Colfax neighborhood don't hesitate to contact her at Denise.Gomez@denvergov.org or 720-913-0566.

How Can You Volunteer for the West Colfax Neighborhood This Month? Help at the WeCAN neighborhood clean-up day! Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.



Meet at the Confluence Ministries Building (1400 Quitman St.) at 9:00am, and most projects will wrap up no later than 4:00pm. Lunch is provided! Come help for the morning, afternoon, or the whole day.

WeCAN will be cleaning up alleys, graffiti, and more to help beautify the West Colfax neighborhood. Children are welcome with an adult supervisor.

Contact Diana@wecandenver.org or 303-550-9853 if you would like to volunteer for the day or just drop by in the morning to be assigned to a group.