



Eiberhood News

The newsletter of the Eiber Neighborhood Association. Please visit our website at www.eiberhood.org

Sustainable Eiber Edition

Fall / Winter 2012

Eiberhood Board

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Meetings

7pm 3rd Thurs of month
Lakewood United
Methodist Church
14th & Brentwood

Newsletter Ad Rates

1/4 page \$90. 1/8 page \$50.
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Sustainable Eiber Initiative Underway

by Carrie Sonneborn

Becoming a Sustainable Neighborhood is a goal that the Eiber Neighborhood Association embraced in February of this year. Becoming more sustainable means enhancing the livability of our neighborhoods by strengthening their environmental and social characteristics.

The aim is to become a 'certified sustainable neighborhood' as part of Lakewood's Sustainable Neighborhoods Program. To do this, the Eiberhood will earn 100 'points' in 12 months by carrying out activities in five broad categories: energy, air, water, land and people. Eiber residents used these goal areas to select the following neighborhood initiatives:

- Eiber Community Garden
Contact: Lois at Eibercommunitygarden@gmail.com
- Alternative Transportation/Health/Air Quality
Contact: William at wspriggs2001@yahoo.com
- Land Stewardship/Native Landscaping/Native Habitats
Contact: Tom at intjsci@live.com
- Neighborhood Heritage
Contact Paul at HistoricEiber@gmail.com
- Resilience Circle
Contact Carrie at Sustainableeiber@gmail.com
- Eiber Elementary Literacy Program
Contact Lois at Eiberelementaryliteracy@gmail.com

We are already well on our way to earning those 100 points. If you have more ideas about sustainability in our neighborhood, or want to learn more, contact Carrie Sonneborn, Sustainable Eiber Coordinator at sustainableeiber@gmail.com, or check out www.eiberhood.org. 'Like' us on Facebook at 'Sustainable Eiber.'

We're looking for a few good...Board Members!

The Eiber Neighborhood Association Board has openings for three board members. If you are interested in contributing to the continuing improvement of our neighborhood, we want you! Expect a time commitment of 3-4 hours per month. We are focused on the West light rail line, sustainability, community gardening, and neighborhood news reporting. Contact Ed Calmus, Eiber Board President, at 303-744-2940, or email him at ed.calmus@gmail.com. Help us make our great neighborhood even better

Eiber Community Garden

by Lois Witte

The Eiber Neighborhood Association, in partnership with Eiber Elementary School and Denver Urban Gardens (DUG), is creating a community garden on the grounds of the Eiber Elementary School. This garden is a wonderful opportunity to create community through gardening and growing healthy produce.

We already have an approved site at the School, DUG is drafting a garden plan, and we are applying for a grant from the City of Lakewood. This initiative is chaired by Lois Witte and Jennifer Loyd, two Eiber neighbors. We are looking for additional community members who would like to become involved in reviewing design and directing the future of the garden.

Contact us at Eibercommunitygarden@gmail.com for more information, to volunteer your time or resources, to sign up for a garden plot, and/or to become part of the steering committee for this community garden.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Bike Eiber

by Bill Spriggs

BIKE EIBER is the contraction of three sustainability initiatives: Alternative Transportation, Health & Air Quality. BIKE EIBER believes that all three initiatives can be accomplished by the widespread cultural acceptance of bicycle usage. It is BIKE EIBER's goal to transform Eiber into a bike-friendly neighborhood.

Mr Spriggs of 12th and Balsam is leading this initiative. You can volunteer, request more information and / or sign up for a free BIKE EIBER email newsletter by contacting him at wspriggs2001@yahoo.com.

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Eiber Elementary Literacy Program

by Lois Witte

It is an unfortunate fact of life that children who cannot read by the end of third grade are likely to drop out of school, which continues the cycle of poverty into which over 90% of the children at Eiber Elementary School are born. Unfortunately, too many of the children at Eiber are not reading at grade level.

This year the Eiber Neighborhood joined USDA federal volunteers in a program established last year to provide students with reading assistance and adult mentoring. They do this by reading with a child once a week for approximately 30 minutes. This one-on-one attention helps these children acquire the gift of literacy, as well as reinforcing the importance of reading.

This year we are expanding the reading program to include help with math and other homework. Come help turn around the lives of these children by volunteering. You might be surprised at the beneficial impact it has on your life as well! If you have gently used books appropriate for children up to 6th grade that you no longer want, consider donating these books to Eiber Elementary.

For more information, contact Lois Witte at eiberelementaryliteracy@gmail.com

Eiber Resilience Circle

by Carrie Sonneborn

Across the country, people are creating Resilience Circles in their communities. A Resilience Circle is a place to meet neighbors, share skills, learn about the real nature of our economic and ecological challenges and build common security through neighborhood ties.

The Eiber Resilience Circle will have met 4 times by the printing of this newsletter. We have shared pot luck suppers, enjoyed each others garden, had a peach canning bee, done some neighborhood tree trimming and created a skill share list.

Most importantly Resilience Circles create the opportunity to get to know your neighbors, build community and develop a sense of place. From there, all kinds of collaborations blossom naturally and 'organically'.

You can learn more about Resilience Circles at www.localcircles.org

For more information about the Eiber Circle contact Carrie at sustainableeiber@gmail.com



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Creating Wildlife Habitat in your Own Backyard by Tom Slabe

Between the 1800s and today the amount of wild land on earth has diminished in extent and quality. Due to various stressors on all but the most hardy of organisms, many species are in decline and they could use some help.

One way to help on an individual level is to create wildlife habit in your own yard, or perhaps at a neighborhood school or urban park. In addition to the satisfaction one may derive from creating a wildlife habitat and watching wild creatures show up to visit and live, you can help out many kinds of birds that pass through during long spring and fall migrations.

There are four main aspects or features to wildlife habitats. They include 1. Shelter, 2. Food, 3. Water, and 4. Places to raise young. Over this past summer, for instance, a humming bird couple took up residence in my habitat. There first were two hummers but then later on there were five, apparently three young survived the summer.

Interestingly, it seemed there were fewer pests this summer as my wildlife habitat is becoming more established. I believe that the increase in the number of species, such as ladybird beetles, finches, assassin bugs, and flickers, helps to reduce numbers of pests.

It kind of makes sense when you consider that if numbers of species increase there would be less room for any given pest population to spin out of control. Were such a condition to start, beneficial predator species would be trailing right behind to eat them.

A wildlife habitat can be quite simple or it can be as complicated as one wishes. Most yards have the makings of a wildlife habitat and may simply need a source of water, like a bird bath where water is consistently available. In our climate with its sunshine and daytime heat, it's best to leave a bird bath in a shaded area.

The idea is simply to get outside and observe nature. I have one plant, a native rabbit bush, which is a wildlife

habitat unto itself. It's simply amazing what kind of wildlife it supports, such as honey bees, stink bugs of all description from bright green to black with red stripes, a kind of black and yellow striped beetle, and other pollinators, Various kinds of birds visit this plant to eat the bugs and seeds.

Plant a bush sunflower and a bazooka agastache in your yard and you have created a wildlife habitat. Then all you need do is wait for the critters to show up.

For those interested, you are invited to one of Eiber Neighborhood's existing wildlife habitats. The habitat, located at 8860 W. 13th Avenue, will be open for viewing on Saturdays throughout this October from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Alternatively, should you like a personal tour, you may contact Tom to make an appointment at 216-403-2600 or at intjsci@live.com.

For more information on wildlife habitats, please visit The National Wildlife Foundation website at www.nwf.org/get-outside/outdoor-activities/garden-for-wildlife.aspx

RTD West Rail Line Update

Construction winds down on the West Rail Line as we approach opening day on April 26, 2013. Other than a few crews working on punch list items, Denver Transit Construction Group has completed its work.

Balfour Beatty Rail will continue electrifying lines and installing devices through 2012 and Swinerton Builders will be working on the parking garages through spring of 2013.

During October, the Safety Road Shows roll out. RTD representatives will visit the four Lakewood elementary schools within four blocks of the alignment, including Eiber Elementary and Jeffco Open School.

The Road Show will feature four stations geared to teaching kids to walk and bike to school safely. Included are: a helmet fitting station, a hand signal station, a coloring station and a mock crossing demonstrating activated crossing arms.

Art-n-transit is near and dear to many of you and RTD will include artwork at key locations along the West Rail Line. With opening day only seven months away, art selection has begun.

The first four calls for artists went out earlier this month with semi-finalists scheduled to be selected by September 24, 2012 and finalists named by early November.

Continued on next page

Eiber Neighborhood Association — www.eiberhood.org
PO Box 260937
Lakewood CO 80226



Help save a life when I help you buy or sell your next home. I donate 5% of my proceeds to the Misha May Foundation, an animal rescue society in Lakewood, and I will pay for your pet adoption fee at closing if you'd like to have a new pet to go along with your new home.

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A second group of calls for artists will go out later this month. For more information, visit the West Rail Line website at www.rtd-fastracks.com/wc_1

*****CLIP AND SAVE*****

Eiber Neighborhood Association
is a not for profit all volunteer organization.

We welcome your support via donations and participation.

Learn more at www.eiberhood.org