



# Eiberhood News

The newsletter of the Eiber Neighborhood Association. Please visit our website at [www.eiberhood.org](http://www.eiberhood.org)

Spring, Summer Edition, 2014

## Eiberhood Board

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Tom Slabe  
Carrie Sonneborn  
Mag Strittmatter

### Meetings

7pm 3rd Thurs of month  
Action Center  
8755 W 14th Ave

### **Newsletter Ad Rates**

1/4 page \$90. 1/8 page \$50.  
Multiple issue discounts  
available.

## Eiber Neighborhood Annual Meeting Is May 1st

Please attend your Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 1st at 6:00pm, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 10th and Garrison Streets.

The meeting begins with a "Meet and Greet," with representatives from City government, West Metro Fire (including a fire truck!), RTD, and the Action Center.

The Eiberhood is a leader in neighborhood sustainability, and was the first Lakewood Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood. You will learn about current and future sustainable initiatives. Speakers will update you on the current state of the W Rail Line, West Metro Fire's mill levy proposal, and the Eiber Elementary Community Garden. New sustainability initiatives will be suggested and discussed. It will be an interesting and informative evening with your neighbors. Join us!

## We're Asking

What sustainability projects would you like to see in your neighborhood? Please go online and complete this very brief survey about possible sustainability projects. We want to know! [www.surveymonkey.com/s/SustainableEiber](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SustainableEiber)

## Community Garden Ready To Plant

After years of planning and construction, we are excited to announce the first planting of the Eiber Community Garden, located on the grounds of the Eiber Elementary School at 1385 Independence Street. This garden is one of many Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) community gardens consciously designed to grow community by using gardens as an extraordinary place for learning and healthy living. This garden provides local Eiber Elementary students with hands on gardening experience and garden education programs, provides free vegetable seeds and seedlings for low-income families and fixed income seniors, and provides individual garden plots to Eiber neighborhood residents.

Breaking news! The Community Garden is receiving a City of Lakewood Sustainability Award. Annually, these awards recognize leadership in community sustainability. This is the second award in our neighborhood. Last year St. Paul's Episcopal Church won for their rooftop solar installation. The ceremony is April 28th, 7pm, City Council Chambers, 480 S. Allison Parkway.

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## **Eiberhood In Transition**

By Paul Ditson

The Eiber Neighborhood Association, also known as Eiberhood, was formed in April 2000 as part of the City of Lakewood's program to establish neighborhood organizations to assist in city planning and improvement efforts. As a neighborhood organization, we enable the city to qualify for federal, state, and local grants for neighborhood improvements; we help improve communication between city departments and the community; and we work to identify and implement community-level projects that improve the quality of our neighborhood.

With the gentrification of downtown Denver, there is mounting pressure on the west side from vagrancy, gangs, and other socio-economic factors that can adversely affect property values. A healthy, vibrant, growing neighborhood can confront these pressures, improving everyone's property values and keeping our community strong and resilient.

It's a win-win proposition: constant improvements and well-maintained properties increase property value, and in turn reduce the threat of migration into the neighborhood of those elements that tend to degrade property value. A good neighborhood organization contributes to this process by fostering community-level initiatives for the benefit of all.

A healthy neighborhood organization relies entirely on the selfless volunteerism of individuals who are inspired to make a difference in their community. Our neighborhood has a rich, 120-year history – through the silver crash of the 1890s, the Great Depression, two World Wars, a whole scale transition from agricultural to residential property use, the rise and fall of the coast-to-coast US 40 highway, and most recently the redevelopment of a historic trolley line to light rail – it is in the process today of yet another historic transition.

This year, we expect there to be a significant shift in the focus of the Eiberhood organization. Now that the West Rail line has been completed, the largest single initiative of the organization has been accomplished, with just a few loose ends to tie up. In the months and years ahead, Eiberhood will continue to work with the city in addressing remaining items in the neighborhood plan, and will continue fostering initiatives to maintain our proud status as a Lakewood Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood.

Here is a partial list of the many accomplishments Eiberhood has made over the years:

- Eiber Neighborhood Plan
- Garrison Street Speed Radar Signs
- Sunset Park Playground Improvements
- Eiber Community Garden Startup
- Sunset Park Expansion, doubling the size of the park
- First Sustainable Neighborhood in Lakewood (after pilot program)
- RTD West Line: Design, Construction, and Operations
- 2 year Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood
- Richey Park Landscape Improvements
- W 13th Ave traffic study
- West Colfax Median Improvements
- 14th Ave Adopt-a-Street
- Numerous planning reviews including Colfax Redevelopment, Wadsworth widening, Light Rail Station Area Plans, and various rezoning requests.

Current initiatives include:

- Mobility and Alternative Transportation efforts
- Continuing Sustainable Neighborhood Program
- Final RTD West Line mitigations
- New Neighbor Welcoming Program
- Eiber Heritage Program
- Bee Safe Program

Eiberhood desperately needs neighbors who care enough to contribute to preserving and improving our unique quality of life and help guide our – your – community into the future. This is a really good organization with a solid history of motivating positive change in our neighborhood. Please join us at our annual meeting in May, and consider signing on as a volunteer board member.

You can volunteer as much or as little as you have time and ambition. You can get involved by attending our annual meeting, any open door monthly meeting, or by contacting a current board member. More information can also be found on our website, at [eiberhood.org](http://eiberhood.org). We have pressing needs for a webmaster, a membership director, and help with producing compelling website and newsletter content. Please consider joining us, we would love to have you!

## **Eiber Resilience Circle Still Going Strong**

By Carrie Sonneborn

The Eiber Resilience Circle has been meeting monthly for nearly 2 years, often at different neighbors' homes. Attendees take part in a pot luck supper followed by a guest speaker and discussion. The Circle has contributed to the Sustainable Eiber status of our 'hood by building community, presenting information and discussing and planning local sustainability initiatives.

Usually about 15 - 25 people attend these get-togethers and a good time is had by all. The group has over a hundred 'members' and is always looking for more!

Some of the speakers in the past year include: Jonathon Stall of Walk2Connect, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting 'walk ability' in the community; David Braden of Living Systems Institute, an organization that runs classes on permaculture and beekeeping; James Bertini of Denver Urban Homesteaders, a group that promotes food self-sufficiency in urban areas; Barbara Moore of Harvest Mountain Farm, a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

To get on the Resilience Circle email list (so you will know when the next meeting is!) send an email to Carrie Sonneborn at SustainableEiber@gmail.com

## **Lakewood's First Fire Station to Be Replicated**

A historic representation of Mountair Fire Station #1, originally located on West Colfax near Pierce Street, is being constructed at the Lakewood Heritage Center. The project is a partnership of the West Metro Fire Rescue Foundation and the City of Lakewood.

This fire station will serve three purposes:

1. As a tribute to Lakewood's firefighting tradition by housing historic firefighting artifacts, including Lakewood's first fire truck.
2. As a community space for groups to gather and convene.
3. As a source of economic development by enhancing the Lakewood Heritage Center 20th Century Museum and serving as a local and out-of-town tourist destination.

You can be a part of this historic, grassroots community project. Contact Hali Nurnberg at mountairstation1@gmail.com.

## **Major Expansion Underway For The Action Center**

By Mag Strittmatter, Executive Director

Spring speaks to many levels of anticipation, with planting, blooming and growth. This is also the case at the Action Center, as spring arrives in tandem with our capital construction project!

Over the past several years, board, staff and volunteers have been busy at work on plans to improve the services provided by the center for thousands in the Jefferson County community. Our goal is to truly meet both ends of our mission statement in "providing an immediate

response to basic human needs and promoting pathways to self sufficiency" for those in need. After much discussion and careful analysis, a plan was created.

It's been 12 years since our current facility was expanded to accommodate our service delivery, and daily operations. But the recession and its after effects served as a wake-up call that our current infrastructure was not permitting the agency to provide the type of programming needed by so many. As a result, the Action Center purchased the two Cottonwood Office buildings just to the east of our location at Estes and 14th Avenue by using a bridge loan. We have created a three-phase plan that will truly transform the agency and allow us to better serve the community while also creating positive collaborations with other partner agencies.

Phase 1 will take the building at 8745 W 14th and transform it into a facility dedicated to just program services. Keep in mind, for years we have been using the facility at 8755 W 14th for multiple purposes; the home of the Estes Street Community Clinic; receiving/ processing/ storage and distribution of food, clothing, household goods; admin space; and program service delivery. Over those 12 years, we have literally run out of space.

We began raising money three years ago to tackle the first and most expensive phase of the project. This first phase will cost \$4.2 million, which includes construction costs, debt service and debt reduction and the costs associated with running a campaign. We are well on our way toward that goal and will actually begin construction in May. By October, this building will have been transformed into a gem of a facility that will permit comprehensive programs where our neighbors will find expanded case management care, and access to basic human needs. Clients will have a fresh, more respectful way to choose nutritious, healthy foods and greater opportunity throughout the week to select needed clothing and so much more. As a result, we will be able to help people find their way towards self sufficiency in a much more productive and collaborative manner. And at the same time, offer services to our neighbors with the same high levels of dignity and respect.

With that said, there is still work ahead in order to complete the fundraising for this phase. That means there is still time to financially support this wonderful project! Just call (720-407-6705) or email (mags@theactioncenterco.org).

In the meantime, the anticipation is building on all levels, come be part of the excitement as we improve how we address the immediate and self sufficiency needs of our county. For more info on this exciting project, please visit our website at [www.theactioncenterco.org](http://www.theactioncenterco.org).

Eiber Neighborhood Association — [www.eiberhood.org](http://www.eiberhood.org)  
PO Box 260937  
Lakewood CO 80226



### **Vacation Bible School**

**FREE**

**WHO:** All Ages, 3-99 years old

**WHEN:** June 22- 26, *Come one or all days*

**TIME:** 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Sunday  
5:30 pm to 8:00 pm, all other days

**WHERE:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
10th & Garrison, Lakewood, CO

*Pre-registration begins June 1, Forms available at  
[www.stpaulslakewood.org/VBS.html](http://www.stpaulslakewood.org/VBS.html) or Call 303-232-4991  
Nursery Available Upon Request*

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