Belmar Sustainable Neighborhoods Program

Neighborhoods participating in this unique certification program use guidance from City staff to organize workshops, projects and events that enhance the livability of their neighborhood.

Belmar Sustainable Neighborhood Information
Facebook.com/belmarsustainable
BCConnection@gmail.com

City of Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhood Program Information
www.lakewood.org/Green/Neighborhoods/
LesLan@lakewood.org

Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhoods Program

This newsletter was made for Belmar residents, by Belmar residents. Please take a few minutes to check it out!

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6, 2013
Tomato Gardening
11 a.m. to Noon
Belmar Community Garden

April 20, 2013
Earth Day
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lakewood’s Heritage Center

April 27, 2013
Bike to Light Rail Grand Opening Celebration
Bike from Belmar to the Garrison Street Station
Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Virginia Ave. Transit Station, Belmar (or just meet us at the Garrison Street Station for the festivities)

BELMAR’S COMMUNITY GARDEN

A DELICIOUS EXPERIENCE

By COLBY HATFIELD, Belmar Resident

What a bounty! And, what a surprise! Last summer we began planting close to the end of June under the least desirable conditions: High temperatures, no rain, and untested soil. Yet by August we were reaping pumpkins, watermelons, squash, and for a fortunate number, incredible tomatoes.

After three years of planning, the Belmar Community Garden became a reality last year through a joint effort of Denver Urban Gardens and the Learning Source. Belmar residents cultivated 18 plots and the results were amazing. By the end of June all but one of the plots were beginning to sprout. In addition to the pleasures of harvesting our produce, an unforeseen reward of membership was the opportunity to end a hot tiring day resting at the picnic table under the tree or strolling through the plots, witnessing the growth spurt of cucumbers, the scents of geranium and lavender, sniffing the pungent aromas of the compost bins, sharing stories with fellow gardeners and occasionally welcoming exploratory grandkids pulling up beets as they learned the delights and tribulations of horticulture.

Towards the end of the season many of us gathered for a workday, which ended in a sumptuous self-congratulatory potluck, many of the dishes having been prepared with garden crops. Even in winter, a walk through the garden in slumber is a pleasure, as is making plans for spring. This year we have plans for more community involvement, workshops, crop sharing, and a garden journal, among others.

Would you like to get involved?

You do not have to be an experienced gardener to participate. Two workshops are being slated for this spring, best practices for flourishing tomatoes and container gardening. We are considering a third, dealing with water conservation in gardening. We also plan to have our gardener group for this year identified by April and planting in May. If you are interested in learning more about our events and joining the workshops or becoming a Belmar gardener, please email Colby Hatfield, hatfieldcc@earthlink.net.

BELMAR’S COMMUNITY GARDEN

A DELICIOUS EXPERIENCE

BY COLBY HATFIELD, BELMAR RESIDENT

WHAT A BOUNTY! AND, WHAT A SURPRISE! LAST SUMMER WE BEGAN PLANTING CLOSE TO THE END OF JUNE UNDER THE LEAST DESIRABLE CONDITIONS: HIGH TEMPERATURES, NO RAIN, AND UNTESSED SOIL. YET BY AUGUST WE WERE REAPING PUMPKINS, WATERMELONS, SQUASH, AND FOR A FORTUNATE NUMBER, INCREDIBLE TOMATOES.


TOWARDS THE END OF THE SEASON MANY OF US GATHERED FOR A WORKDAY, WHICH ENDED IN A SUMPTUOUS SELF-Congratulatory POTLUCK, MANY OF THE DISHES HAVING BEEN PREPARED WITH GARDEN CROPS. EVEN IN WINTER, A WALK THROUGH THE GARDEN IN SLUMBER IS A PLEASURE, AS IS MAKING PLANS FOR SPRING. THIS YEAR WE HAVE PLANS FOR MORE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, WORKSHOPS, CROP SHARING, AND A GARDEN JOURNAL, AMONG OTHERS.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE AN EXPERIENCED GARDENER TO PARTICIPATE. TWO WORKSHOPS ARE BEING SLATED FOR THIS SPRING, BEST PRACTICES FOR FLORISHING TOMATOES AND CONTAINER GARDENING. WE ARE CONSIDERING A THIRD, DEALING WITH WATER CONSERVATION IN GARDENING. WE ALSO PLAN TO HAVE OUR GARDENER GROUP FOR THIS YEAR IDENTIFIED BY APRIL AND PLANTING IN MAY. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR EVENTS AND JOINING THE WORKSHOPS OR BECOMING A BELMAR GARDENER, PLEASE EMAIL COLBY HATFIELD, HATFIELDCC@EARTHLINK.NET.

NEW OR OLD, MULTIUNIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS USE 22% OF THE ENERGY IN THE US. THERE IS A HUGE OPPORTUNITY FOR SAVINGS WITHIN YOUR BUILDING! BY COMPLETING AN ENERGY AUDIT YOU CAN IDENTIFY SOME INEXPENSIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR BOTTOM LINE AND HAVE SAFER, MORE COMFORTABLE SPACES FOR RESIDENTS. ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS WILL SAVE MONEY FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS AND PAY FOR THEMSELVES! CONTACT ICAST TO FIND OUT HOW EASY IT IS FOR YOU TO SAVE MONEY AND REDUCE ENERGY USE! CONTACT BRIAN FIRESTONE AT brianf@icasusa.org OR 303.462.4100 X 824 TO LEARN MORE.
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**APRIL 6**
- **EARTH DAY CELEBRATION Moving Forward**

Celebrate Earth Day at Lakewood’s Heritage Center (801 S. Yarrow Street) from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Come check out exhibits, games for the kids, and ideas. Belmar’s Sustainable Neighborhoods group will have a booth offering biking and transportation information. Don’t miss the free climbing wall, museum tours, and monster trucks!

For more information: [www.Lakewood.org/Green](http://www.Lakewood.org/Green) Or call: 303.987.7836

**STAY INFORMED ON THESE AND OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS BY LIKING US ON FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/belmarsustainable](http://www.facebook.com/belmarsustainable)

**APRIL 20**
- **WEST LINE GRAND OPENING**

For Lakewood and Belmar the biggest event in decades is happening on April 26th when the new W Rail line will open to the public. The Wadsworth Station is just a mile north from Belmar and will provide easy access to downtown Denver and the rest of the system. Belmar was designed as a sustainable community with easy access to mass transit so you can leave your car at home. This is a huge step toward that vision. Grand opening ceremony at Jefferson County Government Center – Golden Station approximately 10:30 a.m. Free rides on West Rail Line following the ceremony (approximately noon).

**APRIL 26**
- **BIKE TO LIGHT RAIL CELEBRATION**

To celebrate W Line there will be a community bike ride on Saturday April 27th. We will leave from the transit center on Virginia Ave. at 9:30AM and ride through Belmar Park and up the bike route to the new Garrison Station. Dust your bike off, enjoy a ride, meet your neighbors, and be a part of this historic event. Or just meet us for the festivities at the Garrison Station and enjoy free rides on the entire light rail system metro wide!

**APRIL 27**
- **CELEBRATION**

Celebrate Earth Day at Belmar Community Garden (east of South Quay adjacent to the Learning Source) from 11 a.m. to noon and learn more about growing tomatoes in your garden.

Presented by Jefferson County Master Gardener Shelley Taylor.
- Tomato plant selection
- Transplanting
- Water Walls
- Fertilizer
- Disease recognition/prevention/remedy
- Pest recognition/prevention/remedy

**RESERVE A TABLE OR EMAIL:** valmanis49@gmail.com or call 303.987.2061 if you would like to attend.

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**BELMAR SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES**

Belmar residents have been working together to identify sustainability initiatives for 2013. Now is your chance to join your neighbors in building a sustainable community. If you are passionate about one of the topics below, contact BCConnection@gmail.com to offer your help and expertise.

**Belmar Community Garden**
- **Goal:** Promote local foods, urban agriculture and Belmar’s new community garden.

**Recycling & Compost**
- **Re-Hash the Trash**

**Energy Efficiency**
- **Goal:** Reduce energy use and ways to reduce consumption.

**Health & Wellness**
- **WitNESS Our Fitness**

**Communication & Community Building**
- **Share Tag-Mail Like & Ping**

Want to join the leadership team for one of these initiatives? Do you have expertise that you’d like to share with your neighbors?
**Contact:** BCConnection@gmail.com

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The Every Trip Counts Program asks participants to pledge to reduce two car trips per week from Memorial Day to Labor Day—when ozone pollution is highest. How you choose to reduce two car trips is entirely up to you! Everything counts as long as you are not driving your car at least two days per week. You can bike, walk, take the bus, carpool, work from home, or just relax at home. The program offers incentives to those who participate, i.e., bike shop gift certificates, bus passes, restaurant gift certificates and random prize drawings.

In the years 2010 and 2011, the Regional Air Quality Council partnered with the City of Arvada. In these two years, 1,300 people participated in the program and reduced nearly 500,000 vehicle miles. This translates to a reduction of 2,900 lbs of carbon monoxide, 96,000 lbs of carbon dioxide, 220 lbs of oxides of nitrogen, and 1,000 lbs of volatile organic compounds. Just think—all of those good benefits to our summer air happened by leaving a car at home at least two days a week. The Every Trip Counts program is brought to you by a partnership between the Regional Air Quality Council and the cities of Arvada, Wheat Ridge and Lakewood. During the summer of 2012, 1,200 people participated.


(For additional information or questions, contact Kate Cooke, Transportation Program Manager, Regional Air Quality Council)

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**GOT IDEAS?**

Help keep Belmar SUSTAINABLE. Let us know your thoughts on events or workshops to continue our goal of making Belmar one of Lakewood’s premier sustainable neighborhoods.

Like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/belmarsustainable](http://www.facebook.com/belmarsustainable) to send a message, or email BCConnection@gmail.com

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**every trip counts**

The Every Trip Counts Program asks participants to pledge to reduce two car trips per week from Memorial Day to Labor Day—when ozone pollution is highest.

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