DEAR NEIGHBORS, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Weir Gulch Gardens is one of the newest Sustainable Neighborhoods recognized by the City of Lakewood! Inclusion into this program will allow us all to take the love for our neighborhood and environment to the next level. We are all volunteers who share our ideas, skills and passion to help make a difference right here in the neighborhood. Now is the time for YOU to get involved in making our neighborhood the best and most sustainable that it can be. It is also a great way to get to know your neighbors and celebrate our community! We encourage you to take the survey on the last page of this newsletter and contact us by email to get involved - our information is on the next page.

Sincerely,
- Your Neighborhood Leadership Team

OUR UNIQUE NEIGHBORHOOD

You can hear roosters crowing at dawn and see neighbors riding horses down the street at dusk, and still be a walk or quick bike ride away from a multitude of shopping and entertainment. Many residents are drawn to the rural feel of our neighborhood and accessible location amidst the bustle of the metro area. We’re proud to be a new neighborhood in the City of Lakewood’s Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, which provides support to neighborhoods in order to help people live more sustainably and reduce the environmental footprint of residents.

Our neighborhood that surrounds Weir Gulch represents a remnant of a significant era of Lakewood history: small, agricultural lots that were divided into 5-10 acre homesteads or “truck” farms. A common trend upheld in the Weir Gulch area, perhaps longer than anywhere else in Lakewood, was the seemingly amiable mix of wealthy landowners who owned vast amounts of property, and working families who could afford a reasonably sized lot.

Over time, the area has developed into a diverse and multi-faceted community with many long-time residents. We have large lots, urban homesteaders, mobile home communities, low-income apartments and senior residences. Besides English, the most commonly spoken languages include Spanish and Vietnamese.

We are proud of the diversity of our neighborhood and are looking forward to getting to know more of you as we work together and learn from each other.
IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

A NEW INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY: ANGELICA VILLAGE

By Becca Krasky, Your Neighbor

Angelica Village is a community of people in the neighborhood who share resources and support each other. We come from many countries, and speak many languages. We are ages two to seventy two, with many young adults and students in our community. We are eight households, many of which are in the Weir Gulch Gardens neighborhood.

We have a large garden at our main community house, and are working to transform the entire property into a food forest permaculture oasis. We think about sustainability as multi-faceted, engaging with ecology, economics, and human systems. Sustainability is about not only caring for the earth, but also about caring for each other. This summer we’re planning on opening a small corner store on our property, selling green cleaning products, handmade soaps, and fresh produce. Sustainability is also about providing just work opportunities - one example of that is a new business started by a community member, Accountable Hands LLC, that combines handy work services and a social mission of employing youth from all over the world.

We are very excited to support our sustainable neighborhood! We hope to host workshops and potlucks, and we are looking forward to connecting more with our neighbors. Please contact angelicavillage@gmail.com to join our email list. Once social distancing eases, we will resume our weekly Saturday night community potlucks, which are open to our neighbors.

PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAWKS: AVOID RAT POISON

One of our residents recently spotted a dead hawk in a field near her home, looking like it had just dropped dead out of the sky. It’s quite possible the hawk ate a rodent that had been poisoned.

Rat poison can remain in the bodies of rodents after ingesting it, and after they die. Hawks scoop up the vermin and accidentally get poisoned as well. We have beautiful Red-tailed hawks, Cooper’s hawks and owls in our neighborhood, and these raptors are an important part of our suburban ecosystem. They hunt rats, mice, and voles, which can damage our homes and gardens. It’s amazing to watch raptors in our neighborhood build nests, raise young, and hunt in open fields and backyards along Weir Gulch.

Please use snap traps or electronic traps to kill rodents instead of using rat poison. It’s safer for our pets and urban wildlife!

ABOUT US

The Weir Gulch Gardens Neighborhood Association was established in May 2019 by a small group of neighbors hoping to build a stronger sense of community, help connect residents, and ensure we all have a safe, clean and healthy place to live and thrive. We work together to identify concerns and areas for improvement and take action as a group to address those concerns. Our leadership also helps keep residents informed about new development proposals and/or rezoning proposals in our area.

CONNECT WITH US

We host at least quarterly meetings, which have lately been held via Zoom videoconferencing because of COVID-19. We’d love for you to connect with us and get involved in our work:

Email us: WeirGulchGardens@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook: Facebook.com/groups/WeirGulchGardens

Go to our webpage to learn more: SustainableNeighborhoodNetwork.org/WeirGulchGardens

Call us with questions & comments: (303)987-7524

PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAWKS: AVOID RAT POISON

One of our residents recently spotted a dead hawk in a field near her home, looking like it had just dropped dead out of the sky. It’s quite possible the hawk ate a rodent that had been poisoned.

Rat poison can remain in the bodies of rodents after ingesting it, and after they die. Hawks scoop up the vermin and accidentally get poisoned as well. We have beautiful Red-tailed hawks, Cooper’s hawks and owls in our neighborhood, and these raptors are an important part of our suburban ecosystem. They hunt rats, mice, and voles, which can damage our homes and gardens. It’s amazing to watch raptors in our neighborhood build nests, raise young, and hunt in open fields and backyards along Weir Gulch.

Please use snap traps or electronic traps to kill rodents instead of using rat poison. It’s safer for our pets and urban wildlife!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join our email list at WeirGulchGardens@gmail.com or follow our Facebook group to receive the Zoom Videoconference login information for these events (online or call in).

JUNE GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, June 18
6-7 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

We will meet via Zoom Videoconference to share ideas and discuss concerns in our neighborhood.

SAFER & SUSTAINABLE AT HOME: HARVEST PRESERVATION

Thursday, July 16
6 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

This is a FREE event and anyone is welcome (you don’t have to live in the neighborhood to attend), so please share with your friends, family and neighbors! We ask that you please RSVP if you plan to attend so we can send you the Zoom link by email! Email WeirGulchGardens@gmail.com to be added to the attendee list.

NEIGHBORHOOD SEMI-VIRTUAL CLEANUP

Ongoing
Late May through the end of July

Work in small/family groups to clean litter from your part of the neighborhood and let us know what you covered (photos are welcome). We will update a neighborhood clean-up map on our Facebook page. Every group that participates will be entered into a lottery to win a prize!

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

Involvement in the Weir Gulch Gardens sustainability effort is completely voluntary; however, all residents are invited and encouraged to participate! We have created a survey to identify what initiatives are of most interest to our neighbors and whether or not we have leaders and support teams for these efforts.

To take the survey visit SustainableNeighborhoodNetwork.org/WeirGulchGardens.