

MI CASA INNOVATION LAB OFFERS FREE COURSES

Tucked away in the corner of the Nancy P. Anschutz Center, next to the Jack A. Vickers Boys and Girls Club, there's a bright, sun-filled room that's part office, part classroom. It's the Mi Casa Innovation Lab, and it's hidden in plain sight.

"Folks have heard something about this office that exists in the Boys and Girls Club that offers services programs to the community," says Innovation Lab Manager and Small Business Consultant Robert Hernández, "But there's still not quite a clear understanding as to what we provide."

What Mi Casa provides here are free resources focused on four aspects of career and business readiness: career planning, business creation counseling, financial literacy, and technology training. Courses offered include resume writing, conducting a job search, interviewing, writing a business plan, marketing, how to use the internet, email, and much more.

Hernández says the classes are for everyone, not just potential business owners. "If you're not interested in career advancement or starting a business

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you can still come here and take advantage of the resources we offer. Part of my job and part of the outreach is to help folks understand that we're open to all residents and we want to support their economic advancement."

The Innovation Lab features a seating and consultation area and a classroom with 15 laptops for hands-on learning and practice. Patrons receive one-on-one attention and a personalized experience that's tailored to best suit their needs. And Hernández says responsiveness is key, "If there's something that the community comes to me with that I keep hearing again and again, I'd like to find a way to do it."

"I want people to feel comfortable here and want to come back," says Hernández. "These are incredible resources that are free and I know that folks could use some of these resources, they could use the one-on-one attention, but they just don't know it exists."

For more information on the Mi Casa Innovation Lab go to www.MiCasaResourceCenter.org/supportive-services or call 303-388-8213. The office is typically open 1-7 p.m. and walk-ins are encouraged.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Now that the holiday rush is over, consider volunteering on a Habitat for Humanity construction site. Habitat is in great need of volunteers on Thursdays and Fridays in January and February to help with a project located in Denver at I-70 and Chambers.

Twelve units are currently under construction and Habitat is able to accommodate large groups in addition to individual volunteers. To schedule a volunteer group please contact Trisha Koizumi at trisha@habitatmetrodenver.org. Individual volunteers can sign up online at www.habitatmetrodenver.org.



Robert Hernández, Innovation Lab Manager and Small Business Consultant, runs the Mi Casa Innovation Lab inside the Nancy P. Anschutz Center in Park Hill

DISTRICT 2 AWARDS TOP COP



Denver Police Department District 2 presented Corporal Eric Gray with the November Top Cop award. Corporal Gray was honored for his work to diffuse a dangerous situation and take a murder suspect into custody without incident.

RESOURCES

Denver Human Services
Montbello Office
720-944-3666

District 2 Police Department
720-913-1000
Michael.Calo@denvergov.org

District 5 Police Department
303-376-2300
Les.Perry@denvergov.org

Department of Motor Vehicles
720-865-4600

Denver Public Schools
720-423-3200

Denver Workforce Center at
Montbello
720-865-4800

City of Denver Services
311

District 11 Council Aides

Alan Pettis
alan.pettis@denvergov.org

Amanda Schoultz
amanda.schoultz@denvergov.org

Council District 11 website
denvergov.org/councildistrict11



Councilman Herndon speaks at the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation's Fall Forum. Photo courtesy Eric Stephenson

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY

Community Events

Denver Preschool Program Showcase

January 11, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
1550 Court Place

Z Place Birthday Party

January 17, 4:30 - 7 p.m.
4800 Telluride St.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 20
City offices closed

Registered Neighborhood Organization Meetings

Northeast Park Hill Coalition

January 9, 6 p.m.
3921 Holly St.

Greater Park Hill Community

January 9, 6:30 p.m.
2823 Fairfax St.

Police District 5 CAB

January 16, 6 p.m.
4685 Peoria St.

Green Valley Ranch CAB

January 21, 6:30 p.m.
4800 Telluride St.

Stapleton United Neighbors

January 21, 7:30 p.m.
Central Park Rec Center

Police District 2 CAB

January 30, 6 p.m.
3921 Holly St.

FRAUD ALERT: GIFT DELIVERY SCAM

Beware of strangers bearing gifts!

Watch out for this credit card scam:

You receive a phone call from someone wanting to deliver a package. Shortly after the call, a uniformed delivery man arrives at your home with a basket of flowers and wine. If you inquire about who sent you the gift, the delivery man will respond that he is only delivering the package and that a card has been sent separately.

The delivery man will explain that because the gift contains alcohol, there is a "delivery charge" as proof of delivery to an adult, so the sender knows it was not just left it on the doorstep where it could be stolen.

He will not accept cash because the company requires the payment to be by credit or debit card only.

He will ask you to swipe your card on a small mobile card machine and ask you to enter the card's PIN and security number. By doing this you have provided all the information necessary to use your card. If you provided a debit card it will be used at ATM machines to access your funds – and a bank will not reimburse these charges.

Be wary of accepting any surprise gift or package that you neither expected nor personally ordered, especially if a payment is a condition of receiving the gift or package. Also, never accept anything if you don't personally know the sender or if there is no proper identification of who the sender is.

Above all, the only time you should give out any personal credit/debit card information is when you yourself initiate the purchase or transaction.

Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179