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## Activist to hold good neighbor forum Feb. 24

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It's time people take a stand on the issues that affect them.

That's the emphasis behind Good Neighbor, started by Chuck and Roni Sylvester of La Salle. The new organization will host a Good Neighbor Forum Feb. 24 at the 4-H Building in Greeley's Island Grove Regional Park.

"The theme of that forum is that you must take a side on issues and stand up for your rights," Sylvester said during the Colorado Farm Show, where Good Neighbor has a booth in the 4-H Building.

Sylvester, who ran as a write-in candidate for governor last year, said the idea for Good Neighbor was fostered when he demanded an audit of the South Platte River from then Gov. Bill Owens and never got a response. Sylvester, who grew up along the South Platte, felt agriculture was not getting its legal allotment of the river's water.

Colorado, he said, is fast becoming a poster child for takings -- takings that are needlessly disturbing every social, economical, ethnic, cultural and professional part of the state, from rural areas to cities. The forum promises to educate, clearly define the sides, and empower participants on county, state and federal constitutional rights.

"You must take a side on these issues while the choice is yours. We need to remind people that we do have rights and we do have a constitution," Sylvester said. "We need to hold politician's feet to the fire."

The forum will feature speakers that includes Sylvester and the following:

\* James K. Chilton, president and founder of Chilton & Associates, a fifth-generation Arizona rancher who specializes in providing investment banking and financial advisory services to

public entities.

\* Lawrence A. Kogan, an international business, trade and regulatory attorney who is a sought-after speaker for his ability to clarify complex issues and offer solutions regarding the impact non-governmental agencies are having.

\* Mark V. Trostel, chief of the Colorado State Patrol, an avid outdoorsman who enjoys riding horses and participates as a volunteer in many community activities.

\* Kimmi Clark Lewis, a cow-calf rancher from Kim who is working against the proposed Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site Expansion by the U.S. Army.

\* Chuck Miller, spokesman for the Private Property Rights Foundation of the West.

\* Jim Beers, who retired under duress after 30 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who is considered one of the most knowledgeable persons in the U.S. on the Endangered Species Act.

\* Charles F. Leaf of Merino, a registered professional engineer who is considered as one of the most knowledgeable persons in the U.S. regarding the Platte rivers.

An official exit poll will be conducted concerning presidential choice for the 2008 election.

**Breakout:** The Good Neighbor Forum will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 24 at the 4-H Building in Island Grove Regional Park, 501 N. 14th Ave. Pre-registration is \$15 which includes a box lunch. Registration also will be taken at the door, but lunch is not guaranteed. To register or for more information, go to <http://www.goodneighborlaw.com/>.

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