



Nonprofit Org
 US Postage Paid
 Permit 30308
 Twin Cities MN

Southeast Como
 Improvement
 Association
 1170 15th Ave SE
 Minneapolis, MN
 55414

 612-676-1731
 secomo.org
 comogreenvillage.org

Thank you for your support so far!!

Dear Como Neighbors,

This year we face many challenges as both a community and as an organization. We are in danger of losing the organizational capacity to oversee our gardens, safeguard our air and water, coordinate events like the Cookout and maintain an office. If our funding stream stays consistent, within 8 months, we will be forced to reduce staff. By 2014, we may lose all but part-time staff and be unable to afford an office. What's worse, the city has made no promise to fund neighborhood organizations beyond 2013.

Because of this, many Como neighbors have donated and voiced their support. For those who haven't yet done so you may be asking, "How can we help?" Thankfully, there are many ways to support SECIA. **You can donate.** You can send us a check, use your credit/debit card at GiveMN.org, or stop by the office with cash. **You can spread the word.** Talk to your friends and neighbors, tell them about your contribution and ask them to match it. **Come to the Annual Meeting, November 13th.** We need the neighborhood to come out and vote on a variety of budget and programming issues that may extend our ability to service the community. **Join a committee or run for the board.** As an active member of SECIA, you can organize fundraisers, pressure city officials, welcome new neighbor, beautify the streets and create new programs. **Find your way to be an active partner in Southeast Como!**

Attend SECIA's Annual Meeting on November 13th

As part of SECIA's by-laws, a town hall style meeting is required for certain organizational decisions. This year, SE Como community members and business owners will gather on Tuesday November 13th to elect board members, vote on budget changes, and update the community on important neighborhood issues. In the past, budget concerns have been noted, but in 2013, SECIA will be forced to make programming and office changes to fit the projected income as it stands now. This annual meeting will allow you to weigh in on these issues.

Hear about the new committee we are hoping to form with interested members from Como – a **Community Engagement Committee** – which will work on community events, engagement activities and other ideas that reach out to all members of our diverse neighborhood.

If you are interested in possibly joining the board, you can contact the SECIA office (676-1731) for more information. Nominations for potential board members may also be made from the floor during the meeting. Interested parties should expect to attend the meeting and make a 2 minute statement.

SE Como Neighborhood Annual Meeting!



**Tuesday,
 November 13th**
 6:30-8:30 pm

Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE



Vote on a variety of budget and programming issues that may extend SECIA's ability to service the community.

For more info, contact 612-676-1731 or secomo@secomo.org



COMO-tion



October 2012

Check out our Home Buyer Loans

SECIA is now offering down-payment and closing cost loans of up to \$5000. These loans are forgivable if you live in your house for seven years. For more information, visit our Housing programs page at

<http://secomo.comogreenvillage.info/home/programs/housing-programs>

Correction: We previously called this a "First time home buyer" program. This loan is for anyone interested in buying a home in Como and not limited to first time buyer.

Time to plant your garlic!

At the 2012 Como Cookout, SECIA handed out seed garlic to neighbors and community gardens for fall planting. Our garlic was purchased at Ecological Designs with support from a Allina Neighborhood Connection grant. Did you get one or more of the five varieties we gave-away? Well then, it is time to plant! See the ComoGreenVillage.org site for more details.

Polling Place Changes in 2012

Beginning in 2012, voters will use the new voting precincts established during the 2012 Redistricting Plan. This created new boundaries for many voting precincts, and the selection of some new polling places. **Most people will vote at Van Cleve Park.** The City of Minneapolis' Elections and Voter Registration website has some great information about important dates, absentee ballot information, polling place look up and other election related information: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/elections/index.htm>

Want to sell your home to another homeowner?

Or looking for long-term tenants? Don't forget the University District Alliance's "Live Near Your Work" listing service. There's no charge for his service.

See www.livenearyourwork.net Open the "For Sale" or "For Rent" button at the top and then find the phrase "List your property" or "List your rental" on the page you've opened. If you're selling a home through a realtor, please encourage your realtor to use these listings. And please recommend the web site to friends who may be looking for housing in the U District neighborhoods as well.

And while you're at www.livenearyourwork.net, please have a look at the short, snappy videos about the attractions and advantages of living in the U District neighborhoods.

It's time for Early Childhood Screening

Did you know that the Minneapolis Public Schools provide early childhood screening, free of charge, to all children in the District?

It provides valuable information about your child's development and health. When done early, the screening gives kids and parents a jump start on school readiness

When your child turns 3, give Early Childhood Screening a call at 612-668-3715. They provide referrals for vision and hearing, early childhood family education, Head Start, High-5 Preschool and other community programs. They work with parents to help them provide for their child's needs.

(If your child is under the age of 3 and you have concerns about development, please call Early Intervention Central Intake, also at 612-668-3715)

2013 Home Tour wants your home, or your neighbors'

Who in your neighborhood recently remodeled their home and might like to show it off? Or a host with the most, in a classic home? The 2013 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour is already looking for homeowners and home improvement professionals to feature on the late-April tour. Nominations/applications are due Tuesday, January 15, and early submissions are encouraged. For more information, call Tour Coordinator Margo Ashmore at 612-867-4874 or email mfashmore@aol.com.

<http://msphometour.com/>

1st Thurs. in the Arts District

on Thursday, November 1
SECIA Annual Meeting on
Tuesday, November 13, 6:30 PM
Give to the Max Day! on
Thursday, November 15
**UMN Combined Heat and
Power Plant Update** on
Thursday, November 15, 2012,
5:00 p.m.

**Housing and Livability
Committee** on Tuesday,
November 20, 7 PM

**Environment Committee No
meeting** in Nov. Next one on
Tues., Dec. 11th, 7PM

For more information, visit

www.secomo.org