



Southeast Como
Improvement
Association
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A Call For Support

Dear Como Neighbors,

This year we face many challenges as both a community and as an organization. For many years, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) provided steady funding with consistent rules regarding its use. As NRP transitions to Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR), our funding has been reduced by 75% and our ability to continue receiving support is governed by a process still being created. These funds have been used to directly support neighborhood projects and organizations, hire staff to support the neighborhood goals and provide the fiscal stability and matching funds needed to seek grants from other sources. 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.

Many of you are already aware of our situation and are asking, "How can we help?" Thankfully, there are many ways to support SECIA. **You can donate.** Even amounts as small as \$5 can have a big impact. And it's easy you give. 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 \$5 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!**

Another Successful Cookout

Thank you for making our 10th Como Cookout the biggest and best yet! We had over 900 people in attendance, served over 100 pounds of hotdogs, 350 baked potatoes and almost 500 ears of corn. There were nearly 50 varieties at the Tomato Tastin', 200 heads of seed garlic given away, a Local Food Resource Hub potluck featuring some very delicious samosa and 7 gardening and cooking skillshares!! Residents enjoyed the Prairie Fire Lady Choir and the acapella rendition of Metallica's "Enter Sandman," poetry and hip hop from Guante, Jug-tacular tunes from the Como Avenue Jug Band and a throng of childrens dancing with KidsDance. The arm-wrestling tournament was a bigger success than last year, with trophies handed out in men, women and children's competitions and next door, 10 folks learned a bit about fall herb harvest and preservation. Thanks to all the organizations that came to talk politics, education, sustainability, art, fitness or who helped us dance, paint the mural or dream. Thanks to our sponsors; U of MN Student and Community Relations, the Southeast Como Improvement Association, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, The Varsity Theater, Anytime Fitness, Southeast Christian Church, Big Event Productions, Allina Neighborhood Health Connection, Two Fat Guys and a Grill, the U of MN Coca-Cola Development Initiative and the 3 farms- Foxtail, Cornecopia and Fischer Family. Finally, thank you to all our Como neighbors. It is your energy and enthusiasm that makes events like the Como Cookout worth the time and effort we invest as a community.





COMO-tion



October 2012

Block & neighborhood parties for storm water!

Fall Community Clean-ups for Water Quality are being launched this fall for block clubs and community groups with the purpose to prevent phosphorus run off in our lakes, streams and the Mississippi river. This is a project organized by Alliance for Sustainability with the Fresh Water Society, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.

Cleaning up our curbs and gutters prevents the highly nutrient-rich leaves and debris from entering rivers, lakes and streams, reducing pollution at the source and improving water quality for local communities. Fight water pollution in the streets near your home today. Did you know that just five bags of leaves and organic debris from streets and sidewalks can contain one pound of phosphorus? Over time, this can lead to the growth of hundreds of pounds of algae. Phosphorus is the leading & most serious source of pollution for rivers & lakes causing excessive growth of aquatic plants & eutrophication.

Community members can sign up to host a fun & free 2 hour event on their block to rake up leaves out of their street and storm drains with neighbors between Oct 13 and Nov 20 at <http://www.afors.org> on their "work4water" page. For each event the host will receive door hangers to invite their neighbors, a map showing how their block connects into their watershed, and compostable leaf bags for their event. After the events check back at www.freshwater.org to see the total impact of all of our block events together!

Free Safety: "How to get out of situations"

October 15, 6 PM at BUDO
There will be a class for people of all ages

and abilities on "how to get out of situations" on the street. This is not a judo lesson; it's self-awareness and learning your personal options lesson. Nick Juarez from Precinct 2 and others are excited about this opportunity for people to be able to practice what to do. Recent crime activity may have left you wondering "What would I do . . ." This is a chance for you to learn, practice, gain confidence in yourself with improved self-knowledge and awareness. FFI about BUDO, go to www.ewkmartialarts.com. For more Safety tips, check out the safety page at secomo.org.

Restorative Justice

The Fall 2012 Restorative Justice Community Conference Schedule is ready. All dates are currently available. You may notice that we've added a Panel Solicitation Community Conference to the Schedule. These cases will be conferenced similar to Drug Court or deNovo cases (similar scripts and agreement guidelines). Feel free to participate in this conference or a conference outside of your precinct designation if you would like a change of pace. 2PSE cases typically involve college students and are generally public urination, minor consumption, loud party--type cases. 2PNE have been possession cases recently involving small amounts of marijuana or meth. 4P North are a mixture of cases from liquor in the park to sell/possession. 5/3rd are a mixture. Drug Court and Panel Conferences are funneled through the programs outside of RJCA before they arrive in conferences; conferences are generally meant to fulfill the community reparative portions of those programs. For more Information, visit <http://www.rjca-inc.org/>

Check out our new First Time 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>

SECIA Annual Meeting November 13th

Our annual meeting is coming and there are many important issues to vote on. We have two open seats on the Board to elect, many budget proposals to vote on and fun to be had. The next Comotion will have a full breakdown of all the agenda items, so stay tuned.

- Next Generation of Parks: Sweet and Salt (Water and the Dutch)** on Monday, October 1
- Solar Tours** on Saturday, Oct 6
- Voting and the Democratic Process** on Sunday, October 7
- Cam Gordon Office Hours** on Tuesday, October 9, 9:30-11:30 at Muddsuckers
- 9th Annual Historic Riverfront 5K Run/Walk** on Saturday, October 13
- Free safety class: "How to get out of situations"** on Monday, October 15, 6 PM
- Housing and Livability Committee** on Tuesday, October 16, 7 PM
- Urban Agriculture & the Eastside Panel Discussion** on October 17, 6-8 pm
- Environment Committee** on Tuesday, October 23, 7PM

For more information, visit

www.secomo.org