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The Como-tion Word About Town

TCEducate Kickoff is a success!

Como's learning continues Oct. 28 with *Remediation Techniques*

5:30-7:00 pm at Van Cleve Park (915 15th Ave SE)

On Tuesday, September 9, Como residents gathered at Van Cleve Park to hear the first lecture in SECIA's TCEducate series focusing on neighborhood contamination and the work that's being done to clean it up. The lecture was very successful. Urban Studies coordinator and advisor at the U of M, Paula Pentel, briefed the audience on Superfund law and how it relates to Como's current environmental situation. Hans Neve of the MPCA was also present to answer questions and give information about recent mitigation efforts. The lecture was filmed and will be published online in the upcoming weeks. The next segment of TCEducate will be held at Van Cleve on Oct. 28 from 5:30-7:00 pm. There will be no formal lecture, but the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will be sponsoring an open house held by an independent consulting firm. This will be a chance for residents to learn about different soil and groundwater options for the TCE contamination clean-up. Afterwards, from 6:00-7:30 pm, residents will be given a chance to have one-on-one conversations with MPCA and the Minnesota Department of Health.



Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Ricardo at 612 676-1731 or ricardo@comogreenvillage.info



SECIA Receives CURA and HECUA Interns to Support TCE Efforts



learning and action
beyond the classroom

Audrey Zimmerman will be joining SECIA from the Higher Education Consortium of Urban Affairs (HECUA). HECUA is a nonprofit that integrates art and education into urban issues by giving students an organization and platform from which they can begin social outreach. Audrey will be interning in communications, documenting the TCEducate lecture series and condensing environmental information for SECIA's website.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Charlene Sundermann will also be joining SECIA from U of M's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA). CURA connects the resources of the University of Minnesota with the interests and needs of Minnesota's urban communities and the region. Charlene will be supporting and developing future TCEducate lecture series along with looking at available data of the General Mills site to compare methods of vapor intrusion investigations and cleanup technologies to similar TCE sites around the nation.

TCEducate Continues With Open House (Details Inside!)

Neighborhood based advocacy benefiting Southeast Como and the entire Twin Cities

Events (<http://tinyurl.com/secomo-calendar>)

Spectacular Como Cookout!

Neighbors new and old had much fun September's Como Cookout. This year's musical line-up had broad appeal, the food included Halal options for the first time, and the resource tables all had activities like FairShare Farm's make-your-own herb salt booth. Like past Cookout's, the event was nearly zero waste. Thanks volunteers for creating a special day.



Como Solar Tour

Sunday, October 5, 10am-2pm
2601 Como Ave. SE

SECIA Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 pm
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

SECIA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 6:30 pm
Van Cleve Park 901 15th Ave. SE

Residential Organics Recycling

October and November:
Tuesdays, 4-7 pm
Saturdays, 10-1 pm
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

Art Afternoons

Thursdays, 3 pm
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

Soccer Fundamentals

October 16-17, 9 am
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

2PAC

Monday, November 10, 6 pm
1900 Central Ave NE

Zumba

Saturdays/Sundays in Nov., 9 am
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

Basketball Fundamentals

November 26 and 28
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

Kettlebell Bootcamp

January 5-9
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

Cam Gordon office hours

Thursday, October 9, 9:30 am
Thursday, November 13, 9:30 am
Black Coffee & Waffle Bar
1500 Como Ave SE

TCEducate

Tuesday, October 28, 5:30-7 pm
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

Arts District Meeting

Thursday, November 6, 5-9 pm
Northrup King Building, 1500 Jackson St. NE

PPL Resident Council Meeting

Friday, November 21, 6:45-8 pm
Brook Commons, 919 12th Ave SE

SECIA Board Meeting

First Tuesdays
October 2, 6:30 pm
November 4, 6:30 pm
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

Blueprint Committee Meeting

First Saturdays
October 4, 9:00 am
November 1, 9:00am
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

Livability Committee Meeting

Third Tuesdays
October 14, 7:00 pm
November 18, 7:00 pm
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

Environment Committee Meeting

Fourth Tuesdays
October 28, 7:00 pm
November 25, 7:00 pm
Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE

- Stay informed with **Como Tidbits**. Sign up by just taking a picture:



- Want to be cool? Como-Partners at Yahoo
- May the Comotion be with you...

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The Como-tion Word About Town

Residential Organics Drop-Off Coming to the Van Cleve Park!

The Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA) in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling are proud to announce the opening of a Residential Organics Drop-Off at Van Cleve Park.

Minneapolis residents will be able to drop-off their organic materials at Van Cleve Park located at 901 15th Ave SE. Residential organics include all food waste (even meat & dairy), food-soiled and non-recyclable paper, and other compostable materials such as coffee grounds, filters, cotton swabs, dryer lint, and popsicle sticks. Yard waste and pet waste are not accepted. Residents must drop-off their organic materials in a compostable bag (either paper or certified compostable plastic). Larger items such as pizza boxes and wax coated boxes do not need to be bagged.

The drop-off will be open to all Minneapolis residents at no cost. For the first two months, the drop-off will be open Tues. from 4 –7:00 p.m. and Sat. from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. During these first two months, volunteers will be on site to answer questions and train new participants. While supplies last, compostable bags will be available for no charge during these times too. After 2 months, participants will be given the code to the locked organics carts to drop-off at their convenience (new participants will need to sign up).

For more information on visit www.minneapolismn.gov/organics.



Como Solar Tour coming Oct 5th

Come see solar energy systems firsthand and talk to people who live with them. See if solar is right for you! Self guided tour starts at Sunny Day Earth Solutions, 2601 Como Ave SE Mpls MN 55414. Tour is on Sun Oct 5, 2014 from 10am-2pm. Have solar on your building and interested in being on the tour? Contact Ramy at Sunny Day info@sunnydaymn.com



Grand Rounds Missing link update

Ricardo and Cody Olson, our Bike Intern, along with neighbors, city officials and park officials and neighbors in Prospect Park have started researching the state of the Missing link discussion. The neighborhoods North of the rail yards are horribly underserved by the current bike and road infrastructure. The vision of a regional Grand Rounds trail that has been in place for upwards of 100 years has not been realized yet. The University of Minnesota District Alliance has committed to completing the Granary Corridor, a large portion of which is in the Grand Rounds plan. SECIA is seeking further partnership with other neighborhoods on a Bush Foundation Grant application to do more research and build consensus among all the involved parties. So far Sheridan, Prospect Park and UDA are in support. To learn more, email Cody at bikes@comogreenvillage.info.



Lawsuit Against General Mill Inc Over TCE Slowly Grinds Its Way Forward.

On Sept. 12 the lawyers from the Collins Law Firm and Zimmerman Reed (C&ZR) requested that the court certify a class, to make this a class action lawsuit. General Mills' (GMI) lawyers were present to argue against certifying a class. Judge Donovan Frank indicated that he hoped to rule on the motion in 30-60 days. Mark Thieroff, one of the attorneys working the case, says 30-60 days may be optimistic, but they hope for a ruling by the end of the year.

In March, C&ZR moved to amend its pleadings to include a RCRA ("Rickra") pleading. RCRA is Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and this pleading is the one which gives the court authority to order area-wide mitigation/remediation. GMI fought the inclusion of RCRA in the pleadings and was overruled by the judge. RCRA is now part of the suit. More recently, Judge Frank rejected all of GMI's arguments for dismissal of the case. These actions are a positive progression of events for the plaintiffs who hope for a reasonable outcome of the suit. By Richard Jacobi

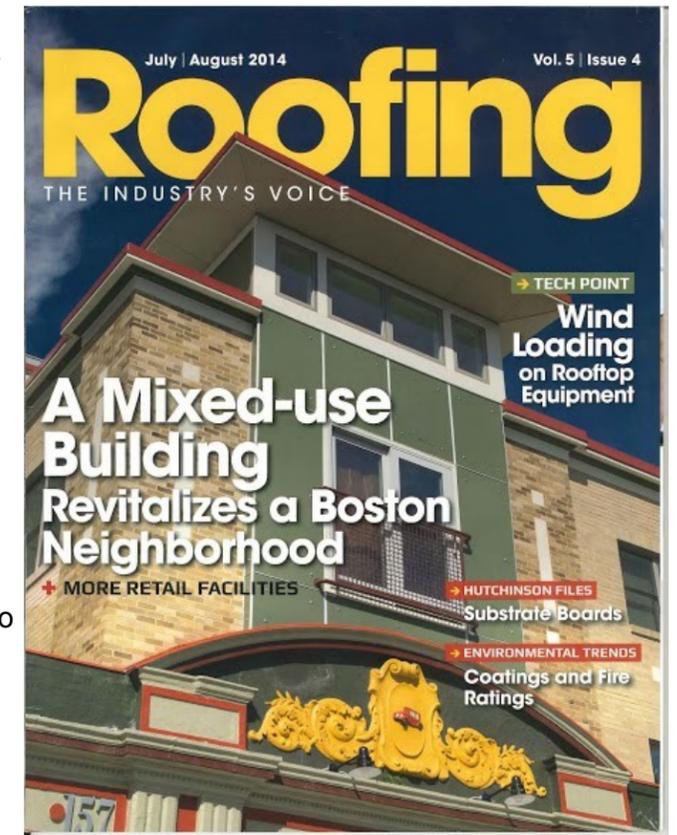
Putting SE Como Flat Roofs to Work, Update:

SECIA was awarded \$3000 from Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERT) to survey all the flat roofs in Como and play matchmaker building owners and green technologies (solar panels, green roofs, rooftop beehives, etc.). We have completed the gross survey and begun connecting with property owners. Many have been glad to hear from us and are interested in learning more about how adding sustainability features can benefit their businesses and the community.

We are continuing talks between Community Solar and Murphy Warehouse Co. that started at our July 28th lunch meeting.

Recently, SECIA's very own Ricardo McCurley was interviewed by Roofing magazine, a national publication, on the subject of Como's green rooftop project.

If you own a property with a flat roof and are interested in learning about how that space can be put to use, call the office at 612 676-1731 or email Emma at rooftops@comogreenvillage.info.



Comotion has a new format! Writers wanted

We got such a great response to our 4 page color Comotions that we are making them permanent. The SECIA Board voted to change the way SECIA publishes our newsletter from monthly to every two months and continue the 4 page color spreads. This allows us to add new content sections, and add pictures. With this new content comes the needs for more writers. Neighbors of all ages interested in writing articles, please contact the SECIA office at secomo@secomo.org.

Update: We have our first neighbor-written article. Richard Jacobi, long time resident and Environment Committee member, wrote a great update on the case against General Mills Inc over the TCE contamination. Thanks Jake. We hope Jake will serve as an example to all to take an active role by writing an article or joining a committee.