

www.ComoPark.org

COMO PARK NEWS

A Saint Paul Neighborhood

Official Newsletter of the District 10 Como Community Council



April-May 2006

Como Neighborhood Garage Sale May 20!!!!!!

Start planning your garage sale, and benefit from our advertising! This year the neighborhood sale will be held Saturday, May 20, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Participation is free (a freewill donation to cover some of the costs is always, of course, appreciated). The District Council advertises the neighborhood-wide sale in neighborhood newspapers and both major daily papers. Flyers and maps are made available in the neighborhood and downloadable on the District 10 website (www.ComoPark.org). For more details, or to sign up, please call the office at 651-644-3889 or e-mail district10@comopark.org. Signup deadline to get your address and short sale description on our map is May 17. Don't miss this popular event to sell your extra stuff! And if you aren't having a sale, go visit your neighbors' sales.

Do You Squeeze Your Plastic??

If you don't know what that means, you are probably in the majority. Recycling in Saint Paul has been expanded in recent years to include the recycling of plastic bottles with the numbers 1 and 2 on the bottoms. These items are soft-drink bottles, shampoo/conditioner bottles, water jugs, and other common household items. These items are eminently crushable – but most people don't know to do it.



Space taken up by air contained in these containers is one of the most easily-reducible items that goes into the recycling bin. If you crush plastic containers before you take your recycling bin to the curb, you can help reduce emissions from the recycling trucks traversing the city. Reducing the space taken up by air in these containers allows for more recyclable plastic per truckload.

This simple task, which takes only a couple of seconds per plastic object, will impact the city budget (transportation costs), air pollution, as well as saving time and energy which can be put towards more recycling efforts citywide. So next time, remember to *squeeze your plastic*.

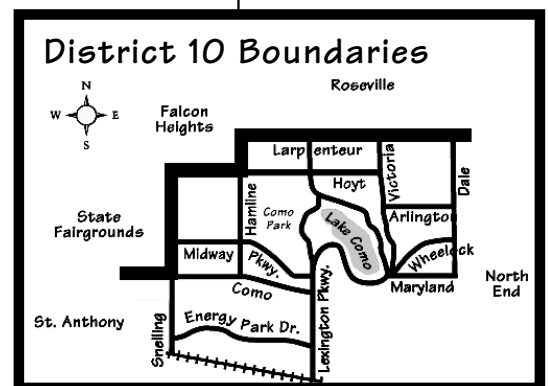
Midway Parkway/ Arlington Street Work Update

Depending on the weather, the second phase of the Midway Parkway/ Arlington will begin in early April of this year. Street reconstruction will be done from Arlington to Hoyt and from Snelling to Sheldon. Hamline will be completed from Hoyt to Larpenteur. East of Hamline will be sections of Huron, Chelsea, Idaho and Hoyt.

District 10 Calendar

- Board Meetings**
APRIL 18, 7:00 P.M.
STREET CAR MUSEUM
HORTON AT LEXINGTON
MAY 16, 7:00 P.M.
HHH JCC
"Whistling Eagle" Classroom
- Environment Committee:**
APRIL 27, 7:00 P.M.
MAY 25, 7:00 P.M.
DISTRICT 10 OFFICE
1556 COMO AVENUE
- Executive Committee:**
APRIL 4, 7:00 P.M.
MAY 2, 7:30 P.M.
DISTRICT 10 OFFICE
1556 COMO AVENUE
- Communications Committee:**
APRIL 4, 6:30 P.M.
MAY 2, 7:00 P.M.
DISTRICT 10 OFFICE
1556 COMO AVENUE
- Job Corps Neighborhood Advisory Committee:**
MAY 11, 7:00 P.M.
JUNE 8, 7:00 P.M.
HHH JCC
"Whistling Eagle" Classroom
- Recycling is now collected every Monday

Call District 10 for more info on any of the meetings, 644-3889, or see our web site: ComoPark.org



District 10 Environment Committee

MAKING A WISH

The District 10 Environment Committee – the current incarnation of it, anyway – turned ten years old this past fall. If a group is eligible for a birthday wish, ours is to attract more members. We've accomplished a lot over the past decade and have ongoing projects and new ideas to implement, but we need more person-power to keep up the good work!

Committee members continue to promote improved Como Lake water quality by serving on the Capitol Region Watershed District Citizen Advisory Committee, an important sounding board for that organization. In June, we participated in the Como Lake Water Festival – with an informational display, face painting, and shoreline tree tour. The Committee recently reviewed and sent comments to the CRWD regarding their proposed Rules for Developments and Permits and is pleased with the District's proactive approach to achieving high water quality standards. In the coming year, we'll be seeking volunteers to help with periodic lake clean-ups.

Environment Committee representatives also serve on the Como Lake Shoreland Task Force along with Parks Division staff. Committee meetings in June and July were hands-on events, working with Parks, Eco Partners program on shoreline planting. A bit further from the lakeshore, we've been collaborating with Parks on buckthorn eradication in the Como woodlands. Thanks to a generous donation from Committee member Deb Robinson, District 10 is beginning to acquire its own collection of weed wrenches – the best tools for yanking out moderate-sized specimens of these invasive interlopers that are aggressively crowding out native plants. We held two successful buckthorn busts in October and are planning two for next autumn.

Our other primary activity is a natural resources inventory of District 10's public lands. Chet Mirocha is our tree specialist, leading Como Park tree "treks" in June and September. A year-long bird count began last April with the assistance of expert local birders. We're hoping to add a lake ecology study and possibly a woodland habitat survey in 2006.

If this summary has sparked your interest in the Environment Committee, please help make our birthday wish come true: Join us at meetings or volunteer events throughout 2006!

Regular monthly meetings take place at the District 10 Office from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., usually on the fourth Thursday (third Thursday in August, November and December). For more information, contact District 10 at District10@ComoPark.org / 651-644-3889 or Committee Chair Susan Jane Cheney at Environment@ComoPark.org / 651-489-6452.

Famous Como Streets

Grotto Street was named as a synonym for a cave because, if extended south, it would nearly reach the Mississippi River near Fountain Cave. Fountain Cave is where Pig's Eye Parrant first sold whiskey to soldiers at Fort Snelling. Grotto residents are no longer allowed to sell whiskey.

Nebraska, Nevada, Idaho and California were all named, in 1886, after western states. California was originally called Kansas Avenue.

Holton Street was named in 1881. Although the name's origins are unknown, it has long been rumored Holton Street produces some of Como's finest citizens.

Mary Lane was platted in 1940 by John and Frances Moravec, they named it for their daughter.

Upcoming Events at the Como Campus

- 2006 summer hours at the Park and Zoo begin April 1. The Zoo and Conservatory will be open from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily through October 2. This year the campus will be offering some new things and some perennial favorites. Como Town opens May 20 for its first full season. Planned additions include a new roller coaster, more rides and bumper boats.
- The annual bulb sale will be held May 20 from 8 A.M. to noon at the visitor center. At the annual bulb sale you may purchase bulbs that have been used as part of the Sunken Garden's flower show. Offerings include hyacinths, lilies and daffodils.
- Sparky the Sea Lion Shows will start Memorial Day weekend. This year's theme is "The Wonderful World of Pinned." Sparky performs Tuesday through Sunday at 11:30 A.M. and 2 P.M. at the Sparky Amphitheater. At 3:00 P.M. there is a group seal demonstration on Seal Island.
- Cafesjian's Carousel opens May 2, the summer flower show May 2 and the Japanese Garden on May 6. Tickets for the carousel are \$1.50 for everyone over one year old. There is no charge for the Japanese Gardens or flower show.
- The Tropical Encounters exhibit construction has been completed and plants have been installed. The process of introducing plants, animals and fish to the exhibit will continue through the summer and fall to ensure all are adapting well and environmental controls are operating as needed. The exhibit is expected to open permanently this fall.

**GRAFFITI
IS CONTAGIOUS**

HELP STOP GRAFFITI IN
COMO PARK *BEFORE* IT
BECOMES A PROBLEM. PLEASE
REPORT ANY GRAFFITI YOU SEE SO
IT CAN BE REPAIRED OR CLEANED.
SEE OUR WEBSITE (COMOPARK.ORG) FOR
MORE INFORMATION OR CALL **644-3889**.
DONATIONS ALSO NEEDED, PLEASE!

Graffiti and Burglary Advice

Last winter several blocks in the California/Idaho area experienced a rash of home and garage break-ins. At a community block meeting Sergeants McHarg, and Finley, from the St. Paul Police Department, talked to residents about the importance of locking your home and garage's doors, staying in touch with neighbors and phoning the police if you see anything suspicious or out of the ordinary. Como area statistics show improvement on locking up our homes but unlocked garages remain a problem.

Also at this time the southeast corner of District 10 experienced an outbreak of gang-related graffiti. At another meeting held in January Meredith Vogland, from the SPPD FORCE Unit, educated neighbors on many aspects of graffiti. Ms. Vogland told residents that, although gang graffiti is a serious concern, it is often the result of persons passing through, rather area residents.

Ms. Vogland advises residents who have been victimized by graffiti to follow these steps:

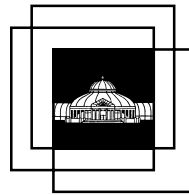
- Call 292-1111 to make a report to the police department. This is a low priority call, your wait time for a squad may be 45 minutes to 1 hour.
- Report graffiti tags on public or private property to St. Paul's Citizen Service Office at 266-8989
- The reports will be followed by a letter from the city requesting you paint over/ remove graffiti and a waiver for you to sign, should you choose, giving the city permission to remove the damage at no cost to you.

The SPPD and District 10 encourage the formation of Block Clubs. For more information on block clubs and community crime prevention education please call the District 10 office at 644-3889 or e-mail us at district10@comopark.org.

The Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) is working with the City of St. Paul to incorporate storm water management improvements into the project. A proposed rain garden at the southeast corner of Arlington and Hamline was opposed by neighbors concerned about child safety and mosquito breeding, thus plans for this site have been amended to an underground system.

New Midway Parkway Area Ad Hoc Committee

A group of Midway Parkway area residents, interested in learning more about the institutions that bracket their neighborhood, began meeting several months ago. The ad hoc committee will run through 2006, with the possibility of being extended. A meeting held March 14 included a presentation by Liz Anderson, Como Campus Manager, on proposed upgrades for the polar bear and gorilla exhibits, possible solutions for parking problems and long term zoo and conservatory planning. Residents interested in participating are welcome and encouraged. For more information please call our office at 651-644-3889 or district10@comopark.org



Como Park Living at Home/ Block Nurse Program

1376 Hoyt Ave. W.,
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108
Phone (651) 642-1127
E-mail: comobnp@mtn.org

Supportive Neighborhood Services for Seniors

...Highlighting just a few...

Fall Pet Wellness Check

We are partnering with U of M vet students to come to seniors' homes to do a pet wellness check.

Circle of Friends Group

A fun supportive and informational gathering for seniors. Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. A new schedule is made for 5 months and mailed out. Cost is \$5.00 per person if they take the van to the group and \$2.00 for three month membership. A van pick ups between 1:30 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. Membership is limited to 15 people. Group runs to June.

Exercise/Enrichment Group

Meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at United Church of Christ in Falcon Heights. Transportation is provided. The group meets from 2 P.M. to 3:15 P.M. This is a low impact exercise group that does include 1lb. weights for arm exercises. Cost is \$5.00 for transportation and membership for 3 months is \$2.00. Membership is not limited and all individuals are welcome. Exercise group runs to June.

The Gathering Respite Care Group

Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Transportation is provided. The group meets from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Lunch is provided at the Lyngblomsten Community Center. The only cost to the members is \$3.00 for lunch. Membership is on a referral basis and the group is limited to 5 participants. Group is specialized for beginning stages Alzheimer's and Dementia.

Free Blood Pressure Screenings

Meet our nurse at Blomberg Pharmacy the first Wednesday of each month 11:00 A.M. to Noon. Call the LAH/BNP office for help with transportation.

Caregiver Support Group

Meets the 2nd Thursday of every month. at Como Park Lutheran Church at 10 A.M. to 11 A.M. Membership is not limited.

Volunteer Transportation Service

Caryn Erickson, service coordinator, will try to match a transportation volunteer with individuals with transportation needs. A 3 to 4 day notice is best.

Grief & Loss Support Group

This group will meet the first Thursday of the month for supper and support for a significant loss. The support group will be held October, November, and December and will meet at Como Park Lutheran Church 5:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

For more information on these and other resources call the Como Park Living at Home Block Nurse Program at (651) 642-1127

Paul Yokanovich



Phone: 651-628-5590
www.MyRealAgent.com
pyokanovich@cbburnet.com

Odds and Ends

- The **Neighborhood Garage Sale** will be held Saturday, May 20, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Participation and advertising is free. For more information, please see article.
- The **Annual Spring Parks Cleanup** will be held Saturday, April 15. This year there will be two Como area kick-off sites. Ward 4 will gather at the Midway Parkway picnic pavilions, Ward 5 at the Como Lakeside Pavilion. Rolls and coffee will be served from 8:30 A.M. to 9, cleanup from 9 to 11 A.M. For more information, phone the office at 644-3889
- The **Neighborhood Energy Consortium** is offering in-home energy audits. Participants will learn specific no-cost and low-cost solutions that can reduce energy bills. For more information, please call 221-4462. No need to wait until next winter!
- **Lyngblomsten Care Center** has expanded their services to include transitional care. The Lokensgard Transitional Care Program fills the need for persons needing to "transition" after a hospital stay but before going home. To learn more please call 646-2941
- The **Java Train**, a coffee shop, and the **Fighting Iris**, a unique flower and gift shop, are up and running on Pascal at Midway Parkway. Great gifts and pastries!
- The District 10 office has copies of the **2006-2007 Senior Resource Directory**. They have been provided by the Minnesota State Retiree Council District 11 and the United Steel Workers (both AFL-CIO). If you'd like a copy, please call our office at 644-3889 or e-mail us at district10@comopark.org.
- The **Friends School of Minnesota** will hold their annual plant sale May 12-14 at the State Fair Grandstand. For more information you may go to www.fsmn.org



District 10 –

Como Community Council

1556 Como Avenue
 Saint Paul, MN 55108

www.ComoPark.org

**April –
 May 2006
 Newsletter**

