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Year in Review 2006
Plus: Environment
Committee Report

Official Newsletter of the District 10 Como Community Council

Winter 2006-07

2006 Year in Review – Your District 10 Como Community Council

“The environment you fashion out of your thoughts, your beliefs, your ideals, your philosophy is the only climate you will ever live in. The key is in not spending time, but in investing it.” – Steven R. Covey

Here we are, enjoying the peace of another beautiful winter in Como Park. It’s easy to see at such a festive time of the year that this jewel of a neighborhood in the City of Saint Paul wouldn’t be the vital, growing, safe, friendly, and welcoming place that it is without all the investments of time, energy and money which you and your neighbors have contributed over the past year. Resident and business participation in neighborhood-wide events, meetings and discussions really does make a difference! *Thank you for all your efforts!* You and your District 10 Council accomplished a great deal in the past year! (...continued on Page 3)

Lead Window Replacement program

Sparc is now offering a program to homeowners that will pay for half the total cost to replace windows containing lead paint. In order to qualify for the program, you must meet the following qualifications:

- *A child under the age of six (6) must live in the home.*
- *The windows must contain lead paint.*
- *The owner occupied home must be in Como, the North End or South Como neighborhoods.*
- *The household must earn less than 80% of the Twin Cities area median income.*
- *The chart below shows the maximum gross income limit based on household size.*

Family size:	Gross income limit	Family size:	Gross income limit
2	\$46,400	5	\$62,650
3	\$52,200	6	\$67,300
4	\$58,000		

Funds will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Low interest financing from Sparc may be available to help pay the homeowners portion of the project costs. For more information please contact Seth Benziger at 651-488-1039 or e-mail seth@sparcweb.org.

A Note from the Communication Committee

The Communication Committee of District 10 welcomes your participation and support getting the word out about your friendly neighborhood community council. We have a new office in a higher profile location, and to celebrate, we have a new look for the website. We’ll be actively working to improve it over the next few months, to add content and more information about what we do and how you can participate.

Funding for our District Council has risen less than 1% since six years ago, while costs have risen much faster, so we have to find ways to cut costs. Transitioning more of our communication to the website is an efficient way to do this, and the Communications Committee has been discussing reducing the size and scope of the newsletter, or possibly expanding the advertising. However, that takes more administrative time and volunteer efforts.

If you have ideas, we welcome your input. Contact information is on our website, www.ComoPark.org, or you can call the office at 651-644-3889.

District 10 Calendar

UNLESS SPECIFIED, ALL MEETINGS HELD AT DISTRICT 10 OFFICE, HISTORIC STREETCAR STATION 1224 LEXINGTON PKWY. N.

Board Meetings

DECEMBER 19, 7:00 P.M.

JANUARY 16, 7:00 P.M.

Communications Committee:

JANUARY 3, 6:30 P.M.

FEBRUARY 7, 6:30 P.M.

Environment Committee:

JANUARY 26, 7:00 P.M.

Events & Institutions Comm:

JANUARY 9, 7:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 13, 7:00 P.M.

Executive Committee:

JANUARY 3, 7:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 7, 7:00 P.M.

Job Corps Neighborhood

Advisory Committee:

JANUARY 11, 7:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 8, 7:00 P.M.

HHH JCC

“Whistling Eagle” Classroom

Land Use Committee:

DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

VIA DISTRICT 10 WEBSITE:

WWW.COMOPARK.ORG

Recycling is collected every

Monday in District 10.

Recycling should be at the

curb by 7:00 A.M. as routes

vary from week to week.

Call District 10 for more

info on any of the

meetings, 644-3889, or see

our web site:

ComoPark.org for last

minute meeting changes as

well as meetings/events not

shown on this schedule due

to time/space constraints.

District 10 Environment Committee

Looking back – and moving forward...

2006 was another busy year for the Environment Committee. David Arbeit continued to serve as chair of the Capitol Region Watershed District's Citizen Advisory Committee, which has played an important role in reviewing the District Rules for Developments and Permits that were formally adopted on October 1. These new high standards represent a giant step toward preserving this area's water quality – the mission that this incarnation of the Environment Committee embarked upon when it began meeting in 1995 with the purpose of addressing the poor condition of Como Lake.

During the annual Spring Parks Clean-up, committee members got into canoes and trudged along the shoreline to remove trash from the lake. In mid-June, we participated in the CRWD-sponsored Como Lake Water Festival with committee displays and a tree trek highlighting some of the special species around the lake.

Other summer activities included two evening work sessions assisting Parks' Eco Partners in weeding native plantings along the Como lakeshore. Two committee members continue to attend quarterly meetings of the Shoreland Vegetation Management Task Force with Parks staff.

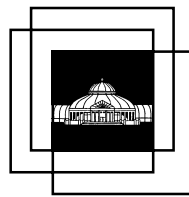
Autumn drew us all back to the Como woodlands to resume battle with the persistent invasive buckthorn. We collaborated with Eco Partners on two productive buckthorn "busts" in October; over 100 volunteers turned out on the 28th! We're wrapping up a bird survey of the Park and planning a woodland habitat analysis.

As an outgrowth of the committee's woodland work over the past several years, Deb Robinson came up with the Como Woodland Restoration & Outdoor Classroom Project, designed to demonstrate the educational potential of a preserved urban woodland for visitors of all ages and interests. Deb deserves a huge round of applause for all of her hard work on this exciting new endeavor! Contact her at dmrobinson@bitstream.net to learn more about it.

Ideas for new activities in 2007 include: participation in the CRWD's Como Lake volunteer water sampling program and the Ramsey County Birding Festival; Park tree mulching; residential buckthorn removal; maintenance of the Lakeside Pavilion garden; and an educational outreach program with speakers on topics such as the Como shoreland restoration, shallow lake ecology, and Como Park birds.

On a personal note, after 11 years on the committee including several as chair, I will be leaving the committee at the end of this year. It has been enormously rewarding to witness how much a small group of citizens can do to improve the environment, and I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who participates. Many thanks to you all!

The Environment Committee is always eager for new members. To learn more about the Committee, come to a meeting – usually held at the District 10 Office from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month. Contact district10@comopark.org or 651-644-3889 for more info.



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 Friday of every month at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. A new schedule is made for every 5 months and mailed out. Cost is \$7.50 per person for van transportation and 5 month membership or \$5.00 for five month membership only. The van will pick up between 1:30 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. Membership is limited to 15 people. Group runs September 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. The Arthritis Foundation is collaborating with the Como Park LAH/BNP to conduct this Arthritis Foundation PACE (People with Arthritis Can Exercise) Program. The leader has been trained in leading exercise in range-of-motion, muscle strengthening, and endurance-building activities. Cost is \$7.50 for transportation and 5 month membership. The cost is \$5.00 for 5 month membership only. Membership is not limited and all individuals are welcome. Exercise group runs September to June.

The Gathering Respite Care Group

Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in St. Paul. 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 \$4.00 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 at 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 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 be meeting at Como Park Lutheran Church at 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. A donation will be accepted to cover costs for supper.

Please Call our Office for more information about all our programs and services. (651) 642-1127

2006 Year in Review – Your District 10 Como Community Council

(continued from Page 1)

Here are just some of the highlights from 2006:

Our *fifth annual garage sale* was a hit; there were thousands of visitors at over 100 advertised garage sales. This event continues to be a great opportunity for bargain hunters to find diamonds in the rough, and for participants to sell those extra items cluttering up a closet or garage – and make some cash on top of it!

The annual *Neighborhood Cleanup*, “cleaned-up” once again! This joint effort between Falcon Heights, St. Anthony Park and Como Park has been a great success for many years. It continues to offer residents a lower priced, environmentally friendly way to clean out your house and garage. We’d like to thank Boy Scout Troop 285 and over 60 neighborhood volunteers for all of their help, both at the Fairgrounds and doing senior citizen pick-ups. Thank you!!

The *Lao Family Soccer Festival* event has grown to be much more than a soccer tournament and is a successful, enjoyable event for all involved. Saint Paul residents and businesses welcomed and enjoyed the lively festivities and celebrated the diversity this event continues to bring.

National Night Out celebrations were held throughout the neighborhood. This year the district council supplied 12 first-time party packs for block parties and distributed over 80 gift bags for children. District 10 worked with Northwest Como, the Saint Paul Police and Fire departments, and the Jacob Wetterling Foundation on an event at Northwest Como Rec Center, which included food, games, fun family activities and visits from the fire and police department. In spite of torrential rains it was great to see so many families enjoying the evening and getting to know their neighbors!

The District 10 Environment Committee has been very busy this year. The committee sponsored two successful *buckthorn removal events*, a *Como Lake shoreline cleanup* and *co-sponsored the Capitol Region Watershed District Water Festival*. Committee member Chet Mirocha led several *Tree Treks*, free tree identification tours. The annual parks cleanup inspired families, board members and area students to get out in the park to pick up all the garbage left on the ground from the previous winter.

As we enter 2007, *neighborhood planning* continues. As Como Park grows, there will be items of interest, which the District 10 community will want to address. If you or your neighbors have ideas, concerns and/or comments about something happening in our community, please don’t

hesitate to contact our office and get involved in the planning processes shaping our neighborhood and city.

Thank you to all the community members who participated in the neighborhood meetings concerning neighborhood issues which had arisen previous years during the State Fair. This year, your District 10 council took the lead in creating solutions to problems with licensing and locations of vendors during the “Great Minnesota Get Together.” In 2006, neighborhood parking problems, vending issues and associated concerns during the Fair were significantly reduced, and solutions to previous problems were addressed.

The *community council* played an active role in planning and coordination of events and activities in 2006. Regular monthly meetings were held as well as a few special ones: State Fair issues of parking and vending were discussed, on-side of the street parking was sought and implemented for the Street Rod Show and the district council continues as part of the Job Corps Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC). The *executive committee* also assisted with a major neighborhood distribution of blue recycling bins.

As you can see it has been quite an eventful year. *None of this would be possible* without our fabulous staff, board members and volunteers. But most importantly, it is the help and input from community members that makes the difference. The District 10 Como Community Council is a non-profit enterprise. We are only funded by small grants, city reimbursement and donations. Without your help in these difficult economic times, our continued outreach will be limited. As Tom Brokaw is quoted as saying, “It’s easy to make a buck. It’s a lot tougher to make a difference.” Any donation helps and is most greatly appreciated. For information how to donate, see our website or call our office.

The *Community Council system* was designed to promote, inform and support all neighbors and businesses in the Saint Paul community. I invite each of you to come to the next council meeting to ask any questions you have, participate and see for yourself what a great neighborhood we all can live in.

“We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.” – Marian Wright Edelman

The District 10 Council and I wish the very best for you and yours in 2007!! – Sarah MacRunnels, Chair

Como Community Council Giving Form 2006

I would like to support my non-profit neighborhood council with the following donation:

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other Amount \$ _____

I would like to make a bequest to District 10.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

I would like written acknowledgement of my donation (*Your name will appear in our newsletter and on our Web site*).

Optional:

Put me on your volunteer list.
(You may request to be removed from this list at any time.)

Thank you for your support!! Mail to: District 10 – Como Community Council • 1556 Como Avenue • Saint Paul, MN 55108

Why Pay More?

- Buy with us & receive **\$750 cash back** after closing.
- Lived & worked in Como Park for the past 22 years.
- List your home with our low **4.25% listing fee**.
- Compare and Save! You'll **save thousands!**



	CU Realty	7% Brokers
Price	\$250,000	\$250,000
List Fee	4.25%	7%
Commission	\$10,625	\$17,500



Tim Tolaas, REALTOR®
(651) 787- 9572



Odds and Ends

- A huge thank you to all buckthorn removal volunteers, especially Como High School students led by teachers Cathy Kahn and Josh Leonard.
- You can now pick up your blue recycling bins at the Streetcar Station Sundays between noon and 4 P.M. District 10 is no longer be delivering bins with the exception of households that do not have transportation.
- North Dale Community Rec center offers ongoing Hatha Yoga classes for persons 18+. Classes are held Tuesday evenings, 7:40– 8:40. The participation fee is \$5 per session or you may buy an 8 time punch card for \$30. No pre-registration is necessary.
- Winter is on its way, please remember all sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours. If you're a senior or have a disability that makes snow removal difficult, call NW HandyWorks at 651-649-5884, they may be able to help.
- A very big thank you to all neighbors who volunteered at the Neighborhood Cleanup! Resident participation was up 17% this year.
- The St. Paul Police Department would like to remind you that leaving cars running and unlocked is a ticketable offense and an open invitation for vehicle theft.
- Interested in joining St. Paul's Bicycle Advisory Board? Contact: eric.thompson@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-632-2415.

More Odds and Ends on the Website: www.ComoPark.org



District 10 –

Como Community Council

1224 Lexington Ave N.
 Saint Paul, MN 55103

www.ComoPark.org
 (651) 644-3889

Winter 2006-07

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