

# District 10 Community Council News

www.comopark.org

Your Neighborhood News

Spring 2009

## “Season of Renewal” events celebrate Spring

Deb Robinson, Como Woodland Advisory Committee Co-chair



It's been a trying winter of short, gray days and long, cold nights. Just when you come down with a bad case of cabin fever that only a week in Cancun could cure – nature sends you a sign. One late-winter morning a cardinal, perched right outside your bedroom window, will break his long silence and he'll belt out a song so strong that it will knock you out of your winter doldrums. Spring is coming to our rescue, and we should be getting ready to celebrate the return of the “Season of Renewal.”

In December, Rhonda DeBough, the District 10 Community organizer, contacted volunteers from *District 10 Environment Committee*, *Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom*, and *Como Park Alliance* as well as *Capitol Region Watershed District*, and *St. Paul Parks & Recreation's Environmental Services*. What these groups all have in common is that they often sponsor volunteer activities that benefit and enrich Como Park and the surrounding neighborhood. Rhonda proposed that we collaborate on our springtime Como events to save time, to share resources, and to balance the volunteer work with fun – great idea!

The series of events, **Como Season of Renewal**, will kick off with the annual *Spring Parks Clean-up* on *April 11*, and will conclude with the *Como Season of Renewal Finale* on *June 13*. From April until mid June, we're planning an Arbor Day Tree Planting, two Rainbarrel Workshops, a Garlic Mustard Pull, and a neighborhood-wide Como Community Garage Sale.

Winter gave us all time to reflect on the past and time to plan for new beginnings. When Spring finally returns to Como Park (our communal front yard) let's all get together and celebrate.

**Como Season of Renewal list of events on page 3.**

## Capital Improvement Budget (CIB)

The CIB is the City of St. Paul's bi-annual process of rating the long-range capital projects that affect the public. There are three CIB Taskforces: 1) Community Facilities, 2) Street and Utilities, 3) Residential and Economic Development. Taskforce members are volunteers from the 17 Community Council Districts, and they rank all the CIB proposals. Taskforce recommendations go on to the CIB Committee. CIB rating finally go to the Mayor and the City Council for approval. **Help Taskforce volunteers, from the Como area, rank CIB proposals at the March 17 District 10 Council meeting.**



### Board of Directors

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### Staff

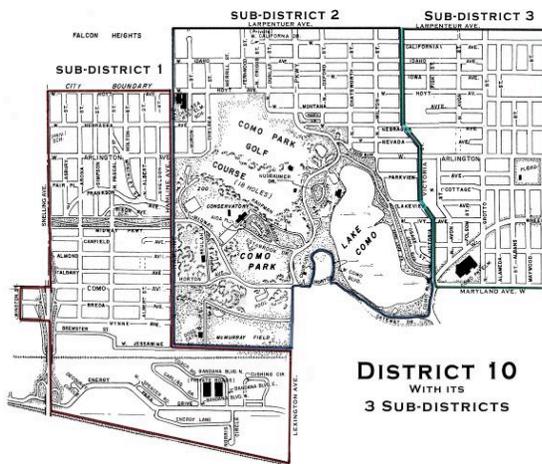
Rhonda DeBough & Camille Schafer

### Contact Info

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Office Hours: 10:00 to 12:00

Member email addresses are:

**[firstname.lastname@comopark.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@comopark.org)**



**Hard Times / Hard Choices**  
**David Arbeit Council Chair**

It's not news that we're in the midst of an economic crisis that both affects us personally and politically. This environment challenges our governments – national, state, and local – to provide many of the services we expect from them. The state projects a budget shortfall of \$5 to \$7 billion during the next two years and the writing is on the wall regarding substantial state aid reductions for localities. That hurts! St. Paul has already suffered from Governor Pawlenty's December decision to "unallot" funds the City had relied upon to balance its 2008 budget. We now face an even greater challenge as local aid is cut further in 2009 and 2010. Mayor Coleman has already proposed budget cuts for every department; and more are likely to come. Councilmen Helgen and Stark are strong advocates for District 10, but have reminded us of the "hard choices" ahead. If budgets are to be reduced, where? Police? Libraries? Street Repair? Recreation Centers? It begs the question: how can we help implement creative alternatives or step up as volunteers to fill some of the gaps? The D10 Community Council invites you to be involved: watch our website for news, attend meetings, join a committee, and participate in community events. These are hard times; we will need to work together to get through them.

**District 10 Council Giving Form 2009**

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

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you*

**Public Open House for Como Pool Replacement**  
**March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory's Visitor Center

A Public Open House to view the Como Pool replacement designs is scheduled for March 18 and 19 at the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory's Visitor Center. Community members are invited to view and comment on the pool design concepts and on other related changes to the surrounding southwest area of Como Park (including possible traffic pattern, parking, and green space changes).

The Como Pool, at Lexington and Horton, was closed in 2008 because it is beyond repair. In addition to replacing the pool with more traditional aquatics programs, new options might include: extended hours, lazy river, music, movies, party rentals, waterslides, year-round use and non-water activities like beach volleyball.

**The Public Open House** will be held both evenings on March 18 and 19 from 5 - 7 p.m. On March 18, a design workshop (for Como Pool Replacement Taskforce members) will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and again on March 19 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The public is welcome to observe at any of these times, but feedback and discussion will only be available during the public open house. For updated information, check the District 10 website, [www.comopark.org](http://www.comopark.org), or call the District 10 office at: **651-644-3889**.

**Sholom Home Reuse Ad Hoc Committee Update**

In response to recent events, the District 10 Como Community Council created the Sholom Home Reuse Committee on October 21, 2008. This is an ad hoc committee designed to generate alternative use ideas for the Sholom Home building/site. Committee members have held six meetings since October, solicited community input, and distributed an electronic survey to area residents. The Ad Hoc Committee has presented recommendations to the District 10 Land Use Committee, which will vote on some or all of the recommendations and send their official recommendations to the District 10 Board. The Board may vote to adopt some or all of the recommendations. Recommended reuse/redevelopment options adopted by the Board will be sent in letter form to the Mayor, City Council, Planning and Economic Development, the Sholom Alliance, and all parties known to be interested in the Sholom Home site at the time.

*For meeting summaries, recommendations, and survey results, visit <http://tinyurl.com/adhocsholom>.*

Visit District 10's website anytime for current issues and times of neighborhood events.

**[www.comopark.org](http://www.comopark.org)**

## Como Season of Renewal Spring Events



**April 11, Spring Parks Clean-up**, 8:30 – 11:00am. Refreshments and supplies available at the Como Lakeside Pavilion. Contact: 651-632-2459, [stpaul.gov/parks/environment](http://stpaul.gov/parks/environment)

**May 2, Arbor Day Tree Planting**, 9:00 – 11:00am. Volunteers of all ages are needed. Pre-registration required: 651-632-2459, [stpaul.gov/parks/environment](http://stpaul.gov/parks/environment)

**May 9, Rainbarrel Workshops**, 10am and 2pm. Make your own rainbarrel. Supplies provided. \$40 per participant. Contact: [mike@comopark.org](mailto:mike@comopark.org), 651-644-3889

**May 15, Birding Tour**, 8– 9:30am. Meet St. Paul Audubon Society tour leader, Val Cunningham, at the Como Lakeside Pavilion. Binoculars provided. Contact: [valwrites@comcast.net](mailto:valwrites@comcast.net)

**May 16, Garlic Mustard Pull in Como Woodland**, 8:30 – 10:30am. Remove invasives from Como Park woods. Refreshments and gloves provided. Meet at the Como Pool parking lot at Horton and Lexington Pkwy. Contact: 651-488-5802, [comowoodland.org](http://comowoodland.org)

**May 16, Community Garage Sale**, 9am – 4pm. Free maps, coffee and pastry at Como Streetcar Station. Registration deadline May 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact: 651-644-3889, [district10@comopark.org](mailto:district10@comopark.org)

### June 13, Como Season of Renewal Finale:

**Como Lake Clean-up**, 8:30-10:30am. Meet at the parking lot next to Schiffman Fountain just south of Como Lakeside Pavilion. Gloves provided. Contact: 651-644-8888, [capitolregionwd.org](http://capitolregionwd.org)

**All June 13<sup>th</sup> walking tours start from the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington. Pkwy.**

**Como Area Raingarden Walking Tour**, 10:30am – 12:30pm. *Tour by Friends of the Mississippi River.* To pre-register for this tour, contact: [srich@fmr.org](mailto:srich@fmr.org)

**Historical Como Features tours**, 10:30am – 12pm. *Tour by Como Park Alliance.* Contact and info: [comoparkalliance.org](http://comoparkalliance.org)

**Tree Trek**, 11am – 1pm. *Tour by District 10 Environment Committee.* Contact: 651-644-3889, [district10@comopark.org](mailto:district10@comopark.org)

**Go to WWW.COMOPARK.ORG  
for more event information**

## Save the Date! District 10 Community Garage Sale

Saturday May 16, 9am–4pm

Once again, District 10 Community Council will work to coordinate the annual neighborhood garage sale. This year it will be Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. When you register your garage sale with us, we will include it on the map that gets printed and distributed to the neighborhood, (Registration deadline is May 8<sup>th</sup>). This year District 10 will be having our own garage sale/open house at the Streetcar Station at 1224 Lexington Parkway North on the same date. If you have some stuff that you don't want, but not enough for a whole garage sale, or you don't want to have a garage sale, but still have some "stuff," please consider donating it to the D10 garage sale. All proceeds will benefit District 10 Community Council which is a non-profit, so your donations are tax deductible. Contact the District 10 office for information about how to list your own garage sale, or donate items to ours: 644.3889 or e-mail us at: [district10@comopark.org](mailto:district10@comopark.org).

### Don't forget!

Please stop by to pick up your maps, enjoy a free cup of coffee and pastry, get a start on your garage sale-ing and meet members of the District Council Board.



## Be a voice in your community District 10 Community Council Seeks Board Candidates for sub-district 3

A special election to fill a vacancy on the board will be held at the March 2009 council meeting.

Residents and business owners residing in sub-district 3 (Victoria Street east to Dale, and Larpenteur Ave. south to Maryland Ave.) of District 10 are eligible to serve. The election will be to fill a term that runs through October 2009 annual elections.

This is a wonderful way to help shape a neighborhood and a city district that has so much to offer its citizens.

**When:** March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**Where:** Como Park Historic Streetcar Station

**More Information at:** [www.comopark.org](http://www.comopark.org)



**District 10 Como Community Council**  
**1224 North Lexington Parkway**  
**Saint Paul, MN 55103**

### **In hopes of spring, greetings from Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center!**

Cate Edlund, HHH Job Corps Community Liaison

While the long, hard winter has taken its toll, our students have continued to push towards their goals for academic and trade completions. We had a graduation on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 102 students celebrated diplomas, state certifications or both. Along the way, they took time for celebrations and continued community service.

Perhaps the most notable for our neighborhood were the 225 hours they spent digging out and then resodding the flowerbeds in the Sunken Gardens at the Como Conservatory. Forty-odd-year-old leaking pipes were buried at the bottom of the beds. They emptied them of dirt, plumbers came in and replaced the pipes and then our students and greenhouse staffers returned to fill the beds with nice new soil – tons of it. It turned out to be quite a task, but it was completed in time for the next flower show installation and our Facilities Maintenance students got valuable lessons in greenhouse infrastructure and climate control.

February was also Job Shadow month and students fanned out to the District 10 office, Congresswoman McCollum's office and Councilman Russ Stark's office, among others. These real life work settings are so valuable for students; if you have an opportunity – and a need - to offer one of our trainees work setting experience, please call Cate Smith Edlund at 651.647.0442 x104. At the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, our students rotate through in six week stints, one training the next to the job. Data base management, filing, mail, etc are all part of their skills training. We've also begun an internship with the District 10 office, the best kind of partnership – it benefits both parties.

Job Corps held its quarterly awards ceremony recently. Although primarily for academic and vocational recognition, our student government began the gathering with presentation of a \$1000 check to Second Harvest. Accepting for Second Harvest was Bob Chatmas, their Chief Operating Officer. He spoke eloquently to the students about their mission - so well, in fact that in March we'll have two groups who have volunteered and will take their turn at the center packing groceries.

A Como neighbor was recognized at our annual McCollum Foundation Awards ceremony. The awards are given for extraordinary service and John Filter, a long-time neighbor and former member of the NAC was acknowledged for his service to the center and the community. Please congratulate John when you see him.

On Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a Blood Drive for the Red Cross. We want this to be an annual event and will try to notify you so that you can share this opportunity to give.

And so we're off to get ready for the Festival of Nations. Our volunteers are very excited about this event. Please go if you can and wave to them. They'll be the ones scooping yogurt cones for the kids. Til next time..