

# District 10 Como Community Council News

Your Neighborhood News

Fall 2011

## District 10 Council Welcomes New Board Members and Says Goodbye to Past Members

The District 10 Como Community Council held its annual election on October 18. Three new members were welcomed to the 15-member, volunteer board of directors: Laurie Erickson (sub-district 1), Richard Dian (sub-district 3) and Ronald Edlund (at-large). Jon Knox (board chair) and Ted Blank (at-large) were re-elected for second terms.

The Council also said goodbye to four outstanding board members whose terms have ended. During her two-year term as secretary, Marsha Milgrom was instrumental in ensuring accurate record keeping and developing sound practices and procedures, including the Employee Handbook. Mike MacDonald served 4 years and was chair of the Environment Committee, dedicating countless hours to maintaining, protecting, and improving the District 10 environment. Pete Bolstad was an active board member for two years and influential on many issues. He chaired the Como Regional Park Transportation Implementation Plan Adhoc Committee and served on the Neighborhood Safety Committee. Dolores Rufenacht served for two years and was a devoted chair of the Neighborhood Safety Committee, and leader of many events, including the Bike Safety Rodeo, Staycation and National Night Out.

We thank our past board members for all their hard work and we look forward to working on future initiatives with our new board.

The secretary position and a sub-district 2 seats remain open and we would like to encourage applicants with a variety of expertise and experience to apply. To run for the sub-district 2 position, you must be a resident or business owner in the sub-district, however, all residents and business owners of District 10 are eligible for the secretary position. (Visit [www.district10comopark.org/Neighborhood.html](http://www.district10comopark.org/Neighborhood.html) to view a map of sub-district boundaries).

Secretary responsibilities include ensuring that accurate records of all Council proceedings are posted on the website and maintained in the district office, assisting the Chairperson in the oversight and governance of Council as requested and serving on the Executive Committee.

Serving on the District 10 board is a great way to be a voice in your neighborhood and to play a part in fostering a friendly, active and safe community. If you are interested in applying for either the secretary or sub-district 2 position or would like more information on our mission, bylaws or board member terms and responsibilities, please visit [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org) or contact our office at 651-644-3889 or [district10@district10comopark.org](mailto:district10@district10comopark.org).



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### Board of Directors

Jon Knox, Chair  
Panod Klongtruatroke, Vice-Chair  
*Open, Secretary*  
Penny Spence, Treasurer  
Barbara Clark, Sub-district 1  
Laurie Erickson, Sub-district 1  
Kim Moon, Sub-district 2  
*Open, Sub-district 2*  
Matt Streit, Sub-district 3  
Richard Dian, Sub-district 3  
Ted Blank, At-large  
Chris Harkness, At-large  
Ronald Edlund, At-large  
Jody McCardle, At-large  
Betsy Wehrwein, At-large

### Staff

Jessica Bronk,  
Administrator and Coordinator

District 10 encompasses Como Park, Energy Park and the Como Campus including the zoo, park and lake and is divided into three geographic sub-districts.

The Como Community Council serves an important role in advising the City about issues that directly affect residents.

We work with residents and community partners to promote public safety, maintain good housing, improve environmental quality, foster a healthy business climate and maintain a desirable neighborhood.

Board Members are volunteers who dedicate their time to education and outreach in the community.

### Newsletter coordinators

Joan Brandwein & Katie Bruhn

### Neighborhood Honor Roll

It's time to nominate a deserving neighbor for the annual Neighborhood Honor Roll, set for Friday January 20, 2012!

Each year, residents of District 10 can nominate a neighbor who helps make the Como Park area a better place to live, work and play. The Neighborhood Honor Roll is a citywide award to honor people who improve the quality of life in St. Paul. These awards typically go to members of our community who have made a sustained and lasting impact in the neighborhood and City.

Those nominated and chosen for the Honor Roll attend a dinner on their behalf, along with three honorees from each of the 17 district councils in Saint Paul. To nominate someone, please send us a short description of the accomplishments or reasons you believe the nominee should be honored. The District 10 Community Council then selects three nominees to be recognized at an event in their honor.

Please send nominations to [district10@district10comopark.org](mailto:district10@district10comopark.org) by Sunday November 13.

### Give to the Max Day November 16

Give to the Max Day is November 16. This is the day, once a year, when Minnesotans are encouraged to support their favorite nonprofit organizations. GiveMN.org will be offering several incentives to inspire nonprofit and donor participation in Give to the Max Day.

Your continued support is vital to our efforts. Please consider donating to the District 10 Como Community Council on Give to the Max Day. All gifts are fully tax-deductible and will go toward programs that promote community-building and enrich people's lives through citizen participation and community outreach. 2011 initiatives include tackling Land Use issues, strengthening our block club program, organizing a Turtle Study at Como Lake, as well as organizing events like the Como Staycation, Bike Safety Rodeo and the Neighborhood Garage Sale.

To donate simply visit [district10comopark.org](http://district10comopark.org) and click on the Donate Now button on the right side of our homepage.

### Environment Committee Completes Turtle Study in Como Lake



The District 10 Environment Committee in partnership with the Como Zoo conducted a turtle study this summer in Lake Como. The study was completed in two parts; a basking study where turtles were counted from shore, and a trapping study where turtles were caught in traps. This is not a count of turtles in the lake but rather is a start on identifying the species and numbers of turtles. A complete report is being prepared which will include the results of the basking study.

In the trapping study, 118 painted and 32 snapping turtles were caught. The largest painted turtle was about 8 inches long and the largest snapper was about 17 inches. The heaviest snapper was about 40 pounds. After

being measured, all of the captured turtles were returned to the lake.

Most of the turtles were caught in May and early June. On May 19, 54 turtles were captured including 46 painted and 8 snappers. By the first week of July, only 5 snappers were caught. Fish, including many bluegills and one eighteen inch northern pike, were also caught in the traps.

If you have questions about the study, please contact the District 10 office. When completed, the report will be available at [district10comopark.org](http://district10comopark.org).

### Safety Tips from the Saint Paul Police Department Western District

During the fall frenzy to complete projects around the house add security to the list!

Consider outside entry doors, including garage and service doors, as a 'system' and make sure deadbolts are installed, glass is reinforced and framing is strong and solid. Use high security strike plates with three inch screws and adequate depth for the deadbolt throw to reach inside the framework. Then - LOCK IT!

The experts say there are three main deterrents to property crimes:

- 1) the length of time it takes to commit the crime;
- 2) the noise created by the crime; and,
- 3) adequate lighting for identification purposes.

To help prevent crime, remember to close, lock and reinforce doors and windows at home, in the car, and in the garage. Dogs, bi-level dusk-to-dawn motion detectors, and alert neighbors are also helpful in limiting criminal activity.

#### Reporting Suspicious Activity

The police cannot function effectively without the assistance of responsible citizens. We need your help in reporting suspicious activity. We encourage everyone to call police IMMEDIATELY if they feel a situation or a circumstance is suspicious. If police question someone who has legitimate reason to be where they are, they and the neighbors will be thankful that you are watching out for them and their property.

### Como Park Neighborhood Forum

By Art Oglesby

Would you like to learn what is happening in the Como Park Neighborhood but don't have time to go to a lot of meetings? Do you want to connect with your neighbors, other parents or local businesses?

Then check out and join the online Como Park Neighbors Forum. This friendly forum is a place for neighbors who are passionate about Como Park to share information, discuss local issues, find solutions and build a sense of community.

To join, visit <http://e-democracy.org/groups/stpaul-como>. You will need to give your name, where you live and your email address (which remains hidden) and agree to the forum rules including using your real name, posting only civil comments related to the Como neighborhood and limiting comments to two per day.

When 50-100 neighbors sign up, interested members will be asked to post a friendly introduction. At that time, the forum will be open for sharing information and discussion related to the Como Park neighborhood.

Community forums can be a powerful community builder! Check out neighboring forums for Frogtown, Hamline-Midway and Roseville at <http://forums.e-democracy.org/twincities>. Want to help or have questions? Email me at [art@comopark.us](mailto:art@comopark.us).

### Neighborhood Cleanup a Success

Thank you to all 30+ District 10 volunteers that gave a hand at the Neighborhood Cleanup on Saturday September 24 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. An estimated 566 loads were dropped off this year!

The cleanup was sponsored by the Como Community Council (District 10), Hamline Midway Coalition (District 11), St. Anthony Park Community Council (District 12), Union Park (District 13), and the city of Falcon Heights.

Neighborhood cleanups are one-day events held in most St. Paul neighborhoods in the the fall and spring each year. Cleanups allow residents to get ride of hard to dispose of items at a lower cost than at a transfer station or other private business. Residents can bring items only to the cleanup in their own neighborhood.

Check out our Facebook page (accessible from [district10comopark.org](http://district10comopark.org)) to view pictures of the fall cleanup!



### Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center Celebrates 30 years!

Cate Edlund, HHH Job Corps Community Liaison



Hubert H Humphrey Job Corps Center had its **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** celebration on October 28. Over 10,000 students have been trained for jobs on this campus. Congresswoman Betty McCollum and Mayor George Latimer were speakers at our event and Congressman Keith Ellison and Senator Klobuchar sent congratulatory videos. A trade show was run by the students to demonstrate skills they have learned and Culinary Arts served its own cake creation.

It's hard to believe that it is late fall. By the time you read this, we will have had the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual District 10 Pancake Breakfast fundraiser / 'Halloween House for kids' in our cafeteria. Zoo Boo will be over (26 costumed volunteers and 9 on the deconstruction crew.) Students were also volunteers at the Northwest Como Rec Center during Staycation and they ran the children's games area for about 200 at the *11<sup>th</sup> Annual*

*Party in the Park* fundraiser to benefit sarcoma research at the U of M. Students were also treated to a first – the Holton Street neighbors invited them to the National Night Out block Party. In September, they helped at the Community Clean-up at the fairgrounds. And, in what has become an annual tradition, our student ambassadors welcomed the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion graduates of Bethel College and walked with them to explore their old haunts - and hijinks - on the campus.

They have been working hard everywhere. Our August 23<sup>rd</sup> graduation was 101 student completers. Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak spoke and, while he acknowledged the hard economic times, he also told them to be excited for the future in which new technology in a rapidly changing, diverse world is their norm, their everyday experience. They will have jobs in industries that don't even exist right now, such is the pace of change. It certainly made me feel better.

Happily, we're still averaging a 90% hiring rate for students who complete the program. Some of that success is due to our community partners who offer the students practice at their skills in real job situations. For example, culinary students do their internships at Sedexo/St. Kate's, Crave, McCormick & Schmick and others. In a year, our 350 students will accumulate over 25,000 hours of work-based learning, internships and volunteer work. It is irreplaceable preparation for the workplace and we are grateful for everyone in our village.

#### Thank you!

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