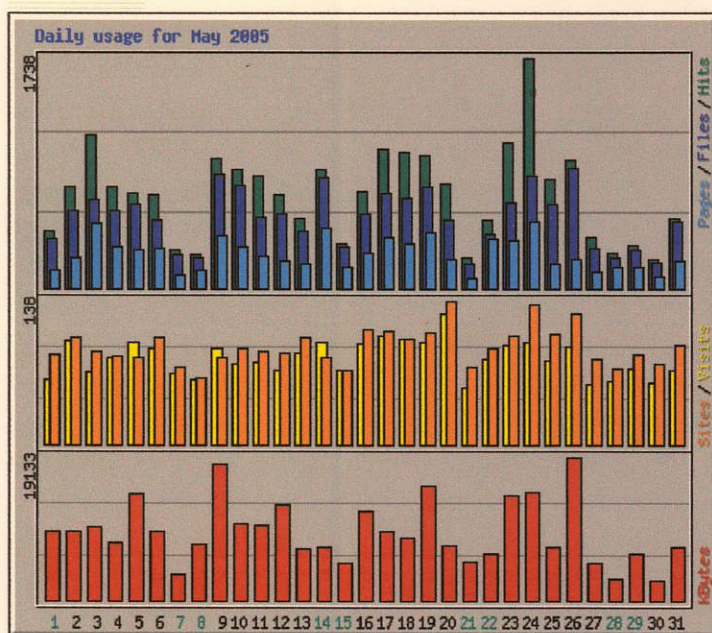


mation with residents. Along with the monthly SE Angle, the Comotion is a reliable and trusted source of community news and special events in the Como neighborhood



The *Como Tidbits* e-newsletter was started in the Spring of 2000 to allow us to share last-minute opportunities, news, and urgent crime information with neighbors. Over 100 Tidbits have been sent over the years and our recipient list now totals 240 members, made-up mostly of neighbors, local businesses, elected officials, nearby neighborhood groups, and University of Minnesota contacts.

Our website, www.secomo.org, was unveiled in February of 2000 and is updated regularly by staff. The web has become a very effective way for us to share large amounts of information and graphics with residents (the Environmental Inventory, housing loan information and applications, etc.) On May 25th of 2005, www.secomo.org received 1,738 "hits". One day later, on the 26th of May, over 19,100 kilobytes of data were accessed through



Detailed graph depicting the usage numbers for www.secomo.org for the month of May, 2005.

the website. These usage numbers, also detailed in the graph below, demonstrate the usefulness and significance of the SECIA website.

Staff, Board & Office

NRP \$ Spent = \$312,707

of staff= 2 full time staff and 2 part time staff

of meetings held at SECIA's office = over 95 meetings were held in 2004



The new SECIA offices, located at 837 15th Ave SE

SECIA hired its first full-time neighborhood coordinator in 1998, added a part-time resource center coordinator in 1999, a part-time community gardener in 2000, and a full-time environmental coordinator in 2001.

Simultaneously, SECIA started renting office space in 1998, expanded to space that was large enough to accommodate a resource center and meeting space in 1999, and moved to a higher-traffic and more visible location in 2004. SECIA has benefited greatly from a high degree of staff stability with tenures ranging from four to six years in length.

SECIA's work has also been significantly enhanced by the long-standing commitment made by several of its board members. Our 17 member board currently includes four past presidents. We also have strong committee ties on our board, with nine of our members serving on both the board and at least



one committee. The board also currently has business representation (2), landlord representation (2), and student representation (2). The SECIA Board meets monthly (on the first Tuesday). Meetings are open to the public, and anyone who lives, owns property or does business in Southeast Como is eligible to run for election to the Board at the annual SECIA Town Meeting.

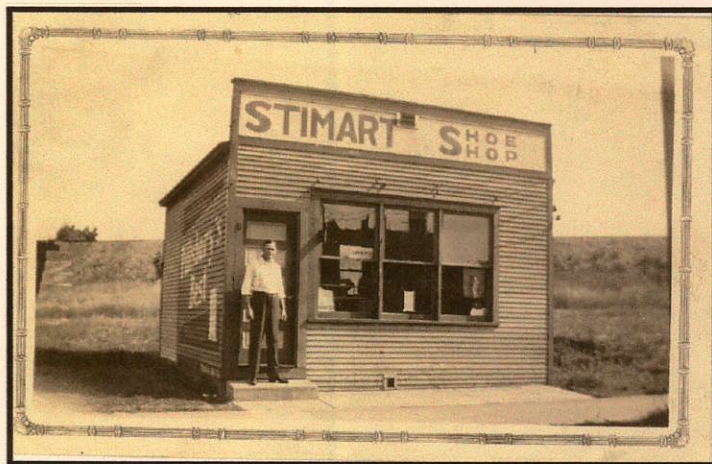
Permanent student seats were added to the board in Fall of 2003, one to be filled by an undergraduate appointed by the University of Minnesota's Student Association (MSA) and one to be filled by a student appointed by the University of Minnesota's Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA). Students are a traditionally under-served population in the community, but through SECIA's work the students of Como are finally having their voices heard.

Como History Group

NRP \$ Spent = \$1,036

Total Cost = \$2,360

Volunteer hours = 1809



Stimart Shoe Shop, 22nd Ave SE and Como, circa 1928, courtesy Stimart Family Collection.

The Resource Center section of SECIA's Phase I Action Plan included an allocation of \$4,000 for History Information, along with some staff support from the Resource Center Coordinator. In 1999-2000, and again from 2003 to the present, a small group of four or five volunteers met monthly to

share the results of their research into Como's history and to devise ways to communicate that information. A primary goal is to write and publish a book on the neighborhood's past (working title: "Along the Como Road: A History of the Como Neighborhood in Minneapolis") in time to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Como's founding, in 2007.

In the meantime, our efforts at outreach have included five tours of historic structures in Como, a set of 8 postcards featuring historical scenes and personalities from Como, a visually descriptive display of residential architecture in Como that contains examples of every style built in Minneapolis since the 1870's, and a 15-minute iMovie on the history of SE Como.

Community Collaborations

NRP \$ Spent = \$38,269

Leveraged dollars = \$30,000+

Organizations Supported = 5

Restorative Justice Volunteers = 25

Hours contributed by RJ volunteers = 200+

SECIA has a long history of working with other communities and organizations which has contributed to the vitality of the SE Minneapolis area. Several existing organizations were crucial to that vitality and SECIA – based on community recommendations – contributed NRP dollars to ensuring the continued operation of these services. The list includes \$20,000 donated to the SE Seniors: A Living at Home/Block Nurse Program, over \$5,400 donated to the Toy Lending Library located in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood, and \$2,500 contributed to the SE Way to Grow.

A strategy was incorporated to enhance the calendar in the Southeast Angle by putting it on-line in an accessible form. The Angle has been slow to use the funds, and at this point only \$1,000 has been billed.

In addition to continuing existing services we have worked to develop new relationships with other partners in an attempt to address community concerns with special attention given to livability issues. Initially, an original strategy of the Phase I Plan included funding for Cops on Bikes Program. The community felt that a stronger, more tangible police presence in the neighborhood would be a major asset to the Como community. After further examination, the resources for this project were insufficient to make a major difference in the manner in which the Como neighborhood was patrolled. Instead the money has been reallocated to purchase "buy backs" from the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD). This strategy pays for overtime units from MPD to patrol designated areas.

In October of 2001 Southeast Como received a \$5,000 grant from Minnesota Join Together (MJT) to specifically address one area of livability con-



Restorative Justice volunteers work to repair the harm they've caused by partnering with community members at the 2005 Como Clean-Up

cerns in the community, namely noise complaints, underage consumption and other alcohol related violations. One strategy in this grant was to increase collaboration with other neighborhoods and agencies which has resulted in the formation of the Party Task Force. This task force is a collaboration of Como, Marcy-Holmes, the University of Minnesota Community Relations, University Police, Minneapolis Police and other partners concerned with the issue of underage drinking. One practical



aspect of this collaboration has been the sharing of costs of the "buy back" patrols with Marcy-Holmes thus stretching the dollars for both communities. Another positive that has evolved from this collaboration has been our deepening working relationship with the University of Minnesota.

Quick fact: UMPD and MPD have issued 383 "referrals on citation" for the Restorative Justice Program

But perhaps the most significant aspect has been our ability to build a further partnership based upon the Party Task Force collaboration. Because of our working relationship with Marcy-Holmes and the University of Minnesota we were invited as a group to join the Central City Neighborhood Partnership's Restorative Justice Program which we did in July of 2004. The three communities are working as one large neighborhood with community members and University staff participating in community conferences with offenders from any of the three separate communities.

This program has been so successful that cases from the Southeast communities represent the majority of the Restorative Justice's caseload at this time to the point where we are stretching their resources. This success has been due in large part to the willingness of the University Police and City Attorney's office to work on and pilot an alternative method of diversion to the Restorative Justice Program. By by-passing the traditional method the "referral on citation" process has saved the City of Minneapolis and the Hennepin County Court System both money and staff time.

Each one of our partnerships continues to evolve, bringing the potential of new resources and new ideas into the community. This potential can not be over-emphasized and will require the continued commitment of staff time, local resources and community volunteers. However, as we have already proven, these partnerships can provide additional resources to our community, provide cost savings to the City and even effect whole system changes that affect the health of an entire city.



Southeast Como Neighborhood Gateway Sign.

Conclusion

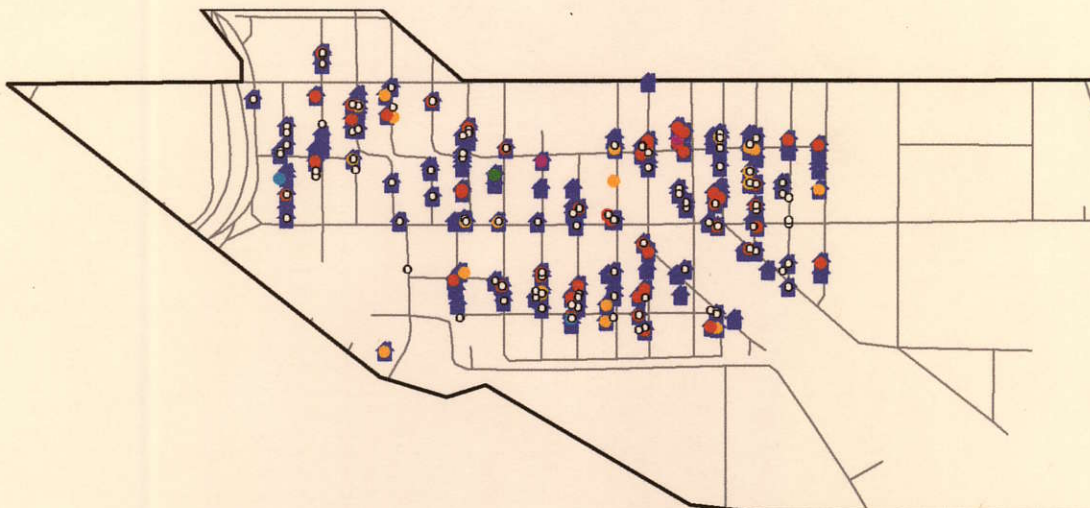
The past nine years has seen a great deal of change in the Southeast Como neighborhood. Neighborhood pride has been restored in the amenities of the area, especially the renovated Van Cleve Park and the conversion of Tuttle School into a K-8 program. Residents have been engaged in raising their voices in unison to make positive impacts regarding air pollution and public safety. Community gardens continue to be created and improved upon year after year, serving to bridge the differences between neighbors. The residents of Southeast Como are more informed on the programs available through the city and on upcoming events through the SECIA website, Tidbits and Comotion. Community gatherings, such as the Como Cookout, the Como Garage Sales and Como Clean-Up, continue to bring residents together to celebrate Southeast Como and to learn more about their neighbors.

The NRP Phase I initiatives undertaken by SECIA have not eliminated the issues that still face Southeast Como. Maintaining and improving the community housing stock remains a major issue that SECIA must focus on, including promoting owner occupancy and long term residential investments. The industrial areas surrounding our neighborhood continue to be sources of air, water and soil pollution

that must be monitored and reduced. Budget cuts to public safety and inspections programs will become a larger issue for not only Southeast Como but for all the neighborhoods in Southeast Minneapolis. The positive relationship that SECIA has formed with the University of Minnesota must be built upon to ensure that both partners continue to fulfill their missions. New revenue streams must be located to continue the work of SECIA and to maintain the level of service to Southeast Como residents provided by the SECIA office and its staff.

The challenges facing Southeast Como and SECIA remain numerous, but the past nine years have proven that the neighborhood is resourceful and capable of meeting these challenges head-on. SECIA's experience with the first phase of NRP has certainly been positive. The organization has learned invaluable lessons and is prepared to move forward into NRP Phase II with a renewed sense of optimism and the continued purpose of making the Southeast Como neighborhood the discovered treasure of Minneapolis.

Southeast Como



Home Improvement Program Activity

NRP Funded Programs	Loans Closed	Dollars
🏠 SF Revolving Loans	19	\$ 139,586.00
🏠 Rental Revolving Loans	3	\$ 23,662.00
🏠 Rental Matching Deferred	11	\$ 48,089.00
🏠 Matching Deferred Loans	40	\$ 157,994.00
🏠 Deferred Loans	63	\$ 286,979.00
🏠 Value Added Deferred Loans	35	\$ 138,885.00
🏠 MHFA Discount Loans	29	\$ 15,468.15
Total	200	\$ 810,663.15
NON-NRP Programs		
• MHFA Community Fix-up	56	\$ 560,131.85
• MHFA Fix-up	29	\$ 247,745.00
• MHFA Home Energy	1	\$ 4,175.00
• MHFA Deferred Loans	2	\$ 29,995.00
• Rental Energy	2	\$ 18,399.00
• Private Bank Minnesota	2	\$ 13,718.00
Total	92	\$ 874,163.85
Homeowner Invested Dollars		\$ 916,692.00
Grand Total	292	\$ 2,601,519.00

○ Homeowners who participated in the Home Inspection program.



Center for Energy and Environment

SECIA NRP Phase I Plan

	Strategy amount	Strategy funds under contract	Contracted funds spent	Contracted funds remaining	Funds not yet contracted
Strategy	Strategy Allocation	Contracted Amount for Strategy	Contracted Strategy Funds spent as of April, 2005	Contracted Strategy Funds unexpended as of April, 2005	Current Appropriation Remaining
Housing					
Priorizing Improvements	\$30,650.00	\$30,650.00	\$0.00	\$30,650.00	\$0.00
Revolving Loan Program	\$1,052,500.00	\$1,006,000.00	\$943,455.70	\$62,544.30	\$46,500.00
Implement Codes	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
Housing Info/Resources	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.40	(\$0.40)	\$0.00
Resource Center	\$105,117.00	\$105,117.00	\$78,935.55	\$26,181.45	\$0.00
Environment					
Thoroughfare Greening	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$4,232.27	\$1,267.73	\$0.00
Neighborhood Greening	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Neighborhood Gateways / Signs	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,244.25	\$2,755.75	\$0.00
Community Gardening and Greening	\$50,900.00	\$50,900.00	\$40,063.38	\$10,836.62	\$0.00
Public Trees	\$11,600.00	\$6,600.00	\$5,078.73	\$1,521.27	\$5,000.00
SEMI Participation	\$4,100.00	\$1,110.00	\$1,110.00	\$0.00	\$2,990.00
Habitat Project	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Stakeholder Dialogues/Good Neighbor	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	\$0.00
Pollution Prevention	\$79,900.00	\$73,720.00	\$72,757.43	\$962.57	\$6,180.00
Public Safety					
Block Clubs	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,198.08	\$801.92	\$0.00
Safety Improvements	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Cops on Bikes	\$28,820.43	\$20,640.00	\$9,347.30	\$11,292.70	\$8,180.43
Schools					
Tuttle School - Playground	\$50,000.00	\$43,422.37	\$43,422.37	\$0.00	\$6,577.63
Tuttle School Grounds	\$153,500.00	\$153,499.25	\$100,211.89	\$53,287.36	\$0.75
Parks					
Van Cleve - Park Council	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Van Cleve Park Programming	\$87,500.00	\$83,500.00	\$83,500.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Van Cleve Park Improvements	\$48,300.00	\$48,300.00	\$48,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$210,800.00				
Business and Economic Development					
SE Como Business Association	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$1,522.91	\$3,477.09	\$0.00
Home-Based Businesses	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Business Improvements	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Fix-up Programs	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$54,427.97	\$15,572.03	\$0.00
Community Services					
Community Education	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Southeast Library	\$2,500.00	\$2,468.88	\$2,468.88	\$0.00	\$31.12
Promotion of Services	\$4,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
Southeast Organization Networking	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Southeast Seniors	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Youth Employment Program	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Way to Grow	\$2,500.00	\$2,382.61	\$2,382.61	\$0.00	\$117.39
Toy and Book Lending Library	\$8,000.00	\$5,422.16	\$5,422.16	\$0.00	\$2,577.84
Transportation					
University Cooperation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Crosswalks at 15th and Como	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Traffic Calming on Talmadge	\$7,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,002.55	\$497.45	\$3,000.00
Alley Speed Bumps	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$1,140.00	\$1,260.00	\$0.00
Metro Transit Buses	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Talmadge-Rollins Bike Route	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Bike Diverter and 17th and Rollins	\$6,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,200.00
Bike Racks/Benches	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Community Building					
Neighborhood Office/Resource Center	\$24,980.00	\$24,980.00	\$24,980.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Neighborhood Staff	\$69,600.00	\$69,600.00	\$69,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Staff and Office	\$261,932.00	\$261,932.00	\$218,127.09	\$43,804.91	\$0.00
Comotion Newsletter	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Town Meetings	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00	\$2,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Communications Plan	\$8,450.00	\$8,450.00	\$8,450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Communications	\$41,000.00	\$41,000.00	\$31,328.71	\$9,671.29	\$0.00
Resource Programs	\$16,500.00	\$9,900.00	\$2,617.87	\$7,282.13	\$6,600.00
University Relations	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$3,000.58	\$8,999.42	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$2,627,449.43	\$2,300,194.27	\$1,981,028.68	\$319,165.59	\$116,455.16