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Hours:

Mon. through Thurs.: 8am to 5pm
Fri.: 8am to 4pm

RIVERBLUFF OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday - 3:00-5:00 | 612-333-3826

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MUTUAL
MANAGEMENT
COMPANY

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Riverside Homes Rehab Update

Rehab work at Riverbluff began in December and continues as scheduled. Work in Cedar East began in February and will last through the fall. Work on the Riverside Park buildings will begin in late summer and might last into early 2020.

The total construction budget is \$13,500,000., most of which will be spent on replacing siding, roofs, windows, and doors, but will also include some interior work. Many of Riverside's buildings were built before lead-based paint was banned in 1978, and where work requires us to disturb surfaces painted with lead-based paint we will use lead-safe work practices which require residents to temporarily vacate their units.

Work on individual buildings and units will require some residents to temporarily move out of their units. Mutual Management will interview all households 30-45 days before any work will begin in their unit to make appropriate arrangement during construction based on family needs and the length they will need to be out of their home. This may include providing temporary housing or cash payments allowing residents to make their own arrangements. Any special needs or specific concerns you have about your family during a temporary relocation should be shared with Mutual Mgmt. Co. during those interviews.

We are on a deadline to submit the Riverside Homes II Initial Certification paperwork before March 29, as required for this rehab project. We need your help to get this done! If you must provide information (paychecks, etc.) so that your initial certification can be completed, **bring this to the office right away!** Please check your phone messages and your mail to see if we have been trying to contact you! **Please sign and return any paperwork immediately!** We will be extending our office hours through the end of March to make this easier for you, but if you are unable to come into the office, please call so we can make arrangements to come to your home. In addition to our regular business hours, we will be **open one hour later, until 6pm**, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Also, **we will be open on Saturday, March 23**, 10am to 1pm, to accept your paperwork.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we move forward with this important rehab project.

Please contact Mutual Management, 612-333-9164 or West Bank CDC, 612-204-3475 with questions.

Spring Block Party planned for April

For the past several years we have had outdoor Spring Block Parties with pizza, games and prizes. The goal is to get people out of their homes after the long winter, to talk to neighbors, meet Safety Patrol members, and voice concerns or issues about the neighborhood.



This year we are planning something a little different. The Block Party will take place earlier in the season, and we will have it inside to have a better space for talking to each other. We will still have food, activities for the kids, and a time to meet the Safety Patrol.

The 2019 Block Party will be Thursday, April 25 from 5pm to 7:30pm at Cedar Commons located at 2001 Riverside Avenue.

It's not too early to start thinking about the warm months ahead and get out of the house,

YOGA FOR WOMEN

The Wellness Pub at The People's Center, 425 20th Avenue South, Minneapolis offers **Women Only Yoga** every Monday, 12pm to 1pm. Suggested donation: \$5.00. No preregistration required. People's Center is a nationally recognized non-profit community health center serving diverse communities in south Minneapolis and surrounding communities. People's Center operates a network of three clinics and accepts all patients regardless of their ability to pay. More at www.peoples-center.org.





University of Minnesota
School of Music Presents
**University Gospel Choir
Spring Concert**

The University Gospel Choir invites you to join them in a celebration of spring and community under the direction of conductor Adrian Davis. This event is free and open to the public. Tickets are not necessary, seating is general admission and available first come, first serve.

April 28, 7:30 pm
Ted Mann Concert Hall
2128 Fourth Street South

Have you heard?

Mutual Management Company is in the process of processing initial certifications for many of our residents. If you receive such a packet in the mail, be sure to **sign the paperwork and return it as soon as possible**. When you do, your name will be entered in a **weekly drawing for a \$25.00 Target gift card!** Congrats to Saynab Farah and Muna Muse for winning gift cards...next week it might be you! Re-



If you smell natural gas in your unit, do **NOT** call the MMC maintenance line. Call CenterPoint immediately. See important details below from CenterPoint:

What To Do If You Smell Natural Gas

***Natural gas has a distinctive, strong odor, often compared to rotten eggs or sulfur.**

INSIDE your home or building:

Step 1: Leave immediately on foot! Do not use electric switches, telephones (including cell phones), drive or start a car or anything that could cause a spark.

Step 2: Go directly to a safe location, on foot, and call both CenterPoint Energy at 888-876-5786 and 911. Do not use e-mail or the Internet to contact the company about a leak, and never assume someone else has reported the leak.

Step 3: Alert your neighbors. CenterPoint Energy checks suspected natural gas leaks at no cost to you.

Step 4: Never try to repair a natural gas leak yourself. Leave all repairs to a trained technician.

OUTSIDE your home or building:

Step 1: Leave immediately on foot! Do not use electric switches, telephones (including cell phones), start or drive a car or anything that could cause a spark. Move in a upwind direction away from the leak or vapor cloud where you can no longer smell gas and maintain a safe distance.

Step 2: Go directly to a safe location and call both CenterPoint Energy at 888-876-5786 and 911.

Step 3: Warn others to stay away from the leak.



Abandon any equipment being used in or near

FAMILY FUTSAL NIGHT

Announcing Family Futsal Night, May 29, 6pm to 8pm, at Whittier Rec Center, 425 W. 26th St. Minneapolis. Come along for a night of free family fun. The Futsal Society is hosting an evening of Futsal (soccer) for all ages. Come and learn about the fun sport. Volunteers will be available to provide instruction. Free food will be provided.

More at www.minneapolisparcs.org



WEDNESDAY SUPPERS

Announcing Community Evening Suppers every Wednesday at 6pm at Cedar Commons, 2001 Riverside Avenue. This is a weekly meal sponsored by Trinity and our community partners. All are welcome--neighbors, students and visitors! More at trinitylutherancongregation.org.



FESTIVAL OF NATIONS MAY 3, 4 & 5

St. Paul River Centre
175 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul
\$11 in advance
\$13.50 at the door

For over 80 years, Festival of Nations has inspired people to discover more about our wonderful world and embrace its rich cultural diversity through immigrants from around the globe as well as strengthen bonds that extend beyond international borders. Through world-class music and dance performances, exhibits, demonstrations, activities, and food, this family-friendly festival provides a look into the traditions, history and journey of nearly 100 ethnic groups, and sheds light on how each one contributes to the



IMPORTANT REMINDER:

We have hired RS Executive Protection to monitor all of our parking lots on random days at random times. Please remember that the visitor parking spaces are for guests only, **not for residents**. Guests may park **no more than 2 4 hours**. Violators will be towed.



Take a free tour of historic City Hall

Did you know the Father of Waters statue in the City Hall Rotunda weighs more than 14,000 pounds and was sculpted from the largest marble block in Italy's famed Carrara quarries? Or that City Hall's clock tower faces are some of the largest in the world at 23 feet 6 inches in diameter? They're even larger than the clock faces connected to London's Big Ben.

Get to know the historic Minneapolis City Hall and Hennepin County Courthouse building in a guided tour every third

Wednesday. Meet the tour guide at noon in the Rotunda by the Father of Waters statue.



Cedar-Riverside to welcome two new Somali-American beat cops

At the request of the community, Cedar-Riverside is welcoming new faces to the neighborhood.

After a year-long process, the Minneapolis Police Department assigned two Somali-American officers, Daadir Galayr and Mohamud Jama, to patrol the predominantly East African neighborhood. Community leaders and MPD hope the officers will help bridge the cultural divide between police and residents.

"They know the language of the street, and they will be able to interact with business owners and residents in an easier way since they're bilingual," Ward 6 City Council member Abdi Warsame said. "I think there's a level of understanding of the culture and the norms that comes with being members of the community."

Two other Somali-American officers, Abdiwahab Ali and Mohammed Abdullahi, previously worked in the area for a number of years, but both left after being promoted. When the constituents of his ward asked that Somali-American officers replace Ali and Abdullahi, Warsame began working with MPD to follow through on that request.

"A lot of times, they were not just police officers but they were educating community members, especially elders and parents, about how the system works," said Abdirahman Mukhtar, founder of the local outreach effort Daryeel Youth and Cedar-Riverside resident of almost 15 years.

Mukhtar said Ali and Abdullahi's presence in the community went beyond security of the neighborhood. Interacting with residents and participating in activities like coaching youth soccer helped the officers form trust with the community, he said.

"Being Somali, speaking Somali language and knowing the culture was just extra," Mukhtar said. "They were doing their police job as good as any other police officer."

Cedar-Riverside Opportunity Center manager Saeed Bihi said working to decrease the unemployment rate in the area and provide educational opportunities for residents is easier when there's a sense of safety and security in the community.

"You can prosper and [achieve] economic development when everyone feels safe," Bihi said.

More at www.mndaily.com



May Day Parade, May 5

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre's annual May Day Parade, Ceremony, and Festival has been a vibrant example of art as community building in the Twin Cities area for 44 years. For many in Minnesota, the May Day Parade is a time to celebrate the coming warmth with hand-built puppets and masks (some over 10 feet tall), music, and performance in the street. But the essence of the parade is rooted in the local community and contemporary issues, concerns, and visions for a better world. When the community workshops begin in April, the theater's main performance space is converted to a giant studio space. Throughout the month, everyone is invited to the 16 public workshops, and all who enter participate in the building of this communal story through the creation of puppets and masks. By the time the parade unfolds on the first Sunday of May, more than 50,000 people from near and far fill the streets both as participants and spectators for this day of celebration and community. More at hobt.org

Useful Info From the Brian Coyle Rec Center (420 S.15th Ave, Minneapolis) on Food Distribution Programs:

We believe no one should have to miss a meal and work tirelessly to ensure all individuals and families have access to culturally relevant and nutritious food. These programs are free.

Food Shelf: Healthy groceries available for everyone. Hours: Monday: 12-6 pm, Tuesday: 12-3 pm, Wednesday: 12-4 pm, & Friday: 12-4 pm. First-time visitors need a photo ID for their head of household and each family member in preparation for a short registration process. Numbers are given out at the front desk starting at 9 am, but walk-ins are welcome.



Produce Giveaways: Free distribution of vegetables and/or fruit every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Get a number between 9:30-11:30 am. Pick up food between 1-2 pm.

SNAP Enrollment: Our team provides SNAP screenings, assistance with SNAP applications and post-application follow-up with counties and DHS.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program: A nutritional support box for seniors 60+ years of age on the first Friday of every month from 9:30-10:30 am. Registration required for first-time participants. Apply by calling 651-484-8241 or toll-free at 1-800-365-0270.

For more information, please contact Ethan Neal: 612-455-0389.

An interesting article produced and published by the Minnesota Daily (U of M newspaper):

Home away from home: handbuilt 'Somali house' connects neighbors through Somali culture

The handmade house, which has been the epicenter of celebrations and weekly meetings for community members, will soon close for the winter.

The Somali House, a structure made of sticks and held together by various forms of weaving, is fixed by Cedar-Riverside resident Ayan Isaq. The house serves as a space for Somali people to gather and experience Somali culture.

After feeling alone and unsafe during her early months in Cedar-Riverside, Ayan Isaq decided to find a way to bring her community together. Her idea spurred local Somali women to create a traditional Somali house held together by sticks, grass and old clothing. Completed in the spring, the house has been at the center of everything from holiday celebrations to weekly tea. Located at the intersection of 19th and 6th Avenue South, the intricately woven colors stand



out from the surrounding single-family homes. "This is about the neighborhood [communicating and seeing] each other, and safety," said Isaq, community liaison for the nonprofit developer West Bank Community Development Corporation.



Fatuma Halki holds different types of traditional Somali weaving, camel bells and a spoon from her bag in front of the Somali House. Halki does much of the weaving herself.

The WBCDC provides resources to the women as part of its outreach to the Somali community, which has been ongoing sporadically for a decade, said program manager Debbie Wolking. This the first time the developer has seen a comprehensive project within the Somali community get off the ground. The house fosters a sense of companionship and security among the women, who can bring their children outside under the watchful eye of the community, Isaq said.

"Unless you know your neighbor, you don't know what's going on with them. It's good to come out and have a cup of tea or have a bottle of water together and share. It makes [a] big difference," said Isaq. Gathering materials is a community effort. Old cloth is donated by residents for weaving. The women gather sticks by the Mississippi River on their weekly walks. But the smaller sticks and grass are harder to find in Minnesota, so WBCDC orders those on Amazon. In Somalia, similar houses are common, said Isaq. But having left her home country at an early age due to the civil war, Isaq said her main experiences with these structures were in refugee camps. She and the other women relied on the expertise of their neighbor Fatuma Halki. "I never forgot because I like it," said Halki, who learned to build traditional Somali houses when she was 14 years old.

The house has been an intersection for both the Somali and native-born residents to meet. Somali residents recognize it from their country, while Americans stop and learn about the culture, Halki said. She hopes the younger Somali-Americans will learn to recreate the house and keep the tradition alive.

The houses were a sign of endurance and adaptability in the refugee camps for Isaq. In the camps, the refugees were only given tarps and told to build their own shelter. Two-year Cedar-Riverside resident Laura Andre's perception of the neighborhood has changed since she was a University of Minnesota student. Andre, who visits the house with her two daughters, said increased security and friendly neighbors makes the area a welcoming place for her family.

"I really believe that who your neighbors are can affect your view of the world and can really help you become familiar with someone who looks different from you," said Andre. "I hope with my daughters growing up with different kinds of people, that will be the inclination."

More at www.mndaily.com

Spring



egg



snail



bee



frog



caterpillar



lamb



ladybug



butterfly



owl



sun

C	A	T	E	R	P	I	L	L	A	R	E
R	F	B	T	Y	V	I	L	Q	B	S	B
U	R	Y	W	S	D	F	V	N	U	N	C
F	O	E	A	V	M	L	Y	L	C	A	B
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