



# Riverton Newsletter

Spring 2020

The Official Newsletters for Members of Riverton Community Housing

## A Message from our Executive Director

Hello Riverton Co-op Community,

I hope this message finds you well. These are truly unique times. There are so many emotions experienced by our collective community. We are experiencing a defining moment for all of our lives. What I want to ask is, "how will you be defined by this moment in time?" Of course, we are all experiencing immediate emotions and have many ways of reacting to this pandemic. No one will be untouched by this situation be it emotionally, financially, health and so on. Eventually, this will pass and when it does, how do you want to see that you were changed as a person? What are the ways you want to see your community changed or the world changed? This is a time like no other and each of us has an opportunity to redefine what is next. I believe in the coop spirit. It is rooted in cooperation. Connection, community and sharing are values in cooperative living. I encourage the definition for the future you see to include innovation, creatively and deeper connections with your fellow coop members. We need each other and each of you has something to offer to your greater community. I look forward to hearing and seeing some of your innovation and connectedness as we all move forward. In the meantime, all of us at Riverton Community Housing are here for you.

May health, peace, hope and renewed spirit be yours.

-Mary Novak  
Riverton Community Housing Executive Director

### Refer a Friend Leasing Special!!

Know someone looking for housing for Fall 2020? Refer them to Brook Ave and receive \$200 rent credit when they move in!

## 7 Cooperative Principles

-  **1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP**
- DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**  **2**
-  **3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION**
- AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE**  **4**
-  **5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION**
- COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES**  **6**
-  **7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**



## Office Announcements

1. Our office is closed to outside visitors to limit contact due to the COVID-19. Our staff is still available via phone and email during office hours.
2. Maintenance will only respond to high priority work orders during this time.
3. Cleaning staff are being diligent and consistently cleaning high contact locations within each cooperative.
4. Common spaces are closed effective immediately until further notice.
5. Leases and rents are still active and due, please contact the office if you are experiencing hardship due to COVID-19 to set up a payment arrangement.
6. All Co-op events are to be postponed or cancelled for the time being to support the need for social distancing, although we encourage cooperative residents to remain in communication and in touch with both Riverton Staff and their fellow co-op members to promote community during this time.
7. Move ins and/or transfers to new units are still on schedule and will proceed as scheduled.
8. Please reach out to your Community Managers with any concerns or questions.

## Recent Riverton Events



Riverton was happy to host South Dakota Farmers Union during their visit to the Twin Cities in February. They toured multiple cooperatives including our Chateau and Fourth St Co-op's and were given a short presentation on Riverton's housing cooperatives. We look forward to hosting them again next year!



# Brook Ave

## Housing Co-op

1220 Brook Ave SE,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

### Brook Board of Directors

Sloane MacSwain  
**President**

Andrew Norton  
**Vice President**

Cassie Hagen  
**Secretary**

Taechrisdae Feser  
**Co-Treasurer**

Hannah Manley  
**Co-Treasurer**

Maya Tazel

Julien Mendez

**Interested in living  
at Brook Ave Co-op?  
Contact Riverton  
Community Housing  
to learn more:**

**Riverton Main Office**  
425 13th Ave SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
612-331-3911



### Brook Annual General Meeting Update

Brook AGM was hosted in the conference room located on T3 of the tower and was catered by Papa John's. The all co-op address was given by Sloane MacSwain and 7 residents were elected to the board. The meeting consisted of updates from the various events that had taken place in the fall along with planning for upcoming events for the spring. Upcoming events that were discussed/planned were the wine and painting party, trivia night, spring jam, and St. Patrick's day party. Other topics of discussion were getting whiteboards purchased and installed in the study rooms along with getting a squat rack and heavier free weights for the fitness center.

### You're hot and you're cold, is it yes or is it no? (Heating and cooling tips for the average Minnesotan)

YES

1. Make sure all your windows are shut and latched. Use shades/blinds to help with heating and cooling. Open them to gain the sun's heat during heating season and close them to block the heat during cooling season.
2. Make sure to set the temperature to a level that is comfortable for you. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.

NO

1. Do not attempt to heat your home using other appliances. The kitchen stove can't be used as a heating source.
2. The electric space heater is not recommended, as it is a fire hazard.
3. Try to not change your thermostat setting constantly or to highly varying temperatures as this can waste energy and/ or fuel
4. Do not place your heat on high then open a window to cool down your room.





# Chateau

## Student Housing Co-op

425 13th Ave SE,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55414

### Chateau Board of Directors

Nishank Varshney  
**President**

Siddhee Sahasrabudhe  
**Vice President**

Vrishali Salian  
**Secretary**

Anindya Panda  
**Treasurer**

Kevin Hartoyo  
Youbing Wang

Pooja Hegde

Jerry Liang

Jiayi He

Joy Yang

Prachi Sharma

Apoorva Limaye

Avani Wadiwala

Sophie Kohl

Min Shi

Vaidehi Narkar

**Interested in living  
at Chateau Co-op?  
Contact Riverton  
Community Housing  
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### Chateau Annual General Meeting Update

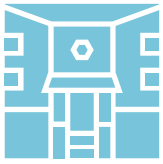
The Chateau's 2020 AGM went well. All gathered in the 18th floor lounge and enjoyed catering from Holy Land. This year's elections, for the Board of Directors, as well as officer positions, was quite competitive. The Board hopes to spend the year strengthening participation within the co-op and making connections to outside organizations as well. They also want to focus on educating members on what it means to live in a co-op and the benefits of it.



### NASCO Training

NASCO (North American Students of Cooperation) came to visit in February and offered training presentations to Co-op Board Members and Co-op members. The NASCO Representative offered several presentations on co-op governance, membership engagement, and Q&A's with Board Members from Riverton Co-ops. NASCO also hosts an annual Co-op conference, in which Board Members are welcome to attend. This past years' was held in Austin, Texas. This is a weekend long conference attended by Co-op members from all over the country. It provides attendees with networking opportunities and varying training seminars. Interested in attending next years? Reach out to your Community Manager today!





# Cole Townhomes

## Housing Co-op

2425-2647 Cole Ave SE,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55414

### Cole Board of Directors

Kara Laffin  
**President**

Marcus Lugo  
**Vice President**

Kevin Helander  
**Secretary**

Wyatt Oelkers  
**Treasurer**

Erik Loewen

Shauncey Brooks



### Cole Annual General Meeting Update

Cole Townhomes AGM was a success with six residents being voted onto the board and every officer's position being voted upon and elected as well. The meeting was catered by Pizza Hut and led by the board president Kara Laffin who gave the all co-op address to the members. Topics of discussion consisted of a proposal to amend the current Notice To Vacate period, plan for an event to pass out valentines for Valentine's Day, and planning a spring jam event.



Congratulations, graduating students! Riverton wishes you success on your future journeys. Your success is well-deserved and we wish you all the best on your next big adventure! For those leaving the Riverton Co-op community, we have enjoyed having you with us, and thank you for everything you have brought to your Co-op community. For those staying with us, we are excited to be a part of the next part of your lives. Congratulations, Class of 2020!

**Interested in living at Cole Townhomes? Contact Riverton Community Housing to learn more:**

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# Fourth Street Housing Co-op

1227 Fourth Street SE,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55414

## Fourth St Board of Directors

Mara Mathison  
**Co-President**

Michael Braman  
**Co-President**

Tyler Wendland  
**Co-Vice President**

Sergey Karachenets  
**Co-Vice President**

Nigibh Kumar



## Fourth St. Annual General Meeting Update

The Fourth Street's 2020 AGM went well. All gathered in the lobby and enjoyed pizzas from Andrea's. All previous board members re-nominated themselves and were re-elected to their previous office positions. The Board plans to focus on having a re-occurring event monthly (i.e. Bagel Friday's or similar) to instill a board presence within the co-op. They want members to know that they are there to serve them.



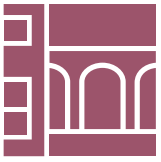
Riverton hosted cookie decorating in the lobby of Fourth St Co-op at Dinkytown's first ever Dinkytown Winter Wanderland event in January 2020. Participants enjoyed discovering Dinkytown while learning about the diverse businesses nestled within the community.

**Interested in living  
at Fourth St Co-op?  
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Riverton Staff attended the Spring Housing Fair hosted by the UMN in hopes of reaching out to more prospective residents in search of housing for Fall 2020. We offered free swag and information on availability and our cooperative housing model.





# Franklin Housing Co-op

2300 E Franklin Ave,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55414

## Franklin Board of Directors

Amin Buta  
**President**

Nancy Larsen  
**Vice President**

Abdi Salah

Janet Carraher

Sheikh Hilowle

Ahmed Yousuf

Yusuf Ahmed

Pooja Pala



## Franklin Annual General Meeting Update

Franklin Board AGM went well. In the president's union address he urged the board to concentrate on recruitment, community safety, and education to unify as a community. The Board welcomed two new members during the AGM. The board is planning to do an Earth day clean up at Franklin on both 9th and 24th Street. They are also planning to engage residents by tabling on each floor once a month with a different theme each time. The Franklin board will be supporting the 4H program this summer so long as COVID-19 doesn't necessitate closure.



**Interested in living  
at Franklin Co-op?  
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### Quarterly Newsletter Drawing!

Each newsletter will announce two unit winners from Riverton properties that will receive a gift card! Make sure to read each newsletter to see if you have won! Look for the Riverton house from our logo. In order to receive the credit, email [leasing@riverton.org](mailto:leasing@riverton.org) with the words Spring and Cooperatives

This edition's winners are:

FS 608

BR 318





# Marcy Park

## Student Housing Co-op

700 10th Ave SE & 1000 8th St SE  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55414

### Marcy Park Board of Directors

Asa Nielson  
**President**

Michael Black  
**Secretary**

Michael Urvig  
**Treasurer**

Breanne Christian

Marcell Mikkelson

Moretta O'Connell

Luc Robichaud



### Marcy Park Annual General Meeting Update

Marcy Park AGM was catered with Chinese food from a local restaurant and went well with 7 residents being voted onto the board. The all co-op address was given by the Board Secretary, Michael Urvig. The board discussed various topics such as their E&D budget, the new decks that were installed on the 1000 building, along with the donations that were made to three separate non-profits at the end of the last fiscal year. Upcoming events being discussed/planned are a spring jam event, a fall bbq, and a puppy party event with the local humane society.

### Tips for being a successful Distance Learner

1. Set a fixed time to engage in the course work.
2. Do not rush through your work.
3. Take the time to ask questions and engage instructors
4. Explore the technology being used in advance of having to use it.
5. If in a collaborative environment, choose your colleagues or project partners carefully.
6. Use alarms and calendars to ensure your benchmarks and course milestones are met.
7. Organize your study space.
8. Review your work consistently.
9. Stay Positive and Motivated
10. Check in with classmates



**Interested in living at Marcy Park Co-op? Contact Riverton Community Housing to learn more:**

**Riverton Main Office**  
425 13th Ave SE  
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# Marshall

## Student Housing Co-op

1405 5th St SE,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55414

### Marshall Board of Directors

Tom Healy  
President

Katie Feuling  
Vice President



### Marshall Annual General Meeting Update

The Marshall's 2020 AGM went well. All gathered in the Marshall boardroom and enjoyed pizza from Mesa. All previous board members re-nominated themselves and were re-elected to their previous office positions. The Board will focus on getting more members to join the Board of Directors. As of April 2020, there will only be 1 board member. They need YOU to join! Please contact Nola, [nola.howitz@riverton.org](mailto:nola.howitz@riverton.org), for details on getting involved.

### 6 science-backed activities to help you relax while you're home

1. Color or Doodle- can lead to a meditative state that helps reduce anxiety. Consider breaking out your adult coloring books, or drawing your own pattern
2. Go for a walk- studies have shown that a brisk walk can make you feel more creative
3. Take a Nap- stick to 10 to 20 minutes to avoid feeling groggy or messing with your sleep-wake cycle
4. Do some Yoga- yoga can boost your mood, lower stress and anxiety and boost your self-esteem.
5. Chat with a Friend- Just because you're socially distancing doesn't mean that you can't connect. Research has shown that social support can make you more resilient to stress.
6. Listen/Play some Music- Listening to music can help people in the face of a scary and stressful experience; a study on cancer patients found that music reduced anxiety and pain, while bolstering people's moods.

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at Marshall Co-op?  
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