

Welcome Fourth Street Cooperative!

September 2015



**A Monthly Collection of News
and Stories from the Riverton
Member Cooperatives**

**The
Riverton
Cooperator**

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Dear Riverton Member Cooperatives,

It is a great honor to welcome the New Fourth Street Cooperative to the Riverton family! After a wonderful Grand Opening ceremony in August and the first round of Move-ins, the new building is finally open and all the new tenants have moved in! Welcome!

This month the newsletter is focused on sharing the happenings of our busy August and sharing the upcoming events of September!

Enjoy,
Kit Fordham
Manager of Cooperative Services



**To develop and maintain quality student-oriented
housing communities operating on a nonprofit,
democratic basis.**

**612 331 3911
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September Featured Articles



August in Review

Coming Up in September

Launching Fourth Street!

Fun Fact About Cooperatives

Did you know these popular brands were co-ops!?





The Franklin Garden Party is the biggest event of the year at the Franklin Housing Co-op and this year it was even bigger than usual as we joined the annual event with the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition's Open Streets on Franklin Avenue!

AUGUST 16, 2015 – Early in the morning volunteers and staff arrived to set up a tent in the Franklin entrance to our parking lot. It was an overcast sky occasionally sprinkling on the hundreds of Minneapolis pedestrians and bikers who'd come to claim the streets as a human territory – as opposed to the usual inhabitant, the automobile.

We first decided to participate in Open Streets because of the obvious opportunity to interact with the community at large. And, so our humble goal was to be present. Excitingly, that bold mission was enriched when Tom Pierson, Riverton Board Member, invited the Minneapolis Coalition for Intentional Housing to join our tent to spread the word about some important legislation under consideration that would make city ordinances friendlier to the establishment of intentional housing communities.

As our causes diversified so did those who stopped by to hear what we had to say. Some were thrilled just to hear there was an organization working to develop affordable, democratic housing, while others had personal anecdotes to share concerning the importance of the legislative change the MCIH was promoting.

The day was a success, as measured by the smiles on the faces of our community members as we represented the Riverton Network of Cooperatives to the greater community. In attendance we had Riverton staff, two Riverton Board Members, and the President of the Franklin Cooperative.

As the festivities in the avenue wrapped up at 5:00pm sharp we transitioned into the Franklin courtyard where several days earlier a huge pole tent had been erected in anticipation for the biggest event of the year, the Franklin Garden Party. A small group of Franklin Board Members and Riverton Staff bustled around preparing food just as the heavy clouds of the day burst and the rain began to pour. With the shelter of the tent and the mass of co-op members huddled under it was the clear the event would not be deterred by the downpour.

After serving up the meal catered by the Seward Cooperative, which, due to the rain was an improvisational and chaotic affair, the rain had let up enough that the entertainment began. Our juggler and yo-yo expert put on an incredible show and workshop for all of the children at the party. Despite the rain the event was a success!





Fourth Street Grand Opening



“[NASCO’s] most important goal is the improvement of operations through mutual aid and support. [It] provides numerous opportunities for member co-ops to improve their operations through learning from other cooperatives.”

NASCO.coop
The NASCO Mandate

REK KWAWER, the Director of Operations at NASCO, came to town to pay the Riverton Member Cooperatives a visit. She spent all day Saturday, July 26th with the Chateau board leading a visioning exercise to help the board develop its vision for the future of the cooperative.

The next day she spent touring the cooperatives and meeting with board members from the other member cooperatives. Lastly, she hosted a discussion on cooperatives with the Riverton Staff.

The key take away from Rek’s visit was that, while our business model and community are unique, we are by no means alone. There are cooperatives all over the country that have very similar goals and challenges. We have a plethora of fellow cooperatives to collaborate when we run into new issues. We likewise have plenty of wisdom to lend to the greater cooperative movement.

In the months to come, it will be exciting to build on the conversations we started with NASCO and to imagine how we can impactfully connect to the greater cooperative movement on a more regular basis.

NASCO visits Riverton Member Cooperatives

The NASCO Shared Resource Library

The NASCO Resource Library is a comprehensive database of resources from their staff and member cooperatives. This is an underused and underrated amenity for us NASCO members. This is a place that our co-op boards and members alike can share their learning.

A quick glance at the library reveals a great breadth of relevant topics:

“One of the most valuable assets of the cooperative movement is our collective knowledge, and the Shared Resource Library, a constantly growing collection of documents and files, is a tool for sharing that knowledge.”

August Staff Bio

**Riverton
Maintenance
Tech**

We're Pleased to Introduce, the One and Only – Billy Rich!

I'm pleased to introduce, our latest addition to the maintenance team – Billy Rich. He's been with us for 2 months now and is already an essential piece of the Riverton team. He brings a great enthusiasm that brings positivity to every situation.

Our esteemed Admin. Assistant, Nola, whom you were introduced to in our last edition of the Cooperator, interviewed Billy to get him to tell us a bit more about him:

How long have you been with Riverton and what brought you here?

I've been here 2 months – I heard it was a nice place to work and needed a good job to take care of lovely fiancé.

How do you feel about Fourth Street?

Cool new building, beautiful and in a great location

What were you doing before Riverton?

Commercial maintenance with a company called UOI, degree in welding, been a general “handyman” for 6-8 years now

What's the best part about your job?

The satisfaction of fixing something and doing it well, going home and knowing you did a good job and was helpful, happy and proud to be contributing to students' college experience

Fun Fact(s) – Recently engaged, Free Mason – very community involved, avid musician and fisherman

“Don't put anything weird down your drains!”

Billy Rich

Maintenance Technician

Maintenance Tip of the Month

Don't place foreign objects down the drains. A few examples of what we've found lately: Q-tips, Popsicle sticks, sponges, etc. These things will always come back to haunt you!

Intro to Cooperatives

Fourth Street Cooperative

September 3 + 4 @ 4:30pm

September 10 + 11 + 14 + 15 @ 6:00pm

Attend any session you want.

We'll meet in the board room – the room to the right of the main entrance!

We'll talk about the benefits of living in a cooperative, Opportunities to get involved, and there will be:

Free Pizza.

We would love you to join us. Email

kit.fordham@riverton.org with any questions.