



Ward Six News

April 2016

Abdi Warsame, who represents the Cedar-Riverside area, says it's critical for young people to land good jobs, one by one. — Startribune

Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center

by Council Member Abdi Warsame

In the near future, the ground level of an apartment building across from the Brain Coyle Center in the Cedar Riverside will be a hub for young people 16-25 years old. This Opportunity Center will provide a place to sign up for classes, connect with resources, and get interviewed for a job. It is an example of public, private and community collaboration. Hennepin County would oversee the development of the center and provide staff, it would be operated with the help of several organizations, including EMERGE and MCTC. Hennepin County's Library will provide on-site services. Community Based organizations and employers wanting to hold job interviews or training could reserve space. In other words, it will be a one-stop-shop for education and workforce development.

I believe this space will do help to cut the neighborhood's unemployment rate — one of the highest in the city at about 17%— in half. We have already secured \$100,000 in funding from the city and another \$290,000 from Hennepin County. Now, we are reaching out to anyone who will listen — from legislators to philanthropic foundations to church groups to individuals — to raise about \$1 million more and open the center.

We hope this project will become a model that can be replicated in other areas of our city so that we can better serve the young people in Minneapolis.

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I-35W transit/access open houses



Get the latest information and provide comments on the I-35W transit/access project at one of two open houses focused on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project. The EA outlines the project's purpose and anticipated social, economic and environmental impacts.

Public Open Houses

Tuesday, April 5 and 19, 6 to 8:00 p.m. (presentations at 6:30 p.m.)

[Colin Powell Center, 3rd Floor, 2924 4th Avenue South](#)

The EA can be viewed at www.35lake.com/ea or at [Franklin](#), [Hosmer](#) and [Walker](#) libraries. Written comments may also be submitted until April 20 to richard.dalton@state.mn.us or Richard Dalton, Minnesota Department of Transportation, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155-1899.

The I-35W transit/access project includes the Lake Street interchange area between 32nd and 26th streets, the Lake Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station and the [Green Crescent](#) pedestrian/bicycle connection between the Midtown Greenway and Lake Street. Estimated cost is \$150 million. Construction is planned for 2017.

Teen Job and Opportunity Fair



Know a teen looking for a summer job? Spread the word about the Teen Job and Opportunity Fair

Teenagers 14-19 can connect with employers and organizations for information about jobs, internships, volunteer opportunities and employment training at the Teen Job and Opportunity Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 30, at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall. The event will also feature workshops on how to conduct a job search and land a job.

Some employers will accept applications and hold interviews at the job fair. Attendees may use computers at the library to complete applications for employers that require online applications.

Parents, guardians, counselors and teachers are welcome to attend the job fair. Please help spread the word with folks in your network.

The job fair is free and open to the public. Preregistration is not required. For more information about the event, visit the Minneapolis Teen Job and Opportunity Fair website

In effect 2017

Ordinance regulating plastic bags passes

To reduce the litter, waste, environmental impacts and expense of managing carryout bags, the City Council has approved an ordinance to regulate the use of plastic carryout bags in retail establishments. The new ordinance takes effect June 1, 2017.

Key features of the ordinance include:

- Retail establishments may not provide plastic carryout bags to any customer.
- Retail establishments providing bags to customers may only use recyclable paper bags, compostable plastic bags or bags designed to be reusable multiple times.
- Retail establishments providing bags must charge customers at least 5 cents per bag. (Customers who receive food assistance are exempted from paying for a bag.) Retailers may choose to pay a \$0.05 fee to a litter cleanup nonprofit in lieu of charging this fee.



Certain types of plastic bags will be exempt from the prohibition, including bags that come into direct contact with food, takeout food bags, and specialized types of bags, for instance for newspapers or dry cleaning.

Plastic carryout bags have significant impacts on the environment and waste stream. These impacts include litter, waste generation and the expense to manage them at recycling facilities.

Next steps

The plastic bag ordinance helps move the City toward zero waste. Solid Waste and Recycling, Licenses and Community Services, Regulatory Services, and Health Department staff will report back to the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee by Jan. 31, 2017, with recommendations for implementing and enforcing the ordinance.

City launches paid internship to train EMTs

The Minneapolis Fire Department is now taking applications from men and women ages 18-30 for a certification course in emergency medical services (EMS). The Fire Department offers the EMS Pathways Academy with Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) to train Minneapolis residents from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds as emergency medical technicians. Twenty-five candidates will be accepted into the program. Graduates of the program will get preference points on the next Fire Department entrance exam, which will take place in the spring of 2017. Graduates will be eligible to apply at HCMC for jobs in EMS, and if hired they'd have the option of further

education for paramedic certification. There is no cost to trainees. Trainees will be considered City of Minneapolis student interns and will earn \$14.93 hourly to take this college-level course two days a week for 12 weeks.

The goal is to provide a pipeline of candidates for the fire service and the Hennepin EMS workforce. This career pathway program will provide free EMT training and certification to young adults from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and low-income families. Becoming a certified emergency medical technician opens the door to many career paths. This is a rapidly expanding field, and as more jobs for EMTs are created demand will increase for qualified candidates who reflect the multilingual and culturally diverse communities they serve.

Candidates follow four steps to apply

1. Check out the basic [eligibility requirements](#).
2. Attend an [information session](#) April 5, 7 or 9.
3. Apply by 11:59 p.m., April 18, at www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs/index.htm under “Internship Opportunities.”
4. Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements for the program will attend further screening.

Find more information at www.minneapolismn.gov/fire.

Landlords must provide voter registration to new tenants



Know any renters moving to a new place? Owners and managers of rental properties must provide new tenants with information on how to register to vote. Even registered voters need to re-register under their new address if they move. This change in the City ordinance will help encourage residents to participate in elections.

Registration is among the biggest barriers in voting, and it disproportionately affects voters who are young or voting for the first time, who move frequently, have a lower income or are people of color. More than half of all Minneapolis residents rent their homes, and renters tend to move more frequently than people who own their homes.

omes in Minneapolis, property owners now must provide each new tenant a voter registration application and an information sheet. These documents can be either printed or given to tenants electronically. The documents can be found in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong at vote.minneapolismn.gov/resources/TNVR. Printed ones will be made available at no cost to property owners and managers.

More information is available at vote.minneapolismn.gov