

Live Smoke Free
Minnesota's Smoke-Free Multi-Housing program
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Dakota County CDA Set to Break Ground on New Smoke-Free Senior Housing Development

Vermillion River Crossing provides affordable senior living in a smoke-free environment

FARMINGTON, MINN. – Vermillion River Crossing in Farmington, MN, is designed to provide healthy, affordable housing for seniors in Dakota County. On May 4, 2011, the Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) will break ground on its first senior housing development in Farmington and 25th overall in its Senior Housing Program. Vermillion River Crossing will also be the CDA's fifth smoke-free senior development. The smoke-free policy will cover the entire inside of the building, including all individual units. Mark Ulfers, executive director of the Dakota County CDA, says the company chose to put the smoke-free policy into effect as a way to prevent secondhand smoke exposure in the building. "The health and well being of residents is our top priority. A smoke-free building is safer and contributes to a better living environment," he said.

"We want Vermillion River Crossing to be a home all residents will enjoy," said Ulfers. "In addition to being smoke free, Vermillion River Crossing offers other great amenities for renters." Features include: community room with kitchen, exercise and club rooms, screened porch, and an underground heated parking garage. Individual units feature ceiling fans, galley kitchen with appliances, air conditioning, mini-blinds, and an emergency call system. Residents will be near a medical clinic and shopping opportunities.

"The Dakota County CDA is known for developing beautiful properties and I expect nothing less from Vermillion River Crossing. Including a smoke-free policy will enhance the living experience for all residents by providing a safe and healthy setting. They are doing a wonderful thing for their residents by offering a completely smoke-free living environment," said Matt Farmer, Program Coordinator for Live Smoke Free, a program that promotes smoke-free apartment living in the Metro Area.

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The Dakota County CDA has so far opened three smoke-free senior buildings, with two more planned by 2012. Current smoke-free buildings are Oakwoods East in Eagan, Crossroads Commons in Lakeville, and Cobblestone Square in Apple Valley. Along with Vermillion River Crossing, the CDA is also in the midst of constructing Thompson Heights in South St. Paul which will open smoke-free in fall 2011.

To learn more about Live Smoke Free, visit our website at www.mnsmokefreehousing.org. Applications for Vermillion River Crossing can be obtained by calling the Dakota County CDA at 651-675-4440.

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About Live Smoke Free:

Live Smoke Free, a program of the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota (ANSR), promotes smoke-free policies for apartment buildings in the Twin Cities metro area. Currently, Minnesota tenants seeking smoke-free multi-unit housing largely outnumber the amount of smoke-free units available. Live Smoke Free educates building owners, managers, tenants, and housing industry professionals about the benefits of smoke-free buildings. Live Smoke Free assists building owners and managers with creating and promoting a smoke-free policy for their property. The program also assists renters in finding solutions to secondhand smoke problems. For more information, go to: www.mnsmokefreehousing.org

For additional information, contact Live Smoke Free:

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About the Dakota County Community Development Agency:

The Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA) was established in 1971 and has grown into one of the largest local providers of housing and community development programs in Minnesota. The CDA currently administers over 30 programs that are guided by the agency's mission to improve the lives of Dakota County residents through affordable housing and community development.

For additional information, contact the Dakota County Community Development Agency:

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