



VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

MARCH '22 NEWS

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WILL YOU JOIN US?

By: Mike Huffman - Executive Director with Our Saviour's Community Services

We are always looking for new volunteers seeking to directly impact the lives of immigrants and individuals struggling with homelessness. Whatever you choose to do, from serving meals in our Emergency Shelter to teaching math or computers in our English Learning Center, you will make a tremendous difference to the people we serve.

People volunteer at Our Saviour's Community Services for many different reasons:

- Desire to make a real impact in the lives of adult English language learners who immigrated to the United States
- Desire to make a tangible impact in the lives of those experiencing homelessness
- Passion to learn about diversity of cultures in your neighborhood
- Interest in language learning and education
- Opportunity to gain experience for a future career or to just try something new
- New friends and a fun, vibrant community

There's a volunteer opportunity for everybody—for every schedule, interest, age, individual, or group. Learn more and complete your online application. Reach out to volunteer@oshousing.org with any questions. We look forward to meeting you!

Minneapolis is a Broken City

By: Melanie Majors - Lifetime Resident

Do you ever wonder why it is so expensive to live in this city? Where all of the money goes that you pay in fees, taxes, fines etc.? Everyone does, especially when you see the perpetually broken systems that exist within our city. Every year we pay more to get less.

There are people who quickly reference other cities and say that the same problems persist around the country – but not every city the size of Minneapolis is as expensive or broken, and I live here...that's what I care about.

Some examples of things that do not work in our city are 311, 911, public school system, plowing, parking enforcement, ordinance enforcement, city departments and city council.

Who is on your side in local government? If you are of average income or a bit lower, if you pay your bills and taxes, if you go to work every day and if you are an engaged citizen who does not commit crimes – the answer is NO ONE. I'll say it again. NO ONE. Think about that.

How often do you hear anyone talk about what to do about the victims of crimes? If your car is stolen, even though you are a victim, if your car is found, you will still have to pay for towing, impound charges, sometimes tickets and increases in your insurance if you make a claim because your car has been totaled. If someone steals your catalytic converter – oh well, just deal with it. Everyone must have an extra \$1,700 to pay for those costs, right? If your home is invaded, if you are robbed or shot or stabbed, you will hear elected officials talk about how we can help the person who victimized us. People have to resort to creating GoFundMe pages to help them recover financially and physically.

Residents, businesses, and employees deserve so much more than we are getting. It's been 2 years since the 3rd Precinct was burned down and still, it sits there, a rotted shell with no plan for when it will be returned or torn down or turned into something else. We don't just deserve a rebuilt 3rd precinct, we need one. We are paying for it anyway.

The people who pay the costs for everything in our city have been forgotten about and it's time that we come to the realization that nothing will change unless we change.

In November of 2021 we had a municipal election for our Mayor and City Council. The City Council will be up for election again in November of 2023. Pay attention over the next 2 years to the actions of council members. Ask yourself if they are prioritizing the things that you care about or if they are using their time in office to fulfill their own agenda as activists, or they are politicians that bow down to activists.

If we weren't all so busy working, trying to keep ourselves and our families safe, we would have more time to be involved politically. As someone who grew up in this city, that still lives here and loves what Minneapolis used to be, I implore all good citizens to get involved. Join your local neighborhood association. Volunteer at a local nonprofit and see what the real needs and priorities are. Run for office or give your support to candidates who want to make our city better for the people who pay for it, not those that seek to destroy it. We didn't break this city and we cannot continue to rely on those who did to make it better. Speak up, step up and make sure that you do everything you can to fix our city before it is too late.

Ventura Village Neighborhood News!

- Our next General Membership meeting will be Wednesday, March 9th at 7 PM in person at ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue, and via Zoom by contacting us via phone or email.
- Committee Meetings are the last week of each month. Highlights from our January meetings include:
 - Tom McElveen from the American Indian Community Development Corporation (AICDC) came to Property and Land Use and requested support for needed repairs at Many Rivers West (1400 E. Franklin). He also discussed the status of their other projects.
 - Charles Caine from Brothers EMpowered Peacekeepers came to Crime and Safety and summarized what they have been doing in the Franklin - Elliot area and their future plans.
 - Community Engagement and Wellness Greening and Gardening prioritized their budgets for 2022.
- Did you know you can get a free meal any day of the week in Ventura Village? Contact our neighborhood newsletter or website for more information.

KRSM Youth Media Internship Update

By Emmett Bostic

Despite the pandemic, the KRSM Youth Media Internship is still going strong in our Fall 2021-Spring 2022 Session. We are continuing to meet online now as the presence of Omicron has prevented us from seeing each other in person. We have some new interns, all of whom are learning about their chosen lane: On-Air Host, DJ, and Journalist. Two of our older interns, Max J. and Michael A, have new shows airing on KRSM radio. "Max Talk" hosted by Max J., will air on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00pm. "Teen Perspective" hosted by Michael A, will air on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00pm.

Not only are interns preparing shows and writing articles, but we are also getting ready for graduation and talking about next steps for us after high school. Whether that be applying to colleges, looking for jobs, or talking with mentors, students are being given the opportunity to explore their options and ask for help when it is needed.

Finally, we are starting to get ready to produce our second Zine, which is a collaboration of all we accomplished this session whether that be student playlists, show descriptions, articles, photos, etc., We will be combining all of them into a small fun to read zine. We made our first Zine in the summer of 2021; we learned a lot from that experience, and we hope to create an even cooler experience this time.

You can tune into the station at 98.9 FM, krsmradio.org, or download the KRSM Radio app for iOS and Android.



Prevent Being a Victim of Crimes of Opportunity

By: Kali Pliego - Crime Prevention Specialist

I have noticed a recent uptick in crimes that are preventable—auto thefts, theft of motor vehicle (and parts), as well as reports from business owners and landlords that non-customers/residents are abusing their spaces. Consider these tips to protect yourself from becoming a victim of crimes of opportunity:

Auto Theft

- Many stolen cars are ones that are "warming up" on cold days. They are running, have keys in them, and are unoccupied. This type of auto theft is completely preventable. If you must warm up your car, stay in it and lock the doors while it warms up.
- In similar cases, a car is left running and unlocked while the owner goes into a store for "just a minute"—and returns to find their car has been stolen. When entering businesses, no matter how quick the errand, turn off the ignition and lock the doors.

- Lock car doors while pumping gas
- Use a steering wheel club

Theft from Motor Vehicle/Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts

- Always lock your car doors.
- Store valuables out of sight; better yet, don't leave any valuables in the vehicle
- *Catalytic Converters*—these thefts are on the rise!
 - Park your car in a garage if possible
 - If a garage is unavailable, park in a well-lit area
 - Look into after market products you can install for extra protection
- *License plate*—these thefts have traditionally been high
 - Stolen plates are used to mask stolen vehicles; always report stolen license plates asap
 - Look into specialty license plate screws (at any auto parts store)

"Unwanted" entrants in apartment buildings and businesses

- Make sure all doors latch properly
- Conduct daily checks on doors and locks
- Educate residents on how to prevent non-residents "piggy backing" into the building (this is when they follow someone in at a secure door, or enter under false pretenses of visiting a friend)
- Post "No Public Restroom" signs (if that is the business policy)
- Post signs that indicate the area is under surveillance (if that's the case)

Above all, be a good neighbor. Make an effort to know your neighbors and keep an eye out for each other and each other's property. Report any suspicious activity in progress to 911, and any other concerns to 311.