



VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD



OCTOBER '22 NEWS

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On August 31st Waite House hosted a Community Health Fair along with 9 sponsors and several other neighborhood organizations. Over 400 backpacks with school supplies donated by the Greater Twin Cities United Way were distributed along with clothes and books. The sponsors offered a variety of health and wellness resources along with Covid-19 testing and vaccinations. A free lunch was served and even free haircuts were provided. The barber was kept very busy! - Photos by David Pierini



Fall Park Activities

By: Seng Vang

Now that summer is over, Peavey Park and the Phillips Community Center (PCC) have announced their fall schedule:

- At the PCC self-defense classes, Tuesday basketball tourneys, and Friday swimming pool time will continue. New this fall will be archery and a new E-Sports League.
- The PCC will be open Monday-Friday 3:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm.
- Peavey Park will offer cooking classes, films, table games and crafts. Its hours are Monday-Friday 3:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday 12:00pm-5:00pm.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Seng Vang, Youth Program Specialist at Phillips Community Center, Svang@minneapolisparks.org or Sahura, Youth Program Specialist at Peavey Park, SALibarre@minneapolisparks.org.

Get in the Swim this Fall at Phillips Aquatics Center Youth programs are FREE through the end of the year!

By: Julie Caniglia

Did you know that the Phillips Aquatics Center (PAC), part of the Minneapolis park system, is the only public indoor pool in the city? And while it serves everyone in Minneapolis, its location inside the Phillips Community Center, at 24th St. & 11th Ave., is especially convenient for Ventura Village and Phillips residents.

With two pools, one specially designed for teaching, PAC offers swim lessons and other pool activities for all ages and skill levels. Better still, all programs are free through the end of the year for youth 17 and younger, at both the Phillips Aquatics and Phillips Community centers. That is thanks to Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB): As part of its ongoing investments in youth, it removed activity, program and sports league fees for ages 17 and under at 17 parks and facilities in census-designated Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACP) throughout 2022.

PAC features programs for all ages and abilities: toddlers, teens or adults taking their first dip; lap swimmers at all levels; and those who enjoy walking or exercising in the water. A highlight is Junior Swim Club, which allows youth to practice techniques and establish team discipline with structured activities. Even though drop-in activities are currently suspended due to COVID, stay tuned for announcements when they return.

3 ways to sign up for swim lessons and water activities!

- In person visit the Phillips Aquatics Center or any recreation center
- Online minneapolisparks.org/pac
- Phone call MPRB Customer Service at 612-230-6400

The Phillips Aquatics Center is part of Phillips Community Center, 2323 11th Avenue South at 24th Street, Minneapolis; 612-370-4859

A New School Year Brings Hope

By: Pastor Jon Kuehne

At Trinity First School, we are excited to begin another year, serving families in Ventura Village and the greater Twin Cities area. This school year seems to be filled with a greater sense of hope. We are excited and hopeful to do more things together this year—as a school and with our wider community. These last few years have been challenging for so many students, families, and teachers. We are excited and hopeful to grow in knowledge.

Through a grant, Trinity First was able to hire more resource teachers to address learning loss from the last few years, specifically in the areas of math and reading. We are so thankful for this blessing. We are also excited and hopeful to plan for the future. Trinity First School began in 1859, and we want to serve our community for many years to come, offering quality and empowering education that is also affordable.

Currently, we are making improvements to our building to better meet the needs of our students with the hope of even more improvements in the years ahead. We are excited and hopeful for another school year to learn, grow, and share the love of Jesus with our community. Trinity First is still accepting Kindergarten-8th grade students for the 2022-2023 school year. Registration information can be found at trinityfirstschool.org.

Fall Gardening at Hope Community

By: Caroline Hall

This summer has been full of bittersweet transitions for the Food, Land, and Community (FLC) team at Hope Community. In August, we said farewell to our program lead, Maryan Abdinur, who made innumerable contributions to Hope over the past seven years. We also said goodbye to our Minnesota GreenCorps member, Beto Spielvogel, who spent the past year improving recycling and waste diversion infrastructure at Hope's properties.

Amidst these difficult goodbyes, FLC also welcomed Caroline Hall as the new Farm Program Organizer. Caroline has a background in sustainable agriculture and environmental justice work and she is excited to work towards food justice in the Phillips community alongside other growers, leaders, and neighbors.

In addition, four youth members interned with Hope and helped in the gardens this summer through Minneapolis' Step Up program. With the help of other community members, we were able to plant several fruit trees and complete renovations in our Youth Garden.

FLC invites all community members to participate in our weekly garden nights on Thursdays from 4-6pm and our final Soil + Solidary Saturday on October 22 from 10am-3pm. Food and garden tools are provided, and all are welcome to take home produce! Meet at the Rose Garden at 1900 Portland Ave.

If you are interested in learning more about our programs or Hope Community Inc., please contact our team at chall@hope-community.org or (612) 435-1683.



Ventura Village Neighborhood News

- Our October membership meeting will be Wednesday, October 12th at 7 PM. We will meet in person at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue, and via Zoom.
- Our Committee meetings will be Thursday, October 27th at 5:30 PM.
- The 2022 Phillips Clean Sweep will be Saturday, October 8th, 9 AM - 12 PM. You can volunteer and meet your neighbors at Welna Hardware, 2438 Bloomington Avenue.
- The 4 Sisters Market at the Pow Wow Coffee Shop, 15th and E.Franklin will continue to be open Thursdays from 11 AM to 3 PM throughout October.
- Stop by the Mashkiikii Garden on Thursdays 11 AM to 2 PM for fresh produce.
- Check the Alley's event calendar this month for information regarding the Norway House celebration on October 15th
- Friday, September 9th, the Southside Peacekeeping Coalition hosted a special event at Norway House's parking lot. Brothers EMpowered provided their monthly food shelf along with extra school supplies. Coalition partners Norway House, Centro, Chase Bank, PPL, Ventura Village, and Urban Homeworks were also there to meet and talk with neighbors.



Free Classes at the English Learning Center

By: Kala Hotakainen

Interested in attending classes at the English Learning Center (ELC)? Do you have friends, family, or neighbors who might enjoy learning with us? The ELC offers free English classes mornings, evenings, and online for adults. ELC students can also enroll in classes like Math, Digital Literacy, and Citizenship Preparation.

Here are three options to register or learn more:

1. Visit 2315 Chicago Avenue Monday through Thursday between 9:30am and 12:30pm or 4:30pm and 7:30pm
2. Call 612-874-9963
3. Visit oscs-mn.org/elc-new-student-registration/

The ELC is a program of Our Saviour's Community Services.