



VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD



NOVEMBER '22 NEWS

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Pictured above is Konglo — the “sister” sculpture to Seeds located in Sotra, Norway. Together, Konglo and Seeds offer a visual connection, emblematic of the ties between Norway and the United States of America)

Information provided by Joseph Grodahl and "Seeds" photo credit to Max Stevenson.

October 14 - 16 Queen Sonja of Norway visited Minneapolis.

Although the new Norway House Innovation and Culture Center is technically not open yet, the Queen along with the entire community was invited to a grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony and outdoor block party on Saturday, October 15.

Greeting visitors at the main entry is the sculpture "Seeds". Seeds is Finn Eirik Modahl's first public art installation in the USA and he is known for creating visually stunning and intellectually interesting artworks that have a social function and an emotional pull.

With Seeds, Modahl takes us into universal and optimistic territory – seeds of change, seeds of hope, and new beginnings — while also allowing us to consider connections between Norway and the USA. The Norwegian Pine tree — represented through the image of a pinecone — is the state tree of Minnesota. This immediately makes a connection between Norway and Minnesota and conjures up thoughts about immigration, memories of the past, and the links to a new land or home.

Pictured Right:
Finn Eirik Modahl (Norwegian)
Seeds | 2022
Polished, cold-hammered stainless steel
Norway House, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA



Afghan Refugees Settle in Ventura Village

By: Steve Dreyer

On our June page we profiled 2 Refugee Resettlement Agencies that are located in our neighborhood and the services they provide. In the past year, the United States has begun taking in refugees in earnest from other countries that are experiencing conflicts, namely Afghanistan and Ukraine.

A refugee is defined as someone who has been forced to flee his or her country, and is unable to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Recently 2 families from Afghanistan have settled in Ventura Village and this is the path they took to become our neighbors.

The U.S. Department of State and Homeland Security decides who is eligible for refugee and asylum status. At least six federal agencies including the FBI, CIA, and the Department of Defense review to see if the refugee or asylum seekers qualify on national security grounds. If the individuals pass these checks, the US Citizenship and Immigration Service can grant immigration status to them. The Department of State then works with official agencies in the different states.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services Resettlement Programs Office (RPO) is the official liaison with federal resettlement programs. Since 2005 Minnesota has accepted about 2000 individuals on average each year as refugees. The RPO works with resettlement services and a network of resources to provide housing, health and medical services, employment, and other human services to help refugees settle into their new communities.

Steve Kutz owns an apartment building in Ventura Village. Since June he has been a housing partner with the RPO and the 2 families from Afghanistan live in his building. Finding sustainable housing is core to a successful resettlement for refugees. From there they can connect to other ongoing community resources.

Connecting Neighbors

By: Kali Pliego, Crime Prevention Specialist

Every day is unique in my job as a Crime Prevention Specialist. My duties and responsibilities span from training the public on personal safety and home/business security, to handling complaints about all types of livability concerns, to attending oh so many meetings. My favorite aspect of the role, however, is the community building that takes place with Block Leaders. Traditionally, the Crime Prevention Specialist recruits, trains, and supports Block Leaders; I've recently decided to add creating a connected network of Block Leaders to my priorities.

On Tuesday, October 4th, twelve Phillips neighbors and Block Leaders gathered for a fun event at Phillips Community Center. I led the group through two team building activities and asked them to share their ideas about “What Heals?” and some Phillips neighborhood memories. Ward 9 Councilmember Jason Chavez, and Banyan Community staff were also present and supportive.

I'm planning to hold more networking events like this one throughout the year, looking at January, April, July, and October 2023 for future activities.

We ended our evening together with the Phillips Quiz! Email kali.pliego@minneapolismn.gov for answers, or if you're interested in becoming a Block Leader.

1. What was the first year of Phillips Clean Sweep?
2. According to Wilder Research, what percentage of Phillips households' primary language is not English?
3. Who is the Phillips community named after?
4. What is the name of our community newspaper?
5. What year did Phillips community divide into 4 distinct neighborhoods?
6. What organization was founded in 1968 (formed in Phillips) and is still active today?
7. How many Tribal Affiliations are represented in the Little Earth community?
8. How many people are employed by Allina/Abbot Northwestern campus?
9. How many schools are within the Phillips community borders?
10. What is the name of the first deer to live in Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery?

Thank you from your neighbors at OSCS

By: Kala Hotakainen

In this season of gratitude, Our Saviour's Community Services would like to thank all of the volunteers who help make our work possible. With our community of staff and volunteers, OSCS pivoted during the initial years of the pandemic and we're now adjusting to our new normal. As residents have returned to our shelter on Chicago Avenue after temporarily moving to a hotel setting, they are supported by volunteer shelter aides and meal providers. Students at the English Learning Center are building skills in-person and online, thanks to the many volunteer teachers. Thank you!

Ventura Village Neighborhood News

- Our November general membership meeting will be Wednesday, November 9th at 7 PM. We'll meet in person at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue, and also via Zoom.
- Interested in serving on our neighborhood board? Let us know by contacting us before November 30th. You can call us at 612-548-1598, email us at villageventura@gmail.com, talk to a current board member, or send a letter to Ventura Village at 1815 13th Avenue South, 55404.
- Waite House will be serving its first back - in - person Harvest Dinner since 2019 on Thursday, November 17 from 5 - 7 PM. Chef Jose will be preparing the dinner, there will be entertainment from different cultures, a photo booth, and much more.



Waite house head chef. Jose Llangari, (above) and members from the dance group, Chinelos San Pablo Apóstol (below). Photo Credit: David Pierini

