



# VENTURA VILLAGE

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## New Family Housing in Ventura Village

**By: Moriah Baltz, Habitat for Humanity Project Manager**

In the early 1990's Habitat for Humanity was very active in and around Ventura Village. Empty lots were available then and there was a demand for family homes. At least 3 houses built then are still occupied by the original homeowners. The largest project were the homes that replaced Lutheran Deaconess Hospital on E. 24th Street.

Now Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is back and planning to build 3 new single-family homes (with detached 2-stall garages) in Ventura Village starting this summer. Foundation work for the first of the 3 lots will begin in July with framing to continue through the end of summer/early fall. The other 2 projects will begin this fall and framing will continue through early spring 2024. The houses will be in adjacent lots on East 22nd Street at 14th Avenue (across from the Pentagon High-rise). The 3 homes will be certified as Energy Star v3.1, EPA Indoor Plus Qualified and as Department of Energy (DOE) Zero Energy Ready Homes. All 3 are also planned to have solar panels installed.

The 3 lots have been vacant since the early 2000's. The American Indian Community Development Corporation acquired the lots and intended to put affordable single family homes on them. For several years Christina Elias turned the lots into an active community garden. The 3 new homes will be welcome additions to the neighborhood.

## Improvements at Peavey Park Happening

**By: Bianca Paz, Design Project Manager**

Work has begun on the projects Ventura Village requested at Peavey Park. 17 raised beds were installed on the Park Avenue side of Peavey. Volunteers from the Conservation Corps helped fill the beds with soil. Sidewalks were installed through the beds and water access via the irrigation system was hooked up.

Residents who had requested a bed were able to start their plants. Please contact Rebecca Gross, the Community Garden Coordinator for more information on the garden [rgross@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:rgross@minneapolisparcs.org) / 612-704-7948.

Installation for a shade awning by the swimming pool has started and installation of more picnic tables and benches will begin soon. More trees will be planted and a safety net at the south end of the soccer field will be installed.

## Ventura Village News

- There'll be no Membership meeting this month. Committees meet Thursday, August 31st and our next Membership meeting will be September 13th.
- Hope Community is offering free produce every Wednesday this month from 4 PM to 6 PM at their garden at 1900 Portland.
- You can also get free produce at the Mashkiikii Garden on E. 24th St. every Thursday from 11 AM to 1 PM
- You are invited to ICCM Life Center's annual summer Hip Hop event taking place August 17th in their parking lot at 18th and Park, and at Peavey Park on August 18th.



## Summer Youth Programs at Waite House

**By: Michelle Negrete**

Four unique opportunities for youth were offered at Waite House this summer. Eleven high school youth in our Food Systems Internship Program explored various aspects of the food system from gardening and cooking to health and activism. The youth interns grew fresh produce in the Waite House gardens for use in the Community Cafe and the Waite House Food Shelf. They also learned skills related to canning and dehydrating food, hydroponic growing, processing beeswax and more.

Growing Good in partnership with the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum hosted twelve youth interns ranging in ages from 12 to 14 years old. These youth planted, tended, and harvested fresh produce at the Messiah Garden at 25th and Park Avenue.

Eleven high school interns worked with KRSM Radio during the summer. They learned how to operate the boards, conduct interviews, curate playlists and more. They began hosting their very own live radio show on Thursdays. They also participated in the "140+ Years: Our Parks, Our Stories" project with the Minneapolis Park Board.

Eight middle school youth participated in an oral history project titled "Stories and Narratives of East Lake Street". They interviewed small business owners, residents, and other stakeholders on East Lake Street which culminated in a documentary and presentation which will be showcased on Lake Street later this summer.

In addition, Waite House youth will participate in an End of Summer Youth Showcase Thursday, August 3rd at the Pillsbury House and Theater at 35th and Chicago. They will present their final projects to their families and demonstrate the skills they learned over the summer.