



# VENTURA VILLAGE

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## Little Free Libraries

By: Johanna Venkatesh

The Little Free Library Exchange has been very popular nationwide in circulating books and encouraging people to read more. The libraries are small weatherproof boxes installed in front of homes and businesses and anyone can access or exchange the books that are available. The Indigenous Library Program has provided Little Free Library book exchanges and books to Indigenous Communities across the nation. In August as part of their Reading Initiative the Native American Community Clinic (NACC) installed a Little Free Library outside their clinic on Franklin Avenue.

NACC is also part of the Reach Out and Read Program which encourages the importance of reading during pediatric checkups. They provide books and training to families to support the importance of reading together for healthy childhood development. The clinic also provides culturally specific books, including books in Ojibwe, Dakota, and other indigenous languages. Talia Miracle, the Indigenous Library Program Manager, and Operations Manager Ashlee Jallen helped organize and supply the program.

## Our Stories Our Lake Street

By: Kay Carvajal Moran

For the past year a group of Middle School youth from Waite House, led by facilitators Ivonne Hernandez and Kay Carvajal Moran have been documenting the problems along Lake Street and proposing solutions. They have been learning Oral History methodology, traveling up and down Lake St after school, approaching community members, documenting their research and much more.

Their project is continuing. They have been speaking at events and hope to present a video documentary sharing their research. Contact Kay at [KayCM@pillsburyunited.org](mailto:KayCM@pillsburyunited.org) for more information.

## Ventura Village News

- Our next membership meeting will be Wednesday, October 11th at 7 PM. We'll meet in person at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue and also via Zoom.
- Ventura Village will be participating in the Phillips Clean Sweep Saturday, October 14th. You can join the volunteers at Welna Hardware, 2438 Bloomington Avenue at 9 AM. There will be a free lunch at Stewart Park at 12 PM. Check our website for more information on what you can put out for pickup.
- You're invited to Hope Community's Fall Harvest Fest, Saturday, October 21st, 10 AM - 1 PM at the Rose Garden, 1900 Portland.
- Recent events in our neighborhood including 2 mass shootings and increased encampments have pointed to the need for better leadership from our elected and appointed officials. Elections are in November.
- Sunday, September 10th community members at Our Saviour's consumed 100 homemade pizzas and exceeded their fundraising goals for the Roof Depot project.

## Everyday Crime Prevention

By: Kali Pliego, Crime Prevention Specialist

I was doing some Fall clean up in my yard the other day and it occurred to me that I was actively engaging in crime prevention. Have you considered how your day-to-day lifestyle may contribute to general safety in your neighborhood? To give a framework for the concept of everyday crime prevention, I thought it might be helpful to break down the activities in my yard work with some thoughts about how small acts can accumulate to have an impact on safety.

### I was physically present, outside, in my yard, with my family.

Being in the yard all day provided extra sets of eyes on the street and alley, which is a deterrent to crime. Moving between the front and back yards including the garage and alley is an example of positively occupying space. The work of crime prevention often centers around converting negative use of space to positive use of space. Also, the fact that we were outside created natural opportunities to connect with our neighbors as they were coming and going, stepping out to grill, and doing their own yard clean ups. Knowing and being connected with your neighbors is foundational to crime prevention. All these factors are why National Night Out is so important!

### Taking care of my space shows I care.

There are studies that show an inverse relationship between blocks with well-maintained yards and crime rate. From that, a model was created called *cues to care*, that promotes a virtuous cycle—attention to yard care and building maintenance leads to lower crime, which leads to more opportunities for residents to positively occupy space, which leads to safer communities, which leads to having increased capacity for maintenance, and on and on it goes. In all the ways we show care for the community, we are contributing to this cycle—daily walks past bus stops, picking up litter, showing up to neighborhood activities, yard work, etc.

### Make a commitment that you care—with a yard sign!

On the note of cues to care, I had “We Care” yard signs printed for anyone who wants one (free!). I’d love to see them go up everywhere! Request a sign from me at [kali.pliego@minneapolis.gov](mailto:kali.pliego@minneapolis.gov), and let me know what “We Care” means to you.