



VENTURA VILLAGE



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Ventura Village Loses Two Leaders

Jim Cook, who was active in the early years of the Ventura Village Neighborhood

Association, passed away on June 24th. Jim's greatest contribution to Ventura Village was to remind us that every resident in the neighborhood is important and needs to be valued.

When the Neighborhood Association added subcommittees to help accomplish tasks, Jim served as the first chairman of the Community Engagement Committee. His most visible action as the chair was to start the "Amen Corner". This was modelled after a practice in other major cities. Every Saturday Jim would set up a microphone and speaker at the Thrones Area in Peavey Park. People were encouraged to express their ideas and views to the crowd that gathered. "Speak Your Truth" was Jim's motto and for several years this was an outlet for people to be heard.

Jim was born in Bonham, Texas, grew up in Oakland, California, and graduated from Howard University and Georgetown University in the Washington D.C. area. He worked as a regional manager for IBM and that's what brought him to Minneapolis more than 30 years ago.

Jim's ideas and values are needed in our neighborhood today. *Information provided by Dee Henry Williams*

MIM Stays Busy

The Minnesota Immigrant Movement (MIM), housed at Waite House in the Phillips Community Center (PCC), is a non-profit grassroots organization made of committed and united volunteers dedicated to achieving goals to benefit the immigrant community in education, empowerment, and equity. MIM began in 2003 as a lobbying group working to change the law that a non-citizen could not obtain a driver's license. That effort finally succeeded last year with the passage of the "Driver's License for All" bill in the State Legislature.

MIM's work has now shifted but continues to support the community by providing Spanish-language driver's training materials and classes, citizenship classes, translation of documents, advocacy for fruit vendors and others and much more. - Article by Kay Carvajal Moran

Jeremy Paulson, who was part of the Food, Land, and Community (FLC) Team at Hope Community died in an accident on July 3rd.

Jeremy worked as a Farm Program Coordinator for the past year and a half at Hope. He took pride in his work to provide people with socioeconomic disadvantages accessible and healthy food. He also had many other talents and interests including art, dance, and DJing. Jeremy had a profound ability to connect with people, no matter who they were or where they came from. His purpose in life was to bring people together. He will be missed.



Photo courtesy of Hope Community

Neighborhood News

- Our General Membership will not meet in August. Our next meeting will be Committees on Thursday, August 29.
- National Night out is Tuesday, August 6th.
- One of our engagement partners is the youth soccer program of the Somali Community of Minnesota. They practice every Wednesday and Thursday evenings at East Phillips Park.



Photo courtesy of SCM

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