



Making the Pow Wow Grounds a Healing Place

The Pow Wow Grounds Coffee Shop at 1414 E. Franklin is a Franklin Avenue and Ventura Village landmark. It is also an important gathering place for the Native Community in South Minneapolis. Every summer the Four Sisters Market meets there on Thursday afternoons.

Over the years there have been several attempts to enhance the parking lot area outside the coffee shop. In 2010 a statue honoring the "Fourth Sister" (wild rice) was placed at the corner. In this photo from 2015, Felicia Wesaw is planting flowers in the garden area and the base of the statue is behind her. Unfortunately, several years later a car jumped the curb and destroyed the statue. In May of 2019 volunteers from the 24th Street Garden Coalition planted medicinal and herbal perennials around the parking lot.

This past August a healing garden was planted in the beds around the parking lot. The garden is in memory of Lillian Rice, Norby Blake, Pat Belanger, and Marlene Helgamo, four sisters of the American Indian Community who dedicated their lives to helping those around them. It was planted and is maintained by Kelly Morgan, a community resident who hopes the garden inspires those walking by. The plants were donated by the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute and the project is funded by the Ventura Village Neighborhood.



Photo by Bill Kingsbury



Shelter Expansion Update: OSCS

Progress has slowed slightly with our efforts to renovate and expand the Our Saviour's Housing Emergency Shelter located just south of 24th and Chicago. At this time we expect to move to our temporary location and begin construction in late 2024 or early 2025. Please contact Robin Stramp at robin@oscs-mn.org with any questions, or if you or a group you belong to are interested in helping with the move!

Many thanks to the Ventura Village Neighborhood Association and Phillips West Neighborhood Association for inviting us to recent meetings to share about our project. Stay tuned to social media, our website, and email newsletter for additional information. The renovation work is funded by a capital grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Article by Robin Stramp

Ventura Village News

-- The November General Membership meeting is Wednesday, November 13th, 7PM at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue. See our website for more information and Zoom Link.

-- The new Station Manager at KRSM is Mike Brooks. He is already a host on Saturdays at KRSM and is also the Director of Music at Urban Ventures Music Academy. Welcome!

- **Interested in serving on our board?** Our elections are in December at our annual meeting. Let us know if you're interested by November 27th. You can:
 - Email us at villageventura@gmail.com
 - Go to our website at venturavillage.org
 - Leave a voicemail at 612 - 548 - 1598
 - Talk to a current board member
 - Or mail a note to Ventura Village 1815 13th Avenue South, Mpls 55404