



VENTURA VILLAGE

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Ventura Village News

- Our April general membership meeting will be Wednesday, April 12, at 7 PM. Our April committee meeting will be Thursday, the 27th, at 5:30PM. Meetings are at ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue and via Zoom.
- On March 7th Governor Tim Wahl signed the "Driver's License For All" into law.
- You can go to our website to learn how to start your own seeds, find places where you can grow your own food and flowers, and get free supplies and tools
- Visit our website for more news, events, and meeting information!
- **This month we're featuring 4 Community Gardens that organizations in our neighborhood maintain. You're invited to visit them, meet your neighbors there, and learn more about growing food.**

Mashkiikii Gitigan

By: Louis Stein

At Mashkiikii Gitigan, NĀTIFS (North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems) is excited to offer a variety of educational opportunities to the public this season. Going on now is a Gardening 101 class, where students are learning all about planning a garden, seed starting, and growing healthy food. While the class has already started, it is possible there are a few spots still - email louis.s@natifs.org to see if there are any openings.

Starting in May, we will be holding monthly "garden-to-table" workshops. These workshops will be hosted by our gardener Louis and one of the chefs at the Indigenous Food Lab to teach participants how to grow and cook their own food, specifically highlighting Indigenous ingredients. Held on the third Thursday of each month at noon, the workshops will be accompanied by videos for those who can't make it at that time.

Also in May, we will begin our weekly harvest days, every Thursday from 10:30am-1:30pm. Stop by to pick up some free fresh produce, tour the garden, or just say hi!

Mashkiikii Gitigan is located at 1316 E 24th St, across from the Indian Health Board.

Waite House

By: Mackenna Cristilly

As the 2023 summer growing season approaches, Waite House is taking steps to activate its onsite growing spaces. The gardens will be used to offer educational opportunities for young people, provide produce to the onsite food shelf and contribute ingredients to the community café. Community members can contact Mackenna Cristilly (MackennaC@Pillsburyunited.org) for more information or input on the garden, inquiries about donating and getting other ways to get involved!

Our Saviour's Community Garden

By: Harmon and Julie Abrahamson

A team of dedicated volunteers from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church manages the Chicago Avenue garden just north of the OSCS shelter. The garden has some perennials including strawberries, gooseberries, elderberries, blackberries, currants, rhubarb, and plum trees, along with pollinator-friendly and native plants. We plant annual vegetables including a three-sisters garden with corn, squash, and beans, along with tomatoes, peppers, and a variety of greens and herbs. Many of these latter will be in raised beds. We spend the growing season weeding, watering, and harvesting produce to share with the neighborhood. We welcome interested folks to join in our gardening efforts, or just stop by to see what's growing. Once gardening starts, we will post the days you can expect to see us there!

Hope Community Gardens

By: Caroline Hall

Though the recent late-winter snowfalls in the Twin Cities might suggest otherwise, spring is right around the corner, which means garden season is almost here! At Hope Community Inc., the Food, Land, and Community (FLC) team has been busy preparing for the upcoming season and dreaming about various programming, events, and activities to host this season.

We are currently planning to grow in our three garden spaces near Hope Community (611 E. Franklin Ave.), including an individual plot-based garden. If you're interested in getting involved in the gardens or having your own plot, please contact flc@hope-community.org.

The mission of the FLC program is to bring community members together to grow and cook nutritious food, learn about local food systems, celebrate culture and traditions related to food and land, and take action on opportunities for systems change.

Volunteers Needed to Host "Fridays in June" Block Parties

By: Kali Pliego

Please connect with Crime Prevention Specialist, Kali Pliego (kali.pliego@minneapolismn.gov), to sign your block up as a block party host for a Friday in June 2023. There are five Fridays in June, so five hosts are needed—hosting blocks can be anywhere in Ventura Village, Phillips West, Midtown Phillips, or East Phillips neighborhoods. Kali will help hosts obtain the street closure permits (there may be funds available to cover this expense), print flyers, invite neighbors, etc. If more than five blocks volunteer to be hosts, we'll do a Fall block party series in October.