



VENTURA VILLAGE

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New Homeownership Opportunities in Ventura Village

By: Steve Dreyer

- On October 5th Hope Community held an open house event for their building at 628 E. Franklin. They acquired the building in 2021 and began construction last year. 628 was built in 1904 as a luxury apartment with 6 flats. In 1921 it was subdivided into 21 units and later 23. By 1990 it was old, used, and foreclosed. It remained on Minneapolis's vacant and boarded list until 2021, longer than any other building in the city. Hope Community developed it in partnership with the City of Lakes Community Land Trust. Its seven units will be sold as perpetually affordable homeownership condominiums.
- Construction on the Habitat for Humanity homes on East 21st. is progressing. The first home at 1401 E. 21st. St. is shaping up and ground will be broken for the other 2 homes soon.
- This fourplex at 2112 16th Avenue South is one of 16 currently being built throughout Minneapolis. It is a program of Community Housing Resources (CHR), a nonprofit owned and controlled by the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA). Called the Family Housing Expansion Project (FHEP), it is an opportunity for families who qualify to buy affordable homes. Currently nearly 3100 residents live in CHR homes and FHEP will enable 84 more families to join them.
- If you would like further information on these homeowner opportunities, please send us an email.



Ventura Village News

- Our November membership meeting will be Wednesday, November 8th at the ICCM Life Center. We'll meet at 7 PM in person and you can also join us via Zoom.
- If you're interested in discussing and learning more about the challenges of crime, homelessness, and city policy in our neighborhood we've been meeting every other Wednesday, 1:30 at the Life Center. In November we'll meet on the 8th and the 22nd. Bring your ideas and concerns.

"El Pueblo Unido..."

By: Kali Pliego, Crime Prevention Specialist

"El Pueblo Unido..."

There is a chant that is often repeated at marches that I know best in Spanish—*El pueblo unido jamás será vencido!* The literal translation of this to English is *A united people will never be conquered.*

I recently had a visit from dear friends from Guatemala, and we were reflecting on how this chant is used mostly in political and activism settings—a community is demanding some change and is united in the call for it. My Guatemalan friends and I talked about how powerful of a concept this really is, in terms of community health and vibrancy.

As a Crime Prevention Specialist, many of my working hours are spent talking with community members about crime—from specific incidents to trends to brainstorming solutions to the problems we face. In my deepest hopes and dreams for my role, I wish I spent more time on community building activities. I believe the key to long term community safety lies in the individuals who make up the community being deeply and thickly woven into each other's lives. This is the vision of the "united people" and the power we have, in being united, to not be conquered by crime or predators.

I attended the Southside Peacekeeping Coalition's September meeting at the Norway House (thank you Joseph and all the organizers!). We got a glimpse at this vision when neighbor Rico took the microphone and said, "My name is Rico. Now that we know each other, and have seen each other in this room tonight, I hope you will say Hello to me when you see me around." Yes, Rico! Exactly! This is where the bonds begin that will unite us as a community. I am fully on board with this vision for South Minneapolis!

Save the Date: 3rd and 5th Precinct Crime Prevention Specialists will be holding a Block Leader Training on November 9th at 6pm. Physical location is still TBD, and the meeting will have a virtual option. Contact me for details kali.pliego@minneapolismn.gov