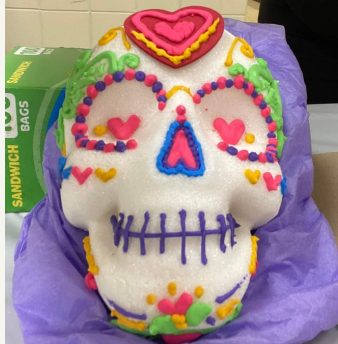




# VENTURA VILLAGE

venturavillage.org 612-548-1598 villageventura@gmail.com

On November 3rd about 75 people attended the annual Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) festival at Waite House. The event was sponsored by Waite House, Esperanza United, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. It is a celebration that honors the lives of loved ones who have passed away. It is a beautiful way to share memories, celebrate life and cope with the pain of longing for friends and family. An ofrenda (below, left) was set up with candles, pictures of ancestors, and brightly colored calaveras. Children decorated the calaveras (below, right), which were made out of sugar, with beads and other decorations. Families shared tamales, refreshments, and later participated in group activities. *Photos courtesy of Luz Francisco*



Norway House will be celebrating its Gingerbread Wonderland 2023 through the month of December. It is a community - driven exhibit open Tuesdays through Sundays until January 7, 2024. Contact [www.NorwayHouse.org](http://www.NorwayHouse.org) for advance tickets and more information. *Photos courtesy of Joseph Grødahl*



## Ventura Village Resident Attends National Indian Council On Aging By: Penny St. Clair

I recently became an Elder in my tribe. I am an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. I am so happy to be an elder, I have been counting down the years since I was in my forties. I hit the magic number this year which is fifty-five. I recently went on an Elder trip with my tribe. We went to Cherokee, North Carolina for a NICOA convention. NICOA stands for National Indian Council On Aging.

I went with some family members and had a great time. I made new friends from all over the country. It was very odd to hear other Native's talk with a southern accent. We went to a luncheon honoring our brothers and sisters who had served our country. They received medals for their service. It was so powerful you could feel the emotions in the air.

The council offered many seminars; a Social Security class was very helpful. There were seminars on nutrition, historical trauma (boarding schools), Elder abuse prevention, caregiver support, and other topics. The next biennial convention will be in Durant, Oklahoma and I can't wait.

Soon after I got home, I was on the road again. I went with some family to Sturgis, South Dakota for the All Nations Pow-wow. We visited the tourist places like Devils Tower, the Black Hills, the Badlands, Crazy Horse Monument, Custer State Park, the Divinity Statue and then the Pow-wow. The dancers were some of the best I have ever seen. The Regalia was breathtaking. The drummers were on point. I am back home serving as an Elder.

## Have You Considered Becoming a Block Leader?

By: Kali Pliego, Crime Prevention Specialist

Many of you naturally take on a leadership role in building community and communication channels on your block and among your neighbors. If you are interested in making your role more official—meaning having your name added to the city's list of block leaders—please sign up to receive updates and invitation to our Block Leader Training series. Minneapolis Police Department Crime Prevention Specialists just held a city-wide Block Leader Training, and it was a great start! We are planning the next trainings, which will begin in January 2024 and be a mix of in-person and virtual, and in various locations. Email [Crime.Prevention@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Crime.Prevention@minneapolismn.gov) for more information.

## Ventura Village News

At our Wednesday, December 13th membership meeting we will be serving refreshments and presenting our 2023 end of the year reports. We will meet at 7 PM at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue and also by Zoom. You can find out more about what our neighborhood organization does. If you would be interested in joining our board, please let us know. You can get more information off of our website.