



VENTURA VILLAGE

venturavillage.org

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Welcome back to our half - page in the Alley. We see this as an important part of engaging the organizations, businesses, and people of our neighborhood. We appreciate the opportunity that a free, accessible newspaper like the Alley gives us. Please let us know how we are doing.

By the time you read this we hope that our website venturavillage.org will be more accessible and informative. While our space in the Alley will be smaller we want to point you to our website which will be greater. Here are some events coming up:

- Feb. 8 Membership meeting 7 PM at ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue and Zoom.
- Feb. 10 Brothers EMpowered Food Shelf at CVI 2000 Elliot from 3 - 5 PM.
- Feb. 23 Committee Meetings 5:30 PM at the Life Center and Zoom.

Be careful driving and walking in our neighborhood especially at intersections. Those snowbanks are real.



Phillips Community Center Programming By: Seng Vang, Youth Program Specialist

Phillips Community Center is excited for a new year with awesome new programs.

Mondays: 4-8:30pm - Open Gym

Tuesdays: 5-7pm - Stem Program in collaboration with NCAT(National Center of Autonomous Technology) for Drone Lab and Basketball Tourney

Wednesdays: 4-6pm - ESports league; 4-8:30pm - Open Gym

Thursdays: 4-5pm - Archery; 5:30-6:30pm - Exploring Fitness

Fridays: 5-6:30pm - Pool Fun Fridays; 4-8:30pm - Open Gym

Questions regarding programs? Please email Svang@minneapolisparcs.org



Hennepin County Embedded Social Worker program is official in Minneapolis

By: Kali Pliego, Crime Prevention Specialist

The Embedded Social Worker program started in 2020 with five social workers embedded in police departments for other cities in Hennepin County. Now, three years later, the program has expanded to all cities in Hennepin County (45), including Minneapolis. The program in Minneapolis has one social worker embedded in each of the five police precincts.

The specific methods of each embedded social worker will necessarily vary, based on the needs of the community they serve. What's possible with the program in Minneapolis' Third Precinct is that they could attend police roll calls, get referrals from Officers and Crime Prevention Specialists who encounter community members in need of social assistance, or going on calls with officers to provide outreach in real time to individuals experiencing crisis. They are available to consult with precinct staff on issues relating to child protection, adult protection, housing, and mental health disorders.

The Embedded Social Worker program was created by the county's health and human services officials, law enforcement, corrections officers, judges, county attorneys and public defenders. The goal of the strategy is to improve outcomes for individuals experiencing mental health issues and substance abuse disorders who encounter police and end up tangled up in the criminal justice system. (Minnpost article <https://www.minnpost.com/public-safety/2022/12/hennepin-county-to-expand-police-embedded-social-workers-to-all-cities-in-2023/>)

I personally have a lot of hope for this program as it develops within MPD and the Third precinct. The social workers, as well as the Behavioral Crisis Response (BCR) teams (a separate initiative) and other pilot programs, are a huge help in reducing call load for officers in the precinct. The reduction in call load is due to both having alternative responders like BCR for non-violent mental health crises, and for the ways our Embedded Social Worker can connect people with the help they need and therefore prevent other future calls. Police welcome the help, as staffing continues to be a challenge throughout the city.

To apply for a job with the Police Department, visit

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/jobs/police-jobs/>

For Hennepin County jobs, visit <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/hennepin>

For Behavioral Crisis Response jobs, visit <https://www.canopymhc.com/careers>