

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 18 NUMBER 3 September 2008

P.O. BOX 4916, VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617

July 4th Parade

Each Independence Day residents and visitors alike proclaim the Valley Village July 4th Parade a rousing success. Small town America sometimes seems lost in the big city but it is recreated for a day as our community comes together for this home grown celebration.

Valley Villagers gathered at Colfax Elementary School, and with the help of devoted volunteer members of Valley Village Homeowners



Association, held the best parade yet. Balloons and flags and all sorts of red, white and blue decorations were handed out. The participants included folks of all ages, dogs of all sizes and even a chicken on a leash. This year there were also twelve colonial-costumed riders on beautiful Arabian horses.

Thanks to all the volunteers and local businesses who contributed to the success of the event and to the Los Angeles Police Department who accompanied the parade, making sure we had safe crossings. The parade culminated at Valley Village Park on Westpark Drive where the Association provided frosted cupcakes, corn dogs, cold drinks and ice cold watermelon in the best 4th of July tradition. People stayed to visit with the neighbors they know and to get acquainted with those they haven't met. There were smiles and laughter all around.

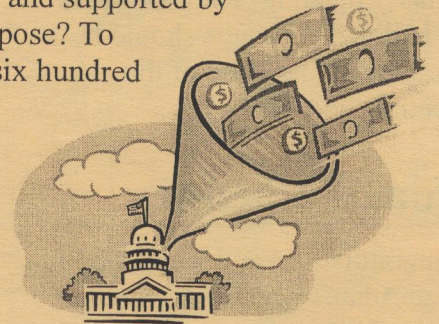
What a party it was!

Demand For Accountability

"No taxation without representation" was one of the earliest outcries of protest by the American colonists. They should have said "no taxation without accountability." Representation is of little value unless there is accountability.

City Controller Laura Chick's audit report of the last trash fee hike drove this point home. Our "representatives" promised that hike would be used to hire one thousand police officers. Less than four hundred were actually hired. It has been suggested that the revenue was either mismanaged or the promise was disingenuous.

Now yet another trash fee increase has been approved by the City Council and supported by the Mayor. The purpose? To hire the remaining six hundred police officers who were promised with the first increase.



With the failure of the City to deliver on its promise, we are faced with more financial demands on the November ballot.

Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society. Taxation with representation and accountability is what we should demand. Before we cast our votes, we should know the objectives and we must demand specifics and well supported cost/benefit justifications. It is our right, and our elected officials are obligated to provide them.

Assemblymember Mike Feuer

Valley Village Homeowners Association Meeting

September 17th - 7pm- See back page for details

Board Election

Election of Officers and Board of Valley Village Homeowners Association is held every two years. The next election will be at the January 2009 membership meeting.

The nominating committee is being formed by the chair Stuart Simen and is accepting nominations. If you wish to be considered by the nominating committee or would like to nominate someone please e-mail Stuart Simen, at stucsr1568@juno.com.

Nominees must be paid up members of Valley Village Homeowners Association and willing to serve.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the January meeting. The election is by ballot. The results should be available at the close of the meeting.

Board Vacancy

Congratulations and welcome to Page Adams who joined the Valley Village Homeowners Association Board last month. Page fills the vacancy left by David Englebach who resigned to accept a job out of state.

Board vacancies mid-term are filled by appointment.

EDITORIAL STAFF

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A Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors:

When I was kid, my mom would call out from the kitchen and say, "Peter, will you please take out the trash." I would respond, "I'm busy now in a minute mom." (I was probably watching TV – real busy!) My mom would wait a few minutes and then I would hear from the kitchen, "Peter please take out the trash." I'd respond, "in a minute mom." Mom would wait a little and then ask again ever so patiently. I would reply with "Yes, mom," hoping that if I said "yes" she would stop asking. But some time would pass and I hadn't taken out the trash yet, so again mom would ask ever so nicely, "Peter please take out the trash." Aggravated, I would jump up, go out to the kitchen, say something under my breath, and take out the trash. Mom would just turn and say, "thank you."

Mom never gave up. Mom never lost her temper. Mom remained calm and polite. Mom just continued on after her goal, to get the trash out. When dealing with the City and our elected officials we need to be just like Mom. The difference is it takes a lot more asking and persistence. In dealing with City and elected officials, even Mom might have lost her temper.

Take SB1818 for example. Citizens throughout the City and the State are saying what a terrible law this is. What do we hear from the other room (our City Council), "It's a state law, our hands are tied." Yet, cities across the state have enacted ordinances in an attempt to mitigate this destructive legislation, but not our City. We hear over and over, "our hands are tied."

So, what can we do?

Be just like Mom. Never give up! Stick to our goal, get the trash out. Laws and legislation are changed all the time. SB1818 is a new law, it was done, and it can be undone. We do not have to accept "our hands are tied."

This really goes for anything we think needs to be done by the city or the state. Keep asking until it's done. This is the reason we added our new section on our website called "Our Position." We've tried to be clear and concise on how the board and membership view an issue so you can use the information to keep asking.

We have also sent out with our membership cards an Action Alert. The Action Alert tells you what you can do to help. Please keep the action alert and call more than once.

Take a lesson from Mom. Persist. Mom knew eventually she would get what she wanted and we can do the same with the City!

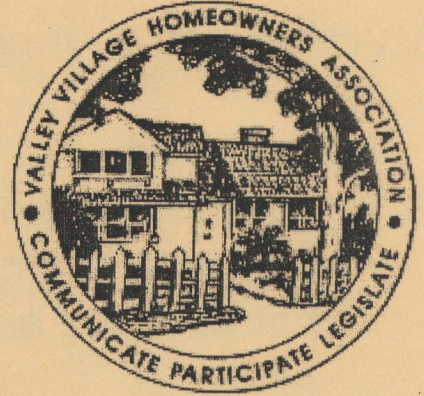
I hope to see you September 17th.

Peter

Valley Village Homeowners Association

VVHA needs your help.

- Short of time?
- Too much to do?
- Do something quick & easy that will have a big impact!



Cut out the slips below and ask two people to join the Valley Village Homeowners Association. The larger our membership, the greater our influence on elected officials and others who make decisions that affect our community.

Neighbors Working Together To Improve The Quality Of Life

Join Valley Village Homeowners Association
Return this application with your check now

Annual dues per household:
Basic Dues **\$18.00** Donor Dues: **\$25.00** Patron Dues: **\$50.00**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Mail to: _____

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Valley Village, CA 91617
www.ValleyVillageHA.com

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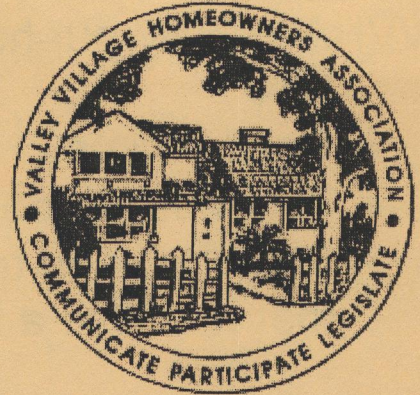
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Neighbors Working Together To Improve The Quality Of Life

Valley Village Homeowners Association

Are you a member?

Why join the Valley Village Homeowners Association?

- VVHA provides a strong voice in local, county and state government.
- VVHA serves as a watchdog on land use proposals, transportation systems and airport expansion that affect our area.
- VVHA promotes a graffiti-free, secure community.
- VVHA creates an opportunity for residents to know and interact with each other.
- VVHA keeps members up-to-date and in the loop with a quarterly paper, *The Valley Villager*.

Neighbors Working Together To Improve The Quality Of Life

Valley Village Homeowners Association
818-506-5158

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Valley Village Park Tree Planting

In 2002 a tiny parasitic insect, with an insatiable appetite for eucalyptus trees, ravaged southern California. In the San Fernando Valley thousands of trees died, including the majority of eucalyptus trees in Valley Village Park. Villagers witnessed the devastating sight of City arborists removing an entire grove of mature trees that had provided beauty, oxygen, and shade around the picnic and play areas. However, Villagers responded quickly to this environmental crisis.

The Valley Village Homeowners Association took action and helped residents form a tree planting committee. Lead by Andrew Sacher, the small group worked with City arborists, Department of Recreation and Parks, City Councilmembers, Department of Water and Power and Tree People Association to develop a plan and replace the lost trees. In October of 2003 a small army of volunteers, including scouts, school groups, families, and friends, and city employees worked all day to plant over 50 young trees. At the end of the day every individual had a great sense of personal accomplishment and lasting contribution to their community.



Five years later those young trees are flourishing and we are planning Phase Two. This time the Valley Village Homeowners Association and Neighborhood Council Valley Village are joining forces to make a greener park for future generations. Andrew Sacher is leading the effort again and is looking for individual and group volunteers. Take part in this enjoyable and satisfying event. Call one of the following phone numbers. Leave your first and last name, phone number, and e-mail address. You will be contacted with the date, time and location of the next volunteer meeting.

VVHA voicemail: (818) 506-5158

NCVV voicemail: (818) 759-8204

National Night Out

Valley Village Homeowners Association participated in the 25th National Night Out on August 5th at North Hollywood Park.

This annual event is a crime and drug prevention program held under the auspices of the LAPD. The purpose is to heighten awareness for drug prevention and generate participation in anti-crime programs. There was music, free food and a good time was had by a very large turnout.

LAPD Deputy Chief Michael Moore and Captain Sharyn Buck, City Councilmember Wendy Greuel, and numerous dignitaries attended. Senior Lead Officer, Manny Arreygue was unable to attend due to back problems. Officer Jennifer DuValley was present and is filling in for Manny while he recovers. (Get Well Manny!)

Many City departments were present. VVHA was among those organizations that had a booth. Thanks to board member, Police Committee Representative Betty Velasco for her hard work on this event.

Our Position – www.ValleyVillageHA.com

Valley Village Homeowners Association continues to provide members with current information about our neighborhood; information about legislation and land use projects that threaten the quality of life in the community. Quick action is the most effective way to put the brakes on badly planned development or unsound legislation.

To alert members when immediate action is needed, the Association has created a page on our website, ValleyVillageHA.com, called OUR POSITION. On that page there will be a statement of the position the VVHA Board has taken on current situations as well as a brief history and suggestions for action.

There will also be postal mailings and e-mails labeled ACTION ALERT urging members to contact City and State representatives. Elected officials frequently state that even 10 messages from constituents on a community concern will raise their level of attention to the matter.

Homeowners Association Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2008 - 7:00pm

Colfax School Auditorium

11724 Addison Street

Valley Village, CA 91607

FEATURED SPEAKER **State Assemblyman Mike Feuer**

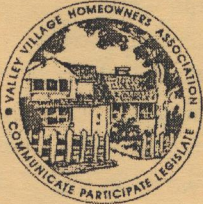
Assemblyman Mike Feuer has represented the 42nd Assembly District, which includes Valley Village, since 2006.

On March 14, 2008 Mike Feuer wrote to the CEO of the MTA, "...I contacted you to request that the Metropolitan Transit Authority take timely steps to provide funding to conduct the design study needed for...sound walls planned for the 170 Freeway through Valley Village. ...this community has long been promised this project and throughout their wait has dealt with the negative impact of the lack of sound walls. It is time for the MTA to make locating the funds needed to begin the design study phase of the project a priority and to keep its commitment to Valley Village."

Assemblyman Feuer will speak about legislation that impacts Valley Village and will take questions.

Refreshments will be served at 7:00 pm.

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