

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
JANUARY, 1995 P.O. BOX 4916, VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617

CFAN STILL FLYING

The old year ended with a legal setback, but the fight against Burbank's uncontrolled airport expansion continues. Judge O'Brien accepted the airport's revised environmental impact report (EIR). He stated that even though it reached the same outrageous conclusion--that terminals don't cause noise or pollution, only airplanes do--the revised EIR did meet the state's arcane standards and that he had no choice but to approve it.

As the Villager goes to print, the Los Angeles City Attorney's office intends to ask the City Council to fund an appeal as soon as possible. Councilman Wach's office has told us that the Councilman is currently lobbying other council members to support the appeal. We urge you to call the Councilman's office at (818) 352-3287 and give him your support.

In spite of this disappointment, CFAN is moving forward on other fronts. We are offering assistance to affiliated members in Burbank who support Burbank City Council candidates opposed to increased airport expansion and are continuing our discussions with the FAA.

LORI'S CORNER

I am wishing you and yours a happy and healthy 1995. It has been a traumatic year for many of us. Let's hope that the New Year will be kinder to us all.

Even though we have not had a meeting for awhile, we have been busy. Breice and I attended a special forum that focused on community plans which affect the neighborhoods all over the city. One thing was very clear: the newly appointed City Planning Commission will have to be watched carefully. It became quite evident to us that many of the recommendations by the staff of the City of L.A. Planning Department are being ignored, modified and changed by the Commission which was appointed by Mayor Riordan. According to Bill Christopher, coordinator of the influential PLAN-L.A., we are approaching chaos in the planning department. The Commission is determined to revamp Community Plans in keeping with a sweeping revision of the general plan framework. High rise projects are the most glaring instances of the Planning Commission following its growth agenda. There is a new pattern emerging. Many community activists are alarmed and concerned that years of work, and dreams of controlling our own destiny and the ambience of our neighborhoods will be lost through quick approval of several new projects.

You can be sure that VVHA will be watchful. Commercial interest with Mayor Riordan's support may want to stimulate the economy of the city, but they are selling the city heart and soul according to Gordon Murley, president of the Hillside Federation.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

LORI'S (continued)

We hope that we will have a record turn-out for our VVHA meeting on January 19th. Our attorney, Barbara Lichman and Deputy City Attorney Keith Pritzkur will be our guest speakers. They will discuss the decision by Judge Robert O'Brien regarding the Burbank airport. (See David Engelbach's article.)

It will be a most informative and very important meeting. See you on the 19th!!!

We have written letters to all our City Councilmen/women asking them---no, URGING them---to appeal Judge O'Brien's decision. Don't worry too much...the fat lady hasn't sung yet.

STILL WAITING FOR A STRAIGHT ANSWER

For the past year and a half, the Association has been trying to get a straight answer from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) on the legal reasons why the MTA is claiming they cannot cancel the leases and order the Chandler Blvd. billboards removed, and instead must pay compensation to the billboard companies. During this period we have received three different versions of what the law requires. Last year we were told that a state law prohibiting cities and counties from removing billboards on private property through amortization schedules somehow applies to this case, even though the MTA is the property owner and should be able to cancel the leases. When this first version was challenged by our attorney, Sherman Lans, the MTA tacitly admitted that the State law they cited does not apply, and instead claimed that the billboards are somehow protected by eminent domain law, although no detailed explanation was given. At a meeting with the MTA staff early in December, attended by Lori Dinkin, Sherman and Dave Lans and Marc Woersching, the MTA's legal advisor gave a third version of the law. While the discussion was fast-paced and not always easy to follow, apparently eminent domain law is triggered not by the removal of the the billboards themselves, but by the MTA's purchase of the Burbank-Chandler right-of-way in 1991. This is because the purchase was done under the background threat of the use of eminent domain. This in turn triggers the provisions of the State Relocation Assistance Act, which requires cash compensation for individuals and businesses, including billboards, being relocated by government acquisition of private property. The equating of billboards with the poor, elderly, or other businesses deserving of relocation assistance is a real stretching of the law. The MTA staff was adamant that the law places stricter compensation requirements on public agencies than on private landowners. Our attorney, Sherman Lans, will be looking into the MTA's latest version of the law and has requested that the MTA's legal advisor send him the relevant State laws and cases cited.

Community Phone Numbers:

Valley Village Homeowners Association-----(818)506-5158
Valley Village Graffiti Hotline----- (818)769-PAINT
Abandoned Cars----- (800)222-6366
Street Maintenance----- (818)989-8121
Officer Ed Brentlinger's Voice Mail----- (818)550-2613

COMMUNITY POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

Earlier this year, a "Community Police Advisory Board" was established for the North Hollywood area, a part of L.A.P.D.'s partnership for Community Policing Plan, designed to implement change by focusing on the most important issues facing the Department today. One of those issues is the rebuilding of public confidence in the Police Department through the development of Police Community Councils for all 18 geographic areas. The role of the Community Police Advisory Board is to advise and inform Area Commanding Officers of Community problems and concerns. *You can write to the Community Police Advisory Board at P.O. Box 2344, 4804 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Valley Village, CA. 91607 and air your specific concerns. You can also send a FAX to FAX # 818-509-1349.*

CELEBRATION AT THE SQUARE

The merchants at Valley Village Square along with the VVHA, cosponsored a Halloween celebration at the Square at the corner of Riverside Dr. and Laurel Canyon Blvd. The Police Department helped by closing the Laurel Canyon access to the square. Storekeepers decorated the area and supplied treats for the little tricksters. There was music, spooky exhibits, pleased parents and happy kids. Thanks to all those who participated. A good time was had by all.

AFTERSHOCKS

The community of Valley Village sends a message of sympathy and support to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church on Colfax Avenue. Their sanctuary suffered irreparable damage in the quake and had to be demolished. Services are presently being held in their Chapel. It is sad to see the empty space where the beautiful church used to stand.

UNLUCKY AT LUCKY'S

The effort to get the management of Lucky's Supermarket to clean up the parking lot continues to generate mail and phone calls, but not much else. Keep complaining directly if you patronize the store. At least we can cause them to share the irritation.

GET INVOLVED

We can always use input that you think is important about our community. Write an article, or just jot us a note...the VILLAGER is our best way of communicating the goings-on in our neighborhood.

Also, anyone who is computer literate and can donate a little bit of time even once-in-awhile, please contact us. We need back-up personnel who understand where the "on" switch is for both IBM and Apple!

*****IMPORTANT*****

Association meeting: Thursday January 19, 1995 at 7:00 pm

Colfax Elementary School, 11724 Addison Street Valley Village

Speakers: Deputy City Attorney Keith Pritzkur and VVHA attorney Barbara Lichman

Subject: Burbank Airport Expansion

Add to your New Year's resolutions: *If my VVHA dues have not been paid, I will send the check today!*

Annual Dues per household: Basic dues - \$18 Donor dues - \$25 Patron dues - \$50

Send your name, address, phone & check to: Valley Village Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 4916

Valley Village, CA 91617

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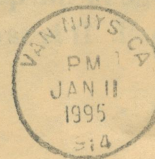
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