

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 11 NUMBER 1 January 2001 P.O. BOX 4916, VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617

Neighborhood Councils

First Draft for Citywide System Published

Under the new City Charter, residents of Los Angeles will be able to communicate to the City government their concerns and interests through local Neighborhood Councils.

The concept is to have residents, merchants, schools, workers and other stakeholders in a community work together to promote more public participation in government. The first draft released by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) suggests that the council represent an area of at least 25,000 people. The councils will set their own agendas, define their geographic boundaries, write their own by-laws and propose their own budgets.



How much financial or other support the City will provide is not yet clarified. However, there will be DONE offices throughout the city to provide access to computers and copying machines. There are also plans to make all meeting dates and information available on a WEB site.

Valley Village Homeowners Association can be a core part of a Neighborhood Council. We have functioned very successfully in representing our concerns to City of Los Angeles officials. However, it will be wise to take an active part in the larger outreach of a Neighborhood Council or we may find our community absorbed into some other group.

The Association needs interested volunteers for a standing committee to study the present draft and plan how best to take part in this process. Call the Association phone 818.506.5158.

Letter from Lori

Dear Members:

I can't believe another year has passed. Where has the time gone! I just want to thank all of you for your membership and for your support.

We have achieved some significant successes, and this was due to the hard work of our board and committees. My deepest appreciation. Please attend our excellent Valley Village Meetings. We need you!

I want to wish all of you and your loved ones a Happy and Healthy 2001. We promise you that we will continue to be ever diligent and we hope to make a difference in our quality of life.

Lori

Graffiti

If you're driving in the wee hours, don't be surprised to see the Association's new graffiti buster at work! Frank Bender has volunteered to paint out graffiti in the neighborhood. With Frank on board, graffiti is being eliminated quickly. It is our hope that this will eventually discourage the taggers. Frank's car has signs that say:

Graffiti Patrol, Valley Village Homeowners Association.

Thanks, Frank!

VVHA Board Elections

It's time again to elect the next Valley Village Homeowners Association Board of Directors. The election will be held at the January 17th General Membership meeting. (See page six for location information) You must attend the meeting and be a paid up member of the association to be eligible to vote. Ballots will be distributed at the meeting and the results will be announced at the end of the meeting.

The By-laws of the Valley Village Homeowners Association require that the membership elect a new Board of Directors every two years. To run for the board, you must own a home or condo in Valley Village, reside in Valley Village and be a paid-up member of the association. Candidates are qualified and placed on the ballot by the Nominations Committee. The committee selects the candidates from interested nominees and incumbents.

Don't worry, there are no absentee ballots, butterfly ballots or punch cards to deal with.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Publisher - Peter Sanchez

Editor - Breice Reiner

Contributors - Stuart Simen

Paula Humerick Lori Dinkin

Marc Woerschling Gail Polevoi

Phone: 818-506-5158

Rite Aid Liquor Permit Denied

Specific plan restrictions pay off for Valley Village

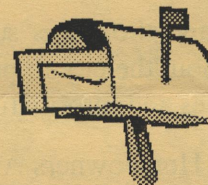
Associate Zoning Administrator Jon Perica, denied a conditional use permit for the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Rite Air Drug Store at the corner of Magnolia Boulevard and Whitsett Avenue. His findings showed the effectiveness of the Valley Village Specific plan, which the Association worked so hard to create.

Administrator Perica stated the location will not be desirable to the public convenience or welfare. It is not in proper relation to adjacent uses of the community, and will be materially detrimental to the character of the immediate neighborhood.

He also made a strong statement about the failure of the Rite Aid Corporation to properly landscape the property as they had agreed to do, citing the requirements set out in the Valley Village Specific Plan.

The Association is gratified that our vigilance has proved to be effective.

The Mail Slot



Dear Lori, Breice and fellow foot soldiers in the slog to clean up Valley Village,

Our most sincere congratulations in your 100% efforts to rid the Laurel Canyon/Chandler Blvd. corner of billboards!

Every morning I come down our street to Chandler, turn right, and have this lovely vista of the tree-lined median and no admonitions to buy something.

Thanks, Gil Shorr

Sunday at the Library

The Sunday At The Library concert on Sun. Jan. 21 at 2:00pm will feature the Gospel Choir from the First Baptist Church of North Hollywood directed by Stafford Floyd. The uplifting music will be a joyous celebration of the New Year. Refreshments will be served. There is no admission charge, all are welcome. The Library is at 5211 Tujunga Ave., No. Hollywood.

Colfax Elementary School

Celebrates Successful Fall Season

Colfax Elementary received news of a special gift just in time for the winter holidays. The school has been named as a recipient of a new kindergarten playground from the Anne and Kirk Douglas Playground Award Fund. The 50-year old equipment outside the kindergarten classrooms will be replaced and the new play area named for Cindy and Douglas Bean. Mrs. Bean, who has taught kindergarten at Colfax for 26 years, won the Los Angeles Times "Teacher of the Year" award in 1996.

Before winter vacation, the students entertained their classmates, teachers and families with presentations by the school orchestra, under the direction of Mary Barton, and the musical, Annie, directed by Kim Seder. This is the first season for instrumental music at the school in many years.



The next major project will be a drive to raise money for expanding and improving the library. Colfax Elementary needs to raise a minimum of \$20,000 in order to qualify for matching funds and assistance from the Wonder of Reading program. Wonder of Reading, a non-profit foundation, helps Los Angeles schools by enlarging and renovating their facilities, providing additional books and training community volunteers to work in the school libraries.

Community residents and businesses wishing to help with this goal may contact Paula Humerick at 753-7518 or Gail Acosta at 761-5560 for information.

Our apologies to anyone who may have gotten lost in the LAUSD website. The complete address for Colfax Elementary is:
www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Colfax_EL/.

Take Note

New Association by-laws have been approved by the Board of Directors. They are the result of the hard work and expertise of members Steve Ajalat and Stuart Simen.

Trees for Valley Village

Recently, the Association received word that the gaps in the two rows of trees planted in early 1998 along the edges of the Chandler Boulevard median will be filled in by the MTA. One hundred additional trees will be planted. The section of the median from Colfax Avenue east to the Hollywood Freeway will be planted in the near future, now that the Red Line Subway has been completed. That work is scheduled for early 2001.

The Association is appreciative of the assistance of Supervisor Yaroslavsky in this matter.

OOOOOPS!

The MTA has done it again! This time they gave us a good laugh! As part of their beautification plan, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) planted a number of additional trees along the Chandler median strip east of the 170 freeway. Unfortunately, six of the trees were planted underneath the freeway!

Maybe the MTA knows something we don't know... special cement that lets sunlight filter through the underpass?

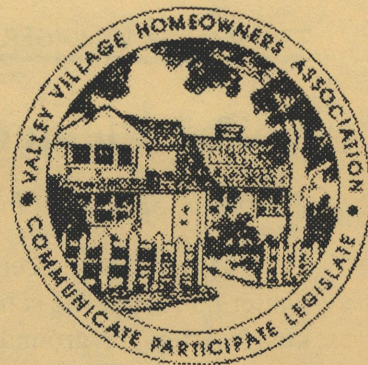
We assume that they will correct this fiasco.

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VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 4916, Valley Village, CA 91617

818-506-5158



Invite a Neighbor to Join Valley Village Homeowners Association

Membership is open to residents of the area bounded by the Ventura Freeway on the South, the Tujunga Wash on the West, the Hollywood Freeway on the East and Burbank Boulevard on the North.

Why join the Valley Village Homeowners Association?

- To protect and improve your community, VVHA provides leadership and a strong voice in the halls of local, county and state government.
- VVHA serves as a watchdog on all land use proposals, transportation systems, including airport expansion and rapid transit that affects our area.
- VVHA encourages residents to become acquainted with one another. We sponsor the annual 4th of July Parade to Valley Village Park.
- VVHA promotes Neighborhood Watch and graffiti clean-up. We also work to improve security in our community by maintaining a friendly relationship with the North Hollywood Police Department.
- VVHA communicates neighborhood issues. We publish an association newspaper, *The Valley Villager*. Association meetings are held four times a year.

Remember, when you support your Valley Village Homeowners Association,
you support your community!

Cut out and return with your check made payable to Valley Village Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 4916 Valley Village CA 91617

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

The Association welcomes any comments, questions, suggestions
or offers to volunteer. Just include them in the same envelope.

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Welcome News

More and more businesses are turning to free, illegal advertising, usually signs posted on phone poles, to save money. They send out crews at night, papering neighborhoods with signs, often placing them just out of reach.

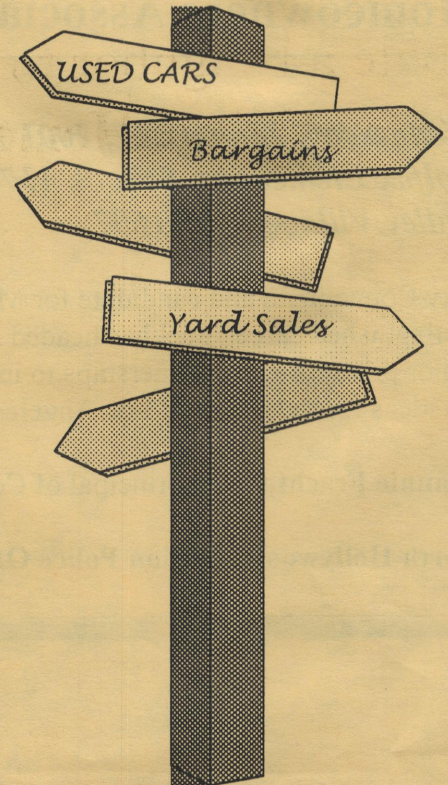
Recently Metro Ford of North Hollywood posted illegal signs throughout Valley Village to advertise a used car sale. The Association alerted City Attorney James Hahn, who is taking action.

Call businesses who use our neighborhood as a free billboard and tell them you don't appreciate the litter.

For sign removal, especially multiple commercial signs and those placed out of reach, call the Street Services hot line at 213-473-4745. Betty Moon has replaced Ray Carr as the senior inspector in this area. She can be reached at 213-473-4515.

Don't be afraid to pitch in. Take down garage sale signs from poles, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Remember, posting signs on public poles, for garage sales, yard sales and any goods or services, is against the law. And when these signs proliferate, they are a real eyesore.



Opportunities

- The Fourth of July Parade has been such a success that members are hopeful we can get together more often for community and family activities. How about planning a Springtime Family Picnic? The Association could provide cool drinks and cookies, and folks could bring their own picnic fare. Perhaps some games or activities that include everyone. If you are interested, call the Association. All ideas gratefully accepted.
- Beautification of our community is a subject that comes up often. We all know we want to eliminate graffiti, ugly signs stuck on trees or poles, poorly maintained commercial property, but how about some other projects. Volunteers are needed to plan and execute creative ideas.
- The Association needs an accurate count of the number of homes in Valley Village. Anyone with access to this information or willing to volunteer time please contact the Association at 818.508.5158
- Page four of this issue of The Villager is an invitation to join the Association. Please give this to a neighbor or place it in their mailbox. Many people tell us they have never heard of the Association. We need your assistance to boost our membership and to spread the word about the fine work being done by the Association.

