

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 30 NUMBER 1 January 2020 P.O. BOX 4916, VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617

A Letter From The President

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Valley Village Homeowners Association is kicking off the year with two very important projects. To start, we are presenting to the Burbank Airport Noise Task Force on Wednesday, January 15. In our presentation, we will be imploring the Task Force to make recommendations that will support our community's best interests with regard to air traffic noise. I hope that you have been following the communications we have been sending on this issue. The bottom line: Studio City, Sherman Oaks and Encino advocacy organizations would like ALL air traffic, from Burbank and Van Nuys airports, to stay NORTH of the 101 freeway. They believe their right to peace and quiet is more important than ours.

Please come stand with us in support of our presentation on January 15 and show the Task Force that Valley Village residents will fight for the idea of sharing the noise among all East Valley communities (see back page for meeting details).



Additionally, SB50 is rearing its ugly head again. SB50 is the State legislation that would up-zone most of California, resulting in a death knell to many of our single-family neighborhoods. All of our properties would be eligible to be subdivided into four potential development sites. It would also allow for very high-density apartments in single-family neighborhoods near "transit" corridors. Valley Village's proximity to the Orange Line and the Metro would make it a prime target for developers to create high-rise buildings and multi-family units on our single-family properties. SB50 also removes parking requirements which means most of our neighborhoods would become parking lots for residents of those buildings. Lastly, and perhaps most important, the state has NO requirements, or funding in place, to support the necessary infrastructure to accommodate this level of development. VVHA believes we simply do not have the power, water, sewer, emergency or transportation services to support this level of development at this time.



We will continue to keep you updated on these issues and **look forward to seeing you** at the Burbank Airport Noise Task Force Meeting (which replaces our general membership meeting; see details, back page) on Wednesday, January 15.

Beth Fulton
President

"Communicate, Participate, Legislate"

Rob's Beat

Happy New Year, Valley Villagers!

For the second year in a row, crime in Valley Village is lower than in the previous year. Property crime numbers were down about 3.5% with large reductions in burglary from motor vehicles (car break-ins) down more than 16% and grand theft auto (stolen cars) down 17%. Total violent crime finished the year under 15% with a significant decrease in aggravated assaults, which were down 33% over last year.

I had mentioned before that a large number of the reported aggravated assaults from 2018 and early 2019 were transient-on-transient crimes. We continue to see the impact of parking restrictions, increased enforcement & patrol on Chandler Boulevard and the removal of numerous RVs and tents in the Laurel Canyon and Chandler area. Consistent police presence and enforcement in these areas has had a major impact in the reduction of violent crime in this area. Though the community has seen reductions in the above-mentioned crime categories, residential burglary and personal theft were both up this year – just over 20 more burglaries and 20 more personal thefts.

As always, we will continue to focus on the quality of life for Valley Village residents and uphold our mission to address the homeless epidemic that is such a feature of our streets by partnering with LA Homeless Services (LAHSA), Department of Mental Health (DMH) and other City and local groups.

Thank you all for staying involved and keeping Valley Village safe!

Rob Benavidez
LAPD Senior Lead Officer

EDITORIAL STAFF	
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Contributors:	
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	Marc Woerschling

Financial Statement for 2019

Our association had some unique expenses this year that included the birthday celebration of Lori Dinkin, our founder who reached 100 years old in July! Also, we hired an accounting firm to resolve a long-running complication with our tax filings: The State was filed from July to June but the IRS was filed from January to December. This needed to be, and was, resolved. Lastly, a speaker required payment for a presentation at one of our meetings.

We hope our expenses will be lower next year. However, LAUSD is requiring more insurance coverage in relation to the General Membership Meetings we hold at Colfax elementary school four times a year. This will double our insurance costs, so we will be looking for another location for these meetings and possibly reduce the number of meetings in order to keep costs down. The Board will also consider raising the level of Basic Dues to \$20 or eliminating that level altogether.

The important takeaway is that we need to boost our Association's membership. Under the leadership of our President Beth Fulton, VVHA has represented all our residents and done what we can to protect property values and our Valley Village way of life. It has been a busy and challenging year fighting state bills such as SB50 and possible changes to departure flights from Burbank airport. I am proud to be a member of this Association and I hope you are too. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Ellen Wilhelm, Treasurer

Financial Summary

Revenue	
Membership dues	\$9,378.00
Expenses	
Insurance	\$3,316.00
July 4 th Parade	\$2,947.27
Printing & Postage	\$1,389.33
Accounting*	\$755.50
PACE (donation to Colfax World Fair)	\$600.00
Hospitality*	\$480.72
Stationery	\$433.63
Website	\$361.80
LAUSD (fees & rental for general membership meetings)	\$357.48
P.O. Box	\$206.00
Telephone (OOMA)	\$203.05
Speaker*	\$150.00
Loss of dues to PayPal	\$82.85
State tax filing fees	\$20.00
Bank fees	<u>\$10.00</u>
Total expenses	\$11,313.63

*Extra-ordinary expenses

Community Plan – Guiding Principles Released

In 2018, the City Planning Department began a restudy of the North Hollywood-Valley Village Community Plan, to update the Plan map and the accompanying text that had last been revised in 1996. In addition to the Plan map and text, the planning staff will be preparing a community plan implementation ordinance (CPIO) which will make the policies and provisions of the restudied community plan legally binding on new development, which will greatly increase its effectiveness.

The planning process started with public meetings in the fall of 2018 to hear the issues and concerns of the communities in the Plan area. Then this year there were public workshops regarding the Guiding Principles, the initial concepts for the community plan. The Guiding Principles contain general policies for Accommodating Growth, Mixed Use Centers, a Mix of Housing Types, Growing /Supporting Employment Hubs, Raising Design Expectations, Promoting a Green Walkable and Bikeable Public Realm and Expanding Access to Open Space. The Planning Department staff then presented the Guiding Principles to the Neighborhood Council Valley Village and to members of the Valley Village Homeowners Association in November of this year. The Guiding Principles are now being reviewed by the Association and the Neighborhood Council to ensure that the character of Valley Village is preserved and enhanced. The Association and the Neighborhood Council will be preparing recommendations to the Planning Department to expand and strengthen the Guiding Principles so that they better address the issues of land use, out-of-scale development, architectural design and aesthetics, and parks and open space.

The remaining steps in the approval process for the Plan restudy, to be addressed during the next two years, are as follows:

- 1) preparation of the draft community plan by the planning staff,
- 2) preparation of the accompanying environmental impact report for the plan,
- 3) a public hearing on the draft plan by the Planning Department staff,
- 4) revisions to the proposed plan in response to public comments at the hearing,
- 5) preparation of the staff report to the Planning Commission on the proposed plan,
- 6) the Planning Commission public hearing and recommendations on the proposed plan,
- 7) the Mayor's review and recommendations on the proposed plan,
- 8) the public hearing and recommendations by the City Council's Planning Committee on the proposed plan, and
- 9) the public hearing and adoption of the Community Plan by the City Council.

It is our hope that the involvement of the residents of Valley Village will result in better policies and regulations that will improve the quality of development in Valley Village and preserve its scale and character.

Board Notes

The meeting of the Board on December 2 was mostly taken up with discussion about how the Association would react to the decision to change the take-off flight paths of planes leaving Burbank airport. At present, planes turn (vector) over the cities south of the 101 freeway, which has led those who are affected to strongly recommend that all planes should bank steeply north of the 101, over our area instead. Our plan is to save our area from such an all-or-nothing decision, preferring to share the load and work for "Equitable and Safe Flight Paths for the Valley". ~~ We discussed the idea of changing the name of the Association to reflect the growing number of renters in our area ~~ Noted that LAUSD is again raising the insurance fee they require us to pay in addition to the rental fee for the general membership meetings we hold at Colfax Charter school, causing us to look around for another possible venue ~~ We also discussed the need to grow our membership or find other sources of revenue so that we can be a strong influence on behalf of our members.

VVHA

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SB50 Is Back!

Last year, our Association followed Senate Bill 50*, a worrisome bill authored by a San Francisco state senator that could drastically permit a transformation of Valley Village from quiet single-family residences to tower apartments. Since it will affect most of us and to strengthen our position, we sent email blasts requesting that you contact local officials and express your opposition and we appreciate whatever support you were able to give. What you may not know is that our own representatives avoided voting on this bill while it was in committee, and rumor has it that there is political pressure from Governor Newsom to bring this bill to the floor and pass it.

Some changes are anticipated but are unknown to us at the time of this printing. However, we remain certain this bill will overrule local control of the City of Los Angeles' zoning laws, and our Valley Village Specific Plan will be thrown into the trash.

This measure, if passed, will give the State of California total power over planning throughout the state.

If you live a ¼-mile from a major bus route, developers will be perfectly within their rights to build an 85-foot apartment building right next to your home, and deny you and your neighbors the chance to protest. Please visit this link: <https://www.livablecalifornia.org/portfolio-items/stop-sb-50/> to see which Valley Village neighborhoods are in danger. (This website is sponsored by Livable California, a non-profit organization that advocates for local government self-determination.)

What is behind all this? First, there is a fabricated lie that California's housing deficit is 3.5 million. Factual numbers report the deficit at 1.2 million, but legislators and our governor rely on the false number when they argue for this bill. Second, there is a vision adopted by Scott Wiener, the author of this bill, and others that Californians should live near transit corridors with the expectation that transit will take people to their places of work. This vision foresees a reduction in cars on our freeways because people will be using public transportation. Hundreds of neighborhoods do not have access to public transportation but this does not seem to matter, nor does the fact that for many, public transportation does not go near their workplace. It also ignores another fact that many are required to drive because of their profession or trade.

This would be an enormous experiment for Californians who do not wish to be lab rats in their own communities.

VVHA will be sending more information in emails as we learn about it. In the meantime, if you like Valley Village the way it is and feel that high-rises on every block would change it, we urge you to express your concerns to your state legislators! Write letters to the newspapers! Post your outrage on social media! Together we can!

*The text of SB50 may be found at <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/bill>.

Contact information for Senator Hertzberg: senator.hertzberg@senate.ca.gov or you may call/write to him at the State Capitol: The Honorable Robert Hertzberg, Room 313, Sacramento, CA 95814. Phone (916) 651-4018 *or* District office: The Honorable Robert Hertzberg, 6150 Van Nuys Boulevard, #400, Van Nuys, CA 91401. Phone: (818) 901-5588

In Memoriam

After a long battle with cancer, Dale Liebowitz-Neglia passed away in late October.



For almost ten years, Dale brought her special expertise and can-do spirit to many leadership positions on the Neighborhood Council Valley Village Board of Directors. Six years ago she accepted the position of Chair of Planning and Land Use, and became the longest serving and one of the most successful persons to ever lead this very important committee.

Under Dale's leadership and with the support of her talented Committee members the process for hearing proposed projects was restructured, ensuring that all multi-family and commercial development projects were presented to the Board before moving forward for City approval. For the past six years Dale also served as a member of the NCVV Executive Committee and as Secretary of the Board of Directors and was active in other community and faith-based organizations.

Dale never held back – she stuck to her guns and in the end helped shape many decisions related to the projects entrusted to her and her team. Her passion, loyalty and commitment will be missed by all who knew and worked with her.

WHO IS REPRESENTING US?

The lawsuit recently filed by City Attorney Mike Feuer against the FAA and supported by LA councilmembers Paul Krekorian, David Ryu and Paul Koretz, all of whom are voting members of the **Burbank Airport Noise Task Force**, is demanding that all flight departure paths from Burbank return to pre-Next Generation tracks. NextGen, as it is known, is a GPS-based system. Its stated objective is to enhance the safety, efficiency and reliability of the nation's air travel network.

Complaints concerning an increase in noise since the implementation of NextGen two years ago have been received from communities south of the 101, many coming from the Ventura Boulevard corridor and up in the adjacent hills.

While no one is denying that there has been a shift of plane departures to the south over the last two years, proposed solutions offered by advocacy groups representing Studio City and Sherman Oaks want all take-offs to hug the 101, then turn north over the heart of the Valley – in other words, they want their neighborhoods to be free of the noise while North Hollywood, Valley Village, Valley Glen and the northern segment of Sherman Oaks absorb all of it.

The three councilmembers and Mr. Feuer have been their loudest cheerleaders. They have not once reached out to residents north of the 101 describing what might be in store for them if they were on the receiving end of all of the departures. It is safe to say that the vast majority of these northern residents are unaware of the proceedings and the possible stakes. All media reports have been almost entirely focused on the complaints flowing from the south.

Burbank Airport is widely used by all Valley residents, from Mullholland Drive to the mountains. It is only fair that all residents have a say in any recommendations formulated by the Task Force. Only then can the FAA understand the full ramifications.

Instead, the most objectionable noise we hear is from a few politicians pandering to their favored constituents. What part of representation do our representatives not understand?

Excerpted from an op ed in The Daily News by Paul Hatfield, former president of VVHA

Editor's Note: Please go to the back page for information on a meeting that will address the airplane noise issue. Your attendance is very important.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

Projects proposed during the past six months are:

1. **5414 Bellingham Avenue** A four-story building with five multi-family units is proposed that will not be consistent with the Specific Plan.
2. **12144 Riverside Drive** This is an office building with 16,000 sq.ft., 21 parking spaces and a height of 45 feet. It is on the south side of Riverside Drive west of Vantage Avenue. Note: Protected trees are scheduled to be removed.
3. **5229-35 Vantage Avenue** Two single-family homes and 18 multifamily units with one very-low-income unit are planned. Six of the units will be two-bedroom and 12 will have 3 bedrooms. There will be a central courtyard and the building will have a modernist design.
4. **4720 Radford Avenue** 12 multi-family units are planned. The 36-foot height is consistent with the Specific Plan. A variance for subterranean parking may be needed.

These projects will be reviewed by the Neighborhood Council during the next three months.

LIGHT UP VALLEY VILLAGE



Despite a major threat of rain, Light Up Valley Village went off as planned and proved to be one of Neighborhood Council Valley Village's most successful events. The businesses along the stretch of Magnolia Boulevard between Wilkinsons and Whitsett came out in force to welcome our stakeholders and offer a sampling of their services. The DJ added the right amount of holiday cheer to the occasion and Santa Claus was kept busy greeting close to 200 children who lined up to talk with him and get a photo taken. Wonderful food was served by the many restaurants on both sides of Magnolia, providing gathering points for folks to meet and get acquainted. Several non-profit organizations joined in again and found a new home at CrossFit, a new partner this year. Neighborhood Council Valley Village also provided food and drink, along with a swag bag containing their must-have holiday lights for each participant.

There was a real sense of community distinct to Valley Village that makes this little piece of Los Angeles so special. That stretch of the Village looked warm and inviting on December 7 – so many people meeting neighbors and making new connections. Another reason why Valley Village is a Great Place to Call Home!

Homeowners Association Membership Meeting

PLEASE NOTE THAT, DUE TO A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE
BURBANK AIRPORT NOISE TASK FORCE OCCURRING ON THE SAME NIGHT
AS OUR USUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, **VVHA IS CANCELING OUR MEETING**
SO WE CAN PRESENT A UNITED FRONT ON OUR POSITION.

WE STRONGLY URGE EVERYONE WHO CAN TO ATTEND THIS TASK FORCE MEETING, DETAILS BELOW.

OUR PRESIDENT, BETH FULTON, WILL BE GIVING A POWERFUL PRESENTATION.

OUR POSITION: THAT THE NOISE OF AIRPLANES TAKING OFF FROM BURBANK AIRPORT
SHOULD BE SHARED BY EVERYONE AND THAT AIRPLANES SHOULD NOT BE RE-ROUTED
TO FLY EXCLUSIVELY OVER OUR AREA, AND SPECIFICALLY OVER VALLEY VILLAGE.

THE SOUTH SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AIRPLANE TASK FORCE MEETING
Wednesday, January 15, 6:30 to 9:30pm
Burbank Marriott Ballroom, 2500 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505

**Mark Your
Calendar:**

2020 Membership Meetings will be on Wednesdays

* Jan 15 (see above) * April 15 * July 15 * October 21 *

2020 Board of Directors Meetings will be on Mondays

* Jan 27 * Mar 30 * May 18 * Jun 22 * Aug 5 * Oct 26 * Dec 14 *

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www.ValleyVillageHA.com

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