

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 33 NUMBER 1 January 2023 P.O. BOX 4916, VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617

Election of Board Directors

Our bi-annual election of the Board of Directors will be held at the Association's annual Membership Meeting on **Wednesday, January 18**. There's no doubt that a successful, vibrant neighborhood relies heavily on the active involvement of its residents, so we encourage any member who has the time to volunteer and is interested in supporting growth while retaining our way of life here in the Village to consider becoming a member of the Board. Several of the current Board members are running to remain on the Board, but there is always a need and warm welcome for any member who is interested in volunteering.

The Association's bylaws allow for 10 members to serve on the Board. Of these 10 members, four are chosen by the Board members themselves to serve as Officers, i.e., President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you are already considering a position on the Board, or if you decide to put your hat in the ring after reading this article, please send a short bio to Peter Sanchez at mail@valleyvillagera.com by **Friday, January 13** so he can add your name to the ballot.

The current declared candidates for the Board are: (In Alphabetical Order)

Dorothy Apple
Paul Hatfield
Sandy Hubbard
Ray McIntosh
Ellen Wilhelm

Beth Fulton
Tina Hookom
Kristen Karanikolas
Linda Simon
Marc Woersching

Past Presidents are emeritus, non-voting members of the board also.

What does being a Board member involve? The Board meets via Zoom six times a year. Elected individuals are asked to serve on one or more committees, which at present include Beautification, Hospitality, Communications, Events, Membership, and Planning & Land Use. All Board members are asked to contribute articles to the quarterly newsletter, *The Valley Villager*, and help out at our iconic July 4th Parade. Attendance at the four Membership meetings is also highly encouraged. Enthusiasm, a willingness to participate in VVRA's activism with the City, County and State, and an interest in building community support are key. And a particular association with some aspect of Village life always adds depth to our work. If this sounds like you, please consider running!

See pages 4 and 5 for Candidate Statements and the back page for Election and Membership Meeting information.

Rob's Beat

Happy New Year, Valley Village! I hope that everyone had a fantastic Holiday season.

Although 2022 presented us with some challenges, Valley Village finished the year lower in crime than 2021 and remains one of the safest places to live in the City. Valley Village finished the year with a 6% total crime reduction. Property crime was down a combined total of 7.5% with car thefts and break-ins down significantly. The only increase in Property Crime was in personal theft, up by 15 crimes total for the year. Robberies were also down almost 40%. The only increase in violent crime was in Aggravated Assaults, which were predominantly transient related. The LAPD will continue to prioritize transient-related crime and quality of life issues. Although the transient population in Valley Village is among the lowest in North Hollywood Division, I remain optimistic that new strategies and allocated resources will continue to have a positive impact on those still living on our sidewalks and streets.

The holidays, as always, led to an increase of mail and package thefts. I remind everyone to really try your best to not leave packages on your porches. Have a friend or neighbor pick them up for you or require a signature or pick up from a UPS, FedEx or Amazon location. Also, I would encourage people to consider paperless options for bills and banking. There really is no longer a need for that mail to be sitting at your door anymore.

Welcome 2023 and I will see you all soon. Stay Safe and be well.

Rob Benavidez
Senior Lead Officer, Valley Village

Board Notes

The Board’s last meeting of 2022 was held on November 7th via Zoom. Seven Board members were present for a quorum. Committee reports focused on beautification of the north side of the on and off ramps to the 101 freeway at Laurel Canyon. ~We discussed the transition of a new editor and publisher for our newsletter, *The Valley Villager*. ~Considered the space and décor difficulties experienced at the last Membership meeting and decided to look for another venue. ~Reviewed actions taken by other organizations to coordinate efforts that will stop the State legislature from eliminating local control on housing. ~Examined an inventory of Association archives to determine the value of their contents going forward. ~Heard an update on the status of building and demolition permits. The Board also made and passed a motion to continue VVRA’s status as a community sponsor of Colfax Charter Elementary School. The calendar for the 2023 Board and Membership meetings was finalized and a short-list of possible speakers for the January Membership meeting (to be conducted on Zoom only) was considered.

EDITORIAL STAFF	
Publisher:	Peter Sanchez
Editor:	Gil Shorr
Editor Emerita:	Breice Reiner
Contributors:	
Beth Fulton	Jenna Schwartz
Ellen Wilhelm	Marc Woerschling

A Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Residents,

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you and your families well.

This year, the Valley Village Residents Association looks forward to continuing our work on the important issues that impact the quality of life in our neighborhood. I know there have been great challenges in the past few years – crime, homelessness and potentially destructive housing bills – but I believe that 2023 may be our best year yet.

As we kick off a new year, I would like to take a moment to recognize all of those who have contributed to the success of VVRA. The list starts with you, our members. Membership is the backbone of our success. Your voices, your volunteerism, your donations, your commitment to community all contribute to what makes this organization what it is, so THANK YOU.

To the Board, thank you for the time and service you’ve spent away from your careers, families, friends, and life in general. Your commitment to volunteer as VVRA Board members is a testament to your desire to make your community the best it can be. THANK YOU.

Best, Beth Fulton, President

The Treasurer’s Report

Financial Statement
Valley Village Residents Association
Fiscal Year 2022

Income:	Membership	\$14,022.00
Expenses:	Insurance	\$ 1,932.00
	Newsletter	\$ 1,570.00
	Parade	\$ 3,516.00
	Membership Outreach	\$ 1,240.00
	Administration	\$ 703.00
	Utilities*	\$ 267.00
	PayPal Fee	\$ 1,308.00
Total Expenses:		\$10,561.00
Net Balance:		\$ 3,461.00

For your information, membership outreach includes room rental and donations while the administrative category includes stationery, the P.O. Box and other miscellaneous expenses. Utilities includes our website and phone line. This year the cost of the July 4th Parade went over budget due to inflation; an adjustment will be made in next year’s budget.

Jim Herrick Swim School CUP Renewal

The Jim Herrick Swim School is undergoing a Plan Approval application for a previously granted Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to continue business as a swim school in Valley Village. VVRA sent a letter of support in November to Dylan Herrick. The VVRA board voted to support permanent extension of the CUP, located at 11846 Kling Street in Valley Village, so long as there are not changes to the operational model of the school.

Jill Stewart, our January Speaker

Jill Stewart is a seasoned Southern California journalist who first made her mark as a reporter focusing on urban affairs, education and the environment for the Los Angeles Times, Buzz, and New Times Los Angeles. She also served as executive director of the Coalition to Preserve LA and oversaw the campaign for Measure S which would have reshaped the City's process for approving higher-density housing projects had it not been defeated in 2017. Jill has been a board member of the LA Press Club for 14 years and has won many awards for her journalistic work. She has also worked with non-profit groups to help them navigate the state political system. She is now City Editor of the Los Angeles Daily News. At this meeting, she will give us a peek into the City governance approaches we might see from key players in the State legislature and on the City Council and what we might expect from the upcoming trials of Jose Huizar and Michael Ridley-Thomas.



Review-Assess-Act-Repeat

It's January, a year has passed, and it's sometimes fun, sometimes frustrating to see where VVRA landed as we roll out another year. So, here's an update of what *The Valley Villager* was reporting just a year ago.

We were all a-buzz with redistricting and trying to figure out our new legislators and who we could now turn to in light of the new lines on the local map. It turns out that Valley Village is still in the 2nd District, with Paul Krekorian as our City councilmember – in fact he is now President of the City Council. As far as the County goes, VV is now in District 5, represented by Kathryn Barger, who came to introduce herself at the Association's meeting in October.

In January, we were also talking about the new application fees raised by the City Planning Department, which offered reduced fees to help day care centers, farmers markets and other entities that serve their local communities.

Then we talked about the growing volume of work to make sure those in need have enough to eat and those who are helping to make that happen, particularly the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry. NHIFP distributes bags of food Monday and Friday mornings out of 1st Christian Church on the corner of Colfax Avenue and Moorpark Street. Drop-offs of food are always welcomed during their scheduled distribution times. Check their website for operating times: nhifp.org.

We also explained the latest moves with the FAA in the ongoing effort to make sure all areas share the noise of planes leaving Burbank Airport. A petition by Mike Feuer, then City Attorney, to move the flight path from south to north of the 101 freeway was rejected by the 9th Circuit in October 2021. No further developments have been recorded. The flight paths stay as is for now.

Lastly, and perhaps most important, we traced the work of Our Neighborhood Voices, a local organization working on an initiative to put on the 2024 ballot that would restore to local entities the ability to plan the locations of much-needed "affordable" housing and reduce the power given to developers by the politicians in Sacramento who passed SB9 and SB10 at the end of 2021, giving them almost unlimited permission to build anything but affordable housing.

As the Board reconvenes, with continuing and new members, *The Valley Villager* will report the Association's plans for this year – both on these projects and on the inevitable new issues that crop up. Stay tuned. We're glad to have you along.

State Housing Bills

In recent years the State Legislature has passed a number of bills to encourage housing production, including the well-known SB9 that permits the subdivision of single-family home-zoned lots into two smaller lots with up to two homes allowed on each. However, there are many other bills proposed that would make small, incremental changes to the rules for housing production in California. Here are two of the most significant:

AB 682 (Bloom) Adds "Shared Housing" as a category in density bonus law and defines a "Shared Housing Building" as a residential or mixed-use structure with 5 or more Shared Housing units, with common kitchens and dining areas and a residency of more than 20 days. They may be 100% shared housing units or up to 25% of floor area designated as regular dwelling units plus ground floor commercial. Also added is a "Shared Housing Unit" with one or more habitable rooms that include a bathroom, sink, refrigerator and microwave oven, which meet the minimum room area and guest room requirements in the California Residential Code. If a project is providing at least 10% low-income units or 5% very-low-income units or is a senior citizen housing development there is no minimum unit size and no minimum bedroom requirement.

AB 1551 (Santiago) extends AB 1934 to 2028. The reenacted law allows incentives for commercial development if the developer enters into an agreement to provide affordable housing onsite or the project is located within a half mile of a major transit stop and is in close proximity to public amenities such as schools and employment centers and at least 30% of the dwelling units are for persons with low incomes or 15% of the units are for those with very low incomes.

Valley Village Homeowners Association

Board of Directors Election

Election Date: January 18, 2023

Candidate Statements

Dorothy Apple:

I grew up in Toluca Lake and attended our local public schools. I am a resident of Valley Village since 1998 and work in the community. I have been a board member of the Valley Village Residents Association since 2012 and the VVRA July 4th Parade chair for the last nine years. I have served on the NCVV board since 2007 and was secretary for eight years and currently hold the treasurer position. I am an active member on the Planning & Land Use committee. I am involved in the Valley Village Neighborhood Watch Program and Community Emergency Response Team, and work closely with our local LAPD and LAFD officials. I believe smart development, safer streets, good schools and sound infrastructure are key to keeping the integrity of our community intact. I believe that developers should abide by the Valley Village Specific Plan (now being updated as the Community Plan) and rarely an exception should be made. I look forward to being an advocate for residents and stakeholders in Valley Village, to ensure that our neighborhood remains one of the most desirable in the city of Los Angeles.

Beth Fulton:

My name is Beth Fulton. It has been my privilege to be the President of VVRA for the past four years. I have lived in Valley Village for 18 years. I am married to my husband Dave and have two children, Nick and Mckenna. My son has graduated college and now resides in Los Feliz. My daughter, Mckenna, is currently a sophomore at Providence High School. Both of my children attended Colfax Elementary. I have experience working on the Neighborhood Council (NCVV) in the capacity of Planning and Land Use Chairperson, I hope to use that knowledge to continue to assist VVRA in maintaining their watchdog work on all development projects within Valley Village. There are many reasons that I cherish this neighborhood – the sense of community, the beautiful trees, the July 4th Parade and the overall quality of life. We are not without our challenges; the rising homeless population, the potential changes to the Community Plan, over-development as a result of California Senate Bills 9 & 10, the significant loss of mature trees and a rise in crime amid a diminished police force. I have long admired the historical work of VVRA. For nearly four decades the Association has worked tirelessly to improve the standard of living in Valley Village. I look forward to continuing that work with the challenges ahead. Thank you to all of those who support VVRA through membership – your support allows us to continue the vital advocacy that is needed to protect our neighborhood.

Paul Hatfield:

I have served Valley Village for 16 years, 10 on the Neighborhood Council and almost 6 with VVRA, including 4 years as president. In recent years, I have successfully led the effort to eliminate what was a growing homeless problem in the park. This included eliminating cover on the chain link fence adjacent to the 170 and getting CalTrans to securely shut access to the pedestrian tunnels with steel doors. I also took the lead with Beth Fulton to oppose Studio City's proposal to have Burbank Airport departures routed exclusively north of the 101, which would greatly increase the noise and range of jet engine noise over Valley Village. As it stands, Studio City's attempt has been stalled in the courts; it will be ultimately up to the FAA to decide. The agency has heard our arguments. I established communication with our new County Supervisor, Katherine Barger. VVRA has developed an excellent relationship with her. I look forward to continuing my efforts in support of our community in the public arena.

Tina Hookom:

I have lived in Valley Village for the past 17 years with my husband David and our two children, Madeline (15) and Juliette (12). Our family has benefited from living in a neighborhood that feels and acts like a community. As a family, we have tried to support the efforts and hard work of the Valley Village Residents Association. We have volunteered to beautify our streets with painting poles and murals, donated time, and resources for the food drives, and participated and engaged in helping with the July 4th Parade. Also, a co-leader of a neighborhood Girl Scout troop. It is a core value of mine to model and demonstrate to our children the importance of volunteering and raising your hand to help. If I were to be elected, I am excited to engage in beautification projects and create community organizing events to bring more kids and families into the fold of enriching our community.

Sandy Hubbard:

I have been a homeowner/resident in Valley Village since 2000. During that time I have served on the VVRA board, as well as the Neighborhood Council Valley Village. With the growth of the North Hollywood/Valley Village communities and both existing and new transportation corridors that surround Valley Village, I am interested in ensuring the fundamental cohesiveness of the NoHo Community Plan and Valley Village Specific Plan's abilities to retain and safeguard our unique community characteristics (which include both single-family and multi-family housing solutions), and look forward to serving with the other board members to achieve that goal. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve another term on the VVRA Board.

Candidate Statements (continued)

Kristen Karanikolas:

My roots are deeply and firmly planted in Valley Village. Not only was I born and raised in this special place, my mother's family laid its foundation here in 1951 and our history runs deep in this and the surrounding areas. I attended Colfax Elementary School before there was a farm, I had some of the best years of my adolescence marked by my time as a student at Walter Reed Middle School. I have been witness to and directly impacted by the evolution of our community, both the good and the bad, for over three decades, and have remained vigilant about preserving its safety, livelihood and value (both tangible and intangible). While I do not have the experience that other candidates may have to be on this board, I must start somewhere and I am confident that I will learn quickly from the great leaders who have served and continue to - they have paved the way for smart policy, memorable events, and the remarkable community spirit that I so deeply cherish. I will lend a new perspective from a different vantage point and will work cohesively with others who serve to further enliven and enrich this gem of a community that we call 'home,' 'work,' 'school' ... it truly is the best neighborhood in the SFV and I'd like to see to it that it stays this way. Valley Village has my heart and serving on this board will be an extension of the love and respect I have for our community which in turn will positively impact all that we aspire to accomplish together. I appreciate your consideration.

Ray McIntosh:

My name is Ray McIntosh and I have been a homeowner in Valley Village for 21 years. I live with my partner, Karlos, who owns a gym in our neighborhood, along with our two dogs, Tazer and Levi. I love our close-knit community and want to work to ensure we don't lose what makes Valley Village special. While I appreciate some of the changes that are taking place in our neighborhood, other aspects of our evolution are less conducive to the quality of life that attracted most of us to Valley Village in the first place. As a homeowner and Realtor, I want to work to make sure our home values are protected as we work with the city at large to solve pressing issues like homelessness, housing shortages and crime. And with business interests in our community as well, I want to work to ensure Valley Village continues to be the highly desirable neighborhood that attracts and keeps great neighbors all around us. Prior to Real Estate, I worked for 20+ years in the advertising industry, developing strong team building and negotiating skills that should prove valuable as the board works to achieve our collective goals. I am eager to get more involved in improving and protecting Valley Village and hope you will allow me the opportunity to serve you.

Linda Simon:

I have lived my entire life in North Hollywood/Valley Village. When asked if I would be interested in participating as a candidate for the Valley Village Resident Association, I considered it an honor to be asked to serve our community. A little background -- Steve and I purchased our home in 1974; have participated in the CERT Program; Neighborhood Block Co-Captain; involved with Colfax Elementary School activities for 7 years; volunteered with the Los Angeles Police Department/North Hollywood Division for 12 years with the prestigious honor as LAPD's Volunteer of the Year by Bill Bratton when he was the LAPD's Chief of Police. In addition, my husband and I were instrumental in the LAPD yearly Halloween celebrations at the North Hollywood Police Station. Steve and I were honored a couple of years ago by the Valley Village Homeowner (now Resident) Association as Grand Marshall of the Annual Fourth of July parade. In addition, since 2009 I have been an active volunteer for the Los Angeles ZOO. I would be delighted to serve once again on the Board to assist wherever the need arises.

Ellen Wilhelm:

Hi fellow Valley Villagers! My name is Ellen Wilhelm and I am running for a position on the VVRA Board of Directors. I have served on the Board for 10 years; I have been Secretary for 8 of those years and Treasurer for 2 years. I believe my greatest contribution to the Board is my organizational skills that help keep Board members on the tasks they have agreed to perform. I have lived in Valley Village since 1986, raised my children here, served as Colfax's PTA President for 2 years and was one of the founders as PACE way back when it started. I love this neighborhood and its strong sense of community. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Marc Woersching:

I am running for re-election to the VVRA Board of Directors in order to continue efforts to improve the quality of planning and development in Valley Village. I am an urban planner with the City of Los Angeles. Prior to being on the Board I served with the Board as a consultant, working on projects to remove the unsightly billboards from the Chandler Boulevard median, curb mansions in Valley Village and propose amendments to the Specific Plan. Since 2008 I have served as the Association's representative on the Neighborhood Council and since 2001 on its Planning Committee and from 2011-2022 on its Vision Committee. Working with the chair of the Vision Committee we prepared an architectural design manual to encourage the construction of buildings in Valley Village that have architectural quality. For several years I assisted with the effort to obtain an historic designation for 18 old Oaks trees next to North Hollywood High School, that was approved in 2021. I am also the member of a special Neighborhood Council committee to monitor and make recommendations for the restudy of the North Hollywood-Valley Village Community Plan.

Residents Association Membership Meeting

THE ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD ITS GENERAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

7:00PM ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

This link will be sent to you by email closer to the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84296309718?pwd=UU80eVFVSG90Q0kxYVZsWE02OVowUT09>

Meeting ID: 890 9630 9718 Password: 577316

We do hope you will join us

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION FOR 2023-2024

OUR SPEAKER WILL BE **JILL STEWART**

City Editor of the L.A. Daily News

ROB BENAVIDEZ, SENIOR LEAD OFFICER NH LAPD

**Mark Your
Calendar:**

2023 Membership Meetings will be on Wednesdays

Jan 18 * April 19 * July 19 * Oct 18

2023 Board of Directors Meetings will be on Mondays

Jan 9 * Feb 6 * April 10 * June 5 * Sept 11 * Nov 6

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"Communicate, Participate, Advocate"