

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 11 NUMBER 4 October 2001

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

Burbank Airport Plans Halted

Terminal Development On Indefinite Hold

According to an article by Jason Kandel in the September 28th Daily News, Burbank Airport's governing board voted on Thursday, September 27th to put on hold indefinitely all terminal development plans in the wake of the events of September 11th. According to Burbank Airport spokesman Victor Gill, "...the situation is so unclear that it really precluded any sensible steps forward in the terminal discussion." Configuration of a proposed 14-gate terminal could change substantially with the new security measures following the attacks.

Burbank Mayor Bob Kramer called it "an appropriate response to the continuous repercussions of the terrorist attack." But he also cautioned "that the present circumstances should not spell a suspension of the collective efforts by our partner cities, the authority and Burbank to reach a consensus on a future terminal plan."

The Authority's Thursday vote will not affect Burbank's October 9th mail-in election, when voters will weigh in on Measure A, which requires that any terminal plan include a mandatory nighttime curfew and a cap on operations at the airport. The terminal has been the focus of debate over noise and traffic issues for years.

"There are just too many questions without answers for us to make good judgments on a significant project like the terminal," Airport Authority President Chris Holden said.

Neighborhood Council Progress

The formation of The Neighborhood Council of Valley Village continues to make progress. In September, a Steering Committee was organized and met to plan outreach activities.

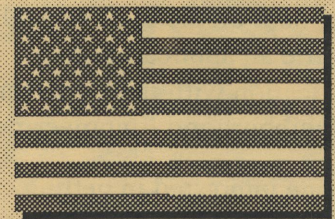
The first public meeting was held on September 12th in Caldwell Hall at the First Presbyterian Church on Colfax Avenue. More than 35 people were in attendance. The meeting was announced by a mailing to all current and past members of the Association. Also notices were hand delivered to Valley Village businesses, schools and religious institutions. Over 1400 flyers were distributed to "stakeholders."

(Continued page 2)

From the Editor

At this time our normal concern with matters that effect Valley Village are overshadowed by the magnitude of world events. The blight of unsightly billboards, the annoyance of traffic congestion and the sound of commercial aircraft overhead cannot be viewed with the same passion as it may have been a month ago.

Our community will do what we must to support the effort to keep our country safe and free. A small part of that contribution will be to carry on our daily lives. For that reason, we will publish this little paper and hold our community meetings and try to sustain and bolster the strength of our Valley Village neighborhood.



Association Meeting
October 10, 2001 7:30pm
See Back Page

Council

(Continued from Page 1)

Stakeholders are those with a "stake" or interest in the Valley Village community.

Stakeholders can be residents, business-people, school or religious representatives or anyone who uses Valley Village.

At the meeting on September 12th Breice Reiner and Peter Sanchez informed the attendees about the purpose of and the requirements and procedures for establishing a neighborhood council in Valley Village.

Association Boardmember Stuart Simen volunteered and drafted by-laws for our council and copies were distributed at the meeting.

The council boundaries will most likely be the existing boundaries of Valley Village, since the surrounding communities of Valley Glen, Studio City and NoHo are in the process of forming their own Councils.

The next step is to continue to spread the word about our Neighborhood Council of Valley Village (outreach), seek agreement on the by-laws and then file an application for certification with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Anyone interested in getting involved please call 818-506-5158 or email VVHAssociation@aol.com.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Publisher - Peter Sanchez

Editor - Breice Reiner

Contributors - Stuart Simen

Betty Valasco Lori Dinkin

Marc Woerschling Paula Humerick

Phone: 818-506-5158

Joel Wachs Leaves City Council

As his term in office draws to a close our City Councilman Joel Wachs has accepted the position of President of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts in New York City.

Joel has served our community for thirty years. He is a rare person, a politician who has dealt fairly and honestly with his constituents in our community and served the City of Los Angeles with honor and with class. Many times he stood alone with his convictions. His vigilance has saved the taxpayers of the City millions of dollars. He has been our friend, a wise counselor giving advice and listening to our concerns. We shall miss him and wish him well in his new endeavor.

We also thank his wonderful staff. They have reflected his thoughtfulness and devotion. His staff has always been there for us with advice, understanding and action.

On Friday, October 28th Lori Dinkin and Betty Velasco and other members of the Valley Village Homeowners Association attended an award ceremony at City Hall where they presented Joel with a plaque reading:

To Joel Wachs with deep affection and appreciation for his constant support and devotion to our Valley Village community.

Farewell and thanks, Joel!

Important Meetings

In the first month of his tenure as the new mayor of Los Angeles, James Hahn invited Valley community leaders from the educational, business and residents associations to a working breakfast meeting. This was a select group, and Valley Village Homeowners Association was pleased to be included. Mayor Hahn and his deputies from various city departments asked what the Valley residents want from City government. Implementation of the new City Charter Neighborhood Councils was a major interest of most of those attending. The Mayor pledged to stay in close touch with Valley communities.

Congressman Howard Berman responded to Valley Village concerns about the changes in the State Senate 21st district by promising to arrange a meeting with State Senator Jack Scott in the near future. This will be an opportunity to express our determination to limit the amount of noise pollution generated by Burbank Airport. Since the eastern boundary of the 21st district has been moved all the way to San Gabriel Valley, it is urgent that Senator Scott be made aware that communities west of Burbank Airport are an important part of his constituency.

Billboards, Is Less More?

In June the City Council of Los Angeles approved the initiation of an ordinance to permit the relocation of billboards from the surface streets to industrial zoned lands bordering the freeways. Up to 70 V shaped, double faced monopole billboards with 670 sq.ft. per sign face would be permitted to face the freeways in exchange for the removal of approximately 2,000 billboards from the surface streets. The ordinance would also ban new billboards along surface streets, a goal homeowner associations have been trying to attain for over 20 years.

The relocation ordinance, being pushed by the billboard companies and Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, would for the first time open up the freeways to billboards, breaching a ban that has been in place for 50 years since construction of the freeway system got underway. The ban has kept the freeways within Los Angeles essentially free of billboards, unlike other cities where they clutter and deface the landscape. The proposed relocation ordinance, while superficially appealing, is a Faustian bargain that would not really solve the problem of billboard ugliness in the city. Rather, it would merely shift a portion of it onto the freeways. With an estimated 10,000 billboards along surface streets, even the removal of 2,000 billboards would leave the streets looking just about as cluttered as they are now. Billboard companies will be removing mostly their smaller signs that generate less revenue while leaving in place most of the large, 670 sq.ft. monopole billboards which have the greatest adverse visual impact.

The Association has testified and sent letters in opposition to this ill-conceived ordinance that favors the billboard companies over the public good. The next step in the approval process is for the City Attorney to determine whether an environmental impact report is required for the ordinance. After that the Planning Department will conduct public hearings and prepare a staff report and recommendation to the Planning Commission.

Golden Anniversary for Colfax School

This school year marks a milestone for Colfax Elementary – 50 years of educating area children. The school is pleased to count actor Cuba Gooding, Jr. among its alumni, but would love to hear from any and all alumni of the past 50 years. VVHA members may contact either Boardmember Paula Humerick at 753-7518 or PACE president Bruce Neckels at 508-6789.

The Parents' Association Colfax Elementary (PACE) would also like to thank the Homeowners Association and entire community for its support of the spring carnival, which netted \$10,000 toward the hiring of art and music teachers again this year. This year's spring festival will emphasize the school's 50th anniversary and will be dedicated to the alumni.

Help In A Hurry!

If you need help because of a life-threatening situation such as a violent crime in progress, a fire, a heart attack or need to reach help right now, you call 911. We all know that.



Of the 3.5 million calls received annually, 75% are not serious emergencies. Some are not emergencies at all. This has caused the 911 system to become critically overburdened.

Obviously, there are many other situations that may require a police response but are not 911 type calls. Some examples of non-emergency situations are disturbances such as loud radio or party, drinking in public, non-violent disputes, trespassing or loitering.

When someone calls the 911 line to report a loud party, the overloaded emergency operators cannot respond to those life-threatening calls.

For those non-emergency situations, please remember to call the non-emergency number: 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273). Be patient. Remember, those who call 911 have no time to wait!

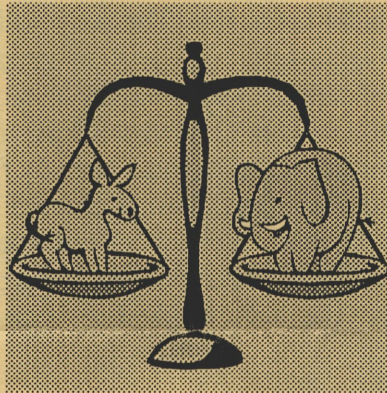
State and Congressional Redistricting

Recently the State Legislature approved, and the Governor signed, legislation that alters the boundaries of the State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional districts so that they reflect population changes reported by the year 2000 census. The result of that procedure is some good and not so good news for Valley Village.

The good news is that Valley Village and the south Valley is located in the 42nd Assembly district represented by Paul Koretz that straddles the Santa Monica Mountains and includes mostly stable communities. This is consistent with the legal requirement that districts be compact, contiguous and represent "communities of interest".

The bad news is that the south Valley communities of Valley Village, Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Encino and Tarzana have been shifted into the 21st State Senate district, represented by Jack Scott, which extends 20 miles to the east and includes the cities of Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena Arcadia and Temple City. This large district that brings together portions of the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys is territorially incoherent and lacks "communities of interest". A clear example of this is the Burbank airport noise issue. The communities in the San Fernando Valley are opposed to uncontrolled expansion of the airport terminal

which would lead to greatly increased noise pollution. The communities east of the airport favor expansion because they would realize the economic benefits without being impacted by the noise. It will be difficult for Jack Scott to represent both parts of his expanded district. Rather than to have logical boundaries of communities with similar needs.



The new Congressional district boundaries have also ignited a dispute between Congressmen Brad Sherman and Howard Berman. The new boundaries shift a substantial number of Anglo residents in the west San Fernando Valley out of Sherman's district into Berman's and replace them with Latino residents of the northeast Valley. The purpose of this change is to protect Congressman Berman, whose district is becoming increasingly Latino, from a primary challenge by a Latino opponent. Brad Sherman strongly protested this shift and the proposed boundaries were

adjusted slightly to leave more Anglo voters in Sherman's district. However, the new district will likely be challenged in court by civil rights organizations because they divide the Latino vote in half between the two districts, making it more difficult to elect a representative of the Latino community to Congress.

Valley Village remains in Howard Berman's district.

City Redistricting

On City Council redistricting, Mayor Hahn and the City Council have appointed a 20 member citizen commission to recommend a redistricting plan to the City Council. It is hoped that a new district may be formed that will be entirely in the San Fernando Valley.

LAVC Committee

Lori Dinkin, president of V.V.H.A. has been invited to serve as a member of Los Angeles Valley College Citizens' Committee.

The first meeting will be an overview of the current proposed projects for the college under the bond sale revenues.

Lori was recommended by Tyree Wieder, Ed.D. president of L.A.V.C. to be one of 15 members on the committee.

Ed Brentlinger *Changes Assignments*

At a recent Neighborhood Watch Meeting, our popular Senior Lead Officer announced that he has given up his position as SLO. Ed will continue in his current job in Graffiti removal so we will still be able to call on him in that capacity. He can be reached at 818-623-4001.



The new SLO will be the LAPD officer who qualifies based on testing. He or she will be introduced at the next Neighborhood Watch meeting in North Hollywood.

With 27 years of service with the LAPD, Ed has been a good friend of Valley Village, working tirelessly to help us solve neighborhood problems. He was awarded the LAPD Medal of Valor for his heroism during the North Hollywood Bank of America shootout.

He will be sorely missed as Senior Lead Officer. His last Neighborhood Watch Meeting in the SLO position will be Oct. 16th at Victory School.

Neighborhood Watch

Betty Velasco, Police Community representative reports that burglary from motor vehicles is still the major crime problem in our area. While we are very relieved that the area is not plagued with violent crimes, we ought to make every attempt to thwart these thefts in order to discourage law-breakers from targeting Valley Village.

Do not leave valuables in your car. Do not leave it open and always try to park off street or in the garage. Keep your home safe by locking up, including windows. Motion detector lights outside are most helpful.

Call Police dispatch, 818-787-1122 or Senior Lead Officers, 818-623-4001 if you observe strangers in your yard or on your neighbor's property. This will allow the police to enter the premises to check.

Another Great Volunteer Update

The response to our request for volunteers in the June Issue was gratifying. The Board is planning a meeting of volunteers to get everyone acquainted and to organize the various activities. If you volunteered, you will be personally contacted shortly about a meeting date.

The most popular volunteer activity was tree planting at Valley Village Park. For those interested in tree planting, the meeting will focus on information about obtaining trees, equipment and instructions on proper planting. The City Forestry Department, the Department of Parks and Recreation and representatives from TreePeople will be on hand to assist and advise. Once organized, this should be a wonderful family event.

July 4th Parade

The eighth annual Valley Village Homeowners Association's Fourth of July Parade seemed to have the biggest turnout yet. The attractions included a Police escort, a fife and drum and many neighbors dressed in their red, white and blue.

Many new members joined the Association after the parade and were entered into a raffle for a gift basket. Congratulations new members Joe & Moira Bollert, winners of the gift basket. Thanks to Association member, Mimi O'Keefe for making and donating the gift basket that made our Fourth of July membership drive a huge success.

Thirty-eight new members joined either at the parade or as a result of our flyer distribution.

(Publisher's note: We missed the Gentry Street float and we hope it'll be back next year.)

Homeowners Association Meeting

Wednesday, October 10, 2001 7:30pm
Colfax Elementary School, 11724 Addison Street
Valley Village, CA 91607

Here is an opportunity to meet some of the people who will shape the City of Los Angeles in the near future.

We have a new mayor, James Hahn, and his Valley deputy, **Jennifer Stein** will explain the Mayor's vision for the city and her part in implementing it. Ms. Stein has worked as a campaign manager and is a Stanford graduate.

Newly elected 5th district Councilman **Jack Weiss** will attend. Mr. Weiss served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles where he was assigned to the Public Corruption and Government Fraud Section.

Wendy Greuel, candidate for City Council in the 2nd district will speak. She was a key member of Mayor Tom Bradley's team at City Hall. She was also a federal official working with Cabinet Secretary Henry Cisneros at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



P.O. BOX 4916
VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617
818-506-5158
www.valleyvillage.net