

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 12 NUMBER 4 October 2002

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

Secession or Not

The Question is About to be Answered

Don't wait until election day (November 5th) to try to figure out the complexities of Valley secession. Come to the Association Meeting on October 9th and hear both sides of the issue. The meeting will feature two especially knowledgeable speakers; Felipe Fuentes, Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles and Jeff Brain, a founder of Valley VOTE.

Deputy Mayor Felipe Fuentes job includes coordinating special projects in the San Fernando Valley for Mayor Hahn, and redistricting in response to the census. In the past he served three years as a Deputy to Los Angeles City Councilman and now City Council President, Alex Padilla. He has worked in the private sector assisting disabled and injured workers and has worked with youth and new immigrants. He is a graduate of University of California at Los Angeles and is currently earning an MBA at Pepperdine University. He is a lifelong resident of the San Fernando Valley.

Jeff Brain is one of the founders of Valley VOTE now renamed San Fernando Valley Independence Committee. He is a Sherman Oaks community leader and worked on the Ventura Boulevard Specific Plan to control growth and improve conditions along that important corridor. He is a founding board member of the Economic Alliance of San Fernando Valley and of the San Fernando Valley Association of Realtors. He has a BS degree in Accounting and Finance from California State University Northridge. He has lived in the San Fernando Valley since 1977.

At the program each speaker will have a few minutes to express his view. When both have finished there will be time for questions from the floor. Please come with your questions prepared and plan to be concise. This will not be a debate so there will be time and opportunity to be heard.

See related Secession article on page 2.

Association Meeting
October 9, 2002 7:30 pm
See Back Page

MTA Landscaping

In December 2001 the MTA staff responsible for the Busway landscaping plan on Chandler Boulevard presented a preliminary landscaping plan and announced that a second public meeting would be held in January 2002. The purpose of the January meeting was to give the public an opportunity to comment and propose revisions to the landscape plan. That plan features drought resistant plants, no irrigation system, no grass and little greenery. The plan was vigorously opposed by the Valley Village Homeowners Association and by everyone else who saw it.



Nine months later, that meeting has not taken place. Recently, the Association was informed the long delayed meeting will be held in the Spring of 2003 and will be conducted by the contractor hired by MTA to build the busway.

Valley Village Homeowners Association will be gearing up for a strong protest.

Airport Expansion Stalemate

The Airport Authority at Burbank Airport continues its unrelenting efforts to expand. And, the communities that suffer the noise and air pollution of the west heading take-offs continue their unrelenting efforts to modify those plans.

Currently, the Airport plans to add 40,000 sq. ft. to the existing facility for new security equipment mandated by the Federal Government in the wake of 9/11. Everyone is in favor of airport security, however, it appears that they are building 10,000-20,000 sq. ft. more than is needed to meet the government regulations. Is the Authority using security as a pretext to begin development of the large airport they want?

When the plan for rebuilding of the terminal includes a mandatory overnight curfew, a cap on the number of flights and a share-the-noise plan with take-offs to the east as well as west, the Association will support it.



Tuesday, November 5th

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Secession: Camelot or Not?

Editor's note: This article first appeared in our June 2002 issue. In view of the November 5th election a reprint seems appropriate.

In November 2002, the citizens of Los Angeles - and that still does include Valley Village and the entire San Fernando Valley - are going to be asked to decide the kind of city in which we want to live. Your future, our future, your children's future could all be changed after this date. Of course we're talking about the proposed secession of the Valley from the city. There has never been a local ballot measure with as potentially far reaching implications as this one; and there has never been so little real knowledge available on which to make so important a decision.

At this point there are many more questions than answers. Questions like:

- Are we going to have to pay alimony to the City? How much? And for how long?
- Will we keep our resources such as police, fire, libraries, parks? And if so, how will they be paid for?
- Will a SF Valley City have to raise additional taxes to give us the same level of service as we currently have?
- Who will run this city?
- How responsive will a Valley government be to the bread and butter daily issues such as maintaining our roads, picking up the garbage?

As the November election approaches, we voters may not have any more substantial understanding of the consequences of secession than we do now. To help us make an intelligent and thoughtful decision about breaking up the city, the VVHA has invited speakers who are both opponents and supporters to its October 9th meeting. We hope to give VVHA members clearer insights into not just the issues involved, but the personalities of the principals involved in this unique debate.

This is one election in which every vote counts. Don't make your choice based upon ten second sound bites and doomsday scenarios. If you're concerned about the future of Valley Village, you must attend the Association meeting Wednesday, October 9th (see back page). Your future really does depend upon it.

Tree Planting Volunteers Needed

Preparations for the Valley Village Park Tree Planting are moving forward, and Saturday November 2nd, is the official date. Please mark your calendars and meet at the large picnic area at 9:00 am. At that time we will have a short orientation, form into groups and give assignments. Do you want to help but don't have a green thumb or strong back? Well, we would like to have some light refreshments for everyone that day as well. If you can help, contact Andrew Sacher 818-761-5944 or email sachercreative@mindspring.com.

The Mail Slot

LAUSD Superintendent Visits Colfax School

The first day of school is always the most hectic. When I found out that Superintendent Roy Romer would be here at 6:30 am on opening day, I was elated.

With the success and progress at Colfax School in the past few years, it was no surprise to have the honor of Superintendent Romer's visit. I was pretty sure our school was being used as a backdrop for a concerted effort to pass the vital school construction bonds. But the attention he gave our children, teachers and parents was more than I could possibly have dreamed.

What I was hoping was that Superintendent Romer would have time to listen to, and observe the needs of our school. And, the first words out of his mouth were, "Where's the green?"

We couldn't believe what we had just heard. Those words were music to our ears! The "green" which Superintendent Romer was referring to, is green grass – which just so happens to top the priority "wish list" of parent volunteers – specifically, a track and field. PACE (Parents Association of Colfax Elementary) President, Sheba Meymandi and Vice President of Ways and Means, Bruce Neckels will be planning fundraisers for greening the campus and adding a track and field facility. This project will provide a safer area for play and improve the physical education program. It will also enhance the beauty of the school and the neighborhood.

Make no mistake, our priority every year is scholastic achievement and improving our test scores. After all, our motto is, "Rooted in Education." Recent results show we are accomplishing our goal. For that we thank the efforts of our parents, teachers, our children and the community of Valley Village. We thank Superintendent Roy Romer for helping us bring the message to the community of how great Colfax School really is.

Joanie Freckmann, Principal

Community Tagger Task Force

Hello, this is a voice from the past, your infamous former Senior Lead Officer Ed Brentlinger. Still alive and well and now in charge of the Community Tagger Task Force (CTTF) efforts in North Hollywood, which includes Valley Village. We are responsible for photographing and reporting most graffiti incidents in the community. We try to locate the graffiti vandal by contacting school administrators in the area. If a suspect is identified, a search warrant is obtained and his residence searched. Using our database to match evidence collected to graffiti removed, we will prosecute all incidents of graffiti the suspect is responsible for. This means the suspect will be charged with a felony crime instead of a misdemeanor crime.



In addition to these efforts, the city has contracted with different graffiti removal groups to remove graffiti with no charge to you. In Valley Village, New Directions for Youth is the responsible agency. They can be reached at 818-375-1013. These removal agencies will attempt to color match the paint to the original surface. Turnaround time is generally within a week.

While I still have two paint sprayers in my truck, my main focus is on gathering the evidence by completing crime reports and photo's. You can reach me at 818-623-4001.

So, if you ever see a still blond, but old guy (50 now), driving a yellow paint truck with LAPD graffiti removal written on the side, honk and wave.

Ed Brentlinger

Congratulations, NCVV Certified

On Tuesday, September 10th Neighborhood Council Valley Village (NCVV) was certified as an official City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. The public hearing was held at North Hollywood High School's Auditorium.

At the hearing, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners heard testimony from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), comments from the public and a presentation from the organizers and volunteers of Neighborhood Council Valley Village. The purpose of the hearing is to determine if NCVV had met all the requirements to become a certified neighborhood council.

The presentation for NCVV was done by Peter Sanchez, Breice Reiner, Ginny Hatfield and Burt Stillar. After the presentation, the commissioners opened the hearing to public comment. After the positive public remarks and Commission discussion, Commissioner Ronald Stone made an "enthusiastic" motion to certify NCVV as an official City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council. Neighborhood Council Valley Village is the 45th neighborhood council to be certified in the City.

Other neighborhood councils recently certified in the North Hollywood area are Valley Glen Community Council, Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council, North Hollywood North East Neighborhood Council and Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council.
(continued page 4)

Pizza Hut Billboards to Remain

Pizza Hut has completed construction on its delivery only restaurant at Magnolia Boulevard and Whitsett Avenue. The new restaurant with its attractive architecture and landscaping, is a substantial improvement over the gas station that used to be on the corner.

Unfortunately, there are two billboards on the property, holdovers from when the site was occupied by the gas station. Because Pizza Hut owns the building only and leases the land, removal of the billboards would have to be done by ARCO, the owner of the land. Pizza Hut made a request to ARCO that the billboards be removed but ARCO's corporate managers refused to give up revenue from billboard rental. Clearly, they have little regard for the community and its appearance.

This is yet another reason why the State Legislature should repeal the ban on the removal of billboards through amortization that was enacted 20 years ago at the behest of the billboard industry. It is one of the worst pieces of special interest legislation ever enacted. If the ban were repealed, the City Council of Los Angeles could pass an ordinance to remove billboards including the two next to the Pizza Hut. It would be a substantial improvement in the appearance of Valley Village and Los Angeles.

Take Note:

Cell Phone Towers: Everybody wants to talk, no one wants a cell phone tower looming on the skyline. The Association keeps track of requests for permits to erect towers in Valley Village and attends hearings for Conditional Use Permits (CUPs). The goal is to stop the most onerous installations. And, encourage installations that shield the view from residential properties. AT&T has agreed to use a box type antenna on an office building at 12520 Magnolia Blvd. The Association has a very good record on protecting the community from visual blight.

Auto Repair Shop: Thanks to The Association's persistence and the efforts of Dale Thrush, Planning Deputy for Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, the falling-down chain-link rent-a-fence has been replaced by a sturdy, attractive white wrought iron fence at the auto repair business on the corner of Colfax and Magnolia.

Pizza Hut: The project to build a Pizza Hut at the corner of Magnolia and Whitsett involved three business entities, the City Planning Department and VVHA to accomplish. There were numerous meetings in the City Councilman's office and with the VVHA board before it was even started. The Association was very active in the planning of this project to ensure that it fit well into our community. This is a grand improvement over the decaying building and gas station it replaced.

Neighborhood Council Valley Village (continued from page 2)

The new City Charter approved in 1999 mandated the formation of Neighborhood Councils in every area of the city. As a result, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) was established to develop a plan to get Neighborhood Councils established in the communities of Los Angeles. In December 2000 DONE published The Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils.

This Plan is based on a vision that Neighborhood Councils are self-governed, self-directed and independent. The council's volunteers will work closely with city officials to resolve local issues, develop local improvement projects and attempt to direct city services to the neighborhood council areas. The councils will have access to special city contacts designated to work directly with neighborhood councils throughout the city.

Some of the requirements for Certification are adequate representation among stakeholders in the area, which include residents, business operators, employees, schools and religious organizations, and anyone who works, plays or lives in the neighborhood council area.

The boundaries for NCVV are the same area designated by the City of Los Angeles as Valley Village. The boundaries are, the Ventura Freeway (the 101) on the South, the Tujunga Wash on the West, the Hollywood Freeway (the 170) on the East and Burbank Boulevard on the North.

Your participation is encouraged and welcome. If you are interested in running for a board seat on Neighborhood Council Valley Village, getting involved or want to be on the mailing list call Peter Sanchez at 818-760-1243 or Matthew Fitzgerald at the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at 818-756-9628 or email mfitzgerald@mailbox.lacity.org.

Since the City Council redistricting in July 2002, Valley Village is split between two City Districts instead of three. Residents from the Hollywood Freeway to Laurel Canyon Blvd. are in the 2nd District, represented by Wendy Greuel. Residents from Laurel Canyon Blvd. to the Tujunga Wash are in the 5th district, represented by Jack Weiss.

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Final Notes:

The City Attorney

City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo has invited civic leaders to join him for a discussion about "the vision for the office of the City Attorney" at UCLA later this month. Lori Dinkin and Breice Reiner will attend and report on the vision.

New Sign for Valley Village

A sign identifying Valley Village will be installed in the median on Laurel Canyon Blvd. at the 101 freeway. Along with this installation, the median will be landscaped with plantings appropriate to the area. Councilwoman Wendy Greuel has arranged for this attractive addition to the community.

Homeowners Association Meeting

Wednesday, October 9, 2002 - 7:30pm
Colfax Elementary School, 11724 Addison Street
Valley Village, CA 91607

The program will examine the November ballot measure on Valley Secession from the City of Los Angeles.
(See pages one and two for articles on secession.)

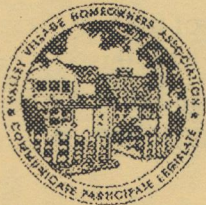
Felipe Fuentes, Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles will speak in favor of continuing to be one city.

Jeff Brain will speak for the San Fernando Valley Independence Committee (formally Valley Vote) which favors establishing a separate city in the Valley.

Elizabeth Sanchez, Project Manager for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority will speak about MTA's plans for the east-west busway.

Be sure to mark your calendar for this informative meeting.

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