

# THE VALLEY VILLAGER

## VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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## Our Association at Work

The Valley Village Specific Plan, enacted in 1993 through the efforts of our Association, has brought several benefits to Valley Village. It established height limits for apartments, condominiums and single-family homes. It added increased landscaping and street tree requirements and prohibits a list of undesirable land uses. A less well-known benefit is that it enacted a ban erecting new billboards.

This did not happen automatically. There was language in a prior draft of the Specific Plan that allowed billboards that were taken down to be replaced with new ones, so the number of billboards in Valley Village would remain the same. However, at the insistence of former Board President Lori Dinkin and Board member Marc Woerschling, the replacement language was removed from the Specific Plan by the Council office.

The ban on new billboards in the Specific Plan came nine years before the City Council finally passed a citywide ban on new boards in 2002. Thus, Valley Village got a head start on the gradual reduction of billboards through attrition, as they are taken down for new construction or property owners decide not to renew their leases, new billboards are not put up to take their place.

As a result, during the past 21 years the number of ugly billboards in Valley Village has dropped from 22 to 12, which is an average rate of reduction of approximately one billboard removed every two years. This has greatly reduced billboard clutter at the commercial intersections of Laurel Canyon and Chandler, Laurel Canyon north of Magnolia, Colfax/Magnolia, Laurel Canyon/Riverside, and Riverside/Whitsett. At this rate, it is possible that the 12 remaining billboards will be gone in 24-25 years, or around 2044-2045. Then signs can be erected proclaiming "Valley Village, a billboard-free community"!

This reduction is in addition to the 15 billboards removed from the Chandler Boulevard median in 2000 due to another project undertaken by our formidable Lori Dinkin/Marc Woerschling duo. That project involved persuading former State Senators Herschel Rosenthal and Richard Alarcon to introduce legislation that encouraged the billboard companies to come to the negotiating table and agree to relocate their billboards out of Valley Village.

These two successful efforts, involving the Specific Plan and special State legislation for billboard removal, show that it is possible to gradually reduce billboard clutter in a community without having to require that billboards be removed through amortization schedules, which are still prohibited by a State law, AB 1353, enacted by the State Legislature in 1982 at the behest of the billboard companies. Also, the billboard companies will automatically sue to block requirements for billboard removal through amortization schedules, resulting in removal by amortization being tied up in the courts for many years. It also shows the abilities, tenacity and ultimate results gained for our community by our Association.

## Rob's Beat

As of October 1, Valley Village has turned around its crime stats across the board. We are now at a 2% decrease year to date. The numbers for stolen cars, even burglary and theft, have all gone down over the last few months.

We also saw the impact of parking restrictions and increased enforcement/patrol on Chandler Boulevard. With the removal of many RVs and tents in the Laurel Canyon and Chandler area, there has been a drastic reduction in aggravated assaults, specifically transient on transient-related crime. Our efforts regarding the homeless continue to be challenging. We are doing our part to coordinate with LA Homeless Services (LAHSA), Department of Mental Health (DMH) and other City and local groups to look for long-term resolutions to this on-going epidemic.

Valley Village does a wonderful job of being vigilant and reporting crime and suspicious behavior. Although we at LAPD would love to take credit for the reduction in crime, we cannot be effective without an engaged community. So continue to stay vigilant moving into the Holiday season –

- \*KEEP YOUR HOMES LOCKED AND SECURED
- \*SET YOUR ALARMS
- \*KEEP YOUR CARS LOCKED AND REMOVE VALUABLES
- \*AND, PLEASE STAY OFF YOUR PHONE WHILE DRIVING

As always, thank you all for staying active and involved. Let's continue to keep Valley Village safe!

Rob Benavidez,  
Senior Lead Officer, LAPD  
818-634-0978

## Treasurer's Report

Since June, our membership drive has raised \$7,560.00. This replenished our coffers but the Association needs bring in more funds to sustain its expenses – ideally at least \$9,500 to cover its yearly costs. To this end, we are reaching out to about 120 2018-19 members to ask them to renew their membership and we have high hopes that they will heed the call, as they have so often in past years.

The Association's Board – and in particular our President and Past President – are vociferous defenders against the assaults facing Valley Village that would drastically change our quiet neighborhood. Without VVHA, our community would not have the necessary representation to deliver the meaningful results we seek for all our Villagers, so please support our efforts by continuing to renew your membership, attend our meetings, and respond to our email blasts.

***Please speak to your neighbors about joining VVHA. The more members, the more impressive VVHA's voice will be.***

***Remember, anyone can join at [ValleyVillageHA.com/join-us/](http://ValleyVillageHA.com/join-us/)***

Thank you,  
Ellen Wilhelm, Treasurer

## A Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Valley Village Homeowners Association has been very busy working on issues that impact our village.

### Housing

As many of you know, Sacramento has been aggressively attempting to push through legislation that would change local zoning in an effort to increase the state's housing supply. The state would like to require cities to build much taller buildings closer together. Legislators are trying to sell this as an answer to affordable housing. Yet the bills do very little to create affordable housing. Quite the opposite – the legislation coming forward is designed to create market-rate multi-family housing and very little affordable housing. The theory is that, if enough luxury housing is built, eventually the supply will lessen the demand. Our Association believes strongly that this approach is a winner for developers and a loser for our community. Please continue to stay tuned for calls to action when we need our community to reach out to our representatives.

Additionally, Los Angeles is in the middle of updating our Community Plan (which helps guide growth and development). If you have not had a chance to attend one of the Open House events to learn more about this, please plan to attend our **General Meeting on October 16** when we have invited City Planners to put on an Open House before the meeting, speak briefly about the project and be on hand for questions. Please come and see what is in store for Valley Village in the years to come. It's very exciting.

### Airplane Noise

VVHA is currently working to make certain that our Village's voice is heard within the meetings of the Burbank Airport Noise Task Force. Studio City has formed two advocacy groups in an attempt to push all air traffic north of the 101 – putting it directly over our neighborhood. Needless to say, we are vigorously fighting against this. It is VVHA's position that we ALL share in the noise. We will continue to fight this issue on two fronts: 1) attempting to limit the number of flights in and out of Burbank, and 2) not allowing another community to push their share of the noise onto Valley Village.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Beth Fulton, President

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### **Are you interested in the challenge of monitoring inevitable change while retaining our way of life here in the Village?**

Whether your interest or expertise is to embrace the Specific Plan, annual events, finances, sound walls, residents' queries, or our publications, we hope you will consider volunteering with Valley Village Homeowners Association. Contact us at [mail@ValleyVillageHA.com](mailto:mail@ValleyVillageHA.com).

## State Legislature's Latest Attack on Single-Family Neighborhoods – SB330

At the end of the 2019 session, the California legislature adopted Senate Bill 330 – also known as the Housing Crisis Act of 2019. Rather than a thoughtful step toward solving the affordable housing problem, SB330 is instead a heavy-handed one-size-fits-all bill creating many more problems than it purports to solve.

First, it does nothing to address affordable housing – not one unit of affordable housing is required under the bill. Instead, the bill will result in more luxury apartments. Moreover, it eliminates public hearings at the community level – effectively silencing affected neighborhoods. And, to add insult to neighborhood injury, it entitles developers to sue the City if strict new deadlines are missed – at a rate of \$50,000 per unit not approved.

The bill is on the Governor's desk now, *so you still have a chance to voice your opposition*. You can use this form to encourage Governor Newsom to Veto SB330: <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/> and call the Governor during working hours at 916-445-2841 – and ask to speak to a representative.

## North Hollywood High School Radical Makeover

This project is moving along according to the schedule laid out and agreed between the school, LAUSD, the architects and others since the concept of upgrading the school was approved in April 2016. It is scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of 2025 at a projected cost of \$266 million.

During many public meetings held at the school, stakeholders are contributing to the best outcome of this vital project. Some buildings will be retained and upgraded (including the iconic Kennedy Building), some will be removed to make way for buildings more relevant to the needs of today's students and school administrations. There will, for instance, be a new 2-story state-of-the-art gymnasium at the north end of campus, a new 16-classroom building along Colfax Avenue, and a walkway from the little-known Agricultural/Community Garden/Vineyard area right into the main campus.

For more information on the project, we have posted the Powerpoint from the last public meeting on our website, [www.ValleyVillageHA.com](http://www.ValleyVillageHA.com). Also, plan to attend the next meeting at the school on Tuesday, October 22, see details under *Village 'vents* on page 3.

## Keep VVHA Strong!

*Tell a friend, tell a neighbor to join.*

## Pick A Pumpkin and Have Fun

Faith Presbyterian Church (5000 Colfax Avenue) is proud to host its Third Annual "Neighborhood Pumpkin Patch"!



The pumpkins are set to arrive on Sunday Oct. 13, from a farm in New Mexico that strategically and intentionally employs the Navajo people, and they are some of the finest gourds that can be found in all of Los Angeles!

Because the church is a non-profit organization, there is no charge for these pumpkins; rather, recommended



"donations" are accepted – any money raised goes straight back to the farmers and to the cost of

operating the patch. The goal here is to create a place for locals to get more of a "farm" and/or "patch" experience in our very suburban city without paying an arm and a leg for it nor having to drive two hours one-way!

In addition to awesome pumpkins, there will be some fun yard games

and photo-op places set up for all to



enjoy. The patch will

be open during the week, just contact the church office for times (818-766-8103) – and on the weekends from 12 noon to 6pm, right through to Halloween on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN)

**During a disaster, your neighbors may be your closest source of help. Are you and they prepared to respond and help each other?**

The City of Los Angeles has developed a program called **Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN)** to help your family and your neighborhood prepare for disasters. RYLAN gives you the steps to take immediately after a disaster to help keep you and your family safe. It provides the tools to prepare and organize your neighborhood to respond together in that first hour after a disaster to reduce injuries, protect your property and the environment, and most importantly, to save lives.

A couple of things you can do right now:

**Start an Emergency Kit:** Many of the things you should include in your emergency kit are already in your home. Look around and assemble some key supplies:

- Water: 1 gallon per person or pet per day (plan for 7-10 days)
- Food: 7-10 day supply of non-perishable foods like granola bars, crackers, peanut butter, and canned food (don't forget a manual can opener!), pet food, and baby formula
- Battery-operated or hand-crank radio
- Flashlight and batteries
- Whistle to signal for help
- Duct tape and plastic sheeting
- Hygiene supplies, toilet paper, wet wipes, garbage bags
- Tools: Shut-off wrench for gas lines, hammer, pliers, shovel, axe, hard hat, working gloves
- Local maps
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- Extra clothes and good shoes
- Medications and spare or old eyeglasses

**Register your cell phone number, voice over IP phone number and email address with NotifyLA, the City of Los Angeles' Official Emergency Mass Notification System. It's easy to get started. Visit NotifyLA and get registered. <https://emergency.lacity.org/notifyla>.**

If you are interested in learning more about RYLAN, contact Suzanne Lewis, Neighborhood Council Valley Village, Chair of City Services, at [info@MyValleyVillage.com](mailto:info@MyValleyVillage.com).

### THANK YOU NOTE FROM LORI

This is a great big thank you for all the wonderful happenings, cards and good wishes for my 100th birthday [in June]. I can't even begin to mention all the lovely good wishes that came my way. The beautiful party at the Valley Village Park, the "Fly Over," the tasty lunch, all the beautiful plaques, the American Flag, the accolades of our politicians (or their Representatives) and all the love showered on me were truly overwhelming.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. Lori

## Village 'vents

**Saturday, October 12**

**Spooky Event at Carter Sexton**

12:00pm to 8:00pm

5308 Laurel Canyon Blvd.

Valley Village Artists' *Specters of Halloween* and Costume Contest, sponsored by Neighborhood Council VV

**Sunday, October 13-31**

**Neighborhood Pumpkin Patch**

Faith Presbyterian Church

5000 Colfax Avenue

See article on page 3 for days and details.

**Thursday, October 17**

**Southern San Fernando Valley  
Airplane Noise Task Force**

6:30pm

Grand Ballroom of the Los Angeles

Marriott Burbank Airport

2500 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank

**Thursday, October 17**

**The Annual Shake Out**

The world's largest earthquake drill.

Be aware, be ready. Check out the ShakeOut Resources Page at [shakeout.com/resources](http://shakeout.com/resources) for ideas on what to do.

**Tuesday, October 22**

**NH High School Pre-Construction Meeting**

6:30pm School Auditorium

5231 Colfax Avenue

One of the informational meetings organized by LAUSD to keep all stakeholders aware of the continuing work and planning that is going into this major project and to get input. See article on page 3.

**Saturday, December 7**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**NCCV's Light Up Valley Village**

5pm to 8pm

Come and ride the Holiday Trolley and support our local businesses. Kick off the Holidays and bring your neighbors and friends!

**Any Day, 24/7**

**Join Valley Village Homeowners Association at**

[www.ValleyVillageHA.com/join-us/](http://www.ValleyVillageHA.com/join-us/)

## Preserving & Protecting Our Trees

The abundance of trees is one of the benefits of living in Valley Village. Moreover, trees are a vital part of the city's infrastructure – providing numerous benefits to our health and well-being.

Recognizing the importance of the city's Urban Forest, Mayor Garcetti recently appointed Rachel Malarich, previously Director of Forestry with Tree People, as City Forest Officer. As the person responsible for creating the City's first Urban Forestry Master Plan, Rachel will lead the City's efforts to manage and expand the urban forest, with the specific goal of expanding the tree canopy by at least 50% by 2021, one element of which will be planting 90,000 trees.

**We can all help** to protect and preserve our existing trees and work hard to ensure that more trees of the right species are planted in and around Valley Village. Here's how:

1. Plant trees. The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has a program to provide up to 7 free shade trees to each City resident (businesses are also eligible). More information about the City Plants Program is at [www.cityplants.org](http://www.cityplants.org).

2. Look after Existing Trees. Properly care for your trees by pruning, watering and managing pests/diseases. More information on the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance website: [www.ncsa.la/trees](http://www.ncsa.la/trees) and the City Plants website: [www.cityplants.org/tree-care](http://www.cityplants.org/tree-care).

3. Advocate for Existing Trees. Speak up to preserve all healthy mature trees within proposed development sites. In the event any healthy mature trees must be removed, advocate for mitigation at a ratio of at least 2:1 (minimum of 36"). By calling the 311 app, notify the City of any improper tree removals. Regularly monitor tree removal applications in your area and, if appropriate, object to any unwarranted proposed removals: [www.ncsa.la/proposed tree removal listings](http://www.ncsa.la/proposed-tree-removal-listings).

## July 4th Parade

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help at our July 4th Parade. It takes a village to put on the parade and we absolutely couldn't do it without our volunteers!



Thanks, too, to our intrepid Grand Marshal Mark Woersching for being such a good sport, and to the LAPD for being a presence on the parade route and for the extra-special flyover!

And thank you, neighbors, for lining the streets and shouting your support, and those in the parade, whether you walked, biked, scootered, dressed-up, dressed-down or spent days building a float, we appreciate all who came out to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in our very special community.

The day wouldn't have been complete without Winners! So congratulations to those who won: Patriotic Pooch, *Georgia Alpert*; Patriotic Bicycle Award, *Trenton Potts*; Patriotic Scooter Award, *Sophia Portee*; Old Glory Award, *Leslie Harris*; Little Firecracker Award, *the Blunda Family*; Star Spangled Award, *Violet and Olica*; Paul Revere Award, *the North Hollywood High School Band, Band Leader Robin Sharp*; the Patriot Award, *Sean McMahan and Jim Huppenthal*; the Minute Man Award, *Matt and Jake*; and the President's Award, *Todd Lewis*.

More winners – of the Raffle: *Blaine Gray, a new member*, won a \$25 Marie et Cie gift card; *Rupert & Stephanie Parkes, also new members*, won a \$50 Gelson's gift card; and *Patrick & Yvonne Fontana, returning members*, won a \$25 Marie et Cie gift card.

For more photos of the event, go to [http://bit.ly/VVL\\_July4th2019](http://bit.ly/VVL_July4th2019). See you next year!

**Like VVHA On Facebook!**  
**[www.Facebook.com/ValleyVillageHA](http://www.Facebook.com/ValleyVillageHA)**

# Homeowners Association Membership Meeting

*Wednesday, October 16, 2019 – 6:30pm refreshments – 7:00pm meeting*  
*Colfax Charter Elementary School Auditorium*  
*11724 Addison Street*

## ***Ron Galperin, City Controller***

Ron Galperin will explain the work of the Controller's office, introduce his newly launched Property Panel, and report on his recent audit of Measure HHH and LAHSA.

## ***Julia HeideIman, LA Department of City Planning***

Display of the proposed Community Plan for North Hollywood/Valley Village, plus a short review of the project and Q&A, led by Julia HeideIman, Planning Assistant, LA Department of City Planning, Valley Policy Division

Also, ***Senior Lead Officer Rob Benavidez*** will give a short Police Department Update.  
Light refreshments will be served from 6:30pm

*This meeting is neither sponsored by nor is it in any way connected with the Los Angeles Unified School District*

**Mark Your  
Calendar:**

*2020 Membership Meetings will be on Wednesdays*

*\* January 15 \* April 15 \* July 15 \* October 21*

*2020 Board of Directors Meetings will be on Mondays*

*\* Jan 27 \* Mar 30 \* May 18 \* Jun 22 \* Aug 24 \* Oct 26 \* Dec 14*

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***"Communicate, Participate, Legislate"***