

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

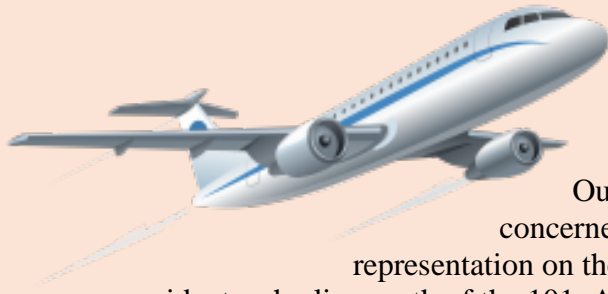
VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 30 NUMBER 4 October 2020 P.O. BOX 4916, VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617

Burbank Airport Flight Paths Update

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), which conducts audits on behalf of Congress, met with representatives of the various neighborhoods who participated in the Burbank Airport Noise Task Force on July 14. Beth Fulton, President, and Paul Hatfield, Past President of the Association, attended the meeting, which was conducted over Zoom. (The Task Force had concluded its hearings in May and submitted recommendations to the FAA.) This was the first step in what should be a lengthy process.



Our feedback to the GAO concerned the lack of official representation on the Task Force for SFV

residents who live north of the 101. As those of you who have so diligently attending the meetings may recall, certain groups from Studio City and Sherman Oaks are advocating a shift of most of the air traffic to the north; our under-representation led to recommendations that ignored the impact on our quality of life.

Also, it should be noted that City Councilmember Paul Krekorian, vice-chair of the panel, and representing CD2, had openly endorsed the position calling for a northward shift before the hearings even started, which has led us to question the fairness of his representation in this case.

In the meantime, the FAA responded to the Task Force recommendations and we were heartened to hear that they felt it was impractical to shift back to the 2007 flight paths – such a shift would increase air traffic noise over Valley Village and other neighborhoods along and north of the 101.

Right now, air traffic has diminished significantly across the entire region because of COVID-19 and the outcry from our southern neighbors has died down. However, we must not allow ourselves to be lured into a false sense of security. While the FAA's response was encouraging, UproarLA and Studio City for Quiet Skies will likely continue to pursue other measures to direct the noise towards us and as air flights resume, the Association will no doubt need to address their renewed efforts – and the GAO has yet to announce their next step.

Rob's Beat

Hello again Valley Villagers,

I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe during this very trying time. Many things have kept your LAPD North Hollywood division busy over the last few months. We have had to respond in many different directions, handling planned and unplanned protests, civil unrest and Covid-19-related assignments, all while addressing crime concerns and calls for service in Valley Village and the greater North Hollywood Area. However, total crime is down almost 8½% year-to-date and Valley village has had significant reductions in residential and commercial burglary, personal theft, and robbery. Car break-ins and stolen vehicles are up slightly as well as stolen vehicles, but the situation on the whole is looking pretty good.

The transient population continues to be one of our main concerns as one of our only significant increases in crime is aggravated assaults, related almost entirely to transient-on-transient crime. Outreach enforcement continues to be our top priority.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy. We will get through this together.

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

*** The Valley Villager - 30 years of publication! ***

Board Notes

Meeting held August 24 via Zoom. Discussed logistics for the upcoming Board election in January ~ Discussed the proposed new name of the Association ~ Moved to donate \$600 to Colfax school and to reach out and discuss a similar partnership with Burbank Boulevard Elementary ~ Discussed the impact of the various “pallet homes” being constructed to house the homeless in our area; agreed to support Laurel Grove and write to Councilmember Krekorian with our reservations ~ Decided to sidestep the Mayor’s ADU project until further information is available ~ Noted the need for more bus shelters at Magnolia /Laurel Canyon boulevards.

Bylaw Changes

The Bylaws Committee is at work updating a few sections in the Association’s bylaws. Most important, the Association is recommending that we change our name to reflect the changing demographics of the Village and include our resident members who are not homeowners. As members, you will be asked to approve the revised bylaws at our January 20, 2021 meeting. The election for Board positions will be held then too (see Board Descriptions to whet your appetite).

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A Letter from the President

Hello Villagers,

As we move into fall and the leaves begin to change color, I am reminded of the many reasons why we are lucky to live in Valley Village. We are so fortunate to have some of the most beautiful trees and streets in all of the San Fernando Valley. Our trees are a critical element of our urban life – they provide beauty as well environmental and health benefits. But we are losing many of our mature trees to drought, pests and development. VVHA intends to make tree planting a priority in the coming months.

If you live on a street that could use a few new or replacement trees, please let us know. If you are interested in helping to plant more trees in our neighborhood, please reach out at mail@valleyvillageha.com or 818-506-5158.

We need to protect this vital resource.

“A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer’s wave goodbye” – Unknown.

Beth Fulton, President

Wanted! Nominations for the Board

It’s election time again and the Association is seeking nominations to its Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 term. The election will be held during the General Membership meeting on January 20, 2021. Directors serve for two years, and candidates must be fully paid-up members of the Association.

There’s no doubt that a successful, vibrant neighborhood relies heavily on the active involvement of its residents in the many relevant issues that crop up throughout the year. As a Board member, you will be giving your community the benefit not only of your time but of your talents – special experience such as political involvement, media, graphic arts and writing can be great assets to the Board. Board members are asked to attend six or seven Board meetings a year, help at the three General Membership meetings and at events such as the July 4th Parade or Food Drive, and join one of the committees that support the Association’s work.

In short, we are seeking those who have time to volunteer and are interested in the challenge of monitoring inevitable change, such as the recent wave of legislation that is pushing us toward density housing, as well as the issue of planes flying out of Burbank Airport being adversely directed over Valley Village – in other words, we do what we can to support growth while retaining our way of life here in the Village. Whether your interest and perhaps expertise embrace the Specific Plan, annual events, finances, residents’ queries, or our publications, we hope you will consider running for a slot on the Board.

If you are interested, or would like to put someone else forward, please email the Association at mail@valleyvillageha.com, and plan to come to the Meet & Greet we are organizing for potential candidates on Tuesday, December 1st at 7pm via Zoom, link to be announced on www.ValleyVillageHA.com. The meeting will cover the roles and responsibilities of Board members, our participation in community activities and issues we currently working on.

Help For The Unhoused - Two Projects

With Councilmember Krekorian’s leadership, the City of Los Angeles is proceeding with construction and operation of two new Pallet Shelter Projects in the coming months to house more than 250 unsheltered neighbors adjacent to Valley Village. These are temporary emergency shelters (3-year duration) to bring homeless, singles and couples, presently living on our streets under cover with safe, secure shelter and basic services.

While there are presently 4 operational pallet shelters in California (in Sonoma, Riverside, Banning and Santa Cruz), these are 2 of the first 3 in the City of Los Angeles (the third will be located at Strathern Park West in NoHo).

One shelter will be located on a 1.7-acre site in the southeast portion of Valley Plaza Park (west side of Laurel Canyon, just north of the 170 Freeway, known as Victoria Park) and will house about 200 individuals; the other, a 0.5-acre unused portion of North Hollywood Park on the north side of Chandler Boulevard (across the street from the baseball field), is planned to house about 66 individuals.



Each site will be fenced and secure. Each prefabricated habitable shelter will be a single- or double-occupancy structure (8x8 or 10x10) with fold-up bed(s), a window, ventilation system and locking door. Each site will also include bathroom/shower facilities, offices (for service providers and security), a shaded eating area, and an area for pets.



emergency shelter crisis declared in 2018, and to comply with the June 2020 settlement reached by the City and County in the federal lawsuit filed by LA Alliance for Human Rights. Under the settlement, the City has agreed to provide 6,700 beds within 18 months and \$300 million to fund homeless services.

The Association has supported the points made by Laurel Grove Neighborhood Association and written to Assemblymember Paul Krekorian urging him to ensure that the level of security, the screening of residents and additional services offered to them is maintained and that the integrity of the surrounding area is monitored.

Can We Count On You?

We thank every one of you who has already renewed their membership in VVHA for your support. Many of you have written encouraging and appreciative words to the Board and we are truly grateful.

To stay informed about Village events and be able to take an active part in life in the Village and beyond, we hope very much that those of you who have not yet renewed will do so by paying through PayPal on our website, www.valleyvillageha.com, or by sending a check to VVHA, P.O. Box 4916, Valley Village, CA 91617. Membership levels are: Patron \$50, Donor \$30 and Basic \$20.

We are working harder than ever to balance the need for housing with the rampant desire on the part of legislators in Sacramento to ruin our neighborhoods with density housing. It is numbers of concerned citizens like you coming together to fight them that has so far prevailed, and we are proud of our Association’s efforts. But they will be back. We look to the Village residents to support the Association and keep up the momentum so we hope you will join us.

Please know that if we don’t hear from you by the time the January issue of The Valley Villager goes to press, we will have to take you off the list to receive it. We hope that won’t be necessary.

West Nile in the Valley

Following reports of cases of West Nile virus in the Valley, VVHA has asked Vector Control to spray Valley Village for mosquitoes. Apparently the cases of West Nile do not rise to the level required for spraying at the present time, but if you would like your property to be tested for standing water related to mosquito-borne West Nile virus, here is the information: Phone 562-944-9656, Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm or request a site visit at <https://www.glacvcd.org/vector-information/service-request-form>.

Slow Streets Come to Valley Village

Our Association is pleased to announce its support of the Slow Streets Los Angeles program, a temporary effort during the Covid-19 quarantine to give safe access to open spaces for walking, jogging, children at play, bicycling, and keeping a safe distance from others.



We were first approached by a resident asking VVHA to sponsor the program in her neighborhood, and the Board, on behalf of our members, decided to support this calm-ensuring measure.

The requested streets are marked at their intersection by 'sandwich boards' that say *Slow Down*. Unfortunately, some signs have been moved out of the way and sometimes have been knocked over by various moving vehicles, but the residents are resilient and untiring in replacing them.

Many neighbors are delighted at the chance to walk safely along the streets in their neighborhood, so many of which have no sidewalk, and parents with young children can now enjoy family bicycling expeditions.

This is not a program that everyone welcomes because it is an inconvenience to drivers who are forced to slow down and swerve around the signs. For those who asked, VVHA is glad to lend its support.

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

Building Projects Updates

Proposed development projects:

1. **11710-11712 Hartsook Street**, immediately west of Colfax Avenue, is zoned RD1.5 for lower density multifamily residential development. This is a two-lot, small-lot subdivision to replace an existing duplex; the number of dwelling units stays the same. It will have three floors at a height of 30 feet. Side-by-side rather than tandem parking will be provided. Access will be both from the street and the rear alley.
2. **5409 Morella Avenue**. This is a four-unit small-lot subdivision on an 8,000 sq. ft. lot zoned R2. It will be 30 feet high, and have three stories and two parking spaces per unit. Each unit will have three bedrooms. Four trees will screen the project from the single-family homes to the north. Eight trees will be removed, to be replaced by eight new trees.
3. **11829 Chandler Boulevard**, at Carpenter Avenue. This is an SB 1818 density bonus project with 12 units, two of which are low-income units, on a site zoned R3. It will have four stories and a height of 47 feet which, because it is an SB 1818 project, exceeds the 30 feet permitted by the Specific Plan. The Council office will try to have the height stepped back.
4. **5229-35 Vantage Avenue**. This is a four-story, 18-unit apartment project, 45 feet in height and with 35 parking spaces. Most of the units have three bedrooms. The building has a modernist style and surrounds an interior courtyard. Because it is an SB 1818 project there is a 10% reduction in the number of parking spaces in exchange for bicycle parking.
5. **4714 Colfax Avenue**. This is a small-lot subdivision for five townhouses on a lot zoned RD1.5, for low medium density multifamily residential. It is located south of Riverside Drive.
6. **4635-39 Tujunga Avenue**. This is a three-story apartment building south of Riverside Drive with 17 units and subterranean parking. The project should be screened with trees from the single-family homes to the west. The style is modernist with orange overtones.

Development projects under construction:

7. **Laurel Canyon/Vantage Avenue**. The wood framing is visible for this multifamily and single-family home project next to the on-ramp to the Ventura Freeway on Laurel Canyon. It consists of four apartment units approved for the C2-zoned portion facing Laurel Canyon and one single-family home on the R1-zoned portion facing Vantage. The developer had originally requested 14 units on the portion facing Laurel Canyon but on appeal the Area Planning Commission upheld approval of the four units.
8. **11700 Magnolia Boulevard**. This project, to redevelop the former auto repair shop at the southwest corner of Magnolia and Colfax with 19 residential units and 1,510 square feet of retail space, is about 85% complete. The developer is waiting for approval from the Dept. of Water and Power to permit the existing power pole and wires to be moved south in order to accommodate the widening of Magnolia Boulevard. The applicant's intent is to create a quality design that will improve the neighborhood and be environmentally sustainable. (continued on page 5)

Building Projects Updates (continued from page 4)

However, the modernist design with white exterior is seen as incompatible with the more traditional architectural styles and colors of the surrounding area, particularly North Hollywood High School on the across the street.

9. **Galaxy Car Wash site.** Construction has started on this mixed use, SB 1818 density bonus project at the southeast corner of Chandler Boulevard and Whitsett Avenue. 70 apartment units are planned along with 1,750 square feet of ground floor commercial space and 80 parking spaces. Because it is a density bonus project, its height of five stories and 56 feet is allowed to exceed the limit of 45 feet established by the commercial zoning for the project site. In exchange for the additional units permitted by the density bonus, nine of the 70 units will be set aside for renters with low and moderate incomes.
10. **5303 Hermitage Avenue.** Construction is well underway on a 26-unit small-lot subdivision along both sides of a short section of Weddington Street west of Hermitage. An open area with two mature camphor trees at the northwest corner of Weddington and Hermitage will be preserved as open space. The project has a Cape Cod architectural style that will be compatible with the neighborhood.

Completed projects:

11. **12147 Magnolia Boulevard**, corner of Magnolia and Vantage Avenue on the site of a one-story dentist's office. It is an SB 1818 density bonus, mixed-use project with 36 one-bedroom apartments, 36 parking spaces and ground floor commercial space. Because it is a density bonus project, its height (4 stories, 47 feet) is allowed to slightly exceed the 45-foot height limit established by the C2-1 zoning. This project drew opposition from the neighborhood to the northwest due to its height, as well as the traffic and parking impacts on Vantage Avenue, a narrow two-lane street. The project was also criticized for the inadequate amount of parking provided, the minimal amount of ground floor commercial space, the lack of two- and three-bedroom units for families, and the modernist architectural style of the building.
12. **5110 Whitsett Avenue.** Construction is nearing completion for this 15-unit condominium project at the northeast corner of Whitsett Avenue and Otsego Street (3 stories, height 36 feet) with landscaped front setbacks. 38 parking spaces with 20 tandem spaces will be provided at a rate of 2 ½ spaces per unit. Nine 36' box trees will be planted in the rear setback areas. The project has drawn strong opposition from the neighborhood to the east of Whitsett. It seems the 36' box trees will not be tall enough to screen the east side of the building, the parking entrance is on Otsego rather than on Whitsett, the traffic and parking will impact Otsego and, most of all, it has a boxy, austere design that clashes with the Cape Cod and traditional-looking structures surrounding it.
13. **5133 Whitsett Avenue.** Construction is complete on this six-unit small-lot subdivision on the site of a former single-family home. The project is on the west side of Whitsett immediately south of the retail complex on Magnolia Boulevard. It has been modified to respond to concerns that the three-story, 33-foot tall homes will look down on and diminish the privacy of the single-family home neighborhood to the west.

Village 'vents

Wednesday, October 21

VVHA Membership Meeting

7:00pm *via Zoom*.

See back page for details.

Saturday, October 24

Food Drive

10:00am to 12:00 noon

Valley Village Park 5000 Westpark Dr.

Our last food drive, on July 4th was so successful, we thought we'd do it again. Go east on Huston and turn left on Westpark. All food is delivered to the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry, which has seen a 40% spike in clients served since March. Suggested donations: Pasta, Snacks, Dry Cereal, Canned Tuna, Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit. No glass, no family sizes please. We will have a mini-pumpkin giveaway for the first 100 donations. We hope you will costume up and participate!

Saturday, October 24

Helpers for the Food Drive

Valley Village Park

Got an hour to two help? Contact

Dorothy at AppleDorothy@gmail.com.

Thursday, November 19

Ready Your LA Neighborhood

Neighborhood Council VV is teaming up with the Emergency Management Department (EMD) to hold a Virtual Town Hall (via Zoom webinar) on RYLAN (Ready Your LA Neighborhood) The Zoom link will be posted on www.MyValleyVillage.com closer to the date. RYLAN is a program developed by the City of Los Angeles to help our families, each other and our neighborhood prepare for disasters, step by step.

Tuesday, December 1

Board Nominations Meet & Greet

7:00pm

Via Zoom.

See page 2 for details.

Any Day, 24/7

Join the Valley Village

Homeowners Association at

www.ValleyVillageHA.com

Homeowners Association Membership Meeting

IN LINE WITH THE PREVAILING REQUIREMENTS OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
THE ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD ITS GENERAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

7:00PM ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

If we have your email, this link will be sent to you closer to the meeting:

<https://us02web.xoom.us/j/88235098290?pwd=L2FFSWNWM2wzSzNIWWIOb0w4ZGVqdz09>

Meeting ID: 882 3509 8290 Password: 323526

We do hope you will join us for GUEST SPEAKERS:
STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER ADRIN NAZARIAN and STATE SENATOR BOB HERTZBERG
will bring us up to date on the status of the post-SB50 housing bills and the legislature's plans to tackle
the prospect of more devastating California fires in the future.
Also, Rob Benavidez, Senior Lead Officer LAPD

Mark Your Calendar:

2021 Membership Meetings will be on Wednesdays

Jan 20 * April 21 * July 21 * Oct 21

2020 & 2021 Board of Directors Meetings will be on Mondays

2020: Oct 26 * Dec 14

2021: Jan 25 * Mar 8 * May 3 * June 28 * Aug 9 * Oct 18 * Dec 13

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www.ValleyVillageHA.com**

"Communicate, Participate, Advocate"