

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 13 NUMBER 1 February 2003

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

Park Tree Planting a Success

The Valley Village Park tree planting took place on November 2nd, 2002 and was a huge success! Andrew Sacher led the nine-month effort and worked with the Department of Recreation and Parks to select, locate and plant over 50 trees. The design plan has new trees located in various areas of the park. It provides shade around the paved picnic and play areas as well as new shaded areas on the east side of the park. The young trees include a beautiful mixture of 7 different species and will enhance our park for future generations. The event attracted 40 adults and 40 children volunteers including Girl Scout, Brownie, and Cub Scout Troops from our area. Councilpersons Tom Labonge and Wendy Greuel also showed their support and helped plant the first saplings.

Special thanks go to Teresa Prosciewicz, Principal Forester, Jess Medina and Tom Levek, Parks Maintenance, for their extra guidance and support. The City officials were impressed with the participation and hard work of our volunteers.



Andrew Karp and Lee Plotts led the efforts for funding of the tree planting and contacted Tom LaBonge who allocated \$2500 for the trees and park beautification.

Valley Village Homeowners Association provided pizza, cookies and drinks for the hard working volunteers.

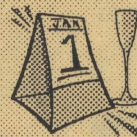
The new trees are doing well. Residents visiting the park are impressed with the improvement. Children who participated have been observed pointing out "their trees" to friends and family.

Thanks goes to all who participated.

Neighborhood Council Election

Neighborhood Council Valley Village will hold elections for its governing board in early March. There will be 15 seats on the Board, including President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Candidate filing forms and details will be available later in February. For further information, please contact Burt Stillar at (818) 766-8598.

From the President



Even though it is a little late, I am wishing you and yours a happy and a healthy New Year!

I hope that my latest surgery in December is finally putting me on the road to a complete recovery. It's no fun to be sedentary! I'd rather be out in the world, or at least in our little corner, improving it!! Or at least trying to!

We have a terrific agenda planned for our Homeowners meeting on February 26th. Please attend. Our guest speaker will be our Councilwoman Wendy Greuel. She will keep us up to date on issues that concern our area. Come prepared with your questions. Wendy has proven herself to be a good listener and problem solver.

Also on the agenda will be Tom Thomas of Street Services Department and Preston Meyer of Building and Safety. Here is your chance to bring your problems and complaints. Time and time again problems are solved from contacts made at our Association meetings. It is in your interest to attend.

Our Senior Lead Officer Manny Arreygue will also attend the meeting as well as Deputy City Attorney Martha Guterrez. She is the Neighborhood Prosecutor who
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Chandler Busway

In October 2001, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority unveiled a plan for landscaping the Chandler Boulevard median as part of the Burbank/Chandler busway project which was not well received by the Association. The plan featured drought resistant plants and no irrigation system. The current plan of the MTA staff is to hold a second public meeting sometime in the spring of this year. After the contractor is hired, they will consider how to modify the landscaping perhaps to include more greenery and an irrigation system.

However, budget problems with the busway project make landscaping the median uncertain. Since the busway was approved by the MTA Board, the cost has increased by approximately \$50 million to \$329.5 million. Presently only \$230 million is available. Despite the State's budget crisis, MTA and State elected officials are confident the money can be allocated over the next two or three years to complete the project. Local officials indicate it may be possible to shift funds from other parts of the busway project to fund an irrigation system and upgrade the landscaping.

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President (Continued from Page 1)

works out of North Hollywood Police Station. Here is your chance to be heard and more than likely get results.\

Officer Arreygue informed me that crime is down in Valley Village, probably due to the fact that a burglar who "worked" around Magnolia and Laurel Canyon is now behind bars. Good job, Manny! Thanks!

Good news, the traffic median strip at the exit/entrance from and to the 101 Freeway at Laurel Canyon will be landscaped and will have a "Welcome to Valley Village" sign thanks to the efforts of Councilwoman Greuel. We are currently discussing the variety of plants with her Valley Deputy. We will bring the renderings to the meeting on the 26th and hope you will approve of the committee's choice. We are, of course, limited in our choices by the city regulations.

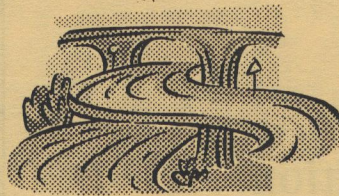
We have funds available for beautifying our business area on Laurel Canyon and along Magnolia, but we need volunteers who will work on this project. Please give us a call.

Ted Franks is hard at work regarding a sound wall on the 170 Freeway from Burbank Boulevard to Riverside Drive. We are on a "priority list" but this can mean 2 to 3 years hence. Ted is trying to shorten that period! He is very busy collecting signatures on a petition to present to the proper political representatives.

We have been in touch with Bob Blumenfield, District Director for Congressman Howard Berman, regarding enlargement of the Burbank Airport terminal. On Feb. 26th a meeting with the new FAA chief Marion Blakey will take place in Washington D.C. Attending will be Congressmen Howard Berman, Brad Sherman, Henry Waxman and Adam Schiff, as well as representatives from Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena. City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel has also been invited. Prior to that meeting, local homeowner and resident groups who will be affected by the Burbank Airport impact will meet with Congressman Howard Berman.

Lori Dinkin, President

Double Decking The 101



There is a move to either widen or double deck the 101 freeway. While the present financial climate may delay any action for a long time, Valley Village Homeowners Association will certainly be keeping an eye on developments that could bring this blight to the area.

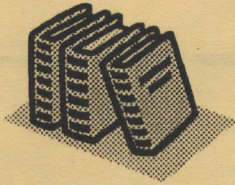
Board member Stuart Simen will be attending meetings and hearings so that our community will be informed of the happenings that might affect Valley Village.

Library Reopening After Renovation

The enlarged and refurbished Amelia Earhart North Hollywood Regional Branch Library located at 5211 Tujunga Avenue, No. Hollywood 91601 reopened November 2, 2002. The addition includes a new children's room and a community room. The interior has been restored to the original style of the 1920's building with rich wood finishes, period light fixtures and tile and ceramic art work.

The large book collection is in place with an extensive reference section, fiction and foreign language selections. There are an increased number of computers available for public access.

Visit this beautiful community facility that provides education, entertainment and information for you and your family. The volunteer group "Friends of the Library" has many Valley Village residents in their membership and would welcome many more. For information write:



Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 497 North Hollywood, CA 91603
Ken Wolff, president of the Friends at 818-766-3807 (Please note: This is NOT the Library phone number)

The Library phone number is: 818-766-7185.

Addison Street Holiday Party

What began as completing a Neighborhood Watch roster quickly turned into an "event" for the 11500/11600 blocks of Addison Street this past December. The party, organized by Linda Pechin and Candy Smith, revived the traditional "progressive supper." The festivities started with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the home of Candy & Pat Smith, moving on to a tasty dinner at the spacious home of Steve and Linda Simon, and ending with cappuccino and desert pool-side at Augusto and Veronika Bisani's home. Long-time and new residents agreed that it was a wonderful way to meet neighbors and vowed to have another party in the summer of 2003.

If your block has a neighborhood event contact our editor, Breice Reiner at 818-766-2932. It may be featured in a future issue of The Valley Villager.



Welcome to Valley Village

The asphalt median on Laurel Canyon Boulevard immediately north of the Ventura Freeway is going to be renovated thanks to Councilwoman Wendy Greuel. It will be landscaped and planted and will have a monument sign that says Welcome to Valley Village.

The Association's Board of Directors met recently and recommended an elegant script lettering for the welcoming sign, a flowering Chinese Flame tree, Star Jasmine for ground cover and a hardscape of decorative boulders.

The project will beautify this section of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and serve as a welcoming gateway to Valley Village. Studio City has a similar landscaped median section immediately south of the Freeway.

This is a welcome addition that will beautify and identify Valley Village. The Association thanks Councilwoman Greuel for obtaining the funding for and involving the Association in the design of this improvement.

Vote

Election Tuesday, March 4

The ballot includes: Wendy Greuel, City Councilmember for 2nd District; School Board 3rd District, and Community College District.

Homeowners Association Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2002 - 7:30pm
Colfax Elementary School, 11724 Addison Street
Valley Village, CA 91607

Second District Councilwoman **Wendy Greuel** will be the featured speaker. One of the newest members of the City Council, she has moved quickly to acquaint herself with her constituents and has earned a reputation as a problem solver.

Representatives from two of the City Departments that most impact our community will be at the meeting, **Tom Thomas** of Street Services and **Preston Meyers** of Building and Safety.

Deputy City Attorney **Martha Gutierrez** who is assigned to North Hollywood Precinct will talk about her duties.

Senior Lead Officer **Manny Arreygue** will also be at the meeting.

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Editor's Note

We often get calls or comments about the zip code printed on the Villager return address. The zip code as printed, 91617, is correct. The Postal Service assigns each post office in the system an individual zip used only for the building. So the "1" is not a typo...our ever-alert and almost infallible proofreader, Stuart Simen, would not let us get away with that.