

# THE VALLEY VILLAGER

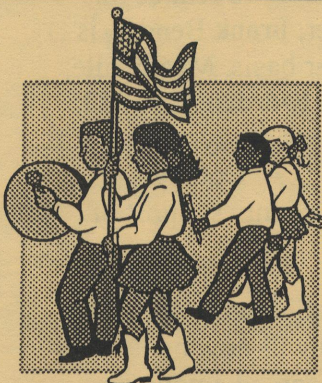
VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 11 NUMBER 2 June 2001

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

## Annual Fourth of July Parade



*Decorate your bike, trike, wagon, stroller, your dog and yourself. If you are not going to be in the parade, come out and cheer on the marchers.*

Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with your friends and neighbors in Valley Village. This year the Fourth will be on Wednesday. Make it another triumphant parade throughout our community.

The parade will start at 10:00 a.m. at the Addison Street parking lot of Colfax Elementary School, and end at the Valley Village Park on Westpark Drive. The fife and drum corps return. The North Hollywood division of LAPD will provide an escort, sirens and all. There will be refreshments at the park.

## Our Trees Are Dying

The Association is looking for volunteers interested in organizing a tree planting day at Valley Village Park. You may have heard that the eucalyptus trees that have graced our park for so many years are dying. They are being destroyed by a small but deadly flying insect called the Redgum Lerp Psyllid. Before these trees disappear, we need to plant new ones to assure many more years of beauty, shade and oxygen in our park.

If you're interested in working with your neighbors on tree planting, we want to hear from you. If you've never done anything like this before, don't worry. Guidance is available from TreePeople, the organization that helps volunteers all around Los Angeles organize plantings in their own communities. (Continued page 2)

## Lori Is Honored

On April 6, 2001, a singular group of extraordinary women of very diverse backgrounds were honored for their outstanding contributions to the strength, vitality and enrichment of Los Angeles. Each was introduced by a City Council member.

Valley Village Homeowners Association president, Lori Dinkin was presented with a beautiful and elegant proclamation by City Councilman Joel Wachs.

Lori was honored for her many years of work as a volunteer in Community agencies, political campaigns and civic activities. She has been a board member and president of the Sisterhood at Temple Beth Hillel, a strategy team leader for VOICE (Valley Organized In Community Service) and other interfaith activities. She is also an active volunteer at the Skirball Museum. Her efforts and devotion to Valley Village have literally put this community on the map.

In her acceptance speech, Lori stated that she feels very honored to be in such distinguished company. After coming to this country as a refugee with no idea what life had in store, she feels very fulfilled. She also expressed her gratitude to Joel Wachs for such a singular honor.

**\*\* Renew Your Membership Now – See Page 7 \*\***



**Trees**

(Continued from Page 1)

If you really want to bone up on your tree ABCs, TreePeople offers a twenty-five-hour class in Citizen Forester Training. You can learn how to select the right tree for the right site, how to recruit volunteers for your planting, and of course, the right way to put a tree in the ground so it will live a long and happy life.

You don't have to be an expert to help save our park. If you want to help get this project started, please circle "J" on your Membership Renewal slip or call the Association at 818.508.5158.

**Phone Tower**

When AT&T (telephone company) applied for an exception to our Specific Plan in order to install a roof top tower at a height of 57 feet that would encroach into adjacent property, President Dinkin and Robert Ryan and others attended the hearing and protested vigorously.

AT&T withdrew the application in view of the strong reaction from this community. We thank Dale Thrush of Councilman Joel Wachs' office and Ann Marie Roos of Councilman John Ferraro's office who backed our stand.

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**Councilman John Ferraro**

The Association was very saddened to hear about the passing of Councilman John Ferraro. Mr. Ferraro's district included the eastern end of Valley Village and he will be remembered for his many efforts in support of Valley Village.

**Graffiti: We're Still Fighting**

Nobody likes graffiti, and the Association is working to reduce this neighborhood blight. Our volunteer graffiti buster, Frank Bender, is painting out graffiti in Valley Village on a regular basis. Meanwhile, the Association recently wrote to Mayor Richard Riordan, L.A.P.D. Chief Bernard Parks, County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, and Chief Probation Officer Richard Shumsky of the L.A. County Probation Department to ask for greater city and county support of anti-graffiti efforts.

In response to our letter, Chief Probation Officer Shumsky promised that all probation cases involving graffiti vandals will now be assigned to a single probation officer rather than spread among many officers. The responsibility for supervising persons convicted of graffiti crimes will now lie with Probation Officer Michael Cooper, whom we may contact when needed.

Captain Ann E. Young of the Van Nuys Division of L.A.P.D. responded to our letter to Chief Parks regarding the Community Tagger Task Force. We asked that the Task Force, which operates with only two officers from its Van Nuys base, be expanded across the Valley. This idea has been considered, Captain Young said, but "resources are not available to expand the current allotment of personnel." It is hoped, she added, that the reinstatement of our Senior Lead Officers will assist in the battle against graffiti.

We also asked that all juveniles arrested on suspicion of graffiti vandalism be booked into Juvenile Hall rather than simply given a citation. Suspects booked into Juvenile Hall must appear before a judge or court commissioner, who may then assign probation terms, sentence the convicted minor to Juvenile Hall or, if the dollar amount of damage warrants, to the California Youth Authority.

Captain Young acknowledged that "currently, juveniles detained for graffiti are either issued a citation or arrested." However, she pointed out, the dollar value for felony graffiti has decreased from \$5,000 in damage to \$400. "This enables officers to arrest a far greater amount of graffiti violators," she said, "and the City Attorney has demonstrated a commitment to prosecute any tagger who creates more than \$400 in damage."



## Mail Slot – Letter from Ed Brentlinger

Some of you might be looking at my name and saying, “Boy, that name sounds familiar”. Well, for years I was your area policeman; now it looks like I will be returning as your Senior Lead Officer around the beginning of June.

I will be answering all voicemail, complaints and questions again. The number is 818.756.7500 ext. 120602. It is exciting to me to finally be returning to what I love most, representing the Los Angeles Police department and serving the people of Valley Village.

It will take a little time to get back to where we were, but at least we’re heading in the right direction now. Please feel free to call me to get reacquainted. I am looking forward to seeing you upon my return.

Officer Ed Brentlinger

## Crime Prevention

### *The Number One Crime in Valley Village*

During the annual Basic Car meeting, our Senior Lead Officer Ed Brentlinger reported on some of the most prevalent crimes in the Valley Village area. The leading crime by far is BFMV (Burglary From Motor Vehicles).

This is one of the most preventable crimes, yet the rate has been soaring. Always lock your car. Never leave valuables in your car. If possible, park in your driveway or a lighted area.

Officer Brentlinger reminds us that we are the eyes and ears of the Police and to be aware of suspicious persons loitering in the area. Keep watch while your neighbors are at work. Install motion detector lights.

## We’re On The Web

Thanks to Valley Village resident Gregory Gooden and his company Annex, Valley Village and the Valley Village Homeowners Association now have a place on the web. See [www.valleyvillage.net](http://www.valleyvillage.net). Gregory started the site to try to foster a sense of community in Valley Village and to show how his software, Ecobuilder, could be used. The Valley Village Story and membership information has been added to the site. In the future, we hope to add Valley Villager archives and other Association information.

## Chandler Median

In response to a letter sent by the Association to Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the MTA completed tree planting on the Chandler Boulevard median east of Colfax Avenue. In the near future, trees will be planted in the remaining gaps where the billboards used to be at Laurel Canyon and at Whitestt Avenue. The tree planting, started in 1998, is a significant step in the beautification of our community.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is proposing to remove the railroad tracks and put in some additional landscaping as part of the construction of a busway on the Chandler median. There is some strong opposition from citizens who advocate moving the route north to Oxnard Street. However, if the busway is relocated, the MTA’s landscaping plan will probably be withdrawn.

The Association is awaiting release of the Environmental Impact Report for the project.

## Congratulations

Gail Polevoi, Executive Board member has been presented with a Citation by the Board of Public Works of the City of Los Angeles commending her for her numerous tree plantings and trash and graffiti removal undertakings in our community. Congratulations Gail, we are very proud of you!



## Busway Hearing

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Another long running controversy is heading for decision this summer. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) will vote by mid summer on a proposed busway through Valley Village to link the subway in North Hollywood with Warner Center.

The MTA has scheduled a hearing to take public comments on the adequacy of the environmental impact report for the proposed 14 mile busway across the Valley. The section through Valley Village would be on Chandler Boulevard from Lankershim Boulevard to Ethel Avenue. Copies of the report are available at North Hollywood Library, 5211 Tujunga Avenue, North Hollywood.

A meeting is being arranged between President Lori Dinkin and other board members and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky to discuss the Association's concerns about the location and design of the busway.

The date and location of the public hearing is:

***Tuesday, June 26, 2001***

***5:00pm to 8:00pm***

***Monarch Hall, Associated  
Student Union Conference Room  
Los Angeles Valley College  
5800 Fulton Avenue  
Valley Glen***

## Valley Village Neighborhood Council

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The first meeting of the Valley Village Neighborhood Council steering committee was held on February 21, 2001. Members attending were Lori Dinkin, Tom Paterson, Breice Reiner, Jerry Fagin, Stuart Simen, Peter Sanchez and June Perelson.

Ben Fiss from City Councilman Michael Feuer's staff gave a history of the neighborhood council concept in Los Angeles. Since the adoption of the new City Charter some communities have started the process to become Certified Neighborhood Councils. In December 2000 the City Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) published a recommended 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. It is not a final draft and the Plan can be adapted and revised to meet the community concerns. Some of the requirements for Certification are adequate representation among people in the area including residents, business operators, employees, schools and religious organizations.

The Valley Village Homeowners Association will be taking steps to identify the parameters and stakeholders of a proposed council in our area. It is necessary to take a leadership position now or face the possibility of being swallowed up by some other organization that might become the voice of our community. The steering committee for Valley Village Certification will welcome anyone interested in taking part in this new experience in City government. If interested circle, letter "A" on your Membership Renewal slip or call the Association at 818.508.5158.

## Related News:

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Councilwoman Laura Chick and Councilman Mike Feuer, a City Attorney and DONE Manager Rosalind Stewart conducted a workshop on forming a Neighborhood Council, on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Attending were active members of various community groups from the Westside and the Valley. The majority of participants appeared to represent homeowners and residents. The panel answered questions and listened to the statements from the floor. There is a strong feeling that the City must budget some funds for outreach or communities will have no way to fulfill the requirements for Certification. The next City budget should include funds for computers, some staff for local offices and mailing costs. Already available for advisory assistance are six DONE regional representatives throughout the City including one in the San Fernando Valley.



## Is Burbank Airport Expansion About to Fly?

The twenty-two year impasse on expansion of the airport may be reaching an end as the consequences of recent political developments in Burbank. But will it be happy ending for us? A new Burbank city council took office May 1 with a new member of the 5-member council. The new member is thought to be "moderate" on the issue of airport expansion. Two community activists of the three Burbank commissioners were replaced by a former city councilperson and former police chief. The commissioner not replaced has become a point man for expansion. We now expect new movement on a terminal expansion plan.

Burbank voters recently passed an ordinance that requires a city vote on airport expansion. Observers believe that the ordinance will probably fail on legal challenge.

Meanwhile, the airport released a forecast of aviation activity into the year 2015 which projects a substantial scaling back of aviation growth (about 2% a year). This is in direct contradiction to the major passenger and aircraft activity growth projected in the five different terminal expansion plans trashed by the community over the past twenty-two years. This airport study claims congestion at LAX will not have a spillover effect at Burbank because future LAX spillover will be handled by Ontario, Palmdale and Orange County. The downside of this scenario is that future growth is predicted to be after 7 p.m., and from corporate jet activity. An additional concern, confirmed in this projection, is that noise restrictions at Van Nuys Airport will shift noisier jets to Burbank.

A response is being drafted to the findings of this growth projection. The good news is these latest projections essentially support our call for a replacement terminal with no larger aircraft handling capacity than currently exists.

## Billboards

Lori Dinkin attended a twice postponed hearing at City Hall regarding allowing 140 new billboards to be placed along freeways in exchange for removal of 2100 signs on city streets. According to Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski there are at least 4000 illegal signs on the city streets. Lori Dinkin pointed out (and was quoted in the Los Angeles Times) that a traffic safety study must be ordered. Billboards will surely distract motorists. After much debate, the council postponed a vote on this issue. The tradeoff does not warrant more clutter, especially along the freeways.

## Dog Use at Valley Village Park



Valley Village Park is a frequent stop for many residents of the area. It's a place for children to play, to picnic or to walk your dog. Recently, taking your dog to Valley Village Park has become a hassle. While reasonable enforcement of leash laws is necessary, Parks and Recreation and Park Rangers have increased patrols to enforce the leash law. One long time resident described the enforcement as harassment.

Park Rangers have been arriving at Valley Village Park in two or three vehicles, driving up on the grass and sometimes calling in police.

Due to the number of complaints received from Valley Village residents, Association President Lori Dinkin called the late Councilman John Ferraro's office to voice the Association's concern about the over zealous enforcement.



## Association Volunteer Opportunities

Valley Village Homeowners Association welcomes active participation by all members. More residents than ever are inquiring about how they can help support our community. Listed below are the committees that are looking for volunteers. If any interest you, please circle the corresponding letter on your Membership Renewal, page 7, and you will be contacted in the near future. Or call the Association at 818.506.5158.



- A.** Neighborhood council: Meet with VV residents committee to plan boundaries and priorities of our council. Attend some Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) meetings. Report to board or membership. There will be about 5 or 6 committee members.

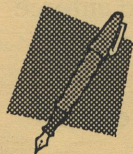
- B.** Legislative, zoning & development activity: Collect and correlate current and anticipated activity by City, State and Federal representatives. Committee members will be on appropriate mailing lists and will need to follow news releases and be observant of neighborhood activity. Report to board and membership and be prepared to participate in follow through.

- C.** Publicity and Public Relations: Inform the community of the existence and activities of VVHA. Plan events and local news releases that will encourage increased and active membership.



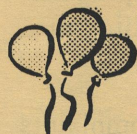
- D.** Commercial and Business Activity: Act as liaison between local businesses and residents. Encourage merchants to keep commercial sites attractive and inform members of the variety of services and retailers in the community.

- E.** Programs for Membership meetings: Schedule four meetings a year. Plan and contact possible speakers.



- F.** Villager: Submit articles or interviews of local interest for The Villager.

- G.** Graffiti control: Promote cleanup of graffiti and litter.



- H.** Community events: Plan 3 community events encouraging residents to become acquainted with each other.

- I.** Sound wall: Communicate with Caltrans and other officials in an effort to facilitate building sound walls on the 170 Freeway.



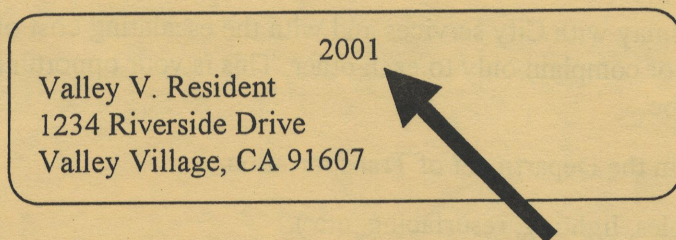
- J.** Tree planting at Valley Village Park. See the article *Our Trees Are Dying* on Page 1.



## Time To Renew Your Membership

The Valley Village Homeowners Association's fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. It's time to pay dues and renew your membership. Your support is vital to our success. It is essential that we present a united, active and determined membership. Please renew your membership and at the same time, ask a neighbor to join too.

*Check your mailing label to see if it's your time to pay:*



- If you see 2001 at the top of your label it's time to pay your dues.
- If you see 2002 your dues are paid up until June 2002.

Membership is open to residents living in the area bounded by the Ventura Freeway on the South, the Tujunga Wash on the West, the Hollywood Freeway on the East and Burbank Boulevard on the North.

If you need membership information to give to others, call the Association (818.506.5158) or include your neighbor's name and address in your renewal envelope and information will be mailed to them.

Remember, when you support your Valley Village Homeowners Association, you support your community!

Cut out and return with your check made payable to Valley Village Homeowners Association P.O. Box 4916 Valley Village CA 91617

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual dues per household: Basic Dues **\$18.00** Donor Dues: **\$25.00** Patron Dues: **\$50.00**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Want to Volunteer? See page 6 and then circle the letter of your interest here. You will be contacted.**

A B C D E F G H I J

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## Homeowners Association Meeting

*Wednesday, June 13, 2001 7:30pm*

*Colfax Elementary School, 11724 Addison Street*

*Valley Village, CA 91607*

Many Valley Village residents have expressed dismay with City services and with the escalating cost of utilities. Don't express your frustration in private or complain only to each other. This is your opportunity to be heard! The panel of speakers at the meeting will be:

**Irwin Chodash**, Senior Transportation Engineer in the Department of Transportation.

**Gregory Scott**, Director of Street Services (potholes, lighting, resurfacing, etc.).

**Randy Hough**, Department of Water and Power Analyst.

There will also be a report on the current situation at Burbank Airport by well respected expert and columnist for the Toluca Times, **Stan Hyman**.

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