

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 12 NUMBER 3 June 2002

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

Secession: The Big Question Camelot Or Not?

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 the 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?

Even though the full LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) report has just recently been made public, we can anticipate a very loud media campaign that will be high on emotion and low in real information. Charges already are flying between secession supporters and opponents. As the November election approaches the tempo of attack and counter attack will only increase. And 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 intends to invite 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.



Valley Village Annual 4th of July Parade

Celebrate the 4th of July with your friends and neighbors in Valley Village. This year the Fourth will be on Thursday. Make it another triumphant parade by participating. Decorate your bike, trike, wagon, stroller, build a float, bring your kids, your dog and yourself decked out in your red, white and blue.

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.

If you are not going to be in the parade, come out and cheer on the marchers. The parade will travel west on Addison to Radford, north to Otsego, across Colfax to Irvine, south on Irvine to Hesby, then east to Valley Village Park.

Boroughs

Would a borough system be better than breaking up the City of Los Angeles?

At a public hearing June 5th in the Valley, about 100 people turned out to discuss the idea of boroughs before a City Council sub-committee. Council members Wendy Greuel, Janice Hahn, Alex Padilla, Dennis Zine and Tom LaBonge listened to the opinions of residents, pro and con on the subject.

To create boroughs, it would be necessary to amend the Los Angeles City Charter. Such a proposal could appear on the same ballot as the proposal to create separate cities for the San Fernando Valley and Hollywood.

Valley Village residents Mimi O'Keefe, Breice Reiner and Lori Dinkin attended the meeting. The general reaction was that before it can be put on the ballot there needs to be more detailed information on how the system would be structured.

EDITORIAL STAFF

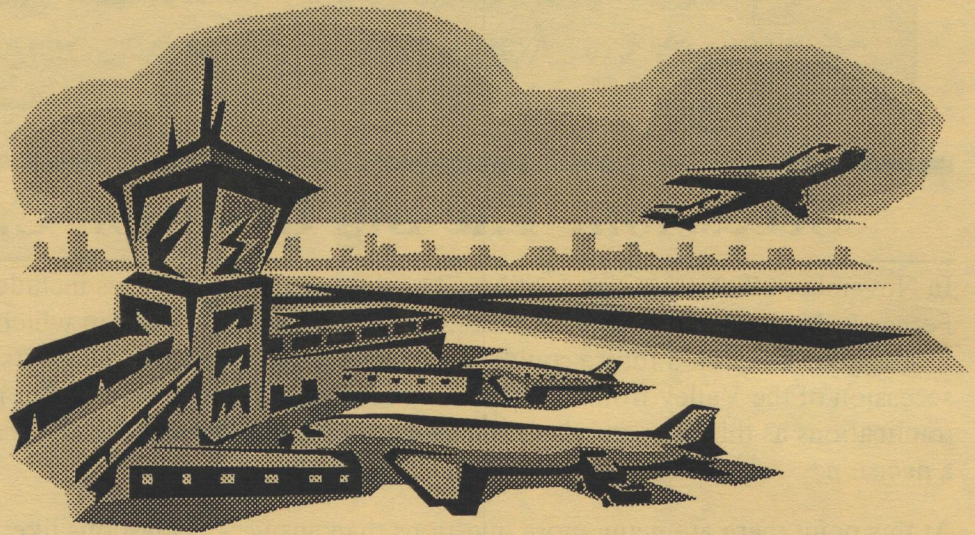
Publisher: Peter Sanchez
 Editor: Breice Reiner
 Proofreader: Stuart Simen
 Contributors:
 David Engelbach Paula Humerick
 Stan Hyman Andrew Sacher
 Marc Woerschling
 Phone: 818-506-5158

Take Note:

*The new Pizza Hut at Magnolia and Whitsett is near completion.

*VVHA is in touch with Councilperson Wendy Greuel concerning the condition of the auto repair lot at Magnolia and Colfax.

Bigger is not Safer



Burbank Airport Authority has proposed an immediate 40,000 sq. ft. addition to the existing terminal. This action is supposedly in response to the new Aviation Security Act signed by President Bush in November 2001.

The new law mandates that by December 2002 security be enhanced and all baggage at the country's airports be subject to an approved explosive detection system. The Federal Aviation Administration has yet to come out with guidelines for the "enhancement of airport security." Nevertheless, without any Federal guidelines, the Airport Authority has decided that the figure of 40,000 sq. ft. is what they need to comply with the unknown Federal regulations.

The Association and other Southeast Valley Communities are concerned about the airport adding footage to the terminal, claiming security reasons, and then using it to accommodate an increase in the number of flights that will be sent over residential neighborhoods.

Double Trouble

State Assembly Bill AB2333 introduced by Assemblyman George Nakano would double the number of passengers using Burbank Airport. This legislation gives the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) the power to set growth standards at all airports in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernadino through SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan. The SCAG plan sets Burbank's growth at 9.2 million, double the current passenger load.

The next step for this legislation is state Senate approval. Contact State Senator Jack Scott at 626-683-0282 and let him know how you feel about the impact of an additional five million passengers on his constituents.

Valley Village Park Tree Planting

The installation of the Valley Village Park irrigation system is complete. Tree removal by the Department of Recreation and Parks immediately followed and new grass seed was applied to the patchy spots left by all the activity. The sprinklers are now working regularly, the grass seed has taken and the turf is looking better than ever!



In March the Tree Committee met with Department of Recreation and Park's Teresa Prosciewicz (Principal Forester) and Jess Medina (Maintenance). Andrew Sacher presented a design for the new tree layout. His credits include environmental designs for Disney's California Adventure, EPCOT and Animal Kingdom. The design/plan was well received and shows over 100 new trees located in several areas and/or "zones" of the park. It provides shade around the paved picnic and play areas as well as new shaded areas at the back or East side of the park. The new tree layout will be displayed at the Valley Village 4th of July celebration.

Andrew Karp and Lee Plotts are leading the efforts for funding of the tree planting effort. Tom LaBonge's office allocated \$2,500 dollars for the effort. Trees will also be available through a program sponsored through LADWP, the California Relief Fund, and other sources. It was suggested that 15-gallon trees be used as they are less expensive and have a much greater chance of surviving. However, a few larger (24 gallon) trees at the South end of the picnic and play areas may be used. Ree Whitford is researching species of trees and specific water requirements.

Planting the trees around the 15th of October is ideal for soil conditions, water requirements, and growth. However, we will need volunteers well in advance! For those interested, there will be a tree planting demonstration and a volunteer sign-up at our 4th of July celebration. Don't miss your chance to help beautify the park for future generations!

4th of July Patriots Needed

The popular Valley Village Fourth of July Parade needs volunteers immediately. Several key people who have helped in the past will not be available this year. Folks are needed to help organize the staging area at Colfax School, to pass out balloons and flags, to line up the participants and help everyone get off to a smooth start. At Valley Village Park there are picnic tables to cover, decorations and banners to put up and refreshments to set out.

If you are willing to help make this year's Parade another triumphant celebration please, call the VVHA voice mail at 818-506-5158 now. Leave your name and phone number and the message, "I'll help."

50th Anniversary Fair Rocks

They were rockin' the day away at Colfax Elementary on Saturday, June 1, as students and alumni celebrated at a very special Springtime Fair. The fundraiser, sponsored by the Parent Association of Colfax Elementary (PACE), was held in honor of its past students as part of the school's 50th anniversary.

While many slid down the giant slide, indulged in delicious food offerings and took turns at a variety of carnival games, others took the stage with their instruments, or entertained the crowd with dance. Opening with a proclamation from Councilwoman Wendy Gruel, the current fifth grade class performed, as did the two-year-old school band. But it was the 'Valley Village People' from Kindergarten rooms 1, 2 and 3 who stole the day's talent show with their rendition of "YMCA".

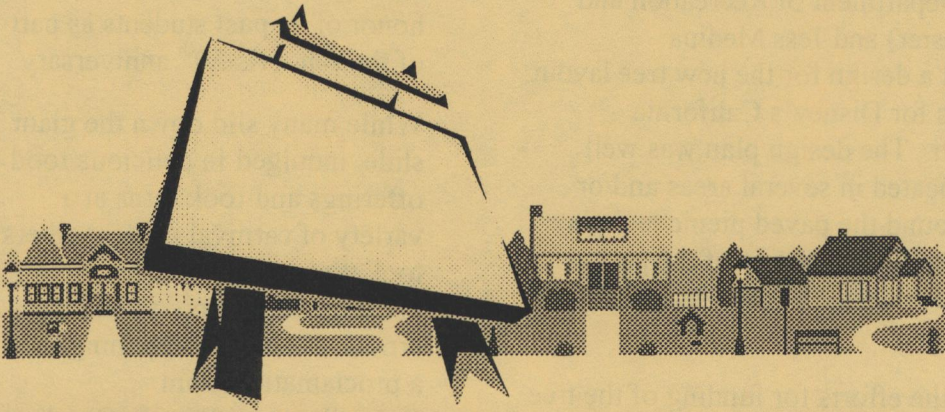
Alumni were able to take a walk down memory lane in the Colfax 'Historical Room', (a.k.a. the library), which featured pictures and newspaper articles from the school's 50 years and recently-collected alumni quotes. The room also displayed a preview of the new library, which will be constructed this fall.

A silent auction, salsa contest, business network, cakewalk, and kid's craft corner rounded out the offerings as present and past Colfax families celebrated under clear bright skies. On the web, www.ColfaxElementary.com.

Finally, A Ban On Billboards

Councilman Jack Weiss said about billboards, "Can't this City have a little class, just a little bit of class. And can't this City Council have a little backbone, just a little backbone?" Yes it can.

After previous attempts in 1988 and 1996 failed, on April 30, 2002 the Los Angeles City Council finally and unanimously approved an ordinance banning the erection of new billboards in Los Angeles. Over the next several decades this will result in a steady improvement in the City's appearance. When existing billboards are removed, usually through new



construction or attrition, they will not be replaced.

The ban passed in large measure due to the recent election of eight new Council members, all of whom voted for it. The Valley Village Homeowners Association particularly appreciates the leadership and efforts of Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski, Councilman Ed Reyes and Councilman Jack Weiss in obtaining approval of the ordinance by the City's Planning Committee.

A companion ordinance to impose an annual inspection/enforcement fee on each billboard in Los Angeles has also passed. For the first time there will be funding for a sufficient number of sign inspectors in the Building & Safety Department to determine which billboards are illegal, and to do an inventory so that the City will finally know how many billboards there are in Los Angeles.

Neighborhood Council Valley Village

The Neighborhood Council formation committee is pleased to announce that the application for certification has been submitted to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). Because of the large number of applications citywide and the verification process at DONE, it will take approximately 3-4 months for the application to be certified.

Once certified, Neighborhood Council Valley Village will give residents and other stakeholders another voice in city hall. The formation of a neighborhood council is required in every part of the city per the new city charter passed by voters in 1999.

Redistricting: Still Unsettled

There is a proposal being considered in the City Council to delay the date when the new City Council boundaries will take effect. New boundaries are supposed to be adopted by the City Council by June 30, 2002. Under the proposal, the change would take effect in December 2002.

This proposal is to benefit Councilwoman Ruth Galanter, giving her more time to move into her relocated 6th District. However, the change would make it more difficult for Wendy Greuel, one of Valley Village's Council members, to run in 2003. If her district were changed in December 2002 she would have less time to campaign for reelection.

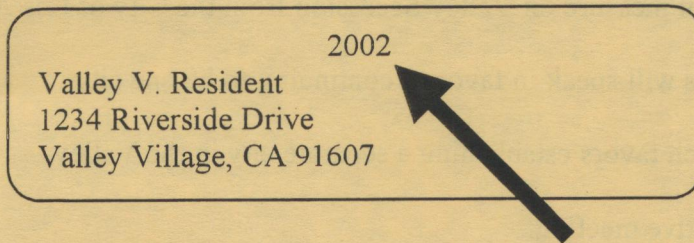
Wendy Greuel's District 2 currently covers parts of Valley Village, North Hollywood and parts of and the area south of the Santa Monica mountains. Valley Village is split up among three Council districts. This makes for confusion as to whom represents these communities and where the boundaries are drawn.

Implementing the redistricting in December 2002 will make more confusion for the voters in the 2003 elections. The Association supports the June 30th implementation date in order to give Wendy Greuel a fair chance at reelection.

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 2002 at the top of your label it's time to pay your dues.
- If you see 2003 your dues are paid up until June 2003.

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: \$ _____

The Association welcomes any comments, questions, suggestions or offers to volunteer. Just include them in the same envelope.

v12n3

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.

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

There will be a speaker from **Valley Vote** which favors establishing a separate city in the Valley.

Be sure to mark your calendar for this informative meeting.

See page one for the article on Valley secession.

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



P.O. BOX 4916
VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617
818-506-5158
www.valleyvillage.net