

# THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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

## Airport Expansion Bill – H.R. 2107

Chicago's O'Hare Airport and Burbank Airport have something in common. Both airports want to expand and both airports have met with opposition from nearby communities. The controversy over expansion at Chicago's O'Hare Airport prompted Illinois Congressman William Lipinski, to introduce House of Representatives Bill 2107 (H.R. 2107) *End Gridlock at Our Nation's Critical Airport Act of 2001*.



The bill prohibits a state, or political subdivision of a state (such as a city like Chicago or Burbank), from interfering with airport development projects. The broad scope, intention, and language of this bill has the potential for major impact and interference with the City of Burbank's attempts to constrain future growth of the airport.

The Association worked with Congressmen Howard Berman and Henry Waxman to get Burbank Airport removed from the list of airports that would be affected by the bill. Thanks to their efforts, the bill was amended on August 1<sup>st</sup> to apply to only the largest 14 airports, which effectively excludes Burbank.

The original bill included Burbank Airport in a list of affected airports and could be interpreted as a ban on California State control over airport expansion. The language could nullify the State of California Public Utility Code section which governs airports and their development. In addition, it could also nullify county and city zoning and land use regulations. Since 1995, the City of Burbank has used these regulations to block a proposed 27 gate, 450,000 square foot terminal expansion.

The City of Burbank is so concerned about the ramifications of the bill, they hired a Washington lobbyist at a cost of \$100,000. While the bill is now amended to exclude Burbank, Congress is on summer

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## Rezoning Refused

A Zoning Variance Hearing was held July 27<sup>th</sup> at the request of the Oakwood School. The Oakwood is in Escrow to purchase a house at 5224 Irvine Avenue. They want to use the two-story home as their business office on the first floor and storage on the second. Since the house is zoned R1 (Residential, one family) the school was requesting a ten year variance of the R1 zoning.

Association President Lori Dinkin and board member Peter Sanchez attended the meeting along with many neighbors from the surrounding area to voice their opinions. One of the most influential speakers was Walter Katz who lives near the house in question. He cited sections of the Valley Village Specific Plan and requested that the variance be denied.

After hearing all sides and opinions, the hearing officer, Jon Perica, verbally denied the variance. His written opinion will be issued within the next thirty days. Oakwood School can appeal the decision, but it is unknown if they plan to.

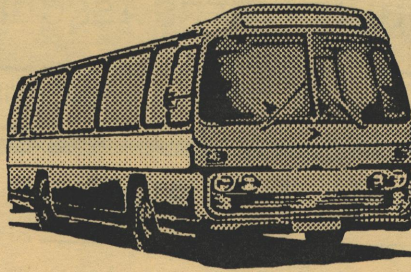
The Valley Village Specific Plan forbids certain types of commercial enterprises, regulates building requirements and limits zoning changes as well as other restrictions. See the Valley Village Story at [www.valleyvillage.net](http://www.valleyvillage.net) for more information on the Valley Village Specific Plan.

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**H.R. 2107**

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**Busway Approved**



On July 26, the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) approved a \$284 million busway on the Chandler railroad corridor between the North Hollywood Metrorail station and Warner Center. The eastern portion

of the busway will be in the Chandler Boulevard median between Ethel Avenue and Lankershim Boulevard in Valley Village and eastern Sherman Oaks. According to the MTA's plans, the portions of the Chandler median not occupied by the two lane busway will be landscaped with a walkway and bike path.

The busway proposal has generated strong opposition from residential communities along its 14 mile route, particularly from the Shaarey Zedek Congregation, citizens of Valley Glen and the west Valley. The opponents are concerned about safety, noise, air pollution, traffic delays on cross streets and the perceived division of their communities by the busway. Project supporters cite the need for a cross Valley transit line to provide an alternative to the heavily congested Ventura Freeway. The busway is strongly supported by County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and State Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg.

The Association's position on the busway has been that it should be placed in the regular Chandler Boulevard roadways with the median landscaped. The Association has communicated this position in writing and verbally to the MTA board.

The main impetus for the approval was the \$245 million in funding allocated by Governor Gray Davis' transportation program, which can only be spent on a busway. Unless the opposition can delay or defeat the project with a lawsuit, it will likely be built by 2005.

The Association will be participating in the preparation of the MTA's landscaping plan for the Chandler Boulevard section to ensure that it will have the beauty and quality depicted in the MTA's publicity drawings and will enhance our community.

**Tagger Task Force**

At the Community Tagger Task Force meeting attended by Lori Dinkin, Ivor Alan-Lee, Reserve Officer LAPD, said that the police Department recognizes that taggers are likely to become gang members, therefore, officers should be trained to take taggers seriously.

At the same meeting Valley Village Homeowners Association was presented with a handsome commendation from Mayor James Hahn and the Task Force in recognition of outstanding community service.

break and it will be sometime in the fall before this bill will go from committee to the full House. As the process continues, changes and amendments can be made to the language of the bill.

The bill, as it is today, would still apply to LAX and it is unclear how one airport could be subject to the bill's restrictions and others excluded. If passed, it could be subject to litigation and interpretation by the courts.

Congressman Berman stated: "The federal government has no business prohibiting communities from enforcing laws that apply to airport projects, no matter what the local circumstances."

Congressman Waxman said: "I'm pleased by this decision, which will allow the communities surrounding Burbank Airport to continue participating in airport decisions that impact their quality of life."

The Association will watch this bill as it moves through Congress and will continue discussions with our Congressmen over its implications. We thank them for their efforts in getting Burbank excluded.

If you wish to express your thoughts on H.R. 2107 you can reach, Congressmen Howard Berman at 818-891-0543 or Congressman Henry Waxman at 323-651-1040.

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## City Council Redistricting

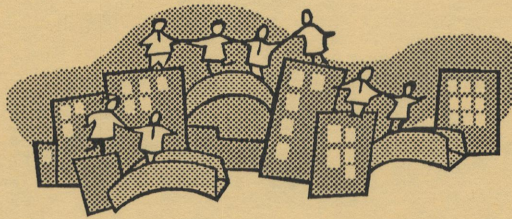
This fall the City Council will be redrawing the boundaries of the 15 Council districts so that the populations within the districts are approximately equal, in accordance with the 2000 census figures.

The Association favors a substantial overhaul of the Council district boundaries within the southeast Valley. Presently, Valley Village is split up among three districts making it difficult to impress on the City Council the needs and priorities of the community. The present boundaries also result in only four Council districts being entirely in the San Fernando Valley. The southern portion has three Council districts that straddle the Santa Monica Mountains and include communities "on the other side of the hill". Based on its population, the Valley should have five Council districts entirely north of the Santa Monicas.

The Association is preparing its own proposal and map for revised Council boundaries that it will submit to the Mayor and City Council. The proposal will restore five Council districts entirely within the San Fernando Valley. In particular, the Association favors the revival of a Council district in the southeast Valley, to include Sherman Oaks, Studio City and Valley Village with boundaries similar to Joel Wach's 2<sup>nd</sup> district in the 1980's before it was gerrymandered out of existence.

## Neighborhood Council

The City of Los Angeles will begin accepting applications for the certification of Neighborhood Councils in October 2001. Peter Sanchez and Breice Reiner attended a meeting with residents of other nearby communities that was coordinated by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).



Progress is being made in the formation of the Valley Village Neighborhood Council. Boundaries are being worked out and after consulting the year 2000 census tracts it is certain that the community of Valley Village will qualify to become a Neighborhood Council in its present form.

Residents, business people, school officials and religious congregations have all shown a willingness to participate, and many Valley Village Association members have volunteered to help.

## New Construction



There will soon be five new families moving to Valley Village at the corner of Colfax Ave. and Addison St. What was formerly one of the parking lots of First Presbyterian Church is now being prepared for the construction of five new homes.

The Church had several options. However, since most of Addison Street consists of single family homes, Reverend Clark and the church's board decided the best use of the lot would be single family homes.

The property consists of five lots and each one will be constructed with a two-story, 2900 square foot home. According to an employee of the contractor, California Home Builders, are making every effort to make the new homes fit into the area. Part of their effort includes saving most of the large Juniper trees currently on the property.

The community is grateful to Reverend Clark and the congregation for their decision to have family homes built there instead of high density housing.

Permits are also in the works for a new apartment building on Corteen Place, and condos on the southwest corner of Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Hesby St.

## Meet the Candidates for Council District 4

(The late John Ferraro's District)

Co-sponsored by Valley Village Homeowners Association and Studio City Residents Association

*Tuesday, August 14, 2001 - doors open/socializing at 7:00pm & meeting begins at 7:30 pm  
CBS Studio Center, Gate C, Colfax Avenue (1/2 block north of Ventura Blvd.) Studio City, CA*

Candidates expected are:

**Beth Garfield**, Community College Trustee  
**Tom La Bonge**, former deputy to Mayor Riordan and Councilman Ferraro.  
**David Roberti**, former California State Senator  
**Ferris Wehbe**, Hollywood community activist

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