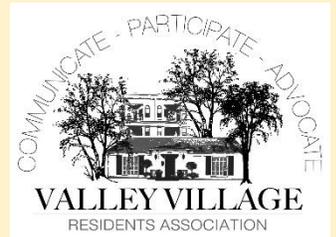


THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 32 NUMBER 3

June 2022

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

July 4th Parade Is Back In-Person

At last, we can welcome the neighborhood to our very special annual July 4th Parade again! And we are delighted and honored that Ernie Merlán, neighbor and founder of Muralism, has agreed to be our Grand Marshal to mark this Independence Day celebration.

As you always have, we know that you will help us ensure the Parade's success by joining in on foot or on bike, tricycle, wheelchair or pony! So go that extra step and decorate your bikes, skateboard, golf carts pick-ups and cars ... and yourselves ... in everything red, white and blue! We are hoping for a lot of photos this year, too, so please take photos and send them to mail@Valleyvillagera.com.

Please Note: Safety rules require no standing in a moving vehicle and no sitting or standing on the back of pick-up trucks or flatbeds.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. at the corner of Addison Street and Morella Avenue. However you arrive – on foot, bike, skateboard, or wheelchair, please enter from Colfax Avenue and line up on Addison Street. Cars, trucks and golf carts line up on Morella Avenue and must enter from Huston Street.

The Parade, led by the marching band from North Hollywood High School, heads west on Addison Street, turns right on Ben Avenue (north), right on Otsego Street (east), crosses Colfax Avenue to Irvine Avenue where it turns right (south) and left on Hesby Street (east). The route then crosses Westpark Drive and enters Valley Village Park.

This is the highlight of our Valley Village Residents Association year, so come on out and cheer on the marchers, or join us at Valley Village Park where the parade ends, and the party begins. Enjoy watermelon donated by Jon's Market, donuts from Yum Yum, corn dogs from Wienerschnitzel and bottled water from Gelson's. Get together with your neighbors and enjoy the music.

And don't forget to stop by the VVRA table and meet members of the Board. We will be happy to talk with you and get to know you better. Bring your membership dues and enter the drawing for a door prize!

One more thing:

Please do not park cars along the Parade route in the morning

Rob's Beat

Hello Valley Villagers,

Summer is here and I hope all of you are well. We usually experience an increase in crime in the summer, but Valley Village continues to be lower year-to-date than last year. Our goal is to keep it that way.

Year-to-date in Valley Village, there is a 6% reduction in total crime. Although we were at a negative 8% reduction a couple of months ago, 6% reduction is still a good number. Almost every Basic car area in North Hollywood is experiencing double digit crime increases, specifically in the areas of aggravated assault, burglary and grand theft auto. But Valley Village has no increase in aggravated assaults, an over 12% decrease in burglary, 12% decrease in burglary from a vehicle and a 43% decrease in robbery. The only crime category that is up in Valley Village is grand theft auto, up 17%.

If you can garage your vehicle, please do so. If you have to park your car on the street or tandem park in a parking lot or structure, please take all of your KEYS AND FOBs OUT OF THE CAR – that way you can really reduce your chances of becoming a victim of a crime. The number of vehicles being stolen with the keys inside is staggering.

4th of July is coming up and though I'm sorry to say I will be out of town and miss this one, North Hollywood Officers and Cadets are looking forward to joining your July 4th Parade and celebrating with you.

Stay safe and be well.
Rob Benavidez
Senior Lead Officer, LAPD

Valley Village July 4th Parade - Monday, July 4, 10am

The VVRA Board:

- President: **Beth Fulton**
- Vice President: **Dorothy Apple**
- Secretary: **Ellen Wilhelm**
- Treasurer: **Jenna Schwartz**
- Boardmembers at Large:
 - Glenn Block**
 - Paul Hatfield**
 - Sandy Hubbard**
 - Pam Moeck**
 - Linda Simon**
 - Marc Woerschling**

**Happy Birthday
Lori & Breice!**

The Association sends birthday greetings to:

Founding member and past president Lori Dinkin. Lori celebrated her 103rd in June.

Board member and past vice president Breice Reiner will celebrate her 100th in July.

Both Lori and Breice have lived in Valley Village more than 50 years and volunteered and advocated for Valley Village for more than 60 years combined. (This must mean that living and volunteering in Valley Village leads to long life!)

Both are celebrating at their respective Valley Village homes with family and friends. Happy Birthday Lori and Breice!

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 - Beth Fulton Jenna Schwartz
 - Ellen Wilhelm Marc Woerschling
- Phone:** 818-506-5158

****Tell a Friend - Tell a Neighbor about VVRA****

A Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors:

July 4th Parade

The July 4th Parade is back! We look forward to seeing you at our wonderful community event. The parade route remains the same, so for those of you who live along the route, pull out your lawn chairs and enjoy the show. Further details for parade participants are elsewhere in this newsletter.

The parade is one of the hallmarks of our Valley Village community. It's not just a celebration of Independence Day but, just as important, it's a celebration of who we are. It's a chance to connect with neighbors and others we may not see regularly but who bind us in the sense of community that we so value in Valley Village.

Membership Renewals

It's that time again. We rely on your membership dues to support the parade and our ever-aggressive advocacy for a better quality of life in Valley Village. Please, please renew – by completing the accompanying form and sending it back, by going to <https://valleyvillagera.com/membership> or by using Venmo.

Thank you,
Beth Fulton, President

Board Notes

At its meeting on April 11, the Board noted ~The speaker for the General Membership meeting this month will be Whitney Wade, a professional food-to-table gardener and teacher ~The RV causing complaints for overstaying its welcome at VV Park has been removed, and the westbound on-ramp at Laurel Canyon has been cleaned up. ~Efforts will be made to encourage membership in the 91601 area; a letter to realtors indicating the Association's existence, mission and accomplishments will also be sent out. ~Arrangements will need to be made given the new venue for VVRA membership meetings at 5000 Colfax Avenue. ~The new VVRA sign is due to be installed just north of the 101 freeway, and a street sign "pole painting" is scheduled for May 14. ~VVRA is keeping its finger on the pulse of activities involving Burbank Airport flight patterns and the FAA.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Things are going well in Valley Village as we gear up for the July 4th. We have \$22,601 in the bank and a total of 360 member households in the Association.



Parade Grand Marshal - Ernie Merlán

With a passion for art and helping others Ernie and his family have helped to make Valley Village a more beautiful place for over 20 years. You might remember the “Halloween House” on Radford and Hartsook, where as many as 2000 neighbors would gather to dance to Thriller and the Monster Mash. For 8 years he ran the build for the Colfax Fair. He was responsible for creating sculpted decoration on the Fourth of July Parade golf carts for several years running. He is currently serving on the Neighborhood Council of Valley Village City Services committee.

Professionally, Ernie is the Executive Director of Muralism.org, a nonprofit dedicated to connecting people with special needs to the community through art. They hire young adults with special needs as artists to design murals, as well as wash, prep and transfer art onto walls for murals throughout the community.

Volunteers are invited to come in to transform in the paint by number images into art. Muralism (with funds from to NCVV) has painted over 30 electrical boxes in Valley Village alone.



Mr. Merlán was previously the Executive Director of a one of a kind visual

effects and animation program for young adults with Autism, Exceptional Minds. He has worked 30+ years in the entertainment industry with Disney Imagineering (Disneyland, Disney World, Tokyo Disney Seas) and Universal Studios Creative (Hollywood, Florida and Port Aventura, Spain), as well as in feature film production (Mask of Zorro, Legend of Zorro, Dance with Me). He later migrated towards digital animation and visual design, as the CEO of Merlán Creative, designing graphics, fly-through sets, murals and augmented reality for high-end clients (Partial list includes: The Walt Disney Company, Universal Studios, Morley Builders, and Regis and Kelly).

Ernie says: “Receiving this honor from my own community and for the parade I love so much is truly a thrill. I look forward to seeing you all at the parade and I hope that you all come paint with me soon!”

It's Membership Renewal Time!

We look forward to welcoming you for another year of membership in the Valley Village Residents Association. Membership runs from July 1 to June 30 though we do have some members who pay in January or have even renewed annually via PayPal from the date they first joined. For most members, though, this is the time when we ask you to renew.

You will find a form to do just that tucked into this newsletter. **Please complete the form and either drop it off with your dues at the membership table at the Valley Village Park following the July 4th Parade and enter to win a door prize. Or mail it with your dues in the attached envelope.** Besides accepting payment by check or cash, we also accept payment via PayPal, Venmo and Zelle (go to mail@valleyvillagera.com). Those who have recently joined will not find a renewal form, we are happy to roll your membership into the coming year.

Unless we have no email address for you, your membership acknowledgment receipt will be emailed to you. This will save the Association a nice sum of money that will be used elsewhere, such as for renting the rooms for general membership meetings, buying supplies for our neighborhood beautification projects, and printing *The Valley Villager*.

If you haven't been receiving our email blasts, bulletins or newsletters, we would remind you to add mail@valleyvillagera.com to your contacts and hopefully our emails to you won't end up with your junk mail.

Will we see you at the Parade? We do hope so. Please stop by the membership table, introduce yourself and have a chat. We love to put a face to a name and maybe you feel that way too!

Your VVRA Board members thank you for your continued support.

Residents Association Membership Meeting

**WE'RE TAKING THE SUMMER OFF!
NO MEETING IN JULY**



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE JULY 4TH PARADE
MONDAY, JULY 4TH 10AM**

**Mark Your
Calendar:**

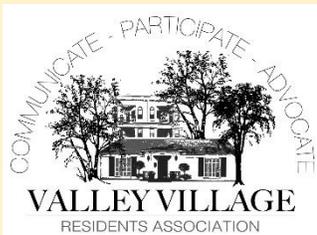
Membership Meetings in 2022 will be on Wednesdays

** October 19 **

Board of Directors Meetings in 2022 will be on Mondays

** September 19 * November 7*

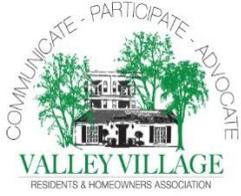
VALLEY VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



**P.O. BOX 4916
VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617
818-506-5158
www.ValleyVillageRA.com**

"Communicate, Participate, Advocate"

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – July 2022–June 2023



Annual dues per household:

Patron Level = **\$50.00** Receive *The Valley Villager* by email or U.S. Mail **(Circle One)**

Donor Level = **\$30.00** Receive *The Valley Villager* by email or U.S. Mail **(Circle One)**

Basic Level = **\$20.00** Receive *The Valley Villager* by email only

Name(s): _____ Email: _____

_____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Work: _____

Would you like to volunteer for events? Personal Areas of Interest: _____

The Valley Village Residents Association welcomes your opinions and volunteer time.

Please make your check payable to: **Valley Village Residents Association**

Mailing Address: **VVRA, P.O. Box 4916, Valley Village, CA 91617**

PayPal is available at our Association website: www.ValleyVillageRA.com or [Venmo QR Code](#)



5 Reasons to Join Valley Village Residents Association

- VVRA provides leadership and a strong voice in the halls of local, state and federal government. Advocacy makes a difference in the outcome of the issues that affect our community. Issues such as airport noise, development and homelessness.



- In the spirit of celebrating our wonderful community VVRA hosts the annual July 4th Parade. If you love the parade please support VVRA to ensure its continuation (this year in lieu of the parade we are hosting a food-drive).



- VVRA Beautification Committee works to improve the visual quality and enhance the beauty of valley village through planting trees, organizing public art projects and conducting clean-up activities.



- VVRA promotes Neighborhood Watch, Emergency Preparedness and Graffiti Removal. VVRA also works with local services on addressing the homeless population.



- VVRA keeps members updated on issues that affect the quality of our lives. VVRA publishes monthly and quarterly updates on the many issues that we are advocating for.



Valley Village July 4th



PARADE

Put on your Red, White & Blue.
Decorate your bike, trike, wagon,
stroller or skates.

Meet at 9:30 a.m.
Monday, July 4th
Corner of Addison Street and
Morella Avenue
(at Colfax Charter School)

The parade will travel west on
Addison to Ben, north to
Otsego, across Colfax to
Irvine, south on Irvine to
Hesby, then
east to Valley Village Park.



Refreshments
and Fun at
Valley Village Park!
All ages welcome!

Watch the parade
and cheer on your
neighbors as they
pass by.

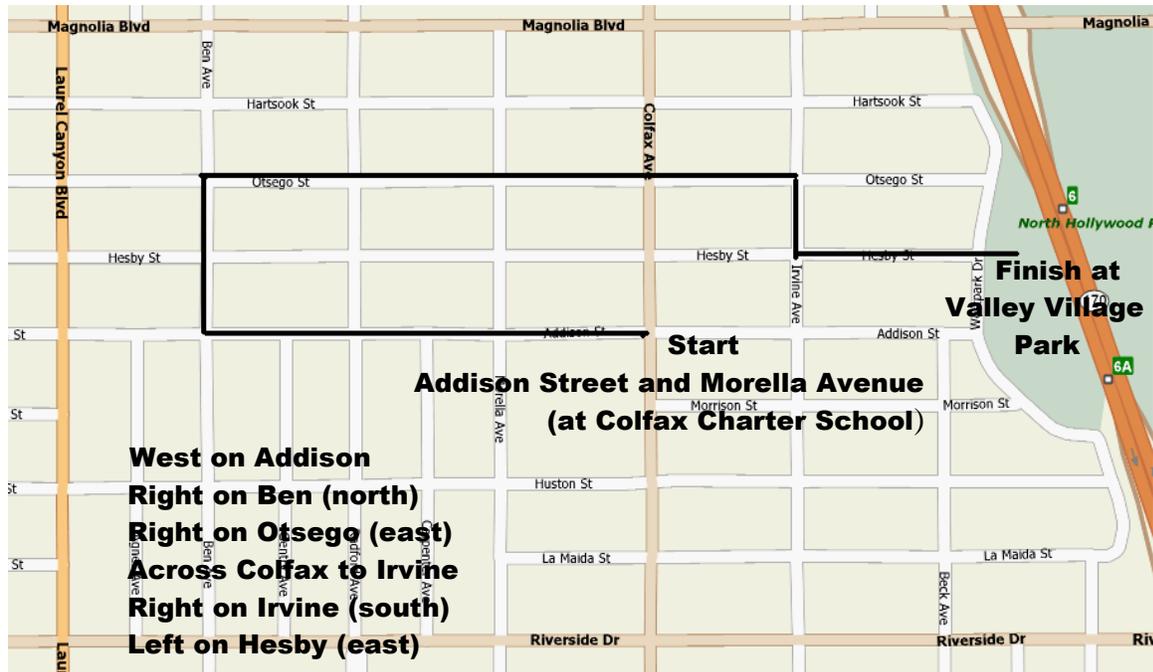
Sponsored by:
Valley Village Residents Association
818-506-5158 ~ www.ValleyVillageRA.com
Any resident of Valley Village can
become a member.

Valley Village July 4th

PARADE



Parade Route



Grand Marshal: Ernie Merlán

Refreshments at Valley Village Park



Raffle for new and renewing VVRA members who pay their dues at the park!