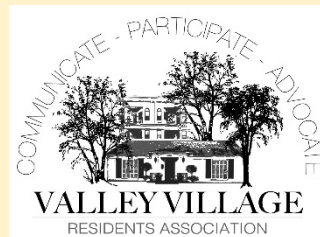


THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

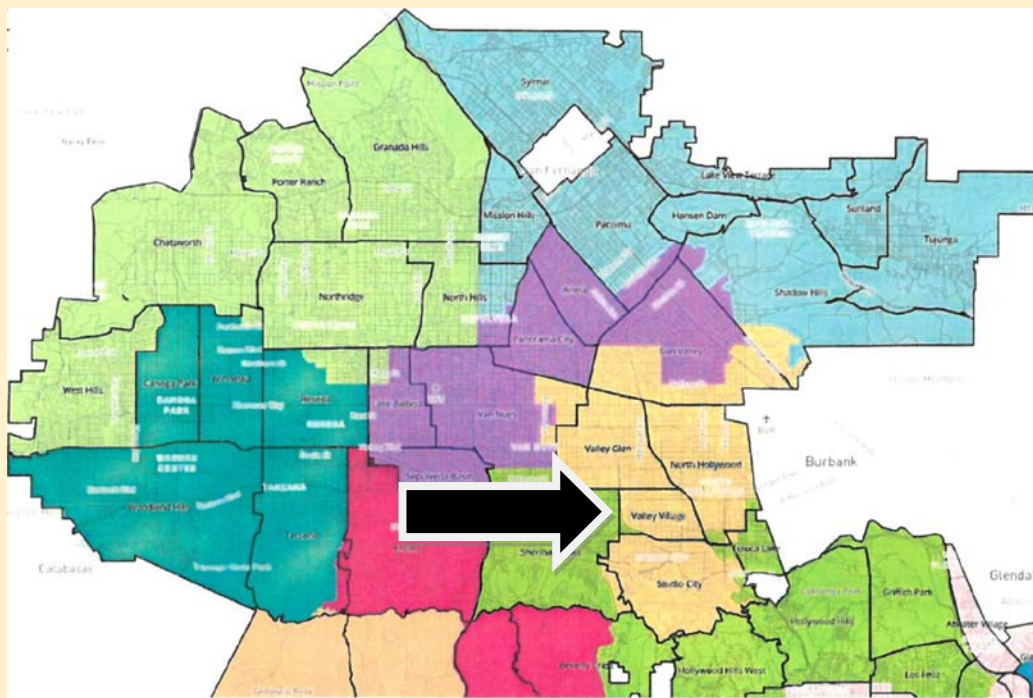


VOL. 31 NUMBER 4 October 2021 P.O. BOX 4916, VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617

City Council Redistricting & Valley Village

Recently, the City's Redistricting Commission, released two alternative maps with new boundaries for the City Council Districts in Los Angeles. Redistricting must be done every ten years in order to take into account shifts of and increases in population reported by the national census. The 15 redrawn Council Districts must have roughly equal population and take into account other factors, such as geographical boundaries and communities of interest. Because City Council and County Supervisor districts are not covered by Propositions 11 and 20, that established an independent Statewide Redistricting Commission for State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional districts, local government boundaries will be determined the old way, by the City Council and the Board of Supervisors. The new Council boundaries must be in place for the 2022 City Council elections.

The first map below shows the outline of the present Los Angeles City Council Districts in the Valley as they are currently drawn. The 2nd District represented by Councilman Krekorian is marked with an arrow.



The proposed map, Version K2.5, (on page 4) recommended by the Redistricting Commission on September 30 would result in Valley Village becoming part of a new south Valley district also including Sherman Oaks, Encino, Tarzana and Woodland Hills which would be represented by a new Councilman, Bob Blumenfield. (Continued on Page 4)

Update on Sharing Plane Noise

The discussion and negotiations that have surrounded the take-off trajectories of planes out of Burbank (Bob Hope) and Van Nuys airports for months continue unabated.

VVRA has made contact with residents who live in Sherman Oaks, north of the 101, who also seem to be unhappy with the efforts of the Studio City, Encino and Sherman Oaks groups that are lobbying our local elected officials to have all departures from the two airports stay north of the freeway.

The next move that VVRA is considering is to build a coalition of North Valley residents to take our case to Representative Brad Sherman, our councilmember Paul Krekorian and City Attorney Mike Feuer, all of whom have turned a blind eye to our position, which is and has been from the beginning, sharing the noise from rising aircraft as equitably as possible, without sacrificing safety.

**Tell a Friend,
Tell a Neighbor
to join VVRA!**

Board Notes

At their meeting on August 11, the Board discussed beautification plans to be started in the fall, including tree planting and sprucing up the offramp of the 170 freeway at Laurel Canyon ~ There were updates on the housing bills SB 9 and SB 10, making their way through to the governor’s desk, and on the airplane noise coming out of Burbank and Van Nuys airports ~ Responding to an email from a member, the injection of the Citizens of the World charter organization into the families at local public schools was discussed; no position was taken, since the Board was not requested to do so ~ A motion was made to mail a Residential and Pedestrian Survey to all of the 350 addresses in the 91601 area code to determine the interest and concerns of residents about traffic on their streets and how they feel about the solutions offered by the Slow Streets project, now in Phase II ~ Lastly, the Board agreed to work on defining a mission to guide their work for the next two years.

A Letter from the President

For decades Fred Rogers, better known as Mister Rogers, created a platform to remind kids, but really all of us, of the power of kindness. He invited people to become part of his neighborhood by asking, “Won’t you be my neighbor?”

I read recently that research indicates knowing our neighbors reduces loneliness, increases trust and elevates overall well-being. The same study also found that older people who felt connected to their neighbors had significantly fewer strokes than those who felt alienated.

I invite everyone to share an act of kindness toward a neighbor. Remind them, and yourself, how fortunate we are to live in a neighborhood with so many wonderful neighbors.

Beth Fulton, President

From the Secretary’s Desk

By the time you read this I hope I will have finished sending out all the membership receipts acknowledging you have paid your dues. If you did not receive a receipt and wish to check with me, please email me at mail@valleyvillagera.com or call and leave a message at 818-506-5158. (I appreciate all the kind replies I received when I had to send some of you an apology because of a mistake in the form I was using. It is such a pleasure to work with you.)

For the 100+ of you who have not yet renewed your membership, kindly do so. Otherwise, this newsletter will be the last one you will receive and I hope you do not want to miss out on all the Valley Village specific news provided in *The Valley Villager*. The Association survives with a small budget so please renew today!

For our members in the 91601, thank you for responding to the Slow Street traffic survey. We have received close to 150 responses out of 340 surveys mailed. I have been faithfully recording the responses and the Board will study the results. At present, I will not summarize the results but I will say that some of your neighbors think VVRA can get them street lighting and sidewalks. If only we could!

Lastly, if you would like the new yard sign to let others know of your hands-on involvement in local issues, please let me know by writing to me at mail@valleyvillagera.com.

The Valley Villager – Over 30 years of publication!

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www.Facebook.com/ValleyVillageRA***

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Publisher:	Peter Sanchez
Editor:	Gil Shorr
Editor Emerita:	Breice Reiner
Contributors:	
Glenn Block	Beth Fulton
Paul Hatfield	Sandy Hubbard
Pam Moeck	Linda Simon
Ellen Wilhelm	Marc Woersching
Phone: 818-506-5158	

Dreaded Housing Bills Pass. Now What?

This past year, the Valley Village Residents Association asked our readers on several occasions to contact our State representatives, asking them to vote NO on SB 9 (Toni Atkins) and SB 10 (Scott Weiner). We appreciate your efforts and understand how frustrating this was.

Unfortunately, even after acknowledging the impact that our outreach had, both the Senate and Assembly ignored their constituents and passed these bills. Shortly after the election, Governor Newsom signed the two bills (and others) into law and they will become effective on January 1, 2022.

The State has slated housing as its major legislative focus for the past 5 years, and we understand that there is more legislation coming in 2022-23, which should be no surprise since both of the bills' authors have not wavered in their desire to see an end to single-family homes, Scott Weiner going so far as to state that "single family homes and yards are immoral."

Cities and residents have become frustrated at the desire of the State to remove the public input process when it comes to housing issues, but there are a few actions taking place to push back.

1. A lawsuit has been filed by the **AIDS Healthcare Foundation** to stop implementation of SB 10, which has a provision allowing any government jurisdiction to supersede land use policies by voters. We'll keep you informed as the lawsuit progresses.
2. **Californians for Community Planning** is preparing to launch a ballot measure against SB 9. The intent of the State initiative is to put an end to centralized zoning policies and advocates for local zoning control. They have submitted an initiative to the California Attorney General which would allow residents to vote on this ballot measure next fall. This "Stop The Sacramento Land Grab" effort needs both volunteers and money; we'll be keeping you up to date as this movement progresses.

VVRA is a member of the United Neighbors (UN) group, which is comprised of a large number of homeowner and resident groups. UN is currently preparing a report detailing the provisions of the bill that the members feel must be changed to make this a better law, and to limit the institutional buyers that SB 9 encourages. Length of residency, infrastructure inclusion and strengthening CEQA are three provisions that will be requested.

Though California's need for more affordable housing* is immediately understood, it is hard to fathom how these bills that promote no affordable housing at all were rolled through the legislature, one after the other, and finally signed into law. VVRA will keep an eye on any developments and we are always open to receive comments from our members on this or any other issue in *The Valley Villager*.

*City Planning's definition: Spend less than 30% of one's gross household income on housing (including utilities, principal and interest)

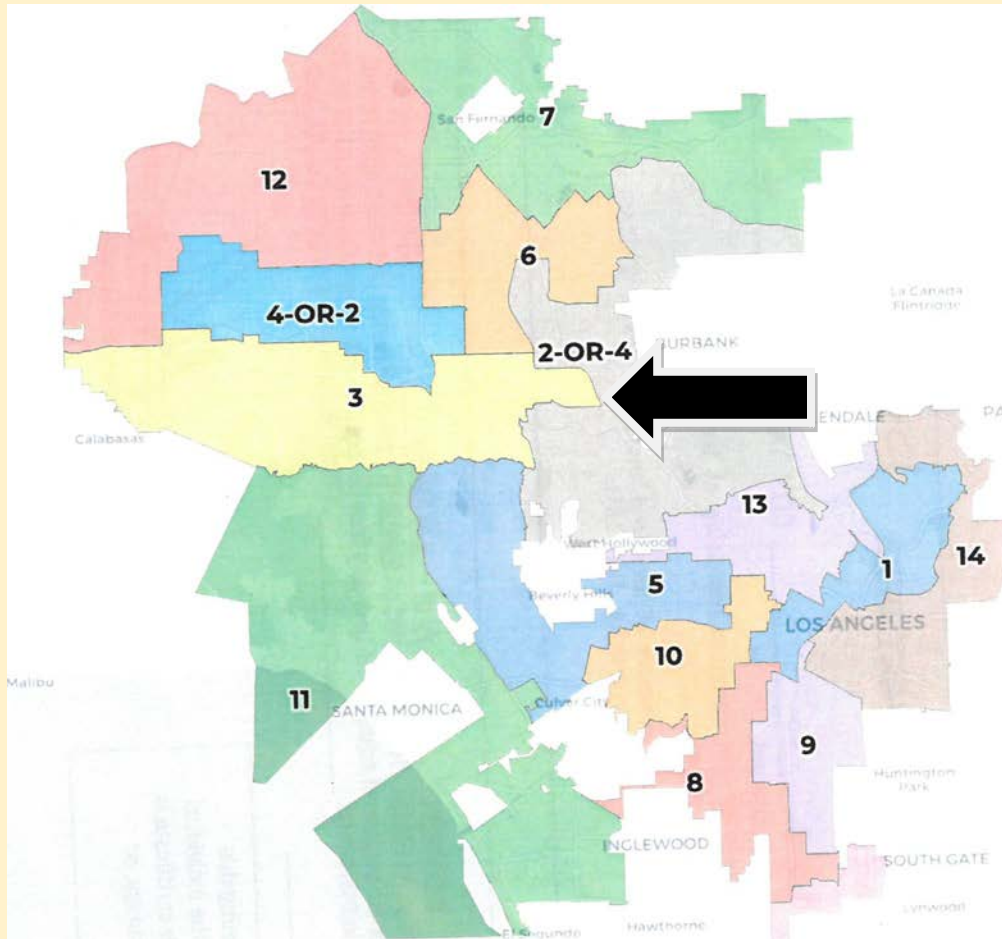
Historic Trees Saved From The Axe

On September 29, the Los Angeles City Council approved a Cultural-Historic Monument designation for the 15 Coast Live Oak trees that shade North Hollywood High School along Magnolia Boulevard. This was a preservation project recommended by the Cultural Heritage Commission. Initiated by the prior chair of the Vision Committee of the Neighborhood Council, Sandy Hubbard, and continued by the next chair of the Committee, Marc Woersching, the historic designation will preserve the 15 Oak trees due to their cultural and historic significance. It will also protect them from any future attempts to widen that section of Magnolia Boulevard near Colfax.

The Committee was aided by its consultant, Charlie Fisher, a historic preservation expert who researched the 15 trees and prepared a report to the Cultural Heritage Commission. More than half of the trees are over 100 years old and date back to the time of the Valley's agricultural past and the beginning of the development of North Hollywood as a suburban residential community – they were already giving shade during the time of the citrus orchards, the construction of North Hollywood High School in the late 1920s and the subsequent development of homes, apartments and commercial buildings.

The Valley Village Residents Association, the Valley Village Neighborhood Council, the District 2 Council office and other organizations and individuals all supported and spoke in favor of this request for a Cultural-Historic Monument designation when it went before the Cultural Heritage Commission. And the office of Councilmember Paul Krekorian was instrumental in securing approval of the historic designation by the City Council.

REDISTRICTING (Continued from page 1)



Councilmember Krekorian would likely be assigned to a new district immediately to the north consisting of Canoga Park, Reseda and a western portion of Van Nuys. It would also shift Council District 4 represented by Nithya Raman north into the East Valley by removing many of the neighborhoods that made up her district: Sherman Oaks, Hancock Park, Miracle Mile, Park La Brea and portions of Silverlake where she lives and adding North Hollywood and Shadow Hills. Only the Hollywood Hills and the other portion of Silverlake would remain in her district. Councilmembers Krekorian and Raman have criticized the new maps for mostly negating the results of the previous elections and requiring them to represent all or mostly new districts that they are almost entirely unfamiliar with. Councilmember Krekorian commented that

“I think [the Commission] should go back to the drawing board and work on some of the many other options that are in front of them”. Councilmember Raman stated that “This map (K2.5) erases the results of an election and denies Angelinos the representation that they voted for less than a year ago.” The Redistricting Commission is hearing public comments on the proposed maps in a series of online public meetings in which these and other maps will be considered.

The next meetings via Zoom are on Thursday, October 21 6:00pm to adopt the final map and Thursday, October 28 at 6:00pm to adopt the final report.

About The Specific Plan

In 1993, the Los Angeles City Council approved the Valley Village Specific Plan. Since that time, VVRA (VVHA back then) has promoted enforcement of the plan. VVRA board members believe that the Specific Plan is partially responsible for Valley Village becoming a desirable neighborhood in the greater Los Angeles area. Of course, other features such as quality public schools and location count too. The end result is that the value of our properties values grows nicely!

How familiar are you with the Specific Plan? Here is a tiny quiz:

1. Are new fast food businesses permitted to open in Valley Village? Yes or No
2. What types of new businesses are permitted to open their doors in Valley Village? Choose from these: a) new car sales, b) markets, c) massage parlors, d) cafes, e) hotels, f) nail salons, g) bathhouses?
3. Is there a restriction on the height of a multi-family building? Yes or No
4. New condominiums must provide guest parking; what is the rate? One space per unit or one-half space per unit?
5. Are new billboards permitted? Yes or No

Answers on Page 6 (back page). You can read the Specific Plan at valleyvillagera.com/specific-plan.

Facts about Los Angeles Homelessness

- About 2/3 of unsheltered Adults are experiencing homelessness for the first-time.
- About 70% of neighbors experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles are unsheltered (in contrast, about 95% of people experiencing homelessness in New York City are sheltered.
- About 75% of neighbors experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles are from Los Angeles or surrounding counties
- 20% of neighbors experiencing homelessness are families – 45% increase from 2019
- 10% of neighbors experiencing homelessness are seniors (62+) - 20% increase from 2019
- 7% of neighbors experiencing homelessness are youth (18-24)
- 41% of adults experiencing homelessness have serious mental illnesses or substance abuse disorders.

Information from Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, 2020
Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count (www.lahsa.org)

Coyotes – What We Need To Know

Beth McClellan, Animal Information Committee Chair at the Los Angeles Zoo, provided this important information.

Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem by eating rodents and removing carrion from roadways and hillsides. They are extremely efficient hunters, stalking small prey alone or in pairs, eating anything from fallen fruit and rodents to, at times, livestock. They will also track down pets such as dogs and cats and can scale a six-foot fence if necessary. And Valley Village is not off limits to these wily creatures – though they generally avoid people, they have learned to associate humans with food and may be seen frequently on our streets. They are most active at dawn and dusk and at night when fewer people are around, but have been seen during the day too.

If you see a coyote approaching, wave your arms, shout in a low, loud tone and throw objects in its direction while maintaining eye contact. Make yourself appear bigger: If you're wearing a jacket, take it off and swing it over your head. Under no circumstances turn your back and run – this might cause a chase that could end badly.

Don't leave a small dog or small children outside unattended, and keep cats indoors if possible – particularly if you live in an area in or around the hills/mountains. Coyote attacks on humans are extremely rare – most attacks happen because people feed them. So rule #1: refrain from feeding them.

Other suggestions: Pick up any fallen fruit and clean up potential hiding places round the property, such as overgrown plants and shrubs; clean the BBQ after use; do not leave pet food or water bowls outside; put all trash bags inside trash cans and keep the cans securely fastened.

In captivity the coyote may live up to 14 years but urban coyotes rarely live more than two or three years. However long they live, we need to do everything to deter their potential harm to us and our pets.

Park Tunnel Update

The good news is that progress is being made – CalTrans has started designing the concrete barriers needed to block off both ends of the pedestrian tunnel running between Valley Village Park and North Hollywood Park, which will require adherence to very specific construction codes.

The bad news is it apparently will take till this time next year before the work can start. Since the inside of the tunnel is the City's responsibility and the outside belongs to CalTrans, some fine coordination between the City and CalTrans will be required. So when CalTrans' plans are ready, the City will have to clear out the tunnel, perhaps with the CalTrans construction crew on site to make sure it is not used again before the walling-up is complete. VVRA will keep an eye on progress, hoping for an earlier start date.

Cool Blocks

Cool Blocks is a block-by-block organizing effort to help people create the sustainable neighborhoods they want to live in while taking action to defend the environment closest to home. It's being launched by the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) and the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office.

The NCSA hopes to recruit 200 Cool Block leaders. Team leaders will host neighborhood meetings (via Zoom) to address such critical issues as reducing a block's carbon footprint and promoting best practices for water stewardship. For more information on how to get involved, contact NCSA@empowerLA.org, call 323-660-2780, or visit the NCSA or Cool Blocks online.

Source: Councilmember Paul Krekorian newsletter, 9/24/21

Residents Association Membership Meeting

IN LINE WITH THE PREVAILING REQUIREMENTS OF THE PANDEMIC
THE ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD THIS MEETING VIA ZOOM AT

7:00PM ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

This link and the program will be sent to you by email closer to the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86853005654?pwd=QmdxUzNoWk1tdX16dm10VE44WjhZUT09>

Meeting ID: 868 5300 5654 Password: 712546

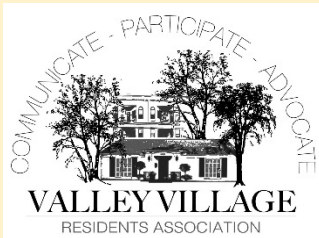
Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86853005654?pwd=QmdxUzNoWk1tdX16dm10VE44WjhZUT09>

ROB BENAVIDES, SENIOR LEAD OFFICER NH LAPD, WILL GIVE A SHORT REPORT

Specific Plan Answers from page 4: 1. No 2. b, d & f 3. Yes. 4. ½ space. 5. No.

Mark Your Calendar: Next Board of Directors Meeting is Monday, December 13th

VALLEY VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



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

"Communicate, Participate, Advocate"