

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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

Wanted! Nominations for VVHA Board

It's election time again and the Association is seeking nominations to its Board of Directors for the 2019-2021 term. The election will be held during the General Membership meeting on January 16, 2019. Directors serve for two years, and candidates must be fully paid-up members of the Association.

There's no doubt that a successful, vibrant neighborhood relies heavily on the active involvement of its residents in the many relevant issues that crop up throughout the year. As a Board member, you will be giving your community the benefit not only of your time but of your talents – special experience such as political involvement, media, graphic arts and writing can be a great asset to the Board. Board members are asked to attend six Board meetings a year, help at the three General Membership meetings and events, and work on various committees that support the Association's business.

In short, we are seeking those who have time to volunteer and are interested in the challenge of monitoring inevitable change while retaining our way of life here in the Village. Whether your interest and perhaps expertise embrace the Specific Plan, annual events, finances, sound walls, residents' queries, or our publications, we hope you will consider running for a slot on the Board.

If you are interested, or would like to put someone else forward, please email the Association at mail@ValleyVillageHA.com, and plan to come to the Meet & Greet we are organizing for potential candidates on Sunday, December 2, from 4-6pm, address to follow. The meeting will cover the roles and responsibilities of Board members, our participation in community activities and issues we address.

Rob's Beat

Welcome, Rob Benavidez, Valley Village's new Senior Lead Officer.

Officer Benavidez has been with the Los Angeles Police Department for 23 years. Earlier in his career he was a Probationary Officer assigned to Hollywood Division and West Bureau Narcotics.

In April 1997 he came to North Hollywood Division and has called it home ever since. During his time here, he has worked as a patrol officer and on undercover assignments in Narcotics and Vice Units. He was a field training officer in patrol.

For the past 14 years he has been Senior Lead Officer for the Noho Arts Area, Toluca Lake, West Toluca Lake, Hollywood Hills Manor Area, Cahuenga pass and Forest Lawn. He's now looking forward to moving into Valley Village and working in partnership with VVHA to keep our community as safe and crime free as possible.

Residents may contact Officer Benavidez at 818-634-0978.

Community Plan Update - Your Input is Needed

For the first time in about 30 years, the City Planning Department is embarking on an update of the Community Plans for the southeast San Fernando Valley. These plans are the blueprints which guide growth in neighborhoods by stating the community's vision for the future, establishing policies and designating land uses.

To prepare for this process and represent Valley Village's interests, the Neighborhood Council has formed a task force that includes three members of your VVHA Board of Directors. Many hours of research, discussion and consideration have resulted in an online survey that will soon be disseminated to the community for its input and opinions. These responses will assist the Planning Department in their determination of how and where to update Valley Village transit, commercial, recreation, open space, single-family residential and multi-family development. The process is expected to take more than a few years, and there will likely be more surveys as time goes on to fine-tune a comprehensive final product. (Continued on Page 4 Community Plan)

Board Notes

The Board met on September 17, and the following subjects were discussed: Noting the urgency and length of discussion of many of the items appearing on the agenda of each meeting, the board voted to hold 6 meetings (rather than 5) a year. ~ The sound wall is finally under construction along the 170 Freeway; the Board will ascertain if Valley Village Park will be included. ~ Letters of concern will be sent to lapsed members. ~ Noted a possible Colfax Bike to School day in late November which the Board agreed to support in various ways to be determined. ~ Decided to hold the 2nd Annual Halloween House Contest. ~ Discussed the proliferation of electronic billboards, particularly at the new NoHoWest site; agreed to again express our disapproval at a Planning Commission meeting on September 27. ~ Agreed to research the radical permit fee changes required for a modest room addition. ~ Decided to make sure each community is equally impacted by the FAA's decision to change flight patterns out of Hollywood Burbank Airport. ~ Plans for encouraging members to join the Board at our election in January were discussed. ~ Decided to research the radius from schools at which sexually biased billboards may be posted.

EDITORIAL STAFF

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Paul Hatfield	Sandy Hubbard
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A Letter from the President

Come fly with me!

Most of you have resided in Valley Village for many years and are well aware of noise emitted from flight departures from Burbank Airport.

I recall the outcry back in 1987 concerning a proposed addition of gates. There was a hearing at a local school attended by residents of Valley Village and adjacent areas; they were concerned about the increased noise levels which would result from the expansion. My wife and I, at the time new to the neighborhood, were there, and shared the same concerns. Since then, there has been a definite reduction in noise due to improvements in engine technology; however, it is still very noticeable.

In recent months, the FAA has altered the flight patterns to take advantage of new technology (known as Next Generation Air Transportation System, or NextGen), designed to provide better separation of incoming and departing aircraft, as well as improve efficiency. In the interest of space I will not detail the technical aspects here, but there are numerous articles or reports on the subject in local media. I urge you to Google them.

The new patterns have diverted some departures away from NoHo and Valley Village, many reportedly to the south of Ventura Boulevard.

The Studio City Residents' Association is opposing the changes, as is Studio City for Quiet Skies, a coalition of residents. They claim their quality of life has been adversely affected. That coalition wants the flight paths returned to north of the 101, an area the organizers describe as a "natural noise corridor."

It is rather audacious and offensive of them to describe our community as such. If anything, SCRA and SCQS are throwing some of their own residents under the bus – or perhaps I should say, under the plane – those living generally north of Colfax Meadows are subject to some of the same noise levels as Valley Village.

VVHA does not want any area to bear a disproportionate share of the noise. But our rights to a good quality of life are every bit as important as those of Studio City.

Burbank Airport, despite the inherent noise associated with airport operations, is a net asset to the Valley. When it comes to flying regionally, it is the hands down choice over LAX. This is not to say there are no concerns regarding the airport – for example, we must pay attention to the plans for the new terminal, advocate for soundproofing of schools, where needed, throughout the East Valley.

VVHA has requested support of our position from Representatives Sherman and Cardenas (the latter represents a slice of Valley Village east of Colfax); and to Councilmember Krekorian and City Attorney Feuer, both of whom co-signed a letter to the FAA in support of Studio City, but have not advocated on behalf of Valley Village.

The FAA has the legal authority to implement flight path modifications in the interests of safety and efficiency, regardless of public or political input. Perhaps, then, this is all moot, but better to err on the side of being heard.

Paul Hatfield, President

Congratulations July 4th Raffle Winners!

Jon's Market Gift Card: Steve & Linda Simon

Gelson's Gift Card: Marian Simon

Four N 20 Pies: Steven Ellison

Colfax School Construction Update

Back on Monday June 4th, a meeting was held in the Colfax Charter Elementary School auditorium to advise the community of progress on the impending addition of new buildings. The new construction is designed to upgrade the campus and accommodate the growing student population. In addition to a new administration/classroom building and second kindergarten building, the plan proposes an internal drop-off area accessed from Colfax Avenue that will include 74 parking spaces. All bungalows are slated for elimination. LAUSD promised that for each mature tree removed, two new trees will be planted, with appropriate irrigation. (It is of concern that maintenance of these new trees will be left to the same landscaping division that allowed the original trees to decline due to disease and neglect.)

The \$36.6M project was supposed to have started construction over summer break, but because a contractor had not yet been engaged, everything was pushed into the school year. The asphalt grading of an area adjacent to the farm began Saturday, August 25; without notice to teachers, students or neighbors, large-scale tree removal began Wednesday, August 29 – deeply upsetting parents and children alike; and a substantial portion of the decades-old “Garden of Eatin’” (which LAUSD promised would not be touched) was dug up for utility work. (It should be said that part of the garden has recently been beautifully restored.)

The uproar over these issues prompted LAUSD to hastily arrange another community meeting on September 6 in the school auditorium. The capacity crowd expressed its outrage over lack of communication and forthrightness on the part of LAUSD, which admitted it may not have done all it could to keep the neighborhood apprised of the scope and schedule of construction. There has been strong opposition to the proposed exit onto Huston Street due to its proximity to Colfax Avenue, the inevitable traffic tangle it will cause, and the attendant pollution emanating from idling cars.

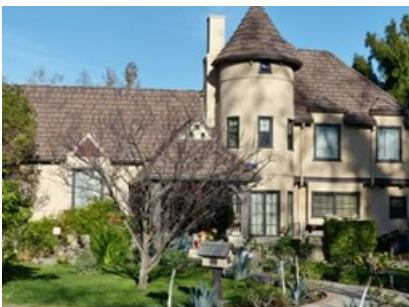
Due to lapsed deadlines for public comment, the opportunity for CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) remedies has passed. Other avenues for preservation of the unique elements of the school are being pursued.

It appears LAUSD intends to press ahead with a “business as usual” plan for Colfax, largely oblivious to the distinctive characteristics that have made it the extraordinary learning center it is. It will be up to the community to remind the District of its promises and make sure they are kept.

Where Am I In Valley Village?

Do you know where in Valley Village these photos were taken?

If you think you do, send the street address of each property to: www.ValleyVillageHA.com/whereami. If you identify both correctly, we will recognize your sharp eyes in the next issue of *The Valley Villager*.



Keep VVHA Strong!

Tell a friend, tell your neighbor.

The Valley Village Homeowners Association (VVHA) is only as strong as its support from the neighborhood.

All residents, whether homeowners, condominium owners or renters, benefit from a strong Association. Why? Because the Association is the eyes and ears of our “hood.” We work tirelessly to protect and preserve our Valley Village. We are in constant touch with our political representatives. Our dues start at a mere \$18 a year – a great investment in a community that cares.

It is a place to discuss problems and find solutions. And our politicians listen and cooperate and are helpful. But members count! So please ask your neighbors and friends to join us. We are there for you.

Lori Dinkin, past-President

Halloween Contest

Creeping up boldly on the success of our first Halloween House Contest, Valley Village Homeowners Association is again thrilled to finger (or nail) some of the very creative and wonderfully creepy achievements of our neighbors who so graciously entertain and scare us at least once a year. We will again be offering three prizes and a small

cauldron of Honorable Mentions. Photos of the winning haunts and winner names will be posted on the VVHA website, our Facebook page and in



the January issue of *The Valley Villager*. The contest is open to all homes located in Valley Village. To enter, send your name, street address, email address, and a photo of your exterior decoration to mail@ValleyVillageHA.com by **October 29th**. Judging will happen on October 30. Winners will be presented with gift certificates on October 31.

NoHo West Signage Change Denied

Our neighbor to the north, Laurel Grove, has been struggling for years to have its concerns considered regarding the enormous NoHo West project being built on the former Macy's Department Store site. On Thursday, September 28, the South Valley Planning Commission did just that, thanks in part, to a letter from Valley Village Homeowners Association.

It had been agreed that the developer would follow the NoHo West Sign District ordinance and remove standard billboard signage within a three-mile radius of the project. Three digital signs and 12 signs had been approved for the project, and it had been agreed that the digital billboards, of which two are facing the 170 freeway, could be illuminated from 7am till 12am.

The developer sought an amendment; 1) to reduce the ratio of square footage to be removed for digital displays from 10:1 to 2:1, for supergraphic signs from 5:1 to 1:1, and for kiosks from 10:1 to none; 2) to exempt the interior digital display and interior supergraphic signs from the sign reduction requirements; 3) to reduce the freeway-facing digital displays' controlled refresh rate (the rate that a digital display may change content) from one minute to eight seconds; and 4) to expand the hours of operation of the digital billboards to span 6am to 1am.

Laurel Grove balked. Already having given up so much of its character to the new shopping center, which also includes two six-story buildings with 642 units, it couldn't accommodate any more concessions. So it drafted a letter to the Planning Commission, opposing approval of the requested amendments. Laurel Grove reached out to its neighbors – Valley Glen and Valley Village – who also wrote letters. This action, together with appearances by representatives of these groups at the hearing, made the difference. As Planning Commissioner Dana Perlman said, "I look at the three letters we have here from three neighborhoods....All three of these are aggressively opposed to this and I think the neighbors are what count and I am sorry that the Councilman [Krekorian] does not support his constituents a little more. I think [he] should."

The result: The billboard takedown ratio remains the same; no extended operating hours for digital signage; and (a big bonus decision) the two digital displays facing the freeway will be removed from the plan.

Community Plan (continued from Page 1)

It goes without saying that we cherish the elements that make our corner of the Valley so special: Our tree canopy, the low-profile neighborhoods, walkable avenues, and respite from the intensity of the urban scene are a few of the reasons we choose to live here. With LA's ever-changing needs, we must contemplate how Valley Village will adapt.

City Planning is hosting an open house on Monday, October 15 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the North Hollywood Regional Library, 5211 Tujunga Avenue. Your participation matters! A large presence by Valley Villagers will demonstrate our commitment to guiding the future preservation and development of our community. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important first meeting in the plan update process.

Village 'vents

Saturday, October 13

3rd Annual Emergency Preparedness Summit

8:30am to 11:30am

*Church of Scientology auditorium
11455 Burbank Boulevard*

Information on before, during, after an earthquake, preparing home and work space, 2-week self-sufficiency, designated meeting place.

RSVP <http://bit.ly/EPSUMMIT2018>

Saturday, October 13

Fall Family Festival

9am to 9pm

*Faith Presbyterian Church
5000 Colfax Avenue*

Pumpkin Patch (best pumpkins anywhere), pet adoption, kids' games and activities, square dancing and an evening Halloween movie.

An NCVV free event

Monday, October 15

North Hollywood-Valley Village

Community Plan Update Meeting

5:30pm to 7:30pm

*North Hollywood Library
5211 Tujunga Avenue*

Introduction to the updating process of the blueprints that guide growth in our neighborhood. Info on how to get involved in the Southeast Valley Community Plan

www.southeastvalleyplans.org

See article on page 1.

Thursday, October 18

Hollywood Burbank Airport

6pm to 8pm

*Buena Vista Public Library
5300 N. Buena Vista St., Burbank*

Meeting to discuss FAA flight path changes. Info:

www.studiocityforquietskies.com

Saturday, December 8

Light Up Valley Village

4pm to 8pm

Magnolia & Whitsett boulevards

Neighborhood Council Valley Village's (NCVV) Holiday Block Party

concentrated around the merchants at Magnolia and Whitsett. Music, Santa Claus, food and the famous Holiday Trolley. Everyone is invited.

Todd Gilman

We are happy to announce that Todd Gilman, Neighborhood Prosecutor for Valley Village and the broader North Hollywood/Studio City community, will be speaking at our General Membership meeting on October 17. Prior to joining the City Attorney's Office as a Neighborhood Prosecutor, Todd prosecuted felony violent crimes at the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. His take on the work involved? The Neighborhood Prosecutor Program has the biggest impact in two areas: tackling long-standing public safety issues that no one has been able to solve, despite months or years of trying; and going out to address smaller issues, like neighbor disputes, before they escalate into criminal offenses.



As a Neighborhood Prosecutor, Todd also works on making "environmental changes" to prevent crime from happening in the first place. These efforts may include installing surveillance cameras, fencing, or better lighting. For instance, criminals recently began using a secluded alley behind a popular chain store in Valley Village as a base to commit crimes and harass local homeowners. Here, though the criminals were ultimately prosecuted, Todd worked with the store's corporate offices to install a security gate to keep people from entering the secluded alley in the first place. If there is an ongoing public safety or quality-of-life issue you would like Todd to put his shoulder to, you can reach him at 818-374-6820.

July 4th Parade

Once again our Association came through with a wonderful mix of friendship, fun, food and our very own North Hollywood High Marching Band to celebrate the day. A few words from our well-deserving Grand Marshals, who have done and continue to do so much for our community:



main office; transforming a refrigerator box into a "Yellow Submarine" for the kids; arranging for the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile, along with police cars, ambulances, fire trucks, etc., to join the Halloween parade, and much more.

"[Linda] was a volunteer at the Los Angeles Police Department offices on Burbank/Colfax for 12 years; Steve was very involved from the beginning when it came time to celebrate Halloween at the LAPD by turning the police station into a haunted house. Along the way and with the assistance of neighbors, Steve put up many of the Neighborhood Watch signs. We were block captains for many years, have been part of the July 4th Parade since its inception, and have participated in National Night Out through the years. We volunteer whenever help is needed for VVHA and NCVV.

"Never did we ever want any recognition for the various things we enjoyed doing, but our thanks again for this honor. No wonder this little bit of Valley Village is compared to Mayberry." Steve & Linda Simon

Quintessentially Valley Village



This month's charmer was built in 1941 for a PGA golfer's mother. She lived there a short time before selling the home to "Wilda," an apparently delightfully eccentric Southern lady who, swathed in lavender and blue, walked the length and breadth of her community with her beloved poodle, Gigi – the two of them became neighborhood fixtures! When she passed, the two-bedroom, one-bath home lay empty for ten years, until it was purchased by its current owner. The house also has a mud room, and fireplaces in the living room and den, with hardwood flooring throughout. The bathroom and kitchen have been thoughtfully remodeled, honoring the charm and aesthetic of the property's original design. And every year, the front yard hosts the resurrection of Wilda's irises....

Homeowners Association Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2018 – 6:30pm refreshments – 7:00pm meeting
CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE: Faith Presbyterian Church
5000 Colfax Avenue (across the street from Colfax Charter School)

Todd Gilman, Neighborhood Prosecutor

Please see article on page 5

David Meza, Public Affairs Manager for SoCal Gas

He will talk about the transmission gas lines that lie beneath our streets, particularly near North Hollywood High School, and emphasize their safety during natural disasters. SoCal Gas programs offered to homeowners and residents will also be reviewed.

Bring your questions and come ready for discussion.

**Mark Your
Calendar:**

2019 Membership Meetings will be on Wednesdays

** January 16 * April 17 * July 17 * October 16 **

2019 Board of Directors Meetings will be on Mondays

** Jan 28 * Mar 18 * Aug 5 * Oct 21 * Nov 5 * Dec 2 **

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"Communicate, Participate, Legislate"