

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 29 NUMBER 3

June 2019

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

Valley Village July 4th Parade

For our 26th celebration of Independence Day, Dorothy Apple, chair of the parade committee, is pleased to announce that our Grand Marshal this year will be none other than our own **Marc Woersching**, a planner with the City of Los Angeles who has worked over the years to advise the Association on planning matters and avoid the pitfalls built in to the zone code and the bureaucratic procedures. Marc is not only a valued member of our Board but is also on the Board of the Neighborhood Council Valley Village, and on its Planning and Vision committees. Over the years, he has been instrumental in improving our community, including working with Lori Dinkin to bring about the removal of the unsightly billboards in the Chandler Boulevard median and recommending curbs on mansionization and amendments to the Valley Village Specific Plan. He also shares his ideas and planning knowledge with a special committee monitoring and advising on the restudy of the North Hollywood/Valley Village Community Plan and worked jointly with the prior chair of the Vision Committee, Sandy Hubbard, to prepare an architectural design manual to encourage quality in architectural design. Over the years Marc has done extensive traveling, in the U.S., Europe and other countries. We are proud to honor Marc on this, our very special holiday.

Help us ensure the Parade's success by joining in on foot or on bike, wheelchair or trike! We want to see everything red, white and blue! Decorate your bikes, skateboard, golf carts and cars ... and yourselves. And we are hoping for a lot of photos this year, too, so please take photos and send them to mail@ValleyVillageHA.com.

Safety rules require no standing in a moving vehicles and no sitting or standing on the back of trucks.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. at the corner of Addison Street and Morella Avenue. Participants on foot, bike, skateboard, etc., should 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 Homeowners 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 VVHA 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

Though we have seen a slight uptick in crime in Valley Village over the last 6 months – specifically in residential /commercial burglary, grand theft auto (up 3 over this time last year) and personal theft (up 39%), I'm confident that together, we can bring these numbers back down – Valley Village has always done a fantastic job of reporting crime, suspicious behavior and implementing crime reduction strategies to prevent crime.

Many of the reported aggravated assaults were related to our transient community, which the LAPD is working hard to get a handle on, working with LA services and outreach groups for the homeless and the department of mental health. This year, the number of such assaults is down almost 50% in the Valley Village area. This is actually my top priority at the moment, and we are watching California Assembly Bill 516 with interest. If passed, it will affect the legality of RVs to park on our streets, undermining our efforts to successfully move them on. Please stay informed and involved with your elected local and state officials on this matter.

Thank you for staying active and involved. It is you, the community, who continue to keep Valley Village safe!

Rob Benavidez
Senior Lead Officer, LAPD

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

Notes from the Board Meeting, May 13

At the May 13 meeting of the Board, we discussed details of the next general meeting, Lori Dinkin’s birthday party and the July 4th Parade, and the need for volunteers to ensure their success.

In addition to these regular topics: The Board agreed to continue to speak out and write letters opposing the then-impending SB 50 which threatens to allow 4- and 5-story apartment buildings to be built in existing single-family areas such as Valley Village, which, apart from changing our neighborhoods, would put a severe strain on our already strained infrastructure. [We will certainly keep an eye on SB 50’s offspring, SB 330, as it moves through the legislature.]

Also agreed: To continue researching the need for refunds to those who were required to obtain Specific Plan Project Permits and pay the now-revoked planning fees for modest remodels (see April issue for background).

The VVHA Board:

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Treasurer: Ellen Wilhelm

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A Party for Lori Dinkin



It was a bright sunny day, and everyone who was anyone was there to celebrate Lori’s 100th Birthday at Valley Village Park a couple of weeks ago. Looking radiant, she held court for many of her friends and colleagues who over the years have worked so hard to protect our community and make it the best it can be. As one of the founders of the Association, Lori brought her creative ideas, political skills and legendary hard work to the job,

but July 9th was her day to relax and be honored – there was even a helicopter flyover by our local Police Department whose pilot wished her happy birthday from the sky. It was a fitting celebration headed up by our own Dorothy Apple and her crew and we thank Lori again for getting us started all those years ago.

A Letter from the President

Dear Members,

On June 9th many of us came together at the Valley Village Park to celebrate Lori Dinkin’s 100th birthday. Lori is a founding member of the Homeowners Association and a local legend.

I was humbled and honored to watch this 100-year-old woman accept so many honors and awards from federal, state and local officials for her civic work to improve the quality of life for Valley Village residents. Lori’s contributions to our neighborhood have been well documented in a previous article but I believe it bears repeating that the magnitude of work she accomplished is nothing short of amazing. She spent thousands of hours advocating for issues that affect our lives every day.

She is an inspiration and I hope that we can accomplish a quarter of what she did. Her strength, dedication and tenacity are a lesson for us all.

We have many looming challenges to our quality of life in Valley Village. We are fighting against up-zoning our single-family neighborhoods, we are dealing with a homeless crisis, air traffic noise that’s seemingly growing louder and louder, and city government that is ill-equipped and underfunded to handle these challenges.

What would Lori do? This is what I have spent the last week asking myself... she’d get busy. Busy writing letters and showing up at meetings to be sure the community’s voice was heard. She would work with local politicians and other people in power to push for solutions.

So that is what we must do... we must get busy pushing for solutions. We must make our voices heard. And that is where you, our members, come in..... the more members we have the more powerful our voice will be. So please renew your membership and please consider asking a neighbor to become a member. The more members, the LOUDER our voice.

On behalf of the Board, I am extending a personal invitation to each and every one of you to join us for our annual July 4th Parade. See you there!

Beth Hilton, President

Letter of Appreciation

A letter from Jonathan Miller, then-Director of Location and Housing Policy at LA Family Housing, about his presentation at our General Meeting on Homelessness.

“It was great having the opportunity to speak with your group and have a dialogue about what has become such an important issue facing our neighborhoods in Los Angeles. I was impressed with the conversations I had with members of the association after the panel and by the thoughtfulness behind the questions that were asked during the presentation. It was clear everyone understood the gravity of the situation and wanted to know how they could be a part of the solution.

Since the event, people have continued to reach out to refer people who could use our assistance, ask how they can employ LAFH clients, offer to donate to the agency, and follow up about where to learn more about how to help. In short, I'm thankful for the opportunity to have been able to present our program and for the wonderful way your organization has responded and answered the call! Additionally, I highly encourage you and the Homeowners Association to check out this video highlighting the stories of one of the families that have worked with LA Family Housing and the success they have had since.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHkE_RxVwXQ

Sincerely, Jonathan Miller”

Long-Term Planning for Development

Earlier this month, representatives from the City's Department of City Planning (“LADCP”) came out to NCVV's Community Plan Update Committee meeting and presented a summary of the community's feedback on key development issues to the well-attended gathering.

Not surprisingly, after several community meetings and more than 200 survey responses, LADCP found that Valley Villagers identified our single-family neighborhoods, tree-lined streets, and village character as some of the strengths. And, LADCP said that Valley Villagers identified out-of-scale development, traffic, parking and lack of affordable housing as some of our key challenges.

Looking forward, the Committee and attendees made clear that the Valley Village Specific Plan is of paramount importance and helps to ensure that the character of our neighborhood is preserved and protected. The height limitations, enhanced parking, open space and other requirements, and the restrictions on certain commercial uses, were all listed as some of the most important provisions. At this point, LADCP suggested that the Specific Plan provisions could be incorporated within the Community Plan Update, although they did not commit to the Specific Plan remaining in effect.

It is imperative that we keep working to ensure that the final updated North Hollywood-Valley Village Community Plan actually incorporates specific provisions that will preserve, protect and enhance our great neighborhood. Please plan to come to one of the (identical) LADCP's Concept Workshops (see *Village 'vents* on page 4 for info) when the first concept draft will be presented. We hope to see you there!

Treasurer's Report

This year, we have experienced a 15% shrinkage in our membership, so our expenses exceeded our income and the Association had to minimally dip into its reserves. The situation was also impacted by an increase in cost to rent the auditorium at Colfax Elementary school and additional insurance required by LAUSD.

In recent years, under the guidance of past Treasurer Ron Meyer, the Association economized by asking members to receive *The Valley Villager* by email and required that all Basic Level memberships receive the newsletter in its electronic version. Also, to reduce our costs the Board changed printers and now affixes the labels and postage to the newsletter by hand. We also changed the VVHA office telephone number to a VOIP line to reduce the cost. All these cost-cutting measures, we are happy to relate, have saved the Association hundreds of dollars.

In the 2018-2019 membership year, the major expense went to events such as the July 4th Parade, a community party celebrating founder Lori Dinkin's 100th birthday, and a booth at the Colfax World Fair. Other expenses include insurance, postage and printing of the newsletter and other stationery items, as well as website costs.

Please help us increase our membership by promoting VVHA to your neighbors. The more members, the stronger we are. Please ask for a “Proud Member of VVHA” lawn sign to recommend the Association to everyone who drives or walks past your home (we will have them at our membership meeting on July 17). And please keep up the Valley Village spirit that has created such a strong community by maintaining your membership each year.

We thank you for your support!
Ellen Wilhelm, Treasurer

Like VVHA On Facebook!
[www.Facebook.com/
ValleyVillageHA](http://www.Facebook.com/ValleyVillageHA)

MTA Set To Plan I-405 Alternative

For several decades congestion on the I-405 freeway has made driving to the Westside and to LAX a time-consuming and frustrating experience, and the risk of being late to meetings or missing flights out of LAX a real headache.

Last year the MTA launched a study to decide on the route and mode of a transit line to connect the San Fernando Valley to the Westside and, ultimately, to LAX. It is planned to be parallel to and provide an alternative to, the I-405 freeway. Financing would come mostly from Proposition M funds approved by the voters in 2016. Starting with six alternatives in 2018, the MTA has narrowed them down to four:

1. A heavy rail subway line from the Orange Line station on Van Nuys Boulevard to the future Purple Line station at Wilshire and Westwood boulevards in Westwood and then south to connect with the Expo Line station, taking a direct route that would include a new station at Van Nuys and Ventura boulevards.
2. A heavy rail subway line from the Orange Line station on Van Nuys Boulevard to the Westwood Purple Line and Expo Line stations, with a route that bends to the west to include a station at Sepulveda and Ventura boulevards.
3. A heavy rail line that goes a mile west from the Metrolink station on Van Nuys Boulevard along the railroad tracks to Sepulveda Boulevard, then turns south and goes down Sepulveda Boulevard on an elevated structure and ultimately enters a tunnel to continue on to the Westwood Purple Line and Expo Line stations.
4. A heavy rail line that goes a mile west from the Gold Line station on Van Nuys Boulevard along the Gold Line route parallel to Oxnard Street, turns south to go down Sepulveda Boulevard on an elevated structure and then enters a tunnel to continue on to the Westwood Purple Line and Expo Line stations.

All four of these alternatives would connect with the East Valley Light Rail Line to run on Van Nuys Boulevard from the Gold Line station north to Sylmar.

While the all-subway Alternatives 1 and 2 would seem to embrace the ideal modes and routes from the Valley to Westwood, concerns have been raised that, even with Proposition M funding, the MTA will not have enough money to build them, and because of these financial pressures, they may select Alternative 3 or Alternative 4 to reduce the cost. This would saddle the Valley with an obtrusive and visually unattractive aerial structure down the middle of Sepulveda Boulevard, which will likely encounter strong opposition from Valley residents. The ultimate decision as to which of the four alternatives is selected will be made by the MTA Board after hearing testimony from Valley residents and elected officials. We will let you know when meetings are scheduled.

In addition to this first phase that runs down to the Expo Line, the MTA is also studying four alternatives to ultimately extend the line to LAX. Two would extend from the Expo Line along the I-405 freeway, and two would turn west to run along Bundy Drive and then Centinela Avenue to reach LAX.

DID YOU KNOW?

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT ONLINE

The Office of the City Clerk announced the launch of a new online portal that allows the public to submit their comments on City Council items. If you would like to share your thoughts with the City Council, you can now go to: www.lacouncilcomment.com to submit your comments using the new online tool.

LAWN SIGNS

If you feel good about being a member of the VVHA (and we know you do) why not plant one of our beautiful signs on your property. You can pick one up at our General Membership meeting on Wednesday, July 17.

Village 'vents

The Southeast Valley Community Plans Update team is wrapping up the Listen phase and moving on to the Share phase of the outreach process that will ultimately update all plans regulating building practices in LA. The team will be sharing its observations at various local Neighborhood Council meetings and welcomes all who are interested in future planning for our neighborhoods to attend one of the meetings.

If you are unable to make any of the meetings, comments are welcomed at planning.southeastvalley@lacity.org.

Notices about upcoming events are on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

Here are the meeting venues planned in July:

**Saturday 7/27 - 9 am - 2 pm,
Harmony Toluca Lake Church,
4301 Cahuenga Blvd,
Toluca Lake, CA 91602**

**Saturday 8/17 - 9 am - 2 pm,
Marvin Braude Civic Center
Community Room
6262 Van Nuys Blvd. 1st Floor,
Van Nuys, CA, 91401**

**Saturday 8/24 - 9 am - 2 pm,
East Valley High School
5525 Vineland Ave, North
Hollywood, CA 91601**

**Thursday 8/29 - 3 pm - 7 pm,
Marvin Braude Civic Center
Community Room
6262 Van Nuys Blvd. 1st Floor,
Van Nuys, CA, 91401**

**Thursday 7/4 – 10 am
4th of July Parade!
Come on out and join us!
See article on page 1 for details.**

Development - In Planning:

Laurel Canyon/Vantage. This is a multifamily and single-family home project next to the Ventura Freeway between Vantage Avenue and Laurel Canyon Boulevard. It consists of four apartment units approved for the C2 zoned portion facing Laurel Canyon and one single-family home on the R1-zoned portion facing Vantage. The developer originally requested 14 units on the portion facing Laurel Canyon. Three appeals to the Area Planning Commission have been filed against the four units approved along Laurel Canyon: one is from the developer who wants the 14 units originally requested, two other appeals are from the adjoining neighborhood.

4714 Colfax Avenue. This is a small lot subdivision for five townhouses on a lot zoned RD1.5, for low-medium density multifamily residential. It is located on Colfax Avenue south of Riverside Drive.

4801 Laurel Canyon Boulevard. This is a request to add a car wash and convenience store to a Mobile gas station at the northwest corner of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Riverside Drive. We will look for the same conditions regarding hours of operation and sound and light mitigation that were applied to the Chevron station on the south side of Riverside Drive to be applied to this new Mobile station.

12301 to 12323 W. Magnolia Boulevard. This project is just east of Corteen Place. Planning calls for the demolition of 12 existing units and the construction of a 3-story, multi-family, 26-unit apartment building with subterranean parking on a 32,000 sq. ft. lot. Height is limited to 36 feet.

Under Construction:

NoHo West. Construction is well underway for this major redevelopment of the Laurel Plaza Shopping Center that used to have a Macy's department store at its core. It is at Oxnard Street and Laurel Canyon Boulevard – just north of Valley Village, but nevertheless a project that is likely to have a mixed impact on our area. The project consists of 642 apartment units and an open air, town center-style shopping center with 383,000 sq.ft. of retail space. The 189,000 sq.ft. former Macy's building is to be converted into office space.

11700 Magnolia Boulevard. The first-floor concrete parking structure and the wood framing and exterior drywall for the upper three stories are in place for this project to redevelop the former auto repair shop at the southwest corner of Magnolia Boulevard and Colfax Avenue. There will be 19 residential units and 1,510 square feet of retail space. The applicant's representative

stated that their desire is to create a quality design that will improve the neighborhood and be eco-friendly. However, the modernist design with a white exterior came under some criticism as being incompatible with the more traditional architectural styles of the surrounding area, particularly North Hollywood High School across the street.

5133 Whitsett Avenue. Construction is nearing completion on this six-unit small lot subdivision on the site of a former single-family home. The project is on the west side of Whitsett Avenue, immediately south of the retail stores on Magnolia Boulevard. It has been modified to respond to concerns that the three-story, 33-foot tall homes will look down on and diminish the privacy of the single-family home neighborhood to the west.

Galaxy Car Wash site. The site has been cleared for this mixed use, density bonus project at the southeast corner of Chandler Boulevard and Whitsett Avenue. Seventy apartment units are planned, along with 1,750 square feet of ground floor commercial space and 80 parking spaces. Because it is a density bonus project, its height of five stories and 56 feet can exceed the limit of 45 feet for commercial zoning. In exchange for the additional units permitted by the density bonus, nine of the 70 units will be set aside for renters with low and moderate incomes.

5110 Whitsett Avenue. The site has been cleared for this 15-unit condominium project at the northeast corner of Whitsett Avenue and Otsego Street. Its three stories will come in at a height of 36 feet and it will have landscaped front setbacks. Thirty-eight parking spaces with 20 tandem spaces will be provided at a rate of 2½ spaces per unit. Nine 36' box trees will be planted in the rear setback areas. The project has drawn strong opposition from the neighborhood to the east of Whitsett Avenue because its three-story height seems to loom over the neighborhood and the 36' box trees are not tall enough to screen the east side of the building. Also, the parking entrance is on Otsego Street rather than on Whitsett Avenue, so the traffic and parking impacts Otsego and, most contentious of all, its boxy, modernist design makes it look more like an office building than a residential structure – the austere design seems to clash with the mostly traditional-looking structures surrounding it and is not consistent with the traditional, Cape Cod-style condominiums across the street.

5303 Hermitage Avenue. The site is mostly cleared for this 26-unit small lot subdivision along both sides of a short section of Weddington Street west of Hermitage Avenue. An open area with two mature Camphor trees will be preserved as open space. The project has a Cape Cod architectural style that is deemed to be compatible with the neighborhood.

Homeowners Association Membership Meeting

Wednesday, July 17, 2019 – 7:00pm
Colfax Charter Elementary School Auditorium
11724 Addison Street

Guest Speaker

DICK PLATKIN, former city planner with the City Planning Department.
Topics may range from SB50 and its later versions,
to the challenges of housing and how planning works in LA.

Also, there will be short reports from **Rob Benavidez**, our LAPD Senior Lead Office,
Adrienne Asadoorian, Planning Deputy in Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office and
Emma Taylor, Field Deputy for Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian.

Light refreshments will be served from 6:30pm

This meeting is neither sponsored by nor is it in any way connected with the Los Angeles Unified School District

Mark Your Calendar: *2019 Membership Meetings will be on Wednesdays July 17 * October 16*
*2019 Board of Directors Meetings will be on Mondays Aug 5 * Oct 21 * Nov 5 * Dec 2*

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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

"Communicate, Participate, Legislate"

TOP 5 REASONS TO JOIN THE VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

JULY 4th PARADE

VVHA hosts the annual July 4th Parade. If you love the Parade and the party at the park, please support VVHA to ensure its continuation for years to come.

VOICES MATTER

VVHA provides leadership and a strong voice in the halls of local, county and state government. The larger our membership, the more politicians listen to us.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

VVHA serves as a watchdog for all land use proposals and transportation systems, including airport expansion and rapid transit. VVHA places a top priority on protecting the Valley Village Specific Plan.

SAFETY MATTERS

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

COMMUNICATION MATTERS

VVHA communicates shared neighborhood issues at our quarterly general meeting as well as online and in the published newsletter, The Valley Villager.

**To join or renew, please COMPLETE THE FORM (over) or go to
www.ValleyVillageHA.com**



Valley Village Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 4916

Valley Village, CA 91617

(818) 506-5158

www.valleyvillageha.com

Membership Renewal

One-Year Membership, 2019-2020

Annual dues cover everyone in your household.

Your continued membership supports the VVHA mission to Communicate, Participate, Legislate, Newsletter and the July 4th Parade!!

The Association welcomes any comments, queries, suggestions or offers to volunteer. Just include them in your envelope. Thank you.

Due July 1, 2019 – Thank You!

Preferred Payment Method

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