

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 23 NUMBER 2

April 2013

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

2013/2014 Board Election Results

The following Officers and Board members were elected at the January 16, 2013 meeting. They will serve a two year term until January 2015.

The New Valley Village Homeowners Association Board:

President: **Alan Brody**
Vice President: **Ken Hearn**
Secretary: **Ellen Wilhelm**
Treasurer: **Bob Belz**

Boardmembers at Large:
Steve Ajalat
Dorothy Apple
Judith Ledford
Todd Lewis
Marc Woersching

Past President: **Peter Sanchez**



Congratulations to these Valley Villagers who have volunteered to devote time and energy to this wonderful community.

To the retiring board members, good wishes and sincere gratitude for their many years of loyal devotion and effort. Valley Village has become recognized as a premier neighborhood under their watch. Thank You - Lori Dinkin, Peter Sanchez, Breice Reiner, Stuart Simen, Betty Velasco, Cynthia Fagin and Jerry Fagin.

Digital Billboards – Will They Be Removed?

In 2006 the City Council approved settlements to lawsuits filed by five billboard companies against the sign inspection program enacted in 2002. The settlements are very one-sided in favor of the billboard companies. In exchange for the companies removing 3% of their signs, any illegal signs that the companies had put up without building permits were retroactively legalized and the companies were allowed to convert up to 878 of their existing billboards to digital billboards. These digital billboards are very bright and shine through the windows of residences adjacent to them. They generated immediate protests. In response to the protests, in 2009 the City Council approved amendments to the Citywide Sign Ordinance that prohibited new digital billboards.

One of the billboard companies sued to overturn the amendments. At the hearing, one judge described the settlements as "poisonous," and invalidated the agreements. This decision was upheld by the Court of Appeals which ordered the removal of 100 digital billboards. (continued on page 3)

Manny's Beat

Friends and Partners:

We've had a great start this year. Our collaborative efforts are reflecting a 36% reduction in property related crimes. The biggest challenge we face is to keep our "stats" at low levels, especially Burglary and Theft from Motor Vehicles. This is an area that needs focusing. Please be conscious of where you park your vehicle, and secure valuable property out of view. Always consider:

**LOCK IT, HIDE IT,
KEEP IT!**

Always remember that an automobile is not a safe or secure place to leave any valuables, whether locked or unlocked. If any property is left unattended in the car even for just a few minutes, IT WILL BE STOLEN! Even something as simple as a small sun glass case, an empty backpack or gym bag will cause your car window to be smashed, resulting in hundreds of dollars in damage.

This past month I have received numerous calls from residents advising me that UPS packages have been stolen from porches. This type of crime is not uncommon throughout the city. As a precaution, please have packages either delivered to a trusted neighbor or insist on a signature delivery.

As always thank you for your support. I am extremely grateful to all of you!!!!

*Your Senior Lead Officer,
Manny Arreygue*

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has concentrated its efforts on keeping you informed of local issues and increasing community awareness. We are pleased to announce that you can find us on Facebook at Valley Village Homeowners Association. Please LIKE us and you will automatically be kept in touch with VVHA news. There is more than one Valley Village in the USA and on Facebook, so look for our logo and a photograph of our July 4th Parade!

We hope that members will contact us with concerns on the Facebook page and that we may also use it as a tool for surveying you for your opinions.

The committee is also revamping the ValleyVillageHA.com website. We hope the website will become a place you will want to visit for fun items such as local gardens, businesses you may like to try, the weather, and of course VVHA issues. We will announce the new look once it is up and running!

Don't forget the upcoming July 4th Parade!

Members of Membership Committee: Steve Ajalat, Chairman, Todd Lewis, Dorothy Apple, Judith Ledford and Ellen Wilhelm.

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The Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors:

Hello to all. Welcome and congratulations to our new board. A special thanks to Peter Sanchez and Breice Reiner for staying with us and contributing all of their experience and knowledge. I would be lost without their advice.

Since most of you do not know me, I'd like you to know that my wife, Toby and I have lived together in Valley Village for more than 30 years. We have raised two sons, Joshua and Andrew, here. Toby has lived in the Village for more than fifty years and her mother still lives here after she and her father bought their house in 1961. We have deep roots here and a great love for the community. My dental practice has been in the Village since 1984. For two years I was a member of the Neighborhood Council Valley Village. Looking back at what has transpired over the years in Los Angeles, it is great to see that Valley Village has kept its small town feel. I think I was destined to be here as the first place I lived when we moved here from Des Moines, Iowa was at 5005 Whitsett in 1958.

Our new board is a group of individuals strong in commitment, enthusiasm and creativity as you will soon see. I look forward to working with Ken Hearn, Bob Belz, Ellen Wilhelm, Steve Ajalat, Dorothy Apple, Judith Ledford, Todd Lewis, Marc Woerschling and Peter Sanchez.

A board is never enough. Volunteers are always needed to help. If you have an interest, we have a committee for you to join. You can make a difference. You will discover that contributing time and energy to Valley Village will enrich your life as well as that of your neighbors. We hope you all become activists and join us in making this the best Village in the city.

I welcome you contacting me. Your input is vital to our growth. You can reach me at arbrody@gmail.com or by phone message at 818-506-5158.



Your Membership Dues

The Valley Village Homeowners Association is a membership organization. Your membership is vital to continued success. Your dues support the operation and activities of The Association. The fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. Plan to renew your membership before June 30th. It is essential that we present a united, active and determined membership.

Billboards (continued from page 1)

It appears, rather than being pleased to be extricated from its bad decisions, the City Council is planning to craft new settlement agreements. To this end, the City Council approved motions by Councilman Ed Reyes, Paul Krekorian and Richard Alarcon (CF-12-1611) to establish a working group to propose an agreement that would allow most of the 100 digital billboards to remain, provided that there are unspecified benefits to the City, including some revenue from the 100 digital billboards which would help reduce the City's chronic budget deficits. Perhaps before any decision is made to retain digital billboards in Los Angeles in exchange for some modest public benefits, the existing digital billboards should be turned off and removed in accordance with the court order. Only after this is done should there be any consideration of deals with the billboard companies to bring digital billboards back to Los Angeles.

Colfax World's Fair – May 18th

The Colfax World Fair is Coming Early this Year - The 10th anniversary of the Colfax World Fair takes place this year on Saturday, May 18 from 12:00-7:00 pm, three weeks earlier than usual due to the modified LAUSD school year. This is Colfax Charter Elementary School's biggest annual fundraiser, attracting over 4,000 guests. Last year's fair brought in over \$100,000, which pays for extracurricular programs, teacher's aides and state-of-the-art equipment for the classrooms.

There are rides, attractions, two food courts, a huge silent auction, raffles and live music throughout the day. Admission and parking are free. To volunteer, donate silent auction items or become a sponsor, please contact Deana Payne at lapayno@hotmail.com.

Colfax "Kidchella" – April 6th

On April 6th the Colfax track was transformed into "Kidchella," a rock concert performed by 20 kids' bands as well as teachers and parents. This is the third year that Burbank Music Academy has donated four weeks of rehearsal time to Colfax through their nonprofit *Rockin' for the Arts* program.

Colfax Fundraisers

Upcoming restaurant fundraisers include Sammy's Woodfired Pizza on Thursday, April 18th; Menchie's on Tuesday, May 7th, and another restaurant TBA, on Friday, May 31. Bring in the flyer and Colfax gets 20-25% back. Download the flyer from Colfax's website: ColfaxElementary.org.

Coldwater Canyon Closing

The City is replacing the 60 inch water main that runs under Coldwater Canyon Boulevard. This major upgrade will require closure of the road from Mulholland Drive to Ventura Boulevard from March 23 to April 20.

Closed: Monday through Friday: 8:30am to 7pm & Saturday: 8:30am to 6pm

Limited Access: Mon – Fri 7pm to 8:30am & Saturday 6pm - One lane open

Take Alternate Routes: Cahuenga Blvd./Highland Ave. ** Laurel Canyon Blvd. Beverly Glen Blvd. ** Sepulveda Blvd. ** Interstate 405

Neighborhood Council Valley Village Events

April 13 – Earth Day

Saturday, April 13th from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Neighborhood Council Valley Village will host an Earth Day event at Valley Village Park. NCVV board members will be planting 15 trees along the new walking path, and they're looking for 60 volunteers to help. Bring your old batteries and light bulbs, which will be properly disposed. There'll be free food, and possibly some fruit trees will be given away. Call Suzanne Lewis at 818-759-8204 for more information. The NCVV Earth Day event is in cooperation with The City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks, Tree People and Councilmember Paul Krekorian.

June 15 – Movie Night

SAVE THE DATE for the First Annual Valley Village Outdoor Movie Night. Bring your blankets, beach chairs, and appetites and prepare for an evening of fun and entertainment on Saturday, June 15th. The film has not been chosen yet, but it will be something the whole family will enjoy. This big screen event is free. A variety of food trucks are invited, so there will be lots of choices for you to buy dinner. The film will begin at dusk. Bring your family, friends and neighbors and have a great time meeting other people in your community!

Help Wanted

**We Need helpers for the
July 4th Parade**

We need:

Parade Marshals

Park Prep People

Kupcake Keepers

Corn Dog Concierges

Watermelon Wackers

And lot's of other

interesting jobs!

Call Peter 818-506-5158

Homeowners Association Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 - 7:00pm

Colfax School Auditorium

11724 Addison Street

Valley Village, CA 91607

City Attorney Candidates Debate

Valley Village Homeowners Association, Neighborhood Council Valley Village and Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council hosting a debate/forum with the two candidates for the office of Los Angeles City Attorney, incumbent Carmen Trutanich and Mike Feurer former State Assemblymember and Los Angeles City Councilmember.

- > The debate format will allow for opening statements, questions prepared by the moderator, written questions from the audience and closing statements.
- > Moderated by Dave Bryan, KCAL 9 Political Reporter

Light Refreshments will be served

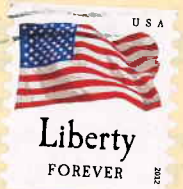
Mark Your
Calendar:

*The 2013 VVHA Membership Meetings will be:
July 17th and October 16th.*

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www.ValleyVillageHA.com



V V Resident
Via Email Street
Valley Village, California

Neighbors Working Together To Improve The Quality Of Life