

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 21 NUMBER 1 January 2011 P.O. BOX 4916, VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617

Ad about Zoning Generates Controversy

In the fall 2010, the newly formed group, LA Neighbors United, ran several full page newspaper ads alleging that the Planning Department's "Core Findings Ordinance" would undermine the 46 specific plans in the City, including the Valley Village Specific Plan. Many Valley Village Homeowners Association members contacted The Association after seeing these ads.

In October 2010, the Planning Department staff released the first of six proposed ordinances to update and simplify the Zone Code. Informally titled the "Core Findings Ordinance," it addresses the various findings needed to justify recommendations and decisions on entitlement applications. It proposes that of the 349 existing findings in the Zone Code, 37 be deleted due to their being redundant. The proposed ordinance also rewrites 39 additional findings in order to increase the clarity and consistency of the Zone Code language.

The "Core Findings Ordinance" has been criticized by LA Neighbors United and some homeowners associations and neighborhood councils. An exhaustive and critical analysis of the changes proposed by the "Core Findings Ordinance" was prepared by the LA Neighbors United. In response, the Planning Department staff has issued a fact sheet claiming that these alleged impacts are not what they are proposing.

The basis for the concerns raised by LA Neighbors United and the homeowner associations and neighborhood councils is that, in a number of instances, the new language contained in the "core findings" is different from, and less demanding than, the findings that they would replace. An example of this is a change from "That there are special circumstances applicable to the project and the project site that will make the strict application of the specific plan regulation(s) impractical" to "That the project will enhance the environment in the surrounding neighborhood or will perform a function or provide a service that is essential or beneficial to the community, city or region."

The concern is that it will be easier for the Planning Department staff to make the new findings to approve exceptions to a specific plan. There are numerous other instances in the "Code Findings Ordinance" where the proposed, standardized "core finding" is different from and less exacting than the finding that it would replace.

Because of these concerns raised at its October 14 meeting, the City Planning Commission postponed action on the "Core Findings Ordinance" for 90 days, to January 13, 2011, in order to allow the Planning staff to respond to them. It appears that the ordinance may have to be rewritten so that the new, standardized "core findings" are not different from and less exacting than the findings they would replace in order to allay suspicions that the existing protections in the Zone Code and in the specific plans might be undermined.

The City Planning Commission will consider the proposed ordinance at its January 13 meeting. The ordinance would then go to the City Council for consideration. See our website for the Planning Department's Fact Sheet and for information from LA Neighbors United. Contact your councilmember and let them know how you feel.

** CD2 Paul Krekorian 818-755-7676 ** CD5 Paul Koretz 818-971-3088 **

Other Resources: <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/PressRelease/MythsNFacts.pdf>
<http://www.laneighbors.org/PDF/LANU-Recos-CoreFindings.pdf>

Manny's Beat

Information from Valley Village Senior Lead Officer Manny Arreygue

Friends,

First of all, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year, and I'm hoping your holidays were safe and filled with lots of joy!

I'd like to commence this New Year by acknowledging those who played an active role in keeping our area safe this past year: My dedicated block captains, R.J. Johnson, Dorothy Apple, Betty Velasco, Steve Simon, Mr. and Mrs. Ayers, the Valley Village Homeowners Association, the Neighborhood Council Valley Village, and all of those who helped their community behind the scenes! Your strong partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department made it possible to keep your community safer.

My goal for 2011 will be to decrease crime in our area by continuing a proactive approach to fighting crime and improving community involvement. Let's start this New Year by being more vigilant within our neighborhoods, securing your homes properly and not leaving valuables in your vehicles. Burglary/theft from motor vehicles was our number one crime last year. This was the factor which caused a 5% increase in overall crime in our area. Let's keep Valley Village one of the safest neighborhoods in North Hollywood!

Sincerely,

Your Senior Lead Officer,
Manny Arreygue

Mobile AD Trailers

To report a mobile ad trailer, call the DOT Parking Enforcement Communications Division at 818-752-5100 or 213-485-4181. Immediately Press "2" to report a parking violation. Be ready to provide the trailer license plate number and the street block location. Just to clarify, the enforcement of parking restrictions on mobile ad trailers began as of January 1, 2011. The mobile advertisements are subject to citations and can also be impounded.

Marijuana Dispensaries

Several new medical marijuana clinics have been observed in Valley Village. Many emails and phone calls have been circulating through the neighborhood about them. Information and pictures of the site should be sent to the City Councilmember representing the area. City Attorney Asha Greenberg's office will assist in closing dispensaries that spring up without proper permits.

City Councilmembers For V.V.

District 2: Paul Kerkorian
818-755-7676

District 5: Paul Koretz
818-971-3088

EDITORIAL STAFF

Publisher: Peter Sanchez
Editor: Breice Reiner
Proofreader: Stuart Simen
Contributors:
Manny Arreygue Tom Paterson
Marc Woerschling
Phone: 818-506-5158

A Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors:

Happy New Year! With every New Year comes the chance for new beginnings. Every year we ask ourselves, what's next? How should I improve for this New Year? For me personally, I'm going to clean out my "catch all room." My home office is the room that "catches" clutter.

For The Association, it's a new year and a new board.

*See the back page for Election and Membership Meeting information.
The following volunteered to run for the board:*

President: Peter Sanchez	Executive VP: Breice Reiner
Vice President: Stuart Simen	Secretary: Betty Velasco
Treasurer: Cynthia Fagin	Past President: Lori Dinkin
Boardmembers at Large: Jerry Fagin	Steve Ajalat
Leslie Owens	Kenneth Hearn
	Ronit Weiss

So what's next? How can we improve? In the coming year I want to clean out the clutter and reorganize our committees. Our current committees are:

- Airport: (Emphasis on Burbank / Bob Hope Airport)
- Neighborhood Watch:
- Website:
- Land use and Development:
- Legislation:
- Membership Promotion:

Can you help on a committee?

I want to create some new committees too. Do you have some ideas?

I want to revamp our website. Give it fresh look and make it easier to use. Suggestions?

I want to do more projects that help make Valley Village just look nicer. For years I have wanted to do street pole painting. We have many poles that are rusty and could use a coat of paint. Can you spare two hours to paint the pole near your home? Or do you have some time to research the history of Valley Village? See the article on page 4.

I want to update the software we use for tracking our membership and our dues. We are running on 20 year old software. Are you a software expert?

Don't have much time? There are little things that we can all do to clean out the clutter in our neighborhood. When you see a sofa in alley call the City hotline "311" and ask for a bulky item pick up. When you run into a pothole dial "311" and report the location. When you see a shopping cart without a shopper call the cart pick-up hotline at 800-252-4613 and report it.

If you want help The Association to improve and clean out our clutter email me at petersanchez@sbcglobal.net.

Peter

Valley Village Homeowners Association BOARD ELECTION

January 19, 2011 - 7:00pm at Membership Meeting

www.ValleyVillageHA.com

Voicemail: 818-506-5158.

Why All the Fuss Over SB 1818?

SB 1818, a California state law adopted in 2004 that took effect in 2005, is an ill-conceived attempt to create more affordable housing in California. SB 1818 is a one-size-fits-all approach. It overlays density everywhere — across entire cities — without regard for:

- The sufficiency of infrastructure, particularly transportation infrastructure, to adequately support it.
- The character of neighborhoods, including whether the scale and aesthetic of proposed projects are compatible with existing neighborhoods.
- The loss of existing affordable housing, including rent-controlled and rent-stabilized housing.

Recognizing these issues, some cities and counties in California have made it more challenging for SB 1818 projects to be undertaken. Among other things, they require developers to demonstrate the economic necessity of incentives to achieve affordable housing objectives.

Burbank, Glendale, Long Beach, Santa Monica and Los Angeles County, among other jurisdictions, require project applicants to account for their requested incentives. Los Angeles City does not.

Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Supervisor, recognized these issues when the City of Los Angeles was drafting its implementation ordinance in 2007. Said Yaroslavsky: “[The draft ordinance] invites developers to decimate current zoning protections under the guise of providing affordable housing.” Specifically, he was referring to allowances that would not otherwise have been permitted by the city’s zoning, specific plan, historical overlay or adopted height-limit ordinances.

Yaroslavsky also predicted at the time that the density bonus ordinance would likely reduce rather than increase the supply of affordable housing in the city, “exactly the opposite of the stated intent of the law. It will also insure that expensive, market rate units will be built at the expense of units that serve the city’s most economically vulnerable renters.”

While the state mandates certain levels of density, the granting of development to support affordable projects is a discretionary exercise. In other words, local governments may deny requested incentives or scale them back, on several grounds.

Reprinted from www.LANeighbors.Org

Odd / Even Watering

For Valley Village resident Lori Dinkin, the Department of Water and Power’s odd-even watering plan is one of the few good things the massive utility has done. “I always thought it was stupid to have everyone watering the same days of the week,” said Dinkin, a longtime community activist and past president of the Valley Village Homeowners Association. “It makes more sense to let us water three days a week. My lawn is green now and all I have to do is set the timer on my sprinklers and it works out fine.”

DWP officials are equally happy with the plan that has homeowners watering lawns on specific days based on the last digit of their address. Water usage has dropped nearly 18 percent since the odd-even plan took effect in late August 2010.

Operation Pothole

Tired of bumping and jarring atop city roads? You may soon get a smoother ride as part of “Operation Pothole.”

City Council President Eric Garcetti, the Board of Public Works and the Bureau of Street Services are joining forces for a major push to plug up cracks, ruts and crevices on roadways damaged by recent storms.

About 50 crews -- two to three times the normal number -- will be deployed to fill an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 potholes around the city, according to Guy Lipa, a legislative deputy in Garcetti’s office. Anyone who spots a pothole is urged to call 311 now so the Bureau of Street Services can organize a list of needed repairs, he said.

“The more potholes that we can identify, the more potholes we can fill,” Garcetti said in a statement. “Please don’t assume that the city will magically know about the pothole near your house or on your way to work.”

O.K. Valley Village residents, there’s the challenge. Make a note of each address where you spot a pot hole and call 3-1-1. Do your part to make Valley Village pot hole free.

Make your voice heard



March 8th

VVHA Vice President Serves on Bylaws Task Force

Valley Village Homeowners Association vice president, Stuart Simen, served for the past year on the Neighborhood Council bylaws task force which has concluded its work. He is now serving on the Bylaws Resource Team consisting of 14 people from all over the city of Los Angeles to help all 92 neighborhood councils rewrite their bylaws so that all of them will cover the same 14 articles that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners have mandated. The final format or wireframe as it is called, was conceived by the bylaws task force, but our Stuart Simen came up with the final version and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners made some minor adjustments to it. Stuart is now one of the 14 people serving on the Bylaws Resource Team and has completed the Neighborhood Council Valley Village bylaws with President Tony Braswell and is awaiting the final version so that Valley Village can be the first to get this accomplished. He is also working with other neighborhood councils as well.

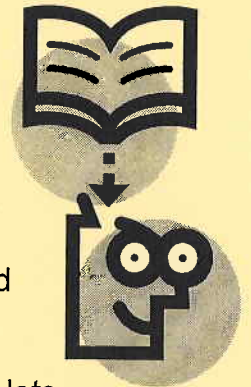
All NC's will be required to submit revised bylaws to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by April 2011 for their approval and the approval of the city attorney.

Valley Village History

Recently, The DAILY NEWS published several articles on the history of the Valley. The series described plans in the 1920s for a 500 acre movie studio in the Valley extending from Ventura Boulevard to Chandler Boulevard along what was then called Pacoima Avenue. The street eventually became Laurel Canyon Boulevard. Another article tells about Max Sennet breaking ground for what is now CBS in Studio City. Also mentioned is a long forgotten studio called Central District Motion Pictures.

The area and tract of Valley Village between Riverside Drive and Magnolia Boulevard along Radford Avenue was originally subdivided into 50 foot wide lots but the developer went into bankruptcy in the Depression. Most of the single family development occurred in the mid and late 30s. Most of the new development was on lots wider than 50 feet. In fact, Radford Avenue was originally zoned R2.

There are a number of mini neighborhoods within Valley Village each with its own subdivision story, such as "Albers Ranch" north of Chandler Boulevard. Researching the development of Valley Village would be a great project for someone with an interest in history to undertake. This could lay a foundation for designation of Valley Village as a Historical Preservation Zone. If you are interested in helping with this research please email The Association at mail@ValleyVillageHA.com.



Community Plan Restudy Delayed

The restudy of the North Hollywood Community Plan which includes Valley Village, originally scheduled for 2011, has apparently been postponed indefinitely according to the Planning staff at the Valley Community Planning office. The restudy would have provided an opportunity for updating Plan designations and the accompanying zoning, such as a one block section along the north side of Magnolia Boulevard. This block was the site of a high-density S.B. 1818 project that was denied due to community opposition.

It also appears that no action will be taken to establish stricter controls to prevent further mansionization in Valley Village or to do amendments to the Valley Village Specific Plan. This is another example of the economic recession resulting in reduced or delayed governmental services due to staff reductions from early retirements and layoffs.

The 170 Sound Wall

Metro

December 27, 2010

Honorable Paul Krekorian
Councilmember, Second District
200 N. Spring Street, Room 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Package 11 Valley Village Sound Wall

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

Thank you for your November 16, 2010 letter requesting further clarification on the construction funding for Soundwall Package 11.

Under Measure R, \$250 million is appropriated for countywide soundwall construction and we're committed to expediting delivery of the soundwall program. Construction advertisement for Packages 5, 6, 7 and 8 is expected starting next year. Design for Soundwall Package 11 is also scheduled to complete by early 2011. While Package 11 is fully funded under Measure R, the schedule to start construction is contingent on savings from the other packages. As previously stated, we anticipate starting the procurement process for Soundwall package 11 in 2012 and begin construction in 2013.

We fully understand the significance and importance of the soundwall project to the Valley Village community and will continue to work to complete this project at the earliest possible date.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further assistance.

Sincerely,

Art Leahy
Chief Executive Officer
Metro

Cc: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Assemblymember Mike Feuer
Valley Village Homeowners Association
Neighborhood Council Valley Village

Homeowners Association Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 - 7:00pm

Colfax School Auditorium

11724 Addison Street

Valley Village, CA 91607

FEATURED SPEAKERS Q & A with Council District 2 Candidates Paul Krekorian & Augusto Bisani

Senior Lead Officer **Manny Arreygue** will have an update on Neighborhood Watch and current news from LAPD activity in the area.

Semi-Annual Board Election at 7pm

President: Peter Sanchez
Secretary: Betty Velasco
Boardmembers at Large:
Kenneth Hearn

Executive VP: Breice Reiner
Treasurer: Cynthia Fagin
Steve Ajalat
Leslie Owens

Vice President: Stuart Simen
Past President: Lori Dinkin
Jerry Fagin
Ronit Weiss

Refreshments will be served

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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

Neighbors Working Together To Improve The Quality Of Life