

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 19 NUMBER 3

June 2009

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

Valley Village Specific Plan Amendments

Proposed Amendments to Valley Village Specific Plan

The Valley Village Specific Plan which deals with standards of development, commercial and residential, zoning and land use was approved by the City in 1993.

Amendments are being proposed to bring the plan up to date with current practice. The Land Use committee of Neighborhood Council Valley Village with input from the VVHA has written a proposal which will be presented to the NCVV board and the community. Attend the NCVV meeting at Colfax Elementary School Wednesday, June 24, 2009 6:30pm if you want to hear and take part in the discussion.

The original Specific Plan and the proposed amendments are posted on the VVHA website: www.ValleyVillageHA.com.

Highlights of the Proposed Amendments – The Valley Village Specific Plan

1. Urban Design
 - A. Establish design standards.
 - B. A ban on pole signs and projecting signs and limits for wall signs and architectural canopy signs.
 - C. A ban on conversions of existing billboards to digital (LED) billboards.
 - D. Underground utility connections for new construction.
 - E. Additional landscaping requirements for parking lots.
 - F. Expand the Specific Plan's language on tree preservation in Sec. 9.C.1&2 to apply to single family homes.
 - G. Establishing build to lines along the commercial streets.
 - H. Applying the height stepdown already in the Specific Plan for commercial buildings to multifamily residential.
2. Land Use
Add sidewalk vendors, portable signs, full service car washes, auto repair and auto body shops, new and used automobile sales, new and used mobile home sales, tattoo parlors, psychics, massage parlors, medical marijuana and smoke shops to the list of prohibited uses in the existing Specific Plan. Change fast food restaurants to drive through restaurants. Remove trade schools from the list.

Recommend Programs

1. That the median of Laurel Canyon Boulevard between Magnolia and Burbank Boulevards be landscaped.
2. That a program for the systematic planting of street trees along the major and secondary highways be established.
3. That DWP study the feasibility of undergrounding the utilities along the major and secondary highways in Valley Village.
4. That the City study the feasibility of setting up an assessment district to fund the purchase and removal of billboards in Valley Village.

The Stevens Property

When Stevens Nursery sold, a request to change the zoning to R3 was granted. This cleared the way for condo development of 95 plus units. It appears the difficulty in obtaining construction financing has put this project on hold. Recently, Gary Schaffel, the developer involved in the condo project contacted VVHA. He was inquiring about how the community might view having a self storage facility at that location. The current zoning would not allow such a project. We are passing the question on to you. What is your opinion? Call the VVHA voicemail at 818-506-5158 or go to our website, www.ValleyVillageHA.com and send an email.

Mystery Building

What is being built at 11713 Riverside Drive? Repeated inquiries to Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office asking about this construction have not been answered. There is already a foundation and first floor and work has begun on a second story. In addition, each wall is on the property line with no set back. Let's let Wendy know we would like some answers. Call the councilmember at 818-755-7676.

Valley Village July 4th Parade

The parade starts at Colfax School at 10am and ends at Valley Village Park.

Meet The Board

As Jerry Fagin approached retirement from his profession as a clinical pharmacist serving doctors and hospitals throughout Los Angeles he decided to devote some of his energy to civic activities. That was eight years ago and he has been a member of the Association's Board of Directors ever since. He's been an active participant in creation of the VVHA web site, in organizing the first Valley Village Birthday Party and as chair of the annual July 4th Parade.

Brooklyn, N.Y. is where he was born, raised and educated, but California has been home for a long time. He and Cynthia, his wife, share an interest in volunteer community service. Cindy is the excellent and devoted treasurer of VVHA.

Jerry is also devoted to other interests; framed prints of his photographs decorate their home. He's known among his friends as the "go-to" guy on computer questions and finds time for extensive reading about science, sociological studies.

Questioned about what goals he would like to see VVHA pursue, he responded, "It would be a worthy accomplishment to bring neighbors into contact, to create a community where people mingle and know each other."

EDITORIAL STAFF

Publisher: Peter Sanchez
 Editor: Breice Reiner
 Proofreader: Stuart Simen
 Contributors:
 Marc Woerschling

Phone: 818-506-5158

A Letter from the President

Dear Members:

As I start my third year as president of Valley Village Homeowners Association, one of the lessons I've learned is that Lori Dinkin had some big shoes to fill. Wow, Lori did a lot! We need some help. Here are some of the things you can help with.

The Website: We have a webmaster, but we need someone to direct and work with the webmaster. Our website needs color, imagination and needs to be fresh and look current. You will work closely with the board vice president.

News Junkie: We need someone to look for news and legislation that may have an impact on Valley Village. This person is probably someone who reads the newspaper already or enjoys searching the internet for news and information. Items found will be passed on to the board for further research and action.

We need to get a better handle on development and land use in Valley Village. I envision a three prong approach: Development Spotter, Development Researcher and Land Use Liaison.

Development Spotter: This person is someone who is out and about in Valley Village on a regular basis and notices change. When new development is spotted, this person will alert the Land Use Liaison of the address.

Development Researcher: This person will check the City Planning Department website for new projects in Valley Village. When information is found it will be passed to the Land Use Liaison.

The Land Use Liaison will be the contact with the VVHA board. They will gather information from the Development Spotter and the Development Researcher and present the information to the board for further research and action.

Project Managers: The Association would like to do more one-time projects to beautify and improve the community. Maybe this person has knowledge of project management software or just really knows how to use a clipboard and pencil well. We are looking for someone who likes to organize and coordinate projects and volunteers.

Project Volunteers: People who are interested in taking a few hours a couple times a year and doing a project to make Valley Village a better place. (Tree plantings, murals, etc.)

Marketing and Public Relations: Primary goal is increasing the membership and awareness of our great organization. The larger the membership the greater our influence.

Burbank Elementary School Liaison: (Yes, this school is in Valley Village!) The Association has a terrific relationship with the Colfax School, we want to build our relationship with Burbank Elementary too.

If any of these fit you – please call me. It doesn't matter if you only have one hour a month, every little bit will help. You can reach me at 818-506-5158.

Neighbors Working Together To Improve The Quality of Life!

Peter

