

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 24 NUMBER 3

June 2014

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

Valley Village July 4th Parade

The annual Valley Village July 4th Parade keeps growing bigger and better. It started 21 years ago with 50 marchers and no spectators and has grown to over 2000 participants and spectators and a huge community gathering at Valley Village Park.

The parade is organized by the Valley Village Homeowners Association with about 20 hardworking volunteers guiding marchers to July 4th snacks and fun at Valley Village Park. This year's parade features Grand Marshals Paul Hatfield and Robert Pine.

Neighborhood Council Valley Village has arranged for two marching bands. Officers from our North Hollywood LAPD will lead the parade.

Many marchers decorate their bikes, scooters and wagons in red, white and blue and wear their patriotic colors as they walk in the parade and wave to onlookers. Decorated golf carts and trucks are allowed.

Safety rules require that no one stands in a moving vehicle and no sitting or standing on the back of trucks.

The Parade starts at 10am on Addison Street in front of Colfax Charter School. It heads west on Addison Street, turns right on Ben Avenue (north), right on Otsego Street (east), across Colfax Avenue to Irvine. Then turns right on Irvine Avenue (south) and left on Hesby Street (east) to Westpark Drive. The parade ends at Valley Village Park.

At the park, Valley Village Homeowners Association provides bottled water, corn dogs, watermelon and cupcakes.

Manny's Beat

Dear Friends,

First off, I'd like to thank all of you for your continued support and dedication to making Valley Village a great community! It is because of our strong partnership that our area continues to lead in overall crime reduction. I am pleased to report that our area has currently experienced an 18% reduction in overall crime, compared to 2013. The only crime that has spiked is Auto thefts.

Unfortunately, people are still leaving vehicles unlocked. Some incidents involved vehicle keys being left on the front seat or under floor mats. These auto thefts occur in apartment buildings, where roommates share common parking spaces. Please help us by telling friends and neighbors about this trend.

Working together will ensure our success by year's end!

Thank You,
Your Senior Lead Officer
Manny Arreygue!

Valley Village On Lockdown

On Monday, June 9th, VVHA past-president Peter Sanchez was outside his home on Irvine Avenue talking with a neighbor when seven helicopters showed up from all directions and hovered above. His neighbor said, "That's not good, I'm going home."

The neighbor was correct. A convicted felon armed with an assault rifle led police on a high-speed pursuit throughout Los Angeles, and jumped from his car on Magnolia Boulevard. He scaled rooftops and finally barricaded himself inside a Valley Village home in the 11500 block of Hartsook Street.

The police and other emergency personnel were on site within minutes, and a four-block perimeter was sealed off. The standoff triggered lockdowns of Oakwood School, North Hollywood High School, Colfax Charter School and Walter Reed Middle School. Oakwood School and the police safely evacuated their students. The other schools had already ended their terms for the summer, but staff members were still on site and safely evacuated.

The standoff ended after Los Angeles Police Department SWAT officers fired tear gas into the house. "It proved to be effective," LAPD Lt. Andy Neiman said. "The suspect then surrendered to SWAT." The suspect was identified as Nolan Perez, 41, of Pacoima. That morning officers had tried to serve a warrant on Perez for making threats against a woman. He fled. New charges are expected to include leading police on a pursuit, evading police and possibly assault with a deadly weapon if it's determined that he shot at police during the chase.

31st Annual NNO

National Night Out sponsored by Neighborhood Council Valley Village will be held at Valley Village Park Tuesday, August 5th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. NNO promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. More than 37.8 million people and 16,124 communities participate in this single-night event nationwide.

This year's theme at our gathering is *Honoring Local Heroes*. We have many heroes to honor!

Come and chat with Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, and members of our law enforcement community, including police officers, firefighters, LAPD Cadets and the Red Cross.

There will be free food and drinks, live entertainment from the Jimmy Dale Band and a new feature this year, *Art in the Park*, showcasing local artists.

The evening concludes with a flashlight walk through the neighborhood. Come join us, and please leave your porch light on. Valley Village Park is located at 5000 Westpark Drive.

Welcome Aboard

Thanks to two VVHA members for responding to the call for volunteers. Gil Shorr and Lisa Miller are joining The Valley Villager.

Both are experienced writers and editors. They are talented, valuable additions to the staff. Watch for new features and fresh ideas in coming issues.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Publisher:	Peter Sanchez
Editor:	Breice Reiner
Asst Editors:	Lisa Miller Gil Shorr
Proofreader:	Stuart Simen
Contributors:	Manny Arreygue
Alan Brody	Lori Dinkin
Cathy Flynn	Stephen Fromkin
Suzanne Lewis	Marc Woerschling

A Letter from the President

In the last Valley Villager I discussed homelessness. Not far removed from this subject is poverty. In the limited space I have, I want to touch on this topic.

Have you ever suffered from poverty? I have not and I hope never to be in that circumstance. I came from humble beginnings like so many of us. My parents were immigrants who opened a grocery store at the start of the depression in Iowa, but we were never without a meal or a home.

Unfortunately, Los Angeles has the highest poverty rate among California counties. According to a recent Los Angeles Times article, researchers with the Public Policy Institute of California and the Stanford Center on Poverty found that 2.6 million, or 27%, of Los Angeles residents lived in poverty in 2011. The official poverty rate for the county, based on a 2011 American Community Survey, is 18%. California's poverty rate is 22%, the highest in the nation. The report found that although many Californians find it difficult to make ends meet, things would be much worse without state, federal and local safety-net programs, including food stamps, CalWORKs and the earned tax credit. Out-of-pocket medical costs, however, increase the hardship, particularly for Californians over 65.

Even if we live in a community that has few poor, it affects us. We are a community surrounded by other communities and our way of life is influenced by all who live in our city. According to Michael Matsunaga at an economic round table from Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, "poverty adversely affects the lives of Los Angeles residents as well as the city as a whole. Among other things, poverty has a direct financial impact on local government because of above-average per capita costs for municipal services related to police and fire protection, courts, education, and other services in poor neighborhoods."

There are ways we can help without being a government agency. We can donate to food banks. We can support and volunteer for organizations such as the Working Poor Families Project or Americanpoverty.org.

You can help. Bring an item of canned or boxed food to the park on July 4th, drop it at our VVHA table and we will take all goods received to the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry. Whatever we do may seem little but taken together it becomes a movement.

Alan Brody, President, Valley Village Homeowners Association



VVHA Website:
ValleyVillageHA.com

VVHA Voicemail:
818-506-5158

Specific Plan Threatened

Since 1986, the Valley Village Specific Plan has been the backbone and strength of Valley Village. Concerned that high-rise apartment buildings and inappropriate commercial development was threatening our peaceful community, the Valley Village Homeowners Association developed a Specific Plan to restrict building height and guarantee low density in new construction. The Specific Plan conceived by our dedicated board members, took seven years to be approved by the City of Los Angeles. It was ratified in February 1993. These planning restrictions work and have proved to be invaluable.

Now, a City Council proposal to remove two lots at the intersection of Laurel Canyon and Burbank Boulevard from the protection of the Specific Plan is troubling. This change in the Valley Village boundary can create a precedent for future challenges. The Starbucks Coffee Company intends to build a drive-thru at the southeast corner. Since the Specific Plan does not allow this type of restaurant, Councilmember Paul Kerkorian has introduced a proposal to change the VV boundary to accommodate the project. The Valley Village Homeowners Association strongly objects to this position and urges all Valley Village residents to make themselves heard by calling Councilmember Paul Kerkorian.

In a recent interview, Lori Dinkin, one of the founding members of VVHA, expressed concern that City approved changes to the Specific Plan could weaken the protection the community has benefited from for so long. Lori says that during her many years as president of VVHA she found "our community is the envy of other Valley neighborhoods" that do not have specific plans in place. She also recounted that many developers in the past have found ways to build their projects so that they conform to the VV Specific Plan.

When asked whether a small change to VVHA's Plan might be acceptable she replied, very emphatically, "No change to our Specific Plan is acceptable!"

**City Councilmember For Valley Village
Paul Kerkorian 818-755-7676**

Trees for Valley Village

The Neighborhood Council Valley Village (NCVV), teaming up with Environmental Services, Paul Kerkorian's office and working with federal funds, is planning to have 163 trees planted along Laurel Canyon Boulevard, from the 101 freeway north to Burbank Boulevard and at Whitsett and Magnolia – transforming the Boulevard into a green corridor of shade and calm right up through the center of Valley Village, and the Whitsett corner into an attractive shopping precinct.

The plan is to reach out to specific businesses along the route that will benefit from this greening project, asking them to "adopt" the trees and commit to watering them for two years. They will be given a watering kit and a certificate of thanks for their help, and NCVV members will support them by visually monitoring the trees' health, making monthly contact with each business and, in extreme cases of tree malaise, helping to water them.

The challenge for the NCVV is to complete this project by the end of August when the federal grant (now held by the City) expires. For more information about this project and to volunteer call NCVV at 818-759-8204.

New Candidates Are Needed

Election of Officers and Board of Valley Village Homeowners Association is held every two years.

New Candidates are needed. Nominees must be paid-up members of Valley Village Homeowners Association and willing to serve. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the January meeting. The election is by ballot.

Surely you can spare an hour or two a month, for the benefit of Valley Village. It is a two-year commitment. Board meetings are usually every other month. Membership meetings are four times a year.

If you are interested in becoming a Board member or would like to nominate someone, please contact Peter Sanchez at 818-506-5158.

Pole Facelift

The rusty poles look much better painted green. Thank you, Dorothy & Tim Apple, Adriana De Le Parra, Stephen & Max Fromkin, Paul Hatfield, Sandy Hubbard, Suzanne Lewis, Chris McParland, Rob Nottingham, Peter Sanchez, Steve, Sammy & Tanner Schwimmer, Steve Simon, Gil Shorr and Miguel for helping to paint Valley Village street sign poles. Because of you our neighborhood looks a lot nicer. There are more to do and if you want to help contact Peter at 818-506-5158.

Colfax Fair Success

On May 17th, 2014 Colfax Charter Elementary hosted another successful World Fair. Proceeds help bring technology, arts, after school enrichment and other programs to the school. Colfax would like to extend its appreciation to Valley Village for its continued support and participation, which enables them to continue their mantra of being, "rooted in education and reaching for the stars."

Mansionization – The Problem Persists

For the last ten years, communities in Los Angeles have been pressing the City Council for protection from mansionization, the construction of large, boxy two-story single-family homes that are out-of-scale with and loom over older, often one-story, neighboring houses. While construction of overly large homes dropped during the recent severe recession, it is increasing again as the economy recovers.

In 2008, the City Council responded by passing the Citywide Mansionization Ordinance which established lower limits for the amount of floor area relative to lot size. However, the Citywide Mansionization Ordinance turned out to be ineffective. The Citywide Ordinance also has a density incentive for green energy and water conservation features that is unrelated to controlling mansionization and is no longer needed due to energy and water conservation measures added to other sections of the City Code

In response to the inadequacies of the Citywide Mansionization Ordinance, in 2008 the Neighborhood Council Valley Village proposed that a Residential Floor Area district (RFA) be enacted to establish a lower base ratio for floor area relative to lot size, and scaled back density incentives. These were incorporated into a motion submitted to the City Council in 2009. The motion was not acted on, languishing in the Planning Committee of the City Council and then expiring two years later, in 2011.

During the past year, Neighborhood Council Valley Village has requested Councilmember Paul Krekorian, who represents Valley Village, to initiate another RFA for Valley Village. Councilmember Krekorian's office encountered difficulties in other communities that could not agree on the provisions of their RFA. This has led to Krekorian's office insisting that, in order for them to submit a motion for an RFA, they be provided with evidence of strong support for it from at least 70-75% of the households in Valley Village. This would require a major organizing effort with teams of volunteers walking door to door to canvass Valley Village to determine which single family homeowners would support stricter controls on mansions.

Recently, Krekorian's office proposed a different approach that they are willing to support. It would include Valley Village in the Studio City RFA. This would still require going through the formal approval process of public hearings and approval by the Planning Commission, the City Council and the Mayor. Support from the Valley Village community would also be needed.

There is a citywide effort underway to fix the defects in the Citywide Mansionization Ordinance, so that individual communities will not have to request their own RFAs. A motion was introduced by Councilmember Paul Koretz who represents several Westside communities impacted by mansionization. The motion would: (1) scale back the basic ratio of floor area to lot area in the Citywide Ordinance by 10% for R1 zoned lots less than 7,500 sq.ft. in area; (2) instruct the Planning Department to review whether the two density bonuses intended to reduce the boxy look are meeting the Ordinance's goals of reducing Mansionization; (3) repeal the density bonus for green energy and water conservation devices; and (4) instruct the Planning Department to evaluate whether exemptions from floor area limits in the Citywide Ordinance for garages, attached porches/patios, breezeways and double-height entry ways are contributing to new houses that are still out-of-scale with their neighbors.

For the past ten years, communities in Los Angeles have been attempting to "work within the system" to solve the problem of out-of-scale single-family homes but, except for RFAs established in three communities, the City's response has been ineffective. This raises questions as to whether Los Angeles is capable of solving even its most basic planning problems. Most of the other smaller cities surrounding Los Angeles look better and appear to have done better planning than Los Angeles. Even more citizen vigilance and the election of more capable Councilpersons will be needed in order to improve the quality of planning in Los Angeles.

Neighbors Working Together To Improve The Quality Of Life

Valley Village July 4th

PARADE

Put on your Red, White & Blue.
Decorate your bike, trike, wagon
stroller or skates.

Meet at 9:30 a.m.
Friday, July 4th,
Addison Street parking lot
Colfax Charter
Elementary School

The parade will travel west on
Addison to Ben, north to
Otsego, across Colfax to Irvine,
south on Irvine to Hesby, then
east to Valley Village Park.



Refreshments
and Fun!

All ages welcome!

If you don't join the
parade, cheer on
your neighbors as
they pass by.

Sponsored by
Valley Village Homeowners Association
818-506-5158 ~ www.ValleyVillageHA.com

Valley Village July 4th

PARADE



>>>>> **SAVE THE DATES!** <<<<<

Saturday, June 28th

Used Oil, Used Oil Filter and Electronic Waste Collection Event

North Hollywood Recreation Center
11430 Chandler Blvd., North Hollywood
9am to 3pm

Friday, July 4th

FREE 4th of July Community Pancake Breakfast

Faith Presbyterian Church of Valley Village
5000 Colfax Avenue, Valley Village
On the Front Lawn
8am to 9:45am

Remember, The Parade Begins at 10am

Co-Sponsored by Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Rev. Richard Poole 818-766-8103 or Suzanne Lewis 818-759-8204

Saturday, July 12th

Valley Village Park Clean-Up

5000 Westpark Drive, Valley Village
On the Front Lawn
8:30am to 11:00am

Join TreePeople and your neighbors as we nurture the newly planted trees with mulch and hand watering.

Free Refreshments

Sponsored by Neighborhood Council Valley Village
Suzanne Lewis or Ginny Hatfield 818-759-8204

Saturday, July 12th

FREE MOVIE NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

Gates Open at 6pm ~ Feature Movie Starts at 8:15pm

Neighborhood Council Valley Village (NCVV) is hosting the Free Family Movie Night Under the Stars at Colfax Charter School and will be screening the Disney Animated Musical "**FROZEN**" with sing-along subtitles. NCVV will also be providing Free Water, Popcorn, and Raffle Prizes. Bring a Picnic, a Blanket and Chairs. Food may also be purchased from a variety of food trucks.

Come see your friends and be sure to bring along your beautiful voices!

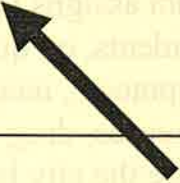
Suzanne Lewis or Ginny Hatfield 818-759-8204 or info@myvalleyvillage.com

Please Pay Your Membership Dues Now

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

Check your mailing label ...

Pay dues: June 30, 2014
 Valley V. Resident
 1234 Laurel Canyon Blvd
 Valley Village, CA 91607



... if you see 2014 or earlier please pay your dues now.

Membership is open to all residents living in the area bounded by the Ventura Freeway on the South, the Tujunga Wash on the West, the Hollywood Freeway on the East and the south side of Burbank Boulevard on the North.

VVHA board members are volunteers and are elected every two years by the membership.

Neighbors Working Together to Preserve The Quality of Life

Cut out and return with your check made payable to Valley Village Homeowners Association P.O. Box 4916 Valley Village CA 91617
 Or use Paypal at our website: www.ValleyVillageHA.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual dues per household: Basic Dues **\$18.00** Donor Dues: **\$25.00** Patron Dues: **\$50.00**

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

The Association needs opinions and volunteers.
 Include the information with your payment and
 We will contact you. Thank you.

OR USE PAYPAL AT OUR WEBSITE:

www.ValleyVillageHA.com

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Homeowners Association Meeting

Wednesday, July 16, 2014 - 7:00pm

Colfax School Auditorium

11724 Addison Street

Valley Village, CA 91607

Tamar Galatzan

Tamar Galatzan is the Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Valley Village area. Created in 2002, the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program assigns Deputy City Attorneys to work in police divisions, alongside officers and residents, on quality-of-life issues that affect the community. These include transient encampments, medical marijuana businesses, neighbor disputes, nuisance properties, noisy party houses, drug activity and prostitution. They are accessible problem-solvers who can navigate the city bureaucracy, mediate disputes and employ the resources and powers of the court systems. Tamar is also a LAUSD school board member representing District 3 in the San Fernando Valley.

Light Refreshments will be served

**Mark Your
Calendar:**

***The Next Membership Meeting will be:
Wednesday, October 15th***

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VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617

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