

# THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

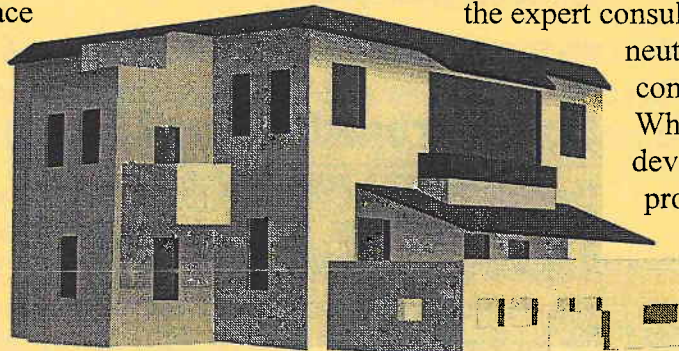


VOL. 16 NUMBER 1 January 2006 P.O. BOX 4916, VALLEY VILLAGE, CA 91617

## From The President

**Mansionization:** Hi! Valley Village Homeowners Association anticipates a continued focus on land use issues. I receive phone calls every day about so-called "Mansionization" and all of these calls are begging us to address this situation. The high housing prices and low interest rates have spawned a rash of new developments, be they condos, townhouses, apartment buildings or single family homes. There are projects underway to replace older and smaller family units with much larger and costlier units. We ask, has anyone thought of the infrastructure such as schools, traffic, water, etc.? Not to mention the long term residents who have rented these affordable units for years, what is to become of them? Many are seniors living on a tight budget. We are fully aware of these problems and are addressing our concerns to Councilmember Wendy Greuel.

We are also working on the mansionization problems. We have no intention of trying to stop the building of two story homes. We want to address the increasingly common practice of building a large home on a small lot, where the house seems to take up every inch of open space. There must be a viable



solution and we will find it. To that end, we have hired an architect-design consultant who will work with us on a committee of representatives from VVHA, Neighborhood Council Valley Village (NCVV) and other members of the community. We have met twice with Councilmember Greuel's staff, but feel we need a neutral expert who can steer us in the right direction to come up with a viable plan and solution. I am sometimes asked, "What do our membership dues do?" Part of your dues will pay for the expert consultant. His vast experience and his neutrality is exactly what we need to come up with a successful plan. When this committee has developed some constructive proposals to mitigate this complex problem, we will call for a Town Hall meeting and present it for the residents consideration.

**Public Storage Facility:** Tom Paterson and I attended a Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) meeting downtown to finalize the plans for the self storage building on Laurel Canyon Boulevard adjacent to the entrance to the 101 freeway. Several kinks had to be worked out to assure that the project would conform to VV Specific Plan requirements. There will be a hearing before the City Council for final approval of the project. I am optimistic that the  
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## Happy 67<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Valley Village - Feb 25, 2006

The winter holiday season has passed. Everyone should have recuperated from all the celebrations and entertaining that go with the days between Thanksgiving and New Years. Let's party!

Valley Village needs an excuse for a big, fun get-together like our summertime Fourth of July Parade. Everybody likes a Birthday Party and you are invited.  
Check pages 3 and 4 for the details, and mark your calendar.

## Your Voice Counts on Mansionization

In September 2005, all Valley Village Homeowners Association members received a letter urging you to phone, write or e-mail Councilmembers Wendy Greuel and Jack Weiss on the issue of "mansionization." If you are concerned about large, box-like houses that dwarf those around them, your action is urgently needed. Contact your councilmember now. Councilmembers Greuel and Weiss need to know that their constituents are deeply concerned with the character and appearance of our community. Removing mature trees, intruding on the privacy of neighbors, building out of proportion to the lot size is not acceptable to many residents. This has become an issue in every part of Los Angeles and beyond. Express your opinion. Your representatives do not know what you want unless you tell them. Do it today. Wendy Greuel, Councilmember: 6350 Laurel Canyon Blvd. Suite 201, North Hollywood, CA 91606. Phone: 818-755-7676. E-mail: [greuel@council.lacity.org](mailto:greuel@council.lacity.org) Jack Weiss, Councilmember: 14310 Ventura Blvd. Suite 100, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. Phone: 818-756-8083. E-mail: [weiss@council.lacity.org](mailto:weiss@council.lacity.org)

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### From The President (continued from page 1)

project will be appropriate to our neighborhood. You have trusted us on many issues and the results have benefited our Valley Village community.

**Birthday Party:** We are working hard on the Valley Village Birthday Party. Please help celebrate this terrific event! Where can you get a full dinner and entertainment for \$5.00 a person? This minimal amount covers only a small part of the cost. VVHA and NCVV are picking up the other expenses and are contributing many volunteer hours. Spread the news about our party; bring your kids, neighbors and friends. It promises to be a wonderful evening and get-together. To quote the Los Angeles Times in an article about Valley Village, "It's a slice of the sweet life."

**Next Meeting:** Our next VVHA meeting will be the Valley Village Birthday Party on Saturday, February 25, 6:30pm at St. David's Parish Hall, 11605 Magnolia Boulevard.

Thursday, May 18, 2006 we will be meeting at our usual place Colfax Elementary School auditorium. We hope that Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky will be our guest speaker.

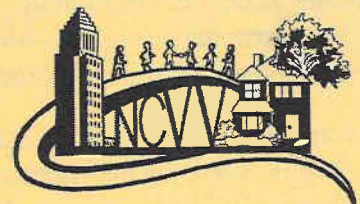
We'll see you at the party. Y'all come! Lori

## Neighborhood Council Valley Village Election

The Neighborhood Council Valley Village Board election was held on Oct. 19 and 20, 2005. The election was certified by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment on Dec. 6, 2005 after a recount of the votes. The election results were very close and a recount showed no change in the outcome.

### The new NCVV Board of Directors

- At Large: Paul Hatfield\* (Treasurer)
- Business: Morris Friedman  
Ben Lautman  
Stuart Simen\*
- Community Org: Breice Reiner\* (Vice Pres.)
- Cultural: Dan Wiseman
- Education: Greg O'Connor\*
- Faith Based: Harriet Newton
- Homeowners: Alan Brody  
Peter Sanchez\* (President)  
Bill Santoro\*
- Renters: Tony Braswell (Secretary)  
Jonathan Kahn-Rose  
Paul Wiener
- Senior Org: Ginny Hatfield\*
- Student: Open



\*Member of VVHA

There was a larger voter turnout than at previous elections. It is gratifying to see residents of Valley Village becoming aware of the existence and activities of the neighborhood council. VVHA encourages members to become involved with the neighborhood council by attending meetings or volunteering. Board meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Colfax Elementary School at 6:30pm.

