

THE VALLEY VILLAGER

VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 20 NUMBER 2 April 2010

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

11933 Magnolia Project Appeal Upheld

Shortly after Councilmember Krekorian (CD2) took office, he used a rarely-invoked section of the Charter (245) to move the hearing of the 11933 Magnolia project in Valley Village into the City Council’s jurisdiction. This effectively meant that the Council would now hear the community’s appeal of the Director’s determination previously approved by the Planning Commission. The City Council voted YES on the “245 Motion” which meant they took temporary jurisdiction for the next 21 days. The matter was immediately sent to their Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM). On Tuesday, January 26th, the PLUM Committee motioned to sustain the appeal due to a finding that the traffic study was flawed. They sent their recommendation to approve our appeal to the City Council. On Friday, January 29th, the City Council voted affirmatively on the motion and the community’s appeal was sustained. The motion goes next to the Mayor for approval.

We are thankful to Paul Krekorian for addressing this issue as a top priority so quickly out of the gate. It was a baptism-by-fire scenario and the result was a win for his constituents, and, yes, for the wider community.

Nonetheless while this has gained a temporary respite, we will all be revisiting this project shortly, as the work is not completed. We now await the next action of the bank/developer. In addition to awaiting the property owner’s decision on how they want to proceed, we will also need to address the medium and larger issues that surrounded this project in the first place, as a project of this size and density should not be a future option. It is critical that the property be rezoned as should have been done in the 1990s.

The Board and Membership of the Valley Village Homeowners Association opposes SB1818 and the Los Angeles City Ordinance to implement SB1818. Therefore, we support the appeal (DIR-2008-1178-DB-SPP) regarding the SB1818 development located at 11933 Magnolia Boulevard, Valley Village.

Vision of a Brighter Future

To build a better community it is necessary to gain knowledge of the city planning and development process. In February, Neighborhood Council Valley Village (NCVV) sponsored classes to help stakeholders understand the mysteries of city planning and to be better advocates for the future shape of Valley Village.

Valley Village Homeowners Association, in a joint effort with NCVV wants to gather information from residents about their “Vision of a Bright Future” for Valley Village. Participation can be as simple as creating a “wish list.” Send your ideas or suggestions to ValleyVillageHA.com or to VVHA voice mail at 818-506-5158.

Portable Sign Update

One of the most pronounced ongoing concerns expressed by residents of Valley Village is the proliferation of portable signs along Laurel Canyon, Riverside and Magnolia. The Council offices of both Paul Krekorian and Paul Koretz have heard this loud and clear. They are helping our community get rid of the offensive advertising. Legislation has been introduced at the City Council that would put strong limits on the use of trailer mounted ads that can be seen throughout the southeast Valley.



If you support eliminating this type of advertising, call your Councilmembers today and support their efforts.

- District 2: Paul Kerkorian
818-755-7676
- District 5: Paul Koretz
818-971-3088

Paul Koretz
Guest Speaker
Membership Meeting
See back page for details

NIXLE

What Is NIXLE?

LAPD has joined the Nixle Alert system. Nixle allows LAPD to send out information, notices and alerts concerning all types of activities, advisories, crime alerts and wanted suspects. It's quick and easy to sign up and you receive both emails and text messages on your cell phone.

To sign up ...

Go to www.lapdonline.org scroll down the page, and on the right you'll see "NIXLE" Simply click and sign up.

Direct link:

<http://local.nixle.com/register/?cc=lapd>

Are You Ready For The Shake?

- > Learn how to shut off gas, water, and electricity in case the lines are damaged.
- > Check chimneys, roofs and wall foundations for stability.
- > Secure water heater and appliances that could move enough to rupture utility lines.
- > Keep breakable and heavy objects on lower shelves.
- > Put latches on cabinet doors to keep them closed during shaking.
- > Keep flammable or hazardous liquids such as paints, pest sprays or cleaning products in cabinets or secured on lower shelves.
- > Maintain emergency food, water, medicine, first aid kit, tools and clothing.

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A Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors:

I have got to tell you, I am worried. I am concerned with how our City runs its finances, how it budgets and how it views dealing with deficits. I may have to move back to Pennsylvania. Sanitation fees have tripled, LAUSD is talking about a parcel tax, our sales tax is 9.75% and now a proposed DWP rate increase is being proposed all in an effort to increase the City's revenue. (I hate calling it revenue – it's our tax dollars after all.)

I have long called for five year or longer forecasting of revenue and budgeting, yet our City continues to operate on a year-to-year basis. They handle each spending issue and crisis with a Band-Aid while approving generous wage packages for municipal and DWP employees.

It appears to me that our elected officials can't say no and can't figure out how to sacrifice when crisis hits. We are in crisis if you haven't noticed. City Controller Wendy Greuel announced the City will be out of cash to pay bills by May, but soon revised her projection by saying the payroll could be met only by digging deep into precious reserves. That would leave us vulnerable to emergencies and would adversely affect the city's credit rating.

I saw this coming and I think most of you did too. The economy began its decline in 2006. Instead of dealing with it, our Mayor did nothing. Now he has proposed a three day work week for non-revenue generating and non-emergency City employees. All in an effort to try and force the taxpayers of this City to accept higher fees and rates.

There is no good solution, but the solution can no longer be going back to the taxpayers for more money. We should be looking at ways to make City government more efficient and easier to deal with. We must make the hard decisions of what we can live without, at least for right now.

I have communicated to our Councilmembers, Paul Kerkorian and Paul Koretz, that the Valley Village Homeowners Association is not in favor of any additional taxes, fee increases or rate increases and those that support these increases will be hearing from the fine folks of Valley Village at the next election.

I think they heard us, DWP rate increases have been postponed for three months. The City Council has requested that the DWP better justify their reasoning for a rate increase. But the fight is far from over...

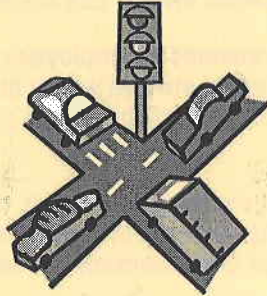
I encourage you to contact our elected officials also. Tell them how you feel about rate, tax and fee increases, City spending and budgeting. Whether you agree or disagree, we have to get a handle on our City finances. It's time to bite the bullet and stop the thinking that we (the taxpayers) are a bottomless wallet. This wallet is running dry and I don't really want to move back to Pennsylvania.

Peter

Council District 2: Paul Kerkorian 818-755-7676
 Kerkorian@lacity.org
 Council District 5: Paul Koretz 818-971-3088
 Paul.koretz@lacity.org
 Budget & Finance Committee Chair:
 Bernard Parks 213-473-7008
 Councilmember.parks@lacity.org
 Mayor: Antonio Villariagosa 213-978-0600
 Mayor@lacity.org

Additional Left Turn Lane

In an ongoing effort to mitigate the congestion from drivers attempting to maneuver from the Hollywood Freeway (170) southbound to the Ventura Freeway (101) westbound, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation is undertaking a study at Riverside Drive and Laurel Canyon to convert one of the westbound lanes of traffic into a second left-turn only lane. Several years ago the left turn only arrows were added at the intersection, but increasing westbound traffic at Laurel Canyon seeking to enter the freeway forces the existing left turn lane to create a daily backup of up to two city blocks during peak commute times. In reviewing the blueprints and discussing the proposed plans with the City's surveyor, implementation of a second left-turn lane to relieve the hazardous back-up traffic may be as early as this fall. Your Homeowners Association will keep you apprised of these developments.



Letter to the Editor

Dear VVHA Friends --

In mid-December, for the second time in just six months, the Valley Village entry sign was involved in a hit and run accident. The impact of the collision moved the sign completely off its footing and destroyed the stone façade. Residents have been working with Paul Koretz' office and LAPD to identify the driver and request restitution to restore the sign. Peter Sanchez, Valley Village Homeowners Association president, has been instrumental in this effort. Thanks to his hard work, we soon should be able to repair the sign.

The Valley Village entry sign has been a point of pride for our area. The sign came about through a partnership between VVHA and NCVV. I want to thank Pete for his leadership and dogged determination in helping us identify the motorist involved in the accident and in helping to file a claim to get our sign fixed.

*Tony Braswell,
President Neighborhood Council Valley Village*

Neighborhood Watch

So you think that Neighborhood Watch meetings are dull?

Not when Senior Lead Officer Manny Arreygue is in charge of that meeting. Manny is a wizard at computers and puts on a terrific show at each meeting that has 'em rolling in the aisles. His program may consist of a cartoon, a TV show and lots of laughs. There are even drawings for prizes at some meetings. And always lively discussions.

Manny will answer your questions or get back to you if he needs to find the answers. He also disseminates information on recent incidents and any new scams that are out there.

Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at Victory School 6315 Radford Avenue, North Hollywood - 7:00pm.

Manny's voice mail is 818-634-0829. He answers calls the same day when he is on duty or as soon as he gets back from a day off.

We hope to see you at the next meeting. Join in the fun and become a Manny fan!

For emergencies call: 911

For non-emergencies call dispatch: 877-ASK-LAPD

Vendors – Our New Web Page

In a previous issue of the Villager we asked what you thought of us creating and maintaining a page on our website for member-recommended vendors for home upkeep and repair needs. All your responses were positive to the idea so last month we started the web page. A few of us contributed our lists of vendors we were happy with and the web page was born. The page has a disclaimer that the association is not recommending any vendor(s) but merely posting your recommendations. If you use any of these vendors and you are unhappy with the results you are encouraged to leave feedback so we can consider removing that vendor from our listing. The listing will flourish and mature based on your feedback, particularly recommending further vendors in new categories. Be aware that we are not open to all vendor categories, just those useful to us as homeowners or renters.

**Valley Village
July 4th Parade
Sunday, July 4, 2010**

Neighborhood Council Elections May 27th

Any person who lives, works or owns property in Valley Village is encouraged to vote in the 2010 Neighborhood Council Election. The vote will be held at Faith Presbyterian Church, 5000 Colfax Avenue, in the Fireside Room. The poll will be open from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm on May 27, 2010. Just bring identification that shows you are a stakeholder in Valley Village and you can vote. For more information about the election, or to volunteer at the election poll, call Ginny Hatfield at 818-759-8204 or visit NCVV website:
www.myvalleyvillage.com.

Valley Village has the highest per capita voting in the city of Los Angeles – let's keep that proud distinction –

VOTE MAY 27th



Something New

A Valley Village resident opened a yoga studio and boutique on Laurel Canyon Boulevard. A new addition to the business center of Valley Village is the InYoga studio located in the building that was formally Dutton's Bookstore.

From the Daily News Editorial Page 2/24/2010:

Done with DONE

Neighborhood councils can't allow department's merger to stop them

AFTER years of ignoring the leaking boat that is the city's economic health, city leaders are now bailing like crazy to keep afloat in the face of a \$700 million dollar budget tsunami headed toward Los Angeles.

They're throwing over thousands of employees, including some from public safety. They're tossing out assets that weigh them down, like the zoo and its many denizens. They're even dumping entire city departments in the mad dash to avoid catastrophe.

Considering the scope of the budget shortfall, the Mayor and City Council have little choice. But their indiscriminate unloading shows just how little they think of the growing neighborhood empowerment movement.

For a measly \$2 million savings, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is proposing that the department that oversees the city's dozens of neighborhood councils be folded into the Community Development Department, losing about two dozen employees, including a general manager.

Don't worry, the Mayor said, this could be the beginning of a beautiful era for volunteerism and community fostering of NCs. Whether he meant it or was simply trying to spin a bad situation to his advantage, the mayor has a point. The dysfunctional Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, known around town as DONE, has done as much to obstruct the citizen panels as empower them.

Sure, it seems like a worrisome development. The mayor has also proposed the dismantling of such specialty departments as the Human Relations Commission and Cultural Affairs Department. Lumping DONE with these nonessential departments makes it seem as though the mayor and City Council see the rowdy and irreverent NCs as, well, nonessential to Los Angeles governance.

They couldn't be more wrong.

Still, some worry that sacrificing DONE is merely the first salvo by City Hall to crush the network of neighborhood panels that has been a thorn in the side of politicians since voters in 1999 endorsed the idea in the new charter.

But not everyone sees the loss of a historically troubled department as a terrible blow. In fact, some like Al Abrams, vice chairman of the Board of Neighborhood Commissions, see it as a way to escape from under the yoke of City Hall.

"I think most of the neighborhood councils will see this as a boost and giving them more freedom," Abrams said.

Abrams is right. Being thrown overboard isn't the ending. It may very well give the neighborhood councils the opportunity to swim free of City Hall politics and fully develop into the system of neighbor empowerment envisioned by voters for this new century.

How they fare in this reorganization is entirely up to the councils themselves. The neighborhood councils have never been a stronger force in Los Angeles than they are at the moment.

Despite the dysfunction at DONE over the years, the panels from West Hills to Westchester have given Angelenos a voice they never had before in city politics. Unless they allow it, a little thing like department consolidation shouldn't stop them.

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.
Sunday, 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



Homeowners Association Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 - 7:00pm

Colfax School Auditorium

11724 Addison Street

Valley Village, CA 91607

FEATURED SPEAKER City Councilmember Paul Koretz

On July 1, 2009, Paul Koretz took the oath of office to become the new Los Angeles Councilmember for the City's historic Fifth District.

Born in the San Fernando Valley, Paul was raised and attended school in the 5th District. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from UCLA where he was involved in volunteer endeavors aimed at improving society and helping others.

Serving on the staffs of Zev Yaroslavsky and Marvin Braude and as a Councilmember in the City of West Hollywood, Paul gained experience in city government. In 2000, he was elected to the California State Assembly, representing the 42nd Assembly District that includes much of the City of L.A.'s 5th District. He was reelected twice to his assembly post, serving the maximum-allowed three terms.

Paul hopes that the start of his council service in the City of Los Angeles also marks the start of a heightened commitment by the city to listen to the voice of the people, and to be ever-engaged in the life of our local neighborhoods.

Refreshments will be served at 7:00 pm.

**Mark Your
Calendar:**

*The 2010 VVHA Membership Meetings will be:
April 21st, July 21st and October 20th.*

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Neighbors Working Together To Improve The Quality Of Life