

The BRIDGE

JUNE 2015

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CITY APPROVES MANSIONIZATION MEASURE

On March 25, after many years of debate over the issue of mansionization, the Los Angeles City Council took another step to control oversized development of single family homes in 20 neighborhoods, including Valley Village.

The City has long grappled with inadequacies in the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO), passed in 2008 to address large, out of character single family home construction. Many of these oversized homes could still be built in Valley Village, and it is one of the top complaints received by our NCVV Board.

In 2007, NCVV's Board conducted an unprecedented survey of all Valley Village single family households about their opinion on mansionization, receiving input from almost 1000 homeowners. This scientifically validated data led to a proposal in 2008 that allowed for larger homes, while attempting to maintain the character of our community through stronger limits and requirements. Despite continued requests, this proposal languished for many years.

Finally, with our current Councilman, and the City Council's March 25 action, there is some progress.

The Planning Department is now directed to revamp the BMO within two years to strengthen limits and close loopholes. Additionally, an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) went further to help provide immediate relief in some areas, including Valley Village, while the City reconsiders the BMO guidelines.

Input on this action was requested from NCVV's Board. Our Board and PLU Committee members worked with CD2 Planning Deputy Karo Tarossian toward a goal that reflects the input of our stakeholders. The ICO initiates the process of aligning Valley Village with the existing Studio City Residential Floor Area District, bringing stronger, more appropriate guidelines for development.

"We are grateful that the Council office included us in their effort, and glad we were able to use the information collected in our survey to support a plan that respects the community's overall character and still allows families to grow" said Tony Braswell, NCVV President.

For more information, and to read the ICO, visit myvalleyvillage.com.

— Dan Caplan, NCVV Planning and Land Use Committee

VALLEY VILLAGE MERCHANTS RECEPTION JUNE 22

Sandy Hubbard

Neighborhood Council Valley Village hosted the first ever reception for merchants in our neighborhood. The event, in cooperation with the Valley Village Homeowners Association, was held at Harvest Moon Café on June 22nd.



"The purpose was to bring together retail businesses in Valley Village to discuss ways we can improve their visibility in our community" said Jim Britten, owner of Brittany Floor Coverings and member of the NCVV Vision Committee.

Businesses in Valley Village have been a big part of many of our signature events, including Light Up Valley Village and the recent installation of 139 trees across our neighborhood.

At the reception, the City of Los Angeles and Department of Public Works awarded certificates of recognition to over 90 businesses who have "adopted" the newly planted trees along Laurel Canyon, Riverside Drive and Magnolia Boulevard. They have each committed to caring for and watering trees adjacent to their business, and are helping make Valley Village greener for future generations.

If you have a retail business in Valley Village and want to know more about the next reception, contact Jim Britten at Gr8brit10@aol.com.

Join NCVV for July 4th Pancake Breakfast

Suzanne Lewis

This year's Valley Village Homeowners Association July 4th parade is just around the corner. The annual event sponsored by VVHA brings together thousands of people along the mile long parade route that starts at Colfax School and ends in Valley Village Park.

Once again NCVV will participate in parade day activities by providing a healthy start to the morning. Join us for the NCVV Pancake Breakfast before you march in the parade. The Pancake Breakfast, sponsored in conjunction with Faith Presbyterian Church, will be held on the front lawn of the church at 5000 Colfax Avenue starting at 8 am until the pancakes run out.

Make sure to join your NCVV Board at this year's Valley Village Homeowners Association July 4th Parade!





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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VALLEY VILLAGE

is composed of duly elected
volunteers from our community
who are interested in
improving and maintaining the
quality of life for stakeholders
of Valley Village.

www.myvalleyvillage.com

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tony Braswell

As you may have noticed, Neighborhood Council Valley Village has transitioned our communications effort to incorporate online messaging, eblasts, social media and more in an effort to provide our stakeholders with up-to-the-minute information.

Our traditional “newsletter” *The Bridge*, now provides an overview of updates from your NCVV Board of Directors. Our goal is to publish *The Bridge* at least one time each 12 months. We will continue to make *The Bridge* available to anyone who may not have access to e-communications. Please call 818-759-8204 and we will mail a copy to you.

This issue of *The Bridge* reflects an outstanding year of work by your elected Board, and you’ll see we are making great progress on issues that are important to you – including mansionization, soundwalls, and improvements in a variety of services provided by the City of Los Angeles.

Valley Village is home to more than 23,000 stakeholders and your Board works hard each day to protect the unique qualities that make our community special. In this issue you will see that we have finally realized relief from mansionization, and we are well on our way to permanent changes that will protect the character of our residential areas. My sincerest thanks to Dan Caplan and our Planning and Land Use Committee chaired by Dale Liebowitz-Neglia, and former chairs Dave Bate, Beth Fulton and Greg O’Connor who all shepherded this effort since 2007.

After over 10 years of passionate advocacy, soundwalls are finally in our future, as you will see in an article from our Vice President Ginny Hatfield. Board members Marc Woersching and Jeff Walker write about other changes that are helping improve life in Valley Village, including a plan to landscape the Tujunga Wash and improvements to disaster communication for our neighbors who have trained to be first responders.

I’d like to express sincere thanks on behalf of all our community to our Board members who retired this year. Djaq Morris served as our student representative and as a 2014 high school graduate is now completing her freshman year of college. Her mother, Cathy Flynn, served on our Board from 2012 and chaired our Communications Committee, helping re-position our outreach effort to include social media and electronic communications. Paul Hatfield, one of NCVV’s founding Board members, was elected in 2003 and served for 11 years as Board Treasurer. His skillful guidance helped NCVV earn a reputation for fiscal responsibility and helped to shape some of the financial policies that guide all NCs today. Earlier this year Paul was elected President of the Valley Village Homeowners Association. And finally, one of the most outstanding leaders in Valley Village retired from our Board earlier this year. Dorothy Apple was first elected to the Board in 2007 and in almost 10 years of service has been a tireless advocate for many issues including emergency preparedness, neighborhood watch and quality development. Among the many committees she served on, she also found time to be our Board secretary for 5 years. All of these great community advocates will be missed.

The fifteen members of your NCVV Board of Directors are widely recognized as one of the best of the city’s 95 NC Boards, and I am so grateful to get to work alongside each of them and all members of our 7 NCVV Board committees. As you read this issue of *The Bridge*, I hope you share my pride in the great work accomplished by these outstanding women and men.

PS – Summer is always great in Valley Village. Be sure to check our myvalleyvillage.com calendar for dates and times of some of our community’s signature events including the *Valley Village Homeowners Association July 4th parade*, and *NCVV’s National Night Out*.

311 – YOUR LINK TO CITY SERVICES

Calling 311 works! Do you have a couch sitting on the curb outside of your building? Is there a pothole on your drive to work? Is your trash or recycling bin damaged and you need a new one? A call to 311 can remedy these issues and many more.

The City of Los Angeles set up 311 as a way to quickly get services to you when they are needed. And it works – services include bulky item pick up, graffiti removal, illegal dumping, burned out street lights and more.

For added convenience, 311 is now online, and available as an app for android devices and iPhones. Download the 311 mobile app at the App Store (Apple) or on Google Play (Android). To submit a request online go to www.lacity.org/myla-311-service-request.



YES, VIRGINIA, SOUND WALLS ARE COMING TO VALLEY VILLAGE

Ginny Hatfield



Before you say anything...I know what you're thinking..."We've heard that before!" Yes, you are right; residents of Valley Village have been patiently waiting for sound walls along the 170 freeway since the 1980's and we've been promised by any number of elected officials that they will be a reality. Well, your neighborhood council is here to tell you that the proverbial "light is at the end of the tunnel" and the authorization for METRO construction of Sound Wall Packets #10 and #11 (Valley Village) was up for a vote by the full METRO Board in May. METRO has the funding (\$140 million) to construct our sound walls. By the time you read this article, the updated design plans for sound wall package #11 will be nearing completion. At the May 28th meeting, the METRO Board approved the Life of Project (LOP) Budget which means that a Request for Proposal for the construction of sound wall Packet #11 will go out to bid in the winter of 2015. Construction should begin in the first quarter of 2016. For that event our community should plan a special celebration in Valley Village Park!

In order to ensure approval of the LOP, NCVV's Board contacted the members of the METRO Board who represent our community. They are: Paul Krekorian, our city councilmember; Eric Garcetti, the Mayor of LA; and Sheila Kuehl, our County Supervisor. We urged them to authorize the funding and get this project underway with no further delays. We are glad to report that Valley Village is now on track.

If you have not already signed up to receive NCVV communications, please visit www.myvalleyvillage.com and sign up, so you can receive updates on this and other issues important to our community.

IMPROVEMENTS ANNOUNCED FOR VALLEY VILLAGE SCHOOLS

In meetings held over the last three months, NCVV's stakeholders have been introduced to planned improvements to Oakwood School, Colfax School and North Hollywood High.

In February Oakwood School's Headmaster and Board of Directors asked for and received approval from NCVV for a multi-year renovation to their Magnolia campus that includes a new middle school, re-structured parking and drop off for students, and a bridge across Magnolia Boulevard connecting the north and south sides of the campus.

The original 2013 presentation contained many requests for height and density that caused concern for NCVV. The Board worked with leaders at Oakwood over subsequent months to refine the plans to meet the needs of the school and respect the neighboring residential areas. "The school is to be highly commended for listening to our input and for being such good neighbors" said PLU member Aaron Belliston. The project will begin later this year with construction of the Bridge across Magnolia.

In March Colfax School held a community forum to unveil plans to expand their campus, with a goal of adding space for 165 additional students. The project, scheduled to be completed by the 2020 school year, will add new buildings that will eliminate the need for portable classrooms. Once plans are completed there will be a formal presentation of the project to full NCVV Board.

Finally, plans are being formalized to expand North Hollywood High School. A presentation to the community was held May 27th.

NOHOWEST Plans Announced



The current Macy's site on Laurel Canyon just north of Valley Village has been proposed for a multi-use development that will include retail, office and residential space along with "abundant" public areas. The developer, Merlone Geier Partners, has proposed a 300,000 square foot mixed-use destination that will incorporate a walkable main-street concept around a large, open air plaza.

As plans move forward, NCVV's Board will continue to provide input to the project.

Save
the
Date

2015 CONGRESS OF NEIGHBORHOODS

Saturday, September 26th • City Hall



<http://www.nccongressla.com/>

Facebook: LA Congress of Neighborhoods

Twitter: NCCongressLA

2016 NCVV Calendar

In just 6 months we will ring in a new year and a new Valley Village tradition – a yearly NCVV calendar.

The calendar will feature photography from around our great neighborhood, and we need YOUR help. Send us a one or two (or more) photos that show what Valley Village means to you. We need new pictures and also pictures that are older and show the history of our community.

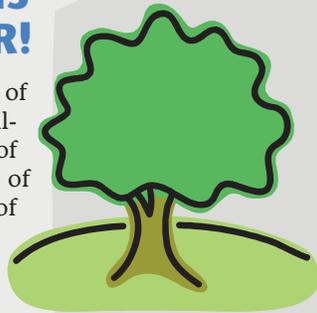


Up to 14 photos will be selected for the calendar. While we won't be able to pay you for your photograph, we will certainly credit and highlight the person behind the lens.

So grab your camera or get out your phone and send us your shots today to info@myvalleyvillage.com!

VALLEY VILLAGE IS GETTING GREENER!

Over the past 10 months, a total of 139 trees have been planted in Valley Village. Funded by the City of Los Angeles through the Bureau of Sanitation in the Department of Public Works, these trees will add green, shade canopies along Laurel Canyon, Magnolia, Riverside and Whitsett.



With support from the office of Paul Krekorian and in partnership with almost 100 Valley Village businesses and residents, trees were placed strategically along our major transit corridors to further green our neighborhood and enhance the quality of life for our stakeholders. Almost every tree has been “adopted” by a business or person who cares for it and monitors the tree’s well-being. Each species of tree was selected to thrive in Valley weather and grow quickly, requiring minimal watering.

There are still several trees that have not been adopted, especially west of Laurel Canyon. If you’d like to adopt a tree and water it once weekly for 1 year call us at 818-759-8204.

TUJUNGA WASH LANDSCAPING PROJECT ADVANCES *Marc Woerschling*

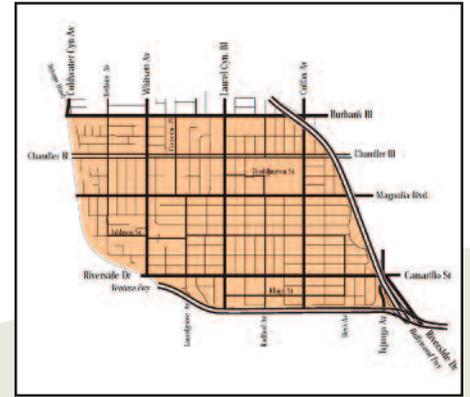
Since early 2012, the NCVV Planning and Land Use and Vision Committees have been undertaking a project to landscape both sides of the Valley Village section of the Tujunga Wash flood control channel, between Burbank Boulevard on the north and Riverside Drive on the south. The proposed landscaping consists mainly of drought resistant plants with some grassy areas covering a small portion of the landscaped area, next to the major streets that cross over the flood channel.

After securing financing and hiring a landscape architect, the landscape plan will be released this summer by Troller Mayer, a well known LA based landscape architecture firm hired by NCVV.

THE VALLEY VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN

Dale Liebowitz Neglia

Valley Village is unique among the many great neighborhoods in the city of Los Angeles, thanks to our schools, a beloved park, quiet tree lined streets and sensible residential and commercial development. These factors and many more create a “character” for our community that we zealously protect. The



hallmarks we value most about Valley Village - in many instances – can be traced back to *development standards* that respect the character and quality of life in our community. And these standards are governed largely by the Valley Village Specific Plan.

Almost 30 years ago as the southeast San Fernando Valley was realizing rapid growth, members of the Valley Village Homeowners Association worked to address the threats of development, such as high rise buildings along our commercial corridors and out of scale residential construction. The visionary efforts of these stalwarts of our community produced The Specific Plan – a set of government approved guidelines, enforced by the Department of Building and Safety, which regulate height and mass in single family, multi-family and commercial development. The Specific Plan also provides guidance about certain types of commercial development and regulates other quality of life issues such as placement of balconies and rooftop installations, and landscape plans.

The Specific Plan recognizes that Valley Village is predominantly a single family neighborhood. As we continue to experience a resurgence in development around our community, we benefit from additional guidelines that address issues like height, massing, parking, setbacks, open space and landscaping. Within the Plan are also standards that regulate commercial uses to those that are considered compatible to adjacent residential property, and prohibit those commercial enterprises not considered compatible. All of the provisions in the Specific Plan are designed to promote responsible growth in Valley Village, and developers who seek to build within our boundaries must adhere to all of these guidelines.

To find out more about the Valley Village Specific Plan or to download a copy of the document, visit myvalleyvillage.com.

IT'S A BANNER YEAR

This year will be a “banner year” for NCVV in many ways. New banners and bus benches will be put up around the community in June and July. Our current banner campaign — *It Takes a Valley Village* — will be retired and a new campaign will go up focused on enjoying our great neighborhood. Our banner campaigns last about three years and are an important means of outreach for our community. You'll know you're “home” when you drive by one of our NCVV banners.

NCVV is also expanding our outreach advertising to hardscape banners on bus benches. Look for this great new outreach coming to a bus stop near you. The bench ads are made possible through a City ordinance that allows Neighborhood Councils to access benches that are not reserved for paid advertisers.



SUMMER IN VALLEY VILLAGE PARK

Summer is the best time to spend time with family and friends in the park. Valley Village just happens to have one of the city's best parks, located on the east side along Westpark Drive and the 170 freeway.

Each year thousands of people from Valley Village and other neighborhoods use this park to exercise, celebrate or just relax and enjoy a summer day. Responsible use of the park is important to ensure that everyone enjoys the park equally.

Did you know that there are rules that govern the park's use? These rules are posted at easy to see locations around the park. The rules include:

- No vehicles are ever allowed on the grass inside the park
- No loud or amplified sound is allowed in the park
- Pets must always be on a leash
- No inflatable equipment (including bouncy houses) are allowed
- Responsible patrons should clean up after their time in the park (including pet waste)

These rules are enforced by the City of Los Angeles. To report an inappropriate use of the park, call the District Office of the Parks Department at 818-766-8445. For more urgent matters (loud music, vehicles on the grass) call Park Security Services at 213-978-4670.

“Valley Village has a great park, and an outstanding community that takes care of this neighborhood treasure” said Peggy Kelly, Sr. Supervisor for the Valley Parks; Maintenance Division. “When our park patrons respect the rules of the park they ensure that everyone has an enjoyable experience.” Help us keep Valley Village park green and great by respecting the rules and others who are joining you in the park this summer!

PREPARING FOR “THE BIG ONE”

Jeff Walker, Chair City Services

While many people consider a significant earthquake to be our next city-wide disaster, officials of the LA Emergency Management Department warn us that Los Angeles is susceptible to a dozen other possible natural or man-made disasters and threats. These include earthquakes, wildfires, flooding, mudslides or acts of terrorism.

Your NCVV Board, in conjunction with VVHA and LAFD, LAPD and the office of Councilman Paul Krekorian, wants you and your family to be better prepared in the event of an emergency crisis, disaster or other significant event. How will you act to protect your family and support your neighbors if that occurs? Visit 5steps.la today to download “5 Steps to Neighborhood Preparedness.” This informative toolkit offers great planning tools for you and your family and the neighbors on your street. Depending on the scale of the disaster, knowing your neighbors (with the unique skills, experience and resources we all have) and helping each other may make all the difference.

NCVV also encourages all stakeholders to attend CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training. This immersive program provides fundamental knowledge and exercises to better care for yourself, family and friends and provide support as a first responder during a major disaster.

CERT training is offered periodically in Valley Village and at other locations throughout the year. To find out more visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/lafd-cert-program-7803155391> or check the NCVV website periodically for the announcement of our next sponsored CERT class.



DID YOU KNOW?

Valley Village is a community first formed in 1939 and later certified by the City of Los Angeles. There are approximately 23,000 stakeholders within the following boundaries:

- W: the Tujunga Wash
- E: the Hollywood (170) Freeway
- S: the Ventura (101) Freeway
- N: Burbank Boulevard

The Valley Village Post Office encompasses some, but not all, of the zip codes 91607, 91601 and 91602.



SMART METERS ARE HERE!

Over the past few months Southern California Gas Company (SoCal) has been installing Advanced Meters across Valley Village. Representatives of the utility company presented a demonstration of the technology to our NCVV Board and stakeholders at the April Board meeting.

This is a free upgrade for all natural gas customers that allows you more insight and information about your natural gas usage. The "smart meter" faceplate attaches to your regular meter and gives you up-to-the minute information about gas use and estimated cost, and allows you to set and achieve savings and conservation goals.



No longer will you have to wait for your bill to evaluate your gas use. The new meters provide you with instant information wherever you are. To learn more about the features of this new technology visit <http://www.socalgas.com/innovation/advanced-meter/index.shtml>.



The Bridge is the official publication of NCVV. Issues of the Bridge are sent by email and are available at myvalleyvillage.com. If you would like to receive The Bridge by mail, please send a request to:



NCVV
P.O. Box 4703
Valley Village, CA 91617

VALLEY VILLAGE CALENDAR

NCVV Board of Directors

Meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month (holidays excluded), 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm, Faith Presbyterian Church

NCVV City Services Committee

*Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Oakwood School Library*

NCVV Events and Outreach Committee, Communications Committee

*Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm, Marie et Cie*

NCVV Planning and Land Use Committee

*Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month
7:15 pm – 9:00 pm, Colfax Elementary School
Auditorium.*

NCVV Vision Committee

*Meets on the 4th Thursday of every month
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Community Room at Oakwood
School.*