

The Bridge

Neighborhood Council
Valley Village

Neighborhood Council Valley Village • P.O. Box 4703 • Valley Village, California 91617 • www.myvalleyvillage.com

Third Quarter- September 2008 Vol. 4 – Issue 3

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The Bridge is the voice of the Neighborhood Council Valley Village (NCVV). Its mission is to inform stakeholders about issues and activities, to report on the news that may affect Valley Village and to provide information about opportunities for stakeholders to volunteer.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by *Tony Braswell*

It's hard to believe that we are almost through another great year in Valley Village. While we have many significant issues to deal with, there is much to celebrate as well.

First, our heartfelt congratulations to Lory Oberg, Tom Paterson and the host of volunteers who committed their time and energy to stop the development of a 30' lot on Huston Street. The victory demonstrates the value of persistence. All who invested time in this effort are to be congratulated. Valley Village is a better community because you.

Second, congratulations to the Valley Village Homeowners Association for another outstanding 4th of July parade. This is truly the landmark event that defines all that's great about Valley Village. To the VVHA Board and volunteers, congratulations on the best parade yet!

I also want to recognize the outstanding work of our NCVV board members Ginny Hatfield, Dorothy Apple, Suzanne Lewis and Steven Stokes, who helped NCVV sponsor the 25th National Night Out. They have also completely re-energized our Neighborhood Watch program. In partnership with VVHA, I believe we now have one of the best Neighborhood Watch programs in Los Angeles.

While we have much to celebrate, there are still issues of concern to which we must continue to devote our energy. Number one on this list is the issue of SB1818 and the ongoing damage the citywide implementation of this bill is causing to communities like Valley Village. Of course, we're still pushing hard for sound walls and will host a presentation by State Representative Mike Feuer on this important issue.

As I write this, I've just "survived" my first earthquake in California. Thankfully, it had minimal impact on Valley Village. Still, it reminds us all of the importance of our neighbors in the event of an emergency. With our enhanced Neighborhood Watch program and Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, we are providing the structure that will help our community fend for itself in an emergency.

If you wish to sign up for Neighborhood Watch or CERT, you can register on our website, myvalleyvillage.com or call our NCVV phone line at 818-759-8204. These programs can't realize their full potential if we don't have stakeholders participating. Tony



4th of July Parade

Photo by Tony Gieske

MORE FEES AND TAXES

by Paul Hatfield

"No taxation without representation" was one of the earliest outcries of protest by the American colonists. They should have said *no taxation without accountability*. Representation is of little value unless there is accountability.

Laura Chick's audit report of the last trash fee hike drove this point home. Our representatives promised that hike would be used to hire 1,000 police officers. Less than 400 were actually hired. It has been suggested that the revenue was either mismanaged or the promise was disingenuous. A third possibility is that the city's accounting department is incapable of tracking objectives that are not segregated in a separate set of accounts. That is no excuse. There are proven, efficient ways to track costs and revenues that are commingled.

Now yet another trash fee increase has been approved by the City Council and supported by the Mayor. The purpose? To hire the remaining 600 police officers who were promised with the first increase.

With the failure of the city to deliver on its promise, we are faced with yet more financial demands on the November ballot.

Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society. Taxation with representation and accountability is what we should demand. Before we cast our votes, we should know the objectives and we must demand specifics and well supported cost/benefit justifications. It is our right, and our elected officials are obligated to provide them.

ASSEMBLY PROPOSES AB 2280

by Marc Woerschling

This is a bill in the State Assembly that supports the already passed State Senate Bill 1818.

1. State Assembly Bill 2280 proposes:
To require a city or county to grant a concession or incentive proposed by the applicant under SB 1818 unless the city or county makes a finding that the concession or incentive is contrary to State or Federal law.
2. To delete the requirement that the applicant must show that a waiver or reduction in existing development standards is necessary in order to make a proposed project economically feasible.
3. To require that, as a condition for granting a density bonus in exchange for donating land to a city or county, or city or county for low income housing, that the local agency identify a source for low income housing.

Numbers 1 and 2 favor developers, restrict local governments and are contrary to the interests of citizens concerned about State preemption of local land use controls.

Number 3 is a safeguard to ensure that low-income housing is actually built in exchange for a density bonus and is more restrictive of developers than local governments.

To find out more information about this complicated issue, see our website www.myvalleyvillage.com. See the second quarter issue of *The Bridge* and look for the article titled *SB1818 Threatens Valley Village*.

MEET THE BOARD – LORY OBERG

by Breice Reiner

At a special election January 23, 2008 Lory Oberg was elected to the board of Neighborhood Council Valley Village to fill a vacancy for Homeowner representative. Lory has been an active volunteer in this community.

For more than 13 years she has been Public Affairs Chair for Women's Public Links Golf Association of Southern California. She has represented WPLGA on the Los Angeles Golf Advisory Committee of the Recreation and Parks Department. Lory identifies herself as a golfer. "I try to get out to play golf at least twice a week, playing mostly on city courses like Rancho Park, Sepulveda or Griffith Park."

Most recently, she has been active in the fight to halt creation of a 30-foot lot, which would have been a bad precedent for Valley Village.

Lory and her husband Ken Oberg are long time residents of Valley Village. They have one daughter, Kathy.



*Happy Anniversary
Neighborhood Council Valley Village*

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!!!

Neighborhood Council Valley Village is celebrating the 5th Anniversary of its certification by the City of Los Angeles as a neighborhood council.

We want you to help us party. Join us on:

Sunday, September 21st, 2008

From 2PM to 5PM

At

The Country School

5243 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Valley Village

Come for an afternoon of socializing, visiting with your neighbors and connecting with those you have been meaning to get to know better. We will be highlighting our Valley Village business community who will be on hand to showcase their businesses and launch a new business directory.

There will be music, food and fun for the kids.

*This party is all about *** Your Valley Village*** Your Community.*

It needs your support! Be there!

The event is free to the community, but we would appreciate your RSVP

By September 12th to: info@myvalleyvillage.com

*The Country School is located at the intersection of
Laurel Canyon and Weddington Street.*

Limited parking at the school or street parking is available.

No 30 FOOT LOTS

by *Lory Oberg*

In February 2007 a speculator bought the 90' X 130' property at 11476 Huston and petitioned the city to split it into a 50' lot and a 40' lot configuration. The Los Angeles Zoning Administrator denied that request.

The developer then applied to create a 60' lot with the existing house on it and requested a building permit for a 24' wide house on the remaining 30 feet. The city allowed the application. With the strong backing of Neighborhood Council Valley Village (NCVV) and the Valley Village Homeowners Association (VVHA), residents in the area disputed the decision and appealed.

Appeals to the Building and Safety Department and to the Planning Department were denied. The third and final appeal was heard on July 10, 2008 before the South Valley Area Planning Commission. The

Commission agreed that Building and Safety had erred in granting a permit on 30 feet. Appeal granted.

It has been a long, hard battle but well worth the effort to protect Valley Village from the damaging precedent of undersized lots. Thanks to all the Valley Villagers who supported this effort including the NCVV, the VVHA, Councilmember Wendy Greuel, her planning deputy Jim Dantona, the neighbors who attended endless meetings, and especially Tom Paterson whose research, presentation and never-give-up attitude was invaluable.



The 30 Foot Lot

Photo by Peter Sanchez

A NIGHT FOR SAFETY

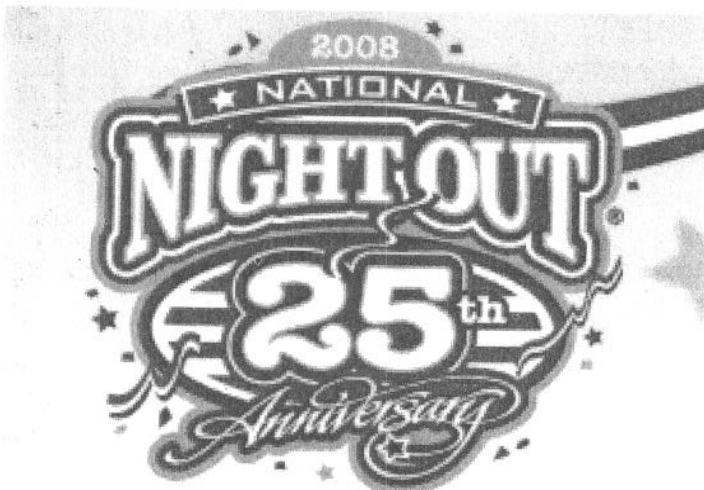
by *Suzanne Lewis*

The 25th annual National Night Out was held on August 5, in North Hollywood Park, co-sponsored by Neighborhood Council Valley Village (NCVV). Participants joined with their neighbors, Los Angeles Police Department, City Councilmembers Wendy Greuel and Tom LaBonge, and corporate sponsor Target to celebrate America's night out against crime. Live music and free In-N-Out burgers set the tone for a great evening. Stakeholders visited with police officers and representatives from community based organizations such as NCVV, Valley Village Homeowners

Association, The Red Cross, DWP, LA Animal Service, LA Fire Department and the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).

National Night Out is designed to heighten awareness of the need for crime and drug prevention; to generate support for and participation in, local anticrime efforts like Neighborhood Watch; to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and to send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

A booth staffed by NCVV provided information about Neighborhood Watch and CERT training that NCVV will sponsor beginning in September.



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NCVV BOARD MOTIONS

From Dorothy Apple

April 2008

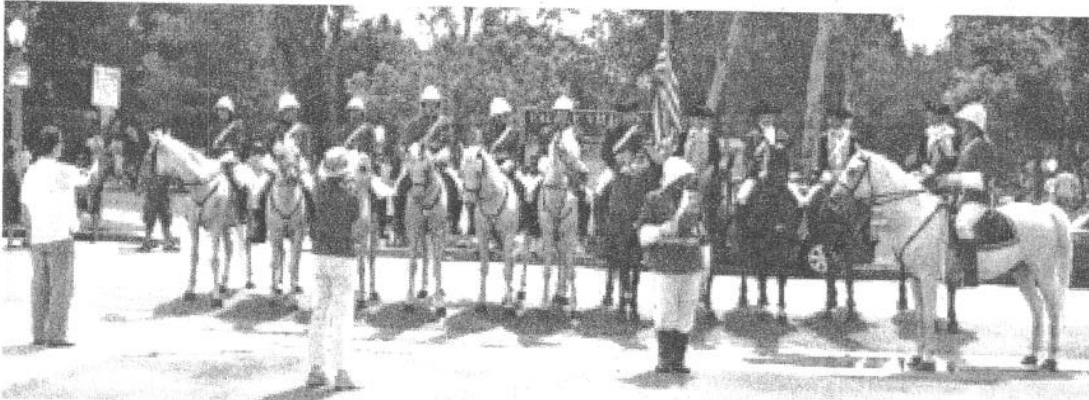
Motion: The board of Neighborhood Council Valley Village approves the budget for \$91,500 for fiscal year 2009 as submitted by the treasurer. The board recognizes that the final amount cannot be fully determined until the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has processed all costs for fiscal year 2008. The budget is also subject to any changes to the Neighborhood Council funding passed by the City Council in connection with the City's Budget. Motion passed 11-0-0.

Motion: NCVV opposes the proposed amendment to the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance that provides an FAR bonus for meeting the "Certified" Leeds requirement. The motion passed 11-0-0.

Motion: NCVV approves request for variance to convert Single Family Home to Insurance Office, 11748 Riverside Drive. The motion passed 11-0-0.

June 2008

Motion: Motion to disapprove of the proposed subdivision at 11825-11835 Kling Street due to the inconsistency of the lot sizes and their configuration with those of adjacent and nearby lots, which would result in a negative impact on the character of the neighborhood. The motion passed 10-0-0.



War Horse Foundation Riders on July 4th at Valley Village Park

Photo by Tony Gieske

WELCOME ON BOARD

by Ginny Hatfield

At the July 23rd NCVV Board meeting, Beth Fulton was installed and welcomed to the board. Beth is assuming the Education seat recently vacated by Mona Riss. Although new to the Board, Beth is not new to NCVV as she has been an active member of the NCVV's Planning and Land Use Committee where she has participated in the various land use and zoning issues confronting Valley Village. For the past five years Beth has served in various positions on both the Parent Association of Colfax Elementary (PACE) and the PTA. She currently holds the post of Co-Vice President of Programs for the PTA. Beth is the Board's liaison to the educational community, so please feel free to contact her with your suggestions or comments.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

by Ginny Hatfield

It is with regret that the NCVV Board says goodbye to several of our members who have resigned due to life circumstances. Mona Riss, Education representative, left us earlier this year due to increased work obligations. Yacov Freedman, Cultural liaison, moved with his wife, daughter, and new twins to Georgia to be closer to family. Annalisa Engelbach, Business representative and David Engelbach, Community Based Organization, have also moved to the Peach State, where David will be teaching at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Our NCVV family will miss each of them; we wish them well and hope they will stay in touch whether just down the street or living in another state. These individuals have been imbued with a passion to serve and work for a better quality of life in Valley Village and they all deserve our thanks.

NCVV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AT LARGE: Paul Hatfield (Treasurer)
David Bate

BUSINESS: Richard Gauthier
Andrew Sacher

COMMUNITY ORG.: Marc Woersching

EDUCATION: Beth Fulton

FAITH BASED: Joshua Levy

HOMEOWNERS: Dorothy Apple (Secretary)
Ginny Hatfield (Vice Pres.)
Greg O'Connor
Lory Oberg

RENTERS: Tony Braswell (President)
Suzanne Lewis
Steven Stokes
Vacant

STUDENT: Philip Schaeffer

Editorial Staff: Editor – Breice Reiner
Publisher – Peter Sanchez
Proofreader – Stuart Simen

GOING GREEN

Neighborhood Council Valley Village is

GOING GREEN

After July 1, 2009

The Bridge

will be available only online at

www.myvalleyvillage.com

Details in future issues.

**Board Meetings are held the fourth
Wednesday of the Month
6:30pm to 9:00pm
Colfax School Auditorium
11724 Addison Street**



Connecting Valley Village with City Hall

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