

The Bridge

Neighborhood Council
Valley Village

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

First Quarter – January 2009 Vol. 5 – Issue 1

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The Bridge is the voice of the Neighborhood Council Valley Village. 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

2008 was a year of extremes – dramatic changes in the economy, a new direction in our nation's leadership, drops in the housing market and even the price of gasoline, made for an unprecedented year. The impact on all of this on our city will be felt for many years to come.

Your Neighborhood Council Valley Village Board has worked hard this year with a keen eye on more challenging days ahead. Our work has been focused on enhancing relationships with stakeholders and with the City of Los Angeles to ensure that Valley Village maintains the outstanding character that we all so deeply value.

Among our many achievements this year was our work with The Valley Village Homeowners Association to strengthen Neighborhood Watch. We restructured our bylaws, supported the citywide Baseline Mansionization Ordinance and subsequently submitted a community-wide amendment to the Ordinance to further protect Valley Village. We produced our first Valley Village business directory and even planted 50 trees in our Valley Village Park. The list of accomplishments is long and comprehensive. I hope you share a sense of pride in our Board and the great work they've done on your behalf.

At our January Board meeting we will review the accomplishments of our Board and detail our goals for 2009. Valley Village is one of the strongest communities in Los Angeles but we are up against difficult challenges in the coming years. Limited resources, economic pressures and strained city/county services will test us like never before. I assure you that your Board will be on constant guard to work smarter and harder on your behalf. We need your help as well.

We stand ready to work hard on your behalf, but we can't do this without our stakeholders. Valley Village made indelible impressions on City Hall in 2008 on issues like Neighborhood Watch, the Huston 30' lot and the Magnolia rezoning request. We'll need similar passion on other issues that impact our community in 2009, including zoning and development, crime, infrastructure and traffic. Every voice counts, every hour you give helps, and all that we do together will ensure our neighborhood remains strong and safe for years to come.

Municipal Elections March 3, 2008

Meet the Candidates for City Controller, City Attorney, & Council District 5 on February 25th – 6:30pm
The NCVV Board meeting will be a Town Hall Meeting sponsored in collaboration with the VVHA.

See article on page 2 for more information

NCVV COMMUNITY GRANT

by *Ginny Hatfield*

In October Neighborhood Council Valley Village awarded its first Community Grant to Colfax Charter Elementary School for construction of a Literary Garden to promote reading among its students and enhance the "greenness" of the campus. The garden will be accessible to neighborhood stakeholders and visible from Addison Street. The plan calls for extensive planting, more appealing pathways and brightly colored tables and benches to accentuate the beautiful existing trees. The school will incorporate the garden into its science curriculum, and as part of its community service component will involve students in watering, weeding and planting.

The garden has been a dream of outgoing Principal Joanie Freckmann and will be dedicated to her. The success of Colfax Charter is due in large part to this much-loved Principal. NCVV is glad that we could play a part in making this dream come true by matching the \$2500 that the school has raised for this project.

To learn more about our community grant program, visit our website at www.myvalleyvillage.com. The application form as well as the requirements for obtaining a grant can be downloaded.

CITY ELECTION MARCH 3RD

Municipal elections this spring for Mayor, City, Controller, City Attorney and Council District 5 will have significant impact on Valley Village. These are key offices.

Consequently, NCVV in collaboration with the Valley Village Homeowners Association will sponsor a Town Hall meeting on February 25th in lieu of our regular board meeting. Candidates seeking the offices of City Controller, City Attorney, and Council District 5 will be on hand to introduce themselves and answer questions from the audience. The meeting will take place at Colfax School Auditorium, which is on the corner of Colfax Avenue and Addison Street, and will begin at 6:30 PM. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about these candidates so that you can make informed decisions about the future of Valley Village and our City.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

by *Suzanne Lew*

Neighborhood Council Valley Village celebrated its fifth anniversary as a neighborhood council on Sunday, Sept. 21 at The Country School on Laurel Canyon Boulevard.

The event was free to the community. Several hundred stakeholders were joined by Assemblymember Mike Feuer, City Councilmember Wendy Greuel, General Manager Bong Hwan Kim and Commissioner Al Abrams of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, and Los Angeles Police Department Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis.

The event highlighted the Valley Village business community, and many businesses were on hand to showcase their services and launch a new NCVV Business Directory. Valley Village businesses Greener and Greener, Gloria's Boutique, Shamrock Imports, Complete Total Care, Dr. Charles J. Young DDS., J.A.W./Just Add Water Landscape, Ms. Tonya's of Hollywood, Coach Sam's Cozy Corner Fitness Center, Chayo Salon, Intaglio Printing and By Karina Face & Body Painting were on hand for the party. Valley Village Homeowners Association, East Valley Senior Center, and Faith Presbyterian Church of Valley Village also participated.



Anniversary Celebration

Photo by Suzanne Lewis

Shakey's Pizza, Subway and Angulino's Italian Restaurant provided wonderful food and Starbucks Coffee provided coffee. Music by DJ Steve added to the fun.

NCVV held drawings for prizes donated by local merchants. Ice cream and cupcakes, along with the dancers of Cleary Irish Dance made for a wonderful and festive way to end the afternoon's activities. "The neighbors and local businesses coming together is what makes the community stronger," said Ginny Hatfield, NCVV Vice President.

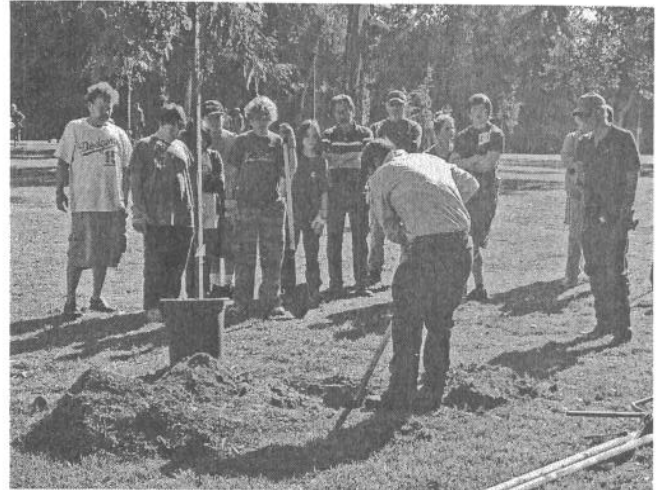
NEW TREES AT PARK

by *Suzanne Lewis*

Neighborhood Council Valley Village (NCVV) and Valley Village Homeowners Association (VVHA), in cooperation with the Los Angeles Department of Forestry and Los Angeles Recreation and Parks, planted 55 trees in Valley Village Park, located at 5000 Westpark Drive, on Sunday, Oct. 19th.

Seventy-five stakeholders from the community showed up with shovels and their green thumbs to help plant trees provided by Million Trees LA.

The Los Angeles Department of Forestry was very helpful in selecting and acquiring the trees which included Mimosa, Deodar Cedar, Honey Locust, Tulip, Paper Bark, Afghan Pine, Torrey Pine and Tipu.



Volunteers plant 55 trees.

Photo by Suzanne Lewis

Planting locations were chosen to maximize shade around the picnic areas, thicken the tree buffer along the 170 Freeway and infill spaces where trees have been lost to disease.

The park was abuzz with activity and the 55 trees were quickly planted. Afterward, everyone involved enjoyed a lunch of Subway sandwiches, chips and cold drinks provided by NCVV. Valley Village residents Gail Silverton and Joel Gutman, owners of the Gelato Bar on Tujunga Avenue, generously donated Italian Gelato.

"I want to thank everyone for helping to make our park greener for future generations" said Andrew Sacher, NCVV Board Member and organizer of the event.

SOUNDWALL UPDATE

By *Ginny Hatfield*

Well, as the saying goes "there's good news and then there's not so good news." That pretty much sums up what NCVV has heard from our elected officials regarding our crusade to get a soundwall built along the 170 freeway in Valley Village.

As you will note from the accompanying letter to our Assemblyman Mike Feuer, who has taken up our cause, Roger Snoble CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is rather optimistic that funding for the design phase could materialize this year. However, given the dire financial straits that our State government finds itself in, our project may fall victim to state budget cuts that will be imposed due to the budget deficit. What happens will unfold in the coming weeks and months as the Republicans and the Democrats in the State Legislature battle it out once again.

Please take a moment to send an email or a letter to both Mike Feuer and Roger Snoble advising them of your support for this long-delayed project and encouraging them to follow through.



Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Roger Snoble
Chief Executive Officer
213-922-6888 Tel
213-922-7447 Fax
metro.net

Metro

December 15, 2008

The Honorable Mike Feuer
Assemblymember, 42nd District
9200 W. Sunset Boulevard #15
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Dear Assemblymember Feuer:

We appreciate receiving your November 11, 2008 letter concerning Soundwall Package 11 along the State Route (SR) 170 Freeway through Valley Village in the City of Los Angeles. This Soundwall Package is the next one in line for funding.

As you may be aware, we have been working with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Los Angeles District office to identify funding for the design of this Soundwall Package. Currently, we are optimistic that design funding will be available through project savings from a completed soundwall project and two projects whose construction contracts were recently awarded for under the Engineer's estimates. If the funds are available, we plan to request Board authorization to proceed with Package 11's design in February 2009.

We look forward to working with you and your staff on this Soundwall package's implementation and other transportation projects to improve mobility for Los Angeles County residents.

Sincerely,

Roger Snoble
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Councilmember Wendy Greuel
Doug Failing, Caltrans
Valley Village Homeowners Association
Neighborhood Council Valley Village

MEET THE BOARD – PHILIP SCHAFFER

From *Philip Santos Schaffer*

My name is Philip Santos Schaffer and I am the student representative for Neighborhood Council Valley Village. I joined early last year and will serve until I graduate high school and leave for college. I am currently a senior at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, where I study theatre.

When my family moved to Valley Village in 2000 it meant to me that I was finally able to get a dog. Over the past nine years Valley Village has really become important to me as my home and my community. That is the primary reason why I joined the Neighborhood Council because it is an immediate opportunity for me to make my community the best possible place for my family and me to live. I also joined because I wanted to learn about politics, and how the political system works. This year I am taking Advanced Placement Government, and every other Wednesday after school I get to see legislating in action. Few teenagers are able to say they have written or voted on a motion, or taken a seminar on the Brown Act. I consider myself lucky to be able to have done so.

Next year, I will hopefully be moving to New York or Chicago to study and get a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting. However what I have learned on the NCVV board will never leave me, because I think that theatre is best when it is used as a tool for political change.

I cannot stress too much how important it is for any teenager who is interested in and dedicated to politics and the political system to volunteer for the position I will be leaving. This has been one of the most educational experiences of my life.

CRIME PREVENTION PAYS OFF

By *Dorothy Apple*

Special Prosecutor Tim Saito and Lead Officer Mike Lewis presented statistics to the NCVV Board at the December meeting that demonstrate a continued decrease in crime in Valley Village. While they were pleased with current trends, they reminded our stakeholders that crime is increasing in other neighboring communities and that all residents must remain personally vigilant regarding crime.

Ninety-two percent of home burglaries happen during the daytime. If you are at home and someone knocks on your door, answer it. You don't have to open it, just ask who is there, so they know someone is home. They will move on to the next house to find one where no one is home.

Deterrents are important. If you don't have an alarm, at least get an alarm sign. Dogs are great deterrents, because they bark and make noise. You can leave a TV or radio on when you are not at home. Leave a pair of large size men's work boots on the front porch. Strangers will think someone is home and go to the next house. Do not leave jewelry in your bedroom. Secure items, such as flat screen TV's to the wall. They are very easy to carry out of a house.

Ninety percent of car break-ins happen at night. Do not leave your car on the street at night. If at all possible, pull it into your garage or driveway. Do not leave anything of value in your car, GPS, satellite radio, purse, camera, cell phone, laptop, etc. If you have to leave it in your car, put it in the trunk.

Valley Village has one of the strongest Neighborhood Watch programs in the city. We hope you'll join us at our next meeting, or go to our website to register for the program and volunteer to be a block captain. With your help we'll keep Valley Village safe for everyone.

Volunteer Opportunities are available on all Neighborhood Council Valley Village Committees

See our website: myvalleyvillage.com

City Services – Chair: Richard Gauthier

Communications – Chair: Steven Stokes

Elections – Chair: Ginny Hatfield

Finance – Chair: Paul Hatfield

Planning & Land Use -- Chair: Greg O'Connor

Projects -- Chair: Suzanne Lewis

NCVV BOARD MOTIONS

By Tony Braswell

The following are some of the motions approved by NCVV from July to November, 2008. For a complete set of all minutes from NCVV Board meetings, including all motions considered by the Board, please visit our website.

Motion: To approve Residential Floor Area (RFA) District for Valley Village.

Proposed regulations for single-family homes in Valley Village.

1. The maximum residential floor area contained in all buildings and accessory buildings shall not exceed thirty-four (34) % (.34:1) of the lot area.
2. Additional floor area not exceeding six (6)% of the lot area shall be granted, resulting the maximum residential floor are not exceeding forty (40) % (40:1) of the lot area if the project qualifies for a bonus under approved guidelines related to Proportional Stories, Facade Setback or Second Floor Setback.

The motion was approved by a vote of 11-0-0.

Motion: NCVV is opposed to Proposition 8. Motion was approved by a vote of 13-0-0.

Motion: To approve \$2,500 Community Based Grant for Colfax Elementary School. Motion was approved by a vote of 13-0-0.

Motion: To approve the appointment of Tom Paterson to the vacant seat representing residential renters through the term of the seat. Motion was approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

Motion: To allocate \$1,000 in funds to be used to purchase library books, books on CD and related library supplies for the Amelia Earhart North Hollywood Regional Library. Motion was approved by a vote of 10-0-0.

747 LANDS IN VALLEY VILLAGE

By Tony Braswell

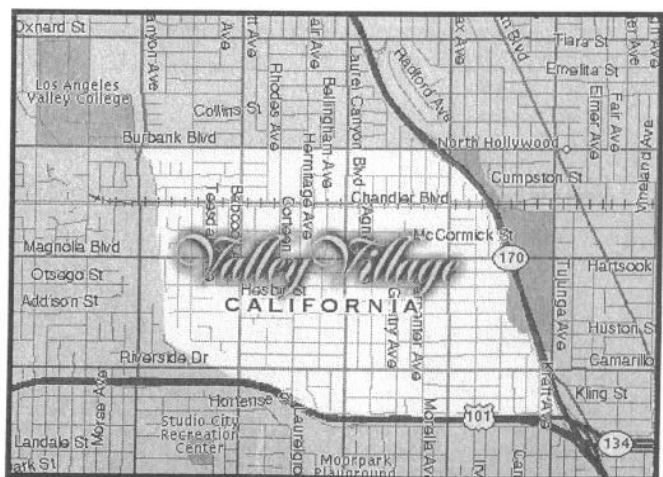
The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has approved an overlay that will add a new 747 area code within the current 818 geographic region. Customers who now have 818 area codes will not be required to change their existing telephone numbers. All new numbers issued will have the area code 747. Officials say this is the only way they can meet demand for new numbers in the San Fernando Valley.

New area codes will become mandatory on April 18, 2009. At that time, all callers will be required to dial the area code plus the seven-digit number within the 818/747 overlay.

If you have questions about the overlay, visit the CPUC website at www.cpuc.ca.gov for more information.



Tony plants a tree. Photo by Suzanne Lewis



Valley Village, California

www.myvalleyvillage.com

NCVV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AT LARGE: Dave Bate
Paul Hatfield (Treasurer)

BUSINESS: Richard Gauthier
Andrew Sacher

COMMUNITY ORG.: Marc Woershing

EDUCATION: Beth Fulton

FAITH BASED: Joshua Levy

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

RENTERS: Tony Braswell (President)
Suzanne Lewis
Tom Paterson
Steven Stokes

STUDENT: Philip Schaffer

BOARD MEETINGS

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

*Editorial Staff. Editor – Breice Reiner
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Connecting Valley Village with City Hall

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