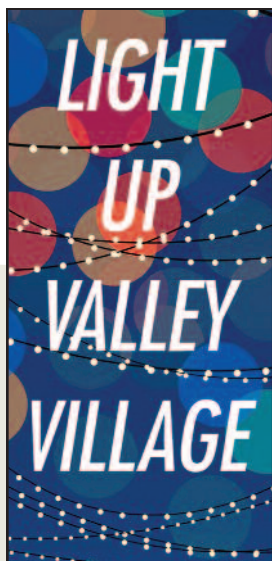




The BRIDGE

DECEMBER 2013

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 1



LIGHT UP VALLEY VILLAGE 2013

Neighborhood Council Valley Village, The Valley Village Homeowners Association and The Office of Councilman Paul Krekorian in partnership with our Valley Village business community are sponsoring the 3rd annual "Light Up Valley Village" holiday celebration. Throughout the holiday season, businesses in Valley Village will light up with festive decorations to mark all celebrations from mid-November through New Year.

The annual event will culminate with a special "street party" from 5pm to 7pm on December 7, sponsored by NCVV and VVHA and including over 90 local merchants. Stores along Laurel Canyon from Magnolia to Chandler, and on Whitsett and Magnolia will sponsor special shopping opportunities, and many will provide coupons for discounts on goods and services. The parking lot adjacent

to Bank of America at the intersection of Magnolia and Laurel Canyon will feature music, refreshments, special treats for children and even a visit from Santa.

"We are very excited about this year's event" said Sandy Hubbard, NCVV Board member and Chair of the Valley Village Vision Committee. "We have watched this event grow into a holiday tradition and look forward to seeing everyone on December 7." For more information about the event and to print valuable coupons from our participating merchants, visit myvalleyvillage.com or valleyvillageha.com.

NCVV ELECTIONS COMING MARCH 20, 2014 — Ginny Hatfield

The Board of Directors of Neighborhood Council Valley Village is made up of people just like you – stakeholders who believe that as volunteers we can make our community better for everyone. To ensure that all of our community is represented on the Board, there are seats available for homeowners, renters, and businesses as well as specific interests that include education, faith and community based organizations.

Every certified Neighborhood Council in Los Angeles will be holding elections in 2014. NCVV will hold our election on Thursday, March 20. The polling place is located at Faith Presbyterian Church and voting will take place from 4 pm to 8 pm. All stakeholders are encouraged to participate by voting in the election, so be sure to bring proof that you either live, work or own property in Valley Village (i.e., driver's license, rent agreement, tax statement, business license with name and address are acceptable).

INTERESTED IN A FREE STREET TREE?

HELP US PLANT TREES IN VALLEY VILLAGE



The City of Los Angeles through the Department of Sanitation is sponsoring an "adopt a tree

program" to help provide more trees in Valley Village. Do you have a site that could use more trees? You may be eligible to receive the tree(s) free and help make your street more beautiful.

Find out more by visiting environmentLA.org,

or call 213-485-0527. Let's keep Valley Village one of the greenest neighborhoods in LA!



This year there are eight seats open to election. These seats include 2 homeowners, 2 renters, 1 business seat, 1 faith based seat and 1 community organization seat, as well as 1 at-large seat (no specific affiliation). Anyone who lives works or owns property in Valley Village and provides documentation to verify that status is eligible to be a candidate in the election.

Would you like to become more involved in the issues affecting Valley Village? Do you have a skill or expertise you would like to contribute to your community? If so, please consider becoming a candidate and running for one of the open seats. The filing period for candidates begins on January 4, and remains open until February 3. Each candidate will be running for a 4-year term. To find out more about the election visit our website, www.myvalleyvillage.com or contact Election Chair Ginny Hatfield at 818-970-4577 or ncvvelections@yahoo.com.



NCVV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THE BRIDGE

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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL VALLEY VILLAGE is made up of individuals 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

Valley Village is one of the best kept secrets in Los Angeles. We have beautiful tree lined streets, a nice mix of affordable single family and multifamily homes, a quiet family filled park, nationally recognized schools and convenient access to mass transit. We're close enough to great restaurants and entertainment in North Hollywood and Studio City but not so close that we are impacted by the associated traffic and parking.

This didn't happen by accident. Years of hard work by your Neighborhood Council Board and other outstanding groups like the Valley Village Homeowners Association helped ensure that growth has remained appropriate, schools are well supported and we maintain strong ties with our Councilman and representatives of all city services.

The adage may be overused but it's true – it takes a Village. Our Board and hundreds of volunteers from throughout Valley Village work all year to ensure that we keep this community great. Hopefully you attended one of our record ten events this year, or joined our Board or one of our Board Committees in projects that included planting trees in the park and removing graffiti. This year the 15 members of our NCVV Board conducted almost 80 meetings and invested hundreds of hours to support our 25,000 stakeholders. I am grateful to our Executive Committee: Ginny Hatfield, Paul Hatfield, and Dorothy Apple, and our other 11 Board members for their amazing efforts this year. You can be very proud of the accomplishments of your NCVV Board in 2013.

The spirit of community that permeates all of Valley Village creates a network of civic involvement that keeps us great. On March 20, 2014 you will have an opportunity to join our Board as we hold elections for seats that represent homeowners, renters, businesses, and both faith and community organizations. If you think you would like to join the Board please contact our Vice President and Election Chair Ginny Hatfield at 818-970-4577. And remember, you don't have to be a Board member to make a difference - you can join in efforts on specific projects or programs by being part of one of our Board committees. However you help, please consider leaving your own imprint on the legacy of community involvement that is such a special part of Valley Village.

NCVV ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2013 was a great year of significant accomplishments by your NCVV Board, including:

- ✓ CERT Class with 40 participants
- ✓ NCVV Movie Night
- ✓ Upgrade of NCVV Neighborhood Watch website
- ✓ Park Dedication and Park Tree Planting
- ✓ Worked with Street Services to have 16 Streets Repaved
- ✓ Hosted Debate for City Attorney Election
- ✓ Hosted Mayor Garcetti's Pre-Inaugural "Listening Tour"
- ✓ Successfully added STOP Signs at over 10 intersections
- ✓ Conducted Blood Drive for Children's Hospital LA
- ✓ Partnered with other NCs to purchase Traffic Control sign for LAPD
- ✓ Gave grants to NoHo Library, NoHo High, Birmingham High and Colfax Charter
- ✓ Supported the CD2 emergency assistance fund for Magnolia crash victims
- ✓ Funded Tujunga Wash Landscape Plan proposal
- ✓ Participated in upgrade of master bike plan in Valley Village
- ✓ Helped improve Laurel Canyon traffic with revamped curb parking plan
- ✓ Authored the Valley Village Design Book for residential development
- ✓ Hosted LIGHT UP VALLEY VILLAGE, Earth Day and National Night Out





MAYOR'S LISTENING TOUR STOPS IN VALLEY VILLAGE

Newly elected mayor Eric Garcetti didn't wait for his inauguration to start "listening" to Angelenos, holding 7 town hall meetings before he assumed office on July 1. "Getting LA Back To Basics" was a city-wide effort to meet with citizens to discuss solutions to improve the economy and make City Hall work better to strengthen neighborhoods. NCVV was proud to host one of the 7 meetings on June 11, where over 250 people participated in group sessions discussing topics that included city services, public safety and education. The highlight of the meeting was an extended visit with Mayor Garcetti and a question and answer session about his vision for the City of Los Angeles.

CERT/NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



Valley Village has one of the city's strongest Neighborhood Watch Programs. Hundreds of residents have registered to be part of NW, and numerous block captains help us keep track of criminal activity and reach out to our stakeholders to build a safer community.



Working in concert with VVHA, North Hollywood PD and our Senior Lead Officer Manny Arreygue, the Valley Village Neighborhood Watch Program brings together residents, businesses and police officials to reduce criminal activity. Officer Arreygue reported to the Board in October that there has been some slight change in crime statistics; no change in residential burglaries, an increase in street robbery (3 more than last year) and auto theft (4 more than last year). The number one crime in the southeast San Fernando Valley continues to be burglary from motor vehicles.

Officer Arreygue reminded us that theft of items from vehicles increases during the holidays. Don't leave items visible in your car, even for a short period of time. If you must leave something in your car, try to leave it in your trunk or carefully covered in a rear seat. When parking your car, especially in a gated subterranean parking area, look around the car before exiting to be certain you aren't being watched. Always lock your car.

Officer Arreygue also urged stakeholders to call the police and report any criminal activity. If LAPD doesn't hear about the crime, they can't keep accurate records. They may also be able to stop the next crime if you report what happened to you. For more information about Neighborhood Watch contact Dorothy Apple at 818-759-8204.

DWP STONEWALLING COMMISSION

The Department of Water & Power (DWP) Commission has requested spending records from the two nonprofits controlled by the utility's IBEW18 union.

The nonprofits operate with the blessings of DWP management, including GM Ron Nichols who serves on the boards overseeing them. The nonprofits have reportedly spent over \$40 million since they were established in 2000 and 2002 by ordinances passed by the City Council.

At a recent meeting the Commission granted the nonprofits two weeks to provide information on how the \$40 million has been spent. That time has come and gone and no one in either City Hall or the DWP seems to know where the money has gone.

The Commission's request was reasonable; the two nonprofits have been producing financial statements and have filed 990s with the IRS. The financial data, then, should be readily available; why is it not forthcoming? According to the IBEW, which controls half the seats on the oversight boards, they need a month to self-audit the records. Self-audit is a contradiction in terms on steroids; a more appropriate term is in order – sanitizing.

The Commission as well as City Controller Ron Galperin need full, unimpeded access to the books. They cannot rely on anything less nor should they. Whether the city has the authority to audit the entities is unclear. However, what's to stop the city ordering the DWP to suspend its financial support to the nonprofits? There are a great many unanswered questions involving this latest expose at the DWP. Your NCVV board will be following the revelations closely.

To read more from Paul Hatfield visit phinvv.wordpress.com

STREET REPAIR IN VALLEY VILLAGE

In August the office of Mayor Eric Garcetti announced a city-wide street repair initiative whereby every neighborhood council in the city would benefit from repairs to their community. This was to occur between August and January 2014. The Mayor asked that residents submit potential projects including street, curb and sidewalk repair as well as minor tree trimming to their neighborhood council.

Over 100 individual projects were submitted to the NCVV Board. NCVV's President and Vice President joined a "ride along" with the Bureau of Street Services to survey many of the proposed projects. BSS then spent Friday August 16th in Valley Village making repairs at several suggested locations along Westpark Drive, Hesby Street, and the intersection of Magnolia at Laurel Canyon. The Mayor's office was very impressed with the outpouring of project suggestions from Valley Village residents. "The Bureau of Street Services completed five projects in one day and assured us that they would keep many of the other projects on their 'to do' list for the future" said NCVV Vice President Ginny Hatfield. The office of Councilmember Paul Krekorian also asked for the full list of projects submitted by NCVV stakeholders so that they could help identify other future opportunities to complete repairs.

SUMMER EVENTS BRING IN RECORD NUMBERS

NCVV sponsored or participated in six events this summer, kicking off with the Faire of the Ages in April, Colfax World Fair in May and ending with National Night Out in August. The Colfax World Fair, sponsored by Colfax Charter Elementary School, was one of the most successful in history. Along with Faire of the Ages to benefit Walter Reed Middle School, these events help support education programs at both of these outstanding schools.

In June NCVV sponsored a debate between the two finalists for City Attorney, and close to 100 witnessed a spirited discussion between Mike Feuer and Carmen Trutanich. In July all eyes turned to the Valley Village Homeowners 4th of July Parade – which also saw record participation and over 2000 people in Valley Village park for post parade festivities. NCVV helped secure marching bands from North Hollywood High and Birmingham High to anchor the beginning and end of the parade.

In July NCVV sponsored its first annual Movie Night



with well over 500 people watching *Wreck It Ralph* under the stars at Colfax Charter while enjoying food, ice cream and complimentary popcorn. The summer ended with our annual National Night Out; a record crowd of over 200 joined NCVV's Board and Councilman Paul Krekorian to honor the first responders of Firefighters Station 60.

If you would like to get involved as we begin to plan our 2014 schedule of events, join our Events and Outreach Committee! For more information contact our Events and Outreach Chair Suzanne Lewis at 818-759-8204 or info@myvalleyvillage.com.



Neighborhood Night Out – 2013



NCVV Colfax World Fair – 2013

COYOTE ALERT

An unusual number of coyotes have been spotted around Valley Village, and some residents have witnessed small animals being attacked and even killed.

- Remember to keep small pets inside or on a leash if they are outside.
- Don't ever leave small animals or even your children alone outside.
- If you have pets who stay outdoors, don't leave unattended food in their bowl; this may attract coyotes to your home.
- Loud noises and jumping up and down will usually scare away a coyote.



If you experience any interaction that causes concern for you or your family's safety call 911.

MAKING SURE ALL VOICES ARE HEARD

Djaq Morris, NCVV's student representative was elected in Spring 2013. She is a senior at Cleveland High School.

Before being appointed Student Representative to the Neighborhood Council, it was easy to only become aware of NCVV during big events like National Night Out, or when I was helping at their booth on the Fourth of July. It's not difficult to recognize the efforts of a dedicated team when those efforts culminate in a parade or free sandwiches and the company of local police officers. However, as I have learned since joining Neighborhood Council, the duties of NCVV do not begin and end with play.

NCVV members collaborate to solve all kinds of local issues and to address the concerns of their constituents. Their dedication is most evident on the fourth Wednesday of every month as they gather for open meetings at which they listen to Valley Village stakeholders of varied interests and backgrounds. This, to me, is the best part of NCVV: the open communication between the elected and the electors.

As a teenager, a person caught between two ages, two roles, I often feel my concerns are not heard. This is why I find it so thrilling that NCVV is attentive to people caught between the paralysis of an interest too big for a solitary person to handle and too small to receive attention from the somewhat intimidating conglomerate of the city: because Neighborhood Council presents a middle ground in which all are welcome and, more importantly, in which all are heard.

311 WORKS FOR YOU



GET CONNECTED. GET ANSWERS. Los Angeles residents can get free, fast assistance with all non-emergency city services. Whether it's graffiti removal, a pothole, a broken street light or a bulky item

trash pick-up, trained representatives are available every day from 8:00 am – 4:45 pm to help you!

DID YOU KNOW?

Valley Village is a community first formed in 1939 and later certified by the City of Los Angeles. There are approximately 25,000 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.



NCVV HOSTS TOWN HALL WITH NEW CITY ATTORNEY

On October 23rd the NCVV Board of Directors hosted newly elected City Attorney Mike Feuer at our monthly Board meeting. Mr. Feuer was accompanied by some of his staff including the Neighborhood Prosecutor for Valley Village (and LAUSD School Board member) Tamar Galatzan. The packed room listened as Mr. Feuer gave an overview of the City Attorney's office and his vision to represent the legal interests of the City's 4 million residents.

Specific to Valley Village, Mr. Feuer talked about his efforts to enforce legislation to eliminate many of the marijuana shops across the city. He asked for the Board's help in identifying all of the shops within the boundaries of Valley Village and for the Board's help as his office assesses whether businesses violate guidelines that limit where they may be located (including proximity to schools and synagogues/churches). The list was compiled by the City Services Committee and forwarded to Mr. Feuer's office. Other issues of interest to NCVV stakeholders included efforts to limit mobile and "trailer" billboards and short term rentals of private homes in Valley Village. Mr. Feuer concluded the meeting by fielding questions from the Board and stakeholders, and reminding everyone present that his office needs the public's help to be "eyes and ears" about possible criminal activity in Valley Village.

SCHOOL NEWS – EVERYTHING'S LOOKING UP! — Cathy Flynn

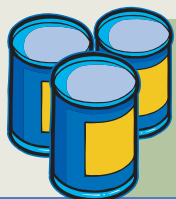
What's up? For Valley Village public schools, it's 2013 API scores! The Academic Performance Index measures the achievement of individual California schools and it shows that our kids are definitely among of the brightest. North Hollywood High School's API went from 770 in 2012 to 778 in 2013, Burbank Boulevard Elementary's score rose an amazing 17 points to 873, and Colfax Charter Elementary increased their API 4 points to an astounding 932! Keep up the good work, kids!

Valley Torah High School's Rabbi Aryeh Striks was excited to announce that Deborah Raskin ('83) was honored as a 2013 Milken Family Foundation Jewish Educator Awardee. Mrs. Raskin is the Principal of Ohr HaChaim Academy in North Hollywood, and is a graduate of the VTHS class of '83. VTHS is very proud of Mrs. Raskin - she is a shining example of the middah of caring for the community.

North Hollywood High School's Winter Music Concert is Friday, December 13 from 7pm to 9pm. The musical celebration will bring together all the musical resources of NHHS including outstanding vocalists, the orchestra, jazz band, the school's choir and chorus.

The Country School just finished their round of Open Houses, but private tours for the Elementary and Middle Schools can be scheduled by calling Joy McCarthy at 818-769-2511. Small group tours for the preschool are every Tuesday from 10:00 – 11:00 am. The tour is for parents only, and you must RSVP. The Country School is located at 5243 Laurel Canyon Blvd.

On October 12th, North Hollywood High School's CyberPatriot teams competed in the Southern California Cyber Defense Championship, sweeping the Advanced Division and winning 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place, at the LA Cyber Cup. The Air Force Association's Cyberpatriot National High School Cyber Defense Competition inspires high school students to pursue careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.



6th ANNUAL NCVV FOOD DRIVE We are once again proud to sponsor a food drive to help those in need during the upcoming holiday season. Please bring your canned and/or non-perishable items to any Board or Committee meeting during December, or drop your donation off at Marie et Cie on Riverside at Colfax. For more information contact Suzanne Lewis or Charles Sulahian at 818-759-8204.



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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
VALLEY VILLAGE

PO Box 4703
Valley Village, CA 91601

NCVV Election



**THURSDAY
MARCH 20**

4 pm to 8 pm

Faith
Presbyterian
Church

VALLEY VILLAGE CALENDAR



The Bridge is the official outreach of NCVV. A hard copy of the Bridge is mailed to all stakeholders one time each year. Other 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 91601

NCVV Board of Directors Meeting

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.*