

# THE VALLEY VILLAGER

## VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



VOL. 28 NUMBER 3

June 2018

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

## *Valley Village July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade*

On the occasion of our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade, parade committee Chairperson Dorothy Apple is pleased to announce that our Grand Marshals this year will be **Linda and Steve Simon**. This husband and wife team have generously volunteered more hours to our community than we can count and are an example for us all to admire. Their quiet, can-do dedication has been a constant at Valley Village events for over three decades. Let's wave our flags in thanks to Linda and Steve as they drive by on the parade route.

Ensure the parade's success by joining in on foot or on bike, wheelchair or wagon! We want to see everything red, white and blue! Decorate your bikes, skateboards, golf carts and cars ... and yourselves. And we are hoping for a lot of photos this year, too, so please take photos and send them to [mail@Valleyvillageha.com](mailto:mail@Valleyvillageha.com).

**Safety rules require no standing in a moving vehicle and no sitting or standing on the back of trucks.**

The Parade begins at 10 a.m. at the corner of Addison Street and Morella Avenue. Participants on foot, bike, skateboard, etc., should enter from Colfax Avenue and line up on Addison Street. Cars, trucks and golf carts line up on Morella Avenue and must enter from Huston Street.

The Parade, led by the marching band from North Hollywood High School, heads west on Addison Street, turns right on Ben Avenue (north), right on Otsego Street (east), crosses Colfax Avenue to Irvine Avenue where it turns right (south) and left on Hesby Street (east). The route then crosses Westpark Drive and enters Valley Village Park.

This is the highlight of our Valley Village Homeowners Association year, so come on out and cheer on the marchers, or join us at Valley Village Park where the Parade ends, and the party begins. Enjoy watermelon donated by Jon's Market, donuts from Yum Yum, corn dogs from Wienerschnitzel and bottled water from Gelson's. Get together with your neighbors and enjoy the music. And don't forget to stop by the VVHA table and meet members of the Board. We will be happy to talk with you and might have a petition or two for you to sign. Bring your membership dues and enter the drawing for a door prize!

**One more thing:**

**Please do not park cars along the Parade route in the morning**

## Manny's Beat

Greetings from North Hollywood Community Police Station. My name is Officer Chang and I'm filling in for Officer Arreygue who is on vacation. We've had an increase in the homeless population and are trying to get resources for these people. The City has begun to distribute Measure "H" and Proposition "HHH" funds for "A Bridge Home" (Emergency Temporary Housing) for homeless people. To learn more about this program visit [www.lamayor.org/bridge-home](http://www.lamayor.org/bridge-home).

In general, there has been an increase in Aggravated Assault this year, Robbery; Burglary, Rape, and Personal Theft/Other Theft are down; Grand Theft Auto is about the same. There have been no Homicides in the last two years, to date.

	2017	2018
Homicide	0	0
Rape	2	0
Robbery	7	10
Assault	28	17
Burglary	36	52
GT Auto	40	45
Theft from Auto	134	136
Theft/Other Theft	60	82

\*Stats for NH Division LAPD

Police Officer III Tony Chang  
LA Police Department, NH Division

Senior Lead Officer, Valley Village:  
Manny Arreygue 818-634-0829

***Valley Village July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade - Wednesday, July 4, 10am***

# Membership Renewal Now

Your membership renewal is due now!

This year you will find your membership renewal statement is a full-page 2-sided insert in this newsletter. **Please complete the form and drop it off with your dues at the membership table at Valley Village Park on July 4th or mail it with your dues in the attached envelope.** We will be at the park from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., following the Parade. Door prizes will be awarded to three lucky Members whose names will be pulled out of the 'hat'.

*Please be sure to give us your current email address!* This year we will email your membership acknowledgment receipt as long as we have your email address. This will save the Association a nice sum of money that will be used elsewhere, such as renting the auditorium at Colfax Charter School for general membership meetings or printing the newsletter.

Your VVHA Board members thank you for your continued

## ***The VVHA Board:***

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# A Letter from the President

Property crime and homelessness still top the list of complaints received or heard by The Valley Village Homeowners Association (VVHA).

The two overlap to some degree.

The first line of defense against both is the LAPD. Yet, despite growth in these two problem areas, the force still sits at 10,000 officers, where it has been since 2013 - about 25 per 10,000 residents. By comparison, the ratio is 44 for Chicago and 42 for New York.

The numbers by themselves do not tell the whole story. The size of the area covered by the LAPD is much greater, making it more difficult to concentrate resources here.

The last time there was a serious attempt to increase the ranks was in 2006, when former mayor Antonio Villaraigosa promised to add 1,000 officers with a trash fee hike on homeowners. It ended up being a sham; less than half that number was hired. Former City Controller Laura Chick and I appeared on Patt Morrison's NPR program back then and lambasted the Mayor for his deceit.

Homelessness increased by 20% in 2017 and related arrests jumped 10%. Interactions with the homeless require more resources than a typical response to a crime; it is not as straightforward as arresting, say, a burglary suspect. The concept of rights is more complex and compassion is required.

Despite the challenges created by rising crime and homelessness, you would think the Mayor and City Council would ramp up the size of the LAPD. Former Chief Bratton and outgoing Chief Beck believe 12,000 officers would be appropriate.

The City's new budget calls for freeing up about 300 officers from desk duties by back-filling them with civilian workers. City Controller Ron Galperin made such a recommendation in 2016. His audit identified 458 officers who could be reassigned to primary police activities.

The budgetary hurdle of adding funds for new officers is directly related to the ever increasing cost of city employee retirement benefits, which have grown from 5% of the general fund in 2002 to almost 20% today ... and there is still the prospect of a \$9 billion unfunded pension liability.

Mayor Garcetti and budget chair Paul Krekorian have made little effort to tackle the challenge, which will require higher contributions from City employees to resolve.

Instead, they claim the budget is balanced in spite of this deficit. I might add that the new budget required \$100M from reserves and the budget stabilization fund just to cover expenses for this year - not an appropriate use of those funds.

So, if we want the protection we deserve, we must remind our elected officials that they need to practice fiscal discipline. Insist on it! Unless they hear from us often, it is not going to happen.

Paul Hatfield, President

**Like VVHA On Facebook! [www.Facebook.com/ValleyVillageHA](http://www.Facebook.com/ValleyVillageHA)**

## Hope For Homeless Students

We seem to hear daily reports about the worsening scourge of homelessness. Its causes are numerous and diverse, rendering solutions difficult and elusive. Staff and faculty over at Los Angeles Valley College, however, are making giant strides toward alleviating some of the more devastating aspects experienced by homeless students on campus.

It all began about five years ago when an anonymous benefactor gave Ellie Rabani, coordinator of LAVC's CalWORKs program, \$1,000.00 in Ralph's grocery cards. Ellie consulted with some of her colleagues about how this windfall might best be used. Together, they crafted what has become a meaningful and accountable support program for students struggling with homelessness and food insecurities.

There are varying degrees of need among the homeless student body: Some have a place to stay, but don't know where their next meal is coming from; others have a job and a car, but nowhere to sleep and shower. There are issues of domestic abuse, childcare, and financial aid as well.

**The Helping Hands Project (HHP)** is a special fund under the LAVC Foundation that supports students on campus who may not qualify for other programs. While HHP cannot provide housing, it has strong partnerships with community organizations to meet this need. Monies collected assist students with basics like food, toiletries, bus passes, textbooks/supplies, and other needs upon agreement of the committee. There are procedures in place to avoid duplication of services.

HHP has reached out to all corners of the community to assemble donations of clothing, food (Costco, Trader Joe's, and farmers markets), money and shelter for approximately 200 students. Vena Elementary School shares surplus breakfasts with the program. Local companies work with the school to provide job training and referrals. Plans are underway to create a safe, overnight parking area for those sleeping in their vehicles.

This is not a handout, though. To have access to these services, a student must be registered with the program and maintain good scholastic standing – this is a college, after all. And in cases where people have offered extra rooms in their homes, the student pays an affordable rent for their accommodation.

HHP strives to be a temporary bridge that allows students to successfully complete their educational plans at LAVC. It is already changing lives and providing much needed support to the next generation of college graduates.

There are many ways our community can participate in this noble endeavor. For one thing, bring gently used, cleaned clothing (especially business attire) to the next VVHA General Meeting (Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> in the Colfax Elementary Auditorium). If you would like to contribute money, go to [www.lavcfoundation.org](http://www.lavcfoundation.org) and select the tab "Give Online." You will have the option to choose "Helping Hands Project" from the list. Additionally, the project needs volunteers for mentoring, housing opportunities, and job referrals. To find out how you can help, contact Emily Mutanda at [mutanded@lavc.edu](mailto:mutanded@lavc.edu).

## Trees, Please

One of the many elements that make our Valley Village beautiful is the wealth of mature trees throughout the community. Sadly, however, we are losing many of them to disease, old age and development.

In the spirit of maintaining our lovely neighborhood, a group of people are working with CityPlants to plant parkway trees (trees growing near the street) free of charge for anyone willing to assume responsibility for their ongoing maintenance. Now, that's an offer that's hard to refuse!

Beyond aesthetics, the value of trees cannot be overstated. The shade provided extends the life of asphalt streets; just looking at trees offers measurable health benefits; and nothing beats them for cleansing the air we breathe.

If you are interested in participating in CityPlants' extraordinary program to restore and maintain our suburban canopy, please contact Beth at 818-535-4999, or email her at [beth@angelcpr.com](mailto:beth@angelcpr.com).

## What is... The Specific Plan

In 1993, the Los Angeles City Council approved the Valley Village Specific Plan, which is designed "To preserve the quality and existing character of the Valley Village area." \*

Since that time, VVHA has promoted enforcement of the plan. Association Board members believe that the Specific Plan is partially responsible for Valley Village becoming a desirable neighborhood in the greater L.A. area, though of course, other features such as high quality public schools and location count, too. The end result is that our property values grow nicely!

How familiar are you with the Specific Plan?

Here is a tiny quiz:

1. Are new fast food businesses permitted to open in Valley Village? Yes or No
2. What types of new businesses are permitted to open their doors in Valley Village? a) new car salesrooms, b) markets, c) massage parlors, d) cafes, e) hotels, f) nail salons, g) bathhouses?
3. Is there a restriction on the height of a multi-family building? Yes or No
4. New condominiums must provide guest parking; Do you know what the rate is? One space per unit or one-half space per unit?
5. Are new billboards permitted? Yes or No

You can read the Specific Plan at [www.ValleyVillageHA.com/specific-plan](http://www.ValleyVillageHA.com/specific-plan).

Thank you for taking this quiz.

\*Section 2 Purposes, Specific Plan

Answers:

1. No
2. b) markets, d) cafes & f) nail salons
3. Yes
4. One-half space per unit
5. No

## News from Colfax Charter School

### **Congratulations!**

The first big news is that Colfax Charter Elementary School has won a **California Distinguished Schools award for 2018!** This award was given to just 17 of the 500 elementary schools in the LAUSD area (3.4%), and Colfax won it for "exceptional gains in implementing academic content and performance standards...."

**Colfax's charter status** was renewed in early April, continuing the school's commitment to excellence in three charter focus areas: technology, the arts, and their green program.

The Parents Association Colfax Elementary (**PACE**) continues its successful fundraising efforts, notably by entirely providing funds for the following vital staff, supplies and equipment:

- Classroom aides
- An art teacher
- A violin teacher plus additional music staffing
- A science aide and lab supplies
- A computer program and instructor
- 24 new playground benches
- A full technology cart with devices
- 40 new Apple desktop computers!

PACE is also working towards a library makeover, including sections for new books and new decor.

### **Colfax World Fair a big success!**

When May 19 dawned, it was all hands on deck to pull off the largest single fundraising event for Colfax Elementary, the Colfax World Fair, proceeds from which support the K-5 instructional music program, the arts, hands-on science learning, aides in the classrooms, technology, and the farm and gardening programs.

Each school grade performed songs throughout the day on the big stage. There were many talented bands ranging in age from kids to adults. And thanks to many local bakeries and eateries, the Cake Walk and the many food and refreshment booths were a huge success. (A special shout-out to Barry Berkowitz whose chicken sandwich is now legendary; his youngest child, Emily, graduated Colfax this year.)

<https://www.facebook.com/ColfaxWorldFair/videos/2125346850838806/>

On Morella, the Water Park was a treat and relief to many kids wanting to get out of the heat. A new attraction this year was a 30-foot Climbing Wall, and of course we have to mention the Slidesaurus giant slide, coming in at 85 feet long and 17 feet high. Other new and fun attractions included the Colfax Ninja Warrior obstacle course, Escape Race, and Book Nook.

One of the biggest and most successful changes in the last two years has been the automation of the Silent Auction, implemented by Lisa Adler (PACE President along with Parisa Stepanek, super-organizers of the event), which enables visitors to access the auction website remotely to bid on the many unique items and services, thus allowing families to enjoy the festivities or go home without having to camp out at the auction tent.

### **COMPLAINING ABOUT HELICOPTERS AT 2AM!**

<http://heli-noise-la.com/>

You can investigate and report a disturbance by clicking on the Investigate with WebTrak tab in the navigation bar. This website can also be accessed on mobile devices. WebTrak allows the user to research which helicopter has caused the disturbance and submit a specific complaint. Once you have launched WebTrak, the steps under the "Investigate" tab will walk you through researching and reporting a disturbance. If you find the helicopter flight track associated with your disturbance, you can submit a complaint for that specific operation by clicking on the helicopter icon, and then selecting the symbol at the lower left corner of the box that will appear. If you do not identify the flight, you can still file a complaint by clicking on the "Show Complaint Form" button and completing the form.

## Village 'vents

### **VALLEY RELICS MUSEUM**

The San Fernando Valley has a rich and dynamic past, as witnessed by the region's growth from an agricultural suburb to nearly two million residents. Before the artifacts of our past disappear, it's good to know that the Valley Relics Museum in Chatsworth rescues and preserves keepsakes from across the area. Here you'll find iconic signage from the Palomino Club, Henry's Tacos, Bob's Big Boy and many others. The museum is organized in sections focusing on the Valley's film and aerospace industry past, as well as other fascinating aspects of our unique history.



Open on Saturdays from 10am to 3pm, this non-profit enterprise is family run and

offers free admission, though visitor donations are greatly appreciated.

The Valley Village Homeowners Association is arranging a group visit to the museum on **Saturday, August 4** and you are invited to join us. We will travel on the Orange Line bus and meet at the Laurel Canyon bus station, westbound platform, at 10:30am, or you can meet us at the museum at noon.

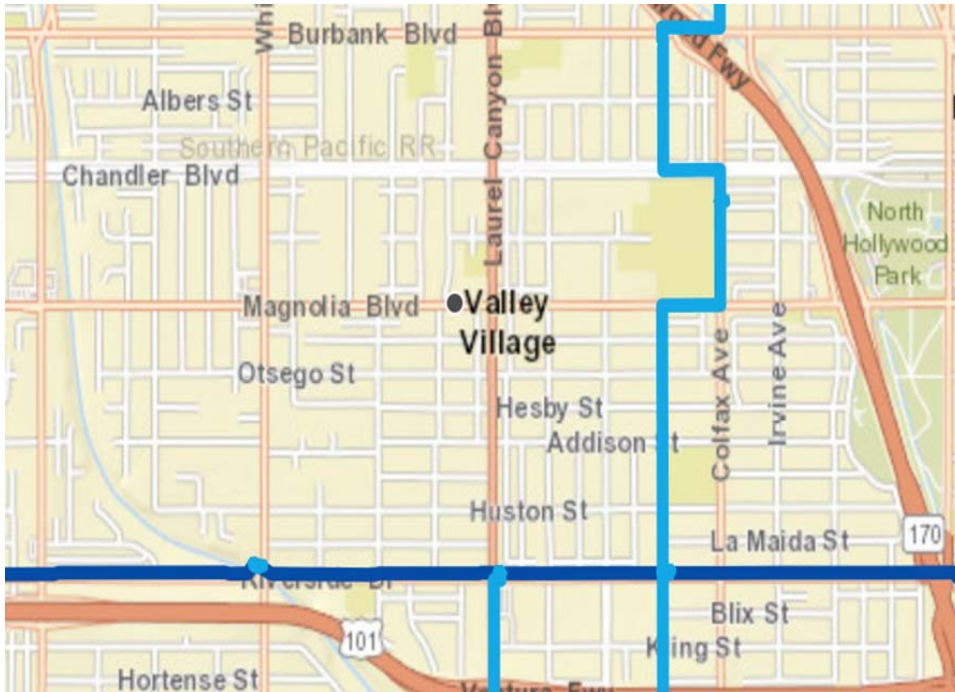
For more information, go to: [www.ValleyVillageHA.com/valleyrelics](http://www.ValleyVillageHA.com/valleyrelics)

## Underground Gas Lines in Valley Village

SoCalGas recently distributed a map of underground gas lines for general information purposes, as all homeowners should be aware of their undergrounded lines; below is the map of the main gas line locations in Valley Village.

The original scalable version can be located at this website: <https://bit.ly/2l1Y3Ed>. Enter Valley Village in the Address search bar for a comprehensive map of the lines.

This map shows the general locations of SoCalGas owned or operated Gas Transmission Pipelines and High Pressure (greater than 60



pounds per square inch) Gas Distribution Mains. Lower pressure distribution mains and smaller service lines connected to the gas meters at homes and businesses are not shown here. The lighter blue/grey lines are those that run behind Colfax Elementary and in front of North Hollywood High School (NHHS).

Many members of the community have inquired about the differences between these gas lines, the risk to the neighborhood in the event of an earthquake, as well as the vulnerability of the lines given the increased construction along Colfax Avenue.

North Hollywood Park, NHHS and Colfax Elementary would be logical gathering places for the community in the event of a natural disaster. In light of what occurred during the Northridge earthquake, the Association is pursuing clarification regarding the high pressure distribution lines in this particular location since they are so close to schools and public gathering places. Look for updates on this topic in future issues of *The Valley Villager*.

## Mansionization, One More Fix

Early last year, the City Council approved revisions to the Citywide Mansionization Ordinance (CMO) that revised or eliminated a number of provisions rendering it ineffective in protecting neighborhoods from the construction of large, out-of-scale single family homes. These revisions have largely prevented the construction of most new mansions.

Recently, however, the Association's Board of Directors received reports that some large, out-of-scale homes are still being built in Valley Village. This is due to the size of a house being determined by the area of the lot multiplied by a percentage of the lot area in the CMO. The percentage figure is applied to the lot area regardless of its size. In the R1 zone, the percentage is 45%, resulting in homes with a reasonable size of 2,250 sq.ft. that are in scale with surrounding homes when the lot has the minimum size of 5,000 sq.ft. But when the lot size is much larger, say, 7,500 sq.ft., the area of the house increases to a maximum of 3,375 sq.ft., which is too large relative to the surrounding neighborhood. The excessive scale of these larger houses is particularly evident when two or more are built side by side on lots with only the minimum 50-foot width required by the R1 zone.

To fix this defect in the revised CMO, the VVHA Board approved, and President Paul Hatfield sent, a letter to Councilmember Paul Krekorian proposing that there be a sliding scale of percentage figures that decrease as lot sizes increase, which is already done in the Mansionization Ordinance for the RA and RE11 zones. For example, if the percentage figure for a 7,500 sq.ft. lot is reduced to .35:1, then the maximum house size allowed would be reduced to 2,624 sq.ft., a reasonable size that would not be out-of-scale with surrounding homes. Also, it may be desirable to have a maximum cap such as 2,750 sq.ft. on the size of houses in Valley Village. These changes should not require a major restudy of the CMO, but rather would be modest revisions to it.

The revisions to the CMO passed last year have tightened it up and are already resulting in new houses that, in most instances, are more in scale with their neighbors. But when lots are larger and relatively narrow, new houses can still look out of place.

# Homeowners Association Membership Meeting

*Wednesday, July 18, 2017 – 6:30pm refreshments – 7:00pm meeting*  
*Colfax Charter School Auditorium*  
*11724 Addison Street, Valley Village*

## *It's Summertime:*

We will focus on addressing relevant community issues, possibly including a report from SoCalGas on the new gas line map. Bring your questions and come ready for discussion.

Also at the Meeting:  
Neighborhood Watch and Police Department updates

*This meeting is neither sponsored by nor is it in any way connected with the Los Angeles Unified School District*

**Mark Your  
Calendar:**

*2018 Membership Meetings will be on Wednesdays*  
*\* July 18 \* October 17 \**  
*2018 Board of Directors Meetings will be on Mondays*  
*\* September 17 \* November 5 \**

## VALLEY VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



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**818-506-5158**  
[www.ValleyVillageHA.com](http://www.ValleyVillageHA.com)

*"Communicate, Participate, Legislate"*