Volume III, Issue 1

February 2004

City of Villa Park

Villa Park Highlights

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT

In California, there are two kinds of cities: charter cities and general law cities. Of the more than 475 cities in the state, approximately 105 are chartered and the remainder are general law. Unlike cities in many other states, both kinds of California cities have broad powers and enjoy considerable freedom in the form of government, which may be established, and the types of activities in which they may engage. The City of Villa Park is a general law City.

The authority to form as a general law or charter city is covered in the state constitution. Presently, both general and charter law cities have nearly equal powers. Most charter cities were established where special conditions created needs that could not be adequately met by general laws. The powers of a charter city are not restricted to those outlined in general state municipal law. A charter can only be adopted and/or changed by a majority vote of City residents - not by a vote of the City Council.

General law cities operate within the parameters and guidelines of California municipal law. The advantage of a general law city is that general state laws have been subjected to judicial scrutiny and tested over the years, so there is relatively little confusion about their application. City charters, by contrast, can be much more complicated and can raise many more questions about what can and cannot be done under state law.

Regardless of the type of City, citizen involvement in the local governance process is important. The Villa Park City Council meets once per month on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Villa Park Town Hall. As the City Council also serves as the City's Planning Commission, the Council has the opportunity to hear land use issues as well as routine City business.

Participation in the meetings is strongly encouraged through the use of oral communications and other opportunties for public comment. Periodically, the City Council will also host Town Hall Meetings for special interest topics such as the budget or development projects. These meetings are more informal than regular City Council meetings and tend to flow with more opportunities for public comment. Participation in local zoning decisions or the local budgetary process is often the first opportunity a member of the public gets to participate in the local governance process. In Villa Park, this participation is welcomed and encouraged.

State law regulates how a meeting is conducted, what can be discussed based on a published agenda, and guidelines for participation. Legislation known as the "Brown Act" provides a framework for the conduct of meetings. The Brown Act was designed to ensure that the deliberations as well as the actions of local agencies are performed at meetings open to the public. As a result, attendance of a majority of the City Council at any meeting to discuss, hear, or deliberate on any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City is prohibited unless the meeting is open and publicized.

City Council meetings are provided as the opportunity for the City Council as a body to hear and address the concerns of the community. Without your participation in the process, it becomes difficult for the Council to address broad policy and strategic issues. ***To help in the communication process, the next edition of the Villa Park Highlights will be devoted to a Community Survey. It is hoped that through the survey, residents can express their opinion on the state of the City and its direction over the next 10 to 20 years.***

What's Inside:

•Volunteers In Action•

•FAQ's for Villa Park•

•Street Clock is coming•

Dates To Remember

• March 23rd•
City Council Meeting
•April 24th•
Foundation Gala Event
•April 27th•
City Council Meeting
•May 16th•
Home & Garden Tour

Volunteers In Action

THE STREET CLOCK HAS ARRIVED!

The joint Foundation and Rotary Street Clock Project is now well underway. The Street Clock has arrived and the ground work has begun to install it.

Anyone who would like to donate there services toward installation of the Street Clock would be greatly appreciated. Work includes electrical, concrete, paving, landscape, etc. To help out, contact Erik Kuli at 921-1505 , Pam Dunn at 998-5552, or City Hall.

FOUNDATION PLANS 2ND ANNUAL GALA EVENT

The Foundation is finalizing plans for its 2nd Annual Gala Event to be held on April 24th in the Villa Park Town Center. Last year's event was a tremendous success and this year the Board hopes to capitalize on that success.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. If you would like to volunteer or are interested in more information on the event, contact Erik Kuli at 921-1505, Vito Canuso at 279-0729 or City Hall.

ROTARY LOOKING FOR DRESSES

The Villa Park Rotary Club is looking for girls formals willing to be donated to Olive Crest Foster Care Home for use by the graduating. Dresses of all types are welcome. To donate or for more information contact Pam Dunn at 998-5552 or City Hall.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE PLANS ANNUAL HOME & GARDEN TOUR

The Villa Park Women's League will be hosting a Home & Garden Tour on Sunday, May 16th. The event will include a luncheon and a boutique. League members will receive tickets for sale in early April. Tickets will also be made available at the "Green Pear" in Villa Park Town Center.

All proceeds benefit local schools and charities. For more details on the event, contact Jackie Gugliotta at 532-5509 or City Hall.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Do I need a permit for a concrete block wall?*

Block walls less than 4 feet in height do not typically require a permit. Walls are limited to a height of 42 inches in the front yard setback area. Walls over 4 feet will usually require a building permit and a site plan review from planning. Retaining walls will almost always require a permit. A Building Official is ready to answer any questions you may have at City Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

2. *Does my gardener require a City business license?*

Yes. Landscapers, gardeners, tree trimmers, maid service, or any other business that provides a regularly scheduled business service in the City is required to obtain a City Business License. Random or infrequent service providers are exempt from the business license requirement.

3. *Can I have horses on my property?*

All Villa Park property is "horse property." However, there are restrictions as to the areas where an equine may be housed. These include distances to habitable spaces, fences, buildings, etc. For more information contact City Hall or review the City's Residential Guidelines Development Handbook available at City Hall or on the City's website at www.villapark.org.

4. *Who is responsible for maintaining the parkway?*

Adjacent property owners are responsible for maintaining any parkway areas adjacent to their homes - a parkway area is that section of the right-of-way immediately adjacent to the street between the curb and the property line of the adjacent homeowner. Removal of trees, however, requires approval from the City.

Public Safety Happenings

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CONTINUES TO GROW

The Villa Park Neighborhood Watch Program continues to expand with the number of active groups now almost 45.

Each Block Captain receives a monthly report on criminal activity occurring throughout the City that can be distributed to the homes in their area.

The City has committed to hosting quarterly Captain's Meetings to address local concerns and have a guest speaker of interest to public safety.

The Sheriff's Department has committed to making themselves available to make presentations to any Watch Group that is interested in hosting an event. These can be held in the evenings, on weekends, or whenever is convenient for the entire area. City Hall can be made available or the Captain can organize a meeting in one of the area homes.

If you are interested in participating whether by volunteering to join an existing group or to be a Block Captain in a new area, contact City Hall. Alternatively, you can be a part of the E-Network and receive the same crime reports that are distributed to the Neighborhood Watch Groups. To join the E-Network, just send a email to City Hall at grodericks@villapark.org.

EMERGENCY NETWORK

The City's Emergency Operations Plan contains an "Emergency Network" of supplies and resources in the community in the event that the City is on its own for more than 72 hours.

If you have supplies or resources locally that you would like the City to be aware of that can be used during an emergency please contact City Hall.

FIREPLACE SAFETY

While a roaring fire in the fireplace can be cozy, it can also be dangerous for those who neglect to take proper precautions before using it. The OCFA would like to provide some fireplace safety tips that could help prevent a costly or deadly fire in your home.

Residents should be aware that some fireplaces are designed to only use natural gas logs. Wood or other combustibles cannot be safely burned in these fireplaces. All homes should have smoke detectors along with carbon monoxide detectors installed.

Have your chimney inspected by a professional at least once a year and cleaned if necessary. If you have a gas-fired fireplace, be sure to use it safely according to manufacturer's directions. Make sure your chimney has a spark arrestor. Every year, the Orange County Fire Authority responds to fires started by fireplaces without spark arrestors.

Always open the chimney flue or damper to allow smoke to get out. This also allows air to get to your fire so that it continues to burn brightly. Never burn trash of any kind in your fireplace. Any discarded material can give off potentially toxic fumes. Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from popping out onto carpeting.

Be sure the fire is completely extinguished before going to sleep or leaving the home. Be sure gas is turned off completely at the valve. Remove ashes in a metal container and never store them inside your home. Do not use kerosene or any other lighter fluid to make the flames burn more brightly—these substances will only coat the inside of your chimney and can cause significant burn injuries.

For additional fire safety information, contact the Orange County Fire Authority Community Relations and Education Section at 714-532-7266 or visit the Web Site at www.ocfa.org .

City of Villa Park

17855 Santiago Boulevard
Villa Park, California 92861-4187

Phone: (714) 998-1500
Facsimile: (714) 998-1508
E-Mail: grodericks@villapark.org

TUNE IN
VILLA PARK CABLE TV CHANNEL 3

- **1st Tuesday - 7:30 p.m. Meet the Mayor**
- **2nd Tuesday - 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting Replay**
- **3rd Tuesday - 7:30 p.m. Meet the Mayor**
- **4th Tuesday - 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting LIVE**
- **5th Tuesday - 7:30 p.m. Special Presentations**

VPCATV BOARD MEETS THE 2ND THURS AT CITY HALL - 7:30 P.M.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.VILLAPARK.ORG

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City Hall	998-1500
City Hall Fax Line	998-1508
City Hall Hotline	998-0250
City Hall Email	grodericks@villapark.org
City Website	www.villapark.org
Sheriff Department	
Non-Emergency	647-7000
Emergency	911
Fire Authority	
Non-Emergency	744-0400
Emergency	911
Fire Station #23	997-2552
Animal Control	935-6848
Health Department	834-7712
County Recorder's Office	834-2500
County Property Assessor	834-2727
County Tax Collector	834-3411
County Auditor-Controller	834-2457
Villa Park County Library	998-0861
Serrano Water District	538-0079
Villa Park Disposal	238-3300
Pacific Bell Telephone	(800) 310-2355
Southern California Edison	(800) 655-4555
Southern California Gas	(800) 427-2200
Adelphia Cable	777-1313

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Joining the Villa Park Community Services Foundation is your opportunity to be a part of the volunteer spirit in Villa Park. Join today!

Villa Park City Council

Patricia Bortle
Mayor
W. Bill MacAloney
Mayor Pro Tem
Bob Bell
Councilmember
Rich Freschi
Councilmember
Robert E. McGowan
Councilmember

Villa Park Highlights is published by the City of Villa Park and is distributed as a public service to the homes and businesses of the City. The City of Villa Park welcomes your comments, suggestions and questions regarding this publication.

City of Villa Park
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