From President Dean Abston — For those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the last General Meeting of the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association (VGNA) on Feb. 17th, it was a huge success! The attendance was 92, the house was packed and the food was plenty! Our main speaker was Phil Baccera and Justin Brewer from Warmington Residential who gave us an in depth presentation of a proposed 68-unit small lot development where the 72 unit Victory Apartments complex was previously located on the north side of Victory Blvd. on the east and west side of Atoll Avenue. Currently, the property has been vacant for several years and is covered by the wooden blue and white fence you see every day as you drive along Victory Blvd. Warmington Residential is in escrow to buy this land but the company is still studying the feasibility of the project including community reaction. The 68 homes ranging from 1,220 SF to 2,000 SF would sell for $500,000 to $600,000 with construction to start in late 2016. For readers not familiar with the proposed project, please see the article about it on Page 9.

Our next fundraiser, the famous Valley Glen Yard Sale, will be on June 27th at 13422 Oxnard Blvd. from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Funds raised from our Yard Sale go to fund your Association’s advocacy work and the Adopt-A-Family program. For the Valley Glen Yard Sale to be successful, we need the stuff you no longer need, especially: toys, clothing, tools, light sports equipment, knick-knacks and very small appliances. Unfortunately we cannot take bulky items like furniture. So please start cleaning out your homes of unwanted items and donate them to our Yard Sale. Starting in early June, please call our Yard Sale coordinator Gerhard Runken at (818) 785-9517 or email him at ghrunken@yahoo.com. Gerhard will work things out. We also would appreciate any volunteers to help out before, during and after the Yard Sale. We’ll give you food and drink in return for a few hours of your time. Please reach out to Gerhard if you can help out.

If you have an interest in getting involved with your community and becoming a Grid Representative, please contact Gerhard Runken at ghrunken@yahoo.com. Gerhard is doing double-duty this year as our Yard Sale coordinator and Captain of the Grid Reps. Being a Grid Rep is a great way to represent your Grid’s issues and needs while becoming involved and attending our Executive Board meetings.

Continued on Page 2
**Around Your Grids in Valley Glen**

Valley Glen is organized in 11 Grids: A, B, C and 1 through 8. Here is what’s going on in your Grids.

There is excellent news in Grid 7 and for theater-goers in Valley Glen: The Century 8 Theater on Victory Blvd. and Coldwater Canyon is undergoing $1 million in renovations including a luxury lounge conversion and a general face lift. It’s nice to see a major business investing in our community.

On the outside of the building there will be new exterior paint and murals. The lobby will feature an interior box office, updated concession stand, and new luxury loungers in all 8 auditoriums. Loungers feature oversized, plush, comfortable electric-powered recliners, with footrests and cup holders. The upstairs auditoriums are the first to be converted to luxury loungers and should be available by May. All seating should be completed by June.

Prior articles in the Valley Glen Voice have detailed improvements in security at the parking structure behind the theater. It looks like the theater will be a first class theater and the new seating will provide for a great user experience. We eagerly await the completion of the renovation and hope to see you at the movies soon. Your Association will work with the corporate office to call this place, “The Century Valley Glen 8.”

In Grids 1 and C, you can see lots of construction going on. A large apartment complex was completed on Burbank Blvd. and Varna Street and over 100 apartment units are being built in several locations along Hazeltine Avenue. Outside of the 2.4 acre north Victory Blvd. at Atoll Ave. parcels (discussed on Page 5), very few large development lots will exist in Valley Glen. This means that

**News you Can Use**

A Virtual Neighborhood Watch, Angie’s List and Local News Source

While the boundaries may be different than Valley Glen, please consider joining Nextdoor. To join, go to the [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) site, follow their instructions and the site will tell you what neighborhood you are in. Valley Glen is covered by 7 Nextdoor.com neighborhoods. Once you join a specific neighborhood, you may join neighbors in your neighborhood and nearby neighborhoods to discuss local issues, neighborhood watch issues or ask for recommendations on home repairs, dog groomers, etc.

**Supervisor Sheila Kuehl**

Open for Business in the Valley

Recently elected SLA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl is maintaining a Valley Office in the Van Nuys Government Center. She has staffed the office with a Senior Field Deputy by the name of Angelica Ayala, past East Valley Director for Mayor Villaraigosa and a Field Deputy by the name of Benita Trujillo. It’s noteworthy that Benita had worked for 15 years as a Field Deputy for recently retired County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. Benita is very familiar with County issues and how they affect Valley Glen. Those issues remain landscape maintenance and homeless issues along the Orange Line and maintenance along the Tujunga Wash. For these or any other issues relating to the county of Los Angeles, Benita is happy to help. You can reach her at: (818) 901-3831.

**Bulky Items Illegal Parking**

Who to call

Bulky items are an eyesore. Your Association is so vigilant on this issue that we host periodic “clean up days.” Do your part by reporting bulky items to (800) 773-2489.

If you need to contact Parking Enforcement immediately for action on such matters as a parked car blocking your driveway or garage, please contact (800) 222-6366.

President’s message (continued from Page 1)

I would like to think that the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association has made a marked difference in your “quality of life” here in wonderful Valley Glen. As you may or may not know, the VGNA is totally self-supporting; we receive no funds from any government entities. So please consider a minimum $20 donation to help us keep making a difference; contact our Treasurer Michael Rosenzweig at michaelmsr905@aol.com and let him know you would like to provide support. Alternatively, you may send a check made payable to VGNA to 13400 Victory Blvd. Box 385 Valley Glen, CA 91401. That will make a big difference! And please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, we are here to be of service. Our contact info is listed on our website www.valleyglen.org.
PARDON OUR DUST
We’re “ReVitalizing” Valley College by Erika Endrijonas, LAVC President

LA Valley College is undergoing a $626 million renovation and building project to revitalize existing facilities and build new sustainable buildings. There has been a great deal of construction dust and welding noise lately, but when construction ends in 3-4 years, the “ReVitalizing of Valley College” will be complete.

Most recently, LAVC celebrated the official opening of the Community Services Center, which is home to our Community Services classes and our large community-based gymnastics program, on March 24. This new facility includes a state-of-the-art climbing wall, a teaching kitchen and several multipurpose rooms. We also opened a 1,000-space parking structure on the corner of Ethel Avenue and Hatteras Street.

Current construction projects at the Valley College include a Student Union (formerly known as the Monarch Center) that will house the college’s bookstore, cafeteria, student health center, student psychological services, and student government offices. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. A new athletic training facility is being built to house the LAVC Monarch football program and includes a stadium field house, a baseball field, a softball field, a jocket field, an archery, hammer throw and discus area. In addition, there will be a new building at the college’s main entrance that will house our workforce development programs and the college’s administrative offices. Well-known muralist Kent Twitchell will also be installing his famous “Freeway Lady” mural on our Student Services Center later this year. Lastly, the finishing touches on plans for a new Valley Academic and Cultural Center (formerly known as Media and Performing Arts building) are being made, and the project should break ground in Fall 2015.

If you haven’t been to LAVC lately, come check us out!

Pictured above at the ribbon-cutting for the Community Services Center are (from left to right): Monica Alatorre, Community Services parent, Mona Field, LACCD Board member, Daira Alatorre, Community Services student, Steve Veres, LACCD Board member, Scott Svonkin, LACCD Board president, Paul Krekorian, Councilmember, LA City Council District 2, Dr. Erika Endrijonas, LAVC president, Nancy Pearlman, LACCD Board member, and Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, LACCD Chancellor.

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Rich PISANI
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CalBRE License# 01458187
Valley Glen is becoming 99% developed. With nearly no vacant land left and the hope of continued economic growth, there is a strong likelihood that apartment rents, retail/office space rents and home prices will rise.

In the western portion of Grid C west of the Orange Line on Sunnyslope Ave., a Little Free Library was vandalized in early March. Vandalists took the house that stores the books and stole or damaged several books. The owner wasted little time to build a new Little Free Library and it is fully stocked with books. Congratulations on a great statement to vandals that “You can vandalize our library but you can’t take away our love of books.” Good job!

In Grid B, there’s another “before” and “after” beautification activity. The Greater Valley Glen Council’s (GVGC) Parks and Improvements Committee has conferred upon Lusy’s Mediterranean Café and Grill, the Best Landscape of the Month award. This is the first time this award has been given to a Valley Glen business. The award is given monthly to homes, apartments, businesses and institutions who promote excellence in landscaping with special consideration to the fact that we are entering the fourth year of a drought in California and Los Angeles.

At the southwestern corner of Woodman Ave. and Victory Blvd. where Lusy’s is located, Lusy’s removed weeds and grass and replaced it with native drought-tolerant plants on bark chips.

Pictured in the photo on the right is (from left to right) Mickey Jannol representing the GVGC Parks and Improvement Committee, Lusy’s Mediterranean Café staff member Nick Khazzaka, owner Lusy Gradzhyans and culinary staff members Ani and Hermione Gradzhyans. Thank you, Lusy’s!

Park track gets measured and new sidewalks are on the way. Grid A’s Valley Glen Community Park supporters have used Google Earth tools to determine how many times around the walking track is one mile. We’re happy to announce that precisely 3 times around the track equals one mile. Also, as we go to press, the uneven sidewalks around the perimeter of the Park are being removed and replaced with new level sidewalks by the end of April. We can thank Councilmember Paul Krekorian for that as he has championed getting more funds for sidewalk repair. Please patronize our Park. If you see something at the Park that needs maintenance attention, you may let us know but please do not hesitate to call Peggy Kelly, LA Recreation and Parks Supervisor in charge of the Park. Peggy can be reached at (818) 756-8189 or by email at peggy.kelly.lacity.org.

On the left, Grid A’s Alicia Bien won the Best Humor Book of 2015 from Big Al’s Books and Pal’s Reader Choice Award. Here she is pictured with Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian and her award-winning book, “Evolution of a Wine Drinker.” Congratulations, Alicia!

We love hummingbirds. Grid B’s very own Audubon expert Jackie Wolner set up a hummingbird cam that you can access. Pictured is a mother hummingbird feeding her two babies. Access the hummingbird cam by going to this link http://explore.org/live-cams/player/ivy-hummingbird-cam.

Grid 8’s Rosalyne Smith (pictured on the right) proves you can make friends with your neighbor by watching their back. Rosalyne witnessed a hit and run in her neighborhood on March 22nd. A swerving car struck a neighbor’s parked car and continued driving away from the scene. Although the neighbor did not see what happened, Rosalyne, along with Good Samaritan neighbors and walkers from another block were able to give the LAPD a detailed report on the driver and the vehicle. The driver was found and arrested. Rosalyne has a new, thankful friend in a neighbor who is very relieved. Good job in employing “neighborhood watch” techniques of looking out for each other.

This Little Piggy Went To Market. Grid C Resident Tina Lawton found a hungry and thirsty pot-bellied pig in March wandering near Oxnard St. and Sunnyslope Ave. Pot-bellied pigs are indigenous to Vietnam and can weigh up to 100-300 pounds. They are often abandoned when owners discover that these pigs grow to larger sizes. Tina posted “found pig” signs all over the neighborhood and on Nextdoor but no owner came forward. But this story has a happy ending. Tina’s two children and two dogs bonded with this little pig so the family has adopted him and named him Joey. Joey has been to the vet and is 1 year old. Joey stays within the property but roams her yard by day and comes in at night to his own bed of blankets and towels.

Finally, Grid A’s Abigail Jaye is to be commended for gathering her 4-block neighborhood together to deal with a growing feral cat problem. Abigail hosted a meeting of 15 cat-lovers and people fed up with the overpopulation of feral cats. To make peace and achieve the prime objective of managing the feline population, Abigail employed the services of Best Friends Animal Society, an animal rescue non-profit that has a Trap-Neuter-Replace program. Several feral cats were trapped, neutered and returned to the neighborhood. The result is a more docile feline population. Thank you Abigail for bringing peace to your neighborhood.

If you have something to report in your Grid, please go to our website valleyglen.org and email us.
New Grid Rep Profile
By Gerhard Runken of Grid B

Grid Representatives represent the Grids in which they reside and act as liaison to the VGNA’s Executive Board to voice neighborhood concerns. Our newest Grid Rep for Grid B, Gerhard Runken, writes about his background and his ambitions for Valley Glen.

My family and I have lived in the Valley Glen area for 38 years. My two children were educated and graduated from college in Los Angeles. Last fall I was asked by my neighbor Dean Abston to volunteer to be a Grid Rep for Grid B. I felt this was a good opportunity to give back to our community by helping the neighborhood to continue to be a place to live and raise children.

The other benefits of living in this part of the Valley are that it is quiet, has easy access to shopping to all parts of Southern California.

Before retiring last year, I was in the communication/printing industry for over 30 years, as an owner (15 years) and an account executive. I now spend more time with my family (especially enjoying my two granddaughters) and volunteering. It is my philosophy that you have to give in order to enjoy. Good neighborhoods exist when people work together and know each other.

The Valley Glen Neighborhood Association gives that opportunity to everyone to meet their neighbor and help continue to make this a wonderful place to live.

Volunteer and get involved in your neighborhood. I look forward to meeting you.

Gerhard email address is ghrunken@yahoo.com.

Governor Orders 25% Cut on Water Usage
What this Means to Us by Joanne D’Antonio

Joanne D’Antonio is on the Board of the Greater Valley Glen Council (GVGC) and serves as its Representative to the Department of Water and Power (DWP) Oversight and Advocacy Committees. Joanne provides insight as to what to expect from DWP and things we can do to save water.

The snowpack is gone, and the Governor has decreed a 25% reduction in water usage. Governor Brown recently gave this order to the over 500 regional water agencies that make local policies. Each will have to get people to cut back.

DWP is expected to propose new cost-based rate hikes this year. We will find out what they are at the end of May and then there will be 120 days for public reaction before implementation. The way to keep your water bills down is to have your usage in Tier 1; the lowest tier. It is possible for a household of three with a yard, trees, and a pool to stay in this tier.

Regardless of tiers, DWP will order us to cut our lawn watering to only twice a week and will be more active in enforcing this. DWP will likely emphasize its Turf Replacement program. DWP pays homeowners a rebate of $3.75 per square foot (“SF”) of turf up to 1,500 SF and $2.00 per SF beyond 1,500 SF. You must get approval ahead of doing the work, your lawn must be green and you must present a plan for drought-tolerant replacement plants.

There are companies who do turf replacement, but make sure you know what you are getting. There are homes in Valley Glen who have gravel or mulch spilling into the sidewalk. These materials need to be recessed and usually work better with border troughs. View a completed project site before hiring a landscape contractor.

As for tips on how to reduce water usage, here are a few. Turn on the tap only when actually using the water. If you use liquid soap, draw soap first and then turn on the faucet. No running water while brushing teeth. Only use water in the shower to get wet and rinse off . . . army showers, it’s a drought! The DWP gives out free showerheads with an easy cut-off valve.

When using the kitchen sink, toss recycling items in the sink to be rinsed by the overflow. Use cooking water and other lightly used water for your plants.

If you have not switched your toilets to ultra low flush and installed low water usage appliances, there are rebates from DWP for installing these. Check their website.

Nobody wants to see a day when we turn on the faucet and nothing happens. For more information, please email Joanne at jdantonio@greatervalleyglencouncil.org.
COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY
by Joel Rosenthal – Grid A

The Operations-Valley Bureau Community Police Academy provides community members with an inside look at the Los Angeles Police Department and various facets of law enforcement. During the Academy course, students will be introduced to basic police operations which will include the history of the LAPD, the Department's organization and structure, gang awareness, juvenile procedures, homicide investigations, probation operations, communications, officer survival, pursuit policy, use of force, shooting policy and force option simulator training. The Academy is designed to develop a partnership between the police and the community and to provide students with knowledge of basic law enforcement daily operations.

The curriculum and teaching methods are similar to the traditional law enforcement academy that will provide an opportunity to see police-related activities from within the Department. Experienced police officers will teach the evening Academy classes in an eight-week program located at the Edward M. Davis Training Department in Granada Hills. The LAPD hopes to provide a greater awareness and understanding of law enforcement's role in the community through the education provided by the Academy.

I am fortunate to have completed the Academy in October 2014 and have been volunteering at the Van Nuys Police Department where I am considered an integral part of the LAPD team and handle diverse responsibilities such as station and clerical duties and detective assistance. Working with the LAPD is both challenging and rewarding.

If this is something that interests you, contact your Senior Lead Officer or the LAPD Operations-Valley Bureau at (818) 644-8107. For volunteer opportunities, please contact the Community Police Station closest to your home and ask to speak with the Volunteer Coordinator in the station's Community Relations Office. In Van Nuys, call 818-374-9403 and in North Hollywood, call (818) 623-4001.

Mayor Commemorates Past Pioneer Women Winners - Valley Glen represented by Asta Criss of Grid 4

Los Angeles’ Commission on the Status of Women celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Pioneer Women Awards in March. Valley Glen was well represented by past award winner Asta Criss. Mayor Eric Garcetti and his wife Amy Wakeland welcomed all past honorees of the Pioneer Women Awards and about 150 invited guests to the Mayor’s residence at Getty House in Hancock Park.

Valley Glen has three Pioneer Women Award winners; Judy Price in 2010, Asta Criss in 2011 and Jean Sinatra in 2012. The Pioneer Women Awards are given by the Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women, the Mayor and City Council. The award honors contributions of remarkable women leaders who made exceptional contributions in the service of the community.

Pictured with Councilmember Krekorian are (on the left) 2010 honoree Judy Price and (on the right) 2012 honoree Jean Sinatra.

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A support group is starting soon in the San Fernando Valley. Please call (888) 735-2488 for more information. We welcome you to visit our website www.pflagla.org
Greater Valley Glen Council (GVGC) & LA City District 2 Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Invite you to Attend

Movie Night In The Park

Saturday, May 9th at 8:00 p.m.
Valley Glen Community Park
(Enter of Park – Enter via Erwin St., Atoll Ave. & Ethel Ave.)

Bring the entire family for our 3rd Movie Night in the Park event hosted by the GVGC. Feel free to bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie on a 17 foot silver screen. Movie will be provided by Universal Pictures. Movie to be announced (please check our website below)

Admission is Free
Popcorn and drinks will be provided.
We hope to see you there!

Special Thanks

COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL

What is the GVGC?
The Greater Valley Glen Council (GVGC) is your City certified neighborhood council and acts a City-funded advisory board to the City Councilmember. GVGC receives funding from the City for outreach, beautification and neighborhood funded grants for education, arts and other purposes.

www.greatervalleyglencouncil.com
Warmington Proposal for Subdivision Gains Momentum
68 homes to be constructed in 2016

Warmington Residential is in escrow to buy the 2.4 acre parcel in Grid 6 that sit east and west of Atoll Avenue and on the north side of Victory Blvd. Warmington’s escrow allows it to conduct due diligence on its proposal to build a 68-home (3-story) small lot subdivision on the property. The homes would range from 1,200 to 2,000 SF and would be priced from the low $500,000s. Warmington’s escrow would close once it receives its entitlements from the City. Phil Bacerra, Project Manager at Warmington estimates that if all goes well escrow could close in the first half of 2016.

For many years, these parcels were the site of the 72-unit Victory Garden apartments. The property was sold in 2007 and demolished to make way for a 5-story 124-unit condominium complex built over 30,000 SF retail project. The project never started and the land ultimately came into ownership by Kennedy Wilson in 2014.

A small lot subdivision is a City ordinance designed to promote home ownership affordability. It allows homes to be built such that there is hardly any front or backyard. However, each home is required to have a 2-car garage. The homes can range from as small as 600 SF but most of the homes in Southern California projects are 1,000 to 2,000 SF. Homes like the ones proposed may sell for as low as $500,000 while the same new home on a standard lot would sell for $800,000.

Since 1926, the Warmington Group has been building a variety of housing types including single-family and multifamily communities throughout California. Warmington’s most recent small lot development is being sold right now in Glassell Park, east of Silver Lake. 52 homes ranging from 1,200-1,900 SF are being sold for $500,000-$600,000. Here is the link for that project www.homesbywarmington.com/california/los-angeles/nela-union/ as well as Warmington’s website www.homesbywarmington.com/.

VGNA hosted a community meeting of 92 residents in March and the reception to Warmington’s proposal was encouraging. At press time, Phil Bacerra of Warmington reports that the company continues its process that it began in February of evaluating community feedback, economic feasibility, soils and design engineering and other matters. If those milestones are achieved, Warmington then would proceed to obtain City approval for its plans.

Need one good reason to have a plan for long term care?
I’ll share not only one, but dozens more.

Whatever your goal – protecting savings from escalating care costs, receiving care in the comfort of home, or more – a plan can help you get care on your own terms.

I can share information that can help as you plan for the future. Call me.
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Long Term Care Insurance Agent
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Your Greater Valley Glen Council (GVGC) works to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life of the community, to preserve and enhance its character and prevent its deterioration. To this end, as spring and summer comes upon us, some of the things you will see in the coming months are the always popular “Movies in the Park,” a forum on wise water usage and yard waterside maintenance since it seems our rainy season is past us. Not knowing when the next earthquake will strike, we are co-sponsoring an interactive “Emergency Preparedness Summit.” Working with your Valley Glen Neighborhood Association (VGNA), we will have community involvement in any proposed development of the Victory Blvd. corridor. The GVGC is working out a new maintenance plan for the Victory Blvd. medians, long an eyesore on our community, as well as the Whitsett median. And be on the lookout for street banners delineating our community very soon.

But we need and welcome your input, which you can do via our website www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org or by attending the monthly GVGC general meeting every first Monday of the month or its monthly committee meetings. The schedule, location and agendas for both can be viewed on the GVGC website. You can also sign up for updates on community events via our website.

As volunteers and stakeholders in the community we serve, we look forward to continuing the work of making this the very best community in the Valley. [Editor’s Note: GVGC plans to hold its water wise summit on April 25th (location to be determined) and plans to host its Movie Night at the Park on May 9th at 8:00 p.m. at Valley Glen Community Park.]

Contact Laurie King
818-205-8686
king39913@gmail.com

Day play or stay longer. While your humans have their fun you can have fun too. Come check us out.
Elected Officials Reach Out to Valley Glen

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian Takes Assembly to Your Living Room

Grid B was host to a *Sunday Afternoon with Adrin*; Valley Glen’s California State Assembly 46th District Assemblymember. The event was held on March 22 as part of Assemblymember Nazarian’s efforts to gather together neighborhood constituents to hear opinions and share his views. Assemblymember Nazarian met with 30 Valley Glen residential, education and business constituents to take questions on State issues and to share what initiatives he is working on. Questions ranged from public education, water conservation and the State budget. There was a healthy exchange of ideas and Adrin shared with us that he has authored over a dozen bills that are working their way through the State Legislature. The State has a substantial impact on Valley Glen. For example, Adrin authored the legislation signed into law by Governor Brown that now enables the Orange Line to become a rail line. Adrin will be working on securing funding for this rail line. The Line would accommodate the growth in ridership of this very successful transit project.

Commendations to Grid 4 resident and VGNA Board member Asta Criss for coordinating this event and Grid B resident Waltona Manion for hosting the event at her home and providing food and refreshments. We look forward to seeing more of these events. If you'd like to learn more about Assemblymember Nazarian’s work in the State Assembly, you may reach the Assemblymember’s Field Deputy Talene Termenjian at talene.dermenjian@asm.ca.gov.

Councilmember Krekorian Hosts “Lunch with Paul”

Councilmember Paul Krekorian gathered with constituents on April 2 at Hayat’s Kitchen in North Hollywood to discuss City issues that affect Council District 2 which covers Valley Glen. These quarterly lunch gatherings are an opportunity to meet one-on-one with Paul to learn about City issues and to advocate for issues of interest to you. Council District 2 residents are all welcome to come have *Lunch with Paul* and support this good outreach. Paul has been championing a number of issues that affect us including promotion of the entertainment industry as a vital employer and getting funds for public sidewalk repair. If you’d like to sign up for updates from Councilmember Krekorian’s office, go to this link [http://cd2.lacity.org/newslettersignup/index.htm](http://cd2.lacity.org/newslettersignup/index.htm) and follow the instructions.

Congressmember Tony Cardenas

Congressmember Cardenas’s local staff regularly attends our Association’s General Meetings and provides reports on the 29th Congressional District’s activities. The Congressmember has been quite busy in Congress trying to forge relationships with moderate Congressional Republicans in an attempt to pass legislation.

*Continued on Page 11*
How Valley Glen Matters and How You Matter—by Editor Mickey Jannol

Valley Glen began 20 years ago as several neighborhood watch groups that created a small and distinct city and an Association to advocate our interests to government officials and agencies. Today, elected officials seek out the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association (VGNA). LAPD’s Senior Lead Officers and the City Attorney pay excellent attention to Valley Glen’s needs ranging from crime prevention advice to enforcement of quality of life laws. Educational institutions and your Association are working together to promote good schools.

The real estate brokerage industry has aligned its interests with the Association to promote Valley Glen. Valley Glen’s separation from Van Nuys and focus on quality of life has caused the term “Sherman Oaks Adjacent” to be properly promoted as “Valley Glen.” This results in a 20% price premium on like homes in Valley Glen vs. Van Nuys and North Hollywood. Yet, our homes are more affordable than similar homes in Sherman Oaks and Valley Village. This unique affordability and quality of life position will help us benefit from the increase in investment by the entertainment industry in the Valley; a major driver of our economy.

Here is just a small example. NBC Universal owns 10 Universal City Plaza: the 36-story building in Universal City. In an effort to consolidate LA operations, NBC Universal is moving 3,000 Mid-Wilshire and Culver City employees to its Universal City HQ by 2016. Add to this its expansion of Universal City, many employees will need to find affordable housing near Universal City. Real estate brokers will promote Valley Glen as the affordable city fostering community pride. With little available land, it appears housing prices may rise and we will be getting lots of new neighbors.

How can you promote, enable and benefit from all this? Here are eight ideas:

1) Welcome your neighbors new and old. Lend a hand. Meet your new neighbors. They need your help to settle in. Get a phone/email list together so you can easily contact your neighbors.

2) Go for walks in your neighborhood. It’s good exercise but also sends a message to those who may consider trespassing that you really “own” your neighborhood.

3) Work with your neighborhood to promptly fix “broken windows” (this link explains this concept http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broken_windows_theory). If you see graffiti, report it to 3-1-1 so it can be removed quickly. “Illegitimate artists” and gang members will find out that is not worth the effort to continue their craft in Valley Glen.

4) Use and promote the Valley Glen name. Use it on your mail and on line. It makes for great conversation to tell people you’re from Valley Glen instead of Los Angeles.

5) Patronize Valley Glen businesses and institutions. We don’t have large shopping malls but we have a number of long-time businesses that you may enjoy patronizing. Valley Glen institutions to visit include LA Valley College, the Great Wall of Los Angeles, the Tujunga Wash and our Valley Glen Community Park.

6) Keep us and your elected officials busy. Contact us at our website www.valleyglen.org. Please go to this link to locate their telephone numbers and email addresses of government officials and LAPD http://valleyglen.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Please-click-here-to-review-our-latest-Valley-Glen-Public-Services-Directory..pdf.

7) Keep in front of your LAPD Senior Lead Officer (SLO) and have a Neighborhood Watch meeting once a year. SLOs want to know what your public safety issues are.

8) Support your Association. We’re volunteers operating on a $4,000 budget to advocate for you and feed poor families during Christmas. Your check for a $20 sponsorship payable to VGNA can be given to us at any General Meeting or mailed to us at 13654 Victory Blvd. Box 385, Valley Glen, CA 91401. You’ll get a great return.

Neighborhood pride comes from neighbors who greet each other positively with a view to building their neighborhood to create neighborhood pride. I’ve lived in the area since 1987 and this works. It’s been a great experience and I thank you for your support.
Elected Officials (Continued from Page 9)

That said, you would be surprised at the difference Congressional constituent services can make. The Congressmember’s Van Nuys Office can direct you on matters you may have with the Federal Government including immigration, home loan modification, Federal loan programs. [Editor’s Tip. It is useful to copy the Congressmember when you are writing a Federal Agency or Federally regulated institution if you are seeking assistance or making a complaint]. To get on Congressmember Tony Cardenas’ email list please go to the link http://cardenas.house.gov/contact/ and complete the form. The Congressmember’s contact in the Valley is Kenny LaSalle and his contact info is Kenny.LaSalle@mail.house.gov and (818) 781-7407.

Preparedness and Planning
Keys to Resilient Community
By Cheryl Cashman of Grid 4
(pictured with Councilmember Krekorian)

Are you and your family prepared for a Disaster? Do you have a plan? Planning, Preparedness and Training are keys to a resilient community, minimizing any disaster’s disruption to everyday life and the economy.

Join us for the Volunteer Interactive Preparedness Summit on April 25th at the North Hills United Methodist Church at 15435 Rayen St., from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This hands-on Summit will teach you how to prepare for a disaster. Local agencies participating in this Summit are: the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, County of Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department and California Highway Patrol.

The CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is a free program that gives people a better understanding of potential threats at home, work and in their community. If a disaster happens and emergency responders are delayed, CERT members can use their training to help and give critical support to family members, neighbors or associates until help arrives. To see if there is a CERT class starting near you visit, http://www.cert-la.com/. Free trainings are given through the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Please follow me on Twitter @cherylcashman or you may e-mail me at 911.prep.specialist@gmail.com for updates on trainings and events as they become available.

Yoga with Christina
Christina Oganesyan
Yoga Instructor / Group & Private Sessions
All Levels & Beginners Welcome
Hatha Yoga with blends of iyengar & Ashtanaga
info@christinayogadream.com
(818) 624-0772

Newcomers and Veterans in Valley Glen
By Alicia Bien of Grid A

We interviewed a few households as to what they like about Valley Glen and what got–and keeps-them here.

Residents since 2014 and coming to us by way of Burbank, we welcome newcomers Rich and Alissa Ceraulo (pictured below). Alissa is a writer and actor and Rich is an actor and a professional trainer.

Voice: How did you choose to live in Valley Glen?
We were looking for a house for a while but what struck us most about Valley Glen was its central location and also the value we got. Every home we saw in other areas was a tiny 2 bedroom, 1 bath with no parking. Valley Glen gave us the space we needed to expand our family, a convenient location, Valley Glen Community Park and the ability to live in a diverse neighborhood which was important to us. Bonus: We have friends who live in Valley Glen.

Voice: What interests you? Can you pursue these interests in Valley Glen?
We’re artists and found that Valley Glen is a great home base for us to continue to pursue our interests. We plan on putting a garden in our backyard and our neighbors are so generous with their experience and advice.

Voice: Did you know about the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association (VGNA) when you moved to Valley Glen?
We did, through our friends.

Voice: Is there anything you can suggest to the VGNA to make Valley Glen a better place?
Perhaps more speed bumps to discourage the street racing. But overall we are very satisfied with the work you guys do.

Thanks Rich and Alissa! And Welcome!

Some residents remember the early days of our community. Meet neighbors Howard and Jean Wedell who moved here in 1959. Although not pictured here, they took some time to answer our questions.
Annual VGNA Yard Sale
June 27th
13422 Oxnard Blvd.

Please Contribute and Help Out

You all made 2014’s yard sale a success by donating your unwanted clothing, toys, tools and other items. **We need your stuff again.** So please start preparing for our **Saturday, June 27th** yard Sale by gradually looking at your closet and asking what old or out-of-fashion items you don’t need any more.

**We need helpers.** We all work late Friday night setting up the Yard Sale (posting signs and preparing items) and then we wake up at 5:00 am to start setting up. Any early risers that want to help us are welcome. We will provide you breakfast. Later risers are also welcome and we really appreciate the afternoon help to pack up the Yard Sale and count the money.

So, who should you start calling to see how you can bring your donations over or to help? Grid Representative Gerhard Runken is our Yard Sale Captain. He can tell you what you need to prepare for the Yard Sale and how you can help. Please email Gerhard at ghrunken@yahoo.com or call him at (818) 785-9517.

Newcomers and Veterans (Continued from page 11)

VGNA: How did you choose to live in Valley Glen?
We moved to the area pre-Valley Glen. Back then Victory Boulevard was a two-lane road. My parents had built a house here so we bought the brand new house next door. We had watched it being built by the Sedlachek Brothers, a local construction company. We still live in this house. Also at that time, we had children at home so were we attracted to the area’s good quality schools, like Grant High School, which our children attended. One of our daughters was Grant’s Homecoming Queen.

VGNA: What interests you? Can you pursue these interests in Valley Glen?
When our children were growing up, we were active with their schools and extracurricular activities. Our two daughters were involved with Brownies, Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls. Meanwhile our son was on the Grant High School swim team and participated in the Boy Scouts, Howard served as the Assistant Scoutmaster of his troop. At that time, it was the most active Boy Scout troop in the Valley with organized camping trips to the Los Angeles National Forest and other local mountain areas.

VGNA: Did you know about the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association (“VGNA”) when you moved to Valley Glen?
The VGNA did not exist when we moved here. Only in recent years have there been these “neighborhood associations.” Back in the day, we were a small community of neighbors who organized our own activities: kids played baseball on Longridge Avenue, kids swam in the neighbor’s pool and we all watched one family build a boat in their backyard. Eventually the finished boat was towed to Marina del Rey and put into the ocean.

VGNA: Is there anything you can suggest to the VGNA to make Valley Glen a better place?
We enjoy reading the Newsletter!

**Thanks Howard and Jean! And thanks for the trip down memory lane!**

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Your home is my passion. List with me and see how fast I make things happen!

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