From President Dean Abston — Hi everybody! As usual, lots of exciting news from the VGNA! Don’t miss our Holiday Party! Our upcoming annual VGNA Holiday Party is on Dec. 15th, 6:30 p.m. This is going to be a barnburner with Santa Claus, live music, prizes, buffet dinner, photos and tons of fun and merriment! Hope to see you all there!

First, an update on the Warmington Residential small lot development in Grid 6 at Victory Blvd. on the east and west side of Atoll Ave. Warmington Residential is beginning the final phase of approval starting with a meeting of the City Planning Commission on December 17, 2015 to discuss a zoning change and other recommendations. After that, there will be a meeting with the City Council probably in January or February. And then more than likely in the 3rd quarter of 2016 they will start “turning the dirt” and have the finished product in roughly 1 year to 18 months! Very exciting news! And from all indicators (the two presentations by Warmington at the VGNA General Meetings) it looks like Warmington is going to be presenting Valley Glen with a very promising and beneficial real estate project and a welcome addition!

Doing what the VGNA is supposed to do; improve the quality of life in our neighborhood and fight for our community when necessary. It was brought to our attention by the immediate residents that the Hazeltine Market at 6108 Hazeltine Avenue applied for an “expanded liquor” license which would allow them to sell hard liquor in addition to its existing beer and wine sales. An important hearing was to be conducted by the city on the matter within the week. Local residents and LAPD asked for our help since they felt this would be a huge detriment to a neighborhood that already suffered from an overabundance of gang activity and crime.

Continued on Page 3
Around Your Grids in Valley Glen

Valley Glen has organized itself into 11 Grids: A, B, C and 1 to 8. Gone is our old map and it's in with the new map compliments of Association Secretary Waltona Manion of Grid B. You should be able to see exactly which Grid you live in. This overwhelming change in map should make it easier for you to understand where things are happening in Valley Glen.

For instance, in the center of Grid A just south of Erwin Street lies Valley Glen Community Park. Recently a number of sick trees were removed to make way for new City-approved trees. The old trees had invasive roots which did lots of damage to the sidewalk.

The southernmost part of Grid B plans on holding an early 2016 meeting of its 3 year old neighborhood watch, the Debby Street Watch. Block Captain and Association President Dean Abston reports that the Debby Street Watch, while in existence only 3 years, has accomplished a basic goal of “knowing your neighbors” via effective use of an “email tree.” While the focus of the Debby Street Watch is public safety, Dean Abston hopes to organize a block party in the summer of 2016 to celebrate the neighborhood's cohesiveness. Email Dean at deanabston@bhscal.com if you'd like to learn more about the Debby Street Watch.

Grid C and Grid 2 are home to large parts of the Orange Line. A success beyond all estimates in terms of ridership, the Orange Line requires lots of landscape maintenance and has had prior issues with homeless encampments. Fear not though, our LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office is the right office to call if you see a problem on the Orange Line. Benita Trujillo at btrujillo@bos.lacounty.gov has been serving the Van Nuys District Office since Zev Yaroslavsky held the Supervisor position. Benita is very familiar with Orange Line issues. If you have a question, you may also call Benita at (818) 901-3831. Last winter, residents along the northeastern portion of Grid C along Hillview Park Avenue who back up into the Orange Line had problems with transient folks who were starting late-night fires in order to keep warm. This became a public safety problem and Benita helped the residents by increasing patrols and making sure the landscape was trimmed.
President’s Message (continued from Page 1)

With little time before the hearing, we were able to conduct an email poll of our board. An overwhelming majority agreed to give a thumbs-down to the license request. The VGNA then prepared a letter stating our opinion to be hand delivered to the hearing and presented to the hearing administrator. Of course the final decision is up to the City but we made sure Valley Glen’s voices be heard. Just another example of our commitment to you, our neighbors and friends!

The “Adopt a Family” program is underway: It’s the holiday season and, as usual, our never-tiring Judy Price is prepping for the “Adopt a Family” program which she has made so successful thanks to the donations of our Valley Glen residents. So please dig deep and help us support needy families at the holidays! (please see page 4).

Join us! If you are interested in keeping Valley Glen a great place to live and do your part for the community, volunteer as a Grid Rep or for any of our other functions. We would love to have you as a volunteer! The VGNA is totally self-supporting through your contributions. We perform our good work with monies that come from you. So make a donation! Every dollar including a traditional $20 sponsorship goes a long way to help us to continue to advocate for your interests. Consider it an excellent investment in your community. Happy Holidays to you and your family and I wish you a pleasant and prosperous New Year.

Famous Freeway Mural Now at LAVC
By Waltona Manion, Grid B

Artist Kent Twitchell’s iconic mural "The Old Woman of the Freeway", originally painted near the Hollywood Freeway, has now found a home at Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC).

Twitchell painted the “Freeway Lady” mural in 1974 to honor his grandmother who lived in Hollywood. The afghan modeled in the painting was handmade by his grandmother. He chose character actress Lillian Bronson, who reminded Twitchell of his grandmother, to be his model.

It was a well-known piece of Los Angeles mural art that stood on the exterior wall of the Angeles Prince Hotel, which is next to the Hollywood Freeway. It stood for 12 years until it was tragically painted over by a billboard company in 1986.

After many years of trying to resurrect this iconic piece of Los Angeles public art, the LAVC Public Art Committee selected the repainting of the mural as its first project on the campus. The mural’s new home is on the side of the college’s Student Services Center near Fulton Avenue and Hatteras Street.

Given that the internationally famous "Great Wall" mural in the Tujunga Wash is located on the eastern side of the campus and urban artist Renee Howard’s street mural is just off Ranchito Avenue in Grid 3, this makes Valley Glen a regional focal point for mural art in LA.

Twitchell is renown for his larger-than-life, realistic portrayals of celebrities and creative luminaries such as the Harbor Freeway mural near downtown which features the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra mural.

Note: Keep those murals coming. On July 14, 2015, the City passed a new Mural Ordinance #182706 allowing for creation of new Original Art Murals and preservation of Vintage Original Art Murals on private property. An Original Art Mural is defined as a one-of-a-kind, hand painted, hand tiled or digital painted image on the exterior wall of a building that does not contain any commercial message. A Vintage Original Art Mural is defined as an Original Art Mural that existed prior to the date of this definition.
**Valley Glen Adopt-A-Family**

Over 150 families helped since 2001  
By Judy Price, Grid C

Dear friends and neighbors. Three homeless families; a family escaping a domestic violence situation; a chronically ill unemployed father; two families with special needs children and an incarcerated drug abusing mother. What do these families have in common? They are families provided through by our three public elementary schools in Valley Glen, Jewish Family Services and our annual Adopt-A-Family program. Imagine the challenge the holidays bring for the families and their children.

As we plan for Hanukkah and Christmas, let's all take a moment to count our blessings. As we do so, let's not forget these families who have much less to be thankful for, some without even a roof over their heads. “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” - Winston Churchill.

A special shout-out to our major corporate sponsor, Dasher Lawless, Inc. and President/founder Christopher Alan whose significant contribution is instrumental in the success of our program this year. Thank you, Christopher! And a heart-felt thank you to all of our individual donors without whom we wouldn’t be able to provide for these families. Also, a grateful nod to Jewish Family Services whose own Adopt-A-Family program was the inspiration for ours.

If you are interested in donating to help one of these families, I am taking gift card donations for Target, Ralph’s and Vallarta, preferably in $25, $50 or $100. increments. Frozen turkeys are also needed. Or, you can make cash/check donations in any amount. To make a donation, contact me by email at judyprice1127@aol.com or call me at (818) 787-9946.

The deadline for the gift card donations is the week of December 7 and for turkeys, Thursday, December 17. Thank you and may your blessings be many.

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**Dog Corner - From your dog’s viewpoint**

By Laurie King of Grid 3

I love my family and want to be with them. I don’t want to be stuck outside. I want to be where I am warm in winter and cool in summer. I want to be safe so please microchip me so if I get out I can be returned to you.

I want to be healthy so please feed me nutritious food: the first five ingredients tell the tale. It should name the animal, vegetable or fruit. No by-products, wheat or corn. These are unhealthy fillers.

I need exercise and really important: don’t let me get overweight. I won’t live nearly as long or be able to enjoy life as much. If I’m young and don’t get exercise then I’ll get bored and chew up the bed or the screens or whatever or I’ll dig up the garden and then you’ll get mad at me. When you take me in the car don’t let me ride in front with you, put me where no airbags can reach me if there is an accident.

Now for the fun stuff. Play with me and teach me good manners so I can go with you. Getting my brain working is tiring. I like to find things and find people so a good game is hide and seek. Help me at first so I get the idea but I’ll catch on quickly. You can check the internet for more ideas. If we play ball, I need to bring it back and give it to you in exchange for a very small treat. After a while I won’t need the treat to give you the ball. We can have so much fun together.

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**You Can Like Us on Facebook**

Please visit our Facebook group, Valley Glen Neighborhood Association. It’s got lots of good information, photos and current events. Soon, we will upgrade it to a Facebook page to better serve you. Check our website valleyglen.org for updates on when we expect to achieve Facebook page status.

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**Boarding/Training with Love for Canines in Valley Glen on 1/2 acre. 30 years experience.**

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.
Prepare For El Nino!
By Waltona Manion, Grid B

This winter, El Niño is expected to bring heavy rains and severe weather to the valley as well as all of Southern California. As public safety officials track the storm system, the city is urging residents to take the necessary steps to prepare for potentially fierce weather conditions.

After four years of drought and wildfires, our landscape will be incapable of absorbing large amounts of rain, which drastically increases the potential for flooding and mudslides. Valley Glen residents can get ready for the wet weather by going to the City’s new website - www.ElNinoLA.com.

The site has important information and tools on how to create an emergency kit, create an evacuation plan, prepare your home for the weather and much more. You can also stay ahead of severe weather conditions by signing up for NotifyLA.org, a regional alert system that sends emergency alerts through SMS text, voice message and email. The VGNA will have a briefing at our next general meeting.

Hollywood Classic Cars offers photo shoots with this 1971 Mustang Grand Coupe and many others. Please call Rick Tobin at (661) 261-1542 for an appointment.
Does Street Racing Have You Down?
By Alicia Bien, Grid A

Valley Glen’s leafy, wide streets attract pedestrians, residents, and unfortunately, street racers. Street racing is an activity where civilians drive their cars at high speeds on city streets; anywhere from major thoroughfares like Victory Boulevard to narrow residential streets like Ethel Avenue. Sometimes these drivers race other cars, sometimes they don’t. Sometimes street racing cars are tricked out with enhancements to make the cars sound louder, sometimes they aren’t. And sometimes these drivers cause property damage and accidents.

At the October 20 General Meeting of the VGNA, LAPD Officer Troy Williams gave a presentation on street racing. The biggest take-aways from his informative PowerPoint presentation were: 1) Street racing is illegal; 2) Street racing is dangerous; 3) The LAPD is cracking down on street racing by limiting noisy cars; 4) We civilians can help.

According to Officer Williams if anyone witnesses street racing or a speeding car(s) in Valley Glen should: 1) Make a note of the car’s license plate number; and 2) Report the license number to your Senior Lead Officer (SLO) whose names appear at the bottom of page 9.

So don’t let the noise and danger of street racing get you down, know that help is as close as a pen and paper to write and report a license number. The LAPD is here to help stop street racing in Valley Glen. Let’s help them help us and report street racing.
Empower Your Neighborhood - Run for a Seat on the GVGC Board
By GVGC President Carlos Ferreyra, Grid 5

There is a major election taking place in 2016. No it’s not the Presidential election, the election for Board members of the Greater Valley Glen Council (the GVGC). The GVGC is the LA City certified Neighborhood Council that advises Council District 2 on matters in the community. Neighborhood Councils currently receive $42,000 per year from the City to spend on outreach, beautification, public safety and arts and education. Neighborhood Councils also have the ability to apply for large grants to serve a community need.

Successful programs that have been provided by the GVGC include the popular summer program, "Movies in the Park" with free movies and popcorn for families, Neighborhood Watch signs free to any Neighborhood Watch in the community, the construction of the two "Welcome to Valley Glen" monument signs at the corners of Fulton and Vanowen and Coldwater and Burbank, dog waste bag stations at the Valley Glen Community Park and Laurel Grove Park, clean-up and maintenance of the Victory and Whitsett medians and awarding Neighborhood Purposes Grants to benefit our local public schools. These are examples of your tax dollars being spent locally for the benefit of the community.

However, a better demonstration of how a community can leverage the influence of a neighborhood council like GVGC is how GVGC was able align its interest with those of residents in Grids A, B and 6 to make improvements at Valley Glen Community Park. Nearby residents got involved with the GVGC’s Parks and Improvement Committee from 2007 to present and won over $500,000 to fund improvements at the Park such as a playground, walking track, fencing, benches and improved lighting. Presently, GVGC and nearby residents are working with the City on planting new and getting a new irrigation system installed. Improvements at the Park promotes public safety and local enjoyment of the Park.

You too can move your neighborhood in a positive direction. The choice is simple; complain about not getting your share of City services and funding or get your neighborhood empowered. You can do the latter by running as a candidate for one of the 25 seats on the Board and/or as a voter at the April 7, 2016 election. Candidacy opens December 24th so get ready to become involved. For more information go to our website, www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org or call the Election Committee Chair, Carlos Ferreyra at (818) 207-7178. Also, please come to our next regularly scheduled monthly meetings: December 7th and January 4th at 7:00 p.m. at Valley College, Campus Center, Room 104.

Advice on Pruning Trees
By Joanne D’Antonio, Grid 2
GVGC representative to The Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance

Mature trees give clean air and shade that reduces utility bills. But when the canopy of a tree is tall, we may fear limbs or the whole tree will fall on our home. Be mindful, topping can kill some trees. While we are quick to remove a tree if the roots are invasive, consider that careful trimming could sufficiently control the roots. So do a little research online before you hire the big guys with the chainsaws. You may not need to lose the tree or make it ugly. Trees make the neighborhood beautiful.

Many trees never need to be pruned. A tree is at risk when it is trimmed, so cut only when it is necessary for safety. Have it done intelligently and in the appropriate season. Also, consider: “Will this tree lose its leaves in the winter and create an eyesore for half the year if overcut?” Find an arborist/tree-trimmer who specializes in pruning so your tree is healthy and good-looking while solving any hazard issues you have. Finally, to keep trees healthy when the weather is very dry, deep water once a month using a drip or soaker hose. The City encourages this, even with the drought. Finally, if your tree is infested, there are natural ways to save it and get rid of pests. Never treat the roots with anything containing neonicotinoids (insecticides containing nicotine) which cause bees, the pollinators of our food supply, to die. Let’s make the right choice on tree pruning with good research and a good arborist.
New Grid Rep Profile
By Interim Vice President Bruce Gaims
Grid B

I have never been much of a joiner. It is a surprise to me that I have fallen willingly into being part of the VGNA and the executive board. My life was already ridiculously busy managing a family business (Gaims Fitness), tending to house, home and travel with Jennifer, and playing in Spyder Blue, a happening country rhythm and blues band. Yet, having moved into Valley Glen only recently in June 2015, here I am enthusiastic about our neighborhood and all the possibilities for making our community a special place.

Dean Abston, the VGNA President, is to “blame” for my precipitous fall into activism. He was one of the brokers in our home purchase. Dean made it a point to introduce the VGNA and invited us to participate. When I got around to going to some meetings, what sucked me in deeper was the diverse group of talented people that I met - and how they got stuff done! Here in this cynical world where so many people watch the news, complain about the country and do not even know their neighbors, I realized that I could help make positive things happen in my own neck of the woods.

Serenity Garden will remain but needs to conduct a soil sample analysis to insure there are no contaminants in the soil. Until then, planting is on hold.

For more information on the modernization project, contact Jose De Paz, Facilities Services Division Community Relations at (213) 241-4141 or Fortunato Tapia who is the community organizer at the same number or at email address fortunato.tapia@lausd.net.

Grant High School Gets $120 Million to Remodel
By Judy Price, Grid C

In March of this year, the Board of Education approved Grant High School as one of eleven schools (out of 582 existing school sites) in LAUSD earmarked for major investment. Located on Oxnard Street at Coldwater Canyon Avenue, Grant serves 2,500 students.

To get feedback and to prioritize the renovations, Grant High School is reaching out to parents, neighbors and stakeholders in a series of community meetings, the first of which was held on November 18. District 3 School Board member, Scott Mark Schmerelson, was in attendance and expressed strong support for Grant High School and the need for this 50+ year old campus to be upgraded. As future community meetings are scheduled, they will be posted on the VGNA website, www.valleyglen.org.

The budget for the major renovations is approximately $120 million and could include:

1) The removal of many of the bungalows and replaced with permanent classroom buildings. Grant currently has 30% of the classrooms in portable classrooms.
2) Demolition and/or replacement of existing buildings.
3) Retrofitting buildings for earthquake safety.
4) Remodeling classrooms, cafeteria, library, etc. This includes bringing the campus up to ADA compliance, including installing an elevator for handicap access to the second floor.
5) Upgrade to athletic fields.
6) Rehabilitation of historical buildings.
7) Improvements to student drop-off zones and paths of travel.
8) Upgrades to plumbing and electrical systems.

The environmental design phase will take 12-18 months. Approvals will take another 10-12 months. Construction will take 2-4 years as it will be done in stages since it will still be an active campus.

How to reach us - You can write to us at Valley Glen Neighborhood Association, 13300 Victory Blvd., Box 385, Valley Glen, CA 91401. We also have a website and that is valleyglen.org. The website has a contact icon that allows you to communicate with us. The website gets 50 hits each day so we know people are checking us out and we welcome your questions.
**Trade Fruits and Veggies at Murietta Farm Stand**
**By Matthew Brashear, Grid 3**

Welcome to the Murietta Farm Stand at 6515 Murietta Avenue in Valley Glen. Sustainable local community is so important and that is what the farm stand is all about.

Our idea at Murietta Farm Stand is to open up a small, yet beautiful location that neighbors can trade and enjoy fruits, vegetables and herbs with your neighbors. Sharing your surplus and trading it for something you don't have in your own garden is our promise to our neighbors. So many fruit trees go to waste, why not share them with your neighbors?

Finding fresh, organic and local fruits and vegetables has become a hassle in today's day and age. So many of our neighbors already have large gardens that produce more than they can handle.

Weather you crave juicy grapefruit, garden fresh tomatoes, summer squash, native oranges and tangerines, we offer a huge variety of amazing fruit you just can't buy at a supermarket. We also donate any leftover fruit and vegetables to local charities and to the local homeless population.

The Murietta Farm Stand is ever evolving and will soon have some community planting beds for all to plant flowers, herbs and such to enjoy. We also plan on selling fresh, organic, cage free eggs on select Saturdays. Please stop by and join us Friday thru Sunday year round. And if you want to get involved directly or want us to come pick your fruit tree, please contact Matthew at (502) 396-7339. Also, like us on Facebook under the group Murietta Farm Stand.

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**CPAB to Help Form Your Neighborhood Watch**
**By Cheryl Cashman, Grid 4**

Greetings Valley Glen Neighbors. I'm Cheryl Cashman and beginning in January 2016 I will be the new Co-Chair at LAPD Van Nuys Division CPAB.

CPAB is the Community Policing Advisory Board, an area-level community board comprised of members from the various residential and business communities who live or work in a particular geographic area. The purpose of the CPAB is to provide advice to the Area Commanding Officer regarding decreasing the incidence and fear of crime in the community, as well as to provide community members with a voice in the policing of their communities.

I would love to see the Van Nuys Division grow its Neighborhood Watch groups and communicate with CPAB to find ways to solve recurring issues we have. No more band aids, let’s find solutions as a community.

The Neighborhood Watch program was pioneered by the Los Angeles Police Department to educate community residents regarding their roles and responsibilities in the prevention of crime and to encourage them to take active measures to prevent crime. The program calls upon residents to step forward and assist the police in organizing the community into a cohesive unit working toward the goal of building a safer, crime-free neighborhood. Neighborhood Watch groups discuss neighborhood crime problems with the objective of developing solutions to local problems. Los Angeles Police Officers supply crime information to Neighborhood Watch organizations and instruct these groups in various crime prevention techniques.

If you don’t have a Neighborhood Watch in your area contact the Senior Lead Officer (SLO) for your area and ask about starting one. You can also email me for help at ladecash@gmail.com. You can also learn more about CPAB and find helpful resources at the CPAB website [vannuyscpab.org](http://vannuyscpab.org). Let’s all work together to make our neighborhoods and LAPD Van Nuys Division a safer place to live, through being informed and working together.

**Note:** Valley Glen has three SLOs and their contact information is: 1) north of Victory Blvd., SLO Katy Paschal at [36128@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:36128@lapd.lacity.org) or (818) 731-2566, 2) south of Victory Blvd., SLO Justin Bergmann at [seniorleadofficer@gmail.com](mailto:seniorleadofficer@gmail.com) or (818) 731-2562 and 3) east of Coldwater Canyon Avenue, SLO Jennifer DuValley at [30991@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:30991@lapd.lacity.org) or (818) 634-0809.
Virtual Q & A with Congressmember Anthony Cardenas

Congressmember Anthony Cardenas is Valley Glen’s Congressmember serving the 29th Congressional District of the State of California. His community service specialist is Kenny La Salle. Kenny attends our Association’s General Meetings and has been very helpful to Valley Glen residents on Federal matters. So we asked Kenny to arrange an interview with Congressmember Cardenas. Although the Congressmember spends half of his year in the District, he was in Washington, D.C. during press time and so Kenny arranged for a virtual interview with Congressmember Cardenas. Here is our Q & A session with the Congressmember.

Valley Glen Voice (VV): It’s a pleasure to meet you and we appreciate Kenny’s attendance at our meetings. He relays to us the many Federal issues you are working on and how your Office might be helpful to us. What kind of constituent services do you offer?

Congressmember Cardenas (CC): My office can help folks in the Valley with any issue they are having with the Federal government. Whether it’s trouble collecting Social Security benefits, working with federal agencies to stop your home from being taken in foreclosure, making certain a Veteran is getting all of the benefits they have earned by protecting our country, or even something like getting a flag that has flown over the Capitol, I am happy to help with anything I can.

VV: If you had to break it out, what are the most common services requested by people and businesses in your Congressional District?

CC: Veterans services and immigration issues are probably the top two challenges faced by the people of the San Fernando Valley. I have great men and women in my office who deal with the VA and the Department of Defense, as well as all of the agencies that deal with our nation’s immigration policy on a daily basis, so they are ready to help anyone who needs it.

VV: What kinds of services does your office provide in terms of direction or assistance on immigration matters?

CC: Each immigration case is different and requires different solutions. The most important thing to do, if you think you have an issue with immigration or documentation is to go to my website, cardenas.house.gov, or to call my office at (818) 781-7407, to get a file started. There is only one form to fill out, in order to get my staff working hard on your case with the federal agencies.

VV: What major initiatives the Congressman is planning that relate to investment in our District such as major building projects.

CC: Because of the way Congress is now, specific projects cannot be “earmarked” by Representatives. However, I am happy to say that I am working to introduce a jobs package in December whose bills would bring millions of dollars to the Valley, along with funding to many other districts, through HUBZone and other funding. As well, my office has helped non-profit agencies throughout the Valley secure millions of dollars in federal grants by showing them where to apply and educating these companies on best practices. I have also encouraged the Department of Defense and other contracting agencies to move forward on projects that have brought jobs and dollars into the Valley, including writing the Secretary of Defense to encourage him to move forward on a radar modernization program that is badly needed by the Navy and which would be partially manufactured right here in the Valley.

VV: And finally, because everyone always asks, if we travel to Washington, D.C. and want to go on a tour of the White House or other famous places, what can the Congressman do to get me on a tour?

CC: I can set up tours of the White House, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Capitol and many other great Washington sites. However, tours fill up fast. Please make sure you contact my office as quickly as possible, once you know you’re going to be in our nation’s capital. I am always ready and willing to help anyone coming from the Valley, and I hope you will stop by my office and say hello!

Congressmember Cardenas has a helpful website you can visit at cardenas.house.gov. You may contact his office at (818) 781-7407.
MANSIONIZATION AND VALLEY GLEN - REMINDER
By Judy Price, Grid C

To sign the Valley Glen petition to stop "mansionization" (out of scale houses), please go the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association website at www.valleyglen.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: There will be a public hearing in the Valley (one of 4 citywide) for case number CPC-2015-3484-CA, a proposed zoning code amendment to modify single family zone regulation that has been initiated by a City Council motion (Council File #14-0656). All interested persons are invited to attend, at which you may listen, speak and submit written information relating to the proposed project.

PLACE: Marvin Braude Constituent Service Center Conference Rooms 1A & 1B, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd.
DATE: Wednesday, December 16, 2015
TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Please submit comments by Monday, January 11, 2016 to Hagu Solomon Cary at hagu.solomoncary@lacity.org or contact him at (213) 978-1394.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE: A proposed ordinance amending Sections 12.03, 12.07, 12.07.01, 12.07.1, 12.08 and Section 12.21 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to establish new regulations for all single family residential zoned properties including RA, RE, RS and R1.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the hearing is to obtain testimony from affected and/or interested persons regarding this project. The hearing will be conducted by a Hearing Officer who will consider all the testimony presented at that time and any written communication received prior to or at the hearing from affected and/or interested persons regarding this proposed code amendment, as well as the merits of the draft ordinance as it relates to existing land use regulations. After the hearing, Code Studies staff will finalize a report including a recommendation that will be considered by the City Planning Commission at a later date.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the purpose of the BMO/BHO amendments?

The City's regulations for single-family zones limit height, setback and floor area ratio (FAR). The proliferation of out-of-scale development in single-family neighborhoods has demonstrated a need to update the current rules. These rules are commonly referred to as the Baseline Mansionization and Hillside Ordinances or BMO and BHO. The amendments will establish new regulation for all single-family residential zoned properties including RA, RE, RS and R1.

Q: What do the BMO/BHO amendments proposed to do?

Key amendments to the BMO / BHO include: reduction to the maximum FAR, a revision to the Residential Floor Area exemptions and limiting existing Residential Floor Area bonus options. In the BHO, all excavation under the footprint of the structure is proposed to be included in Residential Floor Area.

Q: Does this mean that my property is going to be rezoned?

No, the amendments will not be rezoning property. They will modify the regulations for RA, RE, RS and R1 zones.

Q: Would these changes apply to projects currently in the process of obtaining permits?

The amendments will apply to projects filed after the effective date of the ordinance. Therefore, any projects filed or being processed before the effective date will not be impacted by this proposal.
Here is a Listing of Elected Officials that Serve Valley Glen

State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian is our State Assemblymember serving the 46th District. His website is asmca.org/members/a46/. His Field Representative is Talene Dermenjian and she attends our Association meetings. You may reach Talene at talene.dermenjian@asm.ca.gov or (818) 376-4246. The Assemblymember recently sent out a postcard about unclaimed property held by the State: escrowed funds from a paid off loan, insurance refunds, uncashed dividends and forgotten accounts or claims. This is a timely notice and a great way to find a few dollars for the holidays. Go to this link ucpi.sco.ca.gov/ucp/default.aspx to check how you can find out if you’ve got money coming to you.

LA City Councilmember Paul Krekorian is Valley Glen’s Councilmember (Council District 2). His website is paulkrekorian.org. His Field Deputy is Sahag Yedalian. Sahag can be reached at sahag.yedalian@lacity.org or (818) 755-7676.

LA County Supervisor 3rd District Sheila Kuehl serves Valley Glen. Her Valley Senior Field Deputy is Angelica Ayala at aayala@bos.lacounty.gov or (818) 901-3831. As mentioned on Page 2, Benita Trujillo of the same office can be reached at btrujiloo@bos.lacounty.gov on Orange Line is-

State Senator Bob Hertzberg covers the 18th District. His District office number is (818) 901-5588 and his website is sd18.senate.ca.gov.

Scott Schmerelson is the recently elected District 3 LAUSD School Board Member and can be reached at (213) 241-6088. Please contact his Director of Policy, Silvia Martinez at silvia.k.martinez@lausd.net or (213) 241-8333.

The Valley Glen Voice (The Voice) is the official publication of the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association. This is Editor Mickey Jannol’s last issue and we look forward to a new Editor and further digital enhancements to serve you in 2016. The Voice is published quarterly. Circulation is 5,000 and all issues are hand-delivered to your doorstep by our Executive Board members. We welcome your articles and photos. You may send us material via our website www.valleymglen.org. Just click the Contact icon. Submissions will be edited. All rights reserved.