October VGNA Town Hall
Report by Councilman Paul Krekorian
Tuesday, October 18th
See page 4 for new location

I Am Valley Glen
Interview with Angela Consolo-Rossi

Vote November 8th

Illegal Fireworks
The Latest

New Valley Glen Housing
Project Breaks Ground

October 18th Town Hall
Councilman Krekorian’s Report to Valley Glen
LAVC President Erica Endrijonas
on education ballot measures

At our upcoming VGNA Town Hall on October 18th, Valley Glen residents will get a first-person report from our City Councilman Paul Krekorian on the city’s key issues and how they impact Valley Glen. We will also hear from LA Valley College president Erica Endrijonas on upcoming ballot measures that will help funding for LAVC.

Transportation improvements
Councilman Krekorian serves on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s board. Studies are being conducted on a rail or bus line along Van Nuys Boulevard and a new Sepulveda Pass transit line is in the early planning stages. All of this shapes the quality of life in Valley Glen. He will talk about how current city transportation planning will affect Valley Glen.

The impact of homelessness
Last year, according to the city, the San Fernando Valley saw a 35 percent increase in its homeless population. This compares to an overall 5.7 increase for the county overall. Earlier this year both the county and the city voted on multi-million plans to address this issue. The city has allocated $138 million and Councilman Krekorian has insisted that “Valley neighborhoods be front and center in our search for solutions. This means the Valley has to get its fair share of funding for region-specific services and our community leaders must be incorporated equitably into the city’s plans.”

Budget decisions
As chair of the City Council’s Budget and Finance Committee, Councilmember Krekorian oversees the city budget. Since taking office in 2010, Krekorian has helped the city reduce costs by more than $800 million and helped established the highest reserve fund in decades. In May, the LA City Council unanimously passed a budget of $8.75 billion. A copy of the budget and its details are available for download continued on page 2
VNGA Town Hall continued from page 1


Among the allocations, the new budget includes:

- $2.1 billion for police and fire services
- $31 million to fix sidewalks
- $150 million to repair streets
- $7.4 million to trim trees and remove stumps
- $9.3 million to clean streets and alleys

If you want to know how the new budget affects Valley Glen, come learn first hand at the VNGA Town Hall.

California Ballot Measures Will Impact Los Angeles Valley College

Coming up Nov. 8th, California will have a number of ballot measures that will directly affect Los Angeles Valley College, which is located in the heart of Valley Glen. Prop 51 would approve the state issuing $9 billion in bonds to fund improvement and construction of school facilities for K-12 schools and community colleges. About 11 percent of funds that would result from the passage of Prop 55 would go to California’s community colleges. LAVC president Erica Endrijonas will give Valley Glen residents an overview of how the 2016 California ballot will directly affect Los Angeles Valley College.

Hello Everyone,

This president’s message is somewhat bittersweet for me. After three terms as VNGA president, I will be turning over leadership to someone new in January. I’m sure whoever is elected will do a fine job and will have my support as well as the support of our officers and executive board.

There have been many changes to the VNGA since I was elected. With the help and tireless efforts of our entire board, I believe we’ve made changes for the betterment of our association and improved how we conduct the business of providing a better quality of life for our Valley Glen family. The following are just some of the VNGA’s accomplishments:

Most recently, due to the comprehensive efforts of Richard Rossi and Walonta Manion, the association will transition its 501c4 status to a 501c3 status. Donations to the VNGA will now be tax deductible. Please don’t forget the VNGA depends solely on contributions, advertising, events, and your support to serve you.

I don’t think anyone can argue that our Spring Festival, done in conjunction with Councilman Paul Krekorian’s field deputy Sahag Yedalian and the GVGC, was a huge success. It was beyond anyone’s expectations. Talk about bringing the families of Valley Glen together for a great time -- it was incredible!

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Welcome the VGNA’s New Grid Captain: Angela Consolo - Rossi

Three things about the VGNA’s new Grid Captain, Angela Consolo Rossi:
The first is she is a true Valley girl. Angela says that between growing up in her parents’ house and, where she lives now with her husband Richard, her life centers around a six-block radius. “Growing up here, I’ve truly seen the changes taking place in Valley Glen over the years. And I like the idea of being able to contribute to making changes that make our community an even better place to live.”

The second thing about Angela is that her life and heart are all about education. She attended Van Nuys’ St. Jane Frances de Chantal for elementary school and then the historic Our Lady of Corvallis High School in Studio City. Achieving one of her dreams, Angela was her family’s first to enter college and furthered her education by earning her teaching degree from California State University Northridge. Right out of college, she began teaching for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Her first assignment was in South Central Los Angeles, where poverty, drugs, gangs and racial tensions made a challenging environment for a fledgling elementary school teacher with no prior experience. She stayed for more than 20 years.

That’s the third thing about Angela. Her warm personality and gentle manner are combined with commitment and hard work. Colleagues who have worked with Angela express a lot of admiration for her tenacity and say they enjoy working with her because she loves a challenge and deals well with deadlines and pressure.

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How the VGNA Serves You

Founded in 1996, the VGNA serves as your advocate on important issues that affect your home or business and provides a bi-monthly forum for important issues and information. We host four main annual events for residents to get acquainted and build a strong community. These include:

- **The VGNA Annual Festival**, a tradition that brings families together for great fun and food.
- **The VGNA’s Clean-Up Day** works with the city to remove trash, graffiti and abandoned items.
- **The VGNA Yard Sale**, a Valley favorite, which raises money for community activities.
- **The VGNA Holiday Party** - a celebration for kids and grown-ups alike.

VGNA community meetings are held quarterly on the second Tuesday. Meetings include updates on community developments, reports from city officials and law enforcement. For more schedule and location, check valleyglen.org.

We provide a community website, a quarterly newsletter and a Valley Glen Facebook page. VGNA members get regular updates through the VGNA email program for breaking news, meeting

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**New VGNA meeting location:**

**Concorde College**

Thanks to the generosity and support of Concorde College president Carmen Bowen and her staff, the VGNA now has a new home for its Town Hall meetings:

**Concorde College, 12412 Victory Blvd, Room 003, in North Hollywood**

You can go to www.vgna.org and click to get a map to the college or a copy of the meeting room floor map.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- **October 18th:**
  VGNA Town Hall Meeting
- **October 29th:**
  GVGC Movie Night in the Park
- **November 8th, Tuesday:**
  Election Day, Get out and vote!
- **November 17th:**
  VGNA Executive Board Meeting
- **December 13th:**
  VGNA Holiday Party
- **December 13th:**
  Nominations for VGNA Elections

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**How the VGNA Serves You continued from page 3**

Her qualities as a teacher and administrator have been valuable assets not only professionally but her volunteer work as well. She’s looking forward to working with the VGNA grid reps who are the organization’s ambassadors.

The VGNA also gets the advantage of Angela’s husband Richard who serves as the VGNA’s communications director. According to Angela, “We bring different skills to the table and we make a good team.” The VGNA thinks so, too!

Please help us welcome Angela Consolo Rossi! If you have questions for Angela or would like to say hello, you can reach her at angelarossi@vgna.org.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR continued on page 8**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR continued from page 6**

**How the VGNA Serves You continued on page 8**
Valley Glen residents turned out in force at the VGNA Town Hall meeting in August to demonstrate their serious and widespread concern over illegal fireworks. LAPD Officer Tony Valadez and Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) member Cheryl Cashman gave an excellent presentation on the growth of the problem, what citizens can do now when reporting illegal fireworks and the extent of the illegal fireworks industry in California.

To see the video shown at the meeting which illustrates from aircraft level how serious an issue it has become, go to http://www.valleyglen.org/fireworks-over-l-a. In just minutes the entire city lights up with thousands of illegal fireworks are going off all over Los Angeles.

The VGNA announced it is forming a work group to identify what steps will be most effective in helping to cut down illegal fireworks. The work group led by the VGNA will include representatives from LAPD, CPAB, City Councilman Paul Krekorian, Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian and Congressman Tony Cardenas. They will review current penalties and enforcement as well as existing state legislation and city ordinances.

Backyard launchings are on the increase and now animal shelters have seen an alarming increase in lost and traumatized pets during fireworks-prone holidays. To get on the VGNA email list for updates, contact info@vgna.org.

VGNA LEADS EFFORT TO CUT DOWN AREA’S ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Valley Glen’s own Lusy’s Mediterranean Café Named Culinary Challenge Champion

A Valley Glen chef has brought home top honors at a high profile culinary show competition. Lusy Gradzhyan, owner and chef of Lusy’s Mediterranean Café & Grill in Valley Glen, was one of three chefs to be chosen as a finalist selected from entries received from restaurant professionals from throughout the West Coast.

She was named champion in August at a live, on-stage competition held in front of an audience of trade industry professionals, chefs and restaurant owners at the Western Foodservice & Hospitality Expo at the Los Angeles convention center.

Gradzhyan opened her restaurant ten years ago in Valley Glen in 2006 and has won the acclaim of Westways Magazine and the Daily News.
President’s Message continued from page 2

Our Holiday party last December primarily planned by Waltona Manion and Bruce Gaims was another huge success that brought families together in Valley Glen for some good cheer and community spirit!

We created the new board position of Grid Captain to work with our neighborhood grid representatives in coordinating newsletter delivery and providing better, more comprehensive outreach to the 5,000 homes in our boundaries. Gerhard Runken served diligently as our first Grid Captain. The amiable Angela Rossi is now serving in that position. We had the good fortune of Richard Rossi joining the VGNA and he has given us a brand new website and taken over the design, layout and publication of the newsletter. And of course our tireless vice president Bruce Gaims whose never-ending energy, hard work and positive attitude never fails to inspire all of us.

Thank you for your support and allowing me to be of service as VGNA president for our beautiful community of Valley Glen!

Warmest regards,

Dean Abston

Behind the Scenes: Who is protecting the trees in Valley Glen Community Park?

We owe a community debt of gratitude to the Greater Valley Glen Council because they are the behind-the-scenes guardians who are keeping the Valley Glen Community Park’s trees alive and green in the face of California’s drought. The GVGC’s Parks and Community Improvements Committee chaired by Sloan Myrick just approved more than $6,000 in additional funding to the LA Corps of Conservation Corps to provide bimonthly supplemental watering to the 35 major trees within the park.

Without that precious added support, many of those trees couldn’t survive. If you want to give the GVGC a shout-out for wise decision-making, just email us at info@vgna.org. We’ll pass along the good words.

VGNA SERVICES DIRECTORY

Need to know which number to call to remove graffiti? Want to reach your local police? Need to speak to the mayor? A posse of hedgehogs invaded your backyard and you don’t know who to call? The VGNA publishes an annual services directory for residents with all the important local and city phone numbers and email addresses. Download your copy from www.valleyglen.org or you can pick one up at the next VGNA community meeting.
RAQUEL MAGRO SELL’S “VALLEY GLEN”

Traditional 2-Story Charmer
13933 Sylvan Street
3 Bedroom | 2 Bathroom
2,140 SQFT | 8,730 Lot SQFT
SOLD: $655,000

Peaceful Artist Retreat
14042 Calvert Street
2 Bedroom | 1 Bathroom
851 SQFT | 6,759 Lot SQFT
LISTED: $499,000

WHAT IS YOUR HOME WORTH, LET’S START A CONVERSATION

New Homes Break Ground in Valley Glen

The architect’s rendering of new Valley Glen housing complex (story page 8) which is now underway. The project, which sits on Victory Boulevard between Ethel and Fulton, replaces run-down apartments which had become an eyesore. Commuter-friendly, this location offers quick access to nearby communities. The project received high marks from walkscore.com which means most personal errands can be accomplished right in the neighborhood. Class I and II bike lanes and an MTA bus line will be within easy reach.

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reminders and community information.

You can help protect the quality of life in Valley Glen. The VGNA receives no city funding for its activities and services and relies on individual contributions and newsletter advertising. Checks can be made payable to the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association or VGNA. You can mail your check to 13300 Victory Blvd., Box 385, Valley Glen, CA 91401. If you would like to charge a donation, we accept credit cards. And it’s easy to join.

Membership is open to any Valley Glen resident, business or organization.

To join, just sign up at www.valleyglen.org.