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20th Anniversary Celebration
Tuesday, June 20th
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UPCOMING TOWN HALL

Tribute to Past Presidents
The VGNA has a storied leadership of individuals who have led the organization over its twenty year history. Come help us pay tribute and enjoy the company of seven past Presidents who will be in attendance. Special thanks will be given to Dean Abston, our outgoing President, for his three years at the helm of the VGNA and many more years of service.

Art Show and Silent Auction – Grant High School
The Grant High School Art Department teaches in many different mediums. Come take a look at some very beautiful drawings and paintings created by students of teacher Patricia Torres-Mcleod. For many of these students this will be the first time that their work is being exhibited publicly. Town Hall attendees can bid in a silent auction for pieces that they would like to have to beautify their home or office.

Partners Recognition
We will be celebrating our partners! The VGNA is grateful for our ongoing partnership with Councilman Kerkorian’s office, Representative Adrin Nazarian’s office, the Los Angeles Police Department, the City Attorney’s office and the Greater Valley Glen Council (GVGC). This is no less true for the local businesses who sponsor VGNA events/programming and for the local schools like Los Angeles Valley College and Grant High who share our mission of improving the quality of life in Valley Glen.

Introduction of the New VGNA Executive Board and Grid Reps
Come meet the new VGNA Executive Board and your grid representatives. These are neighbors who enjoy their work with the VGNA and the challenges ahead. Say hello, make a new friend, and learn how you contribute and have a little fun yourself!
Hello Neighbors,

On behalf of the VGNA, please let me wish you and yours a happy, healthy, Summer 2017 and extend that same wish to our civic, business, and educational partners.

Our recent elections in April yielded a great team of board members to lead the VGNA. We are also lucky to have the steady help of dedicated, talented grid reps and volunteers who add so much to our meetings, events, and causes. I am honored to be working with this group to strengthen outreach and make a difference in Valley Glen.

The VGNA has always made a difference. In speaking with those more familiar with the organization’s history, it is clear that times and issues may change, but the VGNA’s essential character remains the same. Respectfully, we are not the government, for-profit business, or Pollyanna types with nothing better to do. We are an association of neighbors – people just like you – who get good things done in Valley Glen.

For those like me who are not usually “joiners” you will find out that the VGNA is fun. You meet the nicest people at Town Halls, delivering newsletters, cleaning up the streets, and getting our local primary, high school, and college students involved in Valley Glen. You also learn a lot. Who knew that Valley Glen parents can pick up free baby clothes at the Los Angeles Valley College Family Resource Center?

Support the VGNA in any way that you can. Participate, communicate and donate. Play a role in making Valley Glen a better place to be. Why not begin by coming to the VGNA Town Hall on June 20th? It’s going to be a lively program. Come greet some of the founders of Valley Glen, talk with some new neighbors, view an art show created by Grant High School students, and maybe even win a door prize.

The Town Hall is going to be at Los Angeles Valley College. We want to thank LAVC President Dr. Erika Endrijonas and her staff for creating a new home for the VGNA’s quarterly Town Hall meetings. Both the college and the VGNA are entering into an exciting era of growth and have a natural partnership in promoting educational opportunity, quality of life, and inclusivity in Valley Glen.

Be an active, positive presence in our community. When you are out chatting, shopping, eating dinner, going to the movies, or taking in the theater, you contribute to Valley Glen’s future. Please enjoy this issue of the “Valley Glen Voice”. See you on June 20th.

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PLEASE DONATE TO THE VGNA
INVEST IN THE COMMUNITY
WHERE YOU LIVE
Please visit www.valleyglen.org and look for the red Donate Button or simply send a check payable to the:
VGNA, 13300 Victory Blvd., Box 385
Valley Glen, CA 91401
Robin Shafer is bright eyed and engaging with a sweet, honest face. For many new Valley Glen residents that is a good thing. She may be one of the first people whom they meet after moving into our community. Robin is a grid rep and a member of the VGNA's new Welcoming Committee. When she assures new residents that Valley Glen is a friendly place they may never want to leave, she means it. She and her husband, Jim, have enjoyed their home on Bluebell for over forty-two years.

Robin was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. Although Jim had spent his childhood years in California, they met in high school in Akron and have never parted. Robin went to Kent State after high school graduation. Then, within several years, she and Jim married, had their first child, a daughter, and moved out to California. For Robin, the quintessential Midwestern girl, she has literally been living life in the fast lane ever since.

Jim has a passion for wheels and speed. He went to work for Simpson Race Products. When he and Robin had two additional children, both boys, it was inevitable that the family (that’s right, even Robin and their daughter) would end up in go-karts or race cars going faster than most people feel comfortable going. Her two sons were both great racers, and she now has a grandson in North Carolina who is trying to break into competitive racing.
Robin Shafer continued from page 3

Racing cars is a tough business, but Robin is no stranger to hard work. While raising her family she was a teacher for 39 years at Roosevelt High School in East Los Angeles. She taught mostly home economics and child development, but for the last 29 years was also the swim coach!

Robin retired from teaching in 2009, but that hardly means she has slowed down. She took up quilting and is on the board of the San Fernando Valley Quilting Association. She and Jim are avid cyclists and are regular members of the San Fernando Valley Bicycle Club (she is on the board there, too). In the past few years, she and Jim have become pickle ball fanatics, and they travel to Simi Valley and Burbank each week to play. And of course, she is in a book club.

Go figure how that leaves Robin the time and energy to attend VGNA meetings, get out into the community, and be a valuable contributor to the organization’s success. She says she came to a few of the VGNA Town Hall meetings and decided to become involved. Great luck for Valley Glen and the VGNA! By the way, Robin, who appears to be a role model through and through, does have one vice – it’s a sweet tooth. Nobody’s perfect!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

• Tuesday, June 20th – VGNA Town Hall – 20th Anniversary
• Saturday, June 24th – Clean Team Event
• Thursday, July 13th – VGNA Executive Board Meeting
• Saturday, July 29th – Clean Team Event
• Thursday, August 10th - VGNA Executive Board Meeting
• Saturday, August 26th – Clean Team Event

The VGNA
Serving Our Community
Since 1997

The VGNA serves residents in many different capacities: informational newsletters, community meetings, clean up campaigns, park festivals, holiday celebrations, safety awareness, alliances with government, schools, police, fire, and local businesses.

In 2017, the VGNA has an up-to-date website, active social media, and efficient processes to manage data and other areas of organizational business. We will shortly be reclassified as a 501c3 organization, which will assist in fundraising to support our work for Valley Glen.

We ask that you make some contribution, financial, personal time, or talent to the VGNA. You can be assured that your generosity will result in an improved quality of life for you, your family, and your neighbors. It’s really that simple.

Check out our website at: www.vgna.org
Not getting our emails: Sign-up at www.vgna.org
Check us out on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/vgna91401
CAR CRIMES

Officer Bergmann is a twenty-two year LAPD veteran and has been a SLO for seventeen years. Born in Santa Barbara and raised in Southern California, he has worked numerous assignments including gangs, detectives, and a special problems unit. His interests include cars, motorcycles, and all types of technology.

Auto related crime is one of the biggest crime concerns in the City of LA and specifically in the San Fernando Valley. These crimes are mostly Grand Theft Auto (stolen vehicles) and Burglary Theft from Motor Vehicles (when a car is broken into and property is taken).

Our LAPD slogan, “Lock It, Hide It, Keep It” targets the latter problem in hopes of reminding people to lock their cars, hide any valuables in the vehicle out of sight, and reduce the chances of becoming a victim. It’s simple: if you don’t leave anything in your car, you greatly reduce the chance of having your vehicle broken into.

Grand Theft Auto can be a more difficult crime to avoid. I recommend parking your vehicle inside your garage at night and utilizing as many deterrents as possible. These include car alarms, steering wheel locks, exterior lighting, and even battery power switches to cut power to the vehicle.

Recently we have seen an increase in newer vehicles (2010 to 2017) being stolen without any evidence as to how the vehicles were taken. Reports suggest that thieves have developed a way to remotely open and start vehicles using an unknown technology that captures the signal between your vehicle and the key fob inside your residence. To eliminate this possibility, store your key fob inside a metal container (coffee can or something similar) when at home. This will keep thieves from accessing your remote fob signal and reduce your chances of becoming an auto theft victim.
Grant High School students with an interest in the arts, or even those who just happen to wander into an arts class, are the beneficiaries of a program that includes animation, graphic design, studio art, landscape, film and media, and music. More importantly, they have a chance to be inspired by teachers like Patricia Torres-Mcleod, the Studio Art instructor.

Pat’s two passions are “art and teaching young people”. Sitting in her large classroom, which was built originally for shop classes, she is in her element and could not be more positive about her job. Despite 20 years of teaching high school and a heavy load of 150 to 200 students every semester, Pat says she would “rather be here than at home.”

Many of her students, who make her “laugh so much all day”, probably feel the same way. Pat does not play favorites and asks every student simply to make their best effort. She rewards sincerity and progress and gains the trust of her class. “I love the troublemakers,” Pat exclaims. “They are the best artists, and I teach them what they can do”.

Her wit and wisdom come from a life well lived. Pat was born in Mexico and moved to the United States at age four. She grew up in Echo Park, attended a short stint at USC, went to work as a bookkeeper for ten years. She then returned to school and earned her B.A. in Graphic Design at Cal State University Northridge and her M.A. in that same art discipline at Cal State Los Angeles. In the midst of all this she was married, had children (two boys), and raised her family.

Pat’s personal artistic pursuits in the past few years are collage and fine jewelry. She is humble about her considerable talent and would rather talk about her students. She is very proud of her young protégés. Pat likes to remind them that there is “art” in nearly every object that we come across in our daily lives. This means that there are “endless opportunities to create art and succeed”. A very refreshing reminder for us all - in any walk of life… ♦
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Art contributions by: clockwise from lower left - Girl in Branches- Isreal Thomas, Bucket of Chicken - Gretta Goss, Pretty Girl with Earring - Nellie Bislamyan, Checkered Apple in Blue Lattice Sky - Kristine Hovsepyan, Skull & Crayons - Gretta Goss

An exhibit of Grant High School student works will be on display at our June 20th meeting. To see more student artwork, please also visit: www.valleyglen.org/ghs-art
Celebrate a Safe and Beautiful 4th

Beautiful fireworks are a traditional part of America’s July 4th Independence Day celebration. A July 4th without fireworks is like Christmas without the lights. That being said, most Valley Glen residents know personal fireworks are illegal in Los Angeles. We have plenty of nearby venues if we want to go watch a safe, spectacular show.

Unfortunately, illegal fireworks are an organized criminal business in California that has turned July 4th into a dangerous, invasive, and frightening event. A significant number of fires, deaths, and injuries occur each year. Other serious consequences are the noise-related emotional trauma to people (particularly veterans and the elderly) and pets.

According to our local expert, Cheryl Cashman, Valley Glen residents can do the following:

- Report the manufacture or sale of illegal fireworks to local law enforcement or call the ATF hotline at 1-888-ATF-BOMB (1-888-283-2662).
- If you see someone lighting fireworks call LAPD at 877-275-5273; remember, you need an address or LAPD can’t respond.
- Write your councilmember and the Mayor about your concerns.
- Write your California Senator and Assemblyman and demand legislation that cracks down on transportation and tracking of fireworks from our ports and across state lines.

No one wants to be a party pooper, but there is nothing American about setting off “bombs” in family neighborhoods.

Try this link for some great fireworks shows: https://www.tripsavvy.com/july-4th-in-los-angeles-1586616

Valley Backflow Inc.

Backflow Testing, Repairs and New Installation

T: (818) 308-7212
F: (888) 556-5241
E: email@valleybackflow.net

Valley Glen Services Directory

Need to know which number to call to remove graffiti? Want to reach your local police? Need to speak to the mayor? 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.valleylgn.org/public-services-directory.
Making Stronger Families in Valley Glen

Most Valley Glen residents driving by Los Angeles Valley College probably have no idea what the buildings are at the corner of Oxnard Street and Ethel Avenue. This is the LAVC Family Resource Center (FRC), and for many parents and children in our community this facility is a difference maker in the health and happiness of their families.

The FRC provides support services for student parents and resident parents of Valley Glen. These services include a lending library, free baby/toddler clothes, parent-child

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play sessions, parenting classes, kid-friendly study lounge, private lactation room, and much more. Student parents (up to 30% of all community college students) use the FRC for free, and community parents pay $150.00 per semester for twice weekly play groups.

At the helm of the FRC is Director and Valley Glen resident, Marni Roosevelt. Marni has her work cut out for her, because funding for the FRC does not come from LAVC or the school district. Since 2005 when the facility was built, she has secured the grants and donations necessary to build and enrich the FRC and its programming.

The FRC is an amazing place thanks to Marni’s team of dedicated professionals. Among them, Lisa Brauer M.A./M.F.T, the Playgroup/Child Development Instructor, leads the play groups that bring parents closer to their children and let children find themselves socially and creatively. Amber Angel, the Program Coordinator, organizes FRC resources/partnerships and trains all of the interns.

There is no doubt of the need for the FRC in Valley Glen. Seventy-five (75%) of the families utilizing the FRC are resident parents and their children. There is a waiting list for the play groups. Evelyn Sanchez, a parent of two, one of whom has special needs, is one of the many parents who is unabashedly grateful for the FRC. She cites “expert advice” from teachers, “sensory experience” for her children, and “fresh energy” that helps her be a better mother.

To learn more about the FRC, please check out their website at www.lavcfamilyresourcecenter.com. If you are interested in contributing funds, baby clothes (newborn – 4T), or services to the FRC, please stop by the FRC or call 818-778-5612.
LAUNCH  Now thru September 7th

AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS SELECTED BY SERGIO TERAN

For LAUNCH, 57 works were selected out of 253 submissions. Representing the dynamic offerings of the LAVC Art Department, all the works included in this exhibition were produced during the 2016-17 academic year. Featuring a wide range of media and technique, for many students in the exhibition this is their first opportunity to have their work recognized on a professional platform.

Artists included in the exhibition:

Brian Sohn          Andrew Ortiz          Andre Flemming
Timothy McGee       Courtney Woolsey       Alyx Runyon
Ellen Scott          Linda Gonzalez         Natalie Delcid
Analuisa Curiel     Kenji Kosaka          Maryam Alizhiloubaf
Brian Ramirez       Marlin Martin          Barbara Gosk
Brianna Aguillera   Arthur Azaryan          Avonlea Canillas
Daniel Kaufman      Jessica Sheets         Koko Deranteriasstan
Jaqueline Belevons  Francisco Salazar       Alejandro Carranza
Serena Thomas       Richard Giesbret         Dizhan Blu
Steven Acevedo      Aventisyan Ashkhen       Alberto Keossian
Cecile Bender       Jerry Ellingson        Analuisa Curiel
Gabriella Leone     Ileana Maza            Manuel Sanchez
Katalin Radies      Jennifer Causley        Kenyaz Sagivadyan
Robert Grigoryan    Thomas Brown           Fatenh Fridoun
Blanca Alpizar      Mike Derderian          Stephanie Sorrels
Karen Martinez

Gallery Hours
M,W,Th - 11am-2pm and M,T,Th 6-9pm

For a complete listing of all the A&E venues, please visit: www.vgna.org/a&e
Beginning in March of this year, the VGNA has scheduled clean up days on the last Saturday of each month. Powered by volunteers from the community, the VGNA “Clean Team” uses brooms, rakes, and other tools along with LA City’s 3-1-1 mobile app to remove trash, weeds, graffiti, and discarded belongings that are a blight on our neighborhoods and streets.

The Clean Team focused on Grids 1 and 2 in March and on Grids 3 and 4 in April. It’s amazing what a dedicated group can do in only a few hours! Here is what one business owner had to say about the Clean Team’s job in the commercial district along Victory near Woodman.

“Thank you to the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association. People Motors is a small used car dealership on Victory and Woodman. We had a bunch of weeds growing outside of our business, and one day a few people from your organization came and cleaned it all up! We were so surprised because we had been thinking about buying some tools to cut them ourselves, but hadn’t gotten around to it. You guys are doing a great job and beautifying our dealership too! Thanks for the help.”

Rosa Ho, People Motors

The VGNA Clean Team is grateful for welcome, vital assistance from Sahag Yedalian, Councilman Paul Kerkorian’s Field Deputy, who has arranged for the tools, bags, safety vests, and gloves for the work, and Amy Bazikian, the PSA Counselor at Grant High, who provides a squadron of student volunteers to assist with the labor and 3-1-1 app reporting.

We hope many Valley Glen citizens will see the value in the VGNA Clean Team and offer to contribute. If the number of people on the team grows, there is no reason why we cannot expand the scope and detail of our efforts. If you are interested in joining the VGNA Clean Team, please e-mail to cleanup@vgna.org. If we all pitch in, Valley Glen will be a cleaner, more pleasant place to live!

Need to Request a City Service?

CALL 3-1-1

Call 3-1-1 or use the MyLA311 App, to access more than 1,500 L.A. City non-emergency services.

My311 App available in the App Store and on Google Play. Or visit: www.lacity.org/myla-311