Valley Glen Neighborhood Association

13300 Victory Blvd.
Box 385
Valley Glen, CA 91401

www.valleyglen.org

For questions, comments and input, please email info@valleyglen.org
Hello Neighbors,

We are proud of the “Valley Glen Voice”. In a world of sound bites and text messaging, the VGNA is committed to bringing relevant community information and culture to your doorstep. Sure, we want you to interact with us on Facebook, Nextdoor, and other social media, but this newsletter is where you can dig in and get a much richer picture of what is going on in your community.

Our present edition is no exception. Making sensible decisions about energy management for your residence has important short and long-term implications for your finances and comfort. It can be very confusing if you are not educated on the topic. What are my choices for insulation? Is solar worth the investment? Is my home leaking energy? We have a fabulous feature article that will upgrade your thinking about home energy.

To complement the information in this feature, you will not want to miss our upcoming VGNA Town Hall on September 19th. We are presenting two speakers from DWP who will cover how energy consumers can maximize their bang for the buck when it comes to usage and investment in future technologies. There will be ample time for Q and A so that attendees can ask questions and better understand how DWP works with and bills its customers.

Most readers tell us that they read the “Valley Glen Voice” from cover to cover. That being the case, please do not overlook the back-page article and pictures that show the VGNA’s “Clean Team” efforts in June and July. Valley Glen’s neighborhoods and streets need to be cleaner, and the VGNA does not waste time complaining. Why point fingers or bellyache about an issue when you can get to work and become part of the solution?

The VGNA is a growing organization of unpaid volunteers. We require the support of Valley Glen residents, businesses, and institutional partners. I urge you the reader to refer to the Donation box below this message and make a financial contribution today. It is the most direct way that you can invest in your community. Do not think twice, do it now, and feel good about your personal contribution to Valley Glen.

We thank you in advance for your support. Make a contribution. Come to a Clean Team event. Show up and be counted at the Town Halls. The VGNA is a working army, but we know how to have fun. We are bringing neighbors and institutions together in Valley Glen. There are so many talented, caring people in our community. Together we can accomplish great things and make a true difference for all of our residents and families.

■

PLEASE DONATE

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
Sloan Myrick

It’s a long way from Weatherford, Texas, to Southern California, but Valley Glen residents are sure lucky that Sloan Myrick found the road here. He may have had to go through Sicily for directions (that’s where he met his Dutch wife Angelique and mother of their son, Vincent), but it’s all in the life of a small town country boy with a big heart.

Sloan is the newly elected President of the Greater Valley Glen Council (GVGC). Like many who find themselves leading the way in community service, he is not quite sure how that happened. Sometime after he moved to Valley Glen in 2005, he got interested in improving Valley Glen Park. He attended a few GVGC meetings and got involved in that issue. By 2011, Sloan was running successfully to join their board.

For those unfamiliar with the GVGC, the council is an elected body of community stakeholders who plan and implement community projects in Valley Glen. The GVGC receives an annual budget from LA City and acts as a conduit in funding projects and events which can include anything from Movie Nights in the Park to Public Safety matters, to Arts and Education projects.

With his demanding day job as a digital analyst, one might wonder where Sloan finds the time and

continued on page 4
will to steer the GVGC. It takes huge patience to navigate the administrative chores of dealing with city government. He simply gets a kick out of making an impact. His own words tell the whole story, “If you don’t get involved, you give up your voice.”

Of course it helps that Sloan never stops moving. In his “spare” time he loves doing things with his family, gardening, hiking, trying out new, exotic foods, and listening to music. He is a man of few regrets, although as a former Harley Davidson enthusiast, he is rueful about giving up riding to live safer for the benefit of his family. Sloan, we sympathize, but really, what has the roar of a big V-Twin got over the thrill of public service?

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
To receive our emails: Sign-up at www.vgna.org
Check us out on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/vgna91401

City of LA opens a new Workforce Strategy Center at Valley College

City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Valley College will hold a grand opening for LA’s new Workforce Strategy Center on Friday, September 8 at 12 p.m. at the LAVC Administration & Career Advancement Center.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, LACCD Board President Sydney Kamlager, LAVC President Erika Endrijonas, and LA City Workforce Development Board Member Ken Phillips are scheduled to speak. The public is invited to attend.

The City of Los Angeles Workforce Strategy Center at Valley College is the only center of its kind to partner with the entire LA City Workforce Development system for employer-driven programs with high job placement success rates (86% or higher). Building upon the college’s successful Workforce Training Academies, this partnership helps lead participants to meaningful employment in industries such as manufacturing, biotechnology, and transportation. It also offers career training for professionals in a variety of sectors through the award-winning LA Fellows Program.

To RSVP, email Armine Galukyan at galuyka@lavc.edu (with the subject line: “Workforce Strategy Center Opening”) by September 5.
MAIL THEFT

Officer Bailey has been a member of the Los Angeles Police for twenty-one years and has been a Senior Lead Officer for two years. He was born and raised in the High Desert area of Southern California. He has worked patrol, narcotics, gangs, vice, and Resources Against Crime. His passions include cycling, surfing, softball, equine rescue, and riding horses.

Basic Car 9A19 encompasses the area of Sherman Way to the North, Victory Bl to the South, Van Nuys Bl to the West and Tujunga Wash to the East. This area as of late has been plagued by Mail Theft and Burglary Theft from motor vehicles. If you are out of town or at work and you have a large parcel being delivered, here are your options: You can decide to have your package delivered to a parcel locker. In addition, make arrangements to have a friend or neighbor pick up the package on your door step. This will help in preventing you from becoming a victim.

Of the Auto Theft crimes, many have been in subterranean parking structures. Remember, though your vehicle is in a secure parking lot, please adhere to, “Lock it, Hide it, Keep It”. If able, park in areas with sufficient lighting. Never leave any valuables in plain view, even if you are only away from your vehicle for a short time. If your vehicle glove box is not equipped with a light, leave it open and empty. This deters criminals from breaking into your vehicle.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

• Tuesday, September 19th – VGNA Town Hall
• Thursday, September 21st - VGNA Executive Board Meeting
• Saturday, September 30th – Clean Team Event
• Thursday, October 19th – VGNA Community - Meet & Greet
• Saturday, October 28th – Clean Team Event
Reducing your carbon footprint as well as your family’s utility bills sounds like a great idea. But which home upgrades actually pay off on their energy-saving promises? We interviewed two experts, Judy Rachel, a home energy assessment specialist, and Keith Graves, a solar energy consultant, to get their insights on the topic.

VGNA: When is the best time to do a “Whole House” energy assessment?
JUDY: During a remodel is ideal. The systems that need to be analyzed are largely “invisible,” hidden in attics and crawl spaces, behind walls, ducts, etc. When exposed during a remodel, those systems can be more readily evaluated.

VGNA: What is the most cost effective first step an “energy efficient” homeowner can take?
JUDY: Problems usually appear in the attic and crawl spaces of a home, so air sealing, cleaning/decontaminating, and then reinsulating those areas will yield immediate noticeable results.

VGNA: If homeowners are considering installing solar, what steps help them to prepare?
JUDY: Begin by evaluating all systems first. For instance, most people buy 2 to 3 times more HVAC (heating, ventilating, air conditioning) than they need because their system is not performing to its rated capacity. If you properly assess roofing and insulation, you may be able to buy a smaller HVAC system that draws less energy.
KEITH: Understand your requirements. Determine what you really want to accomplish in terms of changing what you pay for electricity. Look at the equipment options that are available and learn about the tradeoffs – a less expensive set of solar panels may cost less up front, but not produce sufficient wattage over the long term to maximize savings.

VGNA: In your experience, what is the typical payback period for going solar?
KEITH: For purchased systems set up on the LADWP grid, solar systems should pay for themselves in 8-10 years. If leased, expect energy savings of about 10-40% on your bill.

VGNA: What are some of the challenges new solar users may face?
KEITH: The “turn on” time can be lengthier than one would expect. Once the solar installation is complete, the local utility must approve the installation and connection to its grid before it can go live. SoCal Edison is about 1 week from final permit to official “turn on”. However, since we all live in the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles DWP controls the turn on which takes anywhere from six to eight weeks. In some cases it can be up to a year. LADWP’s website states they have recently modified this process to
enable customers to get faster turn-on by separating the meter installation from the rebate process. See LADWP.com and check updates on the GoGreen tab.

VGNA: What innovations are you seeing in solar energy?
KEITH: The solar industry continues to evolve. In the past 10 years, roofing shingles with integrated PV (photovoltaic) cells have become commercially viable – KB Homes, Lennar homes, and other homebuilders offer this feature in their newer developments. In the future, we can expect PV systems integrated into windows, paint, asphalt, etc. Further, with battery energy storage technology improving, a system of solar collection and generation stored in high capacity battery system and managed by IoT technology will allow energy consumers to take control of how much power they are pulling from the grid.

VGNA: Are there any other ways residents may lower their electric and water bills?
KEITH: Saving on our electric bills doesn’t always require installation of a solar system. For example, DWP offers 1) a Low-Income Discount Program, 2) a Senior Citizen/Disability Lifeline Rate, 3) a Life-Support Equipment Discount and 4) Physician-Certified Allowance Discount. Information on these programs is available from the DWP at www.ladwp.com/lifeline. DWP also has a rebate program for installation of variable speed pool pumps. If your pool pump is over 10 years old, you can get a new variable speed pump to take advantage of the rebate and gain further savings on your electrical bills. The payback time is 2 to 3 years.

---

Our Experts:
Judy Rachel is an independent Home Performance Professional with GreenAchers. Using state-of-the-art testing equipment, she evaluates home systems to assess problems, and recommends solutions to enhance home energy efficiency. Her “whole house” methodology improves the way all house systems work together. The result is a healthier, safer, more comfortable, and more durable home. To schedule a home energy audit, contact Judy at (818) 980-5985. www.GreenAchers.com email: info@greenachers.com

Keith Graves is an independent solar energy consultant, certified by the NABCEP as a PV Technical Sales Professional. Keith has worked for Weyerhaeuser and Green Convergence, and now operates his own consulting company. He has successfully advised both businesses and homeowners for the past seven years. Keith offers a monthly, informative email newsletter with news on recent changes and policies. To contact Keith, call (805) 218-7383 or email: Keith@KeithGraves.com
Valley Glen has a lot of wonderful surprises for its residents. In our June issue, you read about the Los Angeles Valley College Family Resource Center, which provides child care/development, family counseling, and material aid to Valley Glen families in need. Another non-profit resource that you should know about is the JFS Valley Storefront Senior Center (VSSC) located at 12821 Victory Blvd.

The VSSC has a wealth of health and wellness services for seniors and their families. According to the Center’s director, Heather Angel, the VSSC is a caring community that prides itself on the ability to address the diverse needs of its members. Services offered at the VSSC include counseling, support groups, care management, recreational activities, congregate meals, crisis intervention, advocacy, assistance with filling out forms, and socialization.

The VSSC also has an older adult fitness center which offers special ergonomically supportive exercise equipment designed for older adults and supervision/programming provided by trained staff and dedicated volunteers. The Senior Fitness Center is $10.00 per month (or free with enrollment in a fitness class which cost $10.00 per month).

Finally, VSSC also operates a Kosher lunch site. Lunch is first come, first serve and sign-ups begin at 10:30AM Monday-Friday. Lunch is available to anyone 65 and over for a suggested donation of $2.25. If you would like more information, please give Heather and her staff a call at (818) 984-1380.

Who says weakness, discomfort, or depression are “part of life”? Connect to your life force, pride, and identity at any age.

GAIMS FITNESS
16213 Victory Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91406
818-994-6060 bfit@gaimsfitness.com

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.valleyglen.org/public-services-directory.
YOUR HOME IS MY PASSION

“Work is only work if you would rather be doing something else.”

Guess what Raquel Magro would rather be doing?

“Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. It means the world to me.”

Testimonial from one of her Clients:
Raquel and her team are the BEST in the business. They made one of the most stressful times of selling your home such a smooth journey. Their professionalism, knowledge and work ethics are impeccable. My husband and I are truly blessed to have their guidance and advices throughout the whole process. They made us feel at ease, knowing that they always protect our best interests. You wouldn’t want anyone else to represent you when selling your home or buying your dream home. They are simply the BEST! - Christine & David (North Hills)

RAQUEL MAGRO

(818) 361-7027 • (818) 968-4585 cell/text
www.raquelmagro.com • raquel@raquelmagro.com
18569 Devonshire St., Northridge, CA 91324

Lic.#00920540
Steve Malis
Independant Agent
California License # 0D33862
818 781-5857
stevemalis@earthlink.net

20 Years Experience as an Independant Agent & 20 Years as a Valley Glen Resident

Specializing in These Types of Insurance

- **LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE:** Protect your savings, reduce the burden on your children, and maintain your independence. I will show you great options with the best value to meet your goals.

- **LIFE INSURANCE:** Today’s policies offer living benefits that allow you access to the death benefit while you are alive. Let me shop the best rates for your life insurance needs.

- **MEDICARE OPTIONS:** Let me show you how to save money on your existing policy without losing benefits. I also offer the 0 premium Medicare Advantage Plan.

- **ANNUITIES:** Participate in the market without the risk. Ask me how to get income for life.

CALL ME FOR A NO COST CONSULTATION

818 781-5857
stevemalis@earthlink.net

---

The Market is Hot, Demand is High, Prices are Up!

Linda Carreon
“I Carry On while others quit!”
Realtor® CalBRE# 00569297
(818) 406-1543
Linda@LindaCarreon.com

www.LindaCarreon.com
Representing Buyers and Sellers Since 1976

Call Me for a FREE Market Evaluation of Your Home

Thinking of Buying or Selling? “Think Linda Carreon!”
Ireland’s 32
Great Food, Great Entertainment and the Best-Poured Guinness in Los Angeles

In 1963, a pub known as the Silver Lion opened in Van Nuys. Five years later it changed hands, changed its name, and the unique venue known as “Ireland’s 32” was born. For the last 44 years, Ireland’s 32 has offered the warmth and hospitality of the Irish to all comers, providing hearty food, choice beverages, and outstanding entertainment.

The pub’s name itself is a powerful expression of Irish national pride and culture. “32” refers to the 32 counties of Ireland – 26 within the Republic of Ireland and six within the province of Ulster - still part of the UK. Since its inception, Ireland’s 32 has been owned and operated by Irish-born or Irish-American entrepreneurs, all dedicated to preserving the rich legacy of Irish art, sport and culture.

For those unfamiliar with “the 32”, its unpretentious exterior hides a wealth of delights. The fully stocked bar is staffed by professionals, several of whom have worked at Ireland’s for decades. Perfect pints of Guinness flow from the tap, along with other Irish beers and ales. The pub offers a wide range of other foreign and domestic beers as well as ciders. Likewise, a wide range of premium Irish Whiskeys takes pride-of- place on the top shelf. Happy Hour at Ireland’s starts with the pub’s opening at 2:00 pm and runs till 8:00 pm.

The kitchen at Ireland’s 32 opens at 4:00 pm and serves Irish favorites such as Fish & Chips or Shepherd’s Pie, alongside a wide variety of sandwiches, salads, wraps, and what may just be the best hamburger in the Valley. On Saturdays, the pub serves a full-on Irish breakfast that can’t be beat. For all dining, patrons can eat on premise or call-in for takeaway.

Sport lives at Ireland’s 32. Six televisions placed throughout the pub, plus a high quality big screen projection set, make Ireland’s 32 the place to enjoy televised professional and college sports throughout the year.

Ireland’s 32 is one of, perhaps, three venues in Valley Glen that offers live music, and they do it seven nights a week. The entertainment week starts with karaoke on Sunday, where everyone has that chance to be a star.

The Monday Songwriter Series showcases local artists performing original works in a wide variety of genres. From talented newcomers to seasoned professionals, great music fills the pub.

Every Tuesday night Ireland’s hosts the “Acoustic Jam,” where an incredible core group of professional rock musicians perform as the “The Backline Band.” After a few sets on their own, the band then backs up other artists in an open mike forum.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday nights, outstanding local bands showcase their original music and cover the classics. This is local rock at its finest.

Friday is Irish Night, when some of LA’s finest performers of traditional Irish music shine. One can enjoy traditional reels, jigs, hornpipes and ballads along with more modern Irish musical fare.

Now the kicker – the pub provides this great music month after month but does not collect a cover charge.

Look them up on their Facebook page or on their website at www.irelands32.com.

Ireland’s 32 is located at 13721 Burbank Blvd in Valley Glen, one door west of Mammoth and Burbank. Weekday hours are 2:00 pm to 2:00 am with last call at 1:00 am. Weekend hours are 10:00 am to 2:00 am. Call the pub at (818) 785-4031 for further information or about special opening hours for Gaelic Athletic Association games. Some parking is available in the rear of the pub. Otherwise, non-metered street parking is available.
Join the VGNA Clean Team in 2017

“Let’s Clean-Up Our Act in Valley Glen”

The VGNA Clean Team goes into action on the last Saturday of each month. Powered by volunteers from the community, the 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.

Let the pictures speak for themselves. Take a look at the before and after views of the June and July Clean Team events.

Of course, you meet the nicest people cleaning up the town.

At the July event, Abraham Ghorbanian, the owner of Aava Dental, was so inspired by the Clean Team that he bought beverages and ice cream for all the volunteers. Being a good citizen has its perks!

The VGNA Clean Team is grateful for vital assistance from Sahag Yedalian, Councilman Paul Kerkorian’s Field Deputy, who arranges 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 offer special thanks to Sloan Myrick, and the Greater Valley Glen Council (GVGC) for their recent $500.00 stipend to assist the Clean Team’s efforts.

Join the VGNA Clean Team in 2017

“Taking Care of Business”

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.lacityorg/myla-311