IN THIS ISSUE

September VGNA Town Hall
Tuesday, September 11th
See page 7 for location

- I Am Valley Glen
  Feature with Howard Gradet
- RYLAN
  Is Your Family Ready for the Big One?
- Arts & Entertainment
  In Valley Glen
- Flavors of Valley Glen
  Cuban Sandwich
- Valley Glen Clean Team
  “Calling in the Clean Team”

UPCOMING TOWN HALL
September 11, 2018

“Disaster Preparedness - Keeping Your Family Safe and Well”

Crisanta Gonzalez – RYLAN

Crisanta Gonzalez, the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Valley Bureau of the Community Preparedness & Engagement Division, will address what you can do individually and in cooperation with your neighbors to take care of your family before, during, and after an emergency.

All attendees will leave with simple, helpful handouts and a clear pathway to the valuable resources available to you and your neighbors from LA City’s RYLAN (Readying Your Los Angeles Neighborhood program.) It is so easy for you to be better prepared for a disaster. Ms. Gonzalez will be conducting a Q & A session afterwards. Bring your questions and ask an expert! See you there.

Partners Recognition

We like to celebrate our partners! The VGNA is happy to recognize in attendance our community partners from government, education, and business. We will also give a special award to Valley Glen citizens who have made a difference.

Los Angeles Valley College Music Showcase

Rob Weddle is a talented performer in the LAVC music program. He hails from the small railroad town of Brunswick, Maryland. Raised on a motley mix of Country-Western, Bluegrass, Methodist hymns, R&B, and classic and modern Rock radio hits, Rob has played in seminal bands and has appeared as a solo singer on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

He will be performing a short solo acoustic set. Don’t miss this chance to experience live music in Valley Glen. We know that this will be a very enjoyable part of the evening for all in attendance.
Your VGNA Board:

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Thomas Newton
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Howard Gradet
Grid Captain

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Grid 3: Linda Carreon
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Grid 4: Michael Rosenzweig
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Grid 5: Howard Gradet

Grid 6: Michael Merzlikina

Grid 7: Mirna Pajuelo
        Emilia Trivossano
        Angelica Fuentes
        Mercedes Driotes

Grid 8: Robin Shafer
        Francisca Reynoso

Message from the President

“Valley Glen meet Valley Glen.” This phrase captures the heart of the VGNA’s purpose. Through our Town Halls, Clean Team activities, mixers, and other events, we are encouraging Valley Glenners to get to know one another better and be more engaged in our community.

One way we’re doing that is by partnering with the city’s Emergency Management Department (EMD) to promote the RYLAN (Ready Your LA Neighborhood) program.

Good neighbors matter. Even if we don’t socialize frequently, our neighbors are the ones to whom we turn to pull in our trash cans, water our plants, and feed our tropical fish when we’re out of town.

When emergencies occur, good neighbors matter most. Geologists tell us that Valley Glen residents are at risk for a large earthquake. If we don’t know our neighbors before such an event, then we’ll be dealing with strangers in its aftermath when we are seeking or offering assistance. How much better to have built connections before disaster strikes.

Here are two things you can do to Ready Your Neighborhood for a possible disaster:

- Come to the Town Hall on Tuesday, September 11th. Our presenter, Crisanta Gonzalez from the EMD, will introduce the resources that RYLAN offers for emergency preparedness. She will answer your questions about RYLAN and the process of preparing your family and your neighbors to manage critical safety, health, and communication issues that are inevitable during an emergency.

- Then, schedule a RYLAN meeting for your block. It’s simple and the EMD will help. Besides becoming better prepared, you may discover neighbors who share your values, interests, and community spirit.

It’s great timing for the VGNA as we have a wonderful new Grid Captain, Howard Gradet. He is working to improve outreach in Valley Glen’s eleven grids, introduce your local grid reps, and promote communication about what is going on in the VGNA and your grid—including RYLAN meetings.

Thank you as always for your attention, volunteer efforts, and VGNA membership contributions. You are making a difference in Valley Glen. Please stay in touch. We look forward to seeing you over the summer and at a fabulous Town Hall in September.

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
Valley Glen, meet Howard Gradet, our newly appointed Valley Glen Grid Captain. What, you might ask, is a Grid Captain? We’ll cover that in a minute. First, meet Howard.

Howard arrived in Valley Glen from Maryland two years ago and lives just two doors away from his son, daughter-in-law, and grandson, Elliott. Elliott, with his 5-year-old’s perspective, thinks he has two houses. And, he’s probably right...

Howard taught English for thirty years and spent another seventeen working for the Johns Hopkins Education Research Center. At Johns Hopkins he developed a 9th grade curriculum designed to do two things: 1) keep kids in school long enough to graduate; 2) give them the social skills that they need but that no one ever teaches them.

9th grade is critical. More kids flunk or drop out between 9th and 10th grade than at any other time. Along with math and reading courses, the Freshman Seminar he developed included practical lessons from how to organize your notebook to how to avoid getting punched.

Howard is now retired, which leads us back to the Grid Captain topic. As you know, the “Valley Glen Voice” is delivered to over 5,000 households and businesses. You may also know that Valley Glen is divided into eleven grids, and someone needs to enlist and coordinate our VGNA volunteer deliverers. With time on his hands, Howard began delivering newsletters, and when the Grid Captain position became vacant, he offered to step up and take on that job’s responsibilities.

Welcome to the Glen, Howard. We’re delighted to have you as our Grid Captain and a champion of our grassroots efforts to improve life in the Glen. If you’d like to join the Captain and help distribute the next newsletter, please email Howard at: howardgradet@vgna.org

VOTED Best Realtor 2018 by Reader’s Choice Daily News

Another Property Sold by Raquel Magro!

Raquel Magro helped her clients sell their parents’ home that was on the market for the first time since the original purchase in 1951. Raquel aided in the remodeling process with ideas, color choices and material finishes, and then assisted in staging for the property. The home sold for top dollar and in the end, Raquel Magro has earned a client for life. She loves her job!

RAQUEL MAGRO’S CLIENTS PROVIDED A GLOWING RECOMMENDATION:

“My husband and I were looking for an agent to help sell his childhood home and he came across Raquel at an open house. Being very familiar with the area, she offered her opinion on what improvements would help sell the house, and what we could expect to sell it for. We had never done a whole-house remodel and all I can say is I don’t think it would have turned out the way it did without her expert advice on everything - from paint colors, flooring, what to change and what to keep, to her knowing what people are looking for in today’s market. She was supportive and always available to answer all of our questions. From her associates at Pinnacle to tradesmen she recommended, we have nothing but praise for each of them. Our house was listed on a Thursday, we had an open house on the following Sunday and got two offers within a day or two - one for over our asking price! Raquel and Ana were on top of the escrow process and patiently dealt with our myriad of questions; knowing Raquel was so capable in dealing with the intricacies of negotiation eased any concerns along the way. We closed escrow on time and feel blessed to have had Raquel representing us - she is a smart, savvy, and beyond-competent realtor. I would absolutely recommend her to anyone.” — Curt Miller —
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- Anger Mgmt.
- Relationship Building & Repair
- Depression / Anxiety
- Grief / Loss
- Abuse / Trauma

Please view my profile at PsychologyToday.com

Susan Cristol
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IS YOUR FAMILY READY FOR THE BIG ONE?

Before you answer, let’s define our terms.

What IS the Big One?

A. A large, possibly mythical being who lives in the forest, is rarely seen, and has unusually large feet
B. A myocardial infarction of enormous proportions (As in “Elizabeth, it’s the big one!”)
C. An earthquake measuring 8.0 (or thereabouts) on the Richter scale that is expected to hit ‘sometime’ and ‘somewhere’ in Southern California
D. The one that got away

All kidding aside, how many of us are adequately prepared for the aftermath of a big earthquake or other natural disaster? Most of us promise we’ll get prepared “someday”. Did you know that there are fewer than 1,100 firefighters assigned to the San Fernando Valley? Yep, and that is for all the shifts. We are pretty sure that there are more than 1,100 homes that will need help after the Big One.
Without enough first responders to help after a disaster we may need to respond on our own to a variety of situations: fire, injuries, special needs people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, leaking natural gas, etc.
The VGNA is partnering with LA City to help us all get ready. Rather than simply hand us a ‘To Do’ list, the city has developed a comprehensive program called RYLAN.

RYLAN: Readying Your Los Angeles Neighborhood

RYLAN brings neighbors together to prepare BEFORE disaster strikes. So, if something does happen, we can reduce the serious consequences to our families and our neighborhood.

Dedicated, expert Emergency Management Coordinators are available to meet with us—in our neighborhoods—and conduct practical workshops featuring the Map Your Neighborhood tool. This planning tool helps each block prepare and organize how to respond together and support one another after a disaster.

There are no fees or requirements associated with RYLAN—it was created by and is run and funded by the LA City Emergency Management Department.

If disaster does strike, communication and transportation networks may be out of service. Our whole world may suddenly shrink to about the size of our neighborhood block. Do you know what skills your neighbors have that could come in handy? A plumber, carpenter, nurse, cook? What will happen on your block if you don’t have a plan to identify skills and resources ahead of time? Isn’t a 90 minute investment of your time worth the peace and empowerment you will have afterwards?
Don’t wait until the Big One to find out how unprepared you are!
Attend the VGNA Town Hall Sept. 11, 2018
Meeting Location: Los Angeles Valley College

A sincere thanks to the generosity and support of LAVC President Dr. Erika Endrijonas and her staff for making a home for our Town Hall meetings:
LAVC, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Administrative & Career Adv Building Second Floor, Room 2505
6:30 pm Meet & Greet
7:00 pm Start

Please visit www.valleyglen.org/lavc-map to view and download the LAVC map and meeting location.

Come to the Town Hall meeting & Meet Crisanta Gonzalez

Crisanta, our Valley Emergency Management Coordinator, will make a presentation and answer our questions at the Town Hall. She will:

- Describe what to expect after a disaster
- Explain how the RYLAN program works
- Tell us how we can sign up, how the city will support us, and what our responsibilities will be
- Answer our questions about disaster prep in general for your family and RYLAN for your neighborhood specifically

This is the time to prepare, and the city has made it easy to do so. Make this important first move to protect your family in the event of a disaster—attend the Town Hall.
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9/18/2018
Steven Niles Piano Recital
Music (M) Recital Hall 106
1:30 PM, Free
Pianist Steven Niles will be celebrating the diversity of piano, drawing his work on a wide range of periods and styles.

9/26/2018
Soo Lee Biancalana and Vardan Gasparyan
Music (M) Recital Hall 106
1:30 PM, Free
Pianist Soo Lee Biancalana and Cellist Vardan Gasparyan will have a concert featuring works written by Beethoven, Bach, Schumann, Rachmaninoff, and Franck.

10/13/2018
American Guitar Society Concert
Ioana Gandrabur
Music (M) Recital Hall 106
8:00 PM, $20 General, $15 Senior, $10 AGS members and Students
Ioana Gandrabur is Romanian born and the youngest winner of the Romanian National Guitar Competition. He is a renowned guitarist who has played in all corners of the globe.

10/15/2018
LAVC Wind Ensemble
“All Baroque Concert 3”
Theater Arts (TA) Main Stage Theater
7:00 PM, $10 General Admission

11/18/2018
Here We Go Again! December Magic!!
Music (M) Recital Hall 106
7:00 PM, $10 General Admission
Students from the LAVC Department will present a multicultural celebration of the holidays.
Valley Glen residents.

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Contact us today for a complimentary price analyses and marketing consultation.
Meet Leo Santa Maria, a Valley Glen resident since 2003. Born in Havana, Leo and his parents left Cuba for Miami when Leo was just four. After years of requesting permission to emigrate from the Castro government, they were finally granted their wish and left quickly with few belongings. Leo grew up in Miami surrounded by other Cuban refugees and attended film school there.

In Miami he “either needed to get a job at the mall or go to Hollywood.” So, two days after graduating film school he headed west.

His first job was as a runner—fetching coffee and delivering demo reels around town. Gradually he worked his way through a variety of film-related jobs and now works for NBC developing TV promos; you’ve probably seen his work.

You’ve probably also heard of Cuban sandwiches. Leo’s favorite kind is called a medianoche (midnight), which got its name as a popular after-midnight snack served in Havana’s night clubs. Leo recommends serving them with French fries for extra fortification in those early morning hours.

Medianoche Cuban Sandwich

Ingredients:
- 4 sweet bread rolls
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup prepared mustard
- 1 pound thinly sliced cooked ham
- 1 pound thinly sliced fully cooked pork
- 1 pound sliced Swiss cheese
- 1 cup dill pickle slices
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

1. Split the rolls in half and spread liberally with mustard and mayonnaise.
2. Layer Swiss cheese, ham and pork (in that order) onto the rolls. Add a few pickles.
3. Replace the top of the roll and brush with melted butter.

Do you know someone who represents the diversity of our community? Please introduce them and share a recipe that reflects the flavors of Valley Glen. Send a note to editor@vgna.org.
Sandy Russell was not happy. Around the corner from her home, alongside a stretch with a long wall, the street was overgrown and full of trash ... again. Neighborhood kids in cars used the spot to park, and hang out, and party, and eat, and drink, and ... other things. What ticked Sandy off was that they left behind their remnants: cigarette butts, food, papers, packages, fast food wrappers, bottles, cans, ... even diapers and condoms ... trashing her neighborhood. Nearby residents had tried cleaning it up, but couldn’t keep up with the trash. So the vegetation just kept on growing and became a magnet for more trash. Sandy remembered a recent article about the VGNA’s grassroots efforts at keeping the Glen clean and empowering us all to take ownership of our neighborhoods. She arranged for the Clean Team to come to her neighborhood.

When they arrived, her husband Michael grabbed his rake and a shovel and put his back into the effort as well.

Here’s what that stretch looked like before and during the effort:

And here’s what a few volunteers wielding rakes and shovels and a pickaxe were able to accomplish in the space of an hour on a Saturday morning. Just think how much more we could do with your help.

There are approximately 60,000 of us in Valley Glen. We’re hoping that more than a dozen ‘Residents of the Glen’ will join us for the next Clean Team event.

We meet:
Last Saturday of every month 8:00 am
Valley Glen Community Park (corner of Ethel & Erwin)

Next Clean Team Meetings:
September 29, 2018
October 26
November 30