Highlights of the Dec 2018 Town Meeting

Richard Rossi, our new VGNA president introduced himself and spoke about his goals for the VGNA. We heard our Treasurer’s report and received a brief on the amended bylaws along with a summary of the major changes. The new bylaws were voted on and unanimously passed. New election procedures were explained in anticipation of the upcoming election at the annual Members’ Meeting in April. And a meeting attendee voiced concerns over construction activities in Valley Glen, which result in grass parkways between curb and street-side edge of sidewalk being paved over with concrete.

For the full report on the last Town Hall meeting see the VGNA website: https://www.valleyglen.org/11-dec-town-hall-update/.

NORTH RIDGE EARTHQUAKE

THEN: On January 17, 1994, at 4:31 a.m., we experienced a 6.7-magnitude earthquake. It cost $20 billion in property damage, resulted in the deaths of 57 people, and injured 9,000 more. Emergency responders were overwhelmed. The damage sustained by the earthquake sparked discussions that continue today about earthquake awareness and proper procedures.

continued on page 12
Meet Yvette Diamond
It’s been 50 years since Yvette Diamond’s grandparents bought their home in (what is now) Valley Glen. It’s the home where Yvette and her siblings grew up. It’s where her grandmother and her parents still live. Yvette moved away when she and her husband got married. They lived in Santa Clarita and had three children—a boy and two girls. And because she believes strongly in the importance of creating rich educational experiences for kids, she home-schools her two older children.
As we all know, life’s twists and turns have a way of surprising us, taking us to places we didn’t expect to go. For Yvette, it brought her and her husband and one of her daughters back to Valley Glen and back to the same house where she grew up. It happened when her mother and her grandmother needed some extra care. The little house was expanded, a second floor was built, and another generation was born when her daughter gave birth to a son. That made Yvette a grandmother and the little house in Valley Glen a home to five generations!
As a grandmother, Yvette has focused her passion for education on her grandson’s school experience. When he entered Erwin Elementary School, she joined the PTA, where she is the current president and works to raise funds for school field trips, PE equipment, and supplies for the teachers, and to encourage greater community participation in the life of Erwin Elementary.

I am YVETTE DIAMOND

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I am Valley Glen!
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I am Valley Glen!
Dear Valley Glen Residents,

Valley Glen has flourished in recent years, including being recognized as an autonomous community within Los Angeles in 1992. Most recently, residents have witnessed the renovation of Erwin Park and an increase in community events. Erwin Elementary is proud to be a part of this community seeking change and we want to be a part of that change.

Research shows that community support significantly impacts the success of schools. We know that successful schools produce stronger communities and increase property values. A partnership between school and community is essential.

Erwin Elementary PTA wants to make an impact not only in the lives of our students, but in our community as well. We want the community (and the entire Valley) to recognize our name as one of strong reputation. We want everyone to know who we are and what a wonderful school we have. We are sponsoring family events to encourage community togetherness and school pride. We are giving every student an opportunity to go on an educational and fun field trip. We are providing much needed supplies to our teachers and we have many, many more dreams we want to fulfill.

We invite you to partner with us on this journey. There are many ways that you can help:

1. Collect Box Tops for Education. Drop them off in the school main office.
2. Connect your Ralphs card to support Erwin Elementary: a percentage of every purchase will be donated to our school.
3. Join PTA! We would love community support as we foster change at our school. Your community connections and expertise are invaluable.
4. Volunteer. There is a place for everyone at Erwin Elementary.
5. Donate. Our dreams cost money. Our wish list includes a protective sun canopy over the playgrounds, printers and ink for each teacher, revitalization of the garden, and so much more.

We look forward to working with you in this effort to make our school and our community stronger. Please contact us with ideas, offerings of support and questions.

Thank you,
Erwin Elementary School PTA
Facebook page: @ErwinStreetElementaryCommunity
ErwinElementaryPTA@gmail.com

What is your responsibility in all this? Really, there are only two things:

1. When you buy a new or used car from a dealer, before taking the vehicle off the lot, make sure that it has temporary plates.
2. When you receive your permanent plates, remove the temporary plates and affix the permanent ones to the front and rear of your vehicle, along with your registration tags.

As a note, California joins 35 other states that now require temporary paper plates.

Hello and Happy New Year!

As with each new year, 2019 brings new laws in California. Since I can’t cover all of them in this space I recommend doing a search and educating yourself. As the saying goes, “Ignorantia juris non excusat”, “ignorance of the law excuses no one.”

The law I do want to discuss is one I know many of you have been hoping for.

California AB 516 was introduced to improve public safety on California’s roadways through the creation of a Temporary License Plate (TLP) and electronic Report of Sale System.

Each year, thousands of vehicles operate on CA roadways and highway system with no license plates—which creates a public safety issue for law enforcement and allows vehicles without plates to evade tolls, costing our state an estimated $15-19 million a year.

Beginning January 1, 2019, dealers are required to:

- Electronically report the sale of a vehicle
- Issue a Temporary License Plate.

The TLP will be attached to the vehicle at the point of sale and bridge the gap between when a vehicle is sold (and the registration process is begun) and when the permanent plates are issued from the DMV. TLP’s are valid only for a period of 90 days, and need to be removed upon receipt of permanent license plates. With TLPs, vehicle and owner information will be immediately visible to law enforcement and toll operators.

This law will make it illegal to operate a vehicle without a temporary paper license plate or actual license plates. No more dealer-name-only paper plates. As I’m sure you are aware, many crimes are committed by vehicles with only dealer style paper plates. Making that illegal should increase our ability to identify vehicles used in the commission of crimes.
Attend the VGNA Town Hall
March 12, 2019

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.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR HOME IS WORTH? I DO!!!

JUST LISTED
by Linda

6609 Costello Ave, Valley Glen
3 Bedrooms • 2.5 Baths • Family Room
Offered at $729,950

This 2 story home is a ready for you to “Fix and Save!” Located in wonderful Valley Glen, close to shopping, public transportation and freeways. Featuring 2,274 sq ft and 8,304 sq ft lot size (per assessor). Enter light and spacious living room with hardwood floors and cozy fireplace. Entertaining size formal dining room. Remodeled kitchen with granite counter tops, skylight, built-ins, cabinets galore and tile floor. 2 good size bedrooms and 1.5 baths. Large family room with gas burning fireplace and sliders out to spacious yard. Updated in your own private master suite with master bath, shower and spa tub. Enjoy your morning coffee or glass of wine while watching the stars on the master’s private balcony. This home features a small basement where the washer dryer are and 2 car detached garage is being used as an office and perhaps could be converted to an ADU (buyer to check) Long driveway could hold several cars or RV. Additional driveway pad has been added for cars or Br also.

“The CARRY ON WHILE OTHERS QUIT”

LINDA CARREON
(818) 406-4543
Realpro • (License: 066060)

from the outside in
guest curated by Sam Hopple

Los Angeles Valley College is pleased to announce from the outside in, featuring the work of Hunter Buck, Allison Peck, and Katie Shapiro and organized by guest curator Sam Hopple.

Exhibition runs Feb. 13 - Mar. 14, 2019
Reception for the artists: Wednesday Feb. 13, 6-8p
Regular gallery hours, when the college is in session: Monday + Wednesday 2-4p
Tuesday + Thursday 11a-2p

Viewing appointments outside of regular hours can be made by contacting Gallery Director at nagyj@lavc.edu.

LAVC Art Gallery is located:
in the Art Building
5800 Fulton Avenue,
Valley Glen, CA 91401

The VGNA would like to say a special thank you to Dr. Erica Endrijonas for supporting our organization by providing meeting space for our Town Halls. We thank her and wish her the best in her new position.

LAVC Fine and Performing Arts Calendar of Events:
http://www.lavc.edu/Master-calendar/Arts.aspx
Map Your Neighborhood Update
This map shows which of your neighbors have invested 90 minutes in planning how to work together in the event of an earthquake.

Schedule a Meeting for your Block
1. Identify your “block” (15 – 20 houses*).
2. Find a place (a driveway works fine).
3. Contact Crisanta Gonzalez for available dates and times:
   • Call: 213-505-5467, or
   • Email: crisanta.gonzalez@lacity.org
4. Ask a few neighbors which dates and times work best.
5. Confirm the date and time with Crisanta.

* Questions? Contact Crisanta. (See # 3 above.)
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.

Arroz con Leche Peruano

When Carlos Pajuelo was a little boy in Peru, he would hurry home every day after school because he knew his mother was waiting there with his favorite treat—rice pudding. In sharing this recipe with us, Carlos is not only sharing a favorite treat, but a favorite memory.

Carlos has been away from Peru for a long time, now; he arrived in the US in 1963 and became a resident. Not long after that, Uncle Sam called him to serve his new country and gave him an all-expense-paid tour of Viet Nam.

Discharged in 1969, he met Mirna, his wife of 43 years, the following year. They settled in Valley Glen in 1971 and raised two children here. Retired now, he’s a proud grandfather of three and perhaps he’s passed his love of arroz con leche on to his grandchildren.

Arroz con Leche (rice with milk) is a dessert that is enjoyed all around the world. You may know it as rice pudding.

Ingredients

- 1 cup rice
- 3 cups water
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 2 cloves
- 1 piece of orange or lemon peel
- ½ cup of raisins
- 1 can of condensed milk
- 1 can of evaporated milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- Ground cinnamon to sprinkle on top

Instructions

- Rinse the rice, then combine the first 6 ingredients and cook uncovered over medium heat until the rice is soft and the water has evaporated.
- Remove the orange peel, cinnamon and cloves.
- Stir in the condensed milk and the evaporated milk.
- Bring to a boil, then turn the heat down to low and cook until the mixture thickens.
- Add vanilla and cook a few minutes longer to allow the vanilla flavor to infuse the dish.
- Serve hot or cold garnished with a bit of ground cinnamon.
NOW: LA's Emergency Management Department has begun an effort to help neighborhoods prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) initiative prepares neighborhoods to work together and be resilient in the face of disaster. January 17 was the 25th anniversary of the Northridge earthquake. The importance of neighbors helping neighbors in a disaster was magnified. When the Northridge Meadows Apartments collapsed, neighbors helped other neighbors escape the debris by pulling them out and to safety. The nearby Northridge United Methodist Church offered shelter for those left homeless. It became a center where residents could stay informed of the condition of their homes and updated on their loved ones and pets. Locals bonded together to support those affected and share resources. This spirit of neighbors helping neighbors is the essence of LA's RYLAN initiative. Neighbors work together to assess the resources each individual can offer; establish Neighborhood Care Centers and Gathering Sites; and create teams for Search and Rescue, Communications, Care and Sheltering, and Search and Aid. It's easy to get started. The RYLAN program is provided to LA City residents at no cost! Nothing. Nada. Free. If you are interested in the RYLAN program and Mapping Your Neighborhood, please visit our web page at https://emergency.lacity.org/rylan. See our video there and follow the Contact Us link to fill out a form to be contacted by a department representative. Or, contact Crisanta Gonzalez, Valley Emergency Manager, directly at 213-505-5467.

Here are several other things you can do to be prepared:

- Prepare an emergency kit: Many of the items you need are already in your home. Visit https://emergency.lacity.org/rylan/prep for a checklist of items to have in your kit. Be sure to have enough for each family member. Keep one at home, one in your car, and one at work. Include personalized items for your children, elderly family members and pets.
- Create/Revise your family disaster plan: Know what to do or where to go in case of a disaster. Disasters rarely happen at an ideal time. Your family might not be at home or together when disaster strikes, so you must have a plan for how to communicate if you are separated.
- Conduct a hazard hunt in and around your home. Look for items that can fall over, break, or hurt you and take steps to secure them. (The most common injury after an earthquake is cut feet; the second most common injury is cut hands.)
- Sign up for NotifyLA: This is LA's emergency notification system and the best way for the city to communicate with us during emergencies and disasters. It's free. It's easy to sign up! Just send a single text: Text the word "READY" to 888-777. Or go to http://www.emergency.lacity.org/notifyla and sign up there.
- Download the ShakeAlertLA app to your phone from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. For even more information about the City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department, visit emergency.lacity.org. Get prepared today!

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**Neighborhood Holds Disaster Drill**

"An earthquake has occurred and first responders are overwhelmed." That was the text residents of Delano and Van Noord streets got—at least those who had signed up to participate in a disaster drill led by the LA Emergency Management Department (EMD). The drill was a follow-on to the Map Your Neighborhood workshops that they had attended—all part of the free program that LA city offers called RYLAN (Ready Your LA Neighborhood). The first text came at a pre-arranged date and time and was clearly identified as a DRILL (in capital letters). The next few texts coached the participants through the procedure they had learned during their Map Your Neighborhood workshops. The first steps (verify the safety of your loved ones, dress for safety, place a sign in the window indicating if you are okay or require help, etc.) guided residents through the steps to be taken in their homes. Step 7 instructed participants to go to their pre-arranged Neighborhood Gathering Site. This is the place that would become their communication center in the event of a real disaster. Pictures on this page show a few of the residents, some dressed for safety, at their Gathering Site.

As it was a bit chilly on that early December day, participants were invited into a neighbor’s home for the second part of the drill. That part consisted of working through a series of 'What-if' scenarios.

Here's an example of one situation and how the group responded:

**Scenario:** "You're pretty sure a neighbor is home, but she hasn't posted a sign in the window, and she is not responding to calls or answering the door. What would you do?"

The group's response showed a genuine concern for the neighbor. HOWEVER, the EMD facilitators were quick to point out that breaking and entering in a disaster is still breaking and entering and it is still illegal. The drill was an opportunity for neighbors to think through a number of scenarios they might face, to ask a lot of questions, and to take their communal disaster response planning to the next step.

If you are interested in arranging a Map Your Neighborhood Meeting or a disaster drill with your block, see page 9 for contact information.
Dear Editor …

Would you like to comment on an article you’ve seen in this newsletter? Want to suggest an article topic? Do you have suggestions for how to make life better in Valley Glen? Are there projects you’d like to suggest for the VGNA to work on?

We want to hear from you. Please send us your ideas, suggestions, and comments. Write us at editor@vgna.org.

Did you know that Valley Glen is divided into eleven sections called grids? Do you know which grid you live in? If you don’t, check the map on page 8 & 9 of this issue of The Valley Glen Voice.

Once a quarter, twenty-seven of your neighbors deliver the newsletter to your door (February, May, August, November). It arrives two to three weeks before the VGNA’s town hall meetings. For your calendar, in 2019, our town hall meetings will be held on:

- March 12
- June 11
- September 10
- December 10

Are you experiencing problems with newsletter delivery to your home? Is the newsletter coming too late for you to plan to attend a town hall? Are you getting more than one copy while a neighbor across the street hasn’t gotten one? Is the newsletter landing in an appropriate part of your lawn or driveway (for legal reasons we can’t put them in your mailbox)? Is there another house on your property that isn’t getting one and should? If you have questions, concerns, complaints, or comments, or if you would like to join this doughty band of grid reps, please contact Howard Gradet, Valley Glen Gridmeister, at howardgradet@vgna.org.

A complete list of grid reps can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

Got ShakeAlertLA?

If not, maybe you should!

What is ShakeAlertLA? It’s an app that can give you a heads up that an earthquake is about to hit!

Some questions for you to ponder:

- Would you LIKE to have a few seconds advance warning of an earthquake?
- What would you do with those extra seconds?
- Would you find a place to drop, hold, and cover?
- Would you grab your kids?
- Would you run outside? (Hint: That would be the WRONG answer!)

ShakeAlertLA is a mobile app that sends alerts to users within Los Angeles County. It sends alerts when an earthquake of greater than magnitude 5.0 or level IV intensity has been detected and you may soon feel shaking. The app is available for both Apple and Android devices and available in both English and Spanish. The app can also be used to prepare for an earthquake, get details on recent earthquakes, and find help after an earthquake.

Here’s where you can download the app:


For more information see www.ShakeAlert.org.

Greetings from the Gridmeister!

Are you experiencing problems with newsletter delivery to your home? Is the newsletter coming too late for you to plan to attend a town hall? Are you getting more than one copy while a neighbor across the street hasn’t gotten one? Is the newsletter landing in an appropriate part of your lawn or driveway (for legal reasons we can’t put them in your mailbox)? Is there a particular place you do want us to drop your newsletter, or a particular place you don’t want it dropped? Is there another house on your property that isn’t getting one and should? If you have questions, concerns, complaints, or comments, or if you would like to join this doughty band of grid reps, please contact Howard Gradet, Valley Glen Gridmeister, at howardgradet@vgna.org.

A complete list of grid reps can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

From 5 guests to 500, Lusy’s caters office lunches, holiday parties, family gatherings, game days and more. Skip the dishes and schedule today!

Delicious Mediterranean. Done fresh daily.

8357 Woodman Avenue
Valley Glen, California 91401
818-997-4330
www.lusyescuisines.com


Dear Editor …

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Do you have suggestions for how to make life better in Valley Glen? Are there projects you’d like to suggest for the VGNA to work on?

We want to hear from you. Please send us your ideas, suggestions, and comments.

Write us at editor@vgna.org.
Have you ever noticed areas of Valley Glen that look overgrown and trashy one day, and clean and neat the next? Chances are this magical transformation was thanks to the efforts of the Valley Glen Clean Team.

On the second Saturday of every month, Tom Newton, our illustrious (but interim) Clean Team Leader, arrives at Valley Glen Park at 8 a.m. with tools such as gloves, bags, and water for the workers. From there, volunteers drive to a spot picked out in advance by Tom and tackle the task at hand.

In December we cleaned up a neglected section of road across from Erwin Elementary School. It took a crew of seven people an hour of cutting, chopping, sweeping, and shoveling to make that small section of our neighborhood look cared for. And the thing is, that it was an enjoyable activity for the seven. There’s a sense of pride in working for the community and a sense of camaraderie in the experience.

But January 12 wasn’t a typical Clean Team morning—it was raining. Did the assembled band—Tom, Greg Godachy, Kathy Robinson and David Robinson—dissipate? Did they give in to the forces of nature? Give up in the face of a little weather? Absolutely not. Our illustrious (but interim) leader was ready with and instituted Plan B—a 311 scouting tour! The assembled team divided up into teams and drove around our favorite neighborhood looking for bulky items left on the side of the road and reporting them using their smart phones and the 311 app.

Hopefully, that gives you a sense of the Clean Team experience. And (even more) hopefully you’ll come join us and lend your efforts to making/keeping Valley Glen the kind of place where we all want to live and send our kids to school.

Here are several ways you can support the Clean Team efforts:

- Join a cleanup on the second Saturday of each month. Meet at the Valley Glen Community Park (corner of Ethel & Erwin) on Ethel St. The next cleanups are:
  - March 9
  - April 13
  - May 11
- Report bulky items for pick up when you see them on the street:
  - Dial 311 and (after waiting for a bit) give your report to a real person
  - Go online and submit a request on myla311.lacity.org
  - Download the 311 app and use it whenever you see graffiti or bulky items
  - Send an email to Editor@vgna.org to suggest an area for the Clean Team to target.
- Volunteer to become the new Clean Team Leader. Duties include scouting clean-up sites for the monthly outing, picking up tools for the crew, calling in the bags of trash and coordinating pickup of the bags of trash and overgrown brush that the team has collected.