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December VGNA Town Hall

Tuesday, December 10th

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  “The Clean Team Works to Keep Valley Glen Beautiful”

“The mission of the VGNA is to improve the quality of life in Valley Glen by listening to the needs of the residents, facilitating communication between those with needs and those with solutions, and taking direct action to provide those solutions.”

Come to the Town Hall: Dec. 10th at 7:00 PM

Should I Go Solar?

Are you considering solar panels? If so, you may have questions. Does it make sense for my situation? Does it pencil out? How long would it take to recoup the cost? Are rebates still available? What do I have to do to qualify?

Our December Town Hall will feature a speaker from the DWP’s Speaker Bureau who can answer all of your questions about solar power and DWP programs to encourage green energy.

Stephanie Mkhlian, will also join us from Councilman Nazarian’s office will join us and be available to answer questions.

When: Tuesday, December, 10
  6:30 Meet & Greet
  7:00 Meeting

  Second Floor – Room 2505

Mark Your Calendar

2020 Town Hall Dates

- Tuesday, March 10
- Tuesday, June 9
- Tuesday, September 8
- Tuesday, December 8

For questions, comments and input, please email info@valleyglen.org
Greetings and salutations!

Hi Valley Glen! It’s been almost 5 months since I became President of the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association. I am honored and grateful to my fellow board members for their confidence and trust in me.

I am not new to Valley Glen—I have been a Valley Glen resident for over 25 years and I have supported the Valley Glen newsletter for decades by placing my real estate business ads in the newsletter. I am very excited about being part of a team that wants to make the VGNA a stronger, self-supporting organization that works to improve the quality of life for all Valley Glen residents. I feel blessed to be given this great opportunity and I am so excited to serve our community. I look forward to working in partnership with all Valley Glen residents to collaborate and share ideas on how we can all make the VGNA better.

None of this works, of course, without an open line of communication to the community. We want to hear what you have to say—we want to hear your ideas how together we can make a difference. In order to be a part of this success and to have a voice, please join us at our quarterly Town Hall meetings. In addition to being able to participate in discussions, we also have wonderful and informative speakers—everyone benefits from being involved.

Because the VGNA is self-supporting through your contributions, please consider making a $20 donation and become a member for the year. The sponsorship goes a long way to help us to continue to advocate for your interest, bring you information through The Valley Glen Voice and finally to become a 501C3, which will allow us to access City funds available only to non-profit organizations with this designation. Your private donations and the proceeds from the ads placed in our newsletter will help make that happen. Your support is critical! Consider it an excellent investment in your community. We appreciate every one of you and your contributions.

Thank you for those that came out to support our first fundraiser of the year at Blaze Pizza. Total sales from the dine-out were $294.40, which means we will receive 50% = $147.20.

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PLEASE ADVERTISE WITH US
Would you like more Valley Glen customers for your business? Advertise in the Valley Glen Voice quarterly newsletter.

Email mickeyjannol@vguna.org
What Happened at the September Town Hall?

There were two speakers:

Anthony Aguinaga from LA’s Emergency Management Dept. (EMD)
Janet Gibson from C.E.R.T. 14th Batallion

Anthony reminded us that, in the city of LA (depending on the time of day) there are 4.5 – 6ML of us and only about 13,000 first responders. EMD has a free program to help neighborhoods learn how to organize and help one another in the aftermath of a disaster: RYLAN. Learn more and schedule a free workshop for your block at https://emergency.lacity.org/rylan. Get C.E.R.T.-trained. Learn more at Ready.gov/cert

Janet gave us ideas on how to prepare for a disaster. Here are some of the highlights:

- **DO NOT STAND IN A DOORWAY** in an earthquake! Why? What’s in a doorway? A door. It can swing shut and smash your fingers or knock you over. DROP. COVER. HOLD ON.

- Why DROP? Things go flying in an earthquake—don’t be in the way of an appliance that is rocketing across the room!

- **What’s the #1 injury following an emergency? Cut feet.** Keep shoes tied to the bed: remember, things go flying in an earthquake.

- **No water and/or toilet?** Line the toilet bowl or a 5-gallon bucket with contractor bags and use kitty litter. Place bags in a sealed trash can.

- Canned food doesn’t require hydration so it’s a good option to have on hand for emergencies. Can’t find your can opener? A screw driver will work.

- **Don’t light candles in the house.** They are a major source of fires! Use a glowstick! Glowsticks can be bought easily—even at the 99 Cent store.

- If there is ANY possibility of a gas leak: do not turn on a flashlight! It could set off a gas explosion. (See glowstick above.)

- **Solar generators are not as powerful as those run by gas but you won’t run out of fuel.**

- **Have a small tent you can take with you if you need to leave your house.** Keep a larger one for use at home.

- **Put a “Get Home” bag in your car.** Comfy shoes, a map (your GPS may not work), cash (small bills), water, flashlight, shelter (tarp), sunscreen, medical supplies, a little food

- **Tip:** Choose a “Get Home” bag that is inconspicuous. If it looks like you’re a serious backpacker and very well prepared, it may attract attention from someone who thinks they need that bag more than you do. Tip: Choose a “Get Home” bag that is inconspicuous. If it looks like you’re a serious backpacker and very well prepared, it may attract attention from someone who thinks they need that bag more than you do.

Get C.E.R.T.-trained (Community Emergency Response Team) See Ready.gov/cert

Dr. Lucy Jones, USC earthquake expert and SoCal celeb, has said that the number one thing that will determine how quickly a neighborhood will recover from a major disaster is how prepared the individuals are and how effectively they can work together.

Our speaker added: “If you don’t prepare, it’s your own fault ■

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Dear Editor ...

Please write us!

Tell us what issues you'd like to have addressed at our Town Hall forums. The Town Halls are a chance for the community to come together. How would you like to use it?

What would you like to see featured in the pages of your newsletter? Make suggestions for projects you'd like the VGNA to champion.

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

Write us at editor@vgna.org.

Valley Glen, meet your current Valley Glen Neighborhood Association president, Tina Houston. You may recognize her picture as she’s been a consistent VGNA supporter and long-time advertiser in the Voice. Tina has lived in the San Fernando Valley since the 1980s, and has been a Valley Glen resident since 1992.

Born in the Philippines and raised in Connecticut, she grew up in California after her family relocated when she was 13.

She and her husband of 30 years were married at the Little Brown Church on Coldwater Canyon in 1989, and moved to their current home in Valley Glen in 1992, where they raised their three now-adult sons. She considers her 13-year old Shih Tzu, Simba, to be her fourth son.

A paralegal for fourteen years before changing careers to be a real estate agent joining Dilbeck Real Estate in 2001, Tina loves the outdoors, living a healthy lifestyle and frequently vacationing in Mexico and Hawaii.

Some of her interests include hiking Runyan Canyon and the Burbank mountains, going to Manhattan Beach which is her absolute favorite—and watching her husband surf. She tried it in Hawaii where the water is clear, but she’s decided that for her, it’s a spectator sport.

But the core of her life is her church, her family and Simba. She most believes that it is not what life brings, but the hearts she touches and service to others that measure her success in life.

I AM TINA HOUSTON

I am Valley Glen!
How Long Do You Think It Would Take a Hacker to Crack a:

A. 6-character password that uses only lower-case letters
B. 12-character password that uses only lower-case letters
C. 10-character password that uses upper and lower case, numbers, and special characters

Check your answers at the bottom of the page.

Hackers use super computers to automatically check billions of possible passwords per second!!! (This includes all the words in the dictionary.) So how can you protect your accounts?

For starters, NEVER use passwords with:

- Fewer than 6 characters
- Only lowercase letters
- Words found in the dictionary
- Any part of your name in it

There is so very much more to learn about password security. But if you only do one thing—make your passwords longer and stronger.

The ideal password is long and complex:

- 16 or more characters
- A mix of uppercase, lower case, numbers, and symbols

Length is the most important factor for strength when it comes to password security.

There are myriad articles you can Google for advice on password security; one we consulted for this article is: www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-mathematics-of-hacking-passwords/.

Answers: A) Less than 1/3 of a second, B) 3 years, C) 3,169 years*

* Keep in mind that computer power is always increasing and with it, the ability to crack passwords more quickly.
California BANDIT is Craig Drennen’s first solo exhibition in Los Angeles. The exhibition includes painting, sculpture, video, and photography devoted entirely to the character of Bandit from Shakespeare’s Timon of Athens. Since 2008 Drennen has organized his studio practice around Timon of Athens, one of Shakespeare’s most problematic works and the only one of his plays not performed in his lifetime. For each character in the play Drennen produces a distinct body of work, resulting in a collection of related pieces composed of separately considered parts all arising from a weak link in the Western canon.

Drennen began work for the Bandit character in late 2016. The Bandit pieces use a variety of recurring secular signifiers of Santa, so that associations with theft blend into the mythic patriarchal giver. For this exhibition, the imagery is condensed to include candy canes and chimney holes. Versions of the Bandit works have been shown at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Georgia in Atlanta; Cloaca Projects in San Francisco, CA; Atlanta Contemporary in Atlanta, GA; and Unrequited Leisure in Nashville, TN. California BANDIT at Los Angeles Valley College will likely be the final Bandit exhibition, as Drennen prepares for the next character.

About the artist:
Craig Drennen is based in Atlanta, GA and a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow. His work has been reviewed in Artforum, Art in America, and The New York Times. He has been a resident artist at Yaddo, MacDowell Colony, and the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture. He teaches at Georgia State University, served as dean of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, and writes for Art Pulse magazine.
Did you know that there’s a Planetarium nestled between Los Angeles Valley College’s Math Science and Engineering buildings in the southeast portion of the campus? Since 1966, LAVC’s Planetarium has provided a venue for lectures and shows on topics ranging from the constellations, aliens, and space exploration. The Planetarium’s impressive Spitz™ SkyDome projector allows you to experience the heavens from reclining seats. After the show, if the night is clear, you can view what you learned about through the Planetarium’s 16-inch Celestron telescope.

LAVC Planetarium’s link to Valley Glen is sustained by the LAVC Astronomy Group which was founded in 1986 to promote amateur astronomy and a passion for all things space. Many of the group’s members have been active for 10 to 20 years. The group’s guest lectures, the Robert J. Gerard Memorial Lecture Series, are named after its most notable member, Robert Gerard, an LAVC alumnus, and Astronomy Group member for 26 years. When he died in 2014, his brother, Stephen Gerard, made a $50,000 donation to LAVC’s Astronomy program to sustain the program his brother loved so much.

The Planetarium Director Group, who is also the group’s Faculty Sponsor and an Associate Professor of Astronomy, is David Falk, who began as a Planetarium technician in 1986.

Would you like to attend a Planetarium show?

Planetarium shows and lectures are open to the public. The next show will be: “What does it take to become an Astronaut?”.

**When:** December 6th at 8:00 p.m.
Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

**Admission:**
- $6.00 for adults
- $5.00 for Seniors and LAVC students with IDs
- $4.00 for children ages 8 to 12. (Children under the age of 8 will not be admitted.)

There are no advance ticket sales so please arrive early as events may sell out.

**For more information:**
The Astronomy Group publishes a newsletter, the Quarterly Quasar, which can be accessed from the group’s website: LAVCastrogroup.org.

You can also find updates on lectures and shows on the website, or call their hotline at 818-947-2335.
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WE WANT YOU TO JOIN THE GVGC

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Greater Valley Glen Council ("GVGC") has several vacancies on our Board. We invite you to join us! We are looking for energetic, passionate people who want to make a difference in the community served by the Greater Valley Glen Council.

The role of a Neighborhood Council Board member is to listen to the community and advocate on issues like homelessness, housing, land use, emergency preparedness, public safety, parks, transportation, and sustainability. Board members also provide local expertise and a local voice on the delivery of City services to their communities.

Please contact GVGC President Carlos Ferreyra at gvgcferreyra@gmail.com with your interest and come to a meeting. Meeting notices, a map of our Council area, and more information can be found on our website, greatervalleyglenccouncil.org or gvgc.us.

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- Newer garage door
- Newer garage door opener
- Enchanting lighted Backyard

**“I Carry On While Others Quit”**
Crime is Down
As compared to this same time last year, I’m pleased to report that crime is down North Valley Glen. It’s down 12.5% in violent crime and 12.6% in property crime.

C.A.R.E. Teams
The City of Los Angeles recently rolled out new protocols and procedures pertaining to homeless encampments. Instead of relying solely on a case-by-case, complaint-driven model, the city is taking a more proactive approach. The city created neighborhood-based comprehensive C.A.R.E (Cleaning and Rapid Engagement) teams to provide health services to the homeless and ensure the most heavily impacted areas receive regularly scheduled clean-ups. CARE teams will also receive mental health training and will deliver public health resources to homeless communities including daily trash collection, mobile showers, and restrooms. To report a large transient encampment or for a CARE team response please call 311 or use the 311 application for your smart phone or mobile device. For more information, Google: CARE Teams Los Angeles.

Home Occupation Guidelines
Recently I have received several reports of individuals either storing or repairing vehicles on the street or using their home as an auto repair or body shop. The city’s Municipal Code places limitations and restrictions on what kind of occupations can be conducted from a residence. Any occupation which disrupts or is inconsistent with the character of the neighborhood is prohibited. Prohibited uses include: Automotive repair, painting, body fender work and tow truck services. Please report any such activities to me directly or make a complaint through the LA Department Building and Safety Code Enforcement at ladbs.org.

Contact Info:
Senior Lead Officer Michael Perez
818-731-2566
35569@lapd.online
Who are we?

The Valley Glen Clean Team is a hardy group of volunteers who meet once a month with the goal of making/keeping Valley Glen a beautiful place to live. We’re not always the same group of people, though happily we do have a small core of dedicated team members who come out almost every month.

The City provides tools such as hoes, shovels, rakes, sidewalk scrapers, and brooms, along with trash bags, masks and gloves. The Greater Valley Glen Community Council (GVC) just donated the lovely yellow safety vests you see in the pictures, as well as heavy leather gloves and protective eyewear. Thank you, Council! And the thoughtful team leader always brings drinks and snacks.

On Saturday, September 21, five volunteers tackled the alley south of Victory between Coldwater Canyon and Goodland. The area was overgrown with weeds and filled with trash, and someone had dumped four old rugs in the alley. Francisca, Debbie, the two Candys, and our indomitable team leader, Robin Shafer, attacked the alley and got most of the weeds and trash into 13 black trash bags. Some of the businesses along Victory let the team use their dumpsters for the rugs, and more leaves and trash. Thank you, businesses on Victory!

After that cleanup, the team delivered written requests to most of the businesses along the alley, asking them to help us maintain the new and improved clean look of the alley. A month later, the alley still looked good. Way to pull together, Valley Glen!

On Saturday, October 19, the Clean Team met again. This time, there were five volunteers: Susan (a new volunteer), Soraya, Debbie, and Harry joined Robin. They targeted Fulton just above Burbank, north of the bike path and the Orange Line, where weeds were growing over the sidewalk, making it difficult to walk. By the end of the morning, they had collected eight bags of weeds and trash.

When and where do we meet?

- The 3rd Saturday of each month
- At the Valley Glen Community Park (northeast corner of Erwin and Ethel)
- At 8:00 a.m.

Got suggestions?

Email your suggestions for places that need cleaning, to Robin at CleanUp@VGNA.org. We review the suggestions you send and tackle one each month, or more than one if they’re small.

When will the Clean Team meet next*?

- January 18
- February 15 (note the early February date due to the holiday weekend)
- March 21

* The team is taking December off for the holidays, but everyone can still celebrate by picking up as you go, or using your MYLA311 app.

Will you join us? We would love to have new members in the new year. There’s no need to commit to every month—come when you can!