



# The Village Green Highlights

Spring 2005

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Village Green Owners' Association

5300 Rodeo Rd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

## Village Green Celebrates Black History Month Lecture on Paul Williams, Architect

"A gentle man with a dream" is how Karen Hudson describes her grandfather, famed architect Paul Williams. Hudson was the guest speaker for our Black History Month Celebration on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Over 50 Village Green residents turned out for this very special event, sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee.

Although most people in the audience knew of the quality of Williams' work, many people were overwhelmed by the quantity of work he produced. Ms. Hudson's slide presentation and talk included an overview of the numerous Los Angeles landmarks that Williams designed, many of which currently carry a multi-million dollar price tag. Williams' attention to detail and his fondness for curves were pointed out throughout the presentation. Hudson's talk was entertaining and informative. She included several anecdotes about the challenges Williams faced as LA's premiere African-American architect. *continued, p. 2*

## New Parking Enforcement

Effective January 1, 2005, escort and patrol officers have begun to **ACTIVELY** enforce parking regulations by issuing citations and towing unidentified vehicles.

Register Your Vehicles.

Read more on p. 7

# Advertise in Highlights

Have a business or service you think VG residents should know about?

**Advertise in Highlights!**  
See p. 6 for rates.

## Annual Board Election Results

Candidate	# of Votes	Children's Play Area & Equipment	
Thomas Brown*	195		
Christopher Harris*	174	Yes	88
Nat Hutton	209	No	202
Sten Johnson	64		
Michael King	147		
Cynthia Singleton*	240		
Barbara Washington*	238		

Five seats on the Board were available.

\*incumbent

# Friends of the Village Green (FOViG)

## A New Non-profit Organization to Encourage Education and Preservation at the Village Green

Friends of the Village Green (FOViG) is a newly established non-profit educational organization established by residents at the Village Green. FOViG will soon have 501(3)(c) not-for-profit status, which means that all donations to FOViG's preservation and education projects will be tax-deductible!

The first project FOViG will concentrate on is the restoration of the Rico LeBrun mural in the clubhouse. The VG Grant Committee has already raised \$17,000 for the restoration. But additional funds are needed to meet the project's budget. Once FOViG has non-profit status, it can apply for government and private grants that are only available to 501(3)(c) organizations. Hopefully, this will allow us to raise the extra funds needed for the project. If you'd like to give to the project, your donation will be tax deductible. More information about how to donate will be coming in your mail soon.

In addition to the LeBrun mural,

FOViG has plans to get funds for these other preservation projects:

- restore the main room in the clubhouse to its original state
- repair and update the irrigation system, which is crucial to preserving the VG's historic landscape
- organize educational lectures about landscape architecture and urban planning, and tours for university students

Many of the Village Green's committees may be eligible for funding through FOViG if the activities are educational or related to preservation. Funding could potentially help support our tree and flower tours, the cultural landscape report that the Landscape Committee is preparing, and any preservation needed on the buildings.

FOViG has its own board of directors and will be a distinct organization from the VG Homeowners' Association. The board is composed of non-VG residents—landscape architects, city planners, and preservationists—as well as VG residents. Nat Hutton will be

by the VG HOA board liaison.

Be on the lookout for future events and preservation initiatives sponsored by FOViG!

--Susan Edwards, Grant Committee

### **Friends of the Village Green Board of Directors**

Bernie Altman—Architect,  
FOViG Treasurer

Carson Anderson—Architectural  
Historian

Wendell Conn—VG Resident

Patricia Diefendorfer—City Planner

Steven Keylon—VG Resident,  
FOViG Secretary

Don Marquart—ASLA, Landscape  
architect Professor, UCLA Extension

Robert Nicolais—Architect,  
FOViG President

Amanda Seward—Attorney

Steve Tomko—Architect

### *Paul Williams Lecture, continued from page 1.*

For example, he learned to draw upside down, working across the table from his white clients whom he could not stand next to. Entertainer Danny Thomas eulogized Williams at his funeral in gratitude for Williams' design (at no charge) of St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Tennessee. Williams also had an office in Bogotá, Colombia, and also designed buildings in many other major cities in America and Europe.

Cultural Affairs Committee member Maryanne Des Vignes introduced Ms. Hudson, who was her childhood friend and neighbor. Des Vignes spoke about the work Hudson has done to keep Williams' legacy alive through lectures and publishing biographies of his life and work, including a children's version. Des Vignes talked about how the children in her neighborhood thought Williams' home looked like a cruise ship and that the design of the spaceship (Encounter restaurant) at LAX airport was "really cool." VG resident Gailyn Saroyan talked about the connection between Paul Williams and VG architect Reginald Johnson. After the presentation there was a book signing and light refreshments. CAC members who assisted with this event include Louise Boardley, Gerald Briley, Alva Harper, Gale Harris, Robert Nicolais, Molly O'Brien, Becky Shaw and Jean Wilson.

Karen Hudson co-authored *Basic Black*, and now writes an advice column. She can be reached at [talktome@thewavenewspapers.com](mailto:talktome@thewavenewspapers.com).

Molly O'Brien, Cultural Affairs Committee

# Village Green A-Bloom for Early Spring Tour



The Village Green has been blessed with an early spring this year. It actually began during the last week of December when the *Pyrus kawakamii* (Evergreen Pear) started

blooming with masses of 3/4-inch white flowers. In January, many other plants throughout the Green began putting on a beautiful display. The spring flowering should continue through the end of April.

To share this spectacular showing of flowers with residents, The Village Green Tree Committee sponsored a walking tour of the grounds in mid-February to show the flowers off at their peak. The tour on Saturday February 12th was titled "St. Valentine's Hearts, Flowers, and Trees Tour of the Village Green." Although it rained every day of the week prior to the tour, it stopped raining just a few hours before the tour's 10 a.m. start. There were ten brave residents who showed up at the clubhouse, some of them armed with umbrellas.

The tour gave residents an opportunity to look at the plants up close. First we looked at *Camelias*. Many of these shrubby perennials grow near the clubhouse and in both the East and West circles. They flower in red, white and pink, some solidly and others in combinations. Some of these plants were almost 20 feet tall. In Court 15 we found some spectacular specimens of *Brunfelsia pauciflora* 'Floribunda' (Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow). This plant's common name comes from the quick color change its blossoms make, from purple (yesterday), to lavender (today), to white (tomorrow).

In addition to flowering perennials and shrubs, a large number of flowering vines are growing on walls and fences. These include many species of *Calliandra*, which have a large, red puffy flower. The *Solandra maxima* (Gold Vine) has medium-sized yellow trumpet-shaped flowers. And the air was heavily perfumed with the fragrance of the many



varieties of *Jasminum* (Jasmine) that grow on the Green, most of which have small white or pink flowers.

There are also many spectacular flowering trees on the Green. We have quite a few *Bauhinia* (Orchid Tree), whose medium-to-large flowers range in color from pink, to white, to purple, and actually do look like orchids. The large *Erythrina* (Coral Tree) in the middle of the main green is one of the most spectacular flowering trees with its large red flowers. The *Magnolia soulangiana* (Saucer Magnolia), a deciduous Magnolia, is one of the smallest trees here at the Green, yet it bears very large, cup-shaped pink and white flowers. And the *Pittosporum undulatum* (Victorian Box), with its wavy leaves and numerous tiny white flowers, creates a powerfully sweet fragrance.



The tour lasted about two hours. A splendid time was had by all. A casual pace gave everyone a chance to soak in the fine details of the colorful landscape, enhanced by the sun, which appeared to splash some intensity on the colors.

The Village Green is a beautiful place any time of year, even when it's raining. We are so lucky to have so much natural beauty around us. Get out, take a walk, and enjoy. Go out often to experience how our landscape changes through the year. To enjoy different views, try walking off of the sidewalks, towards the middle of the greens; when looking at a tree, view it from far away and then look again close up, underneath the tree.

The Tree Committee sponsors several walks a year. Please join us. Our meetings are on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. We hope to see you at the next meeting!

—Jeffrey Mintz, Tree Committee Chair

## Manager's Report—End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2005

Thank you for your efforts to help us improve the Green, especially those many residents who volunteer their time and efforts on our many committees. Through this quarterly column the management of Village Green will try to keep owners advised of the progress and plans within the Green.

**Exterior Building Painting:** Two more buildings (78 and 79) are completed and another started. In April the last building from the 2004 schedule will be painted. In the rest of 2005 eight more buildings will be painted.

**Garage Painting:** Court 4 Garages require extensive repairs. After they are painted, most of the available 2005 funds for this kind of work will be used. Repairs will begin in the second quarter of 2005.

**Pole Lighting:** Project suspended until Board Treasurer has reviewed current spending. The second phase of the common area lighting project will begin in the second quarter with 12 new pole lights. Late in the second quarter, or early in the third, another six partially-installed light poles in Courts 3 and 9 will be finished, and several other pole lights will be repaired.

**Water Re-piping:** All 11 buildings in Courts 6 and 7 will be re-piped between March 28 and June 10, 2005. Walls opened for the re-piping will be painted between April 1 and June 24, 2005. The Board approved a contract with Hi-Tech Painting Company for interior painting.

**Serpentine Walls:** Seahawk Company began repairs on March 7 to the four worst walls. This first phase should be completed by April 1, 2005. The second phase will be scheduled when funds are available.

**Trench-less Sewer Replacement:** The sewer main replacement for all of Court 5

will be done early in the second quarter by Streamline Plumbing. The sewer in Court 10 will also be replaced as funds become available in the fourth quarter.

**Sidewalk & Walkway Repairs:** The grinding and repairing of trip hazards around the Green continues. One hundred locations will be repaired in the third week of April. An ongoing project.

**Tree Trimming:** Slowly, but surely, we are catching up with tree trimming throughout the Green. Your particular area may not have been trimmed yet, but we're closing in as quickly as we can. This, too, is an ongoing project.

Have a wonderful Spring!

From the Management—Sherri Giles, Alejandra (Alex) Martinez, Harold Graves and Jim Altschuler.

## Join The Safety & Security Committee

### Volunteers needed

We all want to ensure that Village Green residents live in a safe and secure environment. This committee will monitor Allied Barton Patrol (ABP) to make sure they follow their contractual agreement with VG. The committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors and ensure that changes are made immediately to correct any situation. Through Board of Director's Meeting and Court Council Committee Meetings we will give input and address complaints about ABP.

**Meetings:** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7 p.m. for one hour only! Volunteers should be serious about attending all meetings and resolving situations immediately.

**First meeting is April 18. See you there!**

## Passages ...

We are reviving the *Passages* section of this newsletter. If you want to share a story about a VG resident who has moved in, moved on, or just had an interesting new twist in their life, please send it in! Submissions should identify the resident, give their court location, and be about 100 words. Send your *Passages* articles to the editor at [vghighlights@yahoo.com](mailto:vghighlights@yahoo.com).

# Harold Graves' Maintenance Corner

## Maintaining Your Water Heater

### Check List for Water Heaters

- Check your Water heater periodically for leaks.
- Ventilation pipes should be checked to make certain that are clear every three months.
- Drain and re-fill the water heater once a year to remove sediment and mineral buildup.
- Temperature should be set at 125 degrees; ant hotter may cause serious burns.
- Recovery after depletion (about 2 showers):
  - new 30-gallon electric water heater - about 30 minutes
  - new 30-gallon gas water heater – about 20 minutes
- If you plan to be away for 1 week or more, lower the water heater temperature setting to “vacation” (approximately 60–70 degrees) for safety and to save money.
- When a water heater is 8 years old, you should begin to inspect it more regularly for signs of leaks, the odor of gas, sparks, or any other sign that the heater’s time has passed and it is time to replace it. A properly maintained good-quality water heater may last as long as 15 years.

### Know Your Water Heater

1. Earthquake strap
2. Drain pan
3. Brass nipples (NOT galvanized)
4. Pressure relief valve – on the “Tee” of the faucet (This can be inside, with a drain pipe extending to the outside of the building.)

## Mills Act Meeting and Discussion

with Lambert Giessinger, Mills Act Program Officer,  
City of Los Angeles

Saturday April 9, 2005 – 2:00 p.m.  
in the Clubhouse

Learn how to reduce your property taxes under the Mills Act Preservation Program.  
Come to the meeting to find out what the obligations are, and how to apply.

# ADVERTISE IN HIGHLIGHTS

## How to Submit

Please submit ads by e-mail if you can. Most file-types are acceptable. Hard copies should be mailed to the office.

e-mail submissions: [vghighlights@yahoo.com](mailto:vghighlights@yahoo.com)

## Deadline

The 15th day of the month before publication: quarterly on the first of April, July, October, and January.

## Fees

Payment should be made out to:  
Village Green Owner's Association

## Mail fees and hard copy ads to:

Highlights Editor  
Village Green Homeowners Association  
5300 Rodeo Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

## Community Ads for VG Residents

40 words or less, non-commercial.  
\$3 per issue; \$5 for 3 issues.

### Examples:

Seeking activity partners. Offering services like babysitting, house sitting, car washing, etc.  
Selling household items, bikes, or other personal items

## Home-based Business Rates

For services from your home or in others' homes that do not require a license.

## Commercial Rates

Businesses or services requiring a license and/or operations permit. Examples:  
real estate, day care, financial services, retail, electrical, plumbing, handyman, painting, etc.

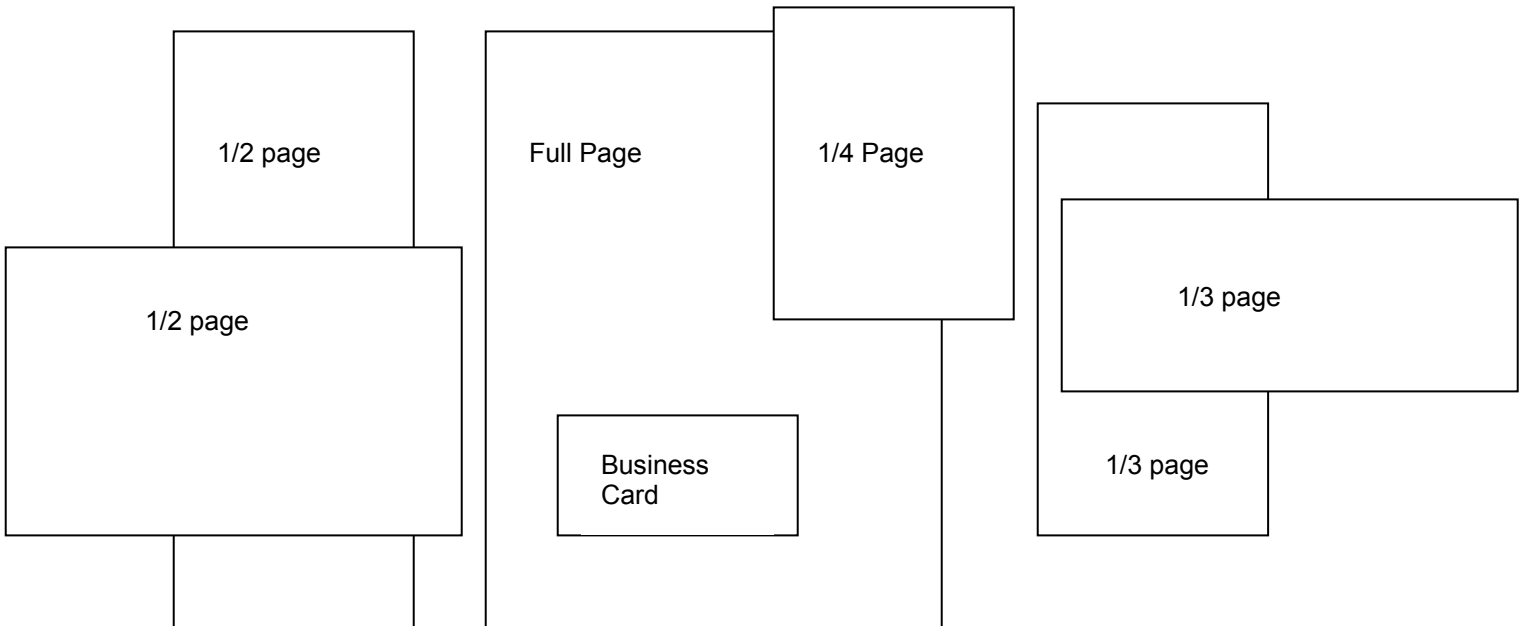
The Highlights editor reserves the right to decline any advertising.

Questions? e-mail [vghighlights@yahoo.com](mailto:vghighlights@yahoo.com)

or drop your written question at the office attn: Highlights Committee

## Ad Sizes & Rates

Size	Dimensions	VG Residents		Non-residents	
		Home	Commercial	Home	Commercial
Business Card	3.25" W x 2"H	\$20	\$30	\$30	\$60
1/4 Page	3.25" W x 4.75" H	\$30	\$60	\$50	\$100
1/3 Page	3.25" W x 6.5" H	\$40	\$80	\$70	\$140
1/2 Page	7.5" W x 3.25" H	\$50	\$100	\$90	\$180
	7.5" W x 4.5" H				
Full Page	3.25" W x 9.75" H	\$90	\$140	\$130	\$220
	7.5" W x 9.75 H				



# Parking Enforcement

In a community association like Village Green, with limited parking space and no restricted access, a good quality of life atmosphere depends on all residents complying with the parking regulations. The Board of Directors reconstituted the Parking Enforcement Committee to revise the regulations, review parking complaints received by the manager, and present equitable solutions. The revised parking regulations were mailed to owners in early December. The parking rules and regulations are posted in every laundry room and are available from the front office.

Because Village Green has no restricted entries, VGOA must be able to identify resident's vehicles from those of visitors and non-authorized vehicles. Per the VG Handbook, everyone who lives at Village Green is required to register their vehicles with the Village Green office and obtain the appropriate sticker for all vehicles. All residents are required to follow the parking rules and park their vehicles in the appropriate areas at all times.

Effective January 1, 2005, our escort and patrol officers have begun to ACTIVELY enforce the regulations by issuing citations to vehicles which are in violation of the parking rules and regulations. In addition, they have begun towing unidentified vehicles from the property.

To avoid costly misunderstandings the Parking Enforcement Committee, on behalf of the VGOA, strongly suggests that you register your vehicle immediately with the office, if you have not already done so. We advise that if you have changed vehicles within the last 3 years while living at VG, you should contact Sherri Giles in the front office to verify that the registration information is correct.

—Reba Glover, VGOA Board of Directors

## Notes from the Board

*Approved board meeting minutes are posted by the board on the Clubhouse door.*

The Board approved the purchase of replacement computers for the Village Green office. The replacement computers will be configured and networked with DSL Internet access. One of the greatest benefits of upgrading our computer systems is that we will be able to access our account with Ross Morgan to review and obtain real-time payment activity and history as well as generate meaningful financial reports, which will assist in effectively managing our budget.

Board meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the clubhouse.

## Incident Reports

**February 16**—A resident reported a wallet, cell phone and PDA stolen from unit.

**February 19**—Four men approached an Allied-Barton Officer between Courts 5 and 6. One of the men jumped on the patrol cart and removed the officer's keys. The four men then ran towards La Brea Avenue.

**February 27**—A resident reported a vehicle fire in Court 9. The Fire Department came and extinguished the fire. Later, it was determined that the vehicle may have been stolen.

**March 6**— A resident in Court 15 was reported unable to move. Paramedics were called to the unit.

**March 7**—A resident fell; paramedics were called.

**March 16**—A resident in Court 7 reportedly fell; paramedics were called.

# Committee News and Reports

**Clubhouse Committee**—The committee agrees with the Board’s decision to reduce non-refundable fees for Clubhouse rental. A request has been submitted to Coit Company for professional cleaning of the vinyl flooring. J.C. Penny has been contacted to re-hang the drapes. The Social Recreation Committee will purchase two locked and enclosed outdoor bulletin boards—one for Board of Directors’ use, the other for committees.

**Court Council**—The gate on Sycamore is left open from 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. for use by maintenance and residence. The committee is reviewing the Mission Statement for Court Council and the Statement of Purpose and Functions of Court Council and Court Representatives. Goals for 2005 include the Annual Town Hall Meeting, revising the VG Handbook, updating the VG Directory, and continuing the “Know Your Neighbor” campaign.

**Design Review**—The painting project is the primary concern of the committee, which is addressing how to protect the buildings and maintain their appearance within a restricted budget. While painting does move forward, the pace is not ideal. Awning violations are also a concern. Stenciling ideas were discussed for unit numbers. Letters to be sent to residents in violation of satellite dish regulations have been delayed.

**Grant Committee**—The committee is helping Friends of Village Green (FOViG ) look for a pro bono lawyer and discussing fundraising options. Discussions about Mills Act procedures continue. The city now accepts applications from homeowner associations. The upcoming California Preservation Conference will take place in Riverside.

**Landscape Committee**—Bennett Landscaping President Sean Bennett and Supervisor Azor Gonzales attended a meeting to discuss the following issues: solutions to reduce turf damage by carts, procedures for starting the mulch program, turf re-seeding, height of the rose garden barrier, and removal of dead plant material. The committee is also working on the North Side Plant Replacements project.

<b>Village Green Committee Meeting Times and Chairs</b>			
Budget & Finance	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m.	Gina Tramel
Clubhouse	Thursdays		Pricilla Browner
Court Council	1st Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Kathryn Carr
Cultural Affairs	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Molly O'Brien
Cultural Landscape	1st & 3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Mickey Fielding
Design Review	1st Monday	7:30 p.m.	Kathleen Louw and Frances Moore
Grants	2nd & 4th Wednesday	8:00 p.m.	Susan Edwards and Robert Nicolais
Highlights	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Susan Edwards
Landscape	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m.	Lorraine Secor
National Historic Landmark	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	Robert Nicolais
Safety & Security	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m.	
Social Recreation	Thursdays	12–2:30 p.m.	Pricilla Browner
Trees	3rd Monday	7:30 p.m.	Jeffrey Mintz and Gordon Brooks

**National Historic Landmark**—Friends of Village Green (FOViG) had its first board meeting. There have been discussions with the city’s Division of Street Trees about trees on the median along Rodeo Rd. The committee addressed concerns about Mills Act participation, and hopes to develop a survey and host a meeting with city representatives.

**Social Recreation**—Future social events: day trip to Pechanga Resort and Casino on April 20, three days at the Flamingo Hilton in Laughlin in mid-August, lunch at the Glendale Theatre on October 29, dinner theatre at Griswold’s Claremont Center on December 15, and a Baja New Year’s Cruise to ring in 2006.

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Village Green *Highlights* is the community newsletter of the Village Green Owners Association, incorporated August 8, 1973. We make every attempt to ensure the accuracy of all information. However, we are not responsible for errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in this publication. The editor reserves the right to edit articles and letters for tone, clarity and length. Opinions expressed in *Highlights* do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Board of Directors or the Management. Please submit submissions or comments to the editor at [vghighlights@yahoo.com](mailto:vghighlights@yahoo.com), or to the office.