

The Village Green Highlights

A Quarterly Publication of the Village Green Owners' Association

Summer 2008

Save the Date: Annual Town Hall Meeting September 20, 2008

Coming in on Saturday, September 20, is the annual Town Hall Meeting, sponsored by our Court Council. This is the chance to pose your questions directly to the Board of Directors.

Your questions help make the meeting relevant, lively and informative. The meeting will be presented in two parts: during the first half, the Board will address questions submitted in advance; during the second half, they will answer questions from the floor.

Keep an eye out for flyers announcing the date of the Town Hall Meeting. Please submit your questions for the Board in writing to your Court Representative or to the Village Green office by August.

The Second Annual Village Green Art Show June 1, 2008

The Cultural Affairs Committee held the fourth annual Village Green Art Show on Sunday June 1. There were 14 artists, some repeats from prior years and some new artists. Lots of residents, probably around 80, wandered in and out during the afternoon munching on home-made cookies and cupcakes. The real test of success was passing the art obstacle course, firmly administered by the Art Authority, a.k.a. the singing cowboy Dan Frank, ably assisted by son Cory. This was real-world experience in such things as thinking both inside and outside the box and figuring which basket one should put one's eggs in. The rest of the show had a good range of paintings, drawings, jewelry and crochet-work, and no further tests were administered.

Thanks to the artists, Mary Jane Armstrong, Kay Brown, Sylvia Brown, Muriel Dickerson, Diann Dumas, Norma Flynn, Dan and Corey Frank, David Mellon, Robert Nicolais, Pamela Richardson, Joya Steadle, Ken Washington through Helen Washington, and Barbara Wright. Thanks also to Alva Harper, Jean Wilson, Allison Grover Khoury, Jeanne Wynn and Molly O'Brien from the Cultural Affairs Committee.

—Robert Nicolais

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<http://villagegreenla.net>

Garden Gurus

Create a Habitat for Wildlife on Your Patio

If you recall, in Fall 2007, we referenced the National Wildlife Foundation's Web site, www.nwf.org, as a resource where Village Green residents can learn how to create natural habitats in their patios for the wildlife that inhabits the Green. To create a habitat-friendly patio, the National Wildlife Foundation suggests you need four components: water, food, cover, and a place to raise young.

Some of us (Laurie included) have turned our patios into habitat-friendly places for birds, butterflies and opossums to nest and bear young all year, even in the middle of winter. "I had hummers nesting in my bougainvillea plant in my patio last year during the summer. I was very careful not to move the nest, as I wanted to see if it would be reused this year. Sure enough, a hummer returned to use the very tiny nest this winter, in the middle of January. Even when it was freezing outside, mother bird was nesting and sitting on her eggs. Hummers usually bear two small eggs on which they sit for three weeks until hatched. The youngsters stay in the nest for another three weeks, then off they all go! This year, as soon as the first pair was gone, another mother came into the nest almost immediately, and nested through March and April. This was a fascinating cycle of nature to watch." QUOTE source??

Watch Out for Invasive Plants

On a less cheerful note, several species of invasive plants are showing up at the Green in patios and common areas. Invasive plants present many problems for Los Angeles' eco-system. A complete description and inventory of these plants can be found in the Sunset Western Garden Book, or at the California Invasive Plant Council web site, www.cal-ipc.org, which is very thorough, complete and helpful for identifying and qualifying what invasive plant material is, and warns, "Don't plant a pest! Give them an inch and they'll take an acre!"

Good Bamboo, Bad Bamboo

There are two types of bamboo—one is invasive and can be destructive, the other is not. Bamboo types are known by their root systems—running or clumping. The running type causes trouble because its rapidly growing underground stems invade pipes and other building infrastructure. These underground stems, called rhizomes, will grow long distances horizontally before giving rise to vertical stems. They will eventually form groves of considerable size, unless the rhizomes are curbed. Golden bamboo is a common running bamboo species, and is best contained in tubs to prevent destructive proliferation. The underground stems of clumping bamboo, however, have very little horizontal growth. Although the plant expands in diameter, it does so slowly and makes a tight clump, not a grove. Clumping bamboo is appropriate for the patios and common areas of the Green. Try any of the following species: golden goddess, Alphonse Karr, Mexican weeping, or Buddha's belly.

Horsetail, Mexican Feather Grass, Spider Plants, and More...

Another extremely invasive plant, which is very popular with landscapers these days, is *Equisetum hyemale*, or horsetail. It spreads rapidly by underground runners and is extremely difficult to get rid of. Our horticulturist consultant warns one must dig it out by the roots in order to completely eradicate it; pulling won't do the trick. Horsetail is best confined to containers. Landscapers are currently planting this all over L.A., but it is not welcome at the Green. Neither is Mexican feather grass, another favored plant chosen for planting by L.A. landscapers this year. This grass is self-seeding and the seeds are wind-carried, which allows the plant to "jump" and re-seed in unwanted areas (such as your neighbor's patio or the common beds). Some other invasive plants found in the Green that should be treated as weeds are: spider plant (very pretty with delicate blossoms, but best contained in a hanging basket), creeping charlie, Algerian ivy, wandering Jew, and *oxalis corniculata*. Most of these are relatively easy to pull out and should be removed when discovered.

—Laurie Liles and Lorraine Secor

DIDJA KNOW?

The hustle and bustle of school, work, church and family obligations can leave us with very little time to “get to know our neighbors.” But wouldn’t it be nice to hear about some of the exciting, fun and interesting things our neighbors are involved in? Wouldn’t it be nice to share some of your latest vacation adventures, family celebrations, or work related successes with neighbors of our Village Green community?

Well, guess what? You now have a great opportunity to share some of these tidbits with the introduction of our new feature entitled, “Didja Know” (Did you know). We kick off this quarter’s edition with some really exciting tidbits about a few of our neighbors.

- Congratulations to Drew and Naya-Bloom Furedi on the birth of their son Cai on April 24, 2008. Enjoy your new journey of parenthood!
- Congratulations are also in order to our neighbors Georgia and Ted Lumpkin on the birth of their first great-grandson Jayden Campbell, born on August 25, 2007.
- On June 1, 2008, wedding bells joyously rang as Daniel Millner and Tammy Matz became husband and wife. The happy couple enjoyed a wonderful honeymoon driving up our beautiful coast. Congratulations Daniel and Tammy!
- Nat Hutton, former CEO of the Los Angeles Family Housing Corporation was recently honored for his outstanding contributions to the organization at their 25th Anniversary celebration held at the Skirball Center. Way to go Nat!
- July is a very important month for neighbor Cynthia Singleton. Cynthia will be ending her 30-year successful career with the Gas Company. Congratulations on your retirement!
- Anne Cherien (a.k.a. Anne Kurashige), neighbor and author, published her first book of fiction. Learn more about Anne and her book in this issue of *Highlights* (see page 4). Congratulations Anne!



Wow! Betcha didn’t know that so many positive exciting things are happening with our neighbors. Don’t miss an opportunity to share your good news with neighbors. Contact any member of the Highlights editorial staff to share your tidbit of excitement.

—Barbara Washington

Summer Safety Tips

Splish, Splash: In the Water

School is out and many of our children will be heading to the pool or beach for some great fun in the sun. For the safest trip to the pool or beach, the American Red Cross offers the following tips:

- Don’t consider any child to be safe in the water, even if they have had swim lessons.
- Make sure you swim at pools or beaches attended by a life guard.
- Always stay within arm’s length of your child.
- If you do sign up for an infant/toddler water program, don’t allow the child to be under water repeatedly, as they could swallow toxic amounts of pool water.
- Don’t use water wings or other blow-up type swimming aids as a replacement for a life vest. If the wings should suddenly deflate, or if a swim ring overturns, the child is in imminent danger.
- It’s always a good idea to brush up on your CPR and other lifesaving skills. The local chapter of your American Red Cross, or your city’s Recreation Department, will probably hold several training sessions a year.

Vacation Security

Before you leave...

- Install good locks and engrave valuables with your driver’s licence number, preceded by “CA.”
- Make your house appear “lived in.” Use timers for lights, and have a friend pick up mail and keep plants watered.
- Leave trip plans and emergency

—continued on p. 6

A Good Indian Wife Walks the Village Green

by Anne Cherian (a.k.a. Anne Kurashige), Court 4

It was the summer of my eleventh year when I told my parents that I was going to be a writer. I imagined myself sitting barefoot at a typewriter, writing a novel; I envisioned the blank paper headlined with *Chapter 1*, the successive chapters, and then the last page on which I would write *The End*.

My experience, years later, was nothing like that neat Aristotlean progression. I did write a novel, only to be told by my agent that it required ‘fleshing out.’ She recommended a detailed sex scene, that these days it wouldn’t do to close a door and leave the rest to a reader’s imagination. She also wanted me to tackle a death scene, and so I set about correcting those blips in the novel. Once they were done, and she approved the additions, I waited to hear if the novel would sell.

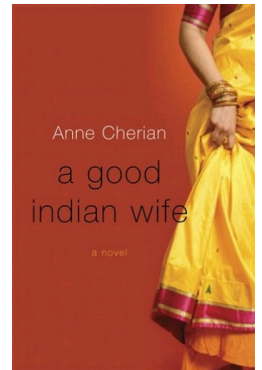
I still recall that incredulous “I hope you are sitting down” day, her voice then informing me to expect a call from my editor ‘welcoming’ me to Norton, the publishing company that bought my novel. It was a warm day on the Green when the phone rang, and throughout that very polite conversation, I waited to hear the real reason for the call: the changes that would be required. I had heard horror stories of writers forced to rework every chapter, and hoped that would not be my fate. Finally, I heard it. “I shall not be requiring too many changes,” my editor intoned. My relief, however, was short-lived, as I wasn’t sure what, exactly, that meant. She would e-mail me, she said, and I waited, that summer, and watched as the guava

tree in Court 14 become white with flowers, then overnight, it seemed, the leaves were interspersed with the darker green of the fruit. Finally, in October, when the guavas were small, hard, ovals, I received that long promised—and true—e-mail asking me to explain a few Indian terms and to add just one scene.

Every morning that Fall, I would walk my two rounds of the Green, stopping each time at the guava tree and pocketing a few fruit that most people find too hard to eat. I’d come home, line them up on the dining room table and sit down at the blank screen of my computer. The guavas were my inspiration, because I only allowed myself to eat them if I had done my quota for the day. As the tree lost some of its fruit, the scene grew, until, finally, a few weeks later, it was done, and magically, my editor approved it immediately.

Thus, when I gave a reading at the Village Green in June, I chose to read that chapter, the last one of the book, though of course, it wasn’t the last one in the book. As I read the words aloud, I remembered my walks, the thoughts that came and went, the guavas in my pocket, waiting to be eaten—truly, a Village Green scene.

Editor’s Note: Get a copy of Anne’s new book, A Good Indian Wife, in your favorite bookstores and online.



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Your Court Council

What should I do when I see children's toys frequently left on lawns overnight? Why don't we fence in the Green? How can we get people to leave their outdoor lights on overnight? How can I get more bins in my trash area?

These are some of the questions that have been raised at the meetings of the Court Council. Each court has a representative and an alternate. They all meet the first Wednesday of each month to discuss and communicate residents' concerns and suggestions via written recommendations to the Board. Reps also distribute the monthly newsletter, the quarterly *Highlights*, and Committee flyers to your mailboxes.

Below is a current list of Court Reps. Note that some courts have a vacancy. So this is a pitch to attend a meeting and volunteer to fill the vacancy. This is a good way to learn how the Green works, what is happening in the Green, and to participate in our unique community.

Court (Unit Numbers)	Court Rep	Phone #	Alternate	Phone #
Court 1 (5112–5148 1/2)	Jean Gaignard	299-0731	Dagmar Buck	292-2028
Court 2 (5150–5194 1/2)				
Court 3 (5196–5254)	Joan Nester	295-9050	Carl Pfirman	299-5216
Court 4 (5256–5304 1/2)	Evelyn Greenwald	290-3168	Juanita Harris	296-0799
Court 5 (5306–5352)				
Court 6 (5354–5414 1/2)				
Court 7 (5416–5462 1/2)	Jim Walton	292-3467	Gary Bond	291-5545
Court 8 (5464–5516 1/2)	Barbara McCully	291-5120	Kristin Norton	310-770-8842
Court 9 (5518–5576 1/2)	Charlotte Asberry	295-3254	Gaye Townsend	296-9132
Court 10 (5565 1/2–5595 and 5578–5594)	Linda Allen	291-5442		
Court 11 (5507–5563)	Nat Hutton	298-4400	Wendell Conn	291-2460
Court 12 (5445–5505 1/2)	Kathryn P. Carr	291-2505	Harriet Bone	293-0541
Court 13 (5389–5443 1/2)	Alice Haggerty	293-7630	Evangeline Hutson	296-0646
Court 14 (5323–5387 1/2)	Bob McGinness	310-403-1607	Nancy Heck	298-1425
Court 15 (5191–5263)	Marilyn Patterson	263-7847	Muriel Dickerson	294-5040
Court 16 (5147–5189 1/2)	Carolyn Middleton	294-5966		
Court 17 (5119–5145 1/2)	Regina Bryant	298-5737	Patricia Graham	291-9299
E/W Circle (5265–5321 1/2)	Vi Parks	294-5311	Cynthia Cyrus	294-7747

**Summer
Concerts!**

Hope you enjoyed the
Concert on the Green
on June 29!

Don't Miss the
next concert!!
Monday, September 1

phone numbers with a trusted friend.

While Sight Seeing...

- Looking lost may make you seem like an easy target. Ask directions at your hotel before you step out and ask if there are any areas of town you should avoid.
- If older children go off separately, make sure they understand the importance of returning promptly at appointed hours.

Hotel and Motel Security

- Arrange your things in the room so that you'll know if something is missing.
- Suitcases should be locked so they cannot be used to carry your property out of the room.
- Use auxiliary locks on windows and doors. You may want to purchase a portable door lock.

Watch the Water!

Please don't wash cars on VG property, or hose down patios!!



Why?

1. It's forbidden in our CC&Rs
2. It wastes water (which we pay for through our Association dues)
3. It's prohibited by the **Los Angeles Prohibited Water Use Ordinance**

We're in drought conditions right now and the Mayor and LADWP are considering fines for violators of up to \$300! Watch the water!

Visit www.ladwp.com for more information.

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Village Green Homeowners Association

June 2008 Newsletter

Notes from the Board Meeting on June 24, 2008

The Board voted 7-0-0-2 to pass Resolution 08-54, 08-56 and 08-57 to record a lien for non-payment. Board passed Resolution 08-55 with a vote of 6-1-0-2. Board Director Ron Williams is resigning from the Board. Since Mr. Williams' resignation from the Board is effective June 24th, the remaining Board directors voted to use the results of the 2008 election to fill the vacant position with Mr. Nat Hutton, who received 133 votes.

Committee Resolutions

Tree Committee Resolution 08-58 to test soil around dying Victorian Box trees passed, 6-0-0-3. Board accepted Safety Committee recommendation to review lighting situation and incorporate funds to addresses this for 2009. Board voted 4-2-0-3 to pass Resolution 08-59 allowing self-defense classes to be offered for residents. Board returned a resolution to the Safety Committee that would authorize additional patrol officers with Escort & Patrol service for 2009. Board discussed keeping this issue in mind during budget preparation for 2009. Resolution 08-61 from Design Review Committee to fabricate new signs for Hauser & Rodeo entrances were approved for \$2335 from operating budget. Board agreed on September 20th as date for Annual Town Hall meeting sponsored by Court Council. Board approved PEC Resolution 08-62 to waive parking citations for 18 owners with vote of 6-0-0-3. Board approved PEC Resolution 08-63 to levy parking fines for 37 owners with vote of 5-0-1-3.

Contracts and Management

Board approved Manager's recommendation to accept Zenith's proposal for VGOA workers' compensation insurance for a total of \$20,403. Board voted 6-0-0-3 to pass Resolution 08-64 to contract with J. Byer Group to provide a geo-technical report for a cost not to exceed \$6,500. Board approved Resolution 08-65, 6-0-0-3 to contract with Higgins Termite to fumigate garages in court 6, 14 & 16 at a cost of \$20,300 from reserve funding. Board approved Resolution 08-66, 6-0-0-3, to spend NTE \$30,000 to replace, repair and install strainers of backflow devices and pipes. Board approved a motion to accept explanation letter from former VG contractor, Underwood Construction and withdraw a complaint to state licensing board. Board discussed current situation that Association Secretary position is not filled but no director volunteered to act as secretary for July. Board approved motion, 4-2-0-3 to accept the Proposal from GAFCON and authorize the Association to sign contract, if GAFCON would incorporate changes made by Association Attorney. Board voted to add addendum to contract for Phase 3 services. Resolution 08-47 failed with vote of 1-5-0-3 to instruct Manager to create a 3-month rolling spending projection. Resolution 08-48 also failed, 1-5-0-3, to have Manager create a project status report. (Manager will continue to use current Manager Report format.) Resolution 08-49 failed, 2-4-0-3, to distribute all owners correspondence loosely to directors mailboxes, rather than placing it in the board packet.

Regular session was adjourned at 10 p.m. to move to executive session. All items from old business, item i through Correspondence: Board Action is tabled to July meeting.

The Board of Directors would like to thank Mr. Ron Williams for his dedicated service to the Village Green Board of Directors and wishes him well.

Manager's Report

New Items

- Irrigation Well—The annual inspection took place on June 12th. The findings were that all is fine with the pump; there does not appear to be any sand in the water being pumped. BUT, the well is lower than everyone would like. We will keep an eye on the water level and inform the Board if it drops even lower.
- Landscape Supervisor—Romero has left TruGreen and we now have Luis Martinez as our new supervisor. He seems very competent and personable.

Ongoing Items

- Exterior Painting—Bldg 59 is complete, Bldg 74 is being prepped, and Bldg 80 is next.
- Tree Trimming—Work has progressed to Ct 11. Project should last until end of July.
- Painting of Garage Courts 6, 14, 16—The bids will be ready for the July Board packet. Meanwhile, fumigation of these courts is being planned for July.
- Maintenance Yard Repair—I will have the bids in the July Board packet.
- Maintenance Yard Clean-up—Work should be complete before the end of July.
- Updating Exterior Signage—Please see resolution from Design Review Committee regarding the ordering of 3 additional signs.

Completed

Patio Repair Work: Repair work on five patios has been completed.

Report from Platt Security Incidents in the VG, May 15–June 14, 2008

May 16—Resident in Court 15 called the paramedics in the morning. Two cars in parked by Courts 16/17 were vandalized. In the evening, a resident in Court 9 reported that a rock had been thrown and into her kitchen window, breaking it.

May 19—Officer reported a complaint between himself and a resident in the evening at the main office.

May 31—In the morning, LAPD responded to a family dispute in Court 7. In the afternoon, Paramedics took a resident in Court 13 to the hospital.

June 10—In the evening, officers noticed a man bleeding outside of Court 13. After investigating, they learned there had been a fight. LAPD and Paramedics were called.

June 11—In the evening, officer responded to a domestic dispute in Court 7. Several hours later, patrol officer noticed LAPD responding to a dispute in the same unit.

June 13—Around noon, an officer witnessed a branch falling from a tree hit a car in Court 13. The officer documented the (minor) damage and made a report.

June 14—Platt officers and LAPD officers responded to a noise complaint in Court 7 at 5 p.m. Neither Platt or LAPD could hear the noise; no action was taken by either group of officers.

Los Angeles Police Department Crime Stats

May 2008

Crimes that occurred
in a one-mile
radius of Village Green

• Burglary	16
• Grand Theft Auto	13
• Theft from Vehicle	15
• Personal Theft	5
• Robbery	11
• Aggravated Assault	9
• Rape	0
• Homicide	0

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, or to the office.