

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

February 2023

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE GREEN BOARD — Compiled by P.J.C.

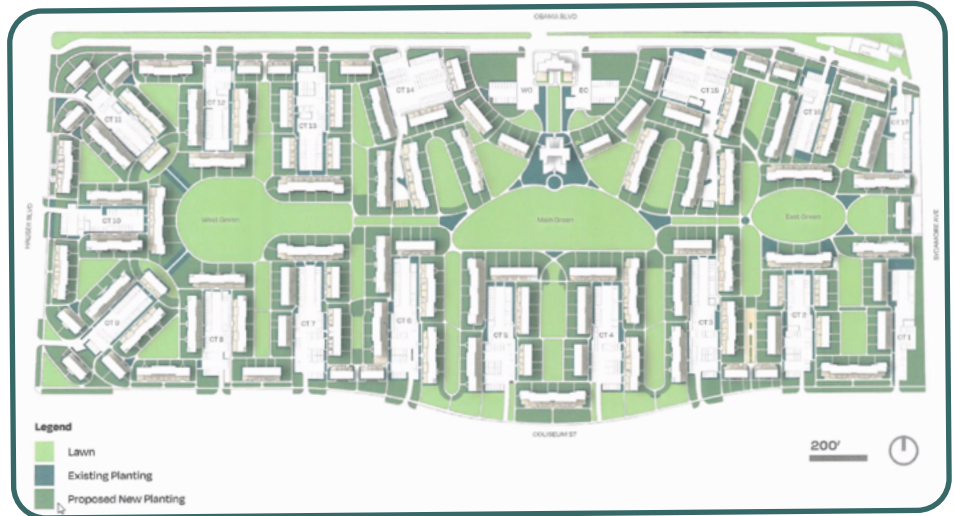
Thirty-two people attended the January Board meeting, including Management and eight directors.

MASTER PLANTING GUIDELINES—

The Board was presented with follow-up materials from landscape design firm Rios' September 2022 proposal toward overhauling the irrigation system. Their central recommendation is to remove the turf immediately in front of units and replace it with drought tolerant plants, thereby drastically reducing water use and maintenance costs.

This approach is in keeping with the Barlow Plan, which originally allocated 11 acres of lawn space at the Green (as opposed to the 25 acres today). Under the Rios plan, lawns would remain in the center sections of all garden

courts as well as the West, Main and East Greens. The Board reviewed site plans, potential plant palettes, and photos of other properties where turf has been replaced by groundcover plantings. Some additional seating options were also discussed. The Board agreed to hold a Town Hall meeting for residents in February to present Rios' recommendations.

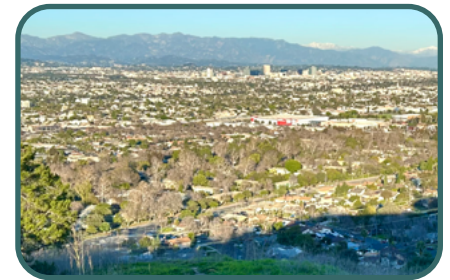


DISCUSSION OF NOISE GUIDELINES—As a follow up to last month's Board discussion regarding excessive noise on the Green, Board member Ashley Fondrevay presented research on what other HOA and municipal organizations do to address such concerns. Several approaches were discussed, including adding LA County noise level guidelines to the Handbook, deputizing Security to intervene and equipping them with decibel meters, and relegating gatherings playing amplified music to the Clubhouse. Several directors volunteered to continue to work on solutions and return to the Board with additional suggestions next month.

HIGHLIGHTS WILL CEASE MONTHLY PUBLICATION—The Communication Committee informed the Board that the production of the **Village Green Highlights** is not sustainable in its current form for those who volunteer to produce it. Various alternatives were discussed, including quarterly production and online publication. A shorter, monthly version containing the Board, Manager, and Security reports may be continued. (Please see Editor's Note, p.3).

SYCAMORE CORRIDOR REHAB UPDATE—The rehabilitation of Sycamore Avenue to improve privacy and safety along that property border continues. Board member Chris Scornaienchi noted that the removal of weeds, overgrowth, and underbrush had exposed more empty space than anticipated and would require extra planting, costing an additional \$10,160. He asked the Board for those funds, which were granted.

GOPHERS RUN AMOK—Despite eradication efforts, the gopher population has increased. Maintenance Supervisor Darwin Harry-Ruiz estimated that to gain the upper hand, we need an additional 40 traps. The Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase. □



Inside HIGHLIGHTS

Page 2 HOA News

Page 3 Editor's Note

Page 4 Editor's Note cont.

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HIGHLIGHTS is an all-volunteer project of the Village Green Communication Committee.

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MANAGEMENT NEWS from Operations Manager Sherri Giles

Compiled by Lucy Fried

LAUNDRY MACHINE MAINTENANCE

Ms. Giles expressed an unusual frustration with WASH, the company whose machines the Green has been using for years. Eleven machines needed replacement, with two in courts 13 and 14 deemed most problematic. However, the replacement machine in 14 became inoperable soon after it arrived, and work orders for 13 complained of an incomplete rinse cycle in their new machine. As of the Board meeting, WASH had not yet provided a replacement schedule for the remaining nine other machines.

ELECTRICAL UPGRADE PROJECT

The project team plans to launch the construction phase in early March and announced they will hold at least one homeowner/resident meeting beforehand. In December, the Board okayed Building 91 as the pilot building.

AT&T LANDLINE SERVICE

After receiving calls from residents reporting AT&T landline service interruption, Management made multiple calls to the company and later learned the outage went well beyond the Green. As of this writing, the office is hoping for information from AT&T as to the status of this continuing outage.

GARAGE INSPECTIONS

Management will soon send notices to residents whose garages were not inspected late last year. Also, residents with items of concern, such as flammables, will receive correction notices with inspection dates as well.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PAINTING AND INSULATION

Management is still catching up with the COVID lag in its 10-buildings-a-year painting schedule but intends to finish buildings 67, 68, and 70 in March. Then they will present a resolution for 2023's building painting.

GROUNDS UPDATES

GreenCrew: The well pump was not needed for over a month, thanks to the rains. Workers blew the sidewalks clean weekly to forestall pedestrian slip and fall injuries. The rains also brought "a plethora of weeds," which the crew is tackling in both the garage courts and between the cracks in sidewalks. Workers will be detailing in courts 8-13 and Sycamore Ave. in February.

Arborist: Carlberg completed a regular inspection of trees in courts 1-3 and a rapid walk-through of the whole property. They made no new immediate action recommendations. □



PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT December 23, 2022 - January 18, 2023

Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

SUSPICIOUS PERSON: December 23, Court 7 & 6, 11 am.

Officers acted on a call and searched unsuccessfully for a possible transient in both courts and others.

VERBAL ASSAULT OF CHILDREN: December 29, Court 11, 9:45 am. Residents reported a neighbor verbally harassing children for no apparent reason.

VEHICLE VANDALISM: January 7, Court 11, 9:45 am. A resident reported his driver's side car window was shattered overnight. Nothing of value was stolen.

NEIGHBORS DISPUTE: January 10, Court 16, 9:15 am. A resident reported a neighbor for ongoing verbal abuse, possibly related to an old grudge.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON: January 12, Main Green, 5:20 pm. A resident reported an unfamiliar man on the property. Officers

found him later drinking with others on Sycamore and warned him that this is a private property with no public restroom.

TRESPASSER: January 16, Court 6, 3:20 pm. A resident reported an intoxicated man trying to start a fire. Officers asked him to leave, which he eventually did.

WELFARE CHECK: January 16, West Circle, 3:55 pm. Officers received a call from friends of a resident whom they had been unable to reach by phone; they put the caller in touch with the resident.

LICENSE PLATE STOLEN: January 17, Court 11, overnight. A resident reported the rear plate missing.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER STOLEN: January 17, East Circle, overnight. The resident reported the theft the next morning. □

The Last Highlights As We Know It—For Now

In December 2021, I agreed to serve a trial run as acting editor of **Highlights**. More than one year into my six-month trial, I've come to realize that I cannot continue. The job, for anyone who has a full-time job, is unsustainable.

For each of the last four months, I have been out of town during the critical period when **Highlights** comes together—when stories get filed, when reports on Board resolutions and Management activities are compiled, when photography, art and design elements are collected, when layout and above all, editing happens. Not only have I not been around, often as not I haven't even been in the same time zone. It has been exceedingly difficult for me to do this job at all, much less well. Moreover, it has impacted my performance on the job for which I'm *actually* paid, as writer and critic for a wine magazine.



All of us who work on **Highlights** put in many hours to get the publication to your mailbox. Our talented designers, Sophia Beauvy and Kelly Wilson Samojlik devote 5 to 8 hours on a rotating basis to lay out copy each month. Others contribute photographs, stories, interviews, and design materials. As editor, I put in an average of 35 hours a month—planning, scheduling, pulling together stories, collecting materials, taking photos, editing, proofreading, making print runs, wrangling, whip-cracking. Most of this work is loaded into the last two weeks of each month.

I had always hoped that these responsibilities would be shared by a team of editors or executors, and that the burden of production would not settle on one person. The Communications Committee made several entreaties to this end, beseeching volunteers to share the workload, but no one stepped forward. In the end, most of the support came from the editor emerita, Lucy Fried, who had hoped to dial back her hours, but has been repeatedly pressed into service.

Until and unless there are volunteers to help the existing team, this will be the last issue of **Highlights** in its current form. Plans are underway to explore alternative formats. Board news, Management projects, and security details will still be reported on in a curtailed form, shifting at least some coverage online.

Continued on page 4

EDITOR'S NOTE CONTINUED

Continued from page 3

Given this crossroads, I cannot stress this enough: your community needs you. The Village has always relied heavily on volunteers to help with the myriad projects that contribute to making this place special. Many residents devote hours volunteering—members of the Board, the Tree & Landscape, Communications, Cultural Affairs, Court Council, Safety, and Finance committees—many more do not. If you want to continue to see **Highlights** in your mailbox, it's vital for you to get involved. For as long as we've been in existence, and for as long as we hope to thrive, it will always take a village to make the Village Green what it is. –P.J.C. □

