

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

March 2020

NEWS FROM THE BOARD - FEBRUARY

Electrical Phase 1 (Discovery) Update

The Phase 1 electrical contractor has finished surveying and mapping our existing electrical infrastructure and is now completing the single-line building diagrams required for a DWP upgrade plan. A meeting with the company is scheduled for early March. To review the three-phase plan, see **HIGHLIGHTS** December, January, and February issues at www.villagegreenla.net.



First poppy of the season for the bed west of the Clubhouse parking lot.

Annual Meeting Theme

For the 2020 Annual Meeting, directors agreed to build on last year's "sustainability" theme and focus on the sustainability of diversity at the Green in the context of changing demographics. The Communications Committee is thinking of ways to address the question: "What can we do as a community to proactively promote a diverse community?" If you have thoughts on this important topic, please stop by our March meeting on Tuesday 3/10 at 7pm.

FYI: Political Canvassing at the Green

California law now overrules our **Handbook** rule prohibiting anyone, including residents, from canvassing and distributing election information at the Green. Civil Code 4515 says HOAs cannot prohibit members from such activities but can prohibit outsiders from doing so. In response to several owners' requests, directors voted to allow City Council candidates and their representatives to canvass here for seven days during the primary election.

WASH Service

Due to increasing complaints from WASH users in several courts, the board requested a WASH rep attend the meeting and queried her on several items in the lease contract. Directors were not satisfied and resolved to pursue the matter.

Other Important Resolutions Approved

- Liens will be placed on two units in arrears.
- Buildings 18, 27, 39, 43, 45, 49, 54, 54A, 78, and 85 are scheduled for painting (\$186,464), insulation (\$121,289), and carpentry repairs (\$25,680) this year.
- Buildings 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 96, and 97 are scheduled for copper re-piping of their interior water lines (\$275,670) and follow-up painting (\$36,678) this year. This is expected to conclude the re-piping project that, as one director put it, "was 20 years in the making," and finally possible due to the annual cash infusions from the 10-year special assessment. □

VG ELECTION NEWS

Five candidates accepted nomination for six open seats: Laura Civiello; Joseph Khoury; Daniel Millner; Avelene Schodorf; Haleh Shoa.

Owners, please note these dates:

Tues, April 7 - 6:30pm Meet the Candidates
Sat, April 11 - 10:00am Meet the Candidates
Fri, April 24 - 5:00pm deadline to submit ballots to the office
Sat, April 25 - 10:00 am-noon VGOA Annual Meeting and last chance to vote. □



HELP WANTED

The Communications Committee is looking for help creating content and doing updates on the Village Green website.

If you have ideas for digital features or can help with weekly updates, please contact us at VGcomcom@villagegreenla.net □

Common Area Concrete Work

Work is completed in four areas to mitigate trip hazards. Facilities has identified additional areas of need, and bids will be collected and presented to the board.

Landscape Maintenance

Greencrew reported it detailed courts 15-17 in February, plus all the median planter islands throughout the Green and the landscape along Sycamore Avenue. Workers planted about 80 new trees so far this year and have been watering them.

The company said those left to be planted are waiting until their designated locations have been stump-grinded, which should all be finished in the next few weeks.

In addition, workers have repaired several broken sprinklers and lateral lines, as well as three broken mainlines in courts 1 and 13 and along Coliseum south of Building 27. In March, Greencrew plans to detail courts 1-5.

Film Shoot February 13

The VGOA hosted another successful film shoot, this time for a television commercial advertising OBOS, Norway's largest housing developer. The production team was scheduled to be onsite from 6:30 am - 8:30 pm but finished and was gone by 1:00 pm. The Association netted \$4900 for the day.

Arborist Report

After a February walk-through, Cy Carlberg recommended ten trees for removal, including a volunteer ash that is pushing against the roof in a Court 9 patio; it should not be replaced. The others were: three sycamores in the West Sycamore Allee that were planted four years ago, did not receive adequate watering, mulch, or staking, and have not rooted properly; an ash in Court 7; a coast live oak in Court 8; an Italian cypress in Court 14; a western redbud in court 14; a sugar gum in court 17; and a Brazilian pepper in the East Green. One pruning was also recommended. i.e., removal of a laurel-leaf snailseed branch resting on a garage in Court 12.



From Manager Sherri Giles' February Board Report

Major 2020 Refurbishment Projects

- Residential Building Insulation, Painting, and Carpentry Repairs - Facilities has selected and proposed 10 buildings: 18, 27, 39, 43, 45, 49, 54, 54A, 78, and 85.
- Residential Building Copper Re-Piping and follow-up painting - Facilities has selected and proposed seven buildings: 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 97, 98.
- Garages - Facilities has identified garage courts for painting, termite, and carpentry repair, and proposals will be forthcoming. □

PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT January 16 - February 19, 2020



Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

JAN 16 JAN 16 VEHICLE BURGLARIZED, Court 7, 4:36 pm. While parked on Coliseum and working in a resident's unit, a contractor witnessed burglars pull up to his van and steal tools from it. He yelled for help, but the suspects escaped with the tools.

JAN 29 LOUD INSTRUMENT (ONGOING COMPLAINT), Court 7, 7:07 pm. A resident reported a musical instrument being played too loudly. The responding officers listened for ten minutes but could not hear the music.

FEB 6 VG PROPERTY DAMAGE, Court 3, 4:00 pm. A resident reported that a delivery driver had accidentally hit and damaged a garage overhang. The driver admitted fault and gave the responding officer his information.

FEB 15 IMPERSONATION SUBJECT, Court 7, 8:35 am. A resident reported to a VG employee that an unknown man had knocked on his door early on a Saturday morning, identifying himself as, "Village Green personnel." The resident did not respond, and the stranger left. The employee notified Security.

FEB 20 VEHICLES VANDALIZED, Garage Court 4, 6:50 am. A resident reported that someone had smashed windows of three cars. Nothing appeared to have been stolen, although personal items and electronics were in plain view in the cars. □

Highlights is a volunteer project of the VG Communication Committee.

Editor: Lucy Fried Designer: Terry Park

CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY WITH A CLIMATE STRIKE

By Karen Bragg and Susan Di Giulio



On Saturday, Feb 22, the VG Sustainability Group screened two recently launched videos from the Sunrise Movement, a youth-led movement taking action to stop climate change and make this an urgent priority across America.

The well-made videos covered the climate crisis, the Green New Deal, and the importance of voting - and included a call to action for a Climate Strike on Wednesday April 22, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Climate strikes will be planned around the globe - including in Los Angeles. Their call to action is, "ORGANIZE! VOTE! STRIKE!"

Before leaving the Clubhouse, the group agreed to support each other in taking action and reaching out to Village Green residents to participate in the April 22 Climate Strike together, and to have a poster/sign making event the weekend before the Strike.

The videos prompted a lively discussion about the upcoming primary elections, the importance of voting, and which local and presidential candidates have strong policies regarding climate change. Concerns about oil drilling in our backyard - the Inglewood Oil Field - were also brought up, along with ideas for possible action on that issue.

This Climate Strike builds on the momentum of the largest youth-led climate mobilization on September 20, 2019, when 650,000 people across the United States led strikes to call on elected officials to rise up and address the climate crisis. This was a call for US elected officials and world leaders to address the climate crisis with swift and effective policies.

These youth activists see the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives and fossil fuel money on our politics. They are working hard to elect leaders who stand up for the health and well-being of all people and support the Green New Deal. The Green New Deal is a goal-setting resolution

for a 10-year plan to mobilize every aspect of American society to 100% clean and renewable energy by 2030, provide a guaranteed living-wage job for anyone who needs one, and a deliver a just transition for both workers and frontline communities. (See link below.)

Stay tuned for announcements of the date and time of the next meeting.

www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/109/text
(Green New Deal: House Resolution 109 Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal) □

Letter to the Editor

Water Heaters Maintenance



Dear Editor,

A new water heater was put in my unit when I bought it. People tell me it should be replaced every 8-10 years and that I should check it periodically to prevent the flooding that has forced so many VG residents to move out for months while repairs were being done. What maintenance should I do for my water heater?

Jean Savage, Court 4

Dear Jean,

Thanks for your query. VG Facilities Engineer Alfonso Casanova advises checking water heaters yearly for leaks and sounds and flushing them out to remove the rust and build-up. You attach a water hose to the heater to drain it and then add new, clean water. Alfonso suggests hiring a licensed plumber. BTW, VG maintenance does not flush water heaters; and owners are responsible for their units' water heaters.

Have a question or comment? Contact the editor at villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com □

THE GREEN AND BEYOND

FOOT BEATS...

a pleasantly helpful way to experience the Green ...

March Schedule

Mon. 3/2, 9:30 am - Meet at Court 13 entrance, walk VG west area.

Tues., 3/10, 7 pm - Meet at Court 6 entrance, walk VG central area.

Wed., 3/18, 10 am - Meet at Court 4 entrance, walk VG east area.

Thurs., 3/26, 7 pm - Meet at Court 13 entrance, walk VG west area.

Join a beat and enjoy light exercise and fellowship while solving problems like burned out garage lights - and providing a presence that discourages potential bad actors. □

a conversation about school with Court 14 mom Tanya Mills and Highlights editor Lucy Fried



Ten-year residents Pat and Tanya Mills are among Village Green's most satisfied owners. "We love it here," Tanya told me, "especially the green space and interaction with neighbors. With two kids, we make good use of our shady garden court, not only for playing but also for annual music recitals (I teach piano part-time) and occasional afternoon parties for neighbors and friends."

Like so many parents, the Mills have a lot on their plates, so they were glad to learn there was an LAUSD school across the street. Tanya said, "I wanted to walk my kids to school instead of slogging through traffic, to easily attend school events, volunteer in the classroom, and make friends with people in nearby neighborhoods. I knew it would be 'our school' and a good school, and I haven't been disappointed."

Nora (second grader) is thriving at Baldwin Hills Elementary Pilot and Magnet School (BHE). It's a very academically and college-oriented school, and she loves to read, loves the challenges projects pose, is very organized, conscientious, and helpful. She's in the magnet school there. Oliver is now in kindergarten at BHE, and when he comes home, he can't wait to do the activities he did at school that day. Right now, he's excited about paper cutting and practicing using scissors, and he's writing letters in salt, a great multi-sensory activity."

Tanya gives piano lessons after school. She was pretty excited when I talked to her because she had signed up for an after-care spot two weeks ago and had just been notified that she had gotten one. The After "3" Club is at the Baldwin Hills Recreation Center near the back parking lot of the school. It goes from 3-6 pm, costs \$40 a week, and has small classroom settings for homework and arts and crafts and outdoor space for sports. "Now I can give my lessons

without the kids running in and out, of the house - and knowing they are safe and engaged and hanging out with their friends," she said.

Being at a Pilot School

I asked Tanya how she felt about the school atmosphere and its staff. She said she's been pleased with her interactions with the teachers and the principal. "They seem genuinely interested in hearing what I have to say. Overall, I have the feeling that every teacher there wants to be there. As a pilot school, the teachers are very involved with the principal in how the school works. There is a wonderful dedication to their students."



She added, "I like this quote from the principal, Dr. Leticia Davis, regarding pilot schools:

'Our autonomies as a pilot school have enabled our school community to be able to design our instructional framework based on what's important to us. Our teachers can now teach content and frame learning experiences for our students based on what we feel to be of value; it's affirming and validating for our students, as well as empowering and liberating for our teachers.'"

source: <https://www.educationevolving.org/blog/2019/06/teacher-reflections-on-being-culturally-responsive>

BHE recently received a five-year renewal as a Pilot School and was also honored as a California Distinguished School for closing the achievement gap. If you're interested in learning more about BHE, Tanya said she would be glad to talk to you. You can email her at tanjamills@gmail.com. □