

# VILLAGE GREEN

## NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

## Monthly Highlights

### News from the December 15 Board of Directors Meeting

*Claire Joyce, Board Secretary*

#### Management Structure

Prior to the meeting, a presentation was given on the new management structure. It outlined the two new positions, Operations Manager (Sherri Giles), and Facilities Engineer (to be hired).

#### Liens

Five liens were recorded, continuing the effort to address delinquencies that impact our financial standing.

#### 2016 Board Elections

Directors appointed owner volunteers Cynthia Cyrus, Steven Keylon, and Robert Creighton as 2016 Inspectors of Elections, with Mickey Fielding as an alternate. The board also set January 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse for the suspension of voting rights hearing.

#### LED Lightbulbs.

The board approved a safety committee initiative to purchase LED lightbulbs, not incandescent or CFL lightbulbs, when replenishing stock. The committee pointed to energy and overall cost savings and will assist in testing the lightbulbs.

#### Buildings 8 & 14 Cracks.

Following a new report and homeowner comments, directors agreed a further inspection of Buildings 8 and 14 will be scheduled and that directors will be invited to participate. ♦

### Attention VG Owners

One of the most important responsibilities of an HOA member is to vote in the annual election for board directors. Please review the election materials in your mailbox and carefully consider the candidates to whom you will entrust the well-being of our community.

Attend the candidate forums (see details on page 4) and be sure to get your ballot into the Clubhouse no later than 5 pm on Feb. 5 or to Baldwin Hills Elementary starting at 8:00 am on Feb. 6. **The legally required Annual Meeting of Members cannot start until a quorum is reached. Your vote counts.**

### Are You Ready for El Nino?

The first El Nino storms have come and gone, and although forecasters still can't predict with certainty whether the amount of rain still to come will break records, it's wise to be prepared. Here are some tips and information gathered from the City of Los Angeles, our local Fire Station 94, and Village Green management. For more information, go to [www.elnino.com](http://www.elnino.com).

#### Is Village Green Prepared?

Management typically prepares for winter rains and did an extra-thorough job this year. All the drains on the property have been cleared out. Our annual roof clearing was completed in December. Tree branches overhanging buildings and roofs are being trimmed back, and several trees noted as possible dangers are being removed. If you notice something you think might be unsafe in a common area, please fill out a work order so it can be checked.

#### Are You Prepared?

At home: Clear your patio or cover items that shouldn't get wet. Remember to empty water from patio containers, as it becomes a breeding grounds for mosquitoes in warm weather. Review your emergency supplies, including non-electric light sources, water, and toilet paper. *Continued on page 4.*

# Public Security Report

November 10 – December 7

*Edited by Jeanne Gagnard*

**Nov 12 BURGLAR ALARM. W Circle, 10:40am**

LAPD responded to an alarm at a resident’s unit. The owner was not home. No evidence of a break-In was found.

**Nov 12 CAR DAMAGE. Ct. 10, time unknown**

A resident’s car was damaged when his garage door fell onto it.

**Nov 16 FALLEN TREE BRANCH. Ct. 1, 1:00pm**

A Public Security officer observed a large tree branch fall and removed it from the sidewalk.

**Nov 20 STOLEN BICYCLE. Ct. 15, 9:10am**

A resident reported an expensive bike stolen overnight from her garage.

**Nov 21 TEENS IN TREES. East Green, 12:27pm**

Five teens hiding in trees ran from the property when they saw a Public Security officer watching them.

**Nov 23 TEEN DISTURBANCE. Main Green, 7:12pm**

Three teenagers were observed disturbing residents and throwing rocks at a patrol car and the office door. Officers gave chase, and the group ran from the property. A report was filed with LAPD.

**Nov 30 GRAFFITI. Courts 1 and 17, 12:00pm**

Graffiti was observed on the outer garages facing Sycamore. Pictures were taken and the incident documented.

**Dec 03 STOLEN PACKAGES. Ct. 10, 9:20am**

A resident reported the apparent theft of a package containing two iphones by someone who signed for it and posed as a neighbor. On Dec 07, 11:30a.m., the resident reported that the same thing had occurred again. ♦

---

## Our Safety Is Worth \$15 a Year

*By Jim Bouchard, Safety Committee Member*

It’s important that we keep our porch lights on since light deters criminal activity. It seems there are two things that discourage residents from turning on their lights – (1) the cost, and (2) forgetting to turn it off in the morning. Please read on to see why these are non-issues.

### Lighting, cont’d.

**Cost** - The cost of leaving a porch light on 12 hours a day has been hugely reduced with the introduction of CFL and LED lights. While the average annual cost of using *incandescent* bulbs is \$42, it’s only \$15 with *CFL* bulbs and \$12 with *LED* bulbs. And this includes the price of bulbs **and** electricity.

**Forgetfulness** - Did you know a timer can easily be installed to turn the bulb on and off automatically? Even better, in many cases you can use an inexpensive light sensor device that does the job.

I use a light bulb with a built-in light sensor - the Phillips Dusk-to-Dawn CFL light bulb (\$11). It works on most porches that aren’t obstructed by vegetation. My CFL bulb will last at least two and a half years (about \$4/year), and the annual cost of electricity is \$11. So, that’s about \$15 a year to keep my front porch light on at night.

I believe \$15 a year is a small price to pay for my safety and the safety of my neighbors. ♦

\*\*\*\*\*

## Foot Beats Schedule

**Monday, 1/4, 10:00 am** - Meet at the Clubhouse, walk East Circle - Court 17

**Tuesday, 1/12, 7:00 pm** - Meet at Court 1 entrance, walk Courts 1 - 5

**Wednesday, 1/20, 9:00 am** - Meet at Court 6 entrance, walk Courts 6 – 10

**Thursday, 1/28, 7:00 pm** - Meet at the Clubhouse, walk West Circle – 10

**Monday, 2/1, 7:00 pm** - Meet at the Clubhouse, walk East Circle - Court 17

**Tuesday, 2/9, 9:00 am** - Meet at Court 5 entrance on Coliseum, walk Courts 5 – 1

\*\*\*\*\*

## Around the Green in 2015



A colorful African-themed Kwanza display and beautiful Hanukkah menorah nestled next to a ceiling-high, gorgeously decorated Christmas tree brought exclamations of delight from all who entered the Fireside Room for the Association's annual holiday party in December.

Jeanne Gagnard (Court 1) spearheaded the tree decorating assisted by two court council volunteers, while the cultural affairs committee and "Drinks on the Green" volunteers decorated the Clubhouse and organized and staffed the afternoon children's cookie decorating party and holiday party. Organizers proclaimed all a success but said they hope some more new people will volunteer next year to decorate the tree and organize the events. *Photo by Jennifer Pitman.*

Do you appreciate the *Monthly Highlights*? A volunteer is needed to design and lay out the newsletter. Please contact [lucyh@ca.rr.com](mailto:lucyh@ca.rr.com)



Court representatives smile to see the brand new American flag they have just installed on the flagpole near the Clubhouse. After noticing that the old flag was tattered, the court council voted to purchase a new one from their budget. With board approval, they removed the old flag and hoisted the new one in December. *Photo by Teresa Markowitz.*

ENJOY THESE PHOTOS IN COLOR ON [www.villagegreenla.net](http://www.villagegreenla.net).

### Board Okays 27 More Replacement Trees

*By Jerri Allyn*

I am happy to report that the board approved the replacement planting of 27 trees. Most of the 35 planted in 2015 survived the well breakdown and drought. The board's goal is to replace all trees lost from the original landscape architects' plans, to complement the historic architectural design, which will also assist in cooling our homes.

The trees to be planted are: 4 Eastern Redbuds *Forest Pansies* in Courts 9/10; 2 Coast Live Oaks in Court 5; 10 London Plane Trees (a Sycamore variety) in the east and west sycamore allees on either side of the main green; and 11 multi-trunk fruitless Wilson Olive trees in the Clubhouse allees. ♦

## Manager's Report

December 2015

*Sherri Giles, Operations Manager*

### Painting:

All scheduled painting for 2015 has been completed.

**Sewers:** The Court 5 sewer line replacement and repairs are in progress and scheduled to be completed by the end of January.

**Garage Restorations:** Restoration of the garages in Courts 2, 3, and 12 is complete.

**Annual Roof Cleaning:** The work began on Dec. 15, to be completed in approximately one week.

**Tree Trimming:** Management requested an assessment of three trees near a unit and received two proposals for trimming the branches away from the building. ♦

### El Nino, *contd. from page 1*

If a window won't close, fill out a work order, and in the meantime, use some plastic sheeting to stop rain from entering. Sandbags will stop water intrusion under a garage door or other low-lying opening. If this is a concern, you can get sandbags from the fire station at 4470 Coliseum. Call 213-485-6294 first, to be sure they haven't run out of sand.

If you are concerned about damage to your property from El Nino, consider getting flood insurance. All property owners and renters in the City of Los Angeles are eligible to purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Contact [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or 1-888-379-0531 for more information.

### Are you prepared?

In the car: Keep an emergency kit in your car. Inspect your windshield wipers, and always use them with your headlights on; it is now the law. Drive extra slowly and leave extra distance between you and the next car. Avoid driving in flooded areas. ♦

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, Jan. 13, Clubhouse, 7:00 pm:**

Safety Committee meeting with Kimani Black, deputy to Councilman Wesson

**Tuesday, Jan. 19, Clubhouse 6:30 pm:**

"Meet the Candidates" Forum

**Saturday, Jan. 23, Clubhouse 10:00 am:**

"Meet the Candidates" Forum

**Tuesday, Jan. 26, Clubhouse, 7:00 pm:**

Board of Directors meeting

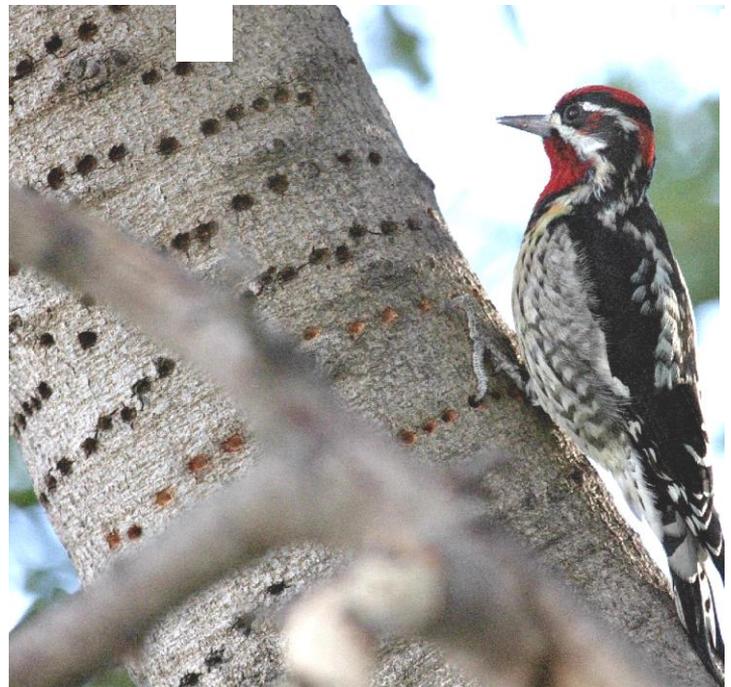
**Friday, February 5, Clubhouse 5:00 pm:**

Last chance to bring ballot to Clubhouse

**Saturday, Feb. 6, Baldwin Hills Elementary School**

**Auditorium 8:00 am:** Owner check-in/voting begins

**10:00 am:** Annual Meeting



This adult male Red-naped Sapsucker was caught in December by Audubon Society birder Don Sterba actively feeding in carob trees on Coliseum. Notice the rows of holes in the tree's bark. Sterba explained that Sapsuckers, a species of woodpecker, are famous for making these "sap wells" that provide food for the birds in the form of oozing sap and various bugs that are attracted to it. He said we've had only about 5 of these birds at VG during the past 10 years. ♦