

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Monthly Highlights

Board Highlights

Claire Joyce, Board Secretary.

At its meeting on April 28, the Board of Directors:

- Approved a proposal to plant five replacement trees - an Oak in the Main Green and four Brazilian Peppers (two in Garden Court 9/10, one in the East Green, and one just off the West Green).
- Revoked and replaced Article VII of the Bylaws, "Committees," after incorporating community feedback.
- Formed two ad hoc committees to organize the annual yard sale and organize distribution of free DWP water saving devices.
- Established an executive committee to oversee a re-design of the Village Green website.
- Asked that Public Security be made aware of the pet rules and directed to report violations.
- Requested that information on contracts, change orders, and proposals over \$40,000 generally be provided directors one month in advance of Board consideration.

Complete minutes of Board meetings are posted at the Clubhouse entrance.



LAPD Senior Lead Officer Tynisha King and gang specialist Robert Leary speak with neighbors at Village Green Clubhouse

Crime Talk Draws Big Turnout

by Lucy Fried

More than 60 neighbors, including several from nearby HOAs, attended an LAPD presentation April 18th at the Clubhouse. Safety Committee chair John Howell said, "The turnout indicates a strong concern in our extended community about recent spikes in security incidents and graffiti, and an interest in learning more about gangs operating in area neighborhoods." Audience attention remained high as Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Tynisha King and Gang Specialist Robert Leary followed their brief talks with specific and detailed responses to listeners' questions.

Both stressed the need to take personal responsibility for securing one's own property and the value of getting to know one's neighbors. They also pointed out that a private security service and good lighting are effective deterrents. When asked how we can get more police presence, SLO King replied, "The more you call, the more presence you'll get over here."

"The overall feeling was relief that the LAPD is active in our neighborhood and that we will be able to build a constructive relationship between the Village Green

continues on page 4

New Security Number:

213-703-0540

Save this number now, and use it to call for an escort and to report any security concern. It is the on-site number for Public Security, Inc., our new escort and patrol company.

Platt Security Report

March 15 to April 15, 2015

Edited by Jeanne Gagnard

Mar 22 THEFT. Ct. 11, 6:00 a.m.

A resident shared a copy of a police report with a Platt officer which detailed the theft of his car's catalytic converter. The car was parked in the court's parking area. After hearing a loud noise, the resident observed two male subjects wearing hoodies remove the part in a matter of minutes and drive away in a four-door black car.

Mar 24 PROPERTY DAMAGE. Ct. 15, 11:00 a.m.

A Platt officer responded to a resident's complaint of a broken mirror which was attached to his garage. The information was documented.

Mar 28 FALLEN TREE BRANCH.

West Green, 3:00 p.m. A Platt officer observed a fallen tree branch, coned off the area, and documented the incident.

Apr 03 GRAFFITI. Cts. 1-17, 9:00 a.m.

The VG office's request for a security check of all laundry rooms and trash areas revealed graffiti in Ct. 1 on a resident's fence; Ct. 12 behind the dryers; and Ct. 5 inside and outside the trash area fence. The Platt officer photographed and documented the tags.

Apr 06 DEAD SNAKE FOUND ON PROPERTY. Ct 1, 4: 43 p.m.

In response to a report of a dead animal, a Platt officer found a dead snake near a shrub by the entrance of Court 1. It was described as about 4 ft. long with a large head and yellow and brown stripes or bands. The snake was photographed and disposed of, and the incident was documented.

Apr 09 GRAFFITI. Clubhouse, 8:10 a.m.

The VG office reported to Platt Security the presence of graffiti on the Clubhouse door. The incident was documented and photographed.

Village Green LAPD Foot Beat Schedule, May & June

Wednesday Foot-Beat Patrols begin at 6:00 near the Clubhouse entrance and move to specific courts. Help deter crime and promote safety and community. Ask questions of LAPD Sr. Lead Officer Tynisha Williams and meet other interested residents.

Dates	Courts
May 6	8, 9, 10
May 13	13, 14, W. Circle
May 20	16, 17
May 27	1, 2
June 3	5, 6, 7
June 10	10, 11, 12
June 17	E. Circle, 15
June 24	3, 4



Village Action Brings Back Box

Here's a short tale with a happy ending.

On March 31st, manager Peter Fay noticed that the mailbox outside the office was gone. On April 17th, a new box was installed in the same location. This is what happened in-between:

Office Administrator Alejandra Martinez asked Platt Security's Mr. Davis to see if the mailman knew why the box was removed. The mailman said he'd ask his supervisor and later reported that the supervisor said the removal was a mistake and that they should have taken the box at Rodeo and LaBrea. Meanwhile, Board director Claire Joyce and others noticed the empty space and posted the news on the unofficial Facebook page, which prompted other residents to contact the post office and forthrightly explain why we need a mailbox here.

Who can say which action brought us back a mailbox? Sometimes, it just takes a village ...

FIRST PERSON

The Dig

by Heide Oglesby, Court 16

Oh horror! DWP is scheduled to dig through Courts 15 and 16 and through 5 garages in Court 16 to replace sewer pipes. So much to do beforehand! Emptying the garages (where do I put all my stuff?) is a large undertaking; get parking stickers, worry about where to park at night. So much to do, and I only have time on one day to do it.

This was the beginning of March and anticipation was of inconvenience, delays, and lots of noise. To my surprise, work did not start before 8:00 a.m. Noise yes, but getting new pipes was important and necessary. We dealt with heavy equipment, large trucks, piles of dirt, rows and rows of pipes on the lawn, roped off areas, and even a bright blue “box” for the convenience of the crew.

DWP contracted MNR Construction, Inc. to do the work, and we could not have asked for a more accommodating, polite, helpful and overall friendly crew.

Since the garages were too small for their heavy equipment, the trenches were dug by hand at least 12 feet deep and the width of a man’s shoulder. They dug by hand thru the roots of 2 huge trees so they would not harm them. They replaced the dug up flowers and put down sod where the digging damaged the grass. I watched the heavy equipment operator put down the grass seeds, another one topping them off with fertilizer. Truly a crew of men with many talents.

Construction ditches an inconvenience? NOT with this company. Many thanks to MNR for a job well done and for making this an exceptional experience.

The morea patch near the main green is a popular place during Cultural Affairs’ Easter Egg hunt. Photo by Travis Miles



Board V.P. Talks about the “Petition for a Special Vote”

Last month, Highlights reported that 24 of 50 owners who had signed a petition for a “special vote of members” retracted their signatures. Since that left an insufficient number to trigger a vote, the Board announced it would not conduct one. Several readers found the report confusing, so Highlights asked Board V.P. Joe Khoury to explain.

Highlights: Why did the signers want to have a special vote?

Joe Khoury: *I spoke with half of the signers, and not a single one of them knew they were signing a petition calling for a special vote!*

They were upset about the way the revised parking rules were distributed and did not think that posting the notice at the Clubhouse entrance was sufficient. They assumed the petition would address that problem. This issue had been discussed at a Court Council meeting, and the signers were told that the petition was a result of that discussion.

H: Did the petition cause the Board to change its mind?

JK: The petition had no effect on the Board. But the concerns expressed in Court Council and several angry messages from residents had a tremendous impact and helped us see that the membership wanted more ways of getting notices about rule changes. We would have to either go back to the old, costly way of sending a paper copy to each owner or come up with something else. The Board decided to mail notices to offsite owners and distribute to residents through Court Council as well as continue posting them at the Clubhouse entrance.

H: Why did the signers retract their signature?

JK: All but one of the signers I spoke with agreed to sign the retraction when they learned that the petition they signed was not actually calling for the Board to distribute the new parking rules to every member, but was instead calling for the Association to conduct a special election about the parking rules. They did not think that holding a special election was in any way a solution to this problem.

To read the complete Khoury interview, please go to villagegreenla.net/news.html

Manager's Report

by Peter Fay

Dan Jensen passed away on April 21st. Dan had been the Association's arborist since 2006. It was my pleasure to work with him during these past 5 years. Like the trees he truly cared for, Dan stood tall, strong and had the terrific ability to sway with the winds that are sometimes generated through discourse at a condominium property.

As a property manager, a contractor makes my life much better or much worse depending on their abilities and attention to their trade. Dan made my life much, much better, not only as a great arborist, but as a compatriot who would patiently explain to me the intricate details as to why one tree needed trimming and another removed.

The Association may get another arborist, and I will walk the property with that person - but it will be Dan's voice that I hear gently whispering from the trees.



Not long before illness overtook our arborist, Dan Jensen, he advised residents to stop feeding the squirrels. We have too many of them in the Green, Dan said, and they are damaging young trees. This photo shows a recently planted carob tree whose bark was stripped off by squirrels.

Photo courtesy of Don Cully, TruGreen Branch Manager.

Upcoming Events



Dads' Game Night

Saturday, May 30 at 8:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse Village Green Dads are invited to an evening of relaxation, hanging out and games.

Co-sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee

Drinks on the Green

Sunday, June 7 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the West Green Featuring alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Bring drinks, hors d'oeuvres, friends and kids.

Co-sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee

Movie Nights on the Green

Saturday, June 13 at 8:00 p.m. on the Central Green

Pirates of the Caribbean (original version, PG-13)

Co-sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee

Concerts on the Green

Go to www.villagegreenla.net for details about the Kids Talent Show, Fandango, Memorial Day weekend concert, and summer concert schedule.

Sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee

Gentle Just-For-You Exercise

This class, taught by dance and movement specialist Beverlee Pattonallen and sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee, will soon mark its third anniversary. Beverlee's chair and floor work is designed to increase balance, flexibility, and strength, and exercises are adapted for anyone with a disability or injury. Meets Tuesdays & Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to noon in the Fireplace Room of the Village Green Clubhouse. Newcomers of all ages are always welcome. For more information, contact Beverlee at 323-382-2142.

continued from page 1

community, Public Security, Inc. (our new escort and control contractor), and the Los Angeles Police Department," said Howell.

He added that as a result of the meeting, the Safety Committee added 23 new names to its Village Green Neighborhood Watch email list and 10 new names to its text messaging service. These services provide important news and updates on current safety issues at the Village Green. Contact Safety Committee Chair John Howell at jnhowellforbooks@icloud.com to add your name to either list.

The next Safety Committee meeting is May 13th at the Clubhouse at 7pm.