

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

November 2019

October Board News

Compiled by Lucy Fried

The board passed at least 13 resolutions affecting everything from parking rule changes to major infrastructure projects, including:

Hire S3 Builders/Hariton Engineering for Phase 1 of our campus-wide electrical upgrade, i.e. research and document existing conditions and new requirements. Deliverables are schematic diagram; as-built drawing of current electrical conditions; single-line diagram; pricing for Phase 2 (engineering); and budget for Phase 3 (construction).

Hire Atomic Irrigation to design irrigation plan for Phase 1 (of 9) of irrigation overhaul, in tandem with the current rehabilitation plan at Hauser and Coliseum.

Invite an Empowerment Congress representative to speak at **NOVEMBER 12 board meeting** on plans for building on Obama, LaBrea, and other nearby streets.

Hire companies to clean out 22 storm drains in 17 garage courts and roof debris.

Plant 48 trees in Courts 13-17 per approved Shade Tree Project Phase 3.

Revise parking ticket process by allowing people to pay tickets by check to the office within 15 days of ticket.

Revise history section of VG Handbook to include that VG site was historically a part of the Tongva (Gabrielino) nation.

Set Nov. 12 and Dec.10 for this year's board meetings holiday schedule. □

HIGHLIGHTS is a VGOA Communications Committee project produced entirely by volunteers.

Editor: Lucy Fried
Designer: Terry Park

VG BOARD APPROVES 2020 BUDGET LOOKS TOWARD FUTURE



By Claire Knowlton, Board Treasurer

The 2020 board-approved Operating Budget is very similar to the 2019 budget, with projected expenses of \$2.8 million and no raise in assessments.

Our largest expenses will continue to be employee wages, payroll taxes, and benefits (\$848,000); groundskeeping contract (\$384,000); and escort and patrol contract (\$369,000). This contract is rising by 5% from 2019 to 2020 to account for increased minimum wage in Los Angeles.

Reserves

We're projecting an operating surplus in 2020 that will allow us to transfer \$557,000 to regular reserves. These annual transfer amounts have decreased from \$1 million in 2011 as operating costs have risen over the decade.

Properly funding our reserves is critical, as the reserves not only pay for on-going repairs on our property such as painting and carpentry but also fund multi-million-dollar projects that address our aging infrastructure. 2020 reserves spending is projected at \$1.39 million, including \$880,000 toward electrical and irrigation system overhauls.

As such, our reserve balance will decline in 2020. With the Special Assessment ending in March 2021, expect an off-setting increase in regular assessments to fund reserve projects.

If you have questions about the budget, please attend a Budget & Finance Committee meeting (third Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm in the Clubhouse) where we review the VGOA finances in great detail. □

Residential Re-Piping

Building 78 is scheduled for completion on 10/23, and work on Building 95 will begin on 11/3. This will be the final building in this year's re-pipe project.

Landscape Maintenance

Green Crew reported three mainline irrigation breaks in October in West Circle, Court 4 and 8. All were repaired, but about two days of watering were lost. In November, the crew expects to detail courts 17 and 1 and mulch around newly planted trees. The company reported receiving 5-7 work orders per day.

Filming

The VGOA will net \$1,050 for the board-approved one-day October filming of tv show "Winslow" at Hauser and Coliseum.



Compiled from
Operations Manager
Sherri Giles' October
Board Report

Garage Inspections

The first round was completed on October 11. Inspections for various violations will commence in early November.

Garage Restorations

Painting, carpentry repairs, and fumigation in selected West Circle, East Circle, and Court 17 garages is almost completed.

Residential Building Insulation, Painting, and Carpentry

Power washing and prep work started at Building 74 on 10/17. Buildings 81 and 87 remain, and the project is scheduled to conclude in mid-January 2020. □

PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT September 18 - October 16, 2019

SEPT 30 TRESPASSER Ct. 6, 5:13 am.

A resident reported a male bicyclist in a hoodie peering over their patio fence. After eye contact, the individual quickly fled west.

OCT 4 VANDALISM/GRAFFITI Ct. 17 court, 8:30 am.

A resident reported spray paint, probably done in the predawn hours, on a garage wall and a tarp covering a fence.

OCT 16 GARAGE BURGLARY Court 5, 3:55 pm.

A resident reported that someone had forcibly bent his garage padlock and stolen a bicycle.

OCT 16 GARAGE BURGLARY. Court 5, 7:30 pm.

A resident reported that his garage latch was damaged and the padlock removed. Nothing appeared to be missing. □



Edited by
Jordan Deglise
Moore

PATIO GARDENING *Our Second Season?*



I spent a Saturday morning in mid-October saying goodbye to my tomato plants. They hadn't given fruit for a few weeks and had largely turned into a home for aging grasshoppers, praying mantis, and hornworms. As I untangled their vines, I reflected on the delicious bounty they provided over the last few months and on what I would plant next.

Our frost-free cool season provides perfect growing conditions for lettuce, kale, cabbage, beets, carrots, leeks, turnips, parsnips, artichokes, rhubarb, cilantro, parsley, broccoli, cauliflower, and garlic. Leafy greens can be grown in containers, but veggies and roots are ideally started in the ground.

(BTW, it's also time to spread wildflower seeds – poppies, calendula, bachelor buttons, and alyssum – so their hardy seeds coats have time to slough off ahead of rain.)

A dark and chilly morning run around the Green the following week contrasted with the weekend warmth. I crunched through fallen sycamore leaves and my gaze lingered on their emerging twiggy silhouettes. When I arrived home, one yellow grasshopper was on my stoop, looking confused. I nudged him towards the soil, and he harrumphed his way over the remaining pepper plant, letting me notice just sprouted beet seedlings. For a moment, I felt like spring.

with Amanda Sigafos, Master Gardener □

VILLAGE GREEN BOARD ELECTIONS

Attention VG Owners: California has a new law (SB 323) containing many changes to HOA elections laws. It requires HOAs to amend their election rules before an election, so both our election and Annual Meeting will be delayed. Expect board information about this to arrive soon.

Meanwhile, please take this extra time to think about who, including yourself, would make a good director and prepare to nominate them. We must fill at least five seats of our nine-member board! Below, new director Chris Scornaienchi reflects on his board journey so far:

Why did you want to be a director, and how is that working out?

CS: My participation in the Landscape and Tree Committees over the last several years is an expression of my passion for protecting the environment. I saw an opportunity to make a difference in rehabilitating our small urban forest by supporting decisions to plant more sustainably - diverse tree species, California natives, drought tolerant and pollinator plants. I think it is working out. By the end of 2020, I expect that the Board of Directors will have approved the planting of about 200 replacement trees, a native butterfly garden, and more California natives. We have such a large footprint, the decisions we make here can have an impact beyond our borders.

What are some of the biggest things you've learned about VG and the VGOA?

CS: One of the big things I learned in my first year is that there are 629 units with 629 different points of view, and there is no one-size solution that will work for everyone. Oh, and I've learned that, as high as the monthly dues may seem, they don't pay for all the infrastructure, rehabilitation, and reserves that are needed.

How do you come to your positions on various board resolutions?

CS: Since there is no one way that will work for everyone, I remind myself that, as a director, I have a fiduciary responsibility to the Association, and as a neighbor and homeowner, I have a commitment to create a community that works for everyone for now and future generations. So, when a resolution or decision must be voted on, I ask, "Is this decision in alignment with those responsibilities and commitments?"

What about time and other constraints?

CS: Naturally, as soon as I agreed to accept the nomination, all the little voices showed up! Is this really a good idea? Do I really have the time? Am I going to make mistakes? I believe the answer has been both yes and no. I figured, if not me, then who? And I would rather be on the board and make a mistake than in the stands pointing fingers. All in all, I am glad I ran and thankful I was elected. I don't take it lightly and I encourage everyone who wants to contribute to our unique, quirky and amazing community to run for the board (or join a committee). □

COMMITTEES

Monthly Round Up

Communications Committee: (2nd Tuesday, 11/12)

We've been posting some valuable homeowner references on the VG website lately. www.villagegreenla.net. Check out the new Unit Modification page, the Acoustical Test Summary Report, and CERT training reference material.

<http://www.villagegreenla.net/unit-modification.html>

<http://www.villagegreenla.net/reports.html>

<http://www.villagegreenla.net/safety.html>

Court Council: (1st Wednesday, 11/6)

Court 14's 42 units still need a representative and alternate. Please contact Nat Hutton, CC chair, at 323-298-440.

Design Review: (1st Monday, 11/1) Come one come all! On Nov 9th, DRC will be hosting another presentation from Veneklasen regarding sound-remediation of 1st-floor unit ceilings and report findings. □

* All meetings take place at the Clubhouse.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor. Thanks to everyone who supported **The Fina Mendoza Mysteries** podcast – VG kid actors William Beemer and India and Myca Scaglione; adult actors Alan Canterbury, Stephanie Zielonka, Joanie Anglin, and Gordon Brooks; the late Melanee Newkirk, who lent her voice to the Christmas tree lighting scene ... and Cultural Affairs and the board, who said, "Yes" to taping in the Clubhouse. □ The echoes are marvelous! *Kitty Felde, Court 6*

think about newsletter articles & other VG topics? Share with fellow readers. villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com.



NOVEMBER EVENTS

All events take place at the Clubhouse.

Acoustics Test Summary Presentation

Saturday, November 9, 10:00 am. Come one come all! DRC will be hosting another presentation with Veneklasen's John LoVerde on sound remediation of 1st-floor unit ceilings and report findings. Read VG floor-ceiling sound tests results at www.villagegreenla.net/reports.

Board of Directors Meetings

NOTE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, November 12

Tuesday, December 10

Homeowner comments start promptly at 7:00 pm.

Village Green Bird Presentation and Walk

Saturday, November 23rd, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

8:00 am refreshments and presentation by Richard Barth and Don Sterba*

8:45 am walk (Bring your own binoculars.)

*These Audubon Society members have been birding at the Green for decades and do this to say, "Thank you."

Village Green Holiday Party!

Saturday, December 7, 7:00 -11:00 pm

Why wait? Mark your calendar now and plan to get right into the December holiday spirit of fellowship with VG neighbors and friends. More details to come... □



PEOPLE OF THE GREEN

Longtime Village Green resident and volunteer Catherine Carr passed away peacefully on October 13 at Belmont Village Assisted Living in Hollywood at age 101. Together with Evelyn Greenwald, Ms. Carr founded the Clubhouse library and volunteered her time to staff it. She also chaired the Court Council and served on the Communications Committee for many years.

Prior to retirement, she was Principal Librarian in charge of the Western Region for the Los Angeles Public Library. "She was an elegant woman and a powerful force for doing things the right way," said her good friend and neighbor, Nat Hutton. Her memory will remain vivid for all who knew or worked with her. □

Highlights is gathering residents' recollections of Ms. Carr for a longer article to be published soon.

Please send to villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Crime Cynthia Singleton

An increase in cell phone snatching from pedestrians and train riders - especially passengers sitting near doors - has prompted police to urge Angelinos to keep cell phones in pockets in public ... There has also been a rash of break-ins of vacant dwellings with related lock boxes. Police suggest inspecting daily if you have a vacant unit. [CPAC (Community Police Advisory Board mtg) 10/7/19]

E-Cigarettes Cynthia Singleton

The L.A. City Council (9/26/19) and L.A. County Board of Supervisors (10/1/19) have banned all menthol cigarettes and all flavored tobacco products, including vaping oils. City vendors were given 120 days and county vendors 30 to clear their shelves of product. The City Council is also considering banning the sale of all electronic cigarettes until the Food and Drug Administration deems them safe [ECWA (Empowerment Congress West Area) 10/5/19]

Inglewood Oil Field Lucy Fried

In September, the L.A. County Department of Regional Planning published its draft recommendations for updating the Inglewood Oil Field regulations (called the Baldwin Hills Community Standard District) ... but the county is proposing no changes to the oil field regulations, claiming the current regulations, "have been effective and adequate to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the public." The public was given 60 days to respond.

The Sierra Club is circulating a petition for a 2500' human health and safety buffer between where people live/work/play and oil drilling operations. □

November Foot Beats

A Safety Committee activity for all curious residents...

Tues. 11/12, 9:30 am - Meet at Court 4 entrance, walk VG east area.

Wed. 11/20, 7:00 pm - Meet at Coliseum and Hauser, walk VG west area.

Fri. 11/29, 9:00 am - Meet at Office, walk VG central area.

Fri. 12/6, 7:00 pm - Meet at Court 1 entrance, walk VG east area. □