

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

June 2022

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE GREEN BOARD

Compiled by Patrick Comiskey

Seven directors, two employees, and twenty-nine residents attended the May board meeting, where a wide range of topics was addressed. .

PARKING ENFORCEMENT The Board took up the issue of when and how to enforce the 14-day towing rule for properly registered vehicles. Several vehicles around the property haven't been moved in many months and are now festooned with thick stacks of tickets and removal notices.

The Board voted to take a more consistent and structured action against violators: vehicles receiving three consecutive 14-day notices will be towed. Six such notices in a calendar year will also trigger removal. The change will be reflected in the next Handbook revision.

PERSONAL ITEMS IN PUBLIC AREAS The Board took up the escalating problem of personal items left in common areas of the Green, including chairs, tables, hammocks, toys, athletic equipment, storage bins and the like. Both residents and directors have noticed an uptick in the number of items on display.

Handbook sections 5.1 and 5.3A prohibit personal items in the common area, but the rules haven't been consistently enforced during the COVID years. The Board voted to write and disperse a 'gentle reminder' to all residents of the rules, with a grace period for compliance through the summer; thereafter, residents can expect additional enforcement.

FLOOD INSURANCE The Board discussed whether to provide or cease reimbursements of flood insurance premiums required by some mortgage lenders, since it remained unclear whether reimbursements would benefit the VGOA. Management has requested full policies from the affected owners, but as of the Board meeting, it had not received documents sufficient to evaluate, and reimbursements remained suspended.

ROOF REPAIRS Directors approved a \$25,329 contract with Lang Roofing, Inc. to repair garage roofs in courts 6, 8, and 14

MORE BOARD NEWS A Court Council resolution to display California's Big Bear flag below the U.S. flag on our flagpole passed unanimously ... Directors passed a request from director Chris Scornaienchi for Management to study whether a bulk purchase of a water-saving device would be a cost-saving measure for the property. Director Haleh Shoah announced she has stepped down as Board secretary and DRC liaison. Avelene Fung Schodorf takes over as Secretary, and Chris Scornaienchi will be DRC liaison.

MANAGEMENT NEWS *by Sherri Giles: compiled by Lucy Fried*

FOOD WASTE COMPLIANCE "The organic waste disposal bins have seen significant adoption and use," said Ms. Giles. Maintenance is emptying the compost bins daily, due to the warm weather.



Photo: Karen Bragg

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

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This will soon be a tree!

GARAGE INSPECTIONS are now scheduled for this summer.

GREENCREW REPORT The company will be planting 77 new trees. They are monitoring our unreliable well pump as the HOA waits for the new one to arrive. About five watering days were lost in May due to pump failures, as well as a mainline break in Court 13. This month the crew is detailing courts 12-15.

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ARBORIST REPORT Ms. Carlberg inspected Courts 10-12 in May, and found one tree needing immediate removal, and three others requiring priority action.

“DO NOT CLIMB THE TREES” SIGNS: The signs near Court 15 were again vandalized, removed, and then discretely returned. Another set was ordered in their absence, at a cost of \$112.99.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS PAINTING/INSULATION/ CARPENTRY: Residents in buildings 3, 15, 33, 34, 58, 62, 67, 68, 70, and 90 will be notified for this year’s treatments, set to begin in late June.

ELECTRICAL UPGRADE PROJECT: Talks with bidders continue for work in courts 16 & 17, as do negotiations with DWP about the power source and cost. □

Did You Know These Issues Impact Our Budget?

By Michael Schiavoni, VG Budget and Finance Committee Chair

It turns out being a good environmental steward is also beneficial for your wallet! Keep in mind...

WASTE When the wrong items land in our recycle or food waste bins, the waste removal company charges the HOA additional fees. Please take the time to learn what goes where, and properly sort your waste.

WATER Our patio spigots and indoor faucets all run on city water – paid out of our HOA assessments to the tune of \$200,000 a year! With water rates rising, and with drought reduction measures imminent, please conserve. □

PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT April 21 - May 18, 2022

Edited by Lucy Fried

GARAGE BREAK-IN - Court 16, 4/28-29, 9 pm-7 am. A resident reported his garage had been broken into and his fishing pole and tackle box stolen.

NOISE COMPLAINT - Court 15, 5/2, 4:30 pm. A resident complained children were playing in front of her window. Security found the noise level to be acceptable.

NOISE COMPLAINT - Court 15, 5/3, 9:15 am. After receiving a complaint that children were playing and climbing trees near a resident’s unit, Security promptly investigated, but found no one climbing trees.

TRESPASSERS - Main Green near Court 5, 5/5, 3:20 pm. Responding to a call that two people were smoking and

Village Green Featured on THE SOUTH LA RECAP

by Ted Robbins, Court 1

An 11-minute mini-documentary on Village Green debuted May 28th on the YouTube channel, “The South LA Recap.” Its creator, Eric Craig, says he found “history under just about every tree and every building. It’s a beautiful place and it’s a gem to the City of Los Angeles.”

Using historic photos and interviews with residents, Craig’s video looks at the evolution of the Green. He says his biggest surprise was learning about the “cross-section of community and nature in car-centric LA.”



Photo: Zig

The curiosity that led him to the Green (through VG’s Daniel Millner) resulted in more than 60 short videos on “The South LA Recap.” Just a few examples: “A Brief History of the Crenshaw Mall,” “LA Food Crawl: Slauson Avenue in South LA” (with his wife Ariana), and “Why Does South LA Have Gated Alleys?”

Craig’s motivation has been to create more pride in a part of L.A. where negative publicity has often drowned out positive stories. “Really, just be proud of where you live,” he says. “It’s not so much that South L.A. is the best thing ever. It’s just to realize what the history was. Often, if you can find your history—find your roots—you are able to push forward stronger.” □

The VG doc is at <https://youtu.be/e1hVUd5tBZU>

The South LA Recap channel is at <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheSouthLARecap>

drinking on the Green, Security found they were trespassers and asked them to leave, which they did immediately.

RESIDENT FALL - Court 14 parking area, 5/9, 5:00 pm. A resident who tripped and fell while taking a morning walk told Security she hoped Maintenance would repair the sidewalk to prevent another painful accident.

TRESPASSER - Courts 15 and 16, 5/16, 2:05 pm. There were several reports of an unknown male in a jacket with “SECURITY” on the back acting erratic and disoriented. Security found him, warned him not to return, and followed him off the property.

UNIT BURGLARY - Court 13, 5/17, 5:30 pm. A resident told Security a window had been broken and someone entered his unit and stole money, jewelry, and other personal items. LAPD was called and a report was made. □

RIOS Lays Out Ambitious Plan for Irrigation, Landscape Design, and our Future

By Patrick Comiskey, Court 3

Last year, the Board of Directors voted to hire the RIOS Design Collective to create Master Planting Guidelines based upon the upgrade and redesign of our 80-year-old irrigation system. On Wednesday, May 18, the Village hosted an informational Zoom meeting featuring members of RIOS, to relay some initial findings and sound out residents' opinions and concerns about a potential long-term landscape rehabilitation project.



Two members of RIOS's team, Peter Emerson, Studio Director, and Jessa Chisari, Senior Project Manager (a VG resident and Tree and Landscape Committee member) presented a report based on early research and a preliminary evaluation of the property's needs. It was a first attempt at gathering the many facets of this vast, intricate project into one comprehensive study, accounting for our property's historic significance, our aging infrastructure, and our myriad environmental concerns.

All of this begins with and is predicated on an overhaul of our failing irrigation system: its design and scope will depend entirely on the landscape it's meant to support.



It is an expensive, wildly complicated project, involving ten phases, and will take decades to complete. But Rios' preliminary ideas offer a roadmap for our future lives here, setting in motion the ways we will thrive through decades of climate change, drought, and changes in urban and community life.

In February 2022, RIOS met with the Landscape and Tree Committee to gather information and establish some goals. Wednesday's meeting was an opportunity for RIOS to lay out a few first impressions and present potential options to the wider community:

LAWNS: There is a LOT more lawn here now than there was historically – 29 acres today up from 11 in the 1940s. RIOS estimates it takes roughly 20 million gallons of water to

irrigate our current turf every year, more than double our original use.

AMENITIES: Structures and areas dedicated to specific uses, like playgrounds and game courts etc. were common in the original plans and are largely absent from our current environment.

RIOS focused on the two representative environments common to most of the property: garden courts and garage courts. Each, they've determined, requires different approaches and solutions.

GARDEN COURTS: The irrigation overhaul is an opportunity to reduce the amount of turf grass on the property.

At present, homes that open out to the garden courts have a buffer that serves as a 'perceived front yard' separating entrances from common areas. Emerson suggested "intelligent replacement," of these buffer strips with low-maintenance, low water, climate-adapted ground covers, grasses and shrubs, in a nod to the historic design.

GARAGE COURTS: Rios also introduced some ideas about planting in the garage areas including pollinator habitats to attract beneficial insects and wildlife, and/or community vegetable gardens. RIOS speculated that the courts could also be

used to collect and contain stormwater for irrigation needs, which Emerson says could be funded by grants in the coming years.

The size, scope and length of the project had some residents concerned, expressing hope for more immediate benefits and returns—at least before their decades on the property ran out. One resident wondered whether a Board whose officers change every year would be able to sustain a project like this one.

Overall, the presentation was a fascinating glimpse toward a vision of our future, and a reminder of how challenging decisions made now are so intricately linked to that future. □

For those who missed the presentation, you can watch in its entirety on youtube: <https://youtu.be/qWd8eLGs-1A>

School's Out!

When I asked young VG residents about their summer plans, I expected to hear about all kinds of projects and activities. What I found out is that most of them have travel plans that will put yours and mine to shame. –P.J.C.



Leo & Isla Schodorf, Court 6

This summer Leo (12) and Isla (10) will make their first trip to Europe. They'll start in London, train via The Chunnel to Paris, and end up with family friends in a farmhouse outside of Barcelona, Spain.



Quintún Muñoz-Rademacher, Court 10

Road Trip! Quintún (8), is traveling by car with his family to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula to visit his abu (abuela, grandmother). It's a loong drive, more than 2,000 miles, but he'll have his shar pei puppy, Pún, to keep him company.



Catherine & Josef Laimbock, Court 8

It's camps all summer for Josef (8) and Catherine (6). Catherine will be at Tennis Camp and Josef will get his Fortnite on at Gaming Camp. Both will attend Nature Day Camp, taking hikes in Malibu and the Santa Monica Mountains, before making a trip to visit family in Santa Fe, NM.



Sanai & Neema Septuri, Court 8

Sanai (6) and Neema (8) have traveled plenty in their short lives (their mom Aimee is from Paris). They'll spend most of the summer in Senegal, where they'll ride horses, perfect their French and explore Africa!



Wolf Brown, Court 3

Wolf (10) will start their summer travel with a trip to Crescent Beach, FL, to visit their grandmother; after that, a trip to Sicily to visit family friends. They'll continue to learn ukulele and bass guitar, and fill notebooks with animal drawings—any animal you want, drawn to order.