

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Monthly Highlights

Board Fills Ninth Seat

By Lucy Fried

The Board of Directors in March appointed 19-year owner Cynthia Cyrus to fill the ninth board seat, which was vacated in January. She will serve until the Annual Election in February 2018, when the term will expire. All board seats are now filled.

The only other candidate for the post was former director Norma Miller. Directors named their choice by voice vote in open session. The tally was 6-2.

Many owners know Cynthia as the HOA's conscientious and unflappable inspector of elections. She has also been a member of several committees and currently is the East Circle/ West Circle court representative and a regular participant in the Safety Committee's Footbeats activity. When asked by an owner why she wanted to serve on the board, she said she had been thinking about it for years and decided now was the time to do it. □



Black History Month Special Event an Educational Success



Dr. Lance Williams and Cultural Affairs Committee members

Photo by Melanie Newkirk

By Laura Miller

An enthusiastic crowd filled the Clubhouse on Sunday, March 26, for this year's Cultural Affairs Committee celebration of Black History Month featuring "Blacks on Blues" by Dr. Lance Williams.

The event began, as it traditionally does, with the audience rising and singing the beautiful "Lift Every Voice and Sing," written by the poet James Weldon Johnson and known as the "Black National Anthem."

Dr. Williams played music by such artists as Big Joe Turner, Nellie Lutcher, Ernie Andrews, and Aaron "T-Bone" Walker and offered insights into the times, culture, and history that surrounded the music's development. Members of the audience, grateful for this educational opportunity, scribbled down notes or checked online music accounts. Some were moved to join in, singing and moving along with the music.

Dr. Williams is an advocate, writer, professor, anthropologist, and photographer. He has run the "Blacks on Blues" program for 25 years with the intention of providing opportunities for African-Americans to celebrate their culture. **To learn more about Dr. Williams and "Blacks on Blues," see Laura Miller's interview on Page 5.** □

Board of Directors March Meeting News

By Ethan Markowitz, Board Secretary

After five homeowner comments, the board considered 11 business items, three Design Review Committee recommendations, and reports.

Actions included:

Board Appointment... filled the ninth board seat by appointing Cynthia Cyrus to the seat vacated by Anne McGinn in January.

Landscape Maintenance... heard presentations from two companies bidding to service Village Green's landscape. A resolution of the lengthy bidding process is expected in April.

Escrow Letter... approved a revised letter for buyers in escrow and an owner modification form to help address an increase in unlawful unit modifications.

Electric Vehicles... tasked the office to provide recommendations for the installation of a Level 2 electric vehicle charger on the property.

Tree Mulching... approved a tree mulching event organized by the Tree Committee. (See "Events," page 6.) □



Manager's Report

By Sherri Giles, Operations Manager

Residential Building Painting and Repairs:

The board voted last month to award painting and carpentry contracts for 10 buildings this year to Alex Painting and Andersen Construction.

Management coordinated with the design review committee chair to arrange homeowner color selection meetings on April 11 and 24, and May 14. Building 4 is scheduled first, with power washing the second week of April and carpentry repairs to follow.

Residential Re-piping: Work on the first of ten buildings scheduled to receive new interior water lines this year and next is tentatively scheduled to begin April 24. Management is finalizing the timetable with California Coast Plumbing and Re-piping, Inc., after which notices with the full schedule and dates for homeowners meetings will be distributed.

Landscape Maintenance Contract: Management has presented a resolution to award a contract to one of two finalists selected by the sub-committee.

Dead Tree Removal: Per the arborist's recommendations, four trees were removed in March.

Disposal Service: Management recently learned that Village Green has been assigned participation in a new program, "Zero Waste L.A.," scheduled to go into effect in July. This program is aimed at improving hauling and recycling from commercial and multi-family sites through a franchise system which assigns one hauler for each franchise area. Our hauler is to be Republic, as NASA has been assigned another area. Rates will be established by the city, and our new rate may be higher than what we now pay. We have contacted the Republic representative, and she has toured our trash areas. We will provide more information as it is available. Information on the new program is available at Zero Waste LA.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station: Facilities engineer Martin Breit has been working with director Haggerty to assess costs and feasibility of installing an electrical vehicle charging station (EVCS) on the west side of the Clubhouse. Martin and Harold will be meeting with a DWP representative regarding possible additional locations for Level II EVCS in additional locations.

Digital Work Order System: Management continues to view demonstrations and evaluate various electronic work order systems. In the past month, Martin has contacted six prospective companies to explore compatibility with the Association's requirements. So far, while the systems seem to have a general compatibility with HOA structures, they have lacked adaptability to Village Green's specific needs. □



SPRING HAS SPRUNG!



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

Public Security Report

February 21 - March 21, 2017

Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

Note: Security officers are instructed to document and notify management of all incidents.

Mar 14 VANDALISM, Court 5, 9:06 pm. Residents reported their neighbor had been periodically vandalizing their patio plants. They provided a report and surveillance footage. They were advised to call LAPD.

Mar 20 BROKEN TREE BRANCH, Court 1, 1:45 pm. Officer on patrol saw and reported a fallen branch and damaged car. Landscape foreman removed the branch. □

April Foot Beats

Thursday, 4/13, 7:00 pm:

Meet at Court 4 entrance, walk Village Green central section.

Wednesday, 4/19, 9:00 am:

Meet at Clubhouse, walk Village Green east section.

Monday, 4/24, 7:00 pm:

Meet at Coliseum/Hauser corner, walk Village Green west section.

Tuesday, 5/2, 10 am:

Meet at Court 15 entrance, walk VG central section. □



All flower photographs in this issue by Jeff Clark, Kelly Wilson Samojlik and Lucy Fried.

LAPD Targets Gangs in Baldwin Village Raid

By Diann Dumas

An early morning raid was conducted at twelve locations in the Baldwin Village area March 3 by over 70 officers of the LAPD, according to ABC7 News. Fifteen senior gang members were arrested. The Baldwin Village neighborhood is near Village Green, bordered on the west by LaBrea and on the north by Rodeo.

An increase in crime statistics had led an LAPD lieutenant and a detective to form a Gang and Narco Unit Task Force aimed at curtailing the criminal activity in the area. The Task Force included assistance from the Swat Team and Metro Unit, according to Senior Lead Officer Tynisha King of the Southwest Police Division.

Officer King said the task force served 9 search warrants. Twenty-two guns were seized, as well as \$50,000 worth of rock cocaine, a quantity of methamphetamines and PCP, and \$15,000 in currency.

ABC7 News interviewed LAPD Captain Darnell Davenport, who said that most of the arrested suspects belonged to gangs that were committing 25% of gang crime in the area. Although Officer King declined to identify the gangs to which the arrestees belonged, she did say that it is generally known that the Baldwin Village area is a home base of the Bloods and Black P Stone gangs.

Davenport told ABC, "Our hope is that for a long period of time we can see a significant reduction in violent crime in that community and the sales of narcotics." □



HIGHLIGHTS INTERVIEWS “BLACKS ON BLUES” SPEAKER

In Depth with Dr. Lance Williams

By Laura Miller

When did you first become interested in music?

I come from a musical family and grew up in a very rich musical scene. My brother was a big influence. He was a bass player and trumpeter. In high school, he formed a band with Billy Higgins and Horace Tapscott, well-known musicians in the Los Angeles community who became internationally famous in the early 50's during the bebop and post bebop era.

Los Angeles in the 60's was a compelling time to express oneself. By the time I was sixteen, I was writing poetry and had joined my high school newspaper staff. My first interview was not far from the Village Green, at Marty's on the Hill. I interviewed Count Basie, one of the great American jazz musicians. To be able to interview such an influential musician early in my development helped further my interest.

In college you became interested in the business of music and co-authored the book, *The Anatomy of a Record Company: How to Survive the Music Business*. Why did you become interested in the business of music?

I have always been interested in the fact that it is called *show business*. It was clear that artists were not getting their due financially in a way that effectively allowed them to take best advantage of their talents. A lot of artists were angry, and I became involved in advocacy during graduate school. I would research the lives of the artists and became interested in the culture surrounding them.

As a cultural anthropologist, I am interested in the connection between the arts and culture. Every art form has a cultural framework, and this is particularly acute to me with respect to African-Americans because historically the music has not been given the kind of respect I feel it deserves. African Americans were the producers and consumers, but historically were not afforded the financial return that their talent and experience merited.

Do you think that the appropriation of the blues from African-Americans started in the 60s?

I believe it started a lot earlier than the 1960's. From its origins, the blues attracted a lot of people, but African-American musicians were not as attuned to the value of their music, and the community did not initially recognize that it would become important all over the world.

Other communities began to monetize African-American music as soon as it became evident that it had value. However, it took a while for African-Americans to have the opportunity to professionally record. The going belief was that African-American audiences would not support the music as a business enterprise. Eventually, in the early 1920's, the African American community got behind the music and so-called 'race artists'.

African-American music helped sustain the music industry during the early years because the artists sold a lot of records. The fledgling industry was built on backs of African-American talent. For example, Bessie Smith, between 1923-1928 sold seven million 78s!

Many people, while recognizing the value, did not often give credit to the artists that were essential linchpins to the industry. The country was still immersed in Jim Crow in the South, and in the North, very few African-Americans had access to land, labor, and capital, so as a result, the music was in the hands of people outside of the African American community.

It is an important construct, when you consider how people take advantage of the value of their own product. I do not believe that music is divorced from the culture that produces it.

That's why I started Blacks on Blues. I am an advocate. If African-Americans do not support the importance of the music as a cultural contribution to this country, then that thought will not be promoted and African-Americans will not be recognized to the extent that their talents merit. □



Photo by Stacey Alston

Upcoming Events



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15, 10:00am-12:00pm, Clubhouse.

The Cultural Affairs' Committee welcomes kids of all ages to this popular annual family event.

Mulching Fun

Saturday, April 22, 9:00am, Clubhouse.

Help the Tree Committee spread mulch around recently planted trees to protect them during the long hot summer. Bring shovels and gloves if you have them.

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 7:00pm, Clubhouse.

Homeowner comments begin promptly at 7:00 pm.



Court Council Fair

Saturday, May 6. Save the date & stay tuned for details!



Native Plants in Small Spaces and Containers

Saturday, June 3 at 10am in the Clubhouse.

Wish you could spruce up your patio without having to work too hard? Get ideas and tips from the Theodore Payne Society's Steven Gerrischer.



Save the date for the Annual Village Green Yard Sale: Saturday, June 17!

Memorial Picnic to Honor Amy Dawes

Friends and neighbors of Amy Dawes are invited to a celebration of her life on Sunday, April 30, at 3:00 pm on the lawn near 5433 in Garden Court 13-12. Amy passed away earlier this year after a valiant battle against cancer. Said her husband, Billy Vasquez, "Amy so loved this spot in our 'front yard' under shady trees, where she would set out her lawn chair to read, have a glass of wine, and sunbathe." There will plenty of food and drink, and additions are welcome. □

Neighborhood News

By Cynthia Singleton and Lucy Fried

New Law Regulates Living in Vehicles

A new city ordinance has made it illegal to sleep or live in a vehicle on Hauser Blvd. near Village Green. Municipal Code 85.02 prohibits these activities within one block of a school, daycare facility, or park. Report violations to 311 or contact Public Relations Officer Sgt. Vincent at 213-847-5800. That office will attempt to contact the vehicle owner and assist in possibly getting help.

Renter Rights

Los Angeles' Housing Department Rent Stabilization Division provided information about renters' rights at a District 8 Empowerment Congress meeting at Jim Gilliam Park in March. Tenants in rent-controlled and Section 8 units are complaining of discrimination and harassment aimed at forcing them out of their homes in favor of more affluent renters or condominium conversion.

Self-guided Leimert Park Garden Tour

Eleven private gardens in Leimert Park will be on view to visitors

Saturday, May 6, 10-4 pm.

Tickets are \$15, and children under 13 are free.

For more information, visit

www.leimertparkgardentour.com.



Baldwin Hills Oil Drilling

Richard J. Bruckner, director of the L.A. County Department of Regional Planning, sent an update in March to interested residents about the oil drilling in the Baldwin Hills area. He wrote, "I would like to reaffirm that no wells are currently being hydraulically fracked within the Inglewood Oil Field, and the 2017 Annual Drilling Plan does not include the hydraulic fracturing of any new wells." He also reported that 127 new wells have been drilled since 2008, but none since June 2014. To receive oilfield updates, contact Timothy Stapleton at 213-974-6453 or email him at tstapleton@planning.lacounty.gov.

