

# VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

# Highlights

A Quarterly Publication of the Village Green Owners' Association

Summer 2009

## New Board President Sets Priorities for the Green

By Lucy Fried, Court 13

This year's Board president, Steve Haggerty, believes the Village Green is not only a community and place of residence but also a valuable investment for the owners. Since value is based on the desirability of the individual unit, court location, and the Green as a whole, he is concerned that the continuing infrastructure deterioration will affect not only the quality of daily life but also property values. He is adamant about moving forward on the long-overdue and much talked-about deferred maintenance.

Haggerty told *Highlights* that his overriding short-term goal is to have the Gafcon Property Condition Assessment completed by the next annual meeting so that, by next summer, the Village Green community will be fully engaged in prioritizing tasks and discussing funding methods. Gafcon, an award-winning construction consulting firm, began work on the study in March for a Board-negotiated fee of \$40,000.

This lengthy and costly process is "absolutely key," Haggerty says. He believes that its professional quality will show homeowners why it is vital to fund the project. "The deferred maintenance cannot go forward without homeowners' willingness to approve a special assessment."

The Gafcon study will detail exactly what needs to be repaired or replaced, provide cost estimates, and recommend priorities, sequence, and funding methods. It will contain the information that banks would require should the Association seek funding through a loan.

Haggerty, the only non-resident currently serving on the Board, received 182 votes in this year's election, 28 more than the second place candidate. He previously served for over three years on the Board and was active on the Finance Committee. These experiences, coupled with his long-time career helping companies solve organizational and

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## Town Hall Notice

The annual town hall meeting sponsored by Court Council is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 19 or Saturday, September 26, to be determined by the Board.

The program will include time for answers to pre-written questions and some time for questions from the floor. Want to know the status of the Gafcon survey? How improvements are made to the Green? Future goals of Board members? Now is your chance to ask! So put on your thinking cap and submit your questions to your Court Council representative.

Check your laundry room for a current list of Court Council Representatives.

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Village Green Owners' Association  
5300 Rodeo Rd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016  
<http://villagegreenla.net>

## A New Local State Park

The Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook State Park has officially opened to the public. Conveniently located near Village Green off Jefferson Boulevard at 6300 Hetzler Road, you can drive up the hill to take in panoramic views of Downtown, Culver City, Century City and the ocean. Bernie Altman is organizing a hike in early October from the northwest corner of the Green (Hauser & Rodeo).



### Village Green “Home Companion” Showcases Residents’ Talents

By Jeanne Winn, Court 12

We neighbors put together a varied and inspiring program for the second annual Village Green Home Companion, held Sunday, March 22 at the Clubhouse.

NPR correspondent and VG resident Mandalit del Barco emceed the event, opening with her own charming parody of Kermit the Frog's “Bein' Green.” Flutist Jaimie Stevens and keyboardist Tom Durand followed with their rendition of Variations on Greensleeves, the classic tune by Elizabethan composer Francis Cutting. Ted and Georgia Lumpkin shared their experiences attending the Presidential Inauguration (their invitation in tribute to Ted's service as a Tuskegee Airman during World War II.)

Our ad hoc children's choir sang “The Magical Future,” with music by resident Susan Bagby and words by Maggie Howe. Chorus members included Agustin Arcos, Tej Carmichael, Dean Cotrone, Jessica Kim, Gus Mattone, Sanjay Mokha, Lui and Karuna Shipper, Christopher Sims, and Lara Nour Walton. Jessica's father, David, accompanied the ensemble on keyboard. Rachel Fretz read her own poetry, Angie told an inspiring story, and Muriel Dickerson shared her recipe for key lime pie while the children served samples.

Mandalit and Tom then performed a thrilling rendition of Robb Curtis's original *noir* mystery, “Juan Madero, Platt Security Guy.”



**Ted and Georgia Lumpkin reminisced about their experience at President Obama's inauguration.**

*(Home Companion Continued on page 8)*

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technical problems, make him well-suited to confront challenges facing the Green. His activist mother, Alice Haggerty, lives in his VG unit.

Early in his term, Haggerty established five working groups of Board members to problem-solve in areas of long-standing concern: Enforcement, Outreach, Delinquencies, and RAMP (the Rehabilitation and Master Plan). Haggerty is part of the RAMP group, and estimates that he volunteers at least 20 hours a week on Village Green business. Haggerty

says the future of the Green will depend on each resident's willingness to participate:

"We need volunteers, if only for a few hours a month. Ask questions, make suggestions, join a committee, attend Board and Association meetings, come to Court Council, write letters to the *Highlights*. We have big decisions to make in the near future, and we need your participation at every step along the way."

Find out how to get involved. Visit [villagegreenla.net](http://villagegreenla.net) for committees and meeting times.



**Labor Day Concert**

Monday, September 7 (Labor Day): The Kamasi Washington Band returns to the Main Green. What an excellent way to wind down the summer!

<b>Village Green Committees and Meeting Times</b>	
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Meeting Times</b>
Budget & Finance	2nd Thursdays of July, October, January, and April. 6:30 p.m., chair: Pat Brown
Communications	3rd Wenesdays, 7:00 p.m., chair: Susan Edwards
Court Council	1st Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., chair: Barbara McCully
Cultural Affairs	1st Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., chair: Molly O'Brien
Cultural Landscape Report	4th Mondays, 7:00 p.m., chair: Ted Lumpkin
Design Review	1st Mondays 7:30 p.m., chair: Christian Daniels
Grants	currently not holding meetings
Landscape	2nd Mondays, 7:30 p.m., chair: Georgia Lumpkin
National Landmark	2nd Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.,
RAMP	4th Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., chair: Dan Frank
Safety	3rd Saturdays, 10:00 a.m., chair: Brian West
Social Recreation	Thursday 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., chair: Priscilla Browner
Tree	3rd Mondays, 7:30 p.m., chair: Gordon Brooks

# Musings of a Village Green Mom on Baldwin Hills Elementary School

By Euna Kim, Court 13

As for many parents, choosing a school for our children was a big decision for me and my husband Steven. This past fall, we sent Jessica, age 7, and Rebecca, age 5, to Baldwin Hills Elementary and Magnet School (BHES), just across the street from the Green. Perhaps readers will find my end-of-the-year journal musings about this decision interesting and useful.

## May 4

At the beginning of 2008, I became passionate about going *local*—to simplify, and look creatively and close by for whatever we needed. This meant leaving our wonderful co-op nursery school in Manhattan Beach and Spanish immersion kindergarten in Mar Vista. I asked myself, “What’s the point of *local* anyway? Don’t I appreciate what people from other communities bring to my own? Don’t people get narrow when they are isolated?” Yes, I decided. But every area deserves to be firmly established as well. There is plenty to do and learn right near home.

I dreamed about home schooling for years. Maybe we could have a more integrated lifestyle, focus on our faith and the environment, and incorporate the regular curriculum, too. Yet, we have a gifted magnet school with creditable test scores visible from our house. I loved the idea of supporting our local school, getting to know the families, and learning about the area. So when last-minute spots became available for Jessica in first grade and Rebecca in pre-kindergarten, I didn’t want to pass up this great opportunity. Go Eagles!!

Now, I get regular exercise and don’t miss the frantic commutes. When we walk to school, we see things, make up games, talk, and greet neighbors. I am building a web of ties with neighbors who I used to see just in passing.

My girls haven’t expressed any concern about fitting in, even though they’re the only Asian-Americans in their classes. They see the diversity of our surrounding neighborhood as normal. I want more Village Green families to feel that BHES is an option and share in something

that works as a natural community center.

There was once a strong tie between Village Green and the school; wouldn’t it be great to re-establish it?

## May 12

I cannot get to school on time! Plus, I feel so much pressure to carry out the teachers’ wishes for homework, and I want more time to read with the kids. I definitely need to learn how to communicate better with the teachers. There’s a bit of a hard edge in the tone of the school, a lot of laying down the law. I wonder what effect this hard-talking culture is having?

Everybody *says* they support public education and local schools, but there’s so much worry and confusion and even competition out there. It’s awkward getting to know people who seem so different from me. The parenting classes I’m required to take for Rebecca’s pre-K program (SRLDP – School Readiness and Language Development Program) foster interactions among its diverse parents, although personal pride and stereotypes do get a workout. It’s difficult, but definitely invigorating.

## May 18

Today was an affirming day. After taking the kids to school, I stopped by Jeanne Winn’s house and she mentioned that her daughter attended BHES years ago and had Jessica’s teacher. Later, when I arrived at school to pick up my first-grader, one of the dads from my Parent Ed class was late. I gave him a call and was able to keep his daughter with my girls until he arrived. Connections and community! As soon as we got home, the girls started playing with a neighbor’s son on the Green. Lucy Fried walked over, and we talked about creating this article for *Highlights*. I like these interactions, these elements of a community: people with common interests apart from being neighbors, collaboration, and children playing.

## May 20

Today, one of the kindergarten teachers gave a presentation and led a classroom tour for pro-

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## Village Green Owner Unit Survey Results Turned Over to Gafcon

By Steve Haggerty, VGOA Board President

The REMP committee recently handed over 284 unit evaluations to Gafcon Inc., the construction consulting firm conducting the Green's Property Condition Assessment (PCA). These surveys represent 45% of the Green's 629 units—a great job!

The most frequently reported problems are plumbing/drain issues (48%), interior wall cracks (39%) and ceiling issues (27%).

Gafcon inspectors will meet with the Green's property manager in mid-July for a site visit. In the interim, Gafcon will review the detailed spreadsheet data and comments, and will arrange between 15 and 25 units to inspect for selected problems.

Thank you again members of the Rehabilitation and Maintenance (RAMP) Committee who volunteered their time and to the Board for supporting this project.

*For more information about the Rehabilitation and Master Plan (RAMP), and the Gafcon Property Condition Assessment, visit [villagegreenla.net/ramp.html](http://villagegreenla.net/ramp.html).*



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### **How to Submit**

Please send ads by e-mail to [vghighlights@yahoo.com](mailto:vghighlights@yahoo.com).

### **Deadline**

August 15 for publication  
in the next issue in October.

### **Rate Sheet**

e-mail [vghighlights@yahoo.com](mailto:vghighlights@yahoo.com)  
Rates start at \$20.

## **Drinks and Movies on the Green**

By Daniel Millner, Court 5

On May 17, over 150 Village Green residents gathered for “Drinks on the Green,” a social event co-sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee, Court Council, and the Board of Directors. Volunteers Barbara McCully, Robb Curtis, Bernie Altman and myself set up tables and invited everyone in the community to bring their favorite beverage and dish to the West Green for a few hours on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Kids played, adults talked and laughed, and an impromptu jam session entertained.

Drinks on the Green provided residents with a low-cost and high-fun event that utilizes the beautiful setting to meet neighbors.

Inspired by its success, film and technology buffs Steve Cain, Raul Campos, Carl Pfirman, and Bob McGuinness are organizing “Movies on the Green” to take place in July or August (or if we are lucky, both!!). Keep a look out for details!

# Did'ja Know?

You can connect with your neighbors on Facebook! Join the group by searching for “Village Green Los Angeles.”

Village Green Vice President of the Board of Directors, Drew Furedi, completed his doctorate in Educational Leadership for Social Justice to become Dr. Drew Furedi, EdD at the graduation ceremony at Loyola Marymount on May 10th.

Resident Steve Cain is organizing a movie night on the Green to be held outdoors on a large screen. This family event will be held sometime in July and/or August.

C. Steven McGann, son of Court 13 Council Representative Evangeline Hutson, was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Republics of Fiji, Nauru, Kiribati and the Kingdom of Tonga and Tuvalu.

The family of the original landscape architect for Baldwin Hills Village, Fred Barlow Jr., had a reunion at Village Green recently. The Barlow family lived at Village Green from 1942 through 1948. This was their first visit to Village Green, since they visited their grandmother, who lived here while it was still Baldwin Hills Village.

<b>Village Green Owners' Association</b> <b>5300 Rodeo Road</b> <b>Los Angeles, CA 90016</b> <b>323-294-5212</b>	<b>Office Hours: 8 a.m.—5 p.m. M-F</b> <b>Office walk-in hours:</b> <b>8 a.m.- 11 a.m.</b> <b>3 p.m. - 5 p.m.</b>
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## Top 10 Reasons to Love New Orleans

By Reba Glover, Court 1

I recently had the opportunity to make my first visit the city of New Orleans. There are many reasons to fall in love with the Big Easy—its hard to choose only 10!

- 10. Direct flights from LAX!** Take an afternoon flight from Los Angeles and touch down in New Orleans before lunch. Earlier this year the airport regained their international status after it was lost since Hurricane Katrina.
- 9. The history of the place.** Claimed by French explorer Sieur de Bienville for King Louis XIV in 1682, the city was governed by France then Spain and then France again before being sold to to the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase. You can see its history reflected in the amalgamation of building designs, continuing traditions, and its many museums. The newly opened National World War II Museum is a must visit.
- 8. “Go cups.”** In the French Quarter on the famous (or infamous) Bourbon Street, visitors use plastic ‘go cups’ to avoid accidents with broken glass as they sip frozen daiquiris, Hurricanes and other delicious concoctions—a benefit of the lack of city container laws.



7. **Cemetery tours.** Above-ground crypts are used for burial and are passed down from generation to generation. Their reverence and symbolism is unique and beautiful. Plus they look cool.

6. **Music.** You cannot escape world-class jazz and rock and roll. Stroll the French Quarter where bands play on the sidewalks or find a park where musicians play for crowds while passing the hat.



5. **Street Cars.** Made famous by Stanley and Stella with the literary talent of Tennessee Williams, street cars are back in operation after being badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Take the St. Charles' line west away from the Warehouse/Arts District through the Garden District to Audubon Park and the zoo.



4. **Po'Boys!** These sandwiches are reputed to have been invented by using the restaurant dregs to sell to "poor boys" for a nickel. Similar to Los Angeles's own French Dip, the po'boys are delicious! Sample oyster, shrimp or roast beef. Two great places are the family-owned Domilise's and Mother's Restaurant, located near the convention center and easily spotted by the long lines.

3. **More Food!** What's the difference between Cajun and Creole? Who cares! Try the gumbo, crawfish (if in season), red beans and rice, po'boys, grits, oysters (if in season), alligator, muffalettas, or any of their other delicacies. Don't forget your beignet for breakfast! You can't go wrong at Restaurant Stanley in the French Quarter for eggs benedict with oysters, or at Cochon, for their specialty pork dishes.

2. **The French Quarter.** Walt Disney's inspiration for New Orleans Square at Disneyland, the streets are laid out in an easy-to-navigate grid and there is so much more than the stereo-typed nonstop party on Bourbon Street. Explore countless specialty shops, bakeries, pubs, hotels, banks, houses and galleries—all with New Orleans' signature wrought iron balconies.



1. **The people of New Orleans.**

The number one reason to visit New Orleans is the residents who live and work there. With great accents and charm, everyone seems to have a story to tell. Many speak frankly about the aftermath of Katrina but it is clear that they are looking forward.

If you've been to New Orleans, I encourage you to go again. If you've never been there, make it your next vacation!

*(Home Companion Continued from page 2)*

The program returned to music as three vocalists sang in contrasting styles: Bertha Credille, a velvety ballad; Jeanne Winn (this writer), a tongue-in-cheek aria; and Dan Frank, an original rap. Instrumentalists included 12-year old keyboardist Al Sims, 8-year old trombonist Tej, and guitarist Rocco Mattone, who also sang his own numbers. Violist and resident Claire Bergen brought her string quartet buddies to grace us with a Strauss waltz. Members included Anya Engel, Dawson Weber and Vi Ha.



**Twelve-year old Al Sims on keyboard.**



To conclude the show, the audience joined in the fun and sang with Jim and Mickey Walton a thrilling rendition of the Kinks' 1968-cult classic "Village Green." The lyrics, adapted by Mandalit, spoke adroitly about our community and our common interest in "greening" our planet.

With so many talented performances, many would be right to think of the Village Green as a burgeoning artist colony!

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### **The Green has so many talented residents!**

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*(Musings Continued from page 4)*

spective parents. It was very warm and positive. The teachers seemed to work well together, and people asked a lot of questions. I was impressed and pleased with the teachers' progressive ideas for involving parents and strengthening arts instruction.

Although some people feel BHES isn't diverse enough, every day I see a mini-United Nations of parents arriving on foot to pick up their kids, and a little later, a more ethnically homogenous but economically diverse group



**Euna and the girls.**

driving up. I realize that with all the differences in cultural background, ethnicity, education, and economic status, all of these parents care about their kids and their education.

Jessica and Rebecca have learned a lot this year and really like their classmates. My desire to

home school is still great. But if that doesn't win out, my girls will stay at BHES. Yes, it has challenges, but my girls would certainly benefit from a good, solid public school education.

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