

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

June 2021

BOARD NEWS

The May 25 BOD meeting was packed with quality-of-life issues, from children's tree-climbing to noisy landscape maintenance equipment, and more. Kimani Black, deputy for our Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, paid his second visit this year and was applauded for the assistance in securing a DWP commitment to increase our electrical power in the near future. 15-20 owners zoomed in for all or part of the meeting.

During Homeowner Comments, owners spiritedly argued for and against changing the rule prohibiting children's tree climbing. An owner's letter suggested ways to remove the Green's liability in case of an accident leading to a lawsuit, and the board agreed to consult with our attorneys and our arborist about it.

Resolutions Passed Unanimously:

- **Directs Management** to *"Instruct landscape vendor Greencrew to make a proactive effort to reduce as much as possible the roaring noise from their gaso-line-powered mowers, edgers, hedgers, power saws, leaf blowers (especially), and other motorized machines by striking an optimal balance between excellence and reducing noise."* Besides reducing the frequency of noisy machine activities and increasing use of non-motorized tools, directors asked for a proactive look into battery-powered tools. (from Landscape/Trees Committee)
- **Adds a new sentence** in paragraph two of the VG HANDBOOK Preface after, "The purpose of the Rules is to enable residents to enjoy living in a pleasant environment with the highest regard and respect for your neighbors." The newly added sentence says: *"Inherent in the purpose is the understanding that manifestations of disrespect based on race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation or gender identity, age, physical or mental condition, religion, or political belief violate the purpose."* (from Communications Committee)
- **Records a lien** on a unit in arrears.
- **Adopts three HANDBOOK rules** already published for membership comment: (1) Before installing a hot tub, units must meet certain conditions set forth by the Board; (2) Existing and new ponds, fountains etc. must include a running circulation system (to prevent stagnant water); (3) Owners no longer require a medical need to seek Board approval for free-standing air-conditioners; clarifies requirements in patios and on balconies.



Court 5-6. Photo by Don Dongallo

INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS

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Editor: Lucy Fried
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Comment? Question? Suggestion?

Email us!

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VG SAFETY COMMITTEE JUNE EMERGENCY TIP

Grab & Go Bag 3-Day Kit for Immediate Evacuation

Create one or several "Grab & Go" kits. The contents should be kept in something easy to carry, such as a backpack, in case you need to evacuate on foot. Pack enough to sustain you for two to three days and place the kit near your primary house exit.

Not sure what to include? You can find some ideas here:

<https://emergency.lacity.org/blog/emergency-supply-checklist-learn-how-make-kit-prepare-disasters>

MANAGEMENT NEWS

From Manager Sherri Giles' May Board Report

Court 6 Electrical Line Repair

Court 6 residents' long wait is almost over! All the underground work is complete and approved, and the new walkway is to be finished this month. Following that, LADWP will install the new underground feed lines and remove the overhead lines that have been there since December 2019.



Conduit entering Court 6 patio containing the electrical junction box. Photo by Jordan Moore

Electrical Upgrade Project

Now that the DWP has agreed to bring new 34.5 kilovolt power to the Green, we are working on selecting one of two possible sites for their new equipment. We will be selecting a surveyor and working with our attorney to hire a title company to confirm and validate any required easements...

Hariton Engineering and our facilities team have inspected 62 units representing each of our eight building types, and found that more than 40% had been modified from the original 1940s configuration ranging from new electrical panels to new outlets.

We had our first meeting with the LA Department of Building & Safety (LADBS) to review our drawings and specifications for the electrical work to be done in our buildings.

Building Insulation and Painting

Building 66 insulation was finished in late May. Buildings 18, 27, and eight others will receive insulation, painting and carpentry repair this year and early 2022.

Landscape Operations

Greencrew reported detailing courts 15-1 in May and will be in 2-6 this month... A half-day of watering was lost to a broken irrigation mainline in Court 14... Workers have begun repairing the landscape damaged during the sewer project... As summer arrives, they will increase use of water hoses on dry grass areas. □

Public Security Report

Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

April 22 - May 19, 2021

RESIDENT FOUND DEAD April 29, Court 13, 7:07 pm.

A caring neighbor found the deceased.

BICYCLES STOLEN April 30, Court 2, 7:00 pm.

They had been in the resident's locked patio.

ELECTRIC BICYCLE STOLEN May 1, Court 8, 5:25 pm.

The bike was stolen although it had been chained in the resident's patio.

TRANSIENT May 6, Court 15 laundry area, 8:00 am.

A transient was changing his clothes and charging his phone at an outdoor outlet. He was asked to leave the property and not return.

AGGRESSIVE TRESPASSER May 7, Court 15, 2:15 pm.

The man resisted the request to leave but then complied, only to return in the evening and be escorted off again.

RACIST ASSAULT/BIGOTRY May 8, on the Green, 8:05 pm.

An Asian-American resident was verbally assaulted by a woman using racist language and told, "You don't belong here."

FOOD PREP BOX STOLEN May 10, Court 9, 9:40 am.

A food box was stolen from a patio. Residents declined to press charges, and the culprit was escorted from the property.

RESIDENT SCREAMING May 10, Court 5, 10:20 am.

A resident reported their neighbor was screaming and expressed concern. The screaming eventually stopped.

VEHICLE BREAK-IN May 12-13, Court 15, time unknown.

A pick-up truck parked on Little Rodeo was burglarized and work equipment stolen.

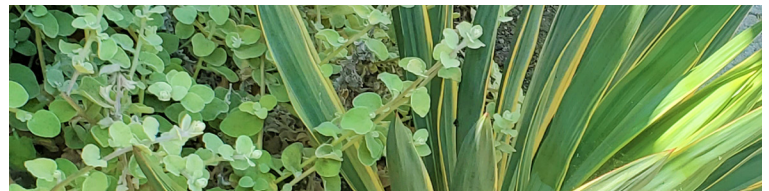
BIKE THEFT & VEHICLE BREAK-IN May 12 & 17, Court 15, time unknown. The bike was unsecured in the patio.

POSSIBLE TRESPASSER May 17, Court 7, 9:32 am.

The "trespasser" was a VG maintenance worker working on a plumbing emergency.

DOG(S) BARKING NON-STOP May 19-20, Court 5, overnight.

Two residents reported the barking prevented their sleep and said it is a frequent occurrence. □



Interview with VG Board Director **Avelene Fung Schodorf**



Highlights: Thank you for taking the time to talk to HIGHLIGHTS. You have two children and a job in tech and teach piano on the side, yet you ran for the board and were elected. What motivated you to add this to your busy life?

Avelene Fung Schodorf: One of the main reasons I joined the board was to give a voice for all the families that live here and help bridge that gap for residents who may have forgotten what it was like to be a kid. I also believed it was important to add a person of color to the current board.

HL: How has the experience been so far?

AFS: There is a huge learning curve. My first year on the board, I was a little intimidated and wanted to just listen. I am in my second year now, enjoying collaborating with the other directors to make thoughtful changes and still learning about the Green with all its quirks. Even though it has been a quiet year for Cultural Affairs, as the liaison I am excited to bring back live events in the coming months.

HL: Why do you think more residents do not volunteer for committees or the board?

AFS: Honestly, I believe some residents may not even know that we have committees to join! There is no proper onboarding process for new residents. Many do not check the website. So here is my shameless plug to join a committee. If you want to be a part of the change, check the VG website for details.

HL: On May 8, an Asian resident was walking on the Main Green before sunset when a woman accosted her, told her she did not belong here, and accused "her people" of bringing the virus here. What was your reaction to the incident?

AFS: I was extremely angry and shocked that this would happen in our home. But it has been heartening to see all the overwhelming responses of solidarity. I reached out and we have started to walk together in the mornings. And I am so grateful other residents have done the same.

On weekdays I usually walk with two other Asian moms, and we always feel safe here. I have been following (what feels like daily) every attack on the Asian American and Pacific Islander community via social media, attended a couple of rallies, donated to several charities, and it just never feels like enough can be done. I will continue to wear a mask - not so much to protect myself from Covid as to protect myself from blatant racism. □



Two lovely landscapes in narrow beds on the Obama side of the Green

Pages 2, 3 landscape photos by Melanie Duvernay

Baldwin Hills School Excited about **Community School Status**

By Marie Germaine, Court 12



Baldwin Hills Elementary has been designated a Community School, one of only 30 in the L.A. Unified School District! The District's investment in the community school model is a "win" resulting from the January 2019 UTLA strike.

This designation brings a \$400,000 investment into our elementary school for two years. We will focus on implementing four pillars:

- * Integrating our support programs,
- * Growing and enriching our learning opportunities,
- * Strengthening parent and community involvement,
- * Building collaborative leadership practices.

Our first step will be to assign a full-time coordinator to lead our school community members through an assessment of our needs, assets, and wants. Our emphasis is on hearing the voice of each family. The results will be a guide for how we amplify school experiences for all of our learners.

BHES plans to work in partnership with nearby schools Hillcrest Elementary, Audubon Middle School, and Dorsey High School, who also were designated as community schools. There is potential for the four schools to have a greater impact to strengthen the school communities they serve by combining resources and partnerships. In a recent meeting of teacher-leaders from the four schools, there was much excitement in the room about this collaboration.

There is a lot of promise in the Community School model. BHES will need to use all classroom spaces on campus to meet the needs of students and families. Enrollment is underway, and we welcome our new Village Green families who will take this Community School journey with us. □

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hooray for the information on "Modifying Units and Neighbors' Rights" in the May issue of **Highlights**! We and our neighbors just experienced a major overhaul near our condo - and how polite it would have been if the VGHOA or DRC had provided us and our neighbors with the scope of that project.

Perhaps a mini sit-down review of the project in advance with advice and VGHOA experiences from prior renovations would have made us neighbors more comfortable. After all, we are one big neighborhood, not islands.

Given all we went through, now the project is complete and will become an asset to the Green. And we are welcoming a new family to our building. It would have been less aggravating if more hand-holding had taken place. And if the data in the last **Highlights** is posted regularly, it may create smoother sailing ahead.

Sincerely, Aubrey and Melba Provost, Court 7 □

Comment? Question? Suggestion? Reach us at villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com.

