

# VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

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# HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

June 2020



## A MESSAGE FROM VGOA BOARD PRESIDENT JOE KHOURY

A friend asked me how Village Green is doing during this global pandemic.

I answered with a double thumbs up!

Our office has been getting their work done while keeping everyone safe with a creative combination of on and off-site working. Most of the committees have responded well and continue to get together over Zoom. And the outpouring of kind deeds and creative community activities such as the "Helping Hands" project and tree mural and May 24 virtual talent show (See Page 4) are testaments to our community's resiliency and humanity.

The most obvious signs that our community is thriving are on the Green itself -- my spirit gets a boost when I walk the grounds and see so many people using this space the way it was meant to be loved. Think for a moment: What does it say about someone who wears a mask knowing that it offers little protection for him/herself, but that it may be protecting their neighbor from this disease?

*Although restrictions are starting to ease, masks and social distancing are still mandatory. Please check [corona-virus.la/](https://corona-virus.la/) and follow what the experts advise before relaxing any of the precautions you are now taking to protect your neighbors and yourselves.*

This trial has placed a spotlight on the strengths of this community and the individuals that comprise it. My hope is that after this pandemic passes, I can continue to focus on my neighbors' many strengths and overlook their shortcomings (and that they may return the favor!).

P.S. Check the VG website for committee schedules and email addresses.

The Zoom link for meetings will be live much of the time. ☐



**MASK Driveway Sign**

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

In May, the BoD held its second distance meeting, attracting some 15-20 resident "guests" who Zoomed in and out during the evening. Directors clarified issues raised in eight letters from residents and the Management Report, including:

**Private property signs** - existing signs will be repainted, and DRC will consider bringing a resolution on driveway signs;

**Electrical, Court 6** - despite many requests from management, the DWP has not yet determined the responsibility for the Christmas Eve outage, and directors discussed seeking help to move the process forward;

**Storm Drains and Mosquitoes** - storm drains are being treated for mosquitoes, but to control them, RESIDENTS MUST HELP by removing all standing water in patios;

**Landscaping** - the Landscape Committee will soon bring a resolution on Building 8; See Page 2 regarding work orders. ☐



**Agapanthus  
East Green**

**Highlights** is a volunteer project of the Village Green Communication Committee.

Design: Terry Park

Editor: Lucy Fried

Photos: Zig, Tina, Terry, Lucy

Send comments and submissions to [villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com](mailto:villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com).

## Electrical Upgrade

In April, Hariton Engineering, our electrical engineering sub-contractor, started a dialogue with David Vu, an electrical engineering associate with the DWP, and we anticipate our initial planning meeting with the DWP in June. The required initial documents have been delivered.

## Maintenance

For safety, our maintenance staff has been restricted from entering units in the Green, and they are attending to common area repairs. We are using outside vendors for residents' plumbing and other work orders and finding the system to be working well.

## Refurbishment Projects

Residential building painting/carpentry/insulation, re-piping, and garage restoration projects remain on hold due to the "stay at home" order.

## Landscape Maintenance

Greencrew said they would assign two workers to weeding in areas where they would soon be detailing. They also clarified that they do not fill work orders in courts that will be detailed in two or three weeks and asked residents to understand their schedules. In June, workers will be detailing courts 10-14.

## Tree Maintenance

After the third walk-through of 2020, arborist Cy Carlberg recommended five trees for trimming and seven for removal. Of the seven, five are California sycamores either dead or suffering from the shot-hole borer (courts 1, 6, and 16).

## Clubhouse Remodel

The Clubhouse has been cleared for asbestos abatement, and the approved electrical upgrade and lighting phase is ready to begin. □



*From Manager  
Sherri Giles' May  
Board Report*



*New call box with bollards*



*Edited by  
Jordan Deglise  
Moore*

## PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT April 23 - May 20, 2020

**APR 28 FALLEN RESIDENT; West Circle, 3:30 pm.** A resident lost his balance. He called security and was helped to his unit.

**APR 28 RESIDENTS BLOCK TREE TRIMMING; Court 13, 9:00 am.** Residents refused to allow pruning of a shade tree outside their unit.

**APR 29 - MAY 1 STOLEN VEHICLE; Courts 1 & 17, 12:30-5:00 am.** A resident reported a burglar entered their unlocked unit while they were sleeping, found their car keys, and stole their car from the garage.

**MAY 4 NON-RESIDENTS FILMING WITH A DRONE; Main Green, 2:30 pm.** A resident reported a drone film crew, who said they had authorization from an owner selling a unit and their realtor. They were warned, and a follow-up was conducted.

**MAY 13 INDECENT EXPOSURE; East Circle, 10:55 am.** A resident reported a transient exposing himself to female residents. Security found and escorted him from the property and were given instructions for future incidents.

**MAY 15 FEMALE TRANSIENT TRESPASSING; Courts 16 & 17, 10:15 am.** Maintenance reported a disoriented, possibly intoxicated woman. Paramedics were called, and she left the property.

**MAY 17 TWO ATTEMPTED VEHICLE BURGLARIES; Court 1, 9:45 am ; Court 8, time unknown.**

Two residents reported their vehicles had been broken into and nothing missing or disturbed.

**MAY 18 GUNSHOTS; north side of the property, 5:30 am.** A resident reported hearing gunshots from Obama Boulevard.

**MAY 20 STRUCTURE DAMAGE, Court 15; garages, time unknown.** An employee reported damage to a garage, probably from a truck. □

## ALONE AND TOGETHER IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

*By Bob McGinness, Court 2*

Seeing my smiling countenance on the May Highlights cover captured my joy of living here in the Village Green, especially during these extended fortnights of mandated exile and suggested self-quarantine. Most of the time I've secreted myself in the folds of my door jams and hallways, becoming all too familiar with the shortcomings of my long-term house cleaning skills.

It's almost theatrical, as though I'm trapped at home in an existential Samuel Beckett play, immobile, buried to my waist in travel restrictions, trying to convince myself that this is the New Normal. As I listen to the rain tip-tapping on my window panes, I feel Mother Nature is metaphorically crying and commiserating on our behalf, but perhaps extracting some degree of penance and personal space as she uses the time to heal from our environmental abuses while we are shuttered in our man-made boxes.

It seems so odd to be fortified in our own abodes to avoid getting sick, not only to protect ourselves from others, but now to protect others from ourselves. Ironically, the one-two punch of time and availability has been simultaneously given to and summarily snatched from our collective grasps. The whole reason for this free time is to prevent our availability; we are prisoners in the solitary confinement of our own homes, reticent retirees locked behind the gates of our disinfected domiciles.

So I revel in venturing out onto The Green with its serpentine sidewalks draped by towering trees. I've seen more people out and about during the day than any time in my almost two decades here: children washing the walkways with pep-me-up poetry; couples on a date night twilight stroll; picnic-goers raising a socially distanced toast to each other; a passerby strutting her stuff on the "silly walk" sidewalk.

In our beloved Village Green lies the wooded promise of better days. I miss all of you and wish you the best as we collectively face this individually. □



## A LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO COURT 16

*From Heide Oglesby, Court 16*



As a person who can look back many, many years, I have seen all: the good, the bad and the ugly, a lot of ugly.

The Covid-19 however, as devastating and sad as it is, has also restored my faith in today's humanity. I watch, I listen, I hear and I see the grocery workers, mail personnel, first responders, nurses, doctors, too many to name them all, and I say a heartfelt **thank you** for doing what you do and putting yourself on the front line for all of us.

Most of all, though, I must also thank, with a huge virtual hug, my neighbors in Court 16. Several young families, getting used to their own changed lives and most likely concerned about their own survival, have been concerned about their elderly neighbor, me. They share their bounty after food runs, have offered to go shopping and help whenever needed. And I think to myself, "This is not the me-me-me- generation!"

I am so happy to live at Village Green, and even happier to live in **Court 16**.

Thank you again my lovely neighbors, all of you - you know who you are. You are the best! □



*Cape Chestnut with bloom insert  
13-14 garden court*



## COURT COUNCIL UPDATE

*From Nat Hutton, Chairman*

Court Council is one of Village Green's eight standing committees. The members are the representatives and alternates from all the courts, and the Council is a link between court residents and the board. The reps also distribute the **Highlights** and other HOA materials. Residents are always welcome to attend meetings.

Court reps and alternates are needed for Courts 14 and 10. If you are interested in finding out more about the duties and responsibilities, please call me at 323-298-4400.

During this unusual time, residents are enjoying the Green. Just one item of concern is bicycling in the parking areas of the courts. Cars are coming and going all the time there, and it is not safe to ride in those areas. Also, when going from court to court, please be careful because people do walk in those areas constantly. (See "Recreational Use of the Green," Article 13: Section 13.1 in the **Village Green Handbook**.)

One more reminder. We are producing lots more trash during this period, so please follow the **Handbook** section on trash disposal areas: Article 14: Section 14.6.

## CELEBRATING THE VG COMMUNITY

*From Lucy Fried*

For an hour on Sunday, May 24th, about 20 Greenies enjoyed a virtual talent show via Zoom featuring poetry, music, and a meditation, all provided by residents.

The program included a Zoom sing-along of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land"; a cover of the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun" from Jerry Gottschalk; original poems read by writers/poets Aram Saroyan and Andrew Shalat; classical piano/flute duets from Jeanne Winn and Navello Kelso; a poem recitation from Kelly Samojlik Wilson; and a surprise rendition of the Gypsy Kings' "Un Amor," from teenage guitarist/singer Louis Grover Khoury. Nya Patrinos' soothing meditation closed the event.

Thank you, performers and moderator Daniel Millner. We may be isolated physically, but our community is strong.

## SAFETY ADVISORIES

*From John Howell, Safety Committee Secretary*

(1) The Green's closest police station is Southwest Community Police Station. 323-387-9621. Our senior lead officer, SLR Roybal, announced that there is now a street-racing task force handling this issue. Please call 911 immediately if you hear or see racing on Clyde or Obama, so they can generate a radio call for officers to respond.

(2) Car break-ins and thefts of catalytic converters have been on the rise in the area. Go online to learn whether your car is subject to converter theft. And remember never to leave valuables in your car.



## FAREWELL, BJ



**May 23, 2020** This morning, my neighbor, BJ Walker, passed away at 96. She and her partner, Linda, lived together for 53 years, and half of those years were at Village Green. BJ owned an antique store on Rose in Venice. Linda will be 80 next month.

*From Court 7 neighbor, Feliza Kohan*

