

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

July 2018

Share Your Opinions and Observations About the Pet Rules

Come to an Open Meeting to Discuss our *Handbook** Rules on Pets and Pet Rule Enforcement.

**Saturday, July 28th, 2018
10:00 am to 12:00 Noon**



Sponsored by the Pet Task Force and Village Green Board of Directors

*See VG Rules on Pets, Section 15, at www.VillageGreenla.net. Under Resident Resources, go to Governing Documents, then *Handbook*.

Communications Committee Note

Dear Reader,

Highlights will not publish in August. Please look for the August-September issue in September.

Thank you.

Lucy Fried, Editor
Kelly Wilson Samojlik, Designer

June Board Meeting

Directors Okay Clubhouse WiFi, Garage Fine Changes, Open Meeting on Pets, and More

By Lucy Fried

At its June meeting, the Village Green Board of Directors continued to brush away cobwebs and approve measures to improve the quality of life here while continuing the relentless push to restore our aging infrastructure and landscape

on a limited budget.

After listening to five homeowners' comments about noise, insulation, unwatered shrub beds, need for a landscape architect, and the June 30 Patio Peek, the Board settled into its business agenda.

Approved resolutions included:

INSTALLATION OF WIFI IN THE CLUBHOUSE

WiFi will be available for residents from 8:00 am until midnight in both rooms. It will be especially helpful to committees such as Design Review that often must print and examine proposals with many pages. It is completely separate from the office's system.

RULES REVISIONS FOR GARAGE INSPECTIONS, ACCESS VIOLATIONS, AND ESCALATION OF FINES

Among other things, the proposed revisions address the problem of management access to garages for inspections, as lack of management access is an important cause of rising fines. All owners will be sent thirty-day written notices of the proposed amendments and invited to submit comments which the Board will consider before taking a final vote. **Bring, mail, or email comments to Board of Directors, c/o the office.**

PET RULES AND ENFORCEMENT OPEN MEETING AND SURVEY

See notice on this page and survey insert inside.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT RFP (Request for Proposal [Bid])

The resolution acknowledges the need to consult with a landscape architect on plans and implementation for renovation of the Coliseum/Hauser corner area and other areas of the property and directs the Landscape Committee to assist management in developing an RFP and list of prospective candidates.

IRRIGATION DESIGN CRITERIA

The resolution invites the Landscape Committee to propose criteria for a design and an RFP for an irrigation system replacement. The Board had already agreed a new irrigation system was needed. □

MAY MANAGER'S REPORT

From Sherri Giles, Operations Manager

Major Maintenance Projects

Exterior Water Supply - Court 14's main and lateral pipes have been replaced.

Residential Re-piping - Five buildings, all in Court 14, are scheduled for interior re-piping from June through October. Work began June 11 in Building 69.

Insulation, Carpentry, Painting - Building 5 has been completed. Building 9 is in progress. Eight more buildings are scheduled this year.

Water, Landscape

Irrigation - At least two watering days were lost in June due to numerous pump shut downs on June 8, 9, and 14 and breaks in two irrigation mainlines. The shutdowns were caused by inconclusive electrical problems. Management continues to monitor these matters.

Landscape - In July, the crew will work in Courts 7-14.

Trees

Elm Failure - An elm toppled in Court 10, causing damage to a residential building, patio fence, patio gate and garage roof. The arborist cited the cause of the tree failure as root rot from excessive water below five inches of soil. Pipes are being checked for leaks. This is the second elm to fall in this court in recent months, and the arborist recommended that all the elms in the court be crown-reduced and cleaned as quickly as possible. □



This photo from June 6 shows two Cooper's Hawk nestlings perched on the edge of their nest in a Sycamore tree just south of the Clubhouse. The tree, which has been ravaged by the notorious polyphagous shot hole borer, is slated for removal to stop further spreading of the blight to nearby trees. However, it was spared the axe until these birds had left their nest.

Did you know that Village Green doesn't prune and remove trees all year round? To protect the birds during the mating/nesting season, the Board adopted a policy some years ago of deferring this necessary maintenance until the season was over (except in emergencies). The decision followed a recommendation from the arborist and the tree committee.

Thanks once again to Audubon birder-photographer Don Sterba for the photo and description.

Public Security Report

Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

May 15 - June 19, 2018

May 29 END OF POLICE PURSUIT; East Circle, 4:10am.

Security observed four or five male subjects pursued by Beverly Hills Police officers abandon their car and flee on foot through Courts 15 and West Circle. Suspects eluded arrest despite a subsequent massive search.

May 31 IRATE RESIDENT; MANAGEMENT OFFICE, 4:35pm. Security helped separate a VG employee from a resident who was heatedly yelling at them.

May 31, HOME BREAK-IN; Court 15, 10:16pm. A resident reported their unit had been burglarized through a patio window during the day.

June 7, VG PROPERTY DAMAGE; Court 9 garages, 10:10am. A resident reported accidentally backing his vehicle into a garage, moderately damaging it.

June 9, FALLEN TREE/VG PROPERTY DAMAGE; Court 10, 10:30am. Several residents reported a fallen tree had broken a window and damaged two patio fences. □

Community News

By Cynthia Singleton and Lucy Fried

Culver City Oil Drilling To Be Eased Out

On June 20, after many months of consideration and an election, the five-members of Culver City's City Council voted unanimously on a course of action to end Inglewood Oil Field operations in their city.

The Council agreed "to retain a qualified expert to prepare a study and recommendations for the potential amortization of oil-related activities..." according to the resolution that was passed. The city is also launching its General Plan Update program and will establish new uses for the land currently occupied by the oil wells.

Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza

On June 27, the L.A. City Council finally okayed the overhaul of the Baldwin Hills Mall and adjacent areas. The vote came after a final hearing earlier in the month attended by many area residents. As reported in the *June 2017 Highlights*, the area is to become a "destination," with a stop on the Metro Crenshaw Line and not only the mall but a 400-room hotel, large green belts, more restaurants and stores, and 551 condominiums and 440 apartments.

The developer agreed to set costs lower for 10% of the condos and apartments and that local residents make up at least 30% of jobs to build and run the project. Despite these and other concessions, many predict that most area residents will not be able to afford to live there and the historic ethnic and cultural character of the area will fade. □

Where Should I Send My Child to School?



Parents all over Los Angeles are looking for the right school for their child, and the nearby public school rarely seems to be the right one. No one sends their child to their LAUSD community elementary school anymore, right?

Not so fast.

Things are changing. Hectic work and school schedules, the ever-increasing traffic, and fierce competition for limited spaces in the “right” school are leading many parents to take a long second look at their community public elementary school. They are often surprised and impressed by what it offers.

At left: Baldwin Hills Pilot Elementary School mural

Village Green’s Neighborhood School

Baldwin Hills Elementary Pilot School and Gifted/High Ability Magnet, (affectionately known as “Baldwin” or “BHES”) is located across the street from Village Green. It is a long-established school beloved by many. We hold our VGOA meeting there every year.

BHES has struggled, like so many other public schools, through decades of underfunding, population shifts, and frequent bounces from one style of pedagogy to another. But today, as the school enters its fourth year as a pilot school with a gifted and high- ability magnet and impressive ratings, more Village Green parents are finding it the “right” school for their children.

To learn more about BHES and why parents are choosing it, Highlights interviewed two teachers (one a Village Green owner/resident) and two VG moms (one whose child completed kindergarten and is going on to first grade there; and another, whose child will be entering kindergarten).

Meet Marie Germaine

Marie Germaine (at right) is a veteran grades 3-5 teacher at BHES and VG owner who has lived at Village Green since 1998. She has been the UTLA (teacher union) chapter chair at the school for more than ten years, is a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), and holds an MA in Elementary Education. When asked if she has time to enjoy the Green, she replied, “I love the Green and I do walk around and attend some of our events.”

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Baldwin teacher Marie Germaine at home in Village Green.

Security Advisory: If You See or Hear...

Something suspicious: Call Public Security at **213-703-0540** (on-site line) or **323-293-9884** (dispatch)

Crime in progress:

Call **911** first & then Public Security.

Need an escort home?

Call **8140*** from the call box outside the office.



Baldwin teacher Tracy Pharris and her daughter Simone.

Meet Tracy Pharris

Tracy Pharris has been teaching second graders for 25 years. She holds an MA in education with a focus on teaching and curriculum and is an NBCT. She lived at the Green until 2006 and still owns a unit here.

Tracy enrolled her now 10-year-old daughter in Pre-K at BHES, and Simone has been there ever since. "I think my daughter got her serious attitude toward school in Pre-K. I kept her at Baldwin because it's the best school in the neighborhood, and I knew she would get the best foundation here," she said.

Both teachers took time from their summer vacations to speak with *Highlights*, and we appreciate it. Marie said, "I'm proud of our community public school, and any opportunity to talk about the wonderful job we are doing should not be missed."

Teachers' Interview with *Highlights*

Highlights: *What are the most important things for parents to know about BHES?*

Marie: It's important to know that we are an LAUSD Pilot School. We chose to take this opportunity to have more autonomy over curriculum, budget, professional development, community partnership, and enrichment programs.

Our Pilot School Plan offers a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) curriculum; project-based learning; and culturally responsive pedagogy for all our students.

We also have a Gifted and High Ability Magnet School within our school for grades 1-5.

Tracy: Our enrichment programs include engineering, yoga, chess, orchestra (grades 4-5), and visual arts. Although the charter school that the District co-located in our school has taken eight of our classrooms, including our computer lab and arts room, we will continue these enrichment classes.

H: *A white parent considering where to enroll her child contributed the next question, which may mirror the thoughts of other parents: "I'm curious how it is, culturally, for students that aren't African-American or Latino. The work, curriculum and supplementary art/music programs at BHES are focused on serving black kids. Which is great. I'm just not sure if/how a white kid would fit in."*

M: Baldwin's student body is 70-80% African-American and 10-15% Latino, with small populations of Asian-American and white children. Our teaching and support staffs are also ethnically diverse.

**Our motto is, "Affirm Every Child." We work to bring each student's social understanding from self to family, community, nation, and world."
Our staffing and curriculum reflect that commitment.**

T: My favorite example of our school's commitment to affirming every student is the "Morning Circle," led by our principal, Dr. Letitia Davis. Each morning for 15 minutes before class starts, students gather to learn about and discuss a "HEARt Card Virtue," such as justice. They are asked to model it in their behavior and write about it in their journals, and on Mondays, student examples are shared and students are acknowledged and rewarded for demonstrating the virtues daily.

M: Our school serves students with special needs and has two autism special day classes. Our principal has worked strategically to build a circle of support for students, and we employ restorative justice practices in disciplinary situations.

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Teachers' Interviews (Continued from page 4)

H: *How is the school governed, and how can parents have a say?*

T: Under the Pilot School Plan, all stakeholders evaluate the principal. There is also an annual Pilot School review, and all parents, all staff, and children in grades 3-5 and community members participate in a school-wide survey... Parent help is valued in many ways, from assisting in the classroom, to fund-raising, to participating in the Governing School Council. We also have a Parent Center and a Community Representative.

Please contact the school for more information. To reach the parent office, call 323-937-7223 and leave a message for Jheri Murdock. There are tours every Friday for potential students and their parents. We want to increase our enrollment and look forward to welcoming you to Baldwin. www.baldwinhillselementaryschool.com.

BHES Parent Interviews

Meet the Mills Family

Pat and Tanya Mills bought into Village Green nine years ago. "We love it here," Pat said, "the community, the open space, and our school."

Pat is a senior operations researcher for the Rand Corporation. Tanya, with a BA and secondary school credential and MAT in mathematics, taught math and music before their children were born. Today, she tutors math and gives piano lessons at home.

Their daughter Nora attended kindergarten at Baldwin and is going on to first grade there.

H: *What are your goals for Nora's education?*

Tanya: We don't have any unusual expectations, just that she gets a good all-around elementary school education. She has a rich home environment; we read to her, and we introduce multiple languages at home.

H: *Was it difficult to decide on the school, and why did you choose to send Nora there for kindergarten?*

T: We did some research and realized it was a perfectly good school. It is across the street and we could walk to school together. This is our neighborhood school. This is where we live. This is our community.

H: *How did her kindergarten year go?*

T: Wonderfully! Her pre-school was a play school. We had not taught her to read. She learned to read in kindergarten. The staff and teachers were fantastic. Every child is greeted by name every day. I never felt that people looked at me or Nora funny. I loved that she came home from school one day and said, "Mommy, we're all just different colors of brown."

H: *Nora will continue at BHES this year as she enters first grade. Why did you choose to keep her there?*

T: *Why not?* Nora loved Baldwin. She learned a lot.

The teachers and staff were caring. Every student has an i-pad in school. They have weekly STEAM enrichment classes in chess, yoga, engineering, music and art. And the school has a gifted/high ability magnet (grades 1-5), which Nora has qualified for.

There was great school/parent communication. The principal holds Friday Forums for parents. There are amazing school-wide performance throughout the year. And I'll say it again. We can walk there together!



Pat, Tanya, Norah, and Oliver Mills

Continued on page 6...



Gaby, Ian, Grace, and Simon Worrell

Meet the Worrell Family

Gaby and Ian bought in to the Green in 2009. Ian has a CalArts BA and works as an art director of animated television shows. Gaby puts her environmental science degree and Masters in Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) to work for an environmental non-profit organization. The family belongs to a church with strong social justice programs. Recently, they decided to enroll their daughter Grace in kindergarten at BHES.

H: *You spent considerable energy researching schools before you settled on BHES. Can you tell us what you were looking for?*

Gaby: What we wanted most (and still do) was a school with a dual-language program where Grace could hopefully stay

through the fifth grade. I investigated dual-language LAUSD schools and LAUSD magnet schools, charter schools and private schools. There were no spots.

Another goal is that Grace develop a connection to neighbors in our multi-cultural, multi-ethnic world. The "Social Justice" charter school co-located at Baldwin seemed to address that goal, and I thought my search was over - until I learned that they were taking key learning spaces away from the public school. A social justice school removing classrooms from a public school?! What's the point?

I also realized that, despite their lottery system, charter schools offer very few open slots for the community and prioritize which students are actually accepted, while LAUSD public schools take everyone. I cancelled the enrollment there.

H: *What did you do then?*

G: I took another look at BHES and found a lot of things to like, especially the STEAM program, pilot program, and enrichment classes, including access to movement classes (another of my hopes for her schooling). So we enrolled Grace. If a dual-language opening should arrive at an LAUSD dual-language school next year, we would reassess.

H: *How do you feel about your choice of Baldwin?*

G: Good. My thought is, "Okay, we can't have dual language, but we can have proximity to a good school." Grace will be fine, and I'm open to working with the school to bring more foreign language exposure there.

It is really good to be part of our neighborhood. We can work to achieve a more cohesive connection to our community. That's better for us as parents and adults, and it's wonderful for our kids. □

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



Letters to the Editor

Do you ...

... have something to say or ask about this topic or another article in this issue?

... have a suggestion to make?

... have something else relating to Village Green you'd like to voice?

We want your letters. Send to villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com or drop it off at the office.

COURT COUNCIL CORNER

This month, a friendly reminder about **Walkin' the Cat**

By Rosalind Goddard, Court 4 Alternate

Our cats bring joy and comfort to us, and with that joy come responsibilities. The Village Green Pet Policy has been in effect almost ten years. It makes no distinction between dogs and cats when they are outside your patio. Please observe the following rules:

- Cats must be leashed when outside your patio during the day and during the evening.
- Cats may be walked on the perimeters when leashed. They may not be walked inside the property. Taking a "short cut" through the property to reach another perimeter is a rule violation.
- Cat waste must be picked up, placed in a plastic bag and disposed of in a garbage bin inside a court trash area. Tossing those bags over the fence into the open trash area can cause the bags to be crushed and cat litter waste to cover the asphalt around the trash bins. Not pretty.

To learn more, see **Article 15, "Pets,"** in **The Village Green Handbook** (Feb. 2018), www.villagegreenla.net/governing-documents.html or from the VG office.

Once again, let us continue to be courteous, kind and respectful to our neighbors.... □



The Peter Meyers Orchestra, a last-minute stand-in for Bill Cunliffe and his big band, Bachanalia, surprised and delighted residents and guests who had gathered on the Main Green for the Early Summer Jazz Concert June 24. "They played classic big band and straight-ahead jazz with a big, clear, crisp sound," said Court 13 resident and jazz aficionado Don Dongallo.

Hear more of The Peter Meyers Orchestra at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRrNFW_LKVmKadJR7q8q5-Q

Photo by Kelly Wilson Samojlik.

Disaster Preparedness

By Karen Howell and Jim Bouchard

What is the difference between an emergency and a disaster?

In an emergency, you can call 911 and someone will answer and dispatch help.

But after a strong earthquake, widespread power outage, or major fire, the police and fire departments, utilities and communications are likely to be overwhelmed because they are all fully deployed.

In a disaster, you must rely on yourself, your family, and your neighbors because help may not arrive quickly.

How Can You Prepare?

On June 2, the Village Green Safety Committee sponsored a Disaster Preparedness Presentation in the Clubhouse. Our speaker was Chin Thammasaengsri, South Bureau Coordinator for the Los Angeles Fire Department CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). He answered many questions about how to prepare for disasters and what kinds of resources are available to help us get prepared.



**KEEP AND USE THE PREPARATION
INFORMATION ENCLOSED
IN THIS NEWSLETTER.**

What's next?

The CERT presentation was about the first step – to get yourself prepared to deal with a disaster. Please be on the lookout for a future event on the next step – to organize ourselves as a community.

The more people in the Village Green who are aware and want to help plan and prepare, the stronger our community will be when a disaster does happen. □

July-August Foot Beats Schedule

Wed., 7/18, 8pm: Meet at Court 17 entry, walk east area.

Thursday, 7/26, 10am:

Meet at Court 6 entry, walk central area.

Friday, 8/3, 8:00pm: Meet at Court 7 entry, walk west area.

Thursday, 8/9, 10am: Meet at Court 1 entry, walk east area.

Wed., 8/15, 7pm: Meet at Clubhouse, walk central area.



Tuesday, 8/21, 9am: Meet at West Circle sign on Rodeo Place, walk west area.

Monday, 8/27, 7:30pm: Meet at Court 1 entry, walk east area.

Tuesday, 9/4, 9am: Meet at east end of Central Green, walk central area.

Thursday, 9/13, 7:30pm: Meet at Court 10 entry, walk west area. □

Upcoming Events

July-August

Board Meetings

Tuesday, 7/24 and 8/28, Clubhouse.

Homeowner comments at 7:00pm sharp.

Open Meeting on Pet Rules and Enforcement

Saturday, 7/28, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Clubhouse.

Sponsored by Pet Task Force & VG Board of Directors

Drinks on the Green

Sunday, 7/8 and 8/23, 4:00 pm

Location TBA

September

Labor Day Jazz Concert

Monday, 9/3, 3:00 - 6:00 pm, Central Green.

Movies on the Green

Saturday, 9/25, 8:00 pm, Central Green.

"The School of Rock"

Co-sponsors: Cultural Affairs, Drinks on the Green, and Movie Night

Mosquitoes Reminder

West Nile mosquitoes are present in L.A. County and have been at Village Green.

Please be sure you have no standing water anywhere.



2018 Patio Peek Raises the Bar

By Lucy Fried

The June 30, 2018 Village Green Patio Peek was, by all accounts, a huge success. "The landscape committee has sponsored patio peeks for decades, but there's never been one on the scale of this year's event," declared former committee chair Georgia Lumpkin.

Twenty-seven residents from all but two courts signed up to open their patios to visitors. The committee's events subcommittee (Jay Calhoun, Lisa Jeffrey, and Lucy Fried) had actively recruited patio owners and "peekers" through flyers, face-to-face conversations, *Highlights*, the website, and the informal Facebook page.

How Many People "Peeked"?

To gauge participation and help visitors find the patios, the task force asked everyone to come to the Clubhouse first and pick up their maps/lists and wrist bands. *"We gave out 120 bracelets and 20 kid badges," said Jay Calhoun, who headed the subcommittee. "Including the patio hosts, at least 170 Village Green owners and renters participated. That is really amazing... I was gobsmacked!"* Court 3 host Amanda Sigafos' attendance report was typical. "I did a loose count, and at least 79 people stopped by. About 20 weren't wearing the bracelets; they were guests of residents."

Some people visited all 27 patios; others only some. Some longtime neighbors met each other for the first time. Some visits were whirlwind stop-overs; others turned into lengthy conversations about how to get started in one's patio, finding the right plants for shady and sunny areas, the use of pots vs. ground planting, and more. Many hosts offered refreshments and a respite from the trail.

The Patio Peek was a wonderful event. The landscape committee knows the bar can be raised even higher and welcomes your participation. □



Peekers picking up their map/list at the Clubhouse



"Every potted plant holds a memory."



A mural unites an array of pots in a large shady patio.



Proud "parents" of a pristine lettuce patch...



Look out for the carnivorous plant in this shady paradise!



What time is dinner?



One corner of the largest patio in Village Green

All Patio Peek photos by Bernie Altman