

News from the Board

The nine directors welcomed 19 resident guests into the November 17 Zoom board meeting. After homeowner comments, directors swiftly passed eight resolutions and held an in-depth discussion on how best to track and process resident complaints of profiling by other residents and/or the security company. They concluded a complaint form should be generated, received by management, and if necessary, adjudicated by the board.

The board also discussed and passed a Landscape Committee resolution to mow, edge, and blow leaves every three weeks instead of every two for the next six months. The committee urged the change to reduce noise and air pollution and stress for residents, while increasing access to the outdoors during this COVID stress-induced working-at-home period. They also pointed out that the shift would free up labor time for other urgently needed landscape tasks.

Greencrew's owner and supervisor were invited to express their reaction to the proposal. They did not oppose the idea but had concerns about watering if the new schedule continues into the late spring and summer, i.e., water from our sub-surface irrigation heads cannot reach grass higher than 2 ¾ inches. They also said that cutting grass low in the winter (dormant season) encourages growth of new grass in areas overrun by thatch.

Other approved resolutions included:

- selection of a new vendor for the manufacture and installation of security screen doors at a cost to owners of \$1200 per door (a volume discount from \$2,000). The company was chosen after an extensive search and testing, as the previous model had a locking mechanism problem and the company had no suitable alternative. The new door was deemed the best match with the previous door and offers additional benefits in both quality and security features.
- a lien on a property in arrears;
- a contract (\$11,000) for roof cleaning;
- a contract for the annual audit (estimated at \$8,000);
- an invitation to Jamiah Hargins of CropSwapLA to speak at the January meeting and consider ways VG could participate.

Please note that December's Board meeting is scheduled for the second Tuesday, 12/8, due to the holidays.

Attendance at Board Zoom meetings can be accessed at www.villagegreenla.net.



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

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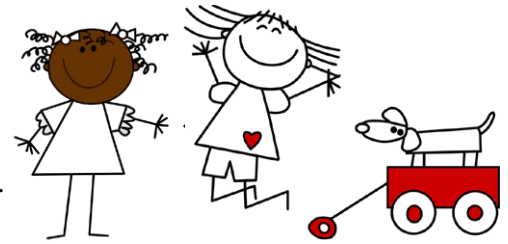
VG residents, this is *your* newsletter.
Send letters and other submissions to:
villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com

*The Communications Committee and Highlights Team Wish You and Yours
Health and Happiness in this Holiday Season!*



Children's Birthdays

If you would like to see a Happy Birthday greeting for a child in **Highlights**, please email name and information no later than the middle of the month before. villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com.



MANAGEMENT NEWS

From Manager Sherri Giles' November Board Report

Editor's Note: As 2020 winds down and new maintenance supervisor Alfonso Casanova moved into his position, he faced a blizzard of deferred maintenance projects, some that have been in the pipeline for decades, others that are months behind due to COVID. Here is the picture Ms. Giles presented to the November board meeting:

- 1. Building Insulation/Carpentry/Painting:** None of the scheduled refurbishments for 2020 was completed, due to COVID regulations, and the work is still deemed unsafe given the proximity of workers and residents during the window painting phase.
- 2. Sewer Re-pipe Project:** A December start is likely. This work will connect new court sewer lines to the City's lines.
- 3. Electrical Upgrade Project:** Hariton Engineering, our recommended vendor for Phase 2, has given us their latest proposal for review. They will present a short overview on Phase 2 (Engineering) and Phase 3 (Construction) in January.
- 4. Garage Restoration Project:** This project is projected to start in the first quarter of 2021 and includes termite treatments, carpentry, and painting in selected garages.
- 5. Court 6 Electrical Line Repair:** We are still awaiting bids from two interested companies regarding the trenching needed to access the conduit. Once the conduit is repaired, LADWP will replace the wiring to be housed in the conduit.
- 6. Serpentine Wall Inspections and Repairs:** Two of three vendors contacted are working on bids.
- 7. Insulation Pilot Project:** Management is working with all vendors involved to coordinate scheduling.
- 8. Landscape Operations Report:** Greencrew reported they will begin identifying areas where plants are either missing, falling or diseased. They repaired a broken 1" main line and several sprinklers and lateral lines on Sycamore. They are detailing courts 13-15 in November. □

PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT October 22, 2020 - November 13, 2020

Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

OCT. 21, 23, 26 and NOV. 4, 12, 13 INCREASINGLY ERRATIC, ABUSIVE AND DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR; Court 5 AND VARIOUS COMMON AREAS AND TIMES.

A resident's verbally abusive and threatening behavior toward staff, vendors, and neighbors worsened to the point of hurling a piece of metal pipe at a neighbor, prompting a call to LAPD. An earlier visit from a mental health agency had yielded little help. The police arrested the resident.

OCT. 26 TWO CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS:

Court 13, 1:30 pm. A caller reported the theft from his parked 2007 Toyota Prius between 10/20 -10/22.

Court 5, 8:15 am. A resident reported the theft from his 2009 Prius.

NOV. 6 THIRD CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT; Court 3,

7:30 am. A resident reporting that the lock on his garage was missing also belatedly reported that the catalytic converter of his 2008 Prius had been stolen on October 21.

OCT. 26 NUDE TRESPASSER; Court 17 garages, 5:30 am.

A resident reported the disoriented young man, who had to be repeatedly escorted off the property.

NOV. 3 PROPERTY DAMAGE; Court 6 garages, 8:30 am.

A resident reported their spouse had accidentally backed their car into the laundry room. □

Holiday Tale: Serendipity in our Neighborhood



By Bernie Altman, Court 6

A few days before Christmas last year, a group of neighbors and I, including a baby in a stroller, took a walk through the neighborhood to the south to enjoy the many holiday light displays. At one nicely decorated house, the owner was on her front porch, and we thanked her for her beautiful lights and mentioned that we were from Village Green. Her name was Ingrid, and she was clearly delighted that we had stopped by. She proceeded to take half a dozen large gift poinsettias from cardboard boxes behind her and gave one to each family in our group and then pulled out a special large stuffed cat for the baby. We were happily stunned that someone would do such a thing for strangers, thanked and hugged her (this was when hugging was still acceptable) for her generosity, and merrily returned home, glowing with pleasure at Ingrid's kindness and holiday spirit.

The next day we all signed a Christmas card and gathered gifts for Ingrid, and Susan Hamric (Court 15) and I returned to her home. Ingrid was excited to see us again and invited us into her living room, where we presented her the card and gifts and exchanged more hugs and holiday cheer. She introduced us to her sister Heather, who was also there.

On the living room wall was a framed Certificate of Appreciation from the California State

Legislature with Ingrid's name on it. "I'm a Democratic strategist," she explained, "and this was for my work with them." Then she added that Heather worked for Senator Kamala Harris, managing her California offices. We all chatted for several minutes, wishing Heather well on the senator's expected presidential bid. We told them about Village Green's jazz concerts and promised to let them know once the schedule was set. (Well, that didn't exactly work out.)

Fast forward to November 7, and Kamala Harris is the new Vice-president of the United States!

Susan and I walked over that afternoon to congratulate them. Just as we arrived, Ingrid drove up and greeted us warmly ("My friends from Village Green"). We chatted in the front yard, having the same kind of conversation everyone was having that day, relief after a seemingly unending period of anxiety, and for us, elation. We asked her to pass our congratulations on to Heather. Ingrid explained, "Heather is inside but can't come out. She's on a call with Joe and Kamala."

After we picked ourselves off the lawn, Ingrid told Susan and me that once Heather received her new assignment, there would be a party at their home, and we would be invited.

The moral of this story? Explore the neighborhood and get to know your neighbors!



Creative and Sensible Planning Beats COVID Halloween Threat



By Allison Grover Khoury, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair



As summer waned, the Cultural Affairs Committee faced the daunting task of planning a socially distanced Halloween with no trick-or-treating or distribution of food or candy. What would be fun for the children as well as the whole Village Green community?

Devoted and creative minds began to brainstorm, and by September we had a proposal before the VG Board to host a masked and socially distanced costume parade around the three main green spaces on Halloween. The proposal passed!

Then, we added a scavenger hunt that could be enjoyed during the day or at night. It would bring the hunters to 14 units with amazing outdoor Halloween decorations, where they were challenged to decipher cryptic clues. The Hunt brought kids and families all around the Green to enjoy residents' displays.



And then we brought back the annual scary story-telling event with Robb Curtis, story-teller extraordinaire. The hope was that the Zoom event would help draw parents and children indoors and away from the temptation to trick-or-treat. 7:00 pm seemed ideal, leaving just enough time to eat a quick dinner after the parade. Robb's performance, lit from beneath in a darkened room with just his face visible, was eerie and exciting.

Next Year

The Costume Parade's incredible success and the positive feedback from many residents has led the committee to the clear decision that the Parade should be an annual event regardless of whether we must socialize from a distance or not! The large number of people safely and happily walking the one-way route around the Greens while enjoying costumes and decorations was a much-needed reprieve from the isolation so many residents are feeling. Cultural Affairs thanks everyone for joyously participating in the Halloween events this year.



Southwest L.A. Battles Against Crenshaw Mall Big Money Take-Over

By Cynthia Singleton, Court 15

I recently attended a Zoom meeting sponsored by “Downtown Crenshaw For Us, By Us.” This is a group of community leaders organized to save the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Mall property.

The Crenshaw Mall recently came on the market for sale. Several developers had submitted bids to rebuild the mall. Two were local African-American developers, one of whom was the developer for the amazing Black History Museum in Washington. Another developer, from New York, also put in a bid, and he was awarded the Mall project.

During the escrow period, the New York firm failed to acquire the financial backing to close escrow. The mall went back out to bid, and again the two local developers bid for it. This time a New York firm with a different name submitted a bid, demonstrated it had the financial backing, and was awarded the project.

Local activist groups were determined to challenge the selection of the outside company instead of a local company with local labor. They followed the money, and with the help of a whistle blower out of New York who worked for the real estate company behind the money backing the winning developer, the activists discovered that it was the same company that had won the earlier bid with a different name. Significantly, the company was backed by Donald Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

The developer claims Kushner is not involved in this transaction. The whistle blower had recently resigned from the company, where she was a scout for depressed properties the company could bid on in communities generally of

color. She said that she did not feel comfortable with the company’s ethics and motives.

Damien Goodman, a leader of Downtown Crenshaw, said, “Black people aspiring to normal or status quo feels out of the question. The ideal Black living space is no longer defined by the presence or absence of big companies and brand-name chains, if it ever was. The new livable space is one forged by self-determination and self-preservation in which the community has a real say and a stake — not merely an advisory role — in what gets built, and for whom. The ideal is major economic development that is also Black empowerment, two things that have been at odds in the real world for a long time.”

Well-known Black L.A. journalist Erin Aubry Kaplan called the situation, “... a modern fight for the soul of Black Los Angeles.” A contributing opinion writer for the New York Times, she wrote in a November 8 piece: “Mr. Goodman says he is betting that the momentum around anti-racism — and more important, around pro-blackness — will help “Downtown Crenshaw” prevail, and establish in Crenshaw a new normal of agency and prosperity. That’s exactly what Black people here have wanted for the last 30 years. We just didn’t know what it looked like.”

Stand by. It’s not over yet. □



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thanks for publishing the **Highlights**; it connects me to the rest of Village Green.

December is a special time of year. Did you know that there are 227 holidays celebrated worldwide in December? Villagers share a few, including these:

12/6 St. Nicholas’ Eve; 12/8 Bodhi Day; 12/11 Chanukah; 12/21 Winter Solstice, 12/25 Christmas Day, 12/26 Kwanzaa, and last chance in December, 12/31 New Year’s Eve.

GOOD WISHES TO ALL... and more **Highlights** in the coming year!

Your neighbor,

Kay Brown, Court 16 □

What is a “Letter to the Editor” at Village Green?

“Letters to the Editor” is an old newspaper and magazine tradition that we would like to strengthen in **Highlights**. Letters help foster dialogue; writing a letter makes you, a reader, also a participant in the flow of information and opinions at the Green.

Write about something interesting to you, and someone reading it may find it interesting too. You can be humorous or imaginative; you can complement an article or slam it; or you can simply share pertinent knowledge you may have. You can even write a poem or send a cartoon. In the process, you will take a step to connect yourself a little bit more to your neighbors. We will contact you regarding your submission.

Email villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com. □

Environment Too!

By Heide Oglesby, Court 16 Alternate Rep

VG affords us an environment most of LA would envy. What we need to recognize, though, is that our trash areas are part of this environment.

Help take care of our VG trash environment.

- **Bag your garbage** before dumping it in the **black** bin. It helps to control smells and flies.
- Look at the **list of recyclables** posted near the trash gate and put those things in the **blue** bins.
- Take a few seconds to **flatten your boxes** to keep the bins from overflowing.
- **Explain these rules** to your employee or vendor who uses the trash area.

Your neighbors and Mother Earth will thank you!



HIGHLIGHTS NEEDS DESIGNERS

Do you enjoy **Highlights**? The community needs your help to keep it going.



We are urgently looking for additional volunteers to rotate monthly design and layout responsibilities for this respected monthly publication. Familiarity with Adobe InDesign, Apple Pages, or Microsoft Word is a plus.

Please email villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com. The editor will contact you.

Thank you,
Village Green Communications Committee



More Safe Holiday Joy from VG's Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC)

Encouraged by the super-safe-and-successful Halloween activities they dreamed up for October, the CAC has found ways to outwit COVID again this month.

- Court Caroling! One family only per court per night and specific guidelines for safe, socially distant caroling.
- Holiday Decorating Contest!
- Possibly a surprise event!



Look for a detailed flyer in your mailbox and more info on the VG Facebook group.

The Design Review Committee (DRC)

eagerly reminds VG homeowners to take advantage of our committee as an excellent resource for all your unit remodeling questions. We're here to save owners time, money and hassle by helping navigate VG's HOA and city-mandated guidelines. Contact the Village Green office before you start remodeling and avoid problems later.

