

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Monthly Highlights

Board of Directors December Meeting News

By Claire Joyce, Board Secretary

After two homeowner comments, the board considered seven business items; 11 design review recommendations; correspondence; and reports.

Actions included:

2017 Insurance Package... approved a \$152,747 package from Farmers Insurance including property and liability, director and officer liability, and umbrella liability coverage.

Common Area Use... discussed the use of common area green spaces for commercial recreation and denied a request for use of the Green for a paid weekly children's soccer class.

2017 Inspectors of Election... appointed Cynthia Cyrus, Rob Creighton and Heide Oglesby as Inspectors of Election, with Mickey Fielding as alternate.

Meet the Candidates... asked Court Council to organize Meet the Candidates events on January 17 at 6:30 pm and January 21 at 10:00 am at the Clubhouse. Candidates will speak and take questions.

Suspended Voting Rights Hearing... appointed two directors to conduct a hearing on January 26 at 7:00 pm for ineligible owners wishing to appeal. □

Village Green: '...an inspired piece of urban design ...'

As Village Green enters its 76th year, Highlights salutes the volunteers who produced the extraordinarily successful "75th Anniversary Celebration and Holiday Party" last month.

Our community would not be the same without its architectural design, and the party began with a slide show and talk from resident and art historian Gailyn Saroyan illuminating this connection. Here are a few excerpts from her talk.

Village Green's design was grounded in the Garden City architectural movement, which built moderately-priced urban housing that fostered community and connection with the outdoors. It was designed under the leadership of Reginald Johnson, the most distinguished architect ever to design a Garden City in the United States. Early brochures touted the property as a new kind of "Village in the City" that would "Tame the Car," where residents would feel like they were "Living at the Country Club."



Gailyn Saroyan

Our consulting architect, Clarence S. Stein, was the most distinguished urban planner of the 20th century and an American champion of Garden City principles adapted for the motor age. Stein said that Village Green was the most complete and most characteristic expression of his ideas ever built.

What makes Village Green so architecturally significant?

In 1998, Pulitzer-prize winning architectural critic Allan Temko characterized its graceful unity of design like this: "Village Green is one of the great monuments of environmental humanism in the United States...it's an inspired piece of urban design...a masterpiece in its grand design and the refinement of its nuances."

In 1970, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) launched its prestigious 25 Year Award, to be given to just one piece of architecture in the nation per year. The first recipient was New York's Rockefeller Center. In 1973, the winner was Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West. In 1972, the award went to Baldwin Hills Village, i.e., Village Green! And later, the AIA also chose Village Green as one of the top 100 architectural achievements in American history. □

Find more party coverage and photos inside.

Village Green Handbook Revisions

In January, the board will consider director and owner suggestions for revisions to the *Village Green Handbook*. If you have *Handbook* changes you want the board to consider, please email them promptly to villagegreen5300@sbcglobal.net, Attn: Board of Directors, or mail or bring them to the office. You may also speak for three minutes during Homeowner Comment period. The January board meeting is on the 24th. □

OUR COMMUNITY, CELEBRATING TOGETHER

Party Chef Reveals Secrets, Thanks Community

By Matt Barr



Chef Matt Barr with Alison Khoury, Jerri Allyn, and Joe Khoury.

From the beginning, I knew I wanted to cook food that was specific to the period. Unfortunately, the 40s were a terrible era for cuisine. Lots of grey food, rationing, and government propaganda to introduce organ meats into the mainstream.

How could I make the food look vintage but update the flavor profile? For example: liver and bacon were a classic food combo in the 40s, and prunes were practically the poster fruit for the period. I chose to incorporate bacon and liver into a mousse, then used prunes for a chutney that would go on top. Visually, you end up with a vat of grey paste topped with a spoonful of brown mush all on some colorless toast.



The trick would be to make the bland-looking 40s food pop with big flavors. **Behind the scenes:** the liver was marinated in brandy, bay leaves and raw garlic to minimize their minerality, then braised in a cream infused with sage and thyme, and then blended with pancetta, sweet vermouth, and balsamic vinegar for depth and acidity. The chutney itself was stewed with cinnamon, nutmeg, and sherry to evoke certain holiday sense memories, but also so it would pair well with a big glass of homemade egg nog if desired.

Help Needed, Help Given

Once the menu had been decided, food prep for the event took me just over two months. Neighbors from all corners of the Green made room in their kitchens to accommodate the components we could freeze ahead of time. In the final minutes before showtime, the cultural affairs committee sent out an SOS text - and it was only SECONDS before eager neighbors were ready and willing to assist.



And really, that's the magic of this place - this community has always got your back. From me and Lindsey and our twins Hero and Max, we'd like to say a deep and sincere thank you to everyone who works so hard to maintain the magic of the Village Green. For your energy, your enthusiasm, your vision, and your love - thank you for making your neighbors a priority in your lives. □



Kelly Wilson Samojlik,
Highlights designer

HAPPY 75TH ANNIVERSARY, VILLAGE GREEN!

An Interview with Susan Di Guilio

HIGHLIGHTS: You conceived the design for this party and then spent hundreds of hours executing it to insure it would be the success you envisioned. Why?

SUSAN DI GUILIO: It was 75 years! We thought we should have a special celebration to draw attention to how wonderful Village Green is and bring out adults of all ages to share a great experience.



Susan Di Guilio (right) with Lucy Fried, *Highlights* editor

HIGHLIGHTS: Was it a success?

SUSAN: Yes! We are told at least 200 people attended, and many got into the spirit and dressed for the era. We've gotten only positive feedback, and I'm just so happy that people really enjoyed the party.



HIGHLIGHTS: Please share some details about the process.

SUSAN: We started with the music. You cannot revisit 1941 without the big band sound, and we were very fortunate to get Grammy-award winner Bill Cunliffe and his talented Cal State Fullerton band at a "friend of a friend" price. A tent and heaters kept the patio cozy for party goers and band.

Of course, "it took a village." More than 20 people contributed their time and creativity, including Matt Barr and Lindsey Barr (food); Josh Worth (flyer); Maureen Weiss (Fireside Room 1941 Christmas "look"); and Harold Graves (logistics).

From beginning to end, cultural affairs committee (CAC) chair Alison Grover Khoury and members Suzie Hughes, Avelene Fung Schodorf, Jennifer Sherwood, Katie Massey, Jean Wilson, and others were "all in." On our big decorating afternoons, we had a small army helping and coming up with new ideas - Bob McGuinness, Heidi Creighton, Michael Schodorf, all of the CAC members, spouses, kids....



HIGHLIGHTS: Wasn't this a very costly event?

SUSAN: No, it wasn't. Thanks to the efforts of CAC board liaison Joe Khoury, well over 50% of the expenses were covered by cash and in-kind donations from Village Green vendors. □

Highlights thanks everyone who shared their photos of the event.



Public Security Report

November 7, 2016–December 9, 2016

Edited by Gabriela Worrel

Note: Security officers are instructed to document and notify management of all incidents.

Nov 12 STOLEN BIKE, Ct. 10, 7:40 am. Resident reported bicycle stolen from garage. Lock had been cut; resident advised to file police report.

Nov 14 DOG ATTACK, Ct. 16, 3:05 pm. Resident reported off-leash dog chased her cat into her house and attacked it. Security captured dog, which was being walked by another resident's employee. Cat survived but required veterinary attention.

Nov 19 POSSIBLE NATURAL GAS LEAK, Ct. 4, 7:32 pm. Resident reported gas leak smell, confirmed by security and maintenance. Gas company notified; smell dissipated by 11:40 pm.

Nov 21 UNSECURED UNIT, Ct. 1, 8:10 pm. Resident reported neighbor's unit open and unsupervised. Security locked unit.

Nov 23 INTOXICATED TRESPASSER, Ct. 13, 10:14 pm. Resident reported intoxicated female lying in the bushes. Security contacted paramedics, who transported her to hospital.

Dec 03 NOISE COMPLAINT/NEIGHBOR DISPUTE, Ct. 9, 7:18 pm. Resident requested assistance after contacting LAFD to free her nephew who was trapped in bathroom. Security observed resident's neighbor yelling and cursing about fire personnel's noise level.

Dec 05 POSSIBLE ROBBERY SUSPECT, walkway between Courts 17-1, 9:30 pm. Resident reported son was followed by suspicious stranger while walking. After resident's wife screamed, stranger ran away. Security searched but couldn't find him.

Dec 09 LOOSE DOG, West Circle, 2:10 pm. Resident reported dog chasing a cat. Security captured dog and returned it to another resident's employee. Dog had escaped from patio.

Dec 09 POSSIBLE HOME BURGLARY, Ct. 11, 10:26 pm. Resident reported arriving home to find patio gate and door open. LAPD and security found unit empty, no signs of forced entry, and nothing missing. □

January Foot Beats



Tuesday, 1/3, 7 pm: Meet at Court 1 entrance, walk east section of VG.

Wednesday, 1/11, 9 am: Meet at Hauser/Rodeo, walk west section of VG.

Thursday, 1/19, 7 pm: Meet at Court 8 entrance, walk central section of VG.

Friday, 1/27, 10 am: Meet at Court 4 entrance, walk east section.

Thursday, 2/2, 7 pm: Meet at Court 7 entrance, walk west section.

Manager's Report

By Sherri Giles, Operations Manager

WASH Laundry Machines:

Some residents have complained about difficulty adding additional time to dryers after the cycle has begun. WASH informed management that as long as 7 minutes remain in the cycle, a user can add 10 extra minutes for 25 cents. After that, extra minutes will be charged for a full cycle.



Concrete Repairs:

Concrete sidewalk and patio repairs are under way, with 48 scheduled for completion by the end of December.

Irrigation Well:

Following November's installation of a flow meter and transducer (data logger), the ongoing periodic testing and monitoring program is expected to commence in late December.

Garage Restoration and Residential Painting:

The restoration process in garage courts 9, 10, and 11 is on-track to be completed in December. Management continues to seek appropriate bids for residential painting and carpentry repairs.

Garage Inspections:

Management continues to re-inspect and "clear" garages.

Annual Roof Cleaning:

The project concluded on December 2.

Landscaping RFP Process:

Management continues to clarify inconsistencies in bids received.

Dead Tree Removal:

This process continues to take place concurrent with the arborist's ongoing inspections of the forest.

2017 Reserve Study:

The study was completed by Association Reserves, Inc. in November and included in the Annual Disclosure packet mailed to members in late 2016. □

Dusk-to-Dawn CFLs Available!

Village Green Safety Committee

The board has approved \$500.00 for the purchase of Dusk-to-Dawn CFL light bulbs for porch and patio lighting. **They are available free to residents while supplies last.** These very efficient bulbs have photo sensors that automatically turn lights on in the evening and off in the morning. This is part of a pilot program to encourage residents to leave porch and patio lights on through the night.

Get a free bulb in one of these ways:

1. Ask Public Security officers for a bulb when you call for a home escort after dark;
2. Email vglightbulbs@gmail.com;
3. Attend a Foot Beat;
4. Visit our table at the Annual Meeting at Baldwin Hills School, February 4, 2017.