



VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

November 2022

NEWS FROM THE BOARD *Compiled by Lucy Fried*

Seven directors and 19 guests attended the October 25 Board meeting, with president Laura Civiello and director Haleh Shoa excused. After approving September's meeting minutes and four resolutions, the Board considered two less than comfortable items:

2023 BUDGET REFLECTS SEVEN PERCENT DUES INCREASE

In a vote to approve VG's \$3,485,680 operating budget for 2023, the most contentious item was a proposed 7% increase in HOA dues. It passed 6-1, despite arguments that the 7% increase was too high for some owners. The "ayes" prevailed after it was noted that vendor costs have risen sharply in the last year, especially insurance and utilities, and that the HOA must build a reservoir of funds for our badly needed multi-million dollar electrical and irrigation/landscape projects and other restorations. The budget for 2022 was \$3,284, 666.

UNIFORM WINDOW COVERINGS

A discussion resolution from the Design Review Committee (DRC) proposed that the colors of outside-facing surfaces of residents' window coverings be limited to white or off-white colors. However, after a flurry of discussion from the directors, vice-president Joe Khoury suggested that a conversation with homeowners be held before any rule is crafted.

MORE BOARD RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- Board Elections Calendar: California's HOA elections season opened on October 31 and the Board has approved the election calendar.
- Holiday Season Board Meetings Schedule: This year's meetings will be on November 15 and December 13.
- Trees, Landscape, Tree & Landscape: The committees for trees and the landscape received the Board's okay to merge and become a single committee.
- Roof Cleaning: The Board okayed a \$11,500.00 contract with Tri-County Power Washing to clear and remove all debris from all building roofs. □



**Get your Sparkle on
at the Village Green
Holiday Party!**

Saturday, December 3rd
7:00 - 10:30 pm

**with Peter Meyers Band,
back by popular demand**



Be Ready to Dance!

*(Pot luck goodies &
BYOB offerings accepted
but not required)*



THE BOARD ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP!



November is Candidates Nomination Month.

Five directors will be termed out on February 4, and some new faces may join the Board. Perhaps you can be one of them, or maybe you know someone to nominate!

The Deadline for Responses is November 30.

Please think about serving your community in this way. And pay attention to notices in your mailbox; **HIGHLIGHTS** will also do its best to keep you up to date.

INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS

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Editors: Patrick Comiskey & Lucy Fried

Designer: Kelly Wilson Samojlik

Photos: Kelly Samojlik, P.J.C., Zig.

Highlights is an all-volunteer project of the VG Communications Committee. We are looking for new volunteers aged 18 and up!

Contact us for more info:

vgcomcom@villagegreenla.net

MANAGEMENT NEWS from Operations Manager Sherri Giles

compiled by Patrick Comiskey

Electrical Project Update:

The latest from LADWP is a demand that the VG agree in writing to fund the work of bringing 34.5 kilovolt power to the property before allowing us to conduct a pilot study. Management will consult a law firm who specializes in such disputes, while reps from both of our electrical contractors are seeking to reduce the cost of the 34.5kv power upgrade.

Restoration, Painting, and Insulation Updates:

All work on buildings 90, 3, and 15 has been completed. Building 33 repairs, insulation and painting should be completed by November 1, when work on building 34 will commence. Garage restoration in Courts 6, 8, and 14 is nearly finished.

Broken Washing Machines:

Management has asked WASH to perform maintenance on eleven poorly functioning machines on the property. WASH is assessing our request and will report back in November.



Garage Inspections

have been completed property-wide except for Court 14, which will occur the third week of November.

Shot Hole Borer Treatment

Trunk injections, soil treatments, and spray applications for the property's vulnerable trees took place the third week of October.



Sycamore Ave. Regeneration Project:

Fence extensions and wind screens will be completed in early November. The property's horticulturist is working with Green Crew to select, source and plant species which will rejuvenate the area and deter interlopers.

Progress Reports:

Heat Pump: The Clubhouse HVAC system was installed in October. Organic Waste Bins: Management is now using compostable bags in the food waste bins. □

PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT September 22 – October 19, 2022 Edited by Lucy Fried

POLICE ACTIVITY: Courts 4 and 5, September 29, 10:20 am. Several neighbors reported police activity. When Security arrived, LAPD explained that a resident's phone had been hacked, and that someone had issued an invalid report that the resident had been kidnapped.

UNWELCOME SOLICITING: Court 16, October 18, 2022, 1:00 pm. Security received a call from an anonymous resident that a man was going door-to-door soliciting a subscription that required a Social Security letter. Officers found the man in Court 15. He was informed that Village Green is private property and soliciting is prohibited, and was escorted off the property with a warning.

DOG ON THE MAIN GREEN: October 18, 2022, 5:00 pm. Officers noticed a man with an unleashed dog on the grass and explained the pet rules regarding dogs. The man turned to leave but did not leash the animal. Security then learned he was trespassing, and he left as requested.

VEHICLE VANDALISM: West Circle parking, October 19, 2022, overnight. A relative reported vandalism of his niece's car. Security confirmed long scratches on the vehicle's passenger side. □

Dear Neighbor...

An ongoing column from former HIGHLIGHTS editor Lucy Fried

Did you see the KABC-TV news piece about the recent rally in front of Baldwin Hills Elementary School (BHES)? No? It was a protest against LAUSD placing a charter school on their campus, and teachers, parents, kids, and neighbors were demanding that LAUSD return the eight classrooms and special education spaces they had given to the charter.

Baldwin teacher and UTLA board member Marie Germaine (Court 12) called on the LAUSD to support Baldwin Hills Elementary as a charter-free campus and return the classrooms and other areas Baldwin needs for their Pilot and Community School programs.

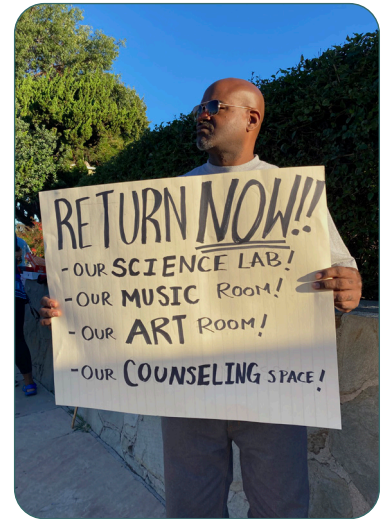
These programs, Baldwin parent Joanna Casucci (Court 3) explained, provide the school with greater authority to shape its curriculum and add such classes as robotics, art, and yoga. However, the charter took the rooms Baldwin needed, for those classes and for family conferencing.

Later, I ran into Alan Canterbury (Court 3), an attorney whose daughter attends Baldwin, and I asked why he and his wife, Genevieve, had chosen BHES. He simply wanted to support the community in which we all live. "We will all rise or fall together," he says, "By choosing Baldwin, we tie the future and success of our own child to the future and success of our Black neighbor brothers and sisters."

Alan added that he and Genevieve have seen a straight rise in their daughter's academic performance, her confidence, her awareness, and her compassion. "She has excelled under Baldwin's teachers, who are trained to support and motivate students on their own terms, which leads to the teachers really getting to know their students well, their strengths and weaknesses," he said.

I love Alan's point that VG is part of a larger community. Get to know Baldwin Hills Elementary and support it. He makes a good case for parents who live at VG to send their kids to the school in their backyard. Neighbors in Action (NIA) can give you more information. You can reach them at NIABaldwinHills@gmail.com.

Please send comments on this column to me at VillageGreenHighlights@gmail.com. □



VG resident Kay Brown succumbed to lung cancer on October 23 of this year at age 87. She is mourned by her two sons and their families and many others, including Court 16 neighbors and members of the VG Communications Committee.

Kay was an artist. She practiced and taught printmaking at schools, and later to people of all ages at SPARC Art Center in Venice, stopping only when she became sick. She also designed and helped write and edit the *Welcome Neighbor Brochure* that will soon arrive in your in your mailbox.

A longer remembrance is planned for next month's HIGHLIGHTS. A memorial will take place on January 22 here at the Green. – Lucy Fried



Five Things You Don't Know about Security Officer Issac Reese

From the series "Get to Know Your Friendly Local Security Officers" - by P.J.C.

1. He's a junior. Isaac is his father's name. When he was young, he added an 's' to his first name; "I wanted to be different from my dad," he says.
2. The youngest of four, he was raised in Mobile, Alabama until he was eight, when, in 1969, Hurricane Camille tore through the Gulf States. Soon after, the family moved to Compton, where he attended Compton High.
3. Reese is a singer; in the nineties, at the height of the LA rap scene, he

sang backup and melody for a number of rap artists, and toured with Snoop Dogg, Butch Cassidy, Nate Dogg, and other Death Row Records artists.

4. Reese has been a part of a gospel quartet called The Redeem Souls for more than 30 years, and sings at his church, Greater New Holy Trinity Baptist.

5. He's been married 20 years to his wife Lynetta and has two sons, Myles and De'Veon. □



Issac Reese, out on patrol.

Get to Know your Neighbors, Halloween Edition - by P.J.C



Michael Myers, Court 3, is sort of a shy guy, keeps to himself; if you see him in the laundry room he'll probably just issue a grunt in passing. He loves kids, especially teenagers, loves to hear them laugh and scream. In his garage you'll find a vast collection of sharp objects; during the recent inspection, he was cited for the dark stain found in one corner.

Returning from Irwindale some years ago, a man (let's call him "Bob") experienced an insatiable craving for hot sauce. Before long, he wouldn't answer to anything but "Sriracha Man." If you trick or treat his Court 2 home on Halloween, don't expect any candy; Sriracha Man passes out packets of hot sauce. Suck it, wimps.



Frida spends her days in her Court 7 flat painting ruminative self-portraits and sipping mezcal out of an orthopedic shoe. On the Dia del Muerto she plans to sing "Moon over Venice" in honor of her sister, Silvia, and light a candle in her memory. Look for her during the Halloween procession; she'll be the one walking with a limp.

Hulk Hogan's recent proposal to the Board to convert the clubhouse to a Crunch gym was narrowly defeated; he's challenged the Board to a tag team cage match in response—details in the December Highlights. He plans to dole out moustache wax and kettle bells to the kids for Halloween this year.



With help from Steven Chiu Liu, Feliza Kohan, Bob McGinness, and Jessica Lent. Photo assistance, Travis Lent.
Look out for photos of the VG Halloween events in the December issue of HIGHLIGHTS! □