

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

July 2021

GOOD NEWS

The Management Office is open again, Monday-Friday.

Walk-in hours: 8-11 am and 3-5 pm.

Masks required. Two-person limit in the lobby.

Welcome back!

THE ANNUAL VG LABOR DAY JAZZ CONCERT IS BACK!

HOLD THE DATE **MONDAY SEPT. 6, 3-6 PM** on the MAIN GREEN

Sp: VG Cultural Affairs Committee □

JUNE BOARD MEETING

About 20 owners attended the June board meeting. During homeowner comments, one asked why none of the new benches was yet on the Green.

After some discussion about their weight and vulnerability to theft, it was agreed that one of the benches would be placed between the Clubhouse and the coral tree as a test.

LANDSCAPE: The biggest decision directors faced at their June meeting was to choose a landscape architecture firm to provide planting guidelines for the entire property. When the guidelines are completed and approved, the Green will finally be able to launch the long-needed irrigation overhaul that was agreed to in 2019.

Four well-respected firms had toured the site. Three submitted bids, and the Landscape Committee invited all three – MIG, Rios, and SALT – for presentations to the board. Following the interviews, the directors agreed Rios was the best option at \$48,000.

ELECTRIC APPLIANCES AND FIXTURES: Planning to buy a fan or put in a new light fixture? The Board approved a Design Review Committee (DRC) resolution to simplify the approval process. If your electrical item uses less than 1 amp, you need only get the Facilities Engineer's approval. □



Ardent Reader

Our almost 20-month-old daughter Rei enjoying the **Highlights**.

Yasushi and Keiko Ishida, Court 10

Inside HIGHLIGHTS

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*Editors: Dagmar Buck, Patrick Comiskey, Megan Breslin Swartz, Lucy Fried, senior editor
Design: Sophia Beauvy*

HIGHLIGHTS is a volunteer project of the VG Communication Committee. Comment? Question? Suggestion? Want to help?

Email us!

villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com

Court 6 Electrical Line Repair: Court 6 residents' new walkway was finished in early June, but LADWP has not yet installed the new underground electrical feed line. Workers appeared suddenly on 6/8, announced a required electrical shutdown of courts 5-8, and then abruptly cancelled the visit. We have not yet received an installation date, and Management has contacted LADWP regarding better communication.



from Manager
Sherri Giles'
June
Board Report

Electrical Upgrade Project: Late May's meeting with LA Department of Building and Safety clarified the requirements for submission of plans for each of our buildings.

Residential Building Insulation/Painting/Carpentry: Work on Building 18 is completed, 27 is in progress, and work on 39 starts this month also.

Landscape Maintenance Report: Per the board's request, Greencrew began investigating ways to reduce gas-powered machine noise - including switching to battery-operated machines - and will present ideas to the

August board meeting ... Last month, workers detailed courts 2-6 and are now working in 6-10 ... There were two broken mainlines (courts 2 and 8) that cost three days of watering; the Court 8 line experienced a break in May also ... Workers continue repairing sprinklers and broken lateral lines court by court.

Regarding work orders to seed dry and poor grassy areas and trim overgrown shrubs, Greencrew asks residents' understanding of the unpredictable irrigation system, the lack of rain, and summer's rapid growth spurts.

Arborist Report: Carlberg Associates reported their scheduled June inspection of courts 10-12 revealed one tree with high priority pruning need and 26 with medium priority. Walking there, they noted three more high priority and two medium priority trees. □



photo by Don Dongallo

VG Safety Committee Reminders

Crime often spikes in summer. Remove visible valuables from your patio or car, and lock doors and windows when leaving.

Thieves don't like light, so turn on the porch and patio lights. (Get LED dusk-to-dawn lights installed by the HOA with a paper or electronic work order.) www.villagegreenla.net □

VG LIVE EVENT UNDER THE STARS

SAT. 8/14, 7:30 pm

Watch for details.

Black American Film Series Debut

Sp: Culture Affairs Committee

PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT May 20 - June 16 , 2021

Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY May 23, Court 14, 2:35 am. Resident called security after scaring off a man trying to break into a neighbor's unit, Suspect escaped in a black vehicle..

VEHICLE VANDALISM May 27, Court 5, 7-11 am. Resident reported their car door was keyed.

DECEASED RESIDENT June 1, Court 5, time unknown. After request for a welfare check, security found resident unresponsive. LAFD and other appropriate agencies were called.

FALLEN TREE June 3, Court 17, 5:30 am. Security contacted maintenance to rope off area.

HARASSMENT June 3, Court 16, 2:15 pm. Distressed resident reported neighbor's continued severe harassment.

LOUD CHILDREN June 3, Court 15, 3:40 pm. Responded to resident report of noisy children near unit.

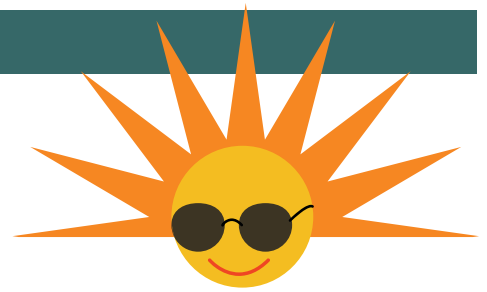
RESIDENTS COMPLAINT June 3, Main Green, 8:05 pm. Parent complained of resident harassing and photographing her child and other children.

TRESPASSER June 9, Main Green, 12:40 pm. Officers escorted the transient off the property.

NOISE COMPLAINT June 16, Main Green, 6:21 pm. Resident complained of loud group of children and adults outside her window □

Summer Is Here!

Thanks to Management and Court Council for each contributing reminders for a healthy and harmonious summer for you and your neighbors.



Mosquitoes Even very shallow standing water (like dishes under potted plants) breeds mosquitos. Don't let that happen in your patio!

Garbage in patios and garages attracts rats. And PLEASE close those bags when you dump them. Eww!

Pet Bedding Washing pet bedding in the community washers is not allowed at Village Green (VG HANDBOOK Sect. 7.4, C.) www.villagegreenla.net Animal washables must be taken elsewhere.

Balconies and Patios Not sure what the rules allow you to do? Review HANDBOOK Articles 9.6 and 9.7.

Water Use California is in the midst of a drought - and the water from our patio taps is potable water from the DWP, not Village Green's well. Water thriftily. □

Empowerment Congress

How can L.A.'s sprawling population make our needs known to our elected City Council representatives? In our Council District 10, one way is through the Empowerment Congress West Area (ECWA).

In June, VG's Court Council invited ECWA secretary Kathy Guyton to explain how. "ECWA plays an advisory role in government and is one of 99 neighborhood development councils in L.A. whose main purpose is to connect city officials to their constituents," she said. In Village Green, our representative is Councilman Mark Ridley Thomas.

"ECWA gives the community an opportunity to have input on decisions that affect their quality of life and the services they receive," Kathy continued. "We advocate on everything from housing to public safety and sustainability."

To learn more about ECWA and its 11 working committees, go to www.ecwandc.org. General meetings are on the first Saturday at 10am. □

By Cynthia Singleton, Court 15 Representative

OIL LEGISLATION UPDATES

California's Senate and Assembly have passed Senate Bill 47, allocating up to \$10 million a year to plug abandoned oil wells and remediate hazardous or abandoned sites. Thousands of California wells require cleanup, including those in our own backyard.

In another piece of good news, the LA City Council passed a motion to study ways of using oil revenue to help cover remediation costs. It is a step to ensure the oil industry, not taxpayers, is accountable for the cost of clean-up. □

By Lucy Fried

INGLEWOOD OIL FIELD SPILL

In April, another oil spill occurred in the Inglewood Oil Field just south of Village Green. The spill was due to human error: during an extraction from one oil line to another, a tank valve was left open, and 1600 gallons of oil ran into the earth and the sewer to the ocean...

The accident was discussed at a recent meeting of the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District (CSD); here is a summary.

The oil field owner, Sentinel Peak Resources, entrusted cleanup to E&B Natural Resources, who said the spill was contained. However, Sentinel Peak would not be held responsible because the person who left the valve open was an employee of another oil company. Several companies lease the oil field's lines to transport their oil and are not held to the same regulations as the owners of the fields.

The Baldwin Hills CSD expressed concern over this glaring loophole. Stay tuned... □

By Cynthia Singleton



photo by Zig

Alva Pearl Patton Harper

October 17, 1932 - April 8, 2021



Bright, fun-loving, elegant, energetic, and friendly describe Alva Harper, a Village Green Court 4 resident and my next-door neighbor for over 25 years.

Alva was born in Danville, Kentucky. A promising singer and lifelong music lover, she received a voice scholarship to study opera and classical music at the University of Louisville School of Music. After retiring from 30 years with the L.A. Unified School District, she was active with the National Association of Negro Musicians. She also volunteered as the Chief Financial Officer for the Douglas Michael Fuller Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research.

At the Green, Alva volunteered with the Cultural Affairs Committee as its recording secretary for 19 years. She helped develop the children’s activities, and during concerts on the Main Green, she and her friend Jean Wilson provided food for the musicians. She was always ready to do anything she was asked to do.

Alva was a wonderful neighbor. She was an ardent mystery reader and loved to talk politics. In the last years, I would bring her books and drive her to events, including a concert at the Walt Disney Concert Hall featuring the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, which she enjoyed immensely. She knew she could trust me to look out for her in case of an emergency.

With Alva’s passing, the Green has lost a wonderful person, and I have lost a wonderful neighbor friend whom I continue to miss. □

By Rosalind Goddard, Court 4

Gailyn Saroyan Remembered

Dear Editor,

It was August 6, 2020, and Gailyn Saroyan - longtime Village Green resident and activist, Garden City historian, and my mother - was dying. She was at peace but filled with a charged energy.

“Straws, can you get my binder?” she asked, eyes bright. I knew it was the one containing the 2016 talk she’d given to commemorate Village Green’s 75th anniversary. She’d wanted to put it on

YouTube, so scholars and others might have access to the story of architect Reginald Johnson and urban planner Clarence Stein and their creation of the Green. She asked me to work with her friend Steven Keylon, who had written the talk’s slideshow, to complete the job.

We have now made that video plus another containing her talk about the Italian-American artist, Rico Lebrun, who created the mural in the Village Green Clubhouse.

This month, both videos debut on Gailyn’s YouTube channel.

Gailyn died several hours after her request.



I and the rest of her family and friends will miss her always but feel glad about honoring her legacy in this way. Here is the link to the videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAdcVFy1RvzHAA57dPJlrfQ>

Strawberry Saroyan

Editor’s note: To read an excerpt of Gailyn’s talk on the Green’s design history, see the September 2020 issue of HIGHLIGHTS. www.villagegreenla.net □

VG Safety Committee JUNE EMERGENCY TIP IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

After a disaster, you may want financial assistance and will need to document any property loss. As you prepare for the next earthquake, make copies of these important document types for your evacuation kit.

- Personal Identification
- Home inventory and insurance
- Recent financial statements
- Taxes (last three years)
- Legal documents. □