

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

June 2019

Board Meeting Highlights

Compiled by Lucy Fried

The Board approved these actions:

Management Proposal: Lien

Record a lien for delinquent assessments.

Tree Committee Proposal: Shade Trees

Replace 50 historic lost trees, prioritizing those that provide maximum shade to residential units. Species and locations will be consistent with Barlow and Winans to the extent current conditions allow.

Safety Cmte Proposal: Emergency Preparedness

Conduct a series of Saturday three-hour sessions to prepare VG residents psychologically and practically for emergency situations. Topics will include: immediate actions after an unexpected event... search and rescue... medical care and triage... two-way radio communication... and "Showcase" a mock emergency practice in Court 17. The series is targeted for July and August. Look for notices with exact dates soon.

Director Proposal: Major Projects Funding

Convene a special board meeting later in the year – but before 2020 budget-setting - to prioritize major long-deferred replacement projects and upgrades. These include roofs, interior drainpipes, the well and irrigation system, electrical system, exterior lighting, and more. The possibility of a mandated new monthly assessment for Association earthquake insurance has complicated the picture.

Cultural Affairs Proposal: 1st Annual Toy Trade

Create a practice of a new sustainable community effort with a community-wide activity for sharing before the VG Yard Sale two weeks later. June 2, East Green, 1:00-4:00 pm. □

Newsletter Notice

Highlights will take a short hiatus for July. Please look for your next issue in early August. **Highlights** is a project of the Village Green Communications Committee. It is produced entirely by volunteers who believe that information and informed perspectives are essential to a healthy community and worth working for.

*Thank you,
Lucy Fried, Editor, and Kelly Wilson Samojlik, Designer*

New Facilities Engineer Hired

From Sherri Giles, Operations Manager

Village Green once again has a facilities engineer! Operations Manager Sherri Giles told the board: "We are very pleased to welcome Alfonso Casanova as our new facilities engineer. His official start date was Monday, May 20. Alfonso has over 20 years of experience in facilities management, maintenance and construction. In his previous position, he worked with USC for 20 years. Alfonso is a welcomed addition to our VG management team, and we are looking forward to a long and productive relationship." □

The long-awaited street name-change from Rodeo Road to Obama Blvd. finally occurred on Saturday, May 4th. The city sponsored a street festival, which drew scores of Villagers who walked up to the intersection of Obama and King, joining throngs arriving all afternoon from all directions.

The multi-ethnic crowd had come to celebrate the modest but symbolic tribute to the first African-American president in the history of the United States. They were a reminder that the U.S. has come a distance on the road to equality and will not be turned back. □



Public Security Report

Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

April 18 - May 20, 2019



- Apr 16 BROKEN TREE LIMB. Ct. 6, 5:00 pm.** An officer observed, taped/coned off, and reported a large fallen tree limb. There were no injuries or property damage.
- Apr 19 VEHICLE VANDALIZED. Ct. 13, 12:15 am.** An officer observed a resident's car parked on Rodeo Place with its rear window smashed. Nothing was missing.
- May 14 GARAGE BURGLARY. Ct. 13 garages, 5:50 pm.** A resident reported his garage padlock had been cut and the bicycles and tools inside stolen. □

June Foot Beats Schedule

Foot Beats is a project of the Safety Committee. Join other curious and caring Villagers as we establish a presence on the Green and see what there is to see.

- Tue., 6/11, 7:00 pm:** Meet at the Clubhouse, walk central area.
- Wed., 6/19, 10:00 am:** Meet at Ct. 1 entrance, walk east area.
- Thu., 6/27, 7:30 pm:** Meet at Ct. 9 entrance, walk west area. □

SAFETY ADVISORY

From John Howell
Safety Committee Secretary
& Foot Beats Coordinator

LAUSD students are off Friday June 7th, and classes will be out from June 7th through Tuesday, August 20th. In the past, kids have found their way into Village Green and sometimes gotten themselves into trouble during the summer months. A few years back, we had property stolen from patios during the summer.

Last year was relatively quiet on the VG property. In part, that was because we took away opportunities for anyone to run off with our things by not leaving valuables unsecured on our patios or elsewhere on the property. Let's continue this positive trend! □

May Manager's Report

From Sherri Giles, Operations Manager (condensed from her report to the May Board of Directors meeting)

Residential Re-piping:
Re-piping of Building 68 is scheduled to start on June 17. Five more buildings are slated for this year.



Residential Building Insulation, Carpentry Repairs, and Painting:
Ten buildings are scheduled for this work in 2019. Work began on the first one, Building 6, in May.

Online Work Order System:
260 owners (41.33%) have now received eMaint login credentials. Owners who missed the deadline for returning the information sheet can still opt in by submitting it.

Errant Tree Removal:
The Green's longtime tree removal company took down a healthy olive tree by mistake last month. The foreman was upset and remorseful, and the company's lead manager said they would do everything possible to correct their misstep. VG Consulting Arborist Cy Carlberg recommended installing a 48" box specimen olive to be chosen by her staff.

Landscape Maintenance Report:
The crew detailed Courts 14-17 last month. As Greencrew begins a new cycle through the Green, they plan to add mulch to all newly detailed planter beds. A four-inch main line break in Court 8 last month cost about a half-day of watering until it was fixed. The company noted that the red flags around the Green indicate sprinklers and lateral lines needing adjustment or repair and that they will be working on these in June.

Arborist Report:
Following a May campus-wide walk-through, six trees are recommended for pruning and ten for removal and replacement. Of the ten, six are sycamores. Arborist Carlberg noted that the Polyphagous shot hole borer had caused "a significant loss of tree canopy and quantity of sycamores." □

COMMITTEES Monthly Round Up

- Budget & Finance:** 3rd Thursday (June 20th), 7:00 pm. We are exploring options to streamline our parking ticket process to reduce frivolous tickets, increase the likelihood of payment, and reduce the administrative load. Join us!
- Court Council:** 1st Wednesday (June 5th) 7:00 pm. Learn the do's & don'ts here and save yourself a world of trouble. Access the **Handbook** at www.villagegreenla.net, "Resident Resources," or the office. □

VILLAGE GREEN NEIGHBORS

Baldwin Hills School Staff Meet with VG Parents

By Gabriela Worrel

Baldwin Hills Elementary has been Village Green's neighborhood elementary school since 1943, just two years after our complex opened. Yet many of today's VG parents do not know much about today's Baldwin Hills Elementary Pilot School and drive through rush hour traffic to bring their kids elsewhere.



To begin closing the information gap, Villagers with children at the school organized a meeting for parents last month and invited parents and school staff to the Clubhouse. The principal, community representative, and three classroom teachers came and presented information about the unique aspects and many offerings of their school. Then the parent organizers shared their experiences with the other families.

As an LAUSD pilot school, it operates with more autonomy in hiring and curriculum than a traditional school, while aligned with the California Standards and achieving the required performance standards. Two programs run side by side at the same location – the Community Program and the Gifted Magnet Program – and, importantly, students from both programs participate in the STEAM programs such as performing arts, robotics, chess, and more.

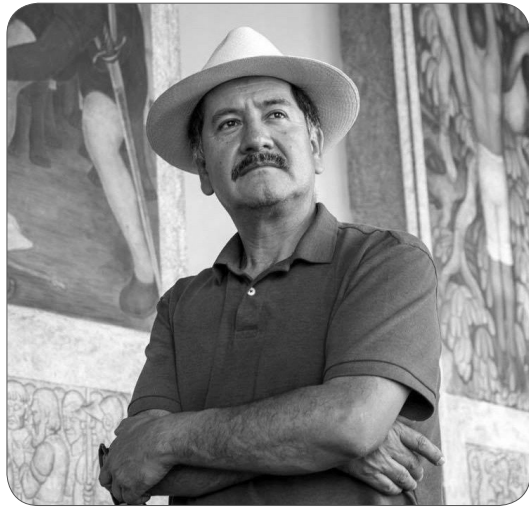
After the short presentations, there were lots of questions and answers, and the principal encouraged parents to visit the school during regularly scheduled tours or to arrange a visit at another convenient time. Please call (323) 937-7223 with questions of interest. □

VG Resident & Latin Music Expert

By Lucy Fried

Did you know more than 65 languages are spoken in Mexico, other than Spanish, and that each region has its own instruments and musical traditions? And that Mexican and Latin American musical sounds and styles have been influenced not only by each other, but also by immigrants from Africa, Europe, Asia, and the United States, and vice-versa?

African slaves brought the marimba, and now it is the national instrument of Guatemala – and also popular in Colombia and Ecuador. Europeans brought violins, horns and the polka. The



popular Colombian cumbia style and dance was popularized by musicians who loved listening to U.S. big bands in the 1930's and '40's. Mariachi music is known as the national music of Mexico, but it's a style from one small region in the state of Jalisco. And on and on.

Huge appreciation to longtime VG resident Betto Arcos – music critic, journalist, and regular contributor to NPR, KPCC and the BBC – for a fascinating Clubhouse talk on Saturday, May 25. Many thanks to the Cultural Affairs Committee; may they sponsor many more such events! □

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

My family and I attended the block party in honor of the renaming of Rodeo Rd. to Obama Blvd. I'm so grateful that we went! It felt like the entire neighborhood was coming out to bless this space, that contains beautiful trees, flowers, and walkways, but which in my car-based experience of the wider neighborhood I had never considered.

The event celebrated a hopeful vision of America, African-American cultural pride, and the distinctive culture of our particular slice of Los Angeles. I'm grateful for this opportunity to slow down and appreciate my neighborhood, and I am proud that Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw is highlighted for its role in Obama's early campaign. Most especially, I love that the students of Dorsey High will see Obama's name in front of their school.

Joanna Casucci, Court 3

Send a letter to villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com



The Spice of Life

By Amanda Sigafos, Master Gardener

It's time to get spicy with peppers! From Habaneros to poblanos, choose the heats that suit your tastes. Mild peppers complement spicy ones.



All pepper plants grow well in-ground or a container. Give them gently tilled soil or a nutrient-rich potting mix and lightly fertilize at least once or twice during the growing season. They prefer full sun, but I've gotten away with plants in part shade. Water at least once per week, and possibly twice as the weather warms up and if you planted in containers.

Seedlings are available at almost any nursery right now, though variety will diminish as we move into summer. This year's spring weather is providing an excellent environment for plants to become established before the heat comes. If you plant now, you will enjoy fresh peppers well into year's end.

A week or two after planting, snip the primary head(s) off in order to encourage growth. This will make

the plant bushier and within a short time, your flower and subsequent fruit production will double or even triple. It seems counter-intuitive, but I promise it works!

What to do with your abundance? Dry your spicy peppers by stringing them up. Hang in indirect sunlight, and when all peppers have dried, snip off the stem and place whole peppers in the blender. In a matter of seconds, you'll have your own home-grown chili flakes. I love using them in pasta sauces, meat marinades, sprinkled on top of avocado toast, or infused into gazpacho. And share your bounty with neighbors, so everyone can have a little spice in their life. □

Residents' Quick Action Rescues Artist's Trove

By Stephen Wolf

When long-time Court 8 resident Harold Pelster passed away last December, he left behind a collection of art books and over 200 paintings, drawings, prints, and sculptures - his life's work - stored in two Village Green garages. He also left behind no will.

Harold's heirs barely knew him and knew little of his career. They generously offered his neighbors some artworks

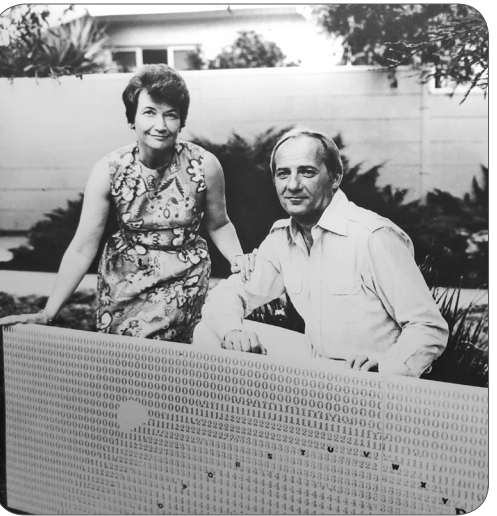
but didn't have a taste for his work themselves and decided to send it to the dumpster.

Three VG neighbors stepped in when they heard about this. With only 12 hours notice, they pulled together a team of art lovers who rescued the entire art trove minutes before estate liquidators could haul it to the dump.

The art is temporarily housed, but a long-term, low-or-no-cost storage solution is urgently needed.

Once a storage area is found, the rescuers will proceed to catalog the work, solicit a professional opinion of its artistic merit and determine the collection's fate. At a minimum, they plan to create a lasting gallery of Harold's art online and hope to display some of it on the Clubhouse walls.

For more information or to help with storage, web skills, art world



This photo of Erika and Harold Pelster, shown with his piece titled, "Journey to Berlin," was used in an L.A. TIMES ad when Village Green units were first sold as condominiums in 1974. Thanks to Mickey Fielding for the photo caption.

connections, or funds, please contact Stephen Wolf at swolfswolf@gmail.com or mickeyfielding@gmail.com. □



Highlights Talks with Resident Teddy Boeddiker, Police Officer

Please say "hello" to neighbor and rookie Police Officer Teddy Boeddiker and his cat, Carl Sagan.

Teddy, 31, found the Green on Craig's List almost two years ago. He liked the architectural unity of the buildings and landscape and was happy to learn he could garage his motorcycle here. Teddy said he loves walking - he walks the Green regularly - and only wishes there were neighborhood cafes and bars he could walk to for socializing.

Teddy has just completed his first two months as a police officer and agreed to sit down with **Highlights** to talk about it.

Highlights: Why did you want to become a cop?

Teddy: I was 13 in Silicon Valley when the 9/11/01 attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon occurred. My response was to apply to West Point, the U.S. Army's military academy. I was able to enter at 16. After receiving my BA, I became an aviation officer and spent seven years as an army helicopter pilot, including a year in Afghanistan in a combat area. After leaving the Army, I earned an MBA, but it turned out that working as a financial advisor was not for me.

I decided to become a police officer and applied to a local department. It took a year until I was finally fully vetted and admitted and six more months to complete the training.

I believe the military and police both provide rewarding opportunities for public service. I have the physical capabilities and resilience for such work, and I find it exciting. You never know what the next shift will bring. And it has good pay and benefits

Highlights: "Use of force" is a huge issue today. The public outcry led by Black Lives Matter against unnecessary and often racially biased police shootings has some police departments revisiting their training manuals and equipping their officers with more effective non-lethal weapons. But what exactly is, "use of force," and what are the rules about its use?

Teddy: The U.S. Supreme Court case, *Graham vs. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989) set the legal standard for use of force. Basically, it must be "objectively reasonable." You can easily find it online.

There are actually three levels of force; when to use each was one of the biggest topics during my training.

- (1) "Less lethal" force is first. We have a taser, mace, two batons (one collapsible), and a bean bag shotgun with six bags that can be used when a suspect is "violently resisting arrest." This standard replaces an older one which permitted their use if a suspect was "non-compliant." Some officers are still grumbling about the change.
- (2) Drawing and exhibiting a firearm is the next level. That decision should be based on an officer's reasonable belief that a situation may escalate to the point where deadly force may become necessary, for example when we respond to a robbery in progress.
- (3) The highest use of force is "deadly force." In addition to the less lethal weapons above, we are also armed with a regular shotgun and a pistol. We are taught to shoot in the center of mass of the target (usually the chest; sometimes the head) which is meant to stop a deadly threat as quickly as possible. We are also taught that the #1 rule in policing is to go home safe at the end of your shift. □

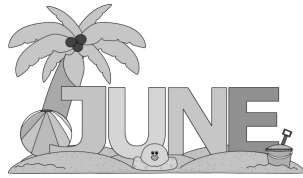


JUNE-JULY EVENTS

Patio Peek

Saturday, June 8, 3:00-5:00pm
First, register and get your map at the Clubhouse. More than 20 patios available to visit.

Sp: Landscape Committee



Village Green Annual Yard Sale

Saturday, June 15, 8:00am - 3:00 pm

Coliseum, Hauser, and western part of Obama/Rodeo Place.

Sp: Cultural Affairs Committee/Yard Sale

Drinks on the Green

Sunday, June 23, 4:00-7:00 pm

West Green under the big ash tree. Families welcome.

Sp: Cultural Affairs Committee/DOTG

Board of Directors Meetings

Tuesdays, June 25 and July 23, Clubhouse

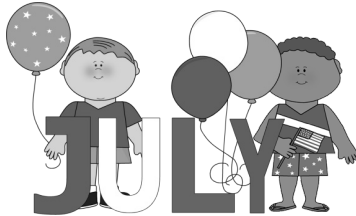
Homeowner Comments start promptly at 7:00 pm.

Early Summer Concert

**Sunday, June 30th,
4:00-7:00 pm,
Central Green**

With Katia Moraes & The Brazilian Hearts
www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_42XxGz7zk.

Sp: Cultural Affairs Committee



Drinks on the Green

Sunday, July 28, 4-7 pm

Families welcome. Location to be determined.

Sp: Cultural Affairs Committee/DOTG □

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Cynthia Singleton

Note: The information below was gathered at meetings I attended in May



Empowerment Congress West Area (ECWA) 5/18/19

* **Voting Centers:** Effective 2020, there will only be 300 voting polls throughout L.A. County. The polls will be fully automated, with approximately 100 machines per poll.

There is an information meeting Saturday, June 8, 2019, from 10:00 am – to noon at Fame Renaissance Center 1968 W. Adams Blvd. For more information, visit VSAP.lavote.net for full meetings schedule.

* **Free smoke detectors** & installation are available. Visit www.mysafela.org.

* **Senate Housing Bill SB50:** The controversial housing bill was voted down in the California Senate, but its author plans to amend it and re-submit it in January, 2020. (See the May *Highlights* for more information about SB 50.) Stay tuned and let me know if you'd like to join me at upcoming community meetings about the new version of the bill.

Oil Field Update (CAP mtg 5/13/19)

* **Health Study:** The Community Coalition for a Safe Community (CCSC), and the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) received a grant for \$100,000 from outgoing County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas to fund Phase 2 of the community health study on the effects of living in a community around active and inactive oil wells.

* **Abandoned Oil Wells:** Sentinel Perk Resources (oil field operator) provided a map of all the abandoned wells in the Inglewood oil field. The total indicated is 95. Of these, 10 are scheduled for sampling and testing for methane gas leaks. This odorless gas can rise to the surface and kill. The sampling is to be completed in 2019, and additional studies of the abandoned wells are to be continued every year.

* **Emergency Plan:** Sierra Club Clean Break committee requested that Sentinel Perk Resources provide and distribute an Emergency Plan to the community detailing emergency procedures and how the community will be notified of an emergency at the oil field. □

Los Caciques del Caribe

Rain did not succeed in cancelling the Sunday, May 26 "Memorial Day Weekend Concert on the Green" featuring Los Caciques del Caribe.

Families and neighbors settled onto blankets and chairs as usual all over the Main Green, chatting and listening to the band. Others danced near the stage. And the kids endlessly patrolled the sidewalks on foot, bikes, and skates. A good time was had by all. Thanks, Cultural Affairs, for all you do.

Next up: Drinks on the Green (June 23) & the Early Summer Concert (June 30).

Photo courtesy of Ben Duggan

