

# VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

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# HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

March 2022

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Seven directors, two employees, and 25 residents attended February's Board meeting. Most of the meeting was taken up with discussion of improving safety at the Green.

During Homeowner Comments, a Court 7 resident told of being robbed by two young men as she was opening her garage. One of them, she said, displayed a gun. Though it was early evening, and dark, the garage safety light was unlit at the time.

Maintenance Manager Alfonso Casanova said he would check all light sensors and timer systems. Property Manager Sherri Giles and Safety Committee representatives agreed to renew the practice of printing alerts after such events, posting them on trash enclosures and in laundry rooms. Ms. Giles also reported that the office sends email alerts when such incidents occur and asked residents to contact the office and sign up for such alerts if you are not receiving them.

According to our LAPD Liaison Officer Roybal, crime in our area is up considerably, though the rate of crime at the Village is lower than in the surrounding neighborhood. [As we go to press, three break-ins have been reported in Ct. 11 on February 25th and 26th.]

### The Board advised the Safety Committee to do the following:

- Obtain information from LAPD on lighting and cameras as crime deterrents;
- Organize nighttime walk-arounds by Safety Committee members and neighbors to create a presence, and to find and report dark spots.

### Here are some things you can do:

- Call for an escort when you arrive home, especially at night, at **(213) 703-0540**;
- Be aware of your surroundings;
- Please consider joining the Safety Committee! They need your help!

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**TREES TO BE PLANTED:** The Board approved a Tree Committee proposal to plant 20 trees this spring. (The 45 trees funded by the 2021 sponsorship program will follow this allotment.) □



Love Thy Neighbor  
Photo by Melanie Duvernay, Court 11

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## “Good To Know” from the Design Review Committee (DRC) by Feliza Kohan

*As a community that strives to be considerate of each other, the Board has put in place a few guidelines, for those times when noise is created during a unit remodel. Go to <https://bit.ly/2MYVXEm> to access the PDF.*

A “Village Green Unit Modification Notice” is to be issued to your neighbors when planning to remodel a unit. The document also includes that the owner doing the modification will follow the VG unit modification rules.

1. Work shall be performed between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm only.
2. Workers shall abide by the Association's parking rules as set forth in **The Village Green Handbook**, Article 8 - Parking.

3. Owners are responsible for the removal of any debris resulting from construction in a timely manner. Absolutely no construction debris may be disposed of in VG dumpsters.
4. No work materials shall be stored in the Common Areas, with the exception of the Unit's Patio.

*We live in a community where our goals include being respectful and kind to each other; this act of consideration will go a long way to demonstrate that.* □

*From Manager Sherri Giles' February Report to the Board*

## **ELECTRICAL UPGRADE**

Hariton Engineering, working with our staff, has recommended that the VGOA hire an electrical contractor to advise on the pilot phase of the electrical upgrade project. The pilot encompasses the buildings and garages of courts 16 and 17. Hariton will reach out to a number of potential contractors and present bids to the Board at the April meeting.

## **GOPHERS**

The test mitigation program between courts 7-13 was in effect for three weeks. Six gophers were caught, and Management favors an ongoing gophers control program.

## **COPPER RE-PIPING**

Building 85 is completed, and work on Building 9 has begun. Building 80 is scheduled for March 7.

## **GARAGE INSPECTIONS**

Residents can expect notices in the next few months.

## **GREENCREW**

Last month, the workers detailed courts 14-17 and the hedges along Obama. They will be moving to courts 1-4. Mulching was slowed, due to a disabled cart.

## **FOOD WASTE COMPLIANCE**

The Los Angeles Department of Sanitation is upping their food waste requirements, and Management reached out to our waste hauling vendor, Republic Services, for best practices for complying. Republic offered suggestions for three sizes of composing bins and these will be presented at the March Board meeting.

## **BUILDING PAINTING AND INSULATION**

The last building scheduled for 2021 (held back because of COVID) will be completed in early March. Management will bring a resolution to the March Board meeting for the next series of buildings.

## **HORTICULTURIST REPORT**

The Green's horticulturist, Carol Bornstein, visited in November and examined sites recommended by the Landscape Committee near the Clubhouse, in the West Circle, and in courts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 15, as well as the Sycamore fence. She evaluated plants for disease, water and pruning requirements and other conditions, and recommended more mulch in many areas. □

## **From *Appalachian Elegy* by bell hooks.**

listen little sister  
angels make their home  
here  
in these hills  
follow me  
I will guide you  
careful now  
no trespass

I will guide you  
word for word  
mouth for mouth  
all the holy ones  
embracing us  
all our kin  
making home here

*bell hooks, a beloved African American poet  
and icon, died late last year.*



*Flowering pears & fallen leaves, Court 14  
Photo by Lucy Fried*

## **Public Security Report**

**January 20 - February 16, 2022**

*Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore*

### **LOUD NOISE/DISTURBANCE: 1/26, Court 5, 11:45 pm.**

A resident reported hearing a loud argument. The neighbors apologized to responding officers and agreed to lower the volume.

### **COYOTE SIGHTINGS: 12/29-1/7, Main Green, Courts 4,**

**8-11.** Security has received numerous reports of late night/early morning coyote sightings.

### **STOLEN PATIO PROPANE TANK:**

**2/2, Court 2, time unknown.**

### **NUDE FEMALE TRESPASSER: 2/5, Main Green, 6:30 am.**

Several residents reported her presence, and she was given a blanket and socks. Police took over once they arrived.

### **GRAFFITI ON MAINTENANCE YARD WEST WALL:**

**2/10, overnight.** Maintenance Manager Alfonso Casanova reported what appeared to be street gang vandalism.

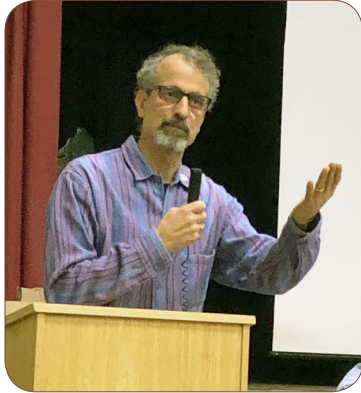
### **ARMED ROBBERY: 2/11, Court 7 garage area, 7:15 pm.**

Two young adult males took a resident's purse at gunpoint, then escaped west down Coliseum. The resident was uninjured and recovered all possessions except a car key. □

## An Interview with Outgoing Board President, Joe Khoury

*Interviewed by Patrick Comiskey. Edited for brevity and clarity.*

*For more than a decade Joe Khoury has been a stalwart presence on the Board of Directors, serving as Board president for many of those years. This last election, he stepped down as Board president; Laura Civiello succeeds him. We thought we'd check in with the outgoing president to discuss his most recent tenure.*



### **When did you join the Board?**

I started serving on the Board in 2009. I was on the Cultural Affairs Committee before that. The very next year I became president.

### **What made you decide to run?**

I was the last guy standing! (laughs) At that time there was a big discussion about spending on maintenance

projects. I wanted to keep costs down.

### **What experience did you have?**

I'd been on a few boards. I was chairman of the American Chemical Society Local Section (I'm an environmental chemist by trade), and I've been on committees of the UCLA Alumni Association. Also served on boards in my religious community, where we use a type of consultation for all our collective decision-making.

### **So it is in effect a part of your faith?**

I guess you could say that. In the consultation process, a person tries to be kind, open, purposeful, and action-oriented. Motives have to be pure; no ulterior motives. I think on our current board, people's motives are pure. That's not true of general politics, is it?

### **Heck no!**

Exactly! Maybe that's why politicians have a hard time making decisions! The thing is, you have to be detached from the outcome. Once you present an idea, it's no longer yours; it belongs to everybody. It's like the blind men and the elephant. We each have a different perspective on the truth and each person has the duty to describe their truth, so that way that collective vision can emerge.

### **What has been the greatest challenge?**

Some of the neighbor-to-neighbor disputes. The Board is a third party; it can often empathize with both sides, so we see a larger middle ground where the parties can meet each other halfway. But getting them into that space is not easy, and we are often not successful.

### **What's your best memory?**

I would say that far and away the most cherished memories I have from serving on the Board are the people I got to work with—the current board members being at the top of the list! What a privilege it has been to work with these folks.

### **What advice can you give to the incoming president?**

The most important thing is to guide collective decision-making. Everyone has to express their opinion. If you see someone shaking their head, or not agreeing, you have to ask them what's on their mind. I've seen it happen where eight people are in agreement, and then one person speaks up and shifts the direction of the discussion for the better.

Ideas come from many different directions. Sometimes what you bring to it is just the spark; once the Board starts working with it, a new idea comes out that didn't originate with any individual... it was borne out of collective discussion.

Our goal is always to be united. Our unanimous decisions are always going to be our best decisions. You can't always do that, but you have to try. □

## BALDWIN HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INFO SESSION FOR VG RESIDENTS

**Neighbors in Action for Baldwin Hills Elementary School invites you to a Zoom information session:**

**Saturday, March 19, 10:00am - 10:30am**

(followed by Q&A)

**Meeting ID: 917 234 4473 Passcode: Baldwin1**

### **This is an opportunity for VG neighbors to:**

- Learn about Baldwin's Gifted High Ability Magnet Program
- Learn about Baldwin's Pilot School emphasis on culturally responsive teaching
- Learn how to enroll your child at Baldwin
- Discuss how you can build links to our neighborhood and support Baldwin even if you don't have a school-age child.

**Think local!** Located just across the street from Village Green, Baldwin provides a unique opportunity for neighbors to build connections and make a positive impact in our community.

Join us on March 19th. If interested but can't attend the meeting, contact [NIABaldwinHills@gmail.com](mailto:NIABaldwinHills@gmail.com).

Joanna Casucci (Court 3),  
Zanna Gilbert (Court 11), and  
Alan Canterbury (Court 3) for  
Neighbors in Action for Baldwin  
Hills Elementary School





### **PANDEMIC PIVOTS: What some of our neighbors have been up to during Covid!**

*Compiled by Patrick Comiskey. Photo assistance by Zig.*



In 2018, caterers Mark and Lene Houck opened Open Face, their West Adams sandwich shop whose menu drew deeply from Lene's Danish culinary heritage. The pandemic sidelined them, as well as the farmers they work with, so the Houcks pivoted to selling and distributing a CSA produce box filled with fresh vegetables; many Village Green families, in COVID's early months, signed up for touch-free pickup of organic vegetables. The Open Face patio is open again for safe dining, as is their new shop HYA (Here You Are) next door, for sundries, including the housemade pickles and preserves that once stocked the CSA boxes.



During the pandemic, Rock and Kim Edwards became empty nesters; their daughter Brooke left home in 2019; later that year Rock, after a long career as a security technology specialist at the Getty, retired. Kim, who as a property manager couldn't work from home, knew her husband would need a diversion, and so she brought home a four-week old maltipoo (maltese-poodle), joining dozens of other Green residents in adding a pet to their households. Their black ball of fluff is called Kingston, named for the capitol city of Rock's home country, Jamaica. Kingston, now 15 months, is feisty and adorable, and never leaves Rock's side.



Nicole Rademacher and Matias Munoz-Rodriguez are both working artists; Rademacher's work is conceptual; Munoz, a filmmaker born in Chile, had just completed his first short film, and was a mentor in Edward James Olmos's Youth Cinema Project, teaching filmmaking skills to young Latino students, when the pandemic closed schools and tabled the Project. Stymied, Munoz-Rodriguez reached out to his mother, who was living on Chiloé Island in southern Chile, for some help with a pivot. His mother became their go-between for recruiting local Mapuche artists crafting handmade, 'farm to closet' sweaters. Within the year the couple had founded Folil, an import company, and began selling them online and at pop-ups. You can check out their offerings at [folilroots.com](https://folilroots.com).



Travel defined the lives of Stephen Wolf and Adrian Lee before COVID; the two were globe-trotting pet sitters, jetting to far-off countries to pet-sit in exchange for lodging. When the pandemic grounded them, Stephen took his health into his hands, becoming the Green's most ubiquitous pedestrian, averaging more than 10,000 steps a day. Adrian took knitting needles into her hands; she became a knitting fiend, estimating she went through 120 skeins of yarn during the last year and a half. Both rekindled creative passions. Stephen completed a research project on his own family, then with his sister began writing a novel, based on their Civil War heritage. He estimates he's a quarter of the way through. □