

# VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

---

# HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

March 2021

## 2021 VG Board of Directors



## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At February's board meeting, directors grappled with a slew of thorny issues ranging from community tensions to funding for major rehab projects, with proposals for two new projects thrown in for good measure (a crops garden and a dog run).

They agreed to hold a special meeting to prioritize long-term projects and consider timetables and funding options. Such projects include the electrical update, irrigation replacement, and landscape rehabilitation. Replacement of the well may also be needed in coming years. They will also consider whether or not to begin repairing cracked serpentine walls that do not present a life/safety issue.

### Community Tensions

At least 25 residents joined the Zoom meeting. Some had written letters asking the board to reconsider its decision to remove existing benches and replace them with new ones. **Directors voted decisively to leave the benches in place and add others in the locations called out in the original landscape plans.**

Others present hoped the board would resolve tensions between residents working at home in their units, residents whose nannies and children use garden court areas, and Public Security guards' responses to complaints. A team was appointed to provide guidance to the office on how to respond to complaints from all parties. Compromises may be necessary.

Directors also discussed a form for residents who wish to report complaints about problematic interactions with security guards, including possible racial profiling by their neighbors.

The next step is a conversation with Public Security, as there is a need for more data from the company about the complaint calls they receive. Management would share appropriate information with the company, and the board and management would examine the data on a quarterly basis.

### The Board Also:

Approved recording a lien on a unit;

Referred a mandatory unit retrofit item to executive session;

Empowered a new DRC Enforcement Committee of three directors, including the DRC liaison, to "provide a consistent, educated voice on DRC infraction data". □

### Communications Committee Announcements

**We urgently need designers.** You will alternate months with others on our layout team. Please reply to [villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com](mailto:villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com).

Do you like the birds at VG? Go to [villagegreenla.net](http://villagegreenla.net) and click on Resources/Reports to see the newly-updated list of 136 different species seen (not just flying over) and reported during almost 20 years of bird-watching here! □

### Inside HIGHLIGHTS

**Page 2** Election Results/Management News/Security Reports

**Page 3** Letter to the Editor

**Page 4** Oil and Gas Update

**HIGHLIGHTS** is a volunteer project of the Village Green Communication Committee

**Editor:** Lucy Fried

**Design:** Sophia Beauvy

**Editorial Assistance:** Dagmar Buck

**Comments? Questions?**

[villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com](mailto:villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com).

## from Manager Sherri Giles' February Board Report

The **sewer re-pipe project** is proceeding well. When completed, the Building 66 project and residential painting and insulation will start. Buildings 18, 27 39, 43, 45, 49, 54, 54A, 78, and 85 are scheduled.

As of 2/23, the ficus tree's roots continued to halt progress on **Court 6's electrical line repair**. DWP employees tried for hours to pull the power lines through the damaged conduit near the junction box, but roots had penetrated the conduit and fused with the wires. Another attempt will be made. If unsuccessful, workers will dig under a second patio.



Phase 2 of the **electrical upgrade** is moving slowly. The essential need is for DWP to provide VG more power, and VG has been meeting with them to determine the location of a new transformer and entry points for additional electricity. Discussions also include identifying potential vault and transformer upgrades and utility easements.

**Greencrew** is detailing courts 9-14 in March and mulching on the Coliseum side.

**Arborist Carlberg Associates** completed an inspection of trees in courts 4-6 and has recommended 13 trees for high priority pruning, 36 for medium pruning, and one for removal and replacement. □

---

## VG Election Results

2021's BOD is identical to last year's. Five seats were open. Of the seven candidates, five were incumbents, and voters re-elected all five. Here is the tally:

Claire Knowlton, 274; Steve Haggerty, 227; Avelene Schodorf, 221; Ashley Fondrevay, 215; Chris Scornaienchi, 209; Tim Rummel, 172; Lisa Jeffries, 129.

**Board officers:** president, Joe Khoury; vice-president, Laura Civiello; secretary, Haleh Shoa; and treasurer, Claire Knowlton.

**Committee liaisons:** Budget and Finance, Claire Knowlton; Communication, Daniel Millner; Court Council, Ashley Fondrevay; Cultural Affairs, Avelene Schodorf; Design Review, Haleh Shoa; Landscape, Laura Civiello; Safety, Steve Haggerty; Trees, Chris Scornaienchi.

Thanks to VG staff and volunteer Inspectors of Election Rob Creighton, Heide Oglesby, Michael Boucher, and John Howell for another successful election in this very trying time.

**Highlights** wishes the board another productive year. □

---

## PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT January 21, 2021 - February 18, 2021

*Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore*

**RESCUE January 21, Court 15, 3:00 pm.** A resident called Rescue Response, who determined the resident was okay.

**PARAMEDICS January 27, Court 13, 3:00 pm.** The hospice nurse called paramedics, who followed the family's direction and did not intervene.

**HARRASSMENT February 3, Court 5 laundry, 10:30 am.** Vendors cleaning the area reported a resident's threatening, racist tirade.

**RESIDENTS ON ROOF, YELLING February 3, Garage Court 7, 11:00 am.** February 3, Garage Court 7, 11:00 am. Officers convinced them to come down.

**GAS DANGER February 3, Court 6, 1:35 pm.** Multiple units were evacuated after contractors cracked a gas line while digging.

SoCal Gas capped it, and residents returned to their units in about two hours.

**NOISE COMPLAINT February 4, Court 13, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.** Security was called to mediate an argument between a resident and nannies.

**POLICE ACTIVITY February 7, Court 7, 1:40 pm.** LAPD arrested someone in relation to an off-property incident.

**POSSIBLE BURGLARY February 13, Court 9, 7:45 pm.** LAPD, including a helicopter, searched the area but determined there was no crime.

**TRESPASSER February 18, Coliseum & Hauser, 10:15 am.** February 18, Coliseum & Hauser, 10:15 am. An injured and disoriented male refused to leave, and LAPD was called. He fled but was later arrested for an off-property hit-and-run. □

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor's note: In February, 15 residents sent letters asking directors to reconsider their decision to remove and replace six existing benches. At their meeting, the board did just that . (See Page 1). The letter below was also sent to the Communications Committee, and the author, a VG teen, approved it for publication in **Highlights**. She and her family requested that her name and court number not be included.

Dear Village Green Board,

**I**t was late afternoon in Village Green, nearly ten years ago, as I ran through the seemingly endless fields of grass. The weather was perfect, a blue, blue California sky mingling with the cotton candy of the clouds; and I smiled as rays of sunshine danced through the golden leaves swaying above in the gentle breeze. There were wind chimes singing and birds chirping, but it all had become second nature to me since I moved to Village Green one year prior, when I was four or five years old.

**M**y friend and I giggled and spoke in conspiratorial voices before bolting off together to hide in the bushes behind one of those familiar old reddish-purple benches that dotted Village Green. I crouched in the weeds behind the bench as the game of Hide and Seek progressed, watching the seeker find my other friends-- but never us. At last, she cried in exasperation, "I give up!" Then, we would spring out from behind the bench hand in hand and cry, "Here we are!"

**T**here was another one of those old benches, closer to my house. This one had more bushes around it, seeming like a fortress to my youthful mind. My neighbor and I would crouch behind the bench, pretending it was a taco stand, and make believe to sell the food we had collected-- which was really leaves-- to our parents. We would alternate between seller and leaf-collector, each never tiring of the game. With a touch of imagination, the signature benches of Village Green could be anything.

**S**ometimes, when my friends weren't around to play, my grandmother and I would take long walks around Village Green. We always stopped at one of these benches to watch the

world around us, inhale the fresh air, and tell stories. Sometimes, we would collect autumn leaves of scarlet and burnt copper, poking the stems into the narrow slots between the wood of the bench to decorate it. Then, we'd stand back and admire our work.

**I** am now fourteen, but these memories will live on in my mind forever. Sometimes, when I'm riding my bike around Village Green, I'll stop to pick up a perfect crimson leaf, head to one of those benches, and slide its stem between the slots the way I used to with my grandmother. For these benches are not just places to sit. They could be anything to me. Anything in my imagination-- and now, they are memories, too.

**O**ne day, when I am grown, I want to return to Village Green, this beautiful oasis of my childhood; to sit down on this bench, and to smile. Some things will always change. But there are other things which I think should stay the same. I beg you to keep these benches. There are memories which I think we should hold on to. And this, I believe, is one of them. □



**New Bench**



## Ending Neighborhood Oil Drilling: Progress and Challenges

By Lucy Fried, with essential information from the Sierra Club

Living and owning just below the largest operating urban oil field in the U.S., Greenies need to know what's going on there and what our elected officials are doing to reduce the dangers and/or end this dangerous and unhealthy use of the land.

### Oil Field Update

The Inglewood Oil Field operator, Sentinel Peak Resources, continues to drill, pumping toxic and cancer-causing chemicals deep into the shale for oil and gas on and near the Inglewood-Newport earthquake fault.

Although it has not been digging new wells, the operator has been upgrading and expanding existing wells for more drilling – seven in 2019 and six last year. For a look at this problem here and statewide, go to [www.newsomwellwatch.com/](http://www.newsomwellwatch.com/).

The oilfield also contains scores of wells that were closed and capped in earlier decades with lower standards than prevail now. Recent government testing revealed methane gas in several locations, with high levels of soil contamination that will need further monitoring and possible soil removal.

### Political Landscape – L.A. County

90% of the oil field, including Baldwin Hills, is on unincorporated L.A. County land. The five members of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors decide how that land will be used.

Village Green and the oilfield are in Supervisorial District 2. Holly Mitchell, our new representative, courageously opposed fracking in the 2010s as a state Assembly member and senator. It is likely that the other four supervisors will follow her lead on oilfield matters.

Culver City owns the other 10% of the oil field. Their elected officials decided to fully phase out oil and aim to clean up their portion of the field in five years.

In a recent bulletin, the environmental organization, Sierra Club, wrote, "Unlike, say, Dallas, Texas, neither

the City of L.A. nor the state of California requires that oil drilling have a buffer zone between wells and where we live, work, play, and pray. Our communities know and the research shows that the closer you live to an oil and gas well, the more exposure you have to toxic pollution which can lead to health issues including asthma, cancer, and birth defects.

The County is currently reviewing its oil field regulations and has agreed to rewrite their draft rule after thousands of people demanded better than their initial proposal of a mere 500' setback for new wells. **Holly Mitchell signed on to the pledge to enact a 2500' buffer zone."**

### City of L.A.

The organization also reported that L.A. City Council President Nury Martinez and the Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice Committee requested the City Attorney's office to draft an ordinance phasing out drilling in the City as a non-conforming use.

**"Now that the City of L.A. is considering phasing out oil production altogether,"** said Monica Embrey, associate director of the club's Dirty Fuels Campaign, **"there is no reason for the County not to do it as well!"**

### State of the State

In an **LA.Times** article of 2/18/21, state senator Scott Weiner (SF) called oil and gas, "a declining industry" and added, "Instead of waiting for it to eventually decline and fall apart, let's get ahead of it, facilitate the phasing out and help the workers." **He and Sen. Monique Limon (SB) introduced SB 467 to institute the 2500' setback and end fracking and other dangerous drilling techniques by 2027.**

Keep an eye on oil news this year. There may be some way you can help ... ☐

For a good look at California's oil drilling industry, go to <https://www.fracktracker.org/2020/12/people-and-production/>.