

# VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

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# HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

May 2019

## Board Meeting Highlights *By Lucy Fried*

April's board agenda was unusually short, allowing directors to review details of previously-approved items. Homeowner comments included complaints about lack of watering. (See Manager's Report this page).

**Board topics included...**

### Signage:

Did you know that the number style found on most VGOA structures is considered a significant historic characteristic? The Design Review Committee found signage important enough to the property's architectural whole to ask the board to remove non-conforming address signs and re-stencil them in the original style. Directors agreed.

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## April Manager's Report

*From Sherri Giles, Operations Manager*

**Note:** The Manager's Report is condensed from the report prepared for the Board of Directors.

### Electronic Work Order System:

All courts have now been notified of the roll out, and all owners in courts 1-15 who opted in to use the system have received their log on credentials. Scores of owners have their credentials now, and dozens have initiated work orders electronically. Owners who missed the deadline can still opt in.

### Residential Building Maintenance:

Building 6 is the first of ten buildings scheduled this year for insulation,

### Other Actions:

- Approved the annual auditor's report
- Refined the scope of work for the previously-approved investigation into an electrical service upgrade for garages and solar panel installations

on garage roofs. (See February and March **Highlights**)

- Clarified the procedure for written notification of previously-approved sound testing in vertically adjacent units. □



Easter Egg Hunt participants. Photo by Avelene Schodorf

painting, and carpentry. Insulation meetings with owners and tenants are scheduled for May 2 and 4, with work to begin soon after.

### Escort Call-Box Update:

The call box is operational once again.

### Landscape and Trees:

The irrigation system has not been in use because the well pump backflow failed after ten years. Diagnosis of the problem and the bidding process took time. Repairs are expected the week of April 22. Green Crew reported that the crew will be detailing courts 14-17 in

May and mulching tree wells as they are cleared of weeds.

Consulting arborist Cy Carlberg conducted a walk through the property in April and recommended 19 trees for pruning; 13 are olives in the Court 9-10 and 10-11 allees with, "excess branch weight, mostly due to over-pruning in the past." The arborist will be present during the pruning. In addition, three trees are recommended for removal and replacement, including two recently planted coast live oaks in the East Green. □

# Public Security Report

Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

March 20 - April 17, 2019



**Mar 30 BURGLARY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE. Ct 14, 9:20 am.** A resident reported her car had been broken into through its driver's side window and ransacked, though nothing seemed to be missing. The car was in her garage, which was closed but unlocked.

**Apr 10 VANDALISM OF PATIO LOCK. Court 15, 4:50 pm.** A resident reported minor damage to her patio gate lock, possibly in an attempt to gain access.

**Apr 12 VEHICLE VANDALISM. Court 3, 7:55 am.** Two neighbors reported that the rear wing passenger-side windows of their cars, which had been locked and parked next to each other, were smashed overnight. There was no additional damage or evidence of attempted entry.

**Apr 12 VEHICLE VANDALISM. Court 1, 8:30 am.** A resident reported that the driver's side window of a car was smashed. □

## May Foot Beats Schedule

**Tues., 5/7, 9:00 am:** Meet at Ct 17 entrance, walk east area.

**Wed., 5/15, 7:00 pm:** Meet at Court 13 entrance, walk west.

**Thur., 5/23, 10:00 am:** Meet at Court 6 entrance, walk central area.

**Friday, 5/31, 7:30 pm:** Meet at Clubhouse, walk east area.

**Mon., 6/3, 9:00 am:** Meet at Court 6 entrance, walk west. □

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

As a VG property owner, I'd like to welcome AND compliment our new treasurer in the manner in which she introduced herself to the VG family in the *Highlights* April issue.

Yes, some may not be interested in our overall financial position. But I welcome Claire's attempt to "spread greater understanding of our financial position" (e.g., showcasing a monthly dashboard). Please, continue your communication efforts...

I now will pay closer attention to the Budget & Financial Committee's activities as a result of the efforts of "the new lady on the [committee] block."

Stephen Clark (West Circle)  
April 4, 2019



## Patio Gardening

### Let's Talk Tomatoes

By Amanda Sigafos, Master Gardener

My father grew huge crops of cherry and roma tomatoes every summer. We ate them in salads, and my mother processed the majority into tomato sauce that she froze and doled out over the next nine months.

Garden tomatoes have a certain smell, taste, and warmth that you just can't get commercially. How can you capture this magic?



Here are my tips for growing tomatoes at Village Green:

1. **Choose** a sunny part of your patio and plant in the earth or a container.
2. **Plant** deeply and bury at least half of the main stem, removing the lower leaves from the main stem before covering with soil. Tomatoes thrive with ample space for root systems to absorb nutrients.
3. **Morning** is the best time to water and to check for insects. If you have aphids, gently spray or wash down the plant; otherwise, don't water the leaves. Plants and topsoil need time to dry out to prevent a humid environment that encourages diseases. **Pick off** any caterpillars and hornworms; they gobble up the soft tissue of your plant. Avoid chemical and plant-based pesticides, soaps, and vinegars.
4. **Air flow** is important. Keep stems, leaves, and fruit off the ground, and provide a growing structure.
5. **Pinch** small plantlets off primary stems, so all nutrients and energy are focused into the main plant and fruit production.

Follow these tips, and you will be well on your way to luscious fruits full of sunshine and goodness. One last thing: I've got nothing for squirrel attacks - they get a few of my tomatoes every year. I suppose that is part of the charm of Village Green.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

### Earthquake Insurance Survey

VG Owners: by now, you should have received a mailing from Ross Morgan. The survey is for data collection only but we need as many participants as possible. It is not a commitment by the Board to purchase an earthquake insurance policy. A digital version of the survey can be found at <https://forms.gle/m7dhxNDkeZnv6P7M6>.

### Dusk-to-Dawn Lights Still Available

It's not too late. Submit a work order to get your dusk-to-dawn light installed at front or back door. There are about 11 remaining.

VG Safety Committee





## Baldwin Hills Elementary “Us-Celebration”

By Gabriela Worrel

Every year, Baldwin Hills Elementary Pilot and High Ability Magnet- our neighborhood school - puts on a musical/dance performance that goes above and beyond the expectations of what usually passes for K-5 fare.

This year was no different. Three evening performances in April featured an astonishingly well-rehearsed and diverse program full of joy, information, and conviction. Organized by grades and classrooms and featuring a variety of cultural flavors, all the numbers had one theme in common: celebrating “us” - the cultural heritage and histories of the largely African-American and Latino-American school community.

As I left the school auditorium, I felt deep gratitude for the teachers, parents, and administrators that work hard to foster an atmosphere where students can investigate and indeed celebrate the rich history and culture of our community

through these beautiful art forms of dance, music, costume, instruments, and storytelling. The performance skills the children are learning now will serve them their whole lives.

Parents, it's enrollment season! Enroll your child at our neighborhood school Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-12:00pm. School tours are available by calling 323-937-7223 or emailing [jem8647@lausd.net](mailto:jem8647@lausd.net). Learn more at [www.baldwinhillselementaryschool.com](http://www.baldwinhillselementaryschool.com).

Not a parent of an elementary school-age child? Please know that BHES is currently raising \$125,000 to fund its innovative STEAM projects. Find more information on how to support the school financially on their GoFundMe page: [www.gofundme.com/BaldwinHillsSteamPrograms](http://www.gofundme.com/BaldwinHillsSteamPrograms). □



## Community Garden Opens Lottery

By Mickey Fielding, Garden Coordinator

Did you know that Village Green has its own Community Garden? (It's a well-kept secret, but you'll find it in the Court 1 driveway.) Everyone is welcome to pay a visit and see how things are growing, but please watch your pets and kids, and admire but don't touch. All plants in the boxes belong to the box owners who put lots of time, sweat, love, and money into growing those beautiful plants.

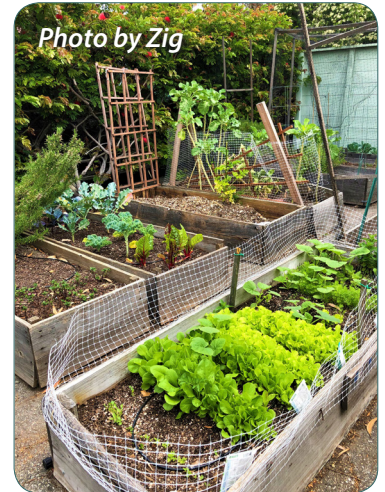
The Garden has three boxes available, and we're taking names of enthusiastic

gardeners who would like the chance to grow herbs, veggies, and flowers in their very own plots. After the application period closes, we'll pick the winners from a hat; all others will be added to a list for the next plot available.

Please take a moment to review the Garden rules and the release form required of all gardeners before submitting your name. You can find these documents, as well as a plan of the Garden, at [bit.ly/2DpdQ9Q](http://bit.ly/2DpdQ9Q) (links to Dropbox). Having a box is

a commitment to maintain it and repair/rebuild when necessary or required, as some of the boxes may need repairs. Just as important is having a great community spirit.

When you are ready to submit your name in the lottery for a box, or have questions, please email [VGCommunityGarden@gmail.com](mailto:VGCommunityGarden@gmail.com) and include your desired email and phone contact information. Deadline for submissions is May 24, at midnight. Box winners will be notified as soon as possible



after that and should be prepared to begin working on their boxes and start their planting within two weeks or so. □

## COMMITTEES

### Monthly Round Up

## MAY

**Budget & Finance:** 3rd Thursday (May 16th), 7:00 pm. Did you know our annual water budget is \$190,000? That's a lot of water! Please do your part to reduce usage - and join our meetings to learn more about how your assessments are spent.

**Court Council:** 1st Wednesday (May 1st) 7:00 pm. Court representatives are needed for courts 4, 8, and 14. If interested, come to a meeting or call the chairman, Nat Hutton, at 323-298-4400. Join this terrific group of volunteers.

**Communications:** 2nd Sunday (May 12th), 12:00 pm. May's meeting conflicts with Mother's Day. Please see the Clubhouse door for new date.

**Safety:** 2nd Wednesday (May 8th), 7:00 pm. We will be meeting with CERT's Chin Thammasaengsri at our May meeting. He and Linda Pollari will help us review and improve a draft 2007 Disaster Preparedness Plan. □

## MAY & JUNE EVENTS

### Baldwin Hills Elementary Info Meeting

**Saturday, May 18, 4pm-5pm  
in the VG Clubhouse**

Come hear from school representatives about the innovative curriculum at our neighborhood school. Ask questions, hear from parents of current students, and more. Refreshments. Sponsored by Village Green parents.



### Board of Directors Meeting

**Tuesday, May 28, Clubhouse**

Homeowner comments start promptly at 7:00 pm.

### **Cultural Affairs Committee Entertainments**

### Memorial Day Weekend Concert on the Green

**Sunday, May 26th, 3:00-6:00 pm, Central Green**

With Los Caciques del Caribe.

### Drinks on the Green

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

West Green under the big ash tree.



### 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](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_42XxGz7zk). □

## COMMUNITY NEWS

By Cynthia Singleton

### Senate Bill 50



State Senator Holly Mitchell (SD 50) met with South L.A. community leaders in April to discuss how SB 50, a housing bill under consideration in Sacramento, would impact residential neighborhoods. The bill would override local zoning regulations and allow contractors to build multiple 4-5 story apartment buildings in single family home areas.

The main concerns were increased traffic congestion and too few parking spaces, especially in "transportation corridors". The bill does not require that contractors provide adequate parking and assumes new residents will use public transportation. Residents argued that this has not been proven, and that the result will be streets clogged with cars.

Village Green is a historical landmark, and our property cannot be disturbed. ***However, we will be impacted.*** The north side of Rodeo from La Brea to La Cienega and the residential side streets to the north are in a "transportation corridor," as is the north side of Coliseum from Sycamore to La Cienega.

### Inglewood Oil Field

The L.A. County Department of Regional Planning will soon begin a mandatory review of the oil field's regulations. VG's board signed on to a letter with many other organizations urging "strong and comprehensive" regulatory updates. Senator Mitchell stated she would try to attend the upcoming CAP (Community Advisory Panel) meeting. She had been instrumental in stopping the fracking process used by the previous oil field operator. □

## PEOPLE OF THE GREEN

### **"DAME GWEN"**

By Kitty Felde

We have a knight living among us.

Fourteen-year VG resident Gwen Deglise has been honored by the French government and awarded the Insignia of Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters for her work with American Cinematheque. The award is the French version of knighthood granted to those who have, "significantly contributed to the enrichment of the French cultural inheritance."

As American Cinematheque's programmer, Gwen decides which silent shorts to show, which cinematographers to showcase, and of course, which French films should be spotlighted. It's a job she's held since 1997 when she left France for Los Angeles and began volunteering at American Cinematheque. The award, she says, honors the workers, not only the artists, of film.

Gwen says that after 20 years, she's still passionate about her work and still feels strongly that seeing a film plays an important role in a democracy, particularly here in Los Angeles. "There's so few places where we are together," she says. "When we come out of a movie together, we experience it, there's something transcendent in the emotion of sharing it collectively; we together become human."

As for the award, Gwen says she's "very intimidated" by the whole thing. But she says it's okay to call her "Dame Gwen".

*Photographed at right:  
Gwen Deglise Moore with  
husband Jordan and  
daughter Rosalie*

