

# VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

## Monthly Highlights

### Board Highlights

by Claire Joyce, Board Secretary

At its meeting on March 24, the Board of Directors:

- Voted to send owners courtesy copies of proposed and accepted rule changes via Court Council distribution and to mail them to off-site owners, in addition to posting them on the Clubhouse door (official General Notices Board).
- Extended the period for homeowner written comments on proposed changes to the Bylaws "Committees" article to April 20 and to April 28 for oral comments at the Board meeting.
- Approved the use of the stage for a Kids Talent Show on the Saturday before the Jazz Concert.
- Scheduled a special open meeting for a reserves budget review on April 14, 2015 at 8pm.
- Raised the monthly fee for rental garages from \$55 to \$65.

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**Escort and Patrol:** On April 15, Public Security, Inc. will replace Platt Security as Village Green's escort and patrol vendor. All owners and residents will receive notices including an introduction from the company and the new telephone numbers for reporting incidents. This is a large property and we expect a few "bumps in the road" as they become acclimated to the project.

### More VGOA News

#### Dorothy Fue Wong v. The Village Green Owners Association

Village Green has prevailed in a lawsuit brought by a former owner seeking compensation for work performed on the National Historic Landmark nomination. The federal district court dismissed several claims against the Association and current and former directors, and later granted summary judgment in favor of the Association against the remaining claim for copyright infringement, concluding the litigation.

#### Petition for Special Vote

A petition recently signed and presented to the Board required the signatures of 32 owners (5% of 629 owners) for a special vote of members under Civil Code section 4365 to consider reversing the recent parking rules changes. Twenty-four of the 50 signing owners have retracted their signatures, so only 26 signatures remain, which is insufficient to trigger a special vote of members. The Association therefore will not conduct a special vote of members.

## Platt Security Report

February 16 – March 15

*Edited by Jeanne Gaignard*

Mar 06 COMPLAINT. Ct. 8, 7:10 a.m. A Platt officer responded to a resident's complaint that someone had defecated outside his patio gate. Pictures were taken and the incident was documented.

Mar 06 VEHICLE BREAK-IN. Ct. 8, 11:15 a.m. A resident reported to a Platt officer that someone had ransacked her unlocked car and stolen items from it. The incident was documented and the resident was advised to contact LAPD.

Mar 06 TRESPASSER. Corner of Rodeo Road and Sycamore Avenue, 3:15 p.m. A Platt officer encountered an apparent transient on the property. When told he was on private property and needed to leave, the man refused. LAPD was called but never arrived. The man left eventually.

Mar 08 ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN. Ct. 7 Garage Court, 2:25 p.m. A resident summoned a Platt officer to report an attempted garage break-in and damaged latch. The garage door is operated by remote control. The incident was documented and reported to maintenance.

Mar 10 TRESPASSER. Garage area, EC. A woman who appeared to be homeless was spotted in the bushes near the VG office. She was advised that she was on private property and asked to leave. She complied but did so slowly. LAPD was contacted but never arrived.

Mar 13 TRESPASSER. Cts. 11 and 12, 3:40 p.m. A woman who appeared to be transient and mentally ill was seen loitering on the grounds and asked to leave. The responding Platt officer contacted LAPD for a mental health evaluation but the woman left before LAPD's arrival.

Mar 14 FALLEN TREE BRANCH. Between Cts. 5 and 6, 5:30 p.m. After observing a fallen tree branch, a Platt officer coned off the area surrounding it and documented the damage.

## New Escort and Patrol Company Starts April 15

*by Ethan Markowitz, Safety Committee Board Liaison*

Please welcome Public Security, our new Escort and Patrol vendor who will begin their contract April 15. Soon all residents will receive a special number to use for calling Public. Save that number and use it!

The Board began the process of searching for a vendor in September, created a committee to interview candidates in October, heard recommendations in December, interviewed the finalists in January, chose Public Security with 8 votes and one abstention, and signed a contract with Public Security in February. Public Security is a local company with roots in the community. With your support, they will hopefully provide Village Green with the best service possible.

## Safety Events Calendar

### Foot-Beat Patrols Scheduled in April

*Sponsored by the Safety Committee*

In an effort to deter crime in the Village Green, LAPD Senior Lead Officer Tynisha King is conducting weekly one-hour walkthroughs, or foot-beat patrols, in different areas of the Green. The patrols begin at 6:00 p.m. behind the Clubhouse and move to specific courts. Residents are invited to walk along to discuss their concerns and ask questions.

Dates	Courts
April 1	Courts 1 & 2
April 8	Courts 5, 6 & 7
April 15	Courts 10 (half), 11 & 12
April 22	East Circle and 15
April 29	Courts 3 & 4

**Safety Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse.** Please note committee's new meeting date is the SECOND Wednesday of each month.

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**Correction:** The February *Highlights* reported that a quorum was called at 10:21 a.m. at the February 2 Annual Meeting. The quorum was met at 11:05 a.m.

## Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time

By Lucy Fried

“What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts soon happens to man. All things are connected.” *Chief Seattle*

These words sum up the message local Audubon Society leader and national wildlife and habitat steward Allan Pollack brought to the 50 Village Green residents who came to the Clubhouse March 14<sup>th</sup> to hear him speak on “Restoring Habitat, One Yard at a Time.”

Pollack said we are in the midst of the greatest extinction of wildlife species in the last 65 million years, and scientists predict that by the end of this century one half will be gone. So, he said, when you make a garden, make a garden friendly to wildlife. Provide food, water, cover, and places where wildlife can raise their young. A fan of “naturalistic” gardens, some of his suggestions may have raised a few eyebrows. For example, he told a story of a woman who had called him for advice. She had a brush pile she wanted to get rid of, she said, but there seemed to be a quail family living there. What should she do? “Pull up a chair,” Pollack told her.

When you plant a garden, Pollack advised, select native plants and know you are helping to conserve indigenous species. Native plants are the most adaptive, attract wildlife, need less water and less maintenance. Compost your waste (but no animal waste) and use it for mulch or fertilizer, and avoid pesticides, he counseled. He said that when he puts in natives, he waters them for a year or two and then is often able to stop watering them. Learn about and select “host” plants, such as milkweed, which hosts the threatened monarch butterfly through its whole cycle from egg to chrysalis and then to adult butterfly. Native sycamore trees are an example of a “host” plant in Village Green’s urban forest. These trees, about half of our sycamores, are home for the Western swallowtail butterfly.



*Monarch butterfly larva eating its way through its milkweed host*

*Photo by Gregory Gilmer*

A fan of water features such as fountains, he noted that songbirds need only about an inch of water and can drown in too much. Also, he warned the audience not to let water get stagnant, as stagnant water is a nesting ground for mosquitoes.

There are many resources for more information on native plants, including LACNPS.org (Los Angeles California Native Plants Society), which meets every other month in Santa Monica. Other resources include [laspilitas.com](http://laspilitas.com); [theodorepayne.org](http://theodorepayne.org); and [matilijanursery.com](http://matilijanursery.com) (a wholesale nursery). Also, try googling “plant communities” by zip code.

The event was sponsored by the Landscape Committee, which is planning another educational event in the fall with a speaker from the Theodore Payne Foundation. The Landscape Committee meets the second Monday of each month at 7:30 at the Clubhouse and welcomes guests and prospective members.

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## In Memoriam

*Highlights* sadly notes the January 18th passing of longtime West Circle owner Marjorie Holland. Known for her kindness and independence, she was a dedicated teacher and beloved mentor to many. She would have turned 90 on March 8, and a memorial meeting held at the Clubhouse that day brought out many relatives, friends, former students, and neighbors. Said two of her court neighbors: "Marjorie would stop for anyone in need, and we would stop for Marjorie, because we all loved her."



## Upcoming Events

### **Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 4th 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Clubhouse**

Come and join the fun. There will be arts and crafts, including egg decorating (BYO eggs), snacks and, of course, an egg hunt organized by age. Please note the egg hunt starts promptly at 10:15.

*Sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee*

### **Safety Committee Meeting - Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse**

Please note committee's new meeting date is the SECOND Wednesday of each month.

### **Dads' Game Night - Saturday, April 18th at 8:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse**

Village Green dads are invited to an evening of relaxation, hanging out and games.

*Co-sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee*

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## Manager's Report

*March Update from General Manager Peter Fay*

**Maintenance:** Sewer line replacement and patio repairs to Courts 1, 14, 15, and 17 remain on schedule... Phase 2 tree trimming of 233 trees is completed ... Following meetings with residents, painted was scheduled to commence March 30 on Building 3, to be followed by Buildings 11 and 16

**Electric Vehicle Charging:** We are in the process of assessing all garages and investigating options which would allow residents to charge their electric vehicles on the property.

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## Village Green Community Garden

The Community Garden, located in the parking lot of Court 1, is a place for growing edible plants (fruits and vegetables) and flowers. From time to time, the Community Garden has an opening to invite residents to tend their own container plot in the Garden. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list for future openings, please leave your contact information at the Village Green office during regular office hours.

