

# VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

## Monthly Highlights

### News from the Board of Directors July 28 Meeting

*Lucy Fried, Acting Secretary*

#### Short-term Rentals

In response to a homeowner complaint, the Board consulted the Association's attorney and confirmed that short-term rentals of Village Green units, such as Airbnb rentals, are prohibited under Section 11.1(a) of the CC&Rs. A notice to this effect has been posted on the Clubhouse door. Owners who are believed to violate this prohibition after the date of this notice will be subject to a fine under Handbook Section 19.3 on non-damage violations. *Both the CC&Rs and the Handbook can be found on [www.villagegreenla.net](http://www.villagegreenla.net). Click on "Important Documents."*

#### Sewer Repairs

Directors voted 8-0 to repair and replace sewer lines in Court 4 (six buildings) and Court 5 (five buildings). Although these courts received new sewers little more than a decade ago, the work did not hold up. Court 4 has had twelve back-ups this year and last, while Court 5 has had thirteen - ten this year alone! Directors had hoped to start other special assessment piping projects next, but agreed the sewers situation could not wait.

#### Lawn Mowing Change

Another 8-0 vote changed lawn mowing from every week to every other week. This will allow the soil to retain more moisture and also free up 64 man-hours in each non-mowing week for other tasks.

*Owners with comments or concerns about the mowing change are asked to make them during Homeowner Comments period or through mail or email c/o the management office.*



After a very long wait, Buildings 8 and 14 residents are finally seeing a change in their "front yards". At Building 8 (above), shrubs have been planted near the building and elsewhere, while water-wise Manzanita ground cover dots most of the area formerly planted with grass. The irrigation system has been changed to drip watering with automated timers, a first for Village Green.

At Building 14, the shrubs will also have a timed drip system. Grass will continue to cover the front, but the old galvanized metal irrigation pipes have been replaced by PVC lines and new programmable valves with improved sprinkler heads. *Photo by Jeff Clark*

### Manager's Report

*Sherri Giles, Interim Manager*

#### Painting ...

Building 15 is completed, 22 and 28 are under way, and 37 will be next. The last three buildings scheduled for this year are 64, 73, and 77.

#### Sewers ...

Courts 1, 17, 14 and West Circle are completed, and 15 and West Circle are scheduled to run through the first week in August.

#### Electrical Vaults ...

On July 18-19, DWP completed the restoration of normal electrical service to Courts 11 and 12 following outages in May and June. The underground vaults were cleaned out, new cable was installed, and the overhead wires that had been providing temporary power were removed.

## Light Up The Green!

By John Howell, Safety Committee chair

The safety committee invites all owners and renters to a Products Fair on Saturday, October 17, where we will review energy-efficient light bulbs and timers and how to shop for them. Our goal is to increase resident participation in turning on porch and patio lights. We have benefited from the active participation of LAPD Senior Lead Officer Tynisha King in our efforts to counter break-ins and graffiti tagging. Among her several recommendations to our community, her first is to improve the lighting. Suspects do not want to be seen, and they love to hide in dark places.

A recent survey showed that almost 3 in 10 front porch and patio lights were off during the week of July 12-18 when safety committee and court council volunteers walked the courts after dark and counted the number of lights not on. (For more about the survey, see page 4).

### If You See or Hear...

Something suspicious:

Call **213-703-0540** or **323-293-9884**

Crime in progress:

Call **911** first & then call the numbers above.

An immediate action that all residents can take is to step outside at night, make sure you have a fresh light bulb in your porch or patio socket, and try the switch. If the light does not come on, you may have faulty wiring or sockets, which can be repaired by Village Green maintenance. Pick up a work order from your laundry room or the office, fill it out, and leave it in either place. Ask to have the wiring or socket repaired.



I replaced my porch light bulb with one of these Philips 14W Dusk to Dawn EnergySaver compact fluorescents. It's equivalent to a standard 60W incandescent and will last more than two years if used every day. It cost \$8 from Amazon and is an example of a low-energy alternative. I'm looking now for something a little bit brighter. Appreciation to Malcolm Carson for photo and information

## Public Security Report

June 26 – July 18

Edited by Jeanne Gaignard

### June 26 DECEASED RESIDENT. Ct. 14, 9:05am

The Public Security commander checked on family after LAFD paramedics had been seen earlier at the unit. It was later learned that the resident had died the night before.

### July 2 DECEASED RESIDENT. Ct. 8, 8:00am

A long-time resident died during the night. Her death was discovered after the maintenance supervisor noticed LAFD on the property

### July 6 RESIDENT FOUND WANDERING. Ct. 6, 9:30am

A Public Security officer encountered a confused, inappropriately dressed female resident wandering around the court. She did not respond to the officer's offer of assistance but was able to return to her unit. Efforts to phone the unit were unsuccessful. The unit was monitored and the office was notified.

### July 10 ATTEMPTED ROBBERY. Central Green, 7:00am

A Court 14 resident was grabbed around the neck from behind and felt something pressed to his neck. He was able to pull away from his assailant and described him as a young black male wearing a white t-shirt and blue shorts and a blue backpack. The suspect was found and pursued by security but escaped by running off the property.

### July 12 NOISE COMPLAINT. Ct. 8, 2:12am

A noise complaint was resolved after the resident closed the windows.

### July 16 BARKING DOG. Ct. 11, 2:00pm

A dog was found barking excessively and hitting the fence. The owner was unavailable. A similar complaint was made previously.

### July 17 MEDICAL EMERGENCY. Ct. 15, 10:15am

LAFD Paramedics transported a resident to the hospital for treatment.

### July 17 PROPERTY DAMAGE. Ct. 7, 12:02pm

A resident reported the lock on his garage smashed while he was away on vacation. Nothing was taken.



## “Container Gardening 101” Draws Crowd

By Jeff Clark

On a warm Saturday in July, about 50 residents made their way to the shady, grassy area at the end of the Court 1 driveway to learn about container gardening, visit some beautiful patios, and enjoy a morning of gardening fun.

Guest speaker Christy Drescher offered solutions for the less-than-perfect growing conditions in many Village Green patios. Container gardening bypasses the common problem of poor soil. Anything that will hold soil and drain will work. And who knew that although the average vegetable wants 6 hours of sun per day, leafy greens are happier with less! Good news for would-be vegetable growers with shady patios.

Don't be shy about asking for help when starting out. A couple of useful books Christy mentioned are: *Square Foot Gardening*, by Mel Bartholomew, and *Carrots Love Tomatoes*, by Louise Riotte.

At the community garden in the Court 1 driveway, we appreciated the raised wooden boxes where gardeners are growing tomatoes, squash, herbs and beans, along with petunias and marigolds to help keep harmful insects at bay.

Then we were off to tour three patios, the first a shady space with lettuces growing, and on a sunny wall, mounted hanging planting pockets filled with herbs, beans and succulents. In two sunnier patios, we saw beautiful arrays of edibles, with a compost bin in one and in another a second level of plantings in eye-level wall-mounted boxes. The morning ended back under the shady trees, where people swapped plants and ideas.

The event was co-hosted by the landscape committee and community garden. The committee meets the second Monday of each month at the Clubhouse, and visitors and prospective new members are welcome.



Photos by John Florance



## Every Drop Counts!

By Lucy Fried

El Nino this winter or not, L.A.'s municipal Department of Water and Power (DWP) and city officials have concluded that L.A. must develop a more sustainable and secure water supply for the long term. At a recent meeting sponsored by the Green's court council, DWP guest speaker Christina Kusch outlined the agency's plan.

The key to success, she said, is to cut in half the amount of water the city buys from outside sources, while increasing local water supplies and practicing water conservation. Currently, 53% of L.A.'s water is purchased. DWP wants to cut that to 24% by 2035.

More of L.A.'s water will come from expanding use of recycled water, groundwater, and stormwater. Pipes need to be replaced to reduce wasteful leaks. Residents and



Residents at court council's water conservation event.  
Photo by Anne McGinn

businesses are asked to use less, and rates will continue going up. At Village Green, homeowner dues and (in a sense, rents) pay the cold water bills for units and patios. All residents can do our part by being mindful of reducing water use in the kitchen, bathroom and patio.

## Court Lighting Survey

By Diann Dumas, Court 4 rep & safety committee member

Village Green's court council and safety committee joined forces in July to survey residential buildings' outside lights. Walking the courts after dark on three evenings, volunteers counted the number of porch and patio lights (front and back) that were off. They discovered that, on average, almost 3 in 10 outside lights were off.

Light is a well-known deterrent to crime, and the committees have from time to time asked residents to turn on their outside lights at night as a mutual effort to maximize safety. However, until now, participation had not been measured.

The percent of lights off by court ranged from a high of 44% (Court 13) to a low of 9.6% (Court 11). More than 90% of Court 11's lights were on, while only 50-60% of lights were on in Courts 4, 5, 13, 14, and East and West Circles. To see where your court stands, go to [www.villagegreenla.net](http://www.villagegreenla.net) and click on "News and Information." The chart is below the August issue of the High-lights.

Following an information campaign scheduled for this fall, the committees will take another survey. See page 2 for more on "Light Up the Green!"

## Community Beat

By Jeanne Gaignard

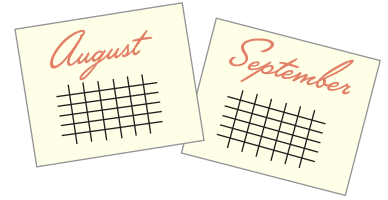
Village Green volunteers Cynthia Singleton and Wendell Conn strongly believe the VGOA should strengthen connections with the larger community. Recently, they attended the annual Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative Conference (LANI), where they networked with other people interested in revitalizing neighborhoods through improvement of public transportation corridors, urban greening and business district projects. They learned about a new city program that brings City Attorney services into neighborhoods and a county program working to coordinate services to homeless people with housing resources.

Singleton and Conn said they think being aware of and utilizing such services may be helpful for Village Green.

### TRANSITIONS

Helen Washington, age 97, a long time resident, died on July 2. She was a former board member, as was her husband, Ken Washington, whose painting of the grounds hangs in the office. She was a lifelong advocate for women's rights and served as a national officer in the YWCA.

## Upcoming Events



### Drinks on the Green

**Sunday, Aug 9, 4 – 7pm, Central Green, East End**

Bring alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, hors d'oeuvres, friends and kids.

*Co-Sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee*

### LAPD Foot Beats (open to all residents)

**Tuesday, Aug 4, 7:30 – 8:30pm, Court 1 Entrance**

Walk the Coliseum side (even numbered units)

**Tuesday, August 18, 9:30 – 10:30am, VG Clubhouse**

Walk the Rodeo side (odd-numbered units)

*Sponsored by the Safety Committee*

### Labor Day Concert

**Monday, Sept 7, 4 – 7pm, Central Green**

Featuring The Susie Hansen Latin Band!

*Sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee*

### Mark your calendar:

#### **Patio Gardening with Natives**

**Saturday, Sept 26, 10 – 12 noon, VG Clubhouse**

Lisa Novick, Outreach Director for Theodore Payne Foundation, will talk and bring California native plants for sun and shade.



Farmers' Market strawberries bring smiles to V.G. shopper Genia Scornaienchi (L) and a vendor in July. The market at Sycamore near Coliseum is open Saturdays from 9:00am – 2:00pm.

*Photo by Lucy Fried*