

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Monthly Highlights

Board Highlights

by Board Secretary Lucy Fried

At its meeting on Dec. 16, the Board of Directors:

- ♦ Set a special open Board meeting on Jan. 13 to interview representatives of two security companies.
- ♦ Directed the manager to request bids for organic and non-organic treatments from three pesticide companies.
- ♦ Capped a proposal for landscaping of Buildings 8 and 14 at \$14,000 and directed the Landscape Committee to return in one month with a final design including turf removal.
- ♦ Appointed Directors Joe Khoury and Fried to an ad hoc committee to work with residents to consider new washer/dryer proposals.
- ♦ Reviewed the recent filming and agreed Khoury will compile suggestions for future filming protocols.



Longtime Village Green birder Don Sterba of Culver City tells us he found a highly unusual bird for this area, a Worm-eating Warbler, on the south side of the Center Green on Dec. 20. The discovery has stirred excitement in the local birding community, as the bird, shown here in a photo Don snapped, is usually found east of the Rocky Mountains.

Village Green's Urban Forest Grows by 33 Trees

By Lucy Fried

December marked the planting of 33 new trees at the Village Green. Tree Committee Chair Jeffrey Mintz and former Co-chair Tamorah Thomas, collaborating with Village Green arborist Dan Jansen, led a months-long effort to develop a detailed proposal and inform the community. In October, the proposal won Board approval and \$5,000 to purchase and plant the trees by year's end.

Tamorah, in her own words "gleeful," nevertheless cautioned residents to remember the arborist's statement that we are down 450 trees and must continue planting as many as possible, including at least six new species for diversity against pests and diseases and in support of wildlife habitat. "These 33 trees must be just the beginning," she stated.

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Platt Security Report

Nov. 10 - Dec. 8

Edited by Jeanne Gaignard

- ♦ Nov. 11 AUTO ACCIDENT. Court 7, 10:55 a.m. Attempting to avoid hitting a cat, a driver struck a Village Green resident's vehicle parked on Coliseum. The driver spoke with a Platt officer and left identifying information.
- ♦ Nov. 12 GRAFFITI. Court 13, 6:30 a.m. A Platt officer observed graffiti on a patio gate.
- ♦ Nov. 12 COMPLAINT. Court 2, 11:25 a.m. A resident presented a Platt officer with a bullet he found lying on a sidewalk.
- ♦ Nov. 12 LA FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE MEDICAL EMERGENCY. WC, 12:05 p.m. LAFD entered a unit through the back door after a friend reported the resident needed medical assistance and the resident did not respond to efforts to gain entry. The resident informed LAFD that he did not require assistance, and no further action was taken.
- ♦ Nov. 13 SUSPICIOUS OBJECT. Court 2, 8:46 a.m. A Platt officer on patrol observed what appeared to be a gun under a shrub. The object was found to be an empty rifle case. LAPD was informed.
- ♦ Nov. 14 COMPLAINT. Court 10, 1:14 p.m. A resident complained of the scent of marijuana coming from a neighbor's unit and stated that the neighbor was stalking his family by recording them with a cell phone. The Platt officer observed the neighbor's video camera pointed at the complaining resident's patio and informed him that it is illegal to record others on private property.
- ♦ Nov. 17 GRAFFITI. Court 9, 8:00 a.m. A Platt officer responded to a complaint of graffiti on a wall. The graffiti appeared to be gang related.
- ♦ Nov. 17 GRAFFITI. Court 9 and Court 17, 8:30 a.m. A Platt officer observed graffiti that appeared to be gang-related on garages in the two courts and on the corner of Rodeo Road and Cloverdale.
- ♦ Nov. 18 DISPUTE. Court 10, 6:30 a.m. A Platt officer responded to a report of a dispute between neighbors involving a complaint of an attempted break-in. LAPD was present upon his arrival. The residents had previously been reported in a dispute on Nov. 4.
- ♦ Nov. 28 CAR DAMAGE. EC, 4:30 p.m. A resident reported the discovery of scratches on the front and back doors of her car.
- ♦ Dec. 4 DANGLING BRANCH. Court 2, 8:20 a.m. A Platt officer reported a dangling tree branch.



A sidewalk work of art: natural impressions left by leaves. *Photo by Bernie Altman.*

33 New Trees

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How were the trees chosen? “The health of the forest was the first priority,” Jeffrey said. “All tree species from the 1940s – 1960s that are doing well were considered.”

Garden court audits helped identify areas with western (sunny) exposures and few or no trees. Existing conditions were also important, as each court has its own character. For example, in Courts 9 and 10, long recognized as the area with the fewest trees, only 1940s trees were planted because that area’s current conditions are most appropriate for re-creating the original design intent.

Courts 3 and 4 gained eight new trees: four Brisbane Box, two Brazilian Peppers, one Coast Live Oak and one Carrotwood.

Courts 5 and 6 have five: two Water Gum, two Evergreen Pear and one Coast Live Oak.

Courts 8 and 9 saw the addition of eight trees: five Dawn Redwoods, one River Birch and one Coast Live Oak. Courts 9 and 10, meanwhile, added ten: eight Evergreen Pears and two Brazilian Peppers.

Courts 16 and 17 added two River Birch trees. For more detail, including the sizes of the trees and the decades they represent, visit the Village Green website at villagegreenla.net.

December report from General Manager Peter Fay

Tree trimming is scheduled to commence in January in Courts 4, 5, 6, 14, East and West Circles, and the East, West, and Central Greens. This work, which is in addition to

A Brisbane Box, one of the 33 new trees planted at the Village Green in December.
*Photo by
Tamorah
Thomas.*



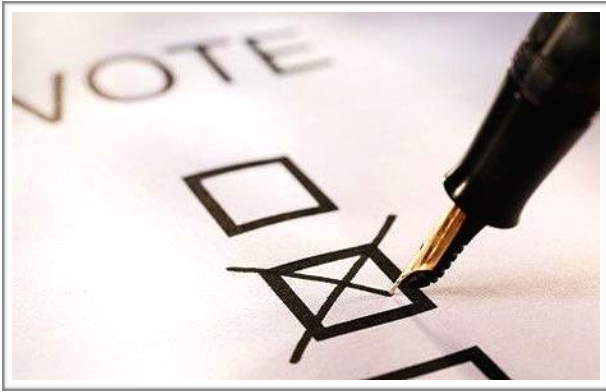
the regular monthly tree care, lessens the amount of emergency care necessary during the year. Trees to be trimmed have been selected by the arborist.

We have instructed landscaping company TruGreen to notify owners in the areas where work will take place:

- ✦ One week prior to trimming TruGreen will place notices on trees to be trimmed.
- ✦ Three days prior, TruGreen will deliver notices to units adjacent to the work area.
- ✦ The schedule is subject to change depending on weather conditions and the progress made by the tree trimmers each day. TruGreen will provide updates as necessary.

If a marked tree is near your patio, remember that light debris may fall into the patio area. Make sure breakable items are removed prior to the work.

Parking Rule Changes: Proposed *Handbook* parking rule changes for a January 27 Board vote are posted on the Clubhouse door.



Why vote in the upcoming Village Green election? Our community needs you

First Person by Jeanne Gaignard, Court 1

Another year has passed and next month we will once again make decisions about the governance of the Village Green. Five Board of Directors positions will need to be filled. During the last year, many complex and important decisions have come before our Board that affect each of us directly in terms of our quality of life, our financial health, the quality of employees we can attract and retain, and the skilled businesses with whom we can contract.

We are fortunate to live in this unique community. Most people who live in an urban residential area are lucky if they know two or three of their neighbors. In our community, our association offers events and opportunities to volunteer alongside neighbors. Our Board Directors are the face of our community and the guardians, in a sense, of all that we cherish about this place we call home.

Our community attracts many talented and highly skilled people, a few of whom are willing to serve on our Board of Directors and invest their time, energy and personal resources to do the hard work of running and preserving this multi-million

dollar complex. The rest of us are challenged each year to take the time and effort to carefully choose candidates to entrust the well being of our community. We need to make good choices with so much at stake. So I hope that each of us will do all we can to consider the options and choose well. Hope to see *you* at the upcoming meet-the-candidates forums and annual meeting.

Upcoming Events

Special Open Board Meeting - Tuesday, Jan. 13, 7:00 p.m., in the Clubhouse. Directors will interview representatives of two security companies.

Drinks on the Green - Sunday, Jan. 18, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., Fireside Room, Clubhouse. Featuring alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Bring drinks, hors d'oeuvres, friends and kids.

Meet the Candidates Forums - Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clubhouse. - Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the Clubhouse. Don't miss these opportunities to meet and question candidates running for the Board.

Village Green Annual Meeting - Saturday, Feb. 7, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Baldwin Hills Elementary School Auditorium. Last chance to vote before noon. (Last chance to turn in ballot to the Village Green Office is Friday, Feb. 6 by 5:00 p.m.)

Neighborhood Watch Alerts Resumed

Neighborhood Watch crime alert emails to interested residents have resumed after a hiatus, thanks to Safety Committee volunteer John Howell. If you would like to be added to the alerts e-mail list or discuss safety issues, please contact him at jnhowellforbooks@icloud.com. The Safety Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m at the Clubhouse.