

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Monthly Highlights

Board Highlights

Claire Joyce, Board Secretary.

At its meeting on May 26, the Board of Directors:

- Accepted the May 22 resignation of general manager Peter Fay and thanked him for his service, and appointed assistant manager Sherri Giles as interim general manager.
- Established executive committees to assist in the immediate management transition period and review past performance and options for management configurations.
- Approved requests for a court council-initiated water conservation event on July 18, and for use of the Clubhouse for a meeting between VG parents and Baldwin Hills Elementary School representatives.
- Authorized a working group for tree planting assistance.
- Agreed that residents may request organic or chemical treatments for pests inside their units.
- Requested the interim manager to bring a proposal for new laundry room locks.
- Requested the landscape committee to bring a proposal for turf removal on Sycamore and other perimeter areas.

Complete minutes of Board meetings are posted at the Clubhouse entrance.



Workers install one of fourteen 20-foot-long metal pipes coupled together to a depth of 280 feet. This column of pipes will carry water from the pump up to connecting pipes which route it to the storage tank.

Photo by Joe Taylor

VG Well Back At Last

by Lucy Fried

Friday, May 22, was an important day for Village Green's landscape and budget. After two months and two days of dependence on DWP water, a new pump and motor assembly had been successfully lowered into the well, and the Green was once again able to draw water from it to nourish our thirsty common area grass and shrubs.

This was the second time in three years that a well pump failed. In 2012, the cause was damage to the motor from debris that had been sucked up with the water through a screen at the bottom. Since repairing our type of motor costs more than buying a new one, we bought a new assembly.

On March 19th the new pump failed - again because of debris - but this time a small stone propelled through the screen at 270 gallons per minute had blown a hole in the motor casing! Again, we had no choice but to buy a new assembly.

Budget Lines

Debris is just one of several causes of failure. The warranty for a pump and motor is one year. General Pump (GP) has serviced our well for over 20 years, and according to its president, 3-4 years is the average life of pumps for our well system. Recognizing this, the Board funds a well maintenance budget line in our reserves account at \$10,000 a year. The bill for the pump, motor, related materials, and labor was \$32,532, more than we have accumulated since 2012.

Also of note, despite great reductions in grass and shrub watering times, higher DWP bills were also incurred during these two months. In April, the monthly water bill, budgeted at about \$11,700, was over \$18,000. Some of the increase may have been caused by leaks or other problems. Fortunately, rain continues on page 4

Public Security Report

April 15 – May 15

Edited by Jeanne Gagnard

- Apr 19 PROPERTY DAMAGE. Ct. 2, 9:35 p.m.**
Minor damage to a garage.
- Apr 22 NOISE. Ct. 11, 10:40 p.m.**
Complaint of noise from neighboring unit.
- Apr 27 FALLEN BRANCH. Ct. 10, 10:00 a.m.**
Large tree branch blocking a garage.
- Apr 27 VERBAL ALTERCATION. Ct. 3, 10:20 p.m.**
Report of loud arguing and possible crime. LAPD called. Was family dispute between non-residents.
- Apr 28 UNLEASHED DOG. Ct. 10, 4:15 p.m.**
Unleashed dog had escaped from owner's unit and aggressively resisted capture. Animal Control contacted.
- Apr 28 NOISE. Ct. 10, 4:15 p.m.**
Complaint of loud noise from neighbor's unit.
- Apr 30 WASP NEST. Ct. 13, 5:20 p.m.**
Wasp nest above entry. Maintenance notified.
- May 4 CAR ACCIDENT. Ct. 10, early morning.**
Resident reported NASA truck had struck his car in driveway.
- May 5 NOISE. Ct. 11, 8:45 a.m.**
Complaint of frequent loud noises from neighbor's unit.
- May 6 MEDICAL EMERGENCY. Ct. 14, 8:30 a.m.**
LAFD Paramedics entered property and brought out resident for transport to hospital.
- May 6 ACCIDENT. West Green, 10:00 a.m.**
Worksite accident had caused serious facial injury to a contract worker. LAFD arrived and transported worker to local hospital.
- May 6 SLIP AND FALL. Rodeo Road perimeter, 10:42 a.m.**
Pedestrian walking near property line claimed he had tripped on a City fire hose and fallen. After refusing medical assistance or to provide identifying information, he walked to bicycle and rode away.
- May 6 WASP NEST. Ct. 9, Laundry Room, 5:20 p.m.**
Wasp nest near door. Maintenance notified.
- May 15 VANDALISM. Ct. 10, 6:24 a.m.**
Resident reported two tires slashed and that she had called LAPD.

June Foot Beats:

Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse door

Dates	Courts
June 3	5, 6, 7
June 10	10, 11, 12
June 17	East Circle, 15
June 24	3, 4

Capture These Numbers Now, so you have them when you need them!

213-703-0540 ...request an escort, report a security concern, or get help for an after-hours maintenance emergency. This is Public Security's on-site number.

8140* ...request an escort from the call box outside the office.

323-293-9884 ...Public Security's off-site number (24-hours) and backup line.

Safety Tips

Crime often increases in summer after school is out. Please remember to secure your doors and windows, especially when you are away. Be aware of your surroundings when you are moving to and from your units and your automobiles, especially at night. Use the Escort and Patrol service if you feel unsafe.

- from the Safety Committee



Free and coming soon! Efficient water saving devices like the showerhead above will be delivered to Village Green from the DWP and made available to residents as part of the Board's current water conservation effort. Look for a flier in your mailbox with details and water-saving tips. Photo & info by Mickey Fielding.

FIRST PERSON

Conversation with Claire Joyce, Board Director

by Suzy Hughes



Claire Joyce moved to the Green in 2013 with her husband Kevin and son Séamus (now three). Second son Cillian arrived not long after and is now thirteen months old. In February, this well-organized mom was elected to a two-year term on the Board, where she serves as secretary, and is the liaison to the court council.

Highlights: *What motivated you to run for the Board?*

Claire Joyce: I was asked to run, and I come from a place where I learned that if you want to have a community and environment like we have, you have to work on it. I'm not good at saying, "No." If I'm asked to take responsibility, I'll do it, and I don't back down.

H: *What do you want to accomplish during your term?*

CJ: I want to help improve communication here. People are frustrated when they don't know about things, and a lot of misinformation comes

out. Before I was on the Board, I wasn't in a position where I could go to Board meetings, and even though I read the *Highlights* and the posted minutes, most of my information was from the rumor mill. Now I can see how wrong or incomplete that information is much of the time.

It's been hard to find the appropriate HOA forums to get full and timely information out to people. That's why I put forward a resolution to redesign the website, and in April the Board created an executive committee to oversee that project.

H: *What kinds of information are you talking about?*

CJ: Everything. How our budgeting and accounting work ... the long-term plans for deferred maintenance, the types and volume of work going on and the everyday occurrences of breakdowns and backups ... the landscape, board decisions and management and community and committees. It's so important for people to have a good sense of the financial standing of the Green and understand in advance when financial things come up.

H: *How would you measure the benefits of improved communication?*

CJ: I think the volume and nature of the correspondence we get will change. We will continue to see increases in volunteerism and improved functioning of committees. More people will understand what needs to be done and how they can help, and there would be less frustration all around.

H: *Do you have any thoughts on how to increase volunteering in our community?*

CJ: You can't get people to do stuff if

they don't know what needs doing!

H: *What's the most positive thing you've experienced so far as a Board director?*

CJ: It's been encouraging to see the level of work that people are willing to put in. I wish more people knew how much work it actually is. I've gotten to know a small band of people that are very active, not just directors, but community members that are active in every area.

H: *How do you feel about our HOA as a whole, its strengths and weaknesses?*

CJ: Our place is so big, we have so many buildings, so much work that needs to be done, and there are so many aspects to the Green. We have a small office and staff and not enough volunteers. Keeping the scope of that in perspective is difficult.

Our strength is that despite all that, we have great work going on here, and it's a wonderful place to live, especially coming here with kids

H: *What's your favorite thing about living here?*

CJ: Just being outside every single day in the shade of the trees. That I don't have to go anywhere to be somewhere, and I can hang out here with someone for an hour. I get to be part of a community, which is not something that everybody gets to do in LA. It's what I had growing up and it's what I want for my kids. And I love that there is such a range of age-groups here, because that is also unusual in L.A. I think it's a real strength of our environment that you have the option of being quiet and withdrawn and having the place as a sanctuary, or you can get out and meet people.

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and unusually cool weather minimized the damage to the plants.

Looking Ahead

Our well is old and has outlived its expected useful life. At some point, it will collapse. This possibility is recognized in our reserves study but not in our reserves budget. A well collapse would certainly require huge financial adjustments and cause substantial problems for the landscape.

According to GP's report after examining the well in March, the inside of the well casing (walls) shows no signs of damage. However, when a casing does crumble, it is from the outside, and there is no practical way to examine the outside. If we are to continue using well water, we would have to drill a new well in a different location, as the old location cannot be used. The cost is estimated at over \$200,000, and it would take more than a year to be operational.

Appreciation to HOA treasurer Steve Haggerty, former manager Peter Fay, and maintenance supervisor Harold Graves for their assistance with this article.



A large crane was needed to pull out the failed pump and lower the new one.



The group Cambalache ("exchange") delights listeners on the Main Green May 24th as they play the Mexican folk music called "son jaracho." Photo by John Florance

Upcoming Events



Drinks on the Green

Sunday, June 7, 4-6pm, West Green: bring alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, hors d'oeuvres, friends, and kids.

Co-sponsored by Cultural Affairs Committee

Movie Nights

Saturday, June 13, 8pm, Central Green

"Pirates of the Caribbean" (PG-13)

Co-sponsored by Cultural Affairs Committee

8th Annual Village Green Yard Sale

Saturday, June 20, 8am-3pm, on Rodeo, Hauser and Coliseum

Clean out your garages. Finish your spring cleaning. Make a little extra cash, find some great bargains, and mingle with your neighbors. The more who participate, the better the yard sale—help make this year the best yet!

Sponsored by Ad Hoc Yard Sale Committee.

For more information & guidelines please email villagegreennyardsale@gmail.com

Kids' Open Mic Talent Show

Saturday, June 27, afternoon, stage on Central Green

Sponsored by Cultural Affairs Committee

Early Summer Jazz Concert with the Jeffery Suttles Band

Sunday, June 28th, 4-7pm, Central Green

Sponsored by Cultural Affairs Committee

Dads Game Night

Saturday, July 11, 8pm, Clubhouse

Co-sponsored by Cultural Affairs Committee

Container Gardening 101

Saturday, July 25, 10am, Community Garden, Ct. 1

Guest speaker will give tips on container gardening followed by tour of VG gardens where people are growing edibles.

Sponsored by the Landscape Committee

Labor Day Jazz Concert with the Susie Hansen Latin Band

Monday, September 7th, 4-7pm, Central Green

Sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee