

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Monthly Update

Board Highlights

Meeting summary by Board Secretary Lucy Fried

At its meeting on February 25, the Board of Directors:

- Approved a \$10,000 contract to clean out and remove debris from all roofs and gutters.
- Trimmed a proposed \$195,800 painting contract for 12 residential buildings and garages to the four most in need of work.
- Tabled for one month a proposal to return to the tree care schedule in use last year.
- Agreed to new procedures for future elections to enable interested homeowners to witness the opening of the yellow and white envelopes as well the counting process.
- Approved a resolution to permit the Tree Committee to begin discussions with Los Angeles City's free tree program.



STABILIZATION WORK IN FULL SWING: Workers installing helical piers on Building 8 in Court 2 on February 24. Photo by Joseph Taylor.

Manager's Report

February Update from General Manager Peter Fay

♦ **Building Stabilization Project:** The project to stabilize Buildings 8 and 14 is well underway. In mid-February, the contractors began installing 240 helical piers (sort of like long screws) deep into the earth around the buildings and then attaching them to the foundations. This design is intended to keep the buildings from sinking further.

The work sometimes requires large and somewhat noisy equipment and will last several more months. We will do our best to maintain residents' quiet enjoyment of the property. We would particularly like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Buildings 8 and 14 for their patience and cooperation.

Platt Security Report

January 20 - February 15

Jan. 20 COMMON AREA VIOLATION. Ct. 5. 3:15 p.m. A resident reported she saw four children and one adult climbing a tree. The officer noticed them leaving the grounds, and no action was taken.

Jan. 23 TRESPASSER IN LAUNDRY ROOM. Ct. 15. 7:30 a.m. A resident reported that she encountered a male about 6'2" tall, between 30-40 years old in a grey hooded shirt and black pants going through her laundry. The resident followed him for a time before contacting Platt; she was advised to contact Security when encountering a suspicious individual.

Jan. 26 NOISE COMPLAINT. Ct. 8. 2:20 p.m. A resident complained of constant loud and disturbing noise from the unit above her. Both residents were advised to take the matter to the Board of Directors.

Jan. 28 THEFT Ct. 8. 5:40 p.m. A resident reported that a male wearing a blue hoodie jumped over her patio fence and stole a bag of recyclables, then got on his bicycle and rode away.

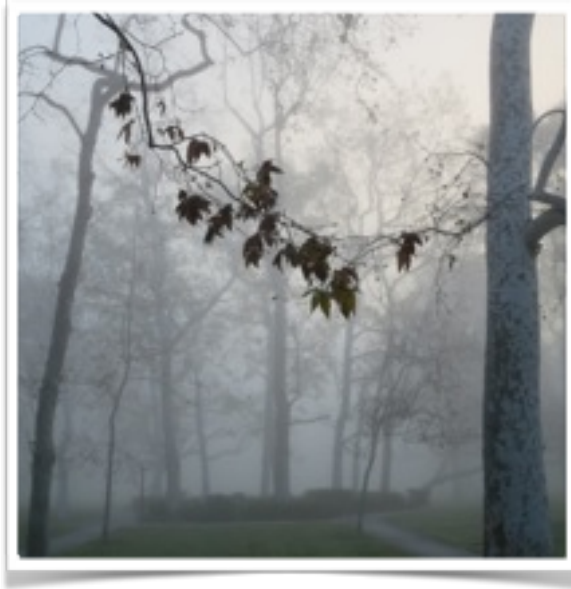
Feb. 2 NOISE COMPLAINT Ct. 8. 12:15 p.m. A resident who was the former object of a noise complaint complained of screaming and door slamming from the former complainant. A verbal altercation ensued between the two neighbors.

Manager's Report Continued

♦**Fraud Alert:** Several owners/residents have recently reported receiving sales calls from persons/companies claiming, "We do the interior work at the Village Green," or that they are authorized to do work here. Some callers have claimed that they need access to units to inspect heaters or plumbing items. Please be cautious. There are no companies authorized by the Association to do work for any individual owner.

♦**Battery Recycling Reminder:** We have installed a Battery Recycling Box on the leasing box post located by the office door. Please use this box to dispose of your used batteries – it helps protect the environment.

♦**Tree Care:** The large pruning project combining Phase 1 pruning of more than 200 trees, dead tree removal, and trimming left over from 2013 began January 6 and is scheduled to be completed by March 1. Thanks to all residents for your cooperation during this intense tree care schedule.



A foggy February morning between the West and Central greens. Photo by Bernie Altman.

Consider Joining a Committee

From Safety to Tree to Cultural Affairs, Village Green committees offer a bit of something for everyone and help to make our community the special place that it is. Visit the Village Green website at villagegreenla.net to learn more.

Board President Speaks About “This Emerald Isle”

Excerpts from speech by Jerri Allyn



Photo of Jerri Allyn by Slobodan Dimitrov.

At the Annual Meeting on February 1, Jerri Allyn, serving as President of the Board of Directors for three months, gave an impassioned speech on the state of the Village Green and the challenges it faces. Later that day, she was re-appointed president for the upcoming year.

Excerpts of her speech that day follow. The complete speech can be found online at the Village Green website, villagegreenla.net.

I was not looking for “community” when I bought property here. I have eight brothers and sisters, 15 nieces and nephews, in five states, on three continents. Contemporary life has my friends working around the globe. I myself live a fractured, hectic life, and continually hold tight to a sense of family and community.

But within this emerald isle, this sanctuary in the City of Angels, “community” came looking for me. After a roller coaster year on this Board, I am now very much a part of this Village Green “community,” hook, line and sinker. I am honored to serve....

Platt Security Report Continued

Feb. 4 THEFT FROM AUTO. Ct.7. 3:42 p.m. A resident reported four items stolen from her car. The vehicle showed no sign of damage or forced entry.

Feb. 7 MEDICAL EMERGENCY. Ct. 7:15. 10 a.m. Officer observed paramedics transporting a resident to a medical center.

Feb. 9 GRAFFITI. Ct. 12. 7:30 a.m. Officer observed the graffiti, “IVB,” on a garage.

Village Green has not escaped the results of the greatest recession since the 1930s. We’ve experienced the turnover of units and unfortunate loss of neighbors, as well as revenues. Yet we have turned a corner. As our tax bills and the published prices of newly purchased units have shown our property values are climbing back up....

For me, Village Green has become a phenomenal American experiment in urban living. While there are differences that challenge us, there are all kinds of delightful differences as well....

We are way more than an emerald oasis. Along with traditional marriages, we are in an oasis of domestic partnerships; mixed marriages; multi-racial children; fostered and adopted youth; diverse sexual orientations; varying faiths and economic status; those who are differently-abled; and more—all making up a population that includes members as young as a few months old, those who have lived nine decades, and everyone in between.

In this very segregated city—I have worked all over L.A. County, and have experienced this segregation firsthand—in this green village, we stroll and bike, we jog and play, we picnic and debate, we work and we dance together among all these differences, in an oasis that approximates the American Dream. Is it perfect? Perfect is for fairy tales. The Village Green is for us. And it’s what we make it.

Black History Month Celebration with Bill Coggins

This year's Black History Month presentation, held on February 9, featured Wilfred D. Coggins, MSW, LCSW, esteemed founding director of the Kaiser Permanente Watts Counseling & Learning Center. The Center, which opened in 1967, is a unique corporate community benefit program that continues to bring much needed counseling and educational programs to the Watts community. The agency provides services in the area of early childhood development and educational therapy for children with cognitive and learning disabilities. Those served are not required to be Kaiser Permanente members.

The Center, which has grown from one room to a modern, 8,500 square-foot building, has served thousands of residents over its 47 years. Users often describe it as a warm and loving place that has done much good.

Platt Security Report Continued

Feb. 10 THEFT FROM AUTO. Ct. 5. 10:30 a.m. A resident reported the theft of her cell phone from her unlocked car parked briefly in the courtyard.

Feb. 11 THEFT FROM THE LANDSCAPE YARD. 7:45 a.m. Maintenance supervisor Harold Graves reported a break-in at the landscape yard and several tools missing.

Feb. 13 FIRE. Ct. 3. 8:31 p.m. Responding Platt officers observed a resident pouring water on a pile of burning wood. The fire was extinguished with a fire extinguisher.

Feb. 14 GRAFFITI. Ct. 14. 10:00 a.m. A Platt officer observed the graffiti, "IVB," scrawled on a garage.

Feb. 15 HIT AND RUN. Ct. 6. 2:30 a.m. A truck parked in the parking area was struck by another vehicle and pushed into a car parked adjacent to it. Both vehicles were damaged. A police report was filed.



Top right: Wilfred "Bill" Coggins, MSW, LCSW, founding director of the Kaiser Permanente Watts Counseling & Learning Center and this year's guest speaker. *From left:* Diane Dumas, Village Green resident and friend; Rose Montiero, MSW, LCSW, VG resident and former consultant at the Center; Marcia Thelemaque, Cultural Affairs Committee member; Martha Watson, MSW, LCSW, VG resident and retired Director of the Center's Child Development Program; Kathryn Sato Song, M.A., Social Work Associate and pre-school teacher in the Center's Child Development Program; and Ruth Howell, MSW, LCSW, guest. *Not pictured:* Allison Grover Khoury, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair. *Photo by Joseph Taylor. Article by Jeanne Gaignard.*

