

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

News from the February 23 Board of Directors Meeting

*Claire Joyce, Board Secretary
Committee Appointments*

The board appointed the 2016 board liaisons for each committee (page 3) and approved the landscape committee's nominated officers and voting members.

2016 Planting

The board unanimously approved the landscape committee's detailed proposal for plantings near the Clubhouse and the patio side of Buildings 8 and 14, as recommended by consulting horticulturist Carol Bornstein.

Police Appreciation Event

The board unanimously endorsed the safety committee's proposal for a police appreciation event on May 20.

Mosquito Deterrence

The board established an adhoc committee to implement an education program to deter mosquito breeding at Village Green.

2016 Reserves Budget Meeting Rescheduled

The board reset a previously scheduled March 1 special meeting on the reserves budget to March 8 at 7:00 p.m. Proposals regarding re-piping, sewer work, and well and water rights preparedness were tabled to the reserves budget meeting.

Worth Checking Out: New Foreclosure-Relief Funding Available

On February 19, the U.S. Treasury announced it would make available an additional \$483 million to the "Keep Your Home California" program. This program offers principal reduction and other assistance to lower monthly mortgage payments for unemployed and underemployed Californians.

Disease Carrying Mosquitoes: An Ounce of Prevention...

By Dagmar Buck

With the West Nile virus already present in California and the threat of the Zika virus mosquito reaching our shores, mosquitoes and the diseases they can carry have taken on a new importance.

Since mosquito-borne viruses don't respond to antibiotics, and no vaccination against them has yet been developed, once you are bitten by an infected mosquito you will have to suffer through the illness.

Last year, at least one Village Green resident came down with West Nile virus. Whether contracted from a VG mosquito or elsewhere is unknown, but considering that L.A. County had 299 cases in 2015, the likelihood of it happening again is real. Even more shocking than the number of cases is that 22 people died from West Nile Virus in LA County in that same time period. Most affected are the very young and older people.

What can we do to help prevent the spread of mosquito-borne disease?

The most important thing we can all do is get rid of all standing water, because that is where mosquitoes love to breed. That means, don't leave water standing in saucers under your plants. Best get rid of the saucers altogether and let the water seep into the ground. Don't have old buckets around that were filled by the sprinklers or rain and never get emptied, and yes, it also means emptying bird baths; as lovely as they are, they too provide a welcome breeding site for mosquitoes.

continued on page 3



Photo by Jeff Clark

Eliminate standing water under pots.

PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT

Jan 24, 2016– Feb 14, 2016

Edited by Gabriela Worrel

Jan 20 LIFE ALERT ADVISORY, Ct. 9, 3:20 p.m.

Security responded to report of resident ill in front of her unit. Resident declined offer of paramedic assistance and was escorted to her unit.

Jan 24 SAFETY CONCERN. Main Green, 1:35 p.m.

Security officer responded to resident concern about children climbing on trees in Main Green. After explanation by officer, parent instructed children to come down.

Feb 01 BROKEN BRANCH. Ct. 7, 8:45 a.m.

Tree branch had broken onto roof tops of two units. A work order and photos were submitted.

Feb 02 VANDALISM. Ct. 17, 1:15 p.m.

Security officer observed graffiti sprayed on outer wall along Sycamore St. A work order and photos were submitted.

Feb 02 SMELL, WC, 9:44 a.m.

Maintenance and security responded to resident complaint of smoke smell. Cause was an overheated dryer in neighbor's unit.

Feb 09 UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. Ct. 11, 8:00 a.m.

Resident reported someone switching her garage lock without her permission. After confirming with resident, maintenance personnel removed the lock.

Feb 11 BROKEN BRANCH. Ct. 06, 7:19 p.m.

Security officer observed large tree branch broken on path and advised maintenance personnel.

Feb 13 VANDALISM. Ct. 08, 5:15 p.m.

Security officer observed writing on garage and advised maintenance personnel.

Feb 14 LOCK OUT. Ct. 02, 1:58 p.m.

Security officer received report of resident locked out of unit and advised maintenance.



Ivan J. Houston: Writer, WWII Soldier, Speaker at the Village Green Black History Month Event 2-21-16

By Diann Dumas

In January 1944, a segregated, all-black battalion of the U.S. Army 92nd Infantry Division was sent to Italy to battle Hitler's Nazis and Mussolini's fascists. Dubbed the "Buffalo Soldiers," they were instrumental in the liberation of Florence, Pisa, and Lucca and were greeted joyfully by grateful Italians who celebrated and embraced them.

As they moved from town to town, the black soldiers were joined by a segregated all Japanese-American division, and together they fought to liberate the Italian cities.

L.A. native Ivan J. Houston, a highly decorated Buffalo Soldier and writer, shared what it was like to battle fascism in Europe while facing racism in the military and at home. In a poem dedicated to the black soldiers who lost their lives in a crushing defeat at a mountain near Carrara, Italy, he said that they "battled for freedom with one tied hand." Many were killed by "friendly fire," when the U.S. Air Force strafed the battle fields. 400 of those soldiers are buried in the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial in Florence, Italy.

Houston kept a diary while he fought in the army, and his notes provided the basis for his book, *Black Warriors: The Buffalo Soldiers of World War II*. The soft cover book is available online and in bookstores.

The cultural affairs committee sponsored the event.

Village Green Committees ...

Where ideas are born and work gets done

- ** Budget and Finance - 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
- ** Communication - Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m. (Schedule to be determined)
- ** Court Council - 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. (court reps and alternates are members; visitors always welcome)
- ** Cultural Affairs - 4th Thursday, 6-7 p.m.
- ** Design Review - 1st Monday, 7:00 p.m.
- ** Landscape - 2nd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
- ** Safety - 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
- ** Trees - 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Indulge your interests and give something back.

All owners and renters are eligible.



2016 Committee Liaisons

Budget and Finance	Ethan Markowitz
Communications	Lucy Fried
Court Council	Anne McGinn
Cultural Affairs	Joe Khoury
Design Review	Jerri Allyn
Landscape	Lucy Fried
Safety	Norma Miller
Trees	Steve Haggerty

Update from the Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw Homeowners' Coalition February 18 Meeting

By Cynthia Singleton, External Affairs AdHoc Committee

*Do you know what's going on in your neighborhood?
Here is some news you may not know.*

1. Three illegal marijuana shops have opened near La Cienega and Rodeo - behind Taco Bell, behind Carol's Jr, and at the corner of Genesee in the vacant upholstery shop.
2. The owner of the Rodeo/Genesee property is seeking a permit for a car wash there.
3. The Hernandez Nursery next to Baldwin Hills Elementary School is renting out their property to DWP to park their large earth-moving equipment. Neighbors are requesting Councilman Wesson's office to prohibit early morning and weekend activity.
4. The city has approved a 10-story apartment building to be built on the KABC lot on La Cienega near Jefferson. Severe traffic congestion is expected.

These and other local matters were discussed at the February 18 meeting of the Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw Homeowners' Coalition, which I attended at the request of VG president Jerri Allyn. This coalition brings together nine homeowner associations and four block clubs in our area.

Anthony Vittorio Casucci
was born to
Joanna and Tom (Court 3)
on December 29, 2015.
Welcome to Village Green,
Anthony!

Live long and prosper.



"Mosquitoes" continued from page 1

Make sure your screens are in good shape. Contact the management office for a list of companies that repair VG type screens. And be sure to wear insect repellent when outside and reapply frequently. In a location as verdant as Village Green, it is difficult to eliminate all standing water from the grounds, but each of us can do our part to make it as hard as possible for the little monsters to raise their babies in our backyard.

For more information on West Nile virus,
see <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/docs/WNVFAQ-English.pdf>.

Manager's Report

Sherri Giles, Operations Manager

DWP Underground Equipment:

In light of the emergencies last year in Courts 11 and 12, maintenance supervisor Harold Graves has arranged for DWP to conduct periodic preventive underground maintenance inspections and service. On Feb. 19, Court 1 equipment was inspected and cleaned, and transformer connectors were changed. Court 2 will follow.

Sewers:

Court 5 sewer line replacement and repairs and patio repairs were completed in February. Maintenance supervisor Harold Graves walked the court with LandCare to assess needed landscape refurbishment, which is scheduled to be completed by Feb. 26.

"Connector" Sewers:

The increased flow in the newly replaced Court 5 sewers revealed deficiencies in the original 8" defective clay pipes connecting Courts 5 and 6 and caused two serious backups at the manhole adjacent to Building 26. The connecting line was replaced in February. Additionally, the board approved a camera investigation to assess the condition and repair requirements of 8" sewer lines throughout the property, and this was also completed in February.

Buildings 8 and 14:

A second inspection of the buildings to assess cracks in the walls of some units was conducted on February 8. A summary of findings and recommendations from stabilization project architect Russell Tyner is expected and will be provided to the board.

FIRST PERSON

"Foot Beat Feel Good"

By Alison Copeland

"I've lived in the Village Green for almost five years now and I still am learning so much about my home and neighbors. Foot Beat has become a great way to spend some time with fellow Village Greeners and get to know the grounds while getting a brisk walk in all at the same time. When my apartment was broken into, I wanted to take action within our community to prevent further crimes, so I started walking with the Foot Beat crew on the nights that I could. It makes me feel good to take small steps towards protecting my turf. It is such an easy thing to do to participate in an activity that is actively helping to keep crime down in the Village Green.

Come out and join us- you might be surprised how much fun it is.

Officer King joins us on occasion and always has interesting news to share. The Foot Beats are scheduled at different times of the day and week to offer flexibility and accommodate everyone's schedule. You don't have to sign up - just show up. Your participation benefits everyone in the community with no obligation to come every time - even if you make it a once a month thing to get out of the house for a jaunt around the Green, you are increasing awareness and visibility. We cannot rely solely on private security and the police. It's up to us to protect our homes and our surrounding grounds.

Upcoming Events -

March Foot Beats

- **Tues., 3/1, 9:00 am**

Meet at Clubhouse, walk EC-17

- **Mon 3/7, 7:00 pm**

Meet at Ct. 1 entrance, walk 1-5

- **Tues., 3/15, 9:00 am**

Meet at Hauser/Coliseum, walk 9-6

- **Wed., 3/23, 7:00 pm**

Meet at Clubhouse, walk WC-10

- **Thurs., 3/31, 9:00 am**

Meet at Ct. 1 entrance, walk 1-5

Earthquake Financial Preparedness

Sat., 3/19, 10:00-Noon, Clubhouse

VG's budget and finance committee

will host a community information

event on financial readiness and post-quake assistance for big earthquakes.

Speakers from Ca Earthquake

Authority and USC. Raffle and

refreshments.

