

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Monthly Highlights

News from the Board of Directors Sept. 29 Meeting

Claire Joyce, Board Secretary

Draft Operating Budget Review 2016

The board scheduled a special meeting on October 14 at 8:00 p.m. to review a 2016 draft operating budget for 2016.

Banking Operations

The board approved a resolution to move funds over the FDIC-protected \$250,000 limit in any single account to a reserves CDARS account.

Liens

The board approved the recording of liens against five units at Village Green

Water Meters

Responding to a budget and finance committee report highlighting anomalies in court water meter readings, the board approved further investigation of two meters.

Sewer Repairs

After investigation revealed serious deficiencies in Court 5 sewer lines, the board approved a contract for repair work.

Tree Planting

The board okayed five trees proposed by the tree planting assistance team to replace trees that had died. Four Eastern Red Buds will go in Garden Court 9/10 and one Coast Live Oak in Garden Court 5/6. Both species are on the original architectural landscape design circa 1940.

Ant Poll

The Board approved a proposal to poll residents on ants and ant control at Village Green. □

New Security Doors in the Village Green

By Jean Gaignard

Security doors not in keeping with the historic design standards in this landmark community have long been a thorny issue in the Village Green.

You may have wondered about the new security doors that some residents have installed recently. Particularly notable is the cost: \$900 with installation! To learn why the design review committee (DRC) decided to recommend this door as the sole choice for residents desiring a security door, we talked to Wendell Conn, the committee chair.

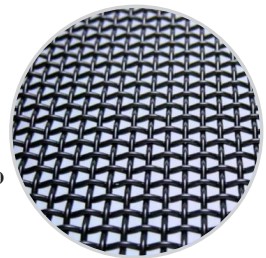
Wendell said that the DRC had spent several, frustrating years searching for a very secure door with an appropriate design. This door was found after considerable research by David Morioka, former resident, architect, and long-time member of the committee. It looks almost like the standard Village Green screen doors and is well-designed and highly secure, with triple deadbolt locks and heavy steel mesh screen to prevent entry by crowbar, box cutter or baseball bat.

When the board approved the door as the sole authorized security door, it also grandfathered in security doors already installed. If a resident is required by the HOA to remove an existing security door, the HOA will pay for its replacement. If a resident chooses to replace an existing door, the resident will bear the cost. In 2015 the board approved a 12-month, interest-free payment plan, with the installments added to the monthly Association billing. If interested, please contact the office for details.

The door's technology was developed by Guarda Columbia, an Australian company. Before recommending it, the committee met with representatives of C.R. Lawrence, the U.S. company which oversees the manufacture of the doors, and then contacted Screen Mobile, the only local



Guarda security door. Photo by Jeanne Gaignard



Public Security Report

August 19 – September 18

Edited by Jeanne Gaignard

- Aug 19 FALLEN BRANCH. Ct. 14, 1:50pm**
A large tree branch fell, possibly from rot.
- Aug 23 ATTEMPTED ROBBERY. Ct. 7, 12:37pm**
A male resident was followed to his residence by another male, described as a 6' tall African American who pressed a gun into his back. The resident yelled and fought the assailant, who ran from the grounds toward Coliseum. LAPD was contacted.
- Aug 24 NEIGHBOR DISPUTE. Ct. 4, 6:47pm**
Both parties were advised to call LAPD if the situation escalated.
- Aug 24 COMPLAINT. Ct. 14, 5:46pm**
A resident complained about a water shut-off to her unit. Maintenance was contacted.
- Aug 25 POSSIBLE MUGGING ATTEMPT. Ct. 7, 2pm**
The maintenance supervisor observed an African American male wearing a hooded sweater possibly following a male resident walking near the Central Green. He drove his cart between the two, after which the suspected person left the property.
- Aug 26 FALLEN TREE. Ct. 11, 4:59pm**
A tree fell on the West Green near Court 11.
- Aug 27 NOISE COMPLAINT. Ct. 7, 6:15pm**
A resident complained of noise from the upstairs neighbor. The neighbor denied being noisy.
- Sept 04 PROWLER. Ct. 10, 2:05am**
A resident reported that he was awakened to noise on his patio. He observed an African American male wearing dark clothing and hat attempting to climb onto his patio. He shouted at the intruder, who stated he was looking for someone and walked away quickly. LAPD was not called, but Officer King, our senior lead officer, was notified via e-mail. Public Security conducted a search but the person was not found.
- Sept 08 GRAFFITI. Ct. 16, 4:10pm**
Graffiti was observed on several garages and reported. Mgmt. removed it the following day.

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Foot Beat Adventures

By John Howell, Safety Committee chair



On Tuesday evening, September 15th, I met two residents at the Clubhouse for a Village Green Foot Beat. We headed out to roam the property on the Coliseum side.

When we got to Court 4, we saw an Amazon package outside a patio gate. We informed the resident, hoping the package would not remain unattended overnight. In Court 1, a new neighbor came out to see who was talking up a storm. We gave them the onsite Public Security telephone number – 213-703-0540 – and explained how to use it for escorts or to report suspicious characters.

We found the pole lights and garage lights turned on in the courts, some even shining through the exterminator's tents on a number of garages. However, it did become strikingly apparent that there are areas on the property where a number of residents' porch and patio lights are not on.

When a number of units are not lit in a small area, it is very dark, indeed. Please talk with your neighbors about the importance of turning on porch and patio lights to make the Village Green a more welcoming and safer community.

Then we crossed over to the Rodeo courts and proceeded west to the Clubhouse, happily finding only one area in Court 16 where we had to submit a work order to prune the walkways and liberate a garage light from an aggressive bougainvillea.

I want to give a shout out to Court 17 court council representative Regina Bryant because she helped make the Foot Beat especially fun and useful. She had recently helped a neighbor put a new bulb in his front porch light socket, so they were both surprised that the light was out. It turned out the switch did not work, and we put in a work order for that. If the problem is with the wiring, Village Green maintenance will fix it.

This is what Foot Beats and Neighborhood Watch should be at their best - neighbors looking out for neighbors and helping each other solve problems.

Foot Beats will take a hiatus in October. Look for the new schedule in Highlights and on the website at www.villagegreenla.net. □

Landscaping Isn't Just About Us

By Jeff Clark

At a recent landscape committee event, Lisa Novick from the Theodore Payne Foundation asked listeners to consider our landscaping choices in the wider context of the era we are in - an era of mass extinction of species, rising temperatures, and turbulent weather.

“Landscaping is not only about us,” she said. 55% of the land in America is now urban. This means the displacement of wildlife in over half of the country; and while sharing the Green with coyotes may not be a great idea, sharing it with birds (and all their entourage) is. By planting native plants, we attract the insects that have evolved to live on those plants, which in turn attract the birds that eat those insects. Our landscaping choices can help improve the biodiversity of the Village Green while creating beautiful and more sustainable gardens.

Native plants are not just cactus. There are over 6,000 varieties of California native plants, and many thrive in shade or partial sun. They range in form from oak trees to ferns and from ground covers to the gracefully arching branches of a native currant; and most have flowers. At the Green, we already have a number of natives going back to the 1940s and 1970s, such as the coffee berry. A new coffee berry was recently planted near Building 14.

Native plants are easy to grow. Historically, drought is the normal weather for our area. The 20th century was one of only three wet centuries here in the past 4000 years. Natives are able to survive during drought and during El Nino years, without soil amendments and using only about 1/7 the amount of water that non-natives use. Once planted they need regular watering for the first year or two, then just a little supplemental water every 2-4 weeks.

So many of us have been taught that a garden should always look pristine and perfect, but Lisa suggests otherwise. Mulch with the fallen leaves of your plants, she urged. Recycle the leaf nutrients into the soil to conserve water, suppress weeds, and provide habitat for insects. When your flowers bloom and fade, leave the flower heads on so they develop seeds, which will feed birds, then dead-head after the seeds are gone (and any seeds left will grow into new plants).

Fall is planting time in Southern California. Before selecting plants, think about your goal; is it to attract hummingbirds? One resource is www.theodorepayne.org. Click on “Nursery” and scroll down to Plant Guides. The Guides are organized by both garden conditions and goals. You can learn, for instance, that coral bells are a low water native plant with either round or pointed leaves that blooms in the spring with small pink flowers on top of 3 foot stems. They thrive in shade and attract hummingbirds. □



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company contracted to sell them. You can contact Greg Reevey at Screen Mobile at (714) 334-2868.

Jeanne and Richard Presha (Court 3) and Jeanne Gaignard (Court 1) recently bought the new doors. They said they appreciate the freedom and sense of security the doors provide. Jeanne and Richard find them aesthetically pleasing and welcoming. All agreed the price was steep but decided the benefits outweigh the cost. According to Wendell, the DRC has received only positive feedback from residents who have bought the doors. □

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Sept 11 NEIGHBOR DISPUTE. Ct. 10, 9:30am

A resident accused a former neighbor of having returned to spray his bedroom screen and window with pepper spray. LAPD was called, responded, and took a report.

Sept 11 BARKING DOG. Ct. 11, 9:15pm

Public Security responded to a complaint of a barking dog. They were unable to locate the dog.

Sept 16 NOISE COMPLAINT. Ct. 5, 6:46am

A resident complained of loud music from a neighbor's unit. The neighbor was advised of the complaint and lowered the volume.

Sept 17 BROKEN TREE BRANCH. Ct. 13, 1:34pm

A large tree limb was reported on the ground and promptly removed.

Sept 18 BROKEN WINDOW. Ct. 4, 11:37pm

Public Security advised an owner of a broken window in his unit and asked him to complete a work order. □



Upcoming Events



Special Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 8:00pm, Clubhouse

Board review of 2016 draft operations budget

Light Up the Green Campaign Products Fair

Saturday, October 17, 3:00-5:00pm, Clubhouse

All you want to know about security lighting and more
Sponsored by the Safety Committee

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 7:00pm, Clubhouse

Children's Halloween Party

Saturday, October 31, 3:00pm, Clubhouse

Followed by a Family Potluck, 5 p.m. and Trick-or-Treating at dusk. Residents who want to welcome trick-or-treaters are urged to have their porch lights on and doors open.
Sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Committee □

Manager's Report

Sherri Giles, Interim Manager

Sewers...

Replacement and repair of Court 4 sewers continues and is scheduled through November. Troxler and Sons Construction has assessed the sewers in Court 5 and recommended a course of action.

Garage Restoration...

Garage Courts 2, 3, and 12 have been inspected and fumigated. Carpentry repairs and painting are underway and scheduled for completion in November.

Buildings 8 and 14 Wall Cracks...

There have been reports of cracks appearing in the walls of some units since completion of the building stabilization project. Russell Tyner, architect for the project, and Craig Troxler are scheduled to inspect all available units in October. All residents in both buildings were contacted and encouraged to allow access. □

Happy Halloween!