

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Monthly Highlights

News from the Board of Directors August 25 Meeting

Claire Joyce, Board Secretary

Garage Restoration

Directors approved contracts for structural pest control and carpentry repairs to three garage courts.

Landscape Increase

To avert a threatened reduction in maintenance staff from 9 to 6 full-time workers, the board unanimously okayed a 3-month stop-gap fee increase to LandCare (previously TruGreen). The work will include a reduced mowing schedule, expanded early morning watering, and implementation of horticulturist recommendations.

Sewer Repairs

Two directors were given authority to approve a forthcoming contract proposal for repairs and replacements to Court 4 sewer lines and to continue investigation of Court 5 sewers. (See Manager's Report, page 4.)

Reserves Study

Directors unanimously approved an agreement with Association Reserves, Inc. to perform a three-year reserve study. Reserves studies are required by law.

Shortened Session

The regular session of this month's meeting was shortened to allow for an extended executive session including a presentation and discussion on future management plans.

Next Meeting

The next regular board meeting was moved to Tuesday, Sept 29 at 7:00 pm by request on religious grounds. A sub-committee will present a draft 2016 operations budget.

Arborist Remembered

By Lucy Fried

A memorial Coast Live Oak was planted on the central green last month in remembrance of former Village Green consulting arborist Dan Jensen, who died of cancer in April at age 62. During his eight years here, he made significant contributions to the health of our urban forest.

The young tree, on the northwest side of the lawn, is the same species as the beloved "old oak tree" a little further east.

The species was chosen because it was Mr. Jensen's favorite tree and one of the best choices for our forest, said former tree committee chair Jeffrey Mintz. It can live up to 600 years.

Mintz reached out to Mr. Jensen's family in organizing the ceremonial planting. Jensen's widow, son, brother, nephew, and other family members were present at the event. Also present were Don Cully of LandCare (formerly TruGreen), which had donated the tree, and LandCare employees who remained for the moving speeches after digging the hole and planting and watering the tree. Several tree and landscape activists also attended.

Jensen's widow told the group that her husband loved coming here and talked about it all the time. And Mintz, who often walked the forest with Jensen, said, "Dan was passionate about trees and said we were his favorite client."

Dan Jensen rendered Village Green an especially important service by diagnosing that our forest was in decline due to pests and diseases. He identified seven species of trees that were weakening the forest and needed to be removed and added seven new "look-alike" disease-resistant species that would strengthen it. He also advised on a comprehensive plan for tree replacement.



Dan Jensen family members help plant his memorial tree.

Photo by John Florance

Public Security Report

July 20 – August 16

Edited by Jeanne Gaignard

July 26 CAR VANDALIZED. Ct.2, 10:30pm

Three youths vandalized a car and left the property before security arrived. A report was made to LAPD.

July 28 CAR VANDALIZED. Ct.2, 8:41pm

Six to ten youths vandalized a resident's car with a baseball bat and ran from the property.

July 29 POSSIBLE ATTEMPTED BURGLARY. Ct.4, 9:00am

During investigation of a possible break-in, a neighbor reported seeing someone jump a patio fence and hearing pottery breaking. No evidence of forced entry was found.

July 29 ATTEMPTED VANDALISM. Ct.2, 9:15am

A neighbor reported that youths were throwing rocks at a window. They left before security arrived. The resident believed they were the same group who had vandalized a car a few days before.

July 30 STOLEN PACKAGE. Ct. 16, 8:44am

A resident reported several packages stolen from her patio. She stated other residents had packages stolen as well, but neither security nor management had received complaints of other incidents.

July 30 BARKING DOG COMPLAINT. Ct.10, 7:39pm

A resident reported a barking dog, but the responding officer heard no noise.

Aug 02 PERSON CHASE. Ct. 12, 4:54pm

A resident reported seeing a man being chased by another man. One man identified himself as a process server but refused to identify himself further. LAPD was contacted and took over the investigation.

Aug 04 VANDALISM. Ct. 14, 9:00pm

Security responded to a complaint of a group of youths throwing rocks. The youths tried to run from the property when they saw the officers, but two were detained and their parents called. They were released to the parent's custody.

continued on page 4

PUBLIC PUTS PINCH ON NEIGHBORHOOD TROUBLEMAKERS!

By Ethan Markowitz, Safety Committee Board Liaison

Some troublesome boys had their crime spree squelched recently by the sleuths of Village Green's escort and patrol service, Public Security.

It all began the evening of July 26, when Court 2 residents spotted three teens dancing the jitterbug - with the roof of a resident's Chevy Monte Carlo as their dance floor.

Six to ten youths ages 12-15 returned the next evening and smashed the taillights of a Ford Escort with a baseball bat. This little league of mayhem was scattered by Court 2 residents.

The bad news bombers were at it again July 28, hurling rocks at Court 2 building windows, only to make a clean sneak before security arrived. Noting a pattern, Public Security's operations manager, Willie Simmons, wrangled re-enforcements to stake out the area.

On August 3, amid reports of more stone slinging in Court 14, Officer Juwann Thomas found himself in hot bicycle pursuit of a child in the East Circle, successfully dispatching him to the back seat of a patrol car after the punk pooped out. Officer Thomas then nabbed another boy he found hiding in Court 1.

"You wouldn't know it by their bad language," recalls Simmons, "but these boys were only 7 and 11 years old. If they were older, we would have called the police, but instead we called their mothers. One lived nearby and arrived right away to pick up both boys. She was very upset and thought they had gone to the movies."

Meting out compassion when most would have thrown the book, our escort and patrol officers represent the best intentions of our community. And it worked, too - the whole gang has taken a bunk.

If you would like to meet our very own Right Guys of the Green, please join the Safety Committee and Public Security officers for a coffee-and-doughnut social Saturday, October 3, 9:00am at th Clubhouse.



Officer Thomas. Photo by Ethan Markowitz

VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEES

Village Green's committees are places where ideas are born and work gets done. If you want to learn more and "give something back," start by visiting a committee of your choice. Membership is open to owners and renters.

(Note: "Communication" and "Trees" are currently on hiatus. If you are interested in either of these, please leave your name and contact information with the office.)

Budget & Finance

3rd Thursdays, 7:00pm

... studies all factors affecting Village Green costs and income and makes recommendations to the board.

Communication

... publishes Highlights and manages content on the VGOA website.

Court Council

1st Wednesdays, 7:00pm

... is the main liaison between residents and the board through its court representatives.

Cultural Affairs

4th Thursdays, 6:00pm

... sponsors and co-sponsors a wide variety of events throughout the year.

Design Review

1st Mondays, 7:00pm

... advises the board on architectural guidelines and owners' proposed renovations.

Landscape

2nd Mondays, 7:30pm

... monitors landscape maintenance and advises the board; sponsors educational events and the community garden.

Safety

2nd Wednesdays, 7:00pm

... works to insure VG remains a safe place to live. Monitors escort and patrol and advises the board on safety matters.

Trees

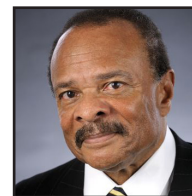
... Monitors tree care, planting, and removal and advises the board.

Why They Joined...**John Howell, Safety**

I joined safety because I refuse to give up the Village Green to the taggers, people breaking into units, and kids smashing cars with baseball bats. We can't push back if we are not organized.

Kate Martin, Court Council

I have lived in Village Green for just over a year and I love the sense of community here. I decided to contribute to it, so when I ran into a neighbor in our court laundry room who told me we needed a court rep, I said I would try it out. It's not a huge time commitment and it's a good way to meet people. I plan to continue for the foreseeable future.

Nat Hutton, Budget and Finance

I joined budget and finance because I wanted to make sure that our dollars are handled correctly. I have expertise in finance, and I think it's important for homeowners to participate actively in the governance of the community. The committee is attracting members that understand financials. I don't plan to leave it any time soon.

Teresa Thompson, Landscape

The spacious grounds and the patios are what attracted me to the Village Green when I saw an article in the LA Times about the conversion from rentals to condos. I joined landscape shortly after I moved in and have served on it most of the time since. It's given me a chance to learn about our plants and their care from our consultants and to meet people with similar interests. Today, the committee is focusing on sustainability and incorporating more drought-tolerant natives. I want to support that goal.

continued from page 2

Aug 05 MISSING POSTAL PACKAGES RECOVERED. Ct.12, 8:00am

Some of the packages previously reported stolen were found with open packaging by a Public Security officer near the trash area in Ct. 14 and returned to the owner. Later, others were reported on another patio and also returned. The resident will make a complaint to the post office

Aug 09 NOISE COMPLAINT. Ct. 15, 10:03pm

Security responded to a complaint of loud arguing and advised the residents they were disturbing their neighbors.

Aug 10 NOISE COMPLAINT. Ct. 4, 7:30am

Security notified a resident of a complaint of loud music from the unit.

Aug 10 MISSING CLOTHING. Ct.4, 2:00pm

Laundry Room. A resident reported a pair of jeans missing from her laundry.

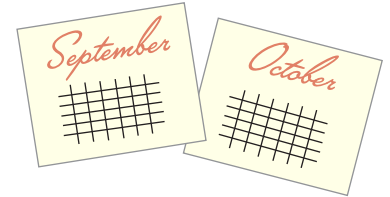
Aug 10 DAMAGE TO CAR PARKED IN GARAGE.

A resident reported damage to his car when a spring on the garage door broke.

Aug 12 UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCE. Ct.6, 8:00am

Security responded to a report of a scantily clad elderly resident walking outside. The resident was not found.

Upcoming Events



Labor Day Concert

Featuring the Susie Hansen Latin Band

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

Sponsored by the cultural affairs committee

September Foot Beats

Tuesdays at 7pm 9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/29 (no walk 9/22), Clubhouse

Walk and talk with LAPD Senior Lead Officer Tynisha Harris and safety committee members. All are welcome.

Patio Gardening with Natives

Saturday, Sept. 26, 10am – 12 noon, Clubhouse

Speaker: Lisa Novick, Theodore Payne Foundation

Sponsored by the landscape committee

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7:00pm, Clubhouse

Please note meeting change to 5th Tuesday - Sept. only.

Informal Meet-and-Greet with Public Security

Saturday, October 3rd, 9:00am, Clubhouse

Take advantage of the opportunity to meet informally with our new escort and patrol company. Get to know the officers who patrol our grounds and provide escort services.

Sponsored by the safety committee.

If You See or Hear...

Something suspicious: Call Public Security at

213-703-0540 (onsite line) or **323-293-9884** (dispatch)

Crime in progress: Call **911** first & then Public Security.

Need an escort home? Call 8140* from the call box outside the office.

Manager's Report

Sherri Giles, Interim Manager

Garage Restoration...

Courts 2, 3, and 12 are designated for garage restoration this year. The process includes structural pest control, wood repairs, and painting. Garage inspections in these courts will be performed prior to the fumigation. Residents will receive advance notice.

Painting...

Building 22 work is completed, 28 and 37 are underway, and 64 has begun. Also slated for this year: 73 and 77.

Sewers...

Sewer line replacements and repairs to Courts 1, 14, 15, and 17 are completed. Landscape refurbishment in 15 has begun. Sewer line repairs have begun in Court 4 at Buildings 18 and

19. The lateral lines in each patio were carefully exposed to determine if the original cast iron lines are still in place, or if they were properly replaced with abs pipes during the 2004 project. An inspection has revealed that only three of ten units had the proper abs pipes installed correctly. In addition a section of the original clay main line was discovered still intact under one patio.