

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

November 2018

Pet Task Force Gives Board 13 Resolutions; Directors Vote on One Sentence

"We agree, in principle, that we require all second-floor owners of cats or dogs to install a floor covering."

Two years after the Board appointed a diverse group of directors and residents to look at our pet rules and enforcement, the Pet Task Force concluded its examination and brought a comprehensive 15-page report and 13 proposals to directors.

This was the first such examination since the association agreed to allow pets and adopted rules more than 10 years ago. From 1941 until then, VG

had never permitted pets.

With so many and such varied resolutions from the Pet Task Force, the directors insisted they needed more time and tabled them. However, they crafted and passed the statement above by a vote of 6-2. They will still need to flesh out the details.

Turn to Page 5 for a summary of the Pet Task Force resolutions. □

October Board Meeting

Resolutions Galore

By Lucy Fried

VG directors and their audiences are used to big agendas, but October's may have been a record-setter. Directors faced 22 action resolutions and five discussion resolutions! They addressed all but those from the Pet Task Force and agreed to handle them in the coming months.

Actions included:

- **Meetings:** set Tuesday, November 13 and Tuesday, December 11 for holiday schedule open Board meetings;
- **Roof Cleaning:** okayed a contract for the annual roofs cleaning;
- **Audit:** okayed a contract for the annual Association audit;
- **Design RFP:** approved an RFP for a landscape design for the Court 9/10 corner area rehabilitation project and authorized management to send it out;
- **Earthquake Insurance:** agreed to invite the Association's insurance broker to speak and answer questions on earthquake insurance;
- **Coliseum Trees:** directed the manager to take appropriate actions for trimming to improve lighting conditions on the Coliseum perimeter, particularly courts 4-6.
- **Unit Modifications Consultant:** approved a contract for a consultant who will report to the operations manager and, working with the DRC, provide assistance to owners needing help during their unit modification approval process. □



Choosing the right seedlings to plant is serious business for this six-year-old at the Plant Swap last month.

See more about the Plant Swap on pages 4 and 5.

Photo by Genia Young

In Remembrance of Dick Grover

"One of the prettiest places I've ever seen -
Yes indeed - Village Green.
Little bitty babies and oldies with gray hair
Playing, walking, riding -
lots of space to share.
Trees and lawns are beautiful,
and so are all the faces
Of people from around the world -
many different places."

By Dick Grover and sent to *Highlights* on
November 17, 2014

Dick, who passed away September 30, spent just a few years at the Green but left indelible memories of his eagerness to engage, his smile, musical talent & dependable flyer distribution service for Cultural Affairs Committee events.

Highlights offers sincere condolences to his daughter, Allison Grover Khoury, and family.

Landscape Walk Offers Promise

A productive site walk was held last month with Green Crew supervisor Nick Havai (*second from left*) and owner George Havai (*third*), VG horticulturist Carol Bornstein (*fourth*), and Landscape Committee members.

All parties agreed to, "... emphasize hand pruning of large shrubs when acceptable." The Scope and Specifications in the Green Crew landscape maintenance contract state a strong preference for natural pruning. Mr. Havai and the committee also agreed to work together to identify and replace dead and failing shrubs. The walk followed discussions between Operations Manager Sherri Giles and Landscape Committee chair Chris Scornaienchi. □

See more landscape news on Page 5.

Selfie by Chris Scornaienchi



Public Security Report

Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

September 20 - October 17, 2018

- Oct 2 VG PROPERTY DAMAGE. Court 1, 9:00 am.** Security was advised of moderate damage to the chain link fence along Sycamore caused by a driver who lost control of their car.
- Oct 7 SUSPICIOUS SUBJECTS. Courts 15/16 Breezeway, 12:04 am.** Security was advised of two adult males breaking bottles on the property. They had walked north across Rodeo and were out of view when security arrived.
- Oct 13 VEHICLE THEFT. Court 1 parking lot, 4:15 pm.** Left unlocked and unattended with the key in the ignition, two residents' loaded rental moving truck was stolen. It was recovered at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza by tracking the signal of one of the resident's cell phones, which was also in the truck. □

November Foot Beats Schedule

Tuesday, 11/13, 9:00 am:

Meet at Court 4 entrance, walk central area of complex.

Monday, 11/19, 7:00 pm:

Meet at Court 1 entrance, walk east area.

Wednesday, 11/28, 9:30 am:

Meet at Court 14 entrance, walk west area.

Thursday, 12/6, 7:00 pm:

Meet at Clubhouse, walk central area.

Foot Beats is a project of the VG Safety Committee. □



October

Manager's Report

From Sherri Giles, Operations Manager

Garage Inspections

The first round of inspections is complete. The second round - inspections for various violations - begins in early November.

Electronic Work Order System

Court-by-court on-boarding of residents has resumed now that the technical challenges of setting up a log-on page on the VGOA website have been met. Management worked on this with the Fluke Corporation and our IT personnel.

Residential Re-piping

Buildings 69 - 73 were completed, and the project is concluded for this year.

Residential Building Insulation, Carpentry Repairs, and Painting

Six buildings of ten have been completed. These concurrent projects are expected to run through the end of the year.

Court 1 Damage

An out-of-control vehicle on Sycamore damaged the Court 1 Sycamore perimeter fence, exterior lighting, and a garage building. It also uprooted shrubs and broke a main irrigation line, resulting in roughly a day's loss of irrigation. Staff repaired the lighting the next day, and the driver's insurance company has remitted a check for the damages.

Landscape Maintenance Report

Green Crew reported detailing courts 3-7 in October while making the rounds of the whole property for weekly maintenance. In November, they will be detailing courts 7-13 and spreading mulch in 7 and 8. They have also begun working on the problem of worn irrigation valves and plan to compile a list and present proposals for replacement or repair. □

TWO NEW USES FOR COMMON AREAS

Two unrelated groupings of residents sponsored Board-approved events this autumn that introduced new uses of Association common areas.

“Dog Happy Hour”

A “Dog Happy Hour” event (September 30) won Board approval for leashed dogs to be brought to one Coliseum-facing lawn. The Pet Task Force has noted that some common area locations are not named specifically in the Pet Rules list of off-limits places for pets.

Event organizer and Board director Daniel Millner told the Board, “A key driver for the event was lessening the marginalization of dog-owners that occurs at Village Green.”

He estimated that about 50 humans and 25 dogs attended and that about 25% of the people who came did not have dogs but simply wanted to be around them. He proclaimed the event a huge success and, “a great addition to community building efforts.”

The task force has introduced several resolutions concerning use of this and other common areas. (Read about Task Force resolutions on Page 5.) □



Candidate “Meet and Greet” at the Clubhouse

An approved “Meet and Greet” at the Clubhouse (October 14) for a U.S. Senate candidate was the first time a political event was held there since the state legislature passed SB407 in 2016. It was organized by a committee of residents eager to introduce the candidate to their neighbors.

Some people were surprised by the event because the **Handbook** prohibits residents’ use of the Clubhouse for political

events. However, SB 407 nullifies such HOA restrictions and permits residents to use common area facilities for political purposes without paying a fee, so long as the event is for residents and friends, not the general public.

Organizers were pleased with the interest the event generated, with an estimated 60 people in attendance. To access the new law online, google “CA legislation SB 407”. □



Photos by Gabriela Worrel

COMMITTEE-SPONSORED EVENTS

Plant Swap on the Main Green

After the hugely successful Patio Peek this summer, the Landscape Committee held an expanded Plant Swap last month with educational presentations and an outreach to kids added to the traditional event.

Kudos to the committee, all who attended, and to Master Gardener Amanda Sigafoos for her presentation, "Talking about DIRT"; exotic plants guru Mimi Fleur (Michelle Jarrett), who told the kids to, "Pick a plant to pot and take it home"; and well-known patio dish gardener Georgia Lumpkin, who showed how it's done.



Highlights sends grateful appreciation to photographers Jay Calhoun, Melanee Newkirk, Avelene Schodorf, and Genia Young for the bounty of photos.

Halloween

Cultural Affairs' ambitious pre-Halloween and Halloween Clubhouse-based programs brought a new sense of homeyness to that space and anchored it as the community's Halloween center.

From the many table decorations to the hugely creative pre-Halloween kids and adults parties to the big night itself, when the Clubhouse became a trick-or-treat house, kids and adults found it a welcoming place.

Dramatic patio and lawn displays filled the Green. As darkness fell on the 31st, throngs of excited costumed kids and parents roamed the pathways for tricks or treats... and then it was over as suddenly as it began. *Huge thanks to Ben Gorton, Don Dongallo, Kelly Wilson Samojlik and Melanee Newkirk for the photos.*



Small Gardens Have Big Impact

By Amanda Sigafoos

Editor's note: Amanda is a Certified University of California Master Gardener in LA County. She has been a VG resident since April 2016. Her article below is the first of a series about gardening at the Green:

One of my favorite things about living at Village Green is our common open space. This amenity is made even more special because each unit has its own individual open space to enjoy just for ourselves – our patio.

Whether you have a shady or a sunny patio, like to throw outdoor dinner parties or curl up with a book in the shade, your outdoor space is your own, and there are many ways to make it special and enrich your day-to-day life at Village Green.

Green thumbs aren't necessary to give your space a touch of greenery. A quick and simple way to begin is with container plants. For shady spots, look for brilliantly colored coleus (*Plectranthus scutellarioides*); for sunny ones, succulents and cacti will bring a touch of quirky character. Both plants thrive in containers (look for ones with drainage holes) and will withstand our climate year-round.

In the next issue of *Highlights*, I'll suggest a few methods to improve your soil – whether it is in-ground or in a container – for healthier plants. □



Master Gardener resident Amanda Sigafoos speaks at the Plant Swap.

Photos by Melanee Newkirk

Native Plants Tips

Do you want to plant a patio garden using California native plants? Village Green's horticulturist, Carol Bornstein, has an article about that in the Fall issue of *Flora*, the magazine of the California Native Plants Society. You can find it online at www.cnps.org/publications/flora. □

Talking Thatch

Do you know why many of the lawns grow so high before they show any green? The answer is THATCH! December's *Highlights* will feature information from our landscape professionals about thatch, why we have it, and what we can do about it. Look for thatch during your next walk around the Green! □

Summary of Pet Task Force Resolutions (Cont'd. from Page 1)

The Board will be discussing the Pet Task Force's resolutions in coming months. Most of the resolutions suggest changes to existing **Handbook** pet rules. Here is a summary of the proposed changes, with the numbers of the rules in parentheses:

- (15.1) Add additional requirements to pet registration while eliminating the \$25 fee;
- (15.3) Expand the number of prohibited species to include farm animals, venomous snakes, and boa constrictors;
- (15.4) Clarify the process following any denial of service animal request;
- (15.7B) Remove ambiguity regarding unleashed pet use of certain common areas;
- (15.7D) Remove ambiguity and expands number of areas

- where pets may be walked;
- (15.7 E,F) Clarify rules for walking pets;
- (15.8) Clarify language regarding housing of pets;
- (15.13) Revise rules on visiting pets;
- New Rule: Establish a Peer Review Committee to informally gain compliance;
- New Rule: Allow the Board enforcement committee and Board to create waivers (exceptions) to pet rules. □

The **Handbook** is available on the VGOA website, as are the full report and proposals.
www.villagegreenla.net



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

Thinking of Nominating Yourself or Another Person for a VG Director Seat?

Here are eight directors' takes on what it means and what it's like to be a director; we hope you find this helpful. Remember - nominations close in early December.

"To me, community means living and working together. I feel a stronger sense of community by serving on the board."

"I believe that being a director is an opportunity to serve the community and affect change. For me, it's been challenging, yet rewarding, to be an advocate for the needs of the community and move the Village forward, albeit one inch at a time."

"Being on the Village Green Board is my attempt to be of service to this unique community. In the process of working with this diverse group of volunteers, I am learning quite a lot about myself, and am gaining a set of skills that translate to my profession and to other arenas of my life; in the end, I get back more than I put in."

"I ran for a board director position because I believe that at some point, one has to contribute - especially in a self-governing community - and it was my turn. I found that being a director definitely has a learning curve, from the standpoint of the nuts and bolts of operating this community and learning how all the people need to work together."

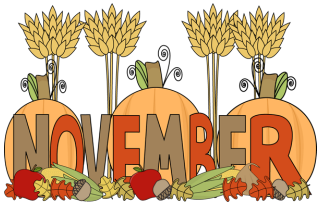
"I take my position as a director as both a privilege and a responsibility because, done right, it takes time, patience, and careful thought each month. In making decisions on the issues that come before the board, I feel the weight of representing, not just the vocal few, but all Village Green residents, always with the view of what's best in the long run for the whole Green."

"I enjoy serving on the association's board as a way to give back to my neighbors and community. It allows me to participate in decision making that is aimed at having a positive impact on everyone."

"I have found that stepping up and serving when asked despite my already full plate - putting the "me first" aside - to be quite humbling and deeply meaningful. The "me" benefits along with the Village Green community from the opportunity to brainstorm with eight other intelligent, caring directors and staff about the best ideas and most cost-effective solutions to Village Green's challenges."

"I view service on the Village Green board as a form of communion for individuals whose only common faith is a desire to benefit the Village Green. We bring our different professional backgrounds and perspectives together to address issues concerning property management, finances, and community living, and are rewarded through participation in a collaborative process with our fellow directors, with the assistance of our top-quality management staff, and by the satisfaction of benefiting you, the Village Green community."

Upcoming Events - All Events at VG Clubhouse



**Saturday, November 10,
10:00am - 11:30am**

**Budget and Finance Committee
Community Celebration.** Snacks
& beverages while discussing the
finances of the Green. Kid friendly.

Sunday, November 11, 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Tree Committee's 2018 Annual Fall Foliage Walk
Light refreshments at 2:00pm, walk begins at 2:30pm.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Homeowner comments start
promptly at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, November 13th
Tuesday, December 11th



Happy Thanksgiving!