

VILLAGE GREEN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HIGHLIGHTS

A Monthly Publication of the VGOA

October 2021

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE GREEN BOARD *By Lucy Fried*

The September BOD meeting began with an important report on tree trimming and tree care from our longtime arborist, Cy Carlberg.

Reflecting the Tree/Landscape Committee's concerns as well as her own, Cy explained the need for direct communication between the arborist and tree care company and discussed current pruning shortcomings. Three companies, including the current one, will be invited to submit pruning bids.

Directors then discussed three topics, with votes scheduled next month:

(1) 2022 Budget Priorities

VG has an operations budget and a reserves budget. Reserves includes money set aside for our major rehab projects such as the electrical and irrigation systems and landscape rehabilitation.

VG treasurer Claire Knowlton and the other directors took a hard look at both budgets in September and concluded that the VGOA would need to make significant increases in assessments to afford these projects over the next ten years. Increases of 4-20% were mentioned. The board must approve both operating and reserves budgets in **October**.

(2) New Fines Guidelines for Unapproved Architectural Modifications

Another discussion item regarded a new fee schedule for violations of VGOA architectural modifications guidelines, i.e., unapproved architectural alterations. The new schedule reflects the severity of the violations and is intended to discourage people from making changes without approvals.

A team consisting of directors Haleh Shoa and Steve Haggerty, VG Operations Manager Sherri Giles and Maintenance Engineer Alfonso Casanova, and DRC Consultant Linda Pollari developed the guidelines. Haleh will bring the proposed **Handbook** revision for a board vote in October.

(3) HOA Consultant

Earlier this year, directors agreed to reach out to consultants for an assessment of our systems, processes, practices, staffing, and policies. In September, they formed a subcommittee to clarify the scope of work. □

BIG OIL NEWS

In September, LA County Supervisors voted unanimously to move toward a complete ban on drilling in unincorporated County areas. That includes the Inglewood Oil Field, which has been uphill and upwind of the Village Green since its construction.

Note: For an especially well-detailed account, see the online journal Capital and Main.
<https://capitalandmain.com> □



DON'T MISS THE
**2ND ANNUAL HALLOWEEN
COSTUME PARADE** on **SUNDAY**,
OCT 31, 5:30 pm, Center Green

Spooky stories at 5:00 pm.

Residents only.

One-way stroll around all the greens,
or just come and watch.

Everyone must be masked.

Sp: Cultural Affairs Committee

HELP WANTED

Love the Green? Love to write?

Highlights is "hiring".

villagegreenhighlights@gmail.com

INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS

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A Shared Conversation

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Editors: Dagmar Buck, Patrick Comiskey,
Lucy Fried (senior editor), Ted Robbins.

Design: Terry Park

Highlights is an all-volunteer project of the
Village Green Communications Committee.

VILLAGE GREEN YARD SALE POSTPONED!

Out of respect and safety for our community and the surrounding neighborhood, the Village Green Yard Sale will be postponed until late spring. Stay tuned for more details in the new year, and stay safe!

MANAGEMENT NEWS *from Operations Manager Sherri Giles' September Board report*

“NO TREE CLIMBING” SIGNS As of September 25, five signs – two metal and three temporary signs produced by the office – have been removed/stolen from areas near trees that children are often reported to climb. Management requested a board decision on whether to install a new metal sign in a concrete footing.

HIGH VOLTAGE NEWS Management and the board continue seeking the most advantageous pathway and transformer site for the 34.5 kilovolts of power that DWP will provide the Green. Sites on the NE and SE corners of the property have been surveyed, and now we are waiting for the DWP to comment on the suitability of obtaining the power from the lines running along the alley west of C&S nursery on Hauser. This would bring the power lines much closer to the Green than from the proposed LaBrea power source.

THE COURT 9 WATER SUPPLY LINE REPLACEMENT project has begun and will run through most of the month. **Painting/Insulation** is on schedule, work on Building 49 is to begin on the 18th. **Greencrew** will be detailing courts 15-1 this month. □

PUBLIC SECURITY REPORT Aug 20 - Sep 19, 2021

Edited by Jordan Deglise Moore

VEHICLE BURGLARIZED Aug 29, Obama Place, Court 12, 1-4 pm. The resident reported the radio was stolen.

RESIDENT THREATENED Aug 30, East Circle, 7:30-7:45 am. While walking, the resident was approached by a middle-aged woman in a black hoodie who threatened to kill her. Security couldn't locate the suspect.

BICYCLE STOLEN Sep 2, Court 2, 10:00-11:30 am. The resident chased but could not catch a man and woman who stole a bike that was temporarily propping open the patio gate.

RESIDENT/FORMER NANNY DISPUTE Sep 14, Court 8, 10:40 am-12:20 pm. Property Manager Sherri Giles successfully mediated a dispute between a resident and her former nanny.

DOG BARKING Sep 16, Court 5, 11 am. A security officer heard sustained barking but could not contact the resident. The barking stopped after about 20 minutes.

TRESPASSER SLEEPING IN VEHICLE Sep 17, Obama Place between Courts 13-14, 10:30 pm. Security responded to a call and told the trespasser he would be arrested if he was seen on the property again.

GARAGE BURGLARY Sep 19, Court 9, 4:05 pm. A resident reported tools missing, possibly while the garage was unlocked. □



New potted plants grace the Obama side of the Clubhouse

photo by Zig

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FROM THE SAFETY COMMITTEE

We're now in peak season for home fires. If you don't have smoke alarms, a carbon monoxide detector, and a fire extinguisher, this is a good time to get them. If you have them, it's a good time to check them. The Red Cross may have free fire alarms. □

INTERNATIONAL SHAKE OUT DAY IS OCTOBER 21

It's a good time to practice earthquake responses with the kids or just by yourself and to refresh your earthquake kits if they need some updating. The site below has a lot of information; keep looking until you find what you need. □

<https://www.shakeout.org/COVID-19/index.html#presentations>

BOOK TALK ON THE GREEN

The Communications Committee invites you to a discussion on how local and national policies segregated America and impacted Village Green. **THE COLOR OF LAW**, by Richard Rothstein SAT, NOVEMBER 6, 10:00-11:30 am RSVP vgcomcom@villagegreenla.net.

NEIGHBORS DISCUSS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IMPORTANCE OF SEX EDUCATION

In 2019, former VG board president Jerri Allyn and film maker Adisa Septuri discovered they were neighbors with a mutual concern: human trafficking. They were in San Pedro at the annual See It - End It Film and Art Festival, a community event that raises awareness of human trafficking. Adisa's film, *SKIN IN THE GAME*, was screening at the festival, and Jerri was a contributing artist and team member organizing other artists.

These two busy people ran into each other again this summer and agreed to share their takes on human trafficking and the importance of sex education with **Highlights** readers.

Note: This article discusses sensitive subjects.



Adisa Septuri, Court 3

Adisa: My sister brought sex trafficking to my attention. (A trafficked person is illegally brought from one place to another for forced labor or sexual exploitation.) I was visiting her in Oakland, and she wouldn't let her daughter ride the bus because a young girl had been nabbed by a "guerrilla pimp". Many more girls are coerced or lured into the commercial sex trade. It's no different than slavery. The predators just want to make money.

Jerri: For me, this problem is tied to the scarcity of sex education in schools, neglecting to educate youth about their bodies and pleasures and warn about predators. I was sexually assaulted as a kid. My parents buried my assault under the rug and I never got the factual sex education I needed. Mentors, lovers, and art healed me, returned me to my soul.

Adisa: It broke my heart to hear young women telling stories about being prostituted at 9 years old. So I started research in earnest, directing and filming *Skin in the Game*.

My wife didn't want anything to do with it. Just the thought of this subject matter creates trauma. She was pregnant with our second daughter. She does support me, did finally see the premiere, and thought it was great, though disturbing.

I also learned that pornography can be a gateway to sex trafficking, and the stats reveal a disproportionate percentage of girls of color are coerced. Systemic racism is pervasive, even in recovery resources. White girls generally have access to many more resources.

Jerri: As a teaching artist, I'm frustrated with schools and principals that deliver one unit of Sex Ed about transmitted diseases, but little else. The backlash against wholistic Sex Ed, coupled with the rise of easily available exploitative porn online, has resulted in youth getting "educated" via Porn Hub.

Adisa: ... and porn sites feature too many videos of young men being sexually aggressive with young women - without consent.

Jerri: Systemic sexual violence ... Parents, talk to your kids about sex!

Adisa: The biggest challenge? Denial. "My kid doesn't watch porn and wouldn't think of raping a girl!"

Jerri: I did a poster project with teens who confided that they're learning about sex through hookups on *Tinder* and *Grindr*. I said, "Let's discuss how you can keep safe while dating and keep alert for predators." We came up with 10 strategies, such as, "Always tell someone where you're going".

Resources on Page 4



Jerri Allyn "At your service..." Court 11



A GAMECHANGER AMONG US

By Patrick Comiskey

The achievements of West Circle's Jason H. Williams were recently commemorated at the University of Maryland's new Jones-Hill Football Complex, named after two African-American UM athletes who broke the school's color barrier in football.

Inside the complex is a permanent exhibit called Gamechangers Row, where Jason is honored as the **first Black UM athlete (1962-66) to compete in a collegiate team event at UM (springboard diving) and the first Black athlete to compete in the Atlantic Coast Conference** (Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and South Carolina). □



THE ANIMALS IN OUR MIDST

Animals - wild and domesticated - are part of life at the Green in our Village. Here, Adrienne Beitche (Court 1) features her beloved dog, Wayu.

I found Wayu on the beach in Colombia when she was about five weeks old and brought her back with me after a couple of weeks traveling together; it was love at first sight! Now she's eight, breed unknown, but she's

definitely part greyhound. If you see us walking on the perimeter, please say, "Hola", and don't take it personally if she ignores you. Yes, she speaks both English and Spanish, but prefers the latter. Her favorite food is sourdough baguette from Lodge Bakery, and we both love to run free and wild in the mountains. □



STREET RACING TASK FORCE By Cynthia Singleton

Responding to community alarm about street racing, Southwest Division Traffic Captain Aaron Ponce set up a task force of LAPD, the County Sheriff's Department, and the Highway Patrol to monitor and gather data on these events.

Ponce asked residents to **continue reporting incidents**, including license plate numbers and vehicle descriptions, and urged caution at intersections even when the light is green. □

Officer Ponce, 31135@LAPD.online;
Officer Payne, 31188@LAPD.online.

RESOURCES, *cont'd from Page 3*

- * ***Skin in the Game*** - available on Amazon Prime, itunes, and fandango;
- * ***S.E.X: The All-You-Need-To-Know Sexuality Guide To Get You Through High School and College***, by Heather Corinna, adopted by LAUSD;
- * Email Jerri for elementary to adult sex ed recommendations.
allynjerri@gmail.com □

THE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I hope **Highlights** readers, and especially my fellow parents, will check out the wonderful new children's book from Court 6 resident and longtime public radio journalist Kitty Felde.

State of the Union is the second volume of Kitty's Fina Mendoza mystery series for children 7-12.

Fina is an adventurous ten-year-old girl from Los Angeles living in Washington D.C. where her father is a congressman. She solves mysteries involving tunnels, crypts, and secret chambers in the U.S. Capitol, while teaching young readers about the U.S. Constitution.

Kitty spent seven years reporting on the California congressional delegation in Washington DC, and the book is very much derived from her own experiences.

She will be delighted to sign your copy in person - or mail you a signed bookplate.

More at kittyfelde.com. Ashlee Hitchcock, Court 6 □

