

May 27, 2021



# CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Here's to Peace and Quiet; Silver Lake Together Offers Free Electric Leaf Blower Signs



Silver Lake Together unveiled a new campaign to end the use of noisy, unhealthy gas leaf blowers by offering free “Take Charge” lawn signs to residents who support the use of electric blowers, as well as brooms and rakes. Campaign organizers report that the noise pollution created by gas leaf blowers is an ongoing concern and note that the blowers are illegal, harm the environment and are dangerous to our health, as well as the health of the person using the blower. The eye-catching signs feature a “take charge” cartoon character.

[ORDER YOUR FREE "TAKE CHARGE" SIGN](#)



*Area birds turned out in full force for the reopening of Echo Park Lake*

## On the Scene at the Echo Park Lake Reopening

On May 26, residents and city officials memorialized the highly anticipated reopening of Echo Park Lake with a blessing ceremony performed by Native American tribal leaders, while giggling kids and happy ducks played nearby. Paul Michael Neuman, organizer of Silver Lake's National Night Out, was on the scene and provided this report. He noted that a few dozen protesters objected to the reopening of the public park, but the tone of the event was positive.

Neuman said, "The May 26 reopening of Echo Park was absolutely lovely. One could delight in the pastoral, picturesque environs we want for any community's public park space; something for all to enjoy. Even ducks and geese were sprawled on the grass, safely indifferent to the people starting to accumulate.

"Joggers, seniors, kids playing, and families with strollers were blissfully relieved to be back, with no more fear of weapons, needles and tons of waste. Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell talked about challenges and successes providing housing and services for homeless people, and greeted the happy crowd. Upon the lake itself, clusters of small paddle boats were suddenly reemerging. The optimistic sense we all have, of a 'post-Covid' society coming out of hibernation, seems doubly true for Echo Park Lake — and for

the formerly unhouse who now have better, safer lives ahead."

Echo Park Lake was closed for two months while the city removed more than 35+ tons of waste, including 744 pounds of human/biological waste that accumulated during homeless encampment. Fencing installed during the renovation will remain in place; four gates will be closed at night to help enforce park hours, 5:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

---



## Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary to the Rescue

In early May, a Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary member and her friend spotted a Great Blue Heron nestling that had fallen from its nest and was crouching stranded and motionless on the Ivanhoe pathway. Although it was camouflaged by Aleppo pines that hold three heron nests, the Ivanhoe pathway is frequented by people and dogs, and is dangerous for fallen nestlings, who have not yet fledged their wing feathers and cannot fly. In this exposed location, it is highly unlikely that the adult herons could have helped it. It needed both protection and a rescue center to survive. And rescuers.

**READ MORE ABOUT THE RESCUE AND WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR THE BABY  
HERON**

### **Help wildlife and birds in need:**

For injured water birds (herons, gulls, etc.), call International Bird Rescue, (310) 514-2573; <https://www.birdrescue.org/contact/found-a-bird/>

For injured wildlife and birds (ducks, songbirds, hawks, etc.), call California Wildlife Center, (310) 458-9453 for instructions and directions;

<https://cawildlife.org/animal-resources/medical-emergency/>

For Los Angeles Audubon, visit <https://www.laudubon.org/contact>

---

*Illegal fireworks  
are an ongoing  
safety issue in  
Silver Lake and  
throughout Los  
Angeles. (Photo  
by David Haub)*



## Safety Update: Fireworks Hot Topic at Silver Lake Together Community Meeting with LAPD

We've all heard and seen them. And we've all wondered what we can do to stop the escalation of illegal — and dangerous — fireworks in Silver Lake and nearby communities. At last night's Silver Lake Together community leadership meeting, LAFD Deputy Chief Armando Hogan provided useful advice and recommended that residents and stakeholders visit the fireworks safety page at [MySafeLa](#) for in-depth information. LAPD Captain III Art Sandavol, who was in attendance, asked that fireworks in progress be reported to 911, and Senior Lead Officer Jesse Aispuro requested that residents email him at [36072@lapd.online](mailto:36072@lapd.online) to report problem locations (individuals selling illegal fireworks or repeatedly violating fireworks regulations). Deputy Chief Hogan also endorsed the return of large scale fireworks events, which are supervised and controlled, and provided information about fire-safe homes and brush clearance. When fire stations reopen to the public (expected after June 1), he encourages residents to visit their local stations, get to know their firefighters and make them aware of potential fire risks in the home, such as oxygen tanks.

DISCOVER ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

Visit [www.LAFD.org](http://www.LAFD.org) for current LAFD reports and information.

## Silver Lake Together and Community Organizations Launch Go Fund Me for Plaque to Honor Tom LaBonge



Tom LaBonge, former councilmember who represented L.A.'s 4th District from 2001 to 2015 and worked at City Hall for a total of 39 years, died unexpectedly on January 7, 2021. Tom was a fierce advocate for Los Angeles and the bucolic wonder of the Silver

Lake Reservoirs. The goal is to raise \$1,000 for a memorial plaque honoring the spirit of Tom and his dedication to the community.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO KEEP TOM'S MEMORY ALIVE

---

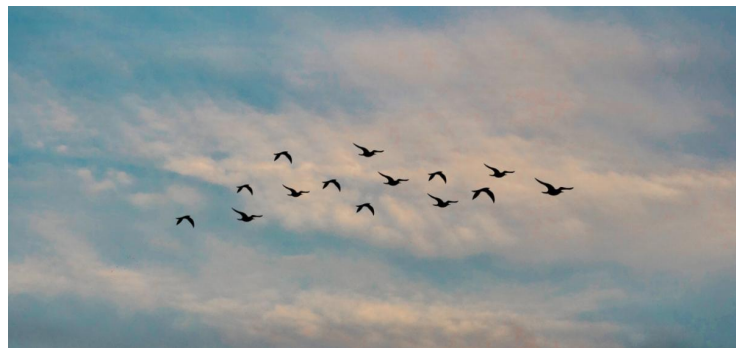
## Safety Update: Silver Lake Together and LAPD Hold 10th Community Meeting

On May 26, Silver Lake Together held its 10th monthly community virtual meeting with its partners at LAPD's Northeast Division and neighborhood leaders. Captain III Art Sandavol, Northeast Division, thanked attendees for being open to working with LAPD to reduce crime, improve quality of life and further relationships. As reported above, Los Angeles Fire Department Deputy Chief Armando Hogan was the special guest and presented information on a myriad topics, including natural disaster preparedness, illegal fireworks and brush clearance. LAPD Officer Lawrence Henderson of LAPD's Central Traffic was pleased to report that for the past 30 days, there were only two serious traffic incidents in Silver Lake, both on Rowena. Senior Lead Officer Jesse Aispuro and Gina Paialii provided valuable updates on community outreach and safety initiatives. And In response to concerns voiced by community members, the group also discussed the need for a traffic study at the corner of Glendale Boulevard and Riverside Drive.

**Safety questions or concerns? Contact Silver Lake's Senior Lead Officer Jesse Aispuro at [36072@lapd.online](mailto:36072@lapd.online)**

---

## A New Chance to Protect Migratory and Resident Birds



The [Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary](#) reminds us that during the Trump Administration, many wildlife protective laws were weakened through legislative changes, notably the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) which protects all migratory birds. The Biden Administration has already moved to begin revoking these changes and have also put forth the "[America the Beautiful](#)" vision which includes important goals for expanding migratory corridors and investing in habitat restoration. Members of Congress have also recently introduced [The Bird-Safe Building Act](#), and the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#). However, these bills have not yet become law.

According to the Sanctuary, the Silver Lake Reservoirs and their surrounding habitat provide a resting stopover for thousands of birds who migrate along the Pacific Flyway, an astonishing 4,000 miles from northern Alaska down the West Coast to the southern tip of

South America and back again in the autumn. In May – the height of the spring migration – Silver Lake’s night skies are filled with thousands of birds flying in a steady stream high above us, invisible to the naked eye. They need all the protection we can give them.

“Now is the time to join with others who care about wildlife and birds,” said Freda Shen, Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. “Under President Biden, we have the chance to create long-term positive change. We have an Administration that will lead and support us. This is our chance to gain long-term protections.”

**Take action by writing to your U.S. Representative and sign the Audubon petitions. Support the Safe Building act and help birds avoid collisions with buildings. [Click here.](#) [Help save America’s birds and wildlife.](#)**



---

## Let Us Know!

[www.silverlaketgether.com](http://www.silverlaketgether.com)

Need help with an issue in Silver Lake? Do you have ideas that will help our neighborhood or want to share community news?

**Email Us**

[editor@SilverLakeTogether.com](mailto:editor@SilverLakeTogether.com)

*Copyright © 2021, Silver Lake Together, All rights reserved.*