

May 13, 2021



CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.



Work crews clear belongings left behind by a homeless people during cleanup in Echo Park Lake. (Photo: Wally Skaliy / Los Angeles Times)

City Removes 35+ Tons of Trash from Echo Park Lake, Including 744 Pounds of Human/Biological Waste

The City of Los Angeles Department of Sanitation and Environment (LASAN) reports that workers removed 35+ tons of waste from Echo Park Lake. The count includes 180 pounds of feces and 564 pounds of urine (not including waste from portable or stationary restrooms), 30 pounds of drug paraphernalia, and 300 pounds of hazardous waste, such as gasoline and cooking oil.

The LASAN report was issued over a month after the city cleared a large homeless encampment of more than 170 tents from Echo Park Lake and rehoused 160+ individuals. The city is continuing efforts to clean the park, store belongings that were left behind, and repair streetlights, facilities and grass. CD 13 Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell led the effort to restore the park and return it to the community.

[VIEW THE LASAN REPORT](#)

[READ ADDITIONAL NEWS COVERAGE](#)

Echo Park Lake behind fencing installed to close the park on March 25. (Photo: Barry Lank)



LAPD Reports Significant Drop in Crime in Echo Park Lake Neighborhood

In a related story, LAPD reported a significant drop in crime following the closure of Echo Park Lake and the relocation of individuals living in the large homeless encampment on park grounds. The relocation took place in late March and patrols have since been deployed to areas with more crime. The park is slated to reopen at the end of May, but the city has not confirmed a date.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

**Guest Editorial:
Condemning the
Mentally Ill to a Slow
Death on the Streets**



In a moving and fact-filled editorial, Jane Cook asks tough questions about mental health laws that have been in effect since the late '60s —laws that condemn the mentally ill to a slow death on the street. As Jane states, “We do no better than Medieval society, wherein the "village fool" wandered the roads, laughed at and given minimal contemptuous charity.” And she makes the strong case that the homeless crisis cannot be solved until we provide an adequate mental health diagnostic and treatment system for the 30-50% of the homeless who are mentally ill.

[READ THE EDITORIAL](#)

Silver Lake Crime Report

At Silver Lake Together’s recent community meeting with LAPD and neighborhood prosecutor Gabrielle Taylor, senior lead officers reported that Silver Lake is one of the safest neighborhoods within the Northeast Division. But it is not without serious concerns. The leading crimes involve property theft, specifically the theft of cars, catalytic converters and personal property left in cars. SLO Jesus Aispuro recommends that residents, if possible, park vehicles in garages. If your vehicle is parked in the street, do not leave personal items in the passenger area or trunk.



[LAPD SAFETY TIPS](#)

Update on Dogs in Restricted Areas of Reservoirs Complex



Silver Lake Together is continuing to work with Rec and Parks regarding concerns about the increasing number of dogs in restricted areas of the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex. City of Los Angeles approved “No Dogs Allowed” signs will be posted throughout areas where dogs are prohibited. The LAPD has also been made aware of this problem and will work closely with R&P to help ensure the park remains safe for all who love it.



Three tents or structures on Berendo Street at the intersection of Hollywood Boulevard, remained as of May 10. (Photo: Allison B. Cohen)

Gang Encampment at Hollywood Boulevard and Berendo Cleared

After months of complaints by concerned residents, a notorious “gang encampment,” located at Berendo and Hollywood Boulevard, was removed by city sanitation workers on May 10. The La Mirada Locos gang reportedly took over a homeless encampment at Berendo, using it as center for prostitution and drug sales. The [*Los Feliz Ledger*](#) reported that at least one gang member remains at the encampment, and that the Los Angeles Police Department had made one arrest.

[READ THE PREVIOUS SILVER LAKE TOGETHER COVERAGE](#)

In Case You Missed It

L.A. City Council goes hybrid: City council will resume in-person meetings on June 15, but a virtual component will still be available.

[READ MORE](#)

CityWatch: *Los Feliz Ledger* editor Allison Cohen writes searing commentary supporting effort to recall CD 4 Councilmember Nithya Raman.

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

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