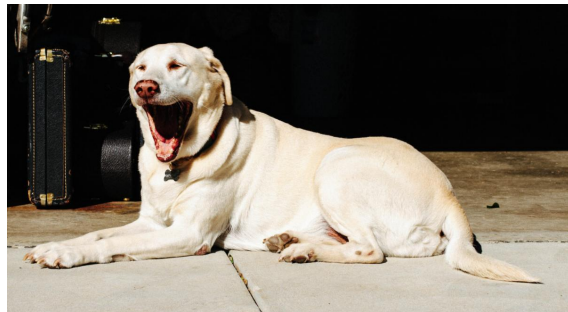


April 15, 2021



CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Just Had an Election. Did Anyone Notice?



The L.A. City Clerk released the non-certified results of the 2021 Silver Lake Neighborhood Council election earlier this week, and the turnout was dismal. (Fewer than 340 people bothered to cast a ballot for the 27 candidates vying for 21 seats; in four of Silver Lake's seven regions (3, 4, 6 and 7 seats were pre-determined as only two candidates ran.) If you subtract the 27 candidates from that number, the results are even worse. This sad showing clearly indicates that the public was not impressed with the limited number of candidates and one-sided positions offered in this election.

The results also demonstrate that the new board will be seated without a mandate from the residents and stakeholders of Silver Lake. The vast majority of candidates supported the more progressive policies of the Democratic Socialist Party and/or Silver Lake Rising.

Our question is: Will the new SLNC board, with its \$40K budget, reflect the needs and concerns of the majority of the Silver Lake residents or will it focus on national politics and vanity projects? We will certainly keep our readers posted.

[SEE THE 2021 SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS](#)



The wood-beamed encampment is covered with tarps. According to a Ledger source, there are three “doors” to the encampment, one where drugs and money are exchanged. In the background, is Barnsdall Art Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (Photo: Allison B. Cohen, Los Feliz Ledger)

Gang-run Homeless Camp Threatens Constituents

The *Los Feliz Ledger* reports that a homeless encampment on North Berendo Street and Hollywood Boulevard is being run by a street gang listed among the top 10 most dangerous in Los Angeles. According to the blistering editorial, the gang operates an open-air drug market. There is prostitution, weapons are brandished and shots fired, fires are frequent and there is an ongoing turf war. Editor Allison Cohen took Councilmember Nithya Raman to task for ignoring nearby residents’ pleas for help since she took office in December and noted, “If the gang element is not removed from Berendo as soon as possible, the city of Los Angeles can expect a lawsuit on the issue, and Raman, a recall.”

[READ THE EDITORIAL](#)

Two anonymous Los Feliz residents affected by the encampment spoke out on radio station KFI’s John and Ken Show.

[LISTEN TO THE SEGMENT](#)

Silver Lake Together Co-founder Scott Plante Named Co-chair of Silver Lake’s Urban Design and Planning Committee



At last night’s Urban Design & Planning (UDP) Committee Meeting, voting members elected Scott Plante co-chair. Plante, who is an architect and co-founder of the Silver Lake Together advocacy team, will replace Liza Temple, who recently stepped down.

“I first became involved in UDP in 2011, when I wanted to do a creative lighting project on the Micheltorena steps to make it a special and safer place,” said Plante. “Unfortunately, the city would not allow the lighting, but I stayed involved. My goal is to improve the design quality of our neighborhood and maintain Silver Lake’s unique architectural character.”

Plante has a master’s degree in Design Research, Urban Design and City Planning, from the Southern California Institute of Architecture and a Master of Architecture from the University of Maryland.

Recently, the SLNC attempted to change the membership of *a//* Silver Lake Neighborhood Council committees from volunteers to only individuals appointed and approved by the governing board. Community members expressed strong concerns that the existing committee structure and process would be compromised and the motion was not approved.

Dog Owners Ignore Silver Lake Meadow Rules



Based on a flurry of posts on Next Door, residents are concerned that an increasing number of pet owners are ignoring the city’s “no dogs allowed” ordinance in the grassy area known as the Meadow, located next to the reservoirs. Individuals who posted also noted that a large “no dogs” banner has been removed and requested that new signs be installed. The Meadow was designed to be a safe area where children can play in the grass without the risk of stepping in “poo” or being accosted by off leash dogs. Silver Lake Together has reported the issue to LADWP and LAPD and requested that the department of Rec and Parks investigate and look into obtaining new signs.

Concerned about off leash dogs in the Meadow or on Silver Lake streets? Email editor@silverlaketgether.com

Homelessness is Down in Hollywood – Initiatives Backed by Former Councilmember Ryu Credited

According to an April 13 article in the *Los Angeles Times*, the unofficial count of the unsheltered population conducted last year by a coalition of Hollywood businesses, churches and nonprofit groups shows the number of people sleeping on Hollywood’s

streets declined by 12%. The decrease reverses an upward trend of several years. The article notes that while organizers did not have access to confidential data maintained by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, they speculated that project RoomKey, the FEMA-funded program that housed thousands of vulnerable homeless people in hotels last year, along with the opening of a new city Bridge Home Shelter on Riverside Drive and 120 new units of permanent supportive housing were major factors.

Former CD 4 Councilmember David Ryu was a strong supporter of transitional housing projects such as RoomKey and bridge housing.

[READ THE LOS ANGELES TIMES ARTICLE](#)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BRIDGE HOUSING PROJECT ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE](#)



Find the Heron (Hint Below)

After the reservoirs were empty for nearly two years, coupled with massive construction, Silver Lake's famous blue herons said enough is enough and moved into new digs across the street on Tesla. This week, a Silver Lake Together advocate spotted a heron standing on her nest in the nesting area (within the reservoirs complex) off West Silver Lake Drive. (Hint: If you look closely, you can see Ms. Heron in the upper branches.) This is great news for the survival of great blue herons in Silver Lake and Silver Lake Together will work closely with LADWP and the Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary to ensure the giant birds are protected when work on the reservoirs aeration and recirculation project begins this year.

Speaking of quiet: Herons are still nesting on Tesla but in appears their tree was recently trimmed. The birds have not moved but loud noises and branch removal could endanger the herons and their babies. **If you see work that could harm the herons, please mention it to the appropriate individuals or email editor@silverlaketgether.com.**

[READ THE STORY ON THE UPCOMING RESERVOIRS PROJECT](#)



Councilmember O'Farrell to Host Earth Day Webcast

CD 13 Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell will hold a special virtual Councilmember in Your Corner in observance of Earth Day on Tuesday, April 20, at 3:00 p.m. on Facebook. During this edition, he will look back with city and community partners at environmental successes over the last few years and share the latest sustainability efforts.

He will also be taking questions during the event. If you'd like to participate with a question, please email councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org. Click on the link below to watch the webcast or tune in live on Channel 35.

[LINK TO WEBCAST](#)



Book a Vaccine Appointment by Phone

U.S. Representative Karen Bass offers down-to-earth advice on scheduling a vaccine appointment

U.S. Representative Karen Bass (California's 37th Congressional District) doesn't represent Silver Lake, but we appreciate her concise updates and informative community

meetings. Here is her latest on COVID-19 vaccinations.

Starting today, Thursday, April 15, every Californian aged 16 and up will become eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. To make an appointment and to verify that you are eligible, click here.

For access by phone: If you have a disability or do not have access to the Internet and need assistance making your vaccination appointment, contact the **Los Angeles County's Call Center** — open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. — at **(833) 540-0473**. You can also talk with your doctor about getting vaccinated.



Let Us Know!

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

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