

April 21, 2022



# CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.



*A picture is worth one thousand words. Cars line up on Silver Lake Boulevard for LAPD's first free VIN etching.*

## LAPD's First Free Catalytic Converter Etching Event Huge Success

Silver Lake vehicle owners turned out in full force to take advantage of LAPD's first VIN (vehicle identification number) catalytic converter etching, which took place in Silver Lake on April 6. The free etching, co-sponsored by LAPD's Northeast Division, CD 13 Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and Silver Lake Together, was created by LAPD to protect vehicle owners from the theft of catalytic converters that contain platinum and other precious metals.

According to the *L.A. Times*, "...in the event a converter is stolen, the etched-on VINs help

law enforcement build a case against a thief and could deter recycling business from processing the stolen parts or looking the other way.” This year, just under 200 catalytic converters were reported as stolen in the Northeast Division, which includes Atwater Village, Silver Lake, Highland Park and Eagle Rock.

Silver Lake’s Senior Lead Officer Jose Ramirez reported that 120 vehicles were etched on the 6th. Based on the success of the first event, the Northeast Division plans to offer free etching once a month and expects the Eagle Rock neighborhood will be next.

[READ THE LOS ANGELES TIMES ARTICLE ABOUT THE EVENT](#)



*A new aeration system will use the existing spillway between the two reservoirs and is designed to slow algae growth and reduce potential related odors from anaerobic conditions. (Photo: LADWP)*

## Reservoirs Aeration and Recirculation Update: Ivanhoe Reservoir to be Drained in Late April/Early May — Refill Slated for Summer 2023

As part of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s (LADWP) Aeration and Recirculation infrastructure installation, the Ivanhoe Reservoir will be drained into Silver Lake beginning in late April or early May 2022. Nesting bird surveys have been conducted and monitoring will be implemented, if necessary, to ensure the wellbeing of wildlife and nesting birds. LADWP will report the results of any surveys on nesting birds to Silver Lake Together.

During the installation, the Ivanhoe pedestrian walkway will be closed for a few hours to provide crews access by boat to facilitate the installation of the equipment. Part of the installation will include a crane that will be delivered to the site and will not impact the pathway access to the community. Once the work within the Ivanhoe Reservoir is completed, the reservoir will be refilled with water from Silver Lake Reservoir, planned for summer 2023.

The aeration system, which includes pumps and pipelines designed to transfer water from the southern end of Silver Lake Reservoir to the northern end of Ivanhoe Reservoir, will use compressors installed on the northeast side of Silver Lake Reservoir to supply air to a series of mixing equipment inside each reservoir. The equipment will increase the oxygen level at the bottom of the reservoir and locally mix the water around it.

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## LAPD Reports Hate Crime at St. Casimir Lithuanian Catholic Church; Releases New Crime Stats

*Silver Lake's Senior Lead Officer Jose Ramirez*



Silver Lake's Senior Lead Officer Jose Ramirez reports that on April 13 a hate crime took place at St. Casimir Lithuanian Catholic Church and a statue of the Virgin Mary was vandalized. The historic church was established as a sanctuary for Lithuanian immigrants and their families who fled their homeland during the Russian occupation. Today, St. Casimir serves a diverse community of immigrants.

There has also been a recent increase in graffiti on residential homes near Sunset Boulevard and a shooting occurred at a taco truck parked at 2372 Glendale Boulevard. According to SLO Ramirez, a group of people were involved in an altercation and during the physical fight a male fired one round in the air and fled the location.

**LAPD detectives are investigating the hate crime and the shooting. Anyone with information should call the Northeast Police Station at 213-562-3211 or SLO Ramirez at 213-793-0763. Callers may remain anonymous.**

**Below are the crime stats from March 6 to April 2.**

Homicide 0  
Rape 0  
Robbery 3  
Aggravated Assaults 5  
Gang Related 1  
Shots Fired 1  
Victims Shot 0  
Burglaries 10  
Theft 8  
Grand Theft Auto 18  
Burglary From Motor Vehicles 34  
Recovered Vehicles 4  
Violent Crimes 1  
Property Crimes 8

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## You Can Fight City Hall — Illegal Parking Stopped after NBC4 Investigation and Decades of Complaints

After years of sending letters and emails to council members and city departments to address illegal parking issues and report that expensive and exotic vehicles were clogging residential streets, Silver Lake resident Brian Behrend finally turned to the NBC4 investigative team. The result? The day after the NBC story aired, City Attorney Mike Feuer accused the two shops — Hi Tech Automotive and Sublime Silverlake — of illegal street parking and storage of numerous vehicles along Fountain Avenue (Feuer subsequently acknowledged that resolving the issue “took too long.”) The city attorney filed misdemeanor charges against the two businesses on March 15.

[VIEW THE NBC4 STORY](#)

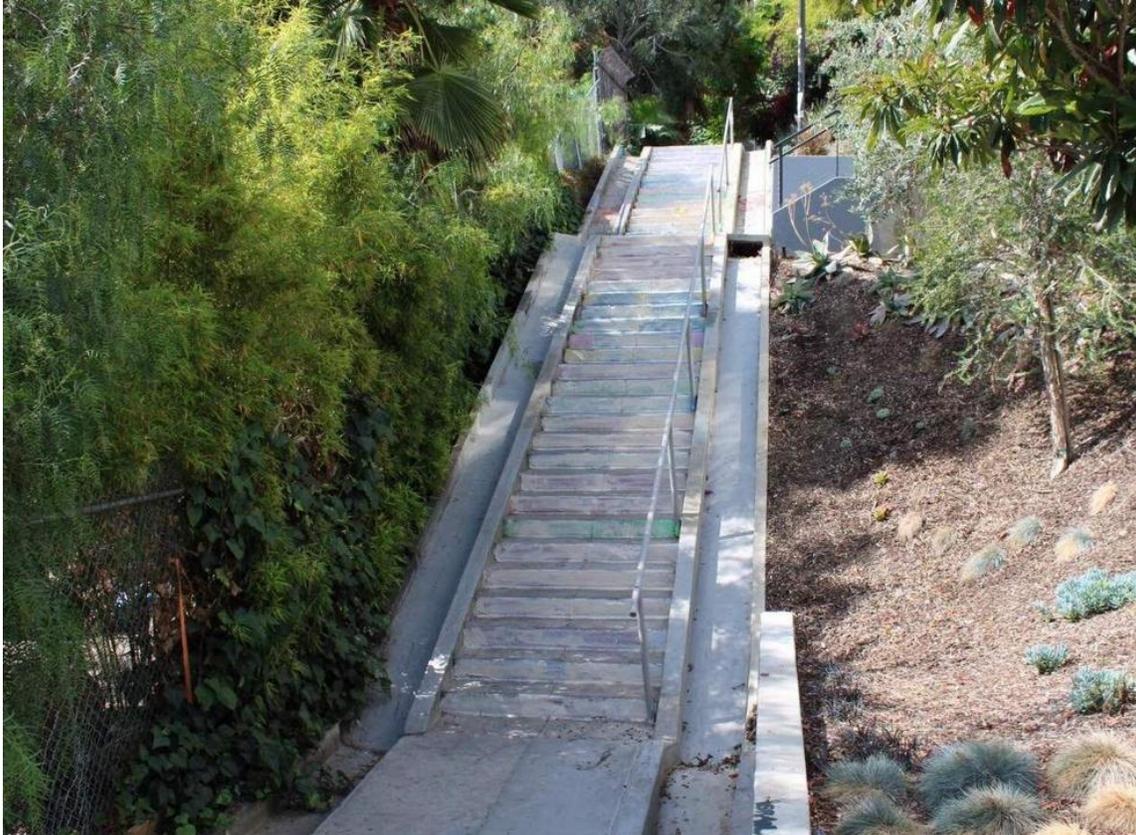


## Fun is Back! Silver Lake Rec Center Announces Summer Camp Schedule and New Activities

After two years of COVID-related closures, the popular Silver Lake Rec Center is open and ready to welcome a new roster of summer campers. According to Recreation Assistant Iris Zaniga, registration for summer camp will take place **this Sunday, April 24**, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Rec Center at 1850 West Silver Lake Drive. The camp will be open to kids ages five to 12 and will follow the LAUSD vacation schedule, running for nine weeks between June 13 and August 12, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. weekdays (Monday through Friday). The camp costs \$170 a week and offers a full range of supervised activities.

The Rec Center also hosts free activities for adults and children, including an increased emphasis on programs for toddlers. It is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and is closed Sundays and holidays. In addition to classes, the center boasts an outdoor basketball court, children's playground, a sports field and more. It is under the direction of Constance Caldwell.

For more information on registration and activities, such as senior strength and yoga, Lil Kickers and Lil Explorers, visit the Rec Center [website](#) or call 323-644-3946.



*Photo: Barry Lank / The Eastsider*

## Micheltorena Stairs Painted Over

The historic Micheltorena Stairs — which were illegally painted with hearts and rainbow colors in 2015 — have been “greywashed.” While portions of the 2015 mural, which was retroactively approved by the Cultural Affairs Commission in 2019, are visible beneath the recently added paint, the stairs now appear much as they did when originally installed. Painting of stairways has been controversial, and preservation advocates argue in favor of keeping the original stairways intact.

There are 40 public stairways in Silver Lake. Today they are popular with hikers and sightseers, but many were originally used by residents to walk from their home in the hills to trolley routes on main streets. In the 1920s the population of Los Angeles doubled and a large network of pedestrian-only streets (think public stairways, stair streets, and walk streets) were constructed to facilitate foot traffic, especially in hilly neighborhoods.

**READ THE ARTICLE BY ERIC BRIGHTWELL EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF L.A.'S STAIRWAYS AND RISE OF THE CAR CULTURE**

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*Photo: Ricardo DeAratanha / Los Angeles Times*

## Ivanhoe Pathway Closed Through May

Spring is here and LADWP is installing an irrigation system along the Ivanhoe pedestrian pathway to support future plantings. Beginning on Thursday, April 14, the pathway will close on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with occasional work on Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The gates will re-open in the late afternoon and close at dusk. The project is expected to be completed by the end of May 2022.

The ADA-compliant Ivanhoe Pathway, which is approximately 1,000 feet, runs along the west side of the Ivanhoe Reservoir and puts pedestrians closer to the water. It was opened under the auspices of then-Councilmember David Ryu, who stated at the time, “The Ivanhoe walking path is a welcome resource for this community and a symbol of what we can do when we work together.” The path is located in the 2300 block of West Silver Lake Drive.

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### 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**

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