

January 6, 2022



CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

In Silver Lake, 2021 was a year of loss, acceptance and realistic change. These are the top 10 stories from the Silver Lake Together newsletter that captured readers' attention and interest. Find links to the complete stories below.



1. Tom LaBonge

News that former CD 4 Councilmember Tom LaBonge died suddenly on January 7

stunned and saddened readers. A lifelong resident of Silver Lake, Tom was 67 and was affectionately known as “Mr. Los Angeles.” ([Tom LaBonge and His Love of Our Community](#))

Silver Lake Together subsequently joined community activist Nina Sorkin, the Silver Lake Improvement Association and Council District 13 to fund and install a memorial plaque to Tom, which was unveiled on June 24 at the Silver Lake Reservoirs.

([Silver Lake Together and City Officials Honor Former CD 4 Councilmember Tom LaBonge in Ceremony at Silver Lake Reservoirs](#))

[Watch](#) a mini-documentary of the event.



2. COVID Outreach Program

COVID continued to be in the news in 2021. In March, CD 13 launched a special vaccination outreach program for residents 65 and older, teachers, school staff, restaurant workers and others eligible to receive the vaccines. ([CD 13 Organizes Special Vaccination Program to Make Scheduling Easier](#))



3. Reservoirs Aeration Systems

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) announced work on the Silver Lake Reservoirs aeration and recirculation systems would begin in the spring of 2021 and continue through mid-2022. LADWP presented the project plan at a Silver Lake Together virtual community meeting. ([Reservoirs Aeration and Recirculation Project Kicks Off; Ivanhoe Reservoir Expected to be Drained This August](#))



4. Echo Park Lake Homeless

In April, CD 13 Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell led efforts to place 209 people living in tents or temporary shelters at Echo Park Lake into transitional shelter with supportive services and medical care. As shown in this [video](#), the encampments at Echo Park Lake were considered a cautionary tale for the future of Silver Lake's Reservoirs Complex.

([Echo Park Lake Is a Cautionary Tale for the Future of Silver Lake's Reservoirs](#))

Additional Silver Lake Together coverage details the city's work on the Echo Park Lake cleanup. ([City Removes 35+ Tons of Trash from Echo Park Lake, Including 744 Pounds of Human/Biological Waste](#))

5. 'Take Charge' Lawn Signs

In May, Silver Lake Together unveiled a 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. ([Here's to Peace and Quiet: Silver Lake Together Offers Free Electric Leaf Blower Signs](#))



6. SLO Jose Ramirez

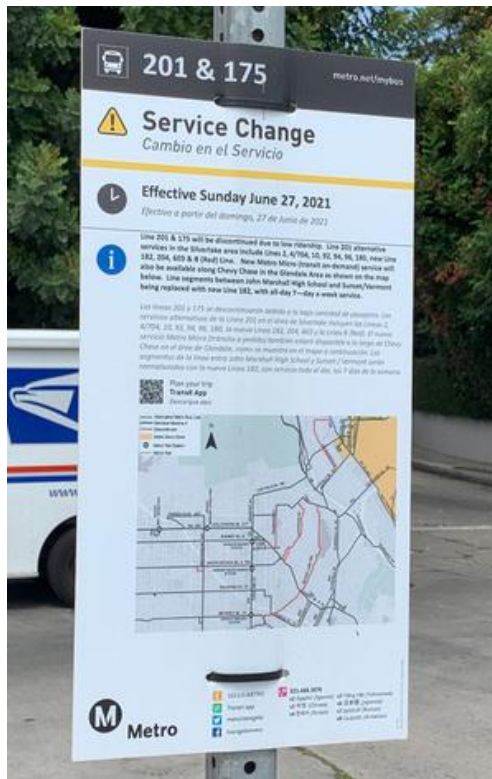
In July, The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) appointed 13-year veteran Jose Ramirez to serve as Silver Lake's new senior lead officer (SLO) in the Northeast Division, north of Sunset Boulevard. SLO Ramirez previously worked in the Northeast Division's Homeless Detail. ([Meet New Silver Lake Senior Lead Officer Jose Ramirez](#))

In November, SLT announced the appointment of Matthew Guerrero as CD 13 Field Deputy. We will deeply miss Mary Rodriguez, who served as field deputy for many years with councilmembers Mitch O'Farrell and Tom LaBonge. Her dedication to improving the quality of life in Silver Lake is an inspiration. ([Meet Your New CD 13 Rep](#))

7. Public Safety Community Meetings

To be sure readers are receiving important community policing and safety information, Silver Lake Together hosted community meetings with LAPD, the Los Angeles Fire Department and others during 2021. SLT also regularly publishes the latest crime stats and tips. ([New Report Shows Downturns and Upticks in Silver Lake Crime](#))

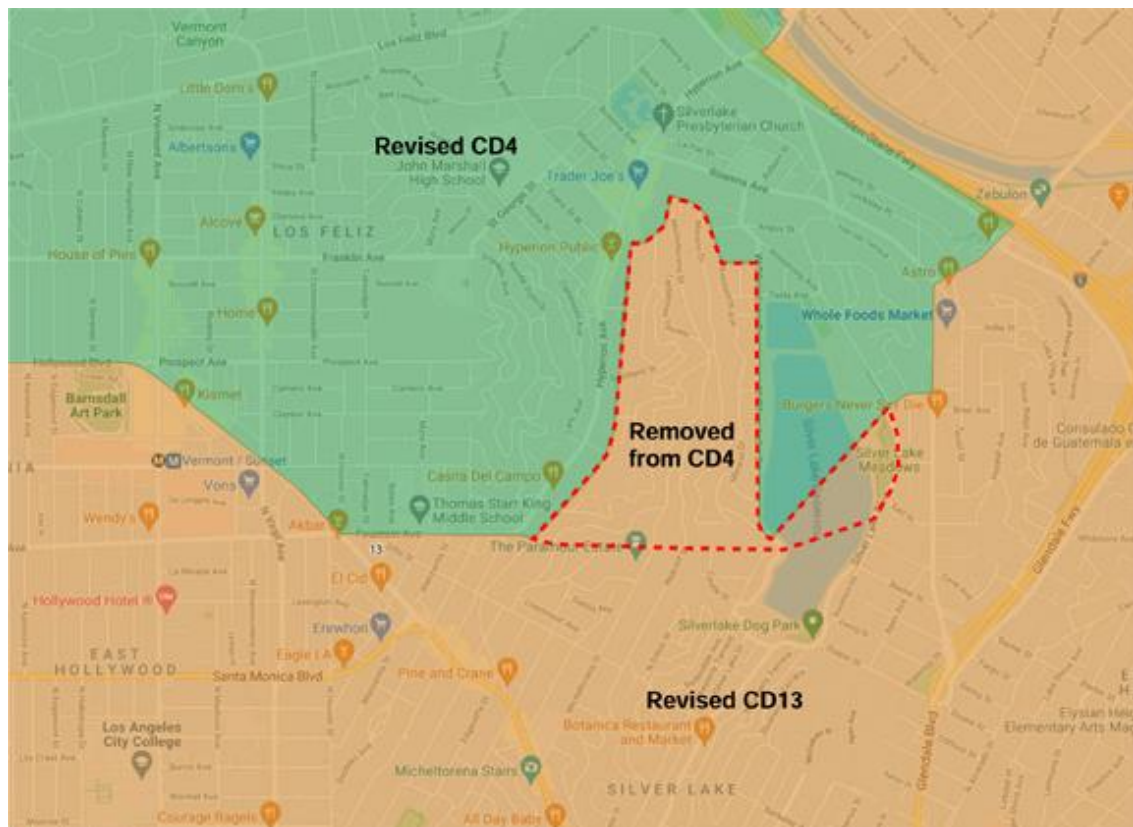




8. Metro 201 Bus Line

Residents were alarmed to read that L.A. Metro eliminated Silver Lake's 201 bus line in July. The 201 connects Silver Lake with surrounding communities and is widely used by residents, essential workers and students. ([L.A. Metro Eliminates 201 Bus Line in Silver Lake](#))

Thanks to residents and the Silver Lake Together Advocacy Team, L.A. Metro quickly expanded its new on-demand, ride-sharing service to certain Silver Lake neighborhoods. ([Thanks to You, Metro Micro On-Demand Bus Service Comes to Silver Lake](#))



9. New Council Boundaries

In December, new Council District 4 and Council District 13 boundaries were announced confirming that CD 4 Councilmember Nithya Raman would lose approximately 40% of the constituents in her district— including parts of Silver Lake, along with Hancock Park, Miracle Mile, Park La Brea, Toluca Lake and portions of Mid-City and the Hollywood flats. CD 13 Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell gained constituents who live in Silver Lake and Hollywood. The new district boundaries go into effect on January 1 and will be in effect for the next 10 years.



10. Silver Lake Gentrification

Silver Lake Together co-founder Scott Plante's article, "[Gentrification: The Final Nail in Silver Lake's Gentrifying Coffin or Positive Change?](#)," was especially popular with readers. The piece took an honest look at the pros and cons of gentrification in Silver Lake, described by GQ as "L.A.'s Most Tragically Hip Neighborhood."

Visit [SilverLakeTogether.com](https://www.silverlaketgether.com) to review all the news in 2021. We wish you a healthy, happy and productive 2022. Please share this newsletter with your friends and colleagues and invite them to be connected with Silver Lake at <https://www.silverlaketgether.com/contact>

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?

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