

April 30, 2020



CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

[READ AND DOWNLOAD THE STAYING SAFE IN SILVER LAKE COVID-19 GUIDE](#)



Los Angeles Fire Department members administer a COVID-19 test earlier this month. The City of Los Angeles, in partnership with Los Angeles County, is now offering free

Mayor Opens Coronavirus Testing to All; Silver Lake Continues to Rank High in Percentage of Coronavirus Cases

On Wednesday, Los Angeles became the first city in the U.S. to offer a test for the Coronavirus to all city and county residents who request one. According to an NPR story, Mayor Garcetti made the announcement on the same day county health officials reported a surge in the number of new COVID-19 cases, believed to be in part due to more widespread testing. Up until this point, only individuals with symptoms of COVID-19, essential workers and those in institutional settings, such as nursing homes, could receive a test in L.A. Testing is by appointment only and must be scheduled through the City of Los Angeles. As of today, Glendale Memorial Hospital is the closest testing center to Silver Lake.

Due to concerns about crowding on paths around the Silver Lake Reservoirs, Councilmembers David Ryu (CD 4) and Mitch O'Farrell (CD 13) recently announced that people using the popular paths must travel in a counterclockwise direction. Walkers and runners must also wear city-mandated face masks and adhere to physical distancing guidelines, although residents report that many individuals are not wearing masks or adhering to public safety guidelines.

Silver Lake continues to rank high in the percentage of confirmed cases reported by County of Los Angeles Public Health. According to numbers aggregated as of 8:00 p.m. on April 28, there were 111 cases in Silver Lake, a rate of 251.8 cases per 100,000 population, while Los Feliz had 33 cases, a rate of 152.72 per 100,000. Echo Park reported just 17 cases, or 119.251 per 100,000. By comparison, Sherman Oaks reported 124 cases, a rate of 142.11 per 100,000.

[TRACK CORONAVIRUS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA](#)

[SCHEDULE A COVID-19 TEST](#)

[READ THE NPR ARTICLE](#)

The Mystery of the Locked Tent



Last Wednesday, Silver Lake Together (SLT) was contacted by several residents who noticed a camping tent pitched in the north-east corner in the Grassy Knoll area of the Silver Lake Recreation Center. Attached to the flap of the tent was a handwritten sign stating, "I'm quarantining." SLT subsequently contacted Recreation and Park, LADWP, CD 13, PATH and the LAPD Northeast Division. Several visits were made to the tent, including four welfare checks by LAPD and a visit by Senior Lead Officer Aispuro. At no time was anyone found in the tent, which had a combination lock on the flap's zipper. By Saturday afternoon, the tent was gone. No city agency has taken responsibility for its removal.

SLT was informed by a city staffer, who requested anonymity, that prior to the pandemic, the city received a message from a nonprofit organization assisting those who are living in open space near the Echo Park Recreation Center. The caller allegedly said that the Silver Lake Recreation Center's open spaces were being considered as a future site for those who are homeless. SLT is in the process of having that information confirmed. Until then, the mystery of the locked tent remains unsolved.



Residents Win Fight for New Concrete Paving

Back in 2017, the L.A. Bureau of Street Services scheduled much needed street repairs on West Silver Lake Drive, between Redesdale Avenue and Westerly Terrace. But, many residents were concerned because the city planned to use asphalt to repair the street and not the traditional concrete. That decision ignited grassroots efforts, with assistance from members of the 2017 Silver Lake Neighborhood Council board, to ensure that concrete would be used for the repairs. Although the city denied the demands for concrete due to the higher costs, those who were fighting for concrete did not back down. The community persisted, the city listened and last weekend, the Bureau of Street Services, under the supervision of Eric Belmares, made repairs with concrete. Thank you CD13 and Street Services for taking the needs of the Silver Lake residents seriously.



Volunteers from the surrounding



The SLCC Food pantry has adapted

community sort clothing in preparation for the Wednesday night food pantry at Silverlake Community Church.

to COVID-19 social distancing norms by having clients “window shop” for food items while volunteers inside pack their boxes for them.

Silver Lake Steps Up to Help Food-Insecure Neighbors

By Rev. Kyle Joachim, Silverlake Community Church

Silverlake Community Church (SLCC) has hosted a food pantry for years, long before I became the pastor. A mixed group of volunteers from within the church congregation and from the community have gathered faithfully each Wednesday since the Great Recession to serve food-insecure residents of the surrounding community. However, the Coronavirus pandemic created a variety of issues that threatened to disrupt or even end our work. Of course, simultaneously the numbers of “clients” showing up in hopes of receiving help jumped dramatically, from an average of 40 per week to 81 last Wednesday. With only two or three volunteers, inadequate food and no hygiene supplies or clothing, the future of the food pantry was uncertain. It turns out we live in a community that is prepared to step up, sacrifice, and meet the needs of people and organizations in trouble.

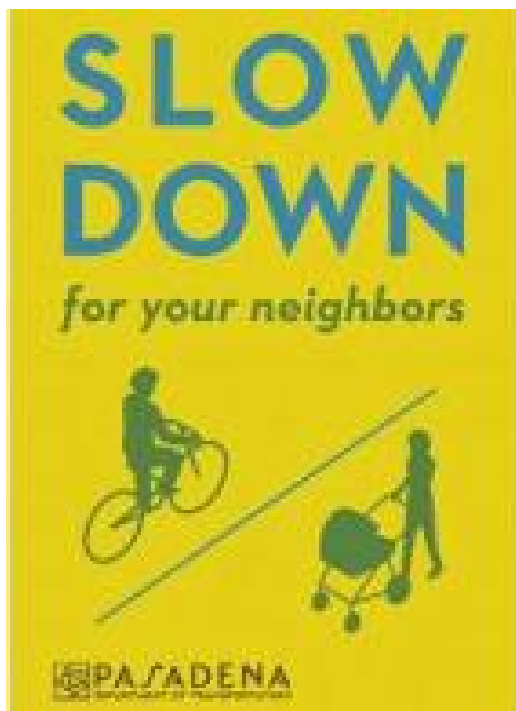
[READ PASTOR KYLE'S INSPIRING ARTICLE](#)



Before and after photos of the historic Texaco station on Silver Lake Boulevard show improvements made to the site

Historic Texaco Station Site Cleaned Up – Final Home TBD

Last issue, Silver Lake Together reported on the abysmal condition of the historic Texaco station located at Silver Lake Boulevard in a trendy shopping area. Thanks to efforts by CD 13, concerned residents and members of the SLT Advocacy Team, the owner of the property has since fenced in the site, posted a “no trespassing” sign and removed much of the unsightly trash. SLT is working to have construction screening installed on the fence, which would block the view of the defaced station, and the graffiti removed. Until a new home for the historic station is found, there are still plans to move the station to the Rec and Parks service yard, located along the Los Angeles River in Atwater Village.



Pasadena city officials are putting up 500 "traffic calming" signs in Pasadena to slow traffic on city streets during the Coronavirus pandemic. Silver Lake was one of the first communities to offer "slow down" signs to residents.

Pasadena Joins Slow Down Campaign to Keep Streets Safe

With fewer cars on the road, motorists have been speeding on city streets, resulting in unsafe conditions. In an effort to protect people walking and exercising, the City of Pasadena is installing 500 free signs to slow traffic. Pasadena is following in the footsteps of Silver Lake, who began a "Slow Down Silver Lake" Campaign in 2017 to combat dangerous cut through traffic on neighborhood streets. Silver Lake Together distributes the signs at no cost to residents.

FOR A FREE SLOW DOWN SIGN, EMAIL EDITOR@SILVERLAKETOGETHER.COM

[READ THE CBS STORY](#)

Long-time food pantry Volunteer Margaret Guzman hands a bag to the first client in line, an unhoused neighbor named Greg. "This is perfect," Greg said, "I never get stuff like this. Seriously, thanks so much!"



The Man/Kind Project



volunteers Marty Grey and VP Anne-Marie Johnson get ready to drop off a donation to the Silver Lake Community Church food bank. Photo by The Man/Kind founder, Richard Stellar.

The Man/Kind Project Makes Major Donation to Silver Lake Community Church Food Bank

The nonprofit [Man/Kind Project](#) donates food and essentials to those in need, including bags with protein drinks, hand sanitizers, fruit cups, protein bars, wipes, toilet paper, etc. Recently, members of the project team donated 50 bags of essentials to the Silver Lake Community Church. The bags will be distributed during the church's weekly food bank program.

For information on the food pantry, donations or volunteering, [email kyle@silverlakechurch.com](mailto:kyle@silverlakechurch.com).

Need Groceries or Assistance? CD 4 Councilmember Ryu Launches New Senior Outreach Program

In conjunction with Mon Ami, CD 4 Councilmember David Ryu has launched a senior outreach program to pair seniors with local volunteers who want to help them get the resources they need. Visit the [online portal](#) if you're a senior seeking help, or if you'd like to volunteer to make calls or run errands for a nearby senior. To begin, click [here](#).

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MON AMI PROGRAM](#)



Let Us Know!

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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