

September 22, 2020



CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Silver Lake Advocate and Wildlife Supporter Janis Purins Dies on Monday



Janis Purins, a longtime Silver Lake resident and tireless advocate for transparency in local government and the preservation of Silver Lake's environmental and cultural diversity, died at home early Monday after a short illness. Janis and his husband, Thom Thomas (d. 2015), the noted playwright and artistic director, were longtime residents of Silver Lake.

After a successful career, Janis devoted his talents to his passions: theatre production and helping his community. He was appointed Region 7 representative to the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council in 2018 and re-elected in 2019 but subsequently resigned to focus on his work with the Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Silver Lake Together. He also served as co-chair of the Reservoir Committee and represented the Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary on the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Master Plan Stakeholder Working Group. A memorial service for Janis is in the planning stages and we will publish his complete obituary soon. The Silver Lake Together Advocacy Team is heartbroken and will miss our dear friend.

Recent fireworks aren't as dramatic as those shown in this photo by [David Haub](#), which he shot during the July 4th holiday. But they continue to be a danger to the community.



Fireworks Pose a Threat to Silver Lake

This falls into the “hard to believe” category. Last week, Angelenos from Silver Lake to Atwater to Cyprus Park reported a loud explosion which many thought was caused by a freeway crash. However, as noted on NextDoor by a resident in Elysian Valley, the boom was caused by a homemade firework.

“I witnessed it. It was like a homemade firework. I was grilling outside and it flew up... tugging with green-like sparkles and then the boom.”

As wildfires decimate California – and firefighters risk their lives to protect us – it is inconceivable that people set off incendiary devices. However, they do. If you observe this activity, please EMAIL Northeast Division Senior Lead Officer Jesse Aispuro at 36072@lapd.online and report the incident.

Read Los AngelesTimes coverage of a firefighter who died battling a fire sparked by agender reveal party.

Does Silver Lake Belong to the Dogs?



In 2019, approximately 40.66 percent of all families in the United States had children under age 18 living in the household (Statista survey). Moreover, according to the National Pet Owners survey in 2019-2020, *sixty-seven percent* of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, have at least one pet – meaning a lot of families in Silver Lake own a

pooch. And while most dog owners are responsible citizens, residents are actively voicing their displeasure with those who ignore common sanitation and politeness norms. Frequent complaints include owners who allow dogs to relieve themselves on lawns and gardens, along with people who enter private property and place dog waste into trash cans.

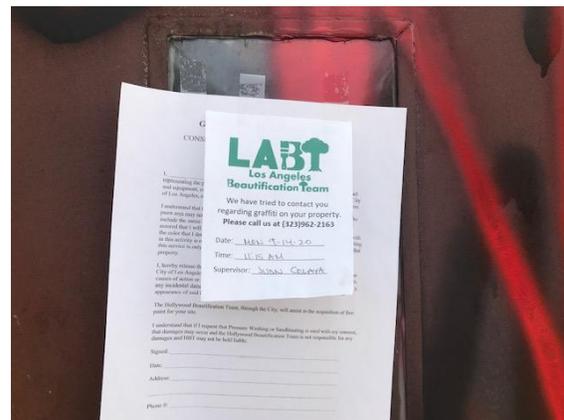
If you have ideas for solving the doggy doo-doo issue, email editor@silverlaketogether.com. We will report on suggestions in the next newsletter.

Ryu Motion Expands Vote By Mail Ballot Drop Boxes



In August, CD 4 Councilmember David Ryu introduced a motion to expand access to ballot drop boxes and help Angelenos vote safely and securely. (No postage is necessary.) Installations were completed by September 20, well in advance of the October 5 release of mail-in ballots. Locations in Silver Lake and nearby include the Silver Lake Library, 2411 Glendale Boulevard; Atwater Library, 3618 Revere Street; Los Feliz Library, 1874 Hillhurst Avenue; and the Edendale Library, 2011 Sunset Boulevard.

CD 4 also reports that the L.A. Department of Transportation has postponed the **Speed Hump Application program** until funding is formalized. The postponement does not affect previously approved applications. **Learn more here.**



Nuisance Neighborhood Bar Continues to Be a Nuisance -- Even During the Shutdown

Silver Lake hot spot, Tenants Of The Trees, which has been considered a problem neighborhood bar since its opening in 2015, is still causing problems, even though it has

been shuttered since March due to COVID-19. For the past four years, dozens of complaints have been filed with LAPD, Building & Safety, Los Angeles Department on Disabilities, Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Health Department and others, regarding myriad city and county code violations. There have also been discrimination complaints. And now the bar owners have been asked by the Los Angeles Beautification Team to get its act together and remove the unsightly graffiti that has marred the building (and the community) for over a month. Silver Lake Together will stay on top of this issue.



Seventy-five of the 100 available beds in new Bridge Housing are filled. PATH reports COVID-19 has slowed the enrollment process but they expect all openings to be assigned soon.

CD 4 Councilmember Ryu's Office and PATH Give In-depth Status Report on Riverside Drive Bridge Housing

If you are interested in understanding the ins and outs of CD 4's programs to provide housing for those experiencing homeless, Silver Lake Together recommends viewing the Zoom presentations recently hosted by Council District 4, in partnership with PATH ([People Assisting the Homeless](#)). During the virtual event, Catherine Landers, director of special projects, CD 4; Rachel Fox, CD 4 field deputy; Stephen Fletcher, regional director for PATH's LA Metro Programs; and Awade Khan-Variba, PATH project manager, explained the comprehensive services offered at the new Bridge housing facility, including three hot meals, laundry, case management services and developing a personal long-term housing plan. Residents also participate in group programs such as yoga and classes on caring for pets, offered in partnership with [Pals and Pets](#). Catherine Landers took time to provide more information about the trailers near Friendship Auditorium, which provide shelter for those who are most vulnerable. CD 4's goal is to move these residents to hotels through Project Room Key (expected to happen by the end of the year). Landers also explained plans for new family housing in a former office building and warehouses at the corner of Riverside and Hyperion.

Read more about the Riverside Drive bridge housing [here](#)

[Download a video of the Zoom meeting](#)

CD 13 Reports on

Community Projects



Silver Lake Together reached out to CD 13 Field Deputy Mary Rodriguez for an update on projects in Silver Lake. Here are the highlights:

- There will be new “speed feedback readers” on Silver Lake Boulevard from Swan to Berkeley Avenue. This is one of the mitigations following the fatal accident in June. CD 13 is also working to plant new trees in the village area in front of L&E, LaMill, the dentist’s office and an apartment building.
- There are new dog bone-shaped benches at the Dog Park.
- The Bureau of Engineering is measuring for a project to replace sidewalk around the recreation center and add new sidewalk between Van Pelt Place and the dog park, as well as upgrading the intersections at Van Pelt Place and Duane Street.
- CD 13 is also working with Taps 33 and other restaurants on the 3700 block of Sunset to install a pilot pedestrian access program, featuring pedestrian access in the parking lane and full dining on the sidewalk.
- Funding allocated for Phase 1 of a proposed Plaza upgrade in front of Yummy is on hold due to COVID-19 priorities. The focus is now on al fresco dining to keep restaurants in business.

In Case You Missed It

Mayor Garcetti has extended relaxed parking enforcement across the City of Los Angeles until October 1, making it easier for Silver Lakers to stay home without worrying about a ticket.

[For more information](#)

In other city news, Mayor Garcetti instructed the city’s top managers to begin preparations for a “potential layoff scenario,” saying such measures may be needed to weather the budget crisis sparked by the outbreak of COVID-19.

[Read the Los Angeles Times story](#)



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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