

June 24, 2021



CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.



Tom La Bonge was known for taking a football with him wherever he went. His family, city officials, community activists and organizations honored his love for sports and the outdoors with a memorial plaque, which was unveiled today at the Silver Lake Reservoirs.



Staff members who served under former CD 4 Councilmember Tom LaBonge reunited at the ceremony held today.

Silver Lake Together and City Officials Honor Former CD 4 Councilmember Tom LaBonge in Ceremony at Silver Lake Reservoirs

Former CD 4 Councilmember Tom LaBonge was smiling down on those who came to honor him today at the Silver Lake Reservoirs Complex. The Silver Lake Together Advocacy Team, in partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), community activist Nina Sorkin, the Silver Lake Improvement Association (SLIA) and CD 13, unveiled the Tom LaBonge plaque near the reservoirs walking path on the corner of Silver Lake Boulevard and Armstrong Avenue.

Special guest speakers included CD 13 Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, LADWP General Manager Marty Adams, LAPD Captain Arturo Sandoval, LAFD Captain Domingo Alberran, Nina Sorkin, SLIA's Genelle Le Vin, CD 4 Councilmember Nithya Raman, and Gabriellino-Tongva Tribal Chairman Charles Alvarez. Tom's youngest sibling, Mark LaBonge, speaking on behalf of the entire family, shared heart-warming words and brought back wonderful memories of his older brother. The unveiling of the plaque, which is installed on a boulder, was greeted with loud applause.

As SLT Co-founder Anne-Marie Johnson noted, "It was a wonderful way to spend a beautiful morning. Rest in peace, Tom LaBonge."

A video of the ceremony will be posted soon at <https://www.silverlaketgether.com>



Rescued heron takes off following release.

O Brave New World: Baby Heron Rescued by Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary Returned to Wild

In early May, a Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary (SLWS) member and a friend rescued a Great Blue Heron nestling that had fallen from its nest in the Silver Lake Reservoirs Complex. The nestling was stranded in an area frequented by people and dogs and was unable to fly. It was unlikely that the adult herons could have helped their baby so the SLWS rescuers transported the nestling to the International Bird Rescue (IBR). The good news: IBR cared for the nestling for seven weeks and on June 18 it was returned to the wild — a handsome fledging with flight feathers ready to fly.

READ THE STORY OF THE HERON'S RESCUE AND WATCH ITS FIRST STEPS
IN THE WILD

Peace at
Last? It's Up
to All of Us



Silver Lake Together has launched a campaign to bring peace and quiet to Silver Lake but we need your help. Gas leaf blowers are both noisy and harmful to our health and environment — and are against the law. By switching to an electric blower or raking your garden or lawn, you'll bring quiet to your neighborhood and make Silver Lake a healthier place to live.

Order your **FREE "Take Charge"** sign and show your support for electric leaf blowers [HERE](#).

LEARN MORE ABOUT GAS LEAF BLOWERS — AND PENALTIES FOR THEIR USE



Photo by Los Angeles Times

City Attorney Cracks Down on Illegal Fireworks

In an effort to stop the online sales of illegal fireworks, Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer's Consumer Protection Unit recently issued cease-and-desist letters to Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, 5miles and OfferUp, informing the platforms that it is unlawful to sell or discharge fireworks in Los Angeles and demanding the removal of sale offers. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, City Attorney Feuer reported that all of the online platforms have been cooperative, and hundreds of sale offers have been removed.

Illegal fireworks are a frequent complaint of Silver Lake residents who say they have become ubiquitous, posing serious health and safety concerns. Although, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Los Angeles Fire Department have launched public education campaigns, and penalties for selling or discharging fireworks in L.A. include a fine of up to \$1,000 and six months in jail, the illegal activity has increased dramatically over the past year. At a recent Silver Lake Together community leadership meeting, LAPD Senior Lead Officer Jesus Aispuro noted that while police must witness the use of fireworks in order to make an arrest, it is important to document incidents by reporting them to 9-1-1. He also asked Silver Lake residents to let him know about suspicious activity, such as large deliveries of fireworks or frequent detonations at a particular location. **SLO Aispuro's email address is 36072@lapd.online.**

[READ THE LOS ANGELES TIMES STORY](#)



Photo by The Eastsider

CD 13 Opens First Tiny Homes Village in Echo Park

Recognizing that the causes of homelessness are complicated — and often involve more than lack of physical housing — Council District 13 announced that the district’s first Tiny Home Village is now operational in Echo Park. Located at the corner of Alvarado Street and Scott Avenue, the Village will provide 24/7 on-site services including hygiene, restrooms, laundry, case management, a dog run, medical care, case management and three nutritious meals per day. The project is managed by [Urban Alchemy](#) and will provide a safe and secure environment for up to 74 individuals who are taking the next step toward permanent housing and stability.

CD 13 Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell said, “We’re going to continue to work diligently to turn underutilized properties that don’t come at the expense of shared public space into safe, secure, managed environments for unhoused Angelenos to call home and get connected to services.”

[SEE THE TINY HOMES IN THIS NBC NEWS REPORT](#)

In Case You Missed It

Silver Lake photographer Sandy Driscoll took this remarkable photo of a heron wading in Echo Park Lake.

The lake was cleaned under the direction of CD 13 after residents of a large homeless camp were provided safe housing. After 35 tons of trash were removed, it is rapidly returning to its bucolic state.



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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