

# SLRA Newsletter

Silver Lake Residents Association

August 1998

## Silver Lake Master Plan Update

*by Spencer SooHoo*

The last update Silver Lake Reservoir Master Plan, contained details of a February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1998 community meeting where Mr. S. David Freeman, the General Manager for the DWP announced his strong support for the effort. This was echoed by Council President John Ferraro, Council Member Jackie Goldberg, and Tom LaBonge from Mayor Riordan's office.

At the time, 5 firms had been invited to submit proposals to the Master Plan selection committee. The proposals were distributed to a selection committee was composed of representatives from the DWP, elected officials (Council President Ferraro, Councilmember Goldberg, and Mayor Riordan), the Silver Lake community (Silver Lake Residents Association and Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs), and professional architects. Not everyone on the committee was present at the final selection meeting, but the DWP and Silver Lake community were well represented and judged the team assembled by Mia Lehrer and Associates to be best suited for this project.

Mia Lehrer and Associates is a landscape architecture firm located in Los Angeles and has been involved in a number of private and public projects. Two of their projects that are in our own "backyard" are the renovation of the historic landmark Union Station and the Barnsdall Park Master Plan.

At Union Station, the firm is providing landscape planning as well as working with Catellus Development to come up with design concepts that incorporate the historic qualities of the station while accommodating current and projected uses. If you get a chance, visit the courtyard behind Traxx, the restaurant at Union Station,

to see an example of this.

Mia Lehrer and Associates were also involved with developing a master plan for Barnsdall Park. The scope of their work included the development of design concepts for the renovation of the park, defining the construction work needed to realize the design concepts, identifying funding sources, coordinating with neighboring land owners, and securing approval from local agencies.

The team assembled by Mia Lehrer and Associates includes architects, landscape architects, hydrologic, water quality, and water distribution engineers, urban planning (including recreation master planning, land use planning, and citizen participation), and traffic engineers.

Work on the Master Plan will not formally start for 2-3 months since the final contract needs to be signed, but the DWP and Silver Lake representatives have begun informal meetings with the Mia Lehrer team to introduce them to both the DWP and community concerns. Look for upcoming announcements about community meetings on the Master Plan. We are finally on our way !!

### **Low Water Level in Silver Lake Reservoir**

Many of you may have noticed that during July, the water level in the Silver Lake Reservoir was unusually low. The DWP drew down the reservoir to test some new water level recording devices in the outlet tower. They would have refilled it faster, but the unexpected hot weather prevented them from doing so. The water level is slowly rising to normal.

*These results of an informal survey were compiled by Maryann Kuk from comments collected in September, 1997 at the SLRA block party. Below are some quotes from the residents of Silver Lake who were asked to complete the following:*



***"What I really love about Silver Lake is:***

"The feeling of a true neighborhood"

"Summer Nights in Silver Lake. The improved park and the services on Silver Lake Blvd. that give a small town feel"

"The accepting people; great views & architecture; social consciousness; dogs; friendliness; topography"

"the shapely joggers"

"All the friendly people"

"The flavor of an organic community that has evolved over time, with a mix of different types of residents, styles of architecture and lifestyles as well. It's an anti-suburb"

"Friendly neighbors, eclectic people, pretty streets"

"Small town feeling"

"Good people of special creative talents"

"couldn't think of anyplace better--West Side? No way"

"The energetic mix of people"

"Old street lights"

"The dog park"

"I never run out of beautiful walks, up & down hills, down 'secret' stairways, passing beautiful, interesting houses"

"All the neat homes"

"all the trees"

"The LAKE, with all the angels dancing on it in the moonlight" "great neighbors!"

"everyone is sooo friendly and respectful of other people in the neighborhood"

"the hillside, Mediterranean ambience"

"recreation center sports programs and a real sense of community""Friendly walkers & joggers"

"The sound of the ducks at night"

"it is a real, old-fashioned neighborhood...eat your heart out West LA"

"the stairs--beautiful steps between beautiful landscapes"

"the quiet now with leafblowers banned"

"the new rec center, yeah!"



***and, "What I'd change about Silver Lake (or your pet peeves)":***

"Graffiti, abandoned furniture, trash, pole signs"

"slow the traffic with speed bumps everywhere"

"I hate people leaving out their trash cans and dog owners not picking up their dog's poop"

"the danger of traffic speeding with all the walkers around the reservoir"

"barking dogs"

"get rid of the derelict cars parked endlessly"

"irresponsible dog owners who let their dogs trample the gardens"

"inconsiderate drivers who honk around blind curves instead of just slowing down"

"I'd get the owner of the derelict project on Riverside Dr. to clean up his mess"

"I'd like to limit parking to one side of the narrow streets" .

## Walgreens Update

by Bill Wilbur

On April 15, 1998, a Zoning Administrator approved a conditional use permit to allow the construction of a drive-through Walgreens Pharmacy at the corner of Silver Lake and Glendale Boulevards. The conditional use permit was granted subject to several conditions. One condition was that the hours of operation for the pharmacy be limited to the hours of 6 am. to 11 pm, seven days a week. Another condition was that there be no pole sign, nor other types of signs or banners on the property. A monument sign located in the landscaped setback is permitted. Additional conditions requiring securing the parking lot when the business is closed to prevent vehicle access to the lot. There are also provisions to limit noise emanating from the site, and requiring shielded lighting. Importantly, there is a condition requiring landscaping that is comparable to the landscaping at the nearby Glendale Federal Bank.

It appears that Walgreens intends to proceed with its plan to build the pharmacy. The architecture of the building is unremarkable. Plans indicate a 1900 square foot rectangular building with a sloping roof. Two sides (east and west) contain drive through porticos for drop-off and pick-up of prescriptions. The front entrance will face Silver Lake Blvd.

Many community members were hoping for an innovative and attractive use for this site. The current proposal is fairly standard commercial fare. However, conditions placed on the development will soften the intrusiveness of the project. The type of business will be a less intensive use of the property than other proposals (e.g., a fast food restaurant). Construction of the Walgreens Pharmacy is slated to start in the near future and will take about four months to complete.

## Report on June, 1998 Community Cleanup

On June 27th, the SLRA and SLIA held a joint cleanup. It was a beautiful Saturday morning, and it was not too warm as teams of volunteers worked on Sunset and Micheltorena, Silver Lake Blvd. under the Sunset Bridge and under the 101 freeway bridge and around the Silver Lake and Ivanhoe Reservoirs. To those neighbors who stopped to express thanks and encouragement, thank you, but next time, join us!! We all need to work together to keep our community clean.

At noon, the volunteers were treated to a picnic at Delmonte Park. Food was provided by the Back Door Bakery (Silver Lake Blvd. near Effie), the 7-11 at the intersection of Effie and Silver Lake Blvd., and Domino's Pizza on Sunset Blvd. near Golden Gate). Please let these merchants know that you appreciate the support they give our community.

### SLRA Will Sponsor Block Party

After everyone who attended last year's event concurred that it should be held each year, the SLRA is beginning to organize its second block party. This year's old fashioned fun will be held in September (12, 19, or 26th) and will probably take place in the Armstrong-Rokeby area north of Ivanhoe Reservoir. SLRA will keep you informed, but plan now to come and help celebrate our special community spirit. Meet more of your great neighbors and find out what is happening in the neighborhood. Representatives of the LAPD, LAFD, CERT and Protection One will be present for you to get to know and ask questions of.

Bring a dish or food item to share with at least 10 people (with a serving utensil) and things to Barbecue (charcoal grills provided). Be sure to mark your bowls and utensils with your name. Plates, cups, and utensils will be provided. Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, chicken and sodas will be available for purchase

## Glendale Corridor Project

*by Todd Wexman*

Approximately one and one half years ago a committee was established to determine how to spend approximately \$3.2 million allocated by the State for improvements of the Glendale Corridor. The money was secured by a prior study which identified and assessed the impact of the termination of the Glendale Freeway (2) at Glendale Boulevard. An additional sum of \$12 million was allocated in the recent federal ICETEA legislation, thus the committee now has approximately \$15 million of available funds.

The original allocation of funds was granted to deal with the problems caused by the termination of the Glendale (2) freeway. This increased traffic tremendously on Glendale Boulevard as well as many other neighborhood streets. These include many in the Silver Lake district including Fletcher, East Silver Lake Drive, and others.

The committee was given the directive to identify, study and implement a plan to improve traffic flow and the esthetics of the effected areas. Members of the committee include citizen representatives from Jackie Goldberg's and Michael Hernandez's districts. There are also representatives from the Metropolitan Transit Authority, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, and from council district offices.

A number of proposals have been suggested to improve the corridor and surrounding communities but the committee is still studying options and has not made any recommendations. Some of the funds can be spent on efforts to slow and reduce traffic which is cutting through neighborhoods. In addition, the committee anticipates spending additional sums on streetscape improvements such as bus shelters, street lamps, murals, trees etc.

If you have ideas or suggestions on improvements which the committee should consider please forward them to Todd Wexman c/o Conrado Terrazas Councilmember Jackie Goldberg 3535 Sunset Boulevard, LA CA 90026.

## Red Cars Resurrected?

*by Todd Wexman*

A concept is being promoted to reintroduce Red Car service to downtown and surrounding areas. The concept was presented at a recent Silver Lake Resident's Association meeting. The plan could include a line which originated at the original subway terminal building in downtown Los Angeles and extend down Glendale Boulevard, down Fletcher to San Fernando Boulevard and beyond.

The Red Car would be reintroduced as a historic trolley which would link various downtown and downtown adjacent destinations. The system would be a tourist attraction of historical significance which would also provide an additional means of transportation much like the cable cars do in San Francisco.

The Red Car could link a number of downtown area attractions via an attractive interesting and fun circulation system. Destinations include: The Exposition Park/USC complex, Convention Center, Hotel Row, Staples Arena, Dodger Stadium, the Music Center/Disney Hall/MOCA area, the new Cathedral, the Historic Core, Civic Center, Chinatown, Little Tokyo, Fashion District, Toy District, Jewelry District and more. While somewhat further removed, the Red Car could also serve the Gene Autry Museum and the Zoo. In addition, it could link other transportation systems including Angel's Flight, the Red Line, Metro Link and the Blue Line.

The concept has been presented to a number of political, neighborhood and business interests and has met with considerable support. A number of effected council member's offices have expressed enthusiastic interest in the concept.

The reintroduction of the Red Car, which originally was one of the best public transportation systems in the world, is a conceptual idea at this point. At this time a committee is being formed and funding sources are being researched. This could be an opportunity for Los Angeles to bring back a very significant piece of its history as an attractive and interesting alternate means of transportation.

## Important Community Phone Numbers

(excerpted from the Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce Directory, 1998-1999)

### **Government**

Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce.....	665-1281
4th Council District — John Ferraro.....	485-3337
13th Council District — Jackie Goldberg.....	913-4693
Mayor's Office (Alma Lujan-Castro).....	847-3626
Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa .....	483-2730
State Senator Richard Polanco .....	620-2529
Congressman Xavier Becerra .....	483-1425
Health Department .....	351-5110
Dept. of Water and Power.....	485-4211

### **Crime**

Northeast Rampart Police Outpost.....	485-1117
Police Non-emergency.....	625-3311
Spanish Language Line.....	485-4333
Asian Language Line.....	893-8100
Central Traffic Complaint.....	485-2799
Child Abuse Hotline.....	(800)530-4000
Gang-related/Narcotics Hotline.....	(800)662-2878
Rampart Senior Lead Officer McCraney.....	485-5950
Rampart Community Relations.....	485-4080
Rampart Desk.....	485-9105
Northeast Senior Lead Officer Polehonki.....	485-4079
Northeast Community Relations.....	485-2548
Northeast Desk.....	485-2563

### **Cleanup**

Trash Pick-up/Bulky Item Pick-up.....	(800)773-2489
Oil Pick-up.....	(800)988-6942
Street Cleaning, Tree Trimming (hazard), lot filled with junk, pot holes .....	485-5661
Street Lighting Repair.....	(800)303-5267
Noise Enforcement.....	893-8120

### **Citizen Complaints**

Building and Safety.....	368-7562
Dept. of Transportation .....	580-1182
Parking Enforcement .....	485-3117
Abandoned Cars .....	(800)222-6366

### **Animals**

Loose/Stray Animals, Barking Dogs .....	485-5765
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## Gateway to Silver Lake 2000

*by Harry Otto*

Please be sure to mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 4; Gateway to Silver Lake 2000** is planning a kickoff party. If you haven't heard, the Gateway to Silver Lake 2000 project, or GSL 2000 as we lovingly call it, is a plan to rehabilitate the landscaping and add art work to the long-neglected and abused intersection of the Hollywood Freeway and Silver Lake boulevard from London St. to the north and Temple St. to the south. This being one of several entrances or "gateways" into our Silver Lake community. The location for the "event" will be the Glendale Federal Savings Bank parking lot and adjacent meeting room. Displays will include drawings and paintings of the proposed landscaping and art work to be installed. Further details are in the works as you read this. If you want more information or would like to make a \$ donation or help with the event, you can call the **GSL-2000 Hotline at (323)228-9599**.

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## Are your Membership Dues Current?

Since 1995, we have been printing the year and month you last paid dues on the mailing label. Not long ago, someone suggested that we should instead print when dues are due on the mailing label. Not a bad idea! So, we are in the middle of converting our database records to include the year and month your dues are due.

For now, however, you should see a 4-digit number in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label. The first two digits show the year and the other two digits show the month you **last** paid dues. For example, 9501 indicates that you last paid dues in Jan. of 1995, and 9406 would stand for June of 1994. If you see no number, it means you have **never** paid dues, and could be dropped from the mailing list. If it has been 12 months or more since you last paid, you will find a return envelope with this newsletter. Please send a renewal of \$15.00 per household. If \$15.00 represents too great a hardship, please contact the SLRA Hotline at (323)661-6465 and we will be happy to discuss your membership with you. If you believe your date is incorrect, please call the hotline.

We will continue to send out renewal notices to those who haven't paid in more than 12 months, but we're doing everything we can to minimize the number of dues-related mailings and reserve our funds for more important projects. Thanks for your cooperation!

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## SLRA Requests Fax Numbers and Email Addresses

*by Maryann Kuk*

The SLRA has the ability to (nearly automatically) send out a fax to those of you with dedicated fax lines. If you would like your fax number added to this growing (currently 88) list to receive announcements with short notice, or important community news, please phone **the SLRA Hotline (661-6465)** with your fax number. Email addresses are equally useful for distributing important news about community issues and events. If you have an email address, and would like to receive information via this means, please let us know.

# Silver Lake Park Improvements Near Completion

by Jan SooHoo

Everyone who has built or remodeled a house knows that no matter how carefully you plan, or how conservative the contractor is in their estimates for scheduling milestones and a completion date, there will always be one or more things that come up to delay the project. In a recent conversation with Ralph Lew, DWP's manager for the Silver Lake Park Community Center project, El Nino's rains were cited as the most significant delay factor. Many of us felt the same sense of frustration as weeks went by without any forward progress in the grading and excavation during the worst of the El Nino storms. The site was transformed into a giant mud puddle, and all the heavy equipment turned into statues. But, the weeks lost seem like a drop in the bucket in the grand scheme of things — after all, this project has been in the works in one form or another for about 10 years now.

El Nino's deluge has ended, and as most of you have observed, the construction of Silver Lake's new Community Center building has been moving along at a much faster pace. There have been relatively few other problems along the way, and those have been fairly minor. Once the building's exterior work is finished, the new playground areas will be installed. Soon the families of Silver Lake will be able to enjoy first class facilities in their own neighborhood. According to Ralph Lew, the estimate for completion is now the end of October — perhaps in time for the Halloween Carnival.

It is almost a certainty that there will be a grand opening celebration and the SLRA and Councilmember Goldberg's and Ferraro's offices will make sure the community, who gave this project their overwhelming support and participated in the design, is kept informed.

## SLRA NEWSLETTER

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SLRA HOTLINE (213)661-6465.

All Officers and Board members of the SLRA serve as volunteers.

### Officers

President.....Spencer SooHoo  
Vice President.....Catherine Moyers  
Treasurer.....Terry Jackson  
Recording Secretary.....Sandra Gold  
Corresponding Secretary..... Jan SooHoo

### Committee and Project Chairs

Security .....Joe O'Donnell  
Planning & Development.....Bill Wilbur  
Traffic.....Todd Wexman  
Membership Outreach.....Maryann Kuk  
DWP/CPOR Mediation.....Maryann Kuk  
Oil Pipeline.....Bill Taube  
Parks & Recreation.....Ray Lepone  
Jan SooHoo  
Beautification.....Hal Jones  
Disaster Preparedness .....Harry Otto  
Gail Crosby  
Hospitality .....Gail Crosby  
Catherine Moyers  
Newsletter Editor .....Jan SooHoo

**SLRA HOTLINE**  
**(323)661-6465**

## 17th Annual Sunset Junction Street Fair

Come one, Come all!!! Attend the 17th Annual Sunset Junction Street Fair from 3600 to 4400 Sunset Boulevard, in Silver Lake. The fair will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 22 and 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 23. The Sunset Junction Street Fair, the largest celebration of cultural diversity in Los Angeles, will have carnival rides, three stages with continuous entertainment, ethnic dance, disco, children's entertainment, beer gardens, more than 120 food and arts and crafts booths, community information tables, and more!

For more information, contact the Sunset Junction Neighborhood Alliance — PO Box 26565 Los Angeles CA 90026 or call (323) 661-7771

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## Community Calendar

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**17th Annual Sunset Junction Street Fair** will be held on **August 22 (10 am - 11 pm)** and **August 23 (10 am - 10 pm)** in the **3600-4400 blocks of Sunset Blvd.** (See Article on page 7).

**The Second SLRA Block Party** will be held in September (12th, 19th, or 26th —exact date and time to be set). Watch for special mailing from SLRA.

A kickoff party for the Gateway to Silver Lake 2000 will be held on **October 4 at the Glendale Federal Bank parking lot and community room** (See article on page 6). Save this date so you can be part of the effort to improve one important entrance to the Silver Lake community to reflect the pride we have in Silver Lake.

**Silver Lake Residents Association**  
**PO Box 39587**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90039**

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