

SLRA Newsletter

Silver Lake Residents Association

May, 1999

First Silver Lake Master Plan Workshop

By Spencer L. SooHoo

Approximately 150 people attended the first Silver Lake and Ivanhoe Reservoir Master Plan community workshop at John Marshall High School on March 27th, 1999. Mary Ann Kuk, a member of both the SLRA and CSSLR (Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs) provided a brief summary of the community's efforts to have a voice on the Reservoir property's appearance, operations and public accessibility. Next, Susan Rowghani of the Department of Water and Power presented a synopsis of DWP day-to-day and long term operations at the site.

After the introduction, the attendees were divided into sub-groups at different stations for discussions. The 5 sub-groups represented the elements that will be addressed in the Master Plan. The elements are: Water Quality and Operations, Land Use, Landscape and Open Space, Traffic and Transportation, and Cultural Resources and Connections. Each sub-group discussed each topic for approximately 10 minutes and then moved to another station for the next discussion until all sub-groups had an opportunity to comment on all of the elements. During the discussions comments were recorded in writing and placed on site diagrams or large pads.

There were many comments that came close to being consensus items and others that proved to have widely different opinions. Among ideas that came out of the first workshop were:

- Walking/jogging paths around the reservoirs
- Bicycle lanes/paths around the reservoirs
- Improved landscaping of existing areas
- Preservation of the view
- Improvements to the dog park
- Making the streets safer for pedestrian traffic

Our next steps will be to take these comments and synthesize them into a Master Plan that will be supported by both the community and DWP. We will present concepts that illustrate possibilities that we know are desirable and attempt to achieve a balance on issues that are not so clear at point. This presentation will take place at the next Master Plan workshop on May 20th at John Marshall High School at 6:30 PM. See the announcement on page 5.

Gateway to Silver Lake 2000

By Harry Otto

So what is happening down at the Gateway to Silver Lake? Well, I'm glad you asked. After the ceremonial ground breaking back in January, David Bermudas, the brave soul who has been dealing with most of the work at this site, began removing the asphalt surface from the center medial on the east side of the freeway.

During the removal of the asphalt, the backhoe equipment ran into an obstacle beneath the earth that was below the asphalt. During another venture to the site to locate the holes to plant trees, David further discovered that the obstacle was much more than a localized nuisance. What was discovered? How about an old road, not just an old road. No, David found 8 inches of concrete that spans the entire width and length of the island. This is a formidable concrete obstacle that is 8 inches thick, 13 feet wide, and 210 feet long.

What was found is not a continuation of the road we drive daily. It's surface is lower than the surface we use today and means that it is very old and hard concrete that dates back to the 1920s. The current Silver Lake Boulevard was constructed shortly after World War II when the Hollywood Freeway was built.

(See "Gateway" on page 7)

What is GSL 2000?

GSL 2000 is an ambitious project to enhance the area surrounding Silver Lake Boulevard near the 101 Freeway overpass. GSL stands for Gateway to Silver Lake, and as the 2000 implies, the goal is to complete the project in the year 2000. The organizers are a very exciting, energetic group that has organized fund raisers and applied for grants. They recently received a grant to landscape the median under the 101 Freeway. For more information, call (323) 666-6715.

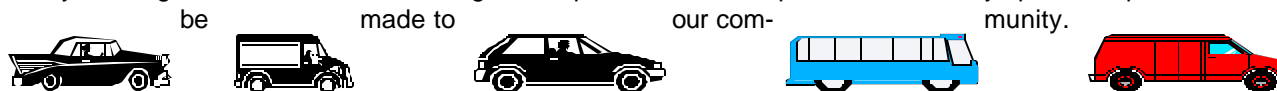
Funds Budgeted for Glendale Corridor

by Todd Wexman

The final meeting of the Glendale Corridor Advisory Committee took place in March 1999 and the \$3.75 million of funds were allocated to various improvements. The allocation breaks down as follows:

- \$1.5 million was allocated to transportation improvements along Glendale Boulevard. These include installation of additional signals, increasing pedestrian crossing times, and improvements at the intersection Glendale, Alvarado and Berkely.
- \$1 million was allocated to match the \$12 million allocated by the federal government for the development of a park at the terminus of the Glendale Freeway. An additional \$3 million of local matching funds will be necessary to obtain the full \$12 million from the federal government.
- \$750,000 was budgeted for streetscape improvements including landscaping, tree planting, bus stop lighting, public art, and sidewalk repair.
- \$500,000 will be spent on neighborhood traffic protection measures, also know as "Traffic Calming". These funds will be used to limit the amount and velocity of traffic cutting through neighborhoods. Measures include installation of speed humps, small traffic circles, stop signs, turning restrictions etc.

Silver Lake should receive a portion of the funds due to the impact of the freeway terminus on the community. The impact includes traffic exiting the Glendale Freeway on Fletcher and San Fernando and cutting through Silver Lake to avoid congestion on Glendale Boulevard and rush-hour backups on the Glendale Freeway. The Silver Lake Residents Association is currently working with the MTA and Los Angeles Department of Transportation to identify specific improvements which can



Midge Fly Spraying

Very soon, annual Midge Fly Spraying will begin again in Silver Lake. Spraying will be twice weekly for at least May and then once per week (on Thursday only—the same day as trash pick up for only ONE early morning intrusion) for the balance of the summer unless the weekly monitoring (adult flies and fly larvae collected in biotrap) indicates the need for more frequent spraying.

The DWP applies a 50% solution of Malathion Emulsifiable Insecticide to the trees and shrubs around the reservoir, except near the Neighborhood Nursery School and the West Side Eucalyptus grove near Hawick where the Great Blue Herons are nesting. Malathion is not highly toxic to humans or pets, does not persist long in the environment after being applied, and presents no long-term hazard. It is approved by the State of California Department of Health in this formulation for this problem.

Chlorine Depot Status

The new chlorine depot (located at Los Angeles Reservoir) is nearing completion and the blue 50 gallon tanks will be moved from Silver Lake soon. This change of location will greatly decrease the truck traffic at the Silver Lake/Ivanhoe gate near the Neighborhood Nursery School. This project was part of the 10-year long Mediation Process with the DWP to remove functions that would be better headquartered elsewhere. What to do with the remaining concrete platform will be addressed in the Master Plan.



Silver Lake Recreation Center Update

By Ann Jones

At 10 AM on May 19, 1999, the Recreation and Parks Commission will meet at the new Silver Lake Recreation Center. One of the agenda items will be to approve the opening of the new Silver Lake Recreation Center. When they grant approval, the plans call for a formal opening ceremony on Sunday, June 6th. Please keep in mind that this is a tentative date. Keep your eyes and ears open for an announcement.

According to Santiago Cuevas, the Director, the bathrooms and playground equipment can be used prior to the formal opening, but he requests that everyone stay off the newly seeded areas to give the plants a chance to grow.





Who Attended the First Silver Lake Master Plan Workshop?

Of the 141 attendees who signed in at the first workshop, over one third filled out a survey. The results are summarized in the table below:

How did you hear about the workshop?	Mailing 66.67%	Flyer 26.67%	Banner 6.67%	LA Independent 0
Where do you live?	90039 64%	90026 34%	90027 2%	Other 0
How long have you lived in the neighborhood?	1 to 5 years 40%	5 to 10 years 14%	10 to 20 years 24%	20+ years 22%
Do you own or rent?	Own 90%	Rent 2%	No Answer 8%	
Do you have children?	Yes 37%	No 63%		
If you have children, how old are they?	0 to 5 years 20%	5 to 10 years 20%	10 to 15 years 25%	> 15 years 35%
Do you walk/jog around the lake?	Yes 90%	No 10%		
Are you a member of—	SLRA (Silver Lake Residents Association) 38%	SLIA (Silver Lake Improvement Association) 6%	CSSLR (Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs) 4%	None or No Answer 52%
Are you aware of the mediation process?	Yes 33%	No 26%	No Answer 41%	
Do you have a computer?	Yes 92%	No 8%		
Do you have e-mail?	Yes 90%	No 10%		

The Eagle Has Landed!

by MaryAnn Kuk

On April 16, an immature bald eagle landed in a tree, not more than 20' away, on Kenilworth. Spotted by Sharon Flanagan on her morning walk, this sighting was the first reported in a number of years. Reported in this newsletter in March 1992, and again in December 1997, there aren't a lot of bald eagles in the area. It is always exciting to birders to see unusual bird in the local neighborhood. We get used to the unusual; even Great Blue Herons nesting in the Eucalyptus grove on West Silver Lake Drive at Hawick for the past few years is now ho-hum. Bald Eagles (even immature ones without the white head—which appears only after 4-5 years) can be distinguished from the frequently seen Red Tail Hawk by several distinguishing characteristics. The Bald Eagles are bigger (36" vs. 22" tall) with a wing span of 70-90" vs. 50" for the hawk. So keep an eye out for this treat and if you see two, there may be a nest. If so, please call Maryann at (323)665-4145.



Corralitis Resolution

By Bill Wilbur

A final resolution regarding the use of the old Red Car line right of way between Corralitis Drive (near the Glendale Freeway) and Fletcher Drive appears to have been achieved. The open area of land has been argued about since 1981 when the first development project was proposed. In 1997, a new owner agreed to wait for the community to raise funds to purchase the property for a park. However, funds were not forthcoming and in January, 1999, the developer initiated the planning process to subdivide the land for sale and development.

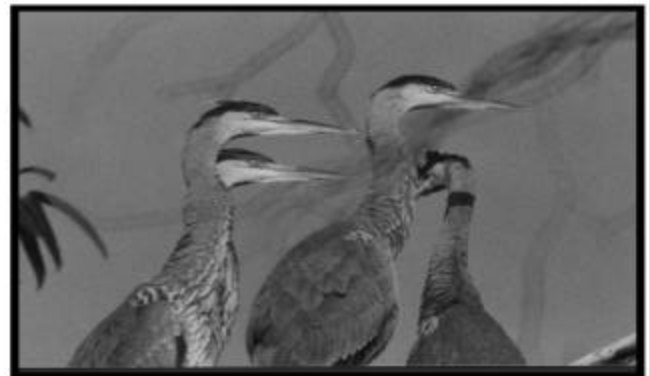
There was a community meeting on March 2, 1999 to review all the possible alternatives for this property. Given the fact that there were no available money to make the whole parcel parkland, those attending the meeting suggested a alternative option. The developer would develop the two ends of the property and have the middle section developed as a park. This plan provides for 4 lots for single family residences at the Adelbert Avenue end, and 6 lots for development at the Corralitis Drive end.

In April, 1999, the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy voted to take on preparation and supervision of the middle section of the property as parkland. Funds for maintaining the parkland will come in part from an assessment on the new lots.

The important end result is that nearly 70% of the property will be preserved as a park for use by residents.

Great Blue Heron Family Pictures

These are photographs of the first Great Blue Heron nest and were taken in 1982 or 1983. The nest was in an Eucalyptus tree just south of the dam separating the Ivanhoe and Silver Lake reservoirs.



silverlake

MASTER PLAN



PLEASE COME TO WORKSHOP #2
ATTENDANCE AT WORKSHOP #1 NOT REQUIRED.

WHEN:

Thursday May 20th, 1999
6:30 PM

WHERE:

John Marshall High School
Faculty Cafeteria
(Between Griffith Park Boulevard and
Tracy Streets at the north end of the campus)

PARKING:

Parking lot entrance on Griffith Park Boulevard
between Rowena & Saint George
or Street Parking

WHAT TO BRING:

Good ideas for the Silver Lake and
Ivanhoe Reservoirs Complex



Thanks to the over 150 participants who attended Workshop #1 on March 27th. Special thanks for the help we received from the CSSLR and SLRA Board members and DWP staff who assisted with the workshop. We heard many thoughtful and observant comments regarding the issues involved in the open space surrounding the reservoirs.

Since that time we have continued our data gathering activities and have developed some preliminary concepts for passive recreation and beautification around the reservoirs. On May 20th we would like to present our ideas and hear **your ideas** too.

Here are some of the things we will be looking at:

- ◆ Continuous walking/jogging path around the lakes
- ◆ Bike lanes and recreational bike paths
- ◆ Enhanced planting of the open areas
- ◆ View Preservation
- ◆ Improvements to the appearance of the reservoirs
- ◆ Improvements to the Dog Park
- ◆ Safer streets and street crossings
- ◆ Your ideas

6:30 to 7:15 Master Plan Team will be available for questions and comments

7:15 Presentation of Preliminary Concepts

8:00 - 8:30 Discussion groups

SEE YOU THERE!

Election Results and Comments from Members

For those members in good standing who received and returned election ballots, thank you! An even bigger thank you for the comments that some of you sent along. We are including some of them here so you can also know what your fellow members are thinking.

OFFICERS

President: Catherine Moyers
Vice President: Sandra Gold
Recording Secretary: Anne Jones
Corresponding Secretary: Spencer SooHoo
Treasurer: Terry Jackson

BOARD MEMBERS:

Maryann Kuk, Harry Otto, Kathryn Rowley, Bill Wilbur,

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Hal Jones, William Taube, Lore Spangler, Todd Wexman

Comments from Members:

"Thank you for taking care of our community. I feel fortunate to live here. Our family moved here from Orange County 10 years ago and love it."

"I saw a street vendor (with a cart) on Silver Lake Blvd on Sat, April 17 by the car wash. In my view, these vendors symbolize a poor and decaying neighborhood and, as such, the City Ordinance prohibiting street vendors except in designated areas should be enforced." [Ed. Note: Phone our LAPD Senior Lead Officer at 213/485-4079 with the day, time and location of these illegal vendors, regular reports on this violation will improve enforcement).

"I am requesting that the dog park be moved to another locale—Elysian Park or Griffith Park, where there is more acreage and more parking and off a main street of traffic. Evenings and weekends are horrific on Silver Lake Blvd." [Ed. Note: We, too, are concerned with the traffic hazard this very popular dog park is creating. Extensive discussion and possible solutions will be presented with the Silver Lake/Ivahoe Reservoir Complex Master Plan—see article elsewhere in this Newsletter. Also, with the demonstrated success and popularity of this off-leash dog park, let the Dept of Recreation & Parks new General Manager, Ellen Oppenheim, (213/485-5555) know that the City needs more of these facilities.

"Paving- Silver Lake Blvd-is long due, now.....could it be possible to ask people between Berkeley and Effie to stop dumping discarded furniture, mattresses, etc. on Randall St (not an alley). At present time, two old broken trash cans were hauled to the north end of the 7-11 store and abandoned there. Also trash cans left out after they are emptied for days gives the area a seedy look. We want to keep Silver Lake nice and clean! Thanks" [Ed. Note: We agree, Board members call on abandoned cars (those parked over 72 hrs. They need color, make, license and location (800) 222-6366 and abandoned stuff (800) 611-2489 nearly daily. Won't you keep these numbers in your car and help us keep Silver Lake looking tidy].

"I am pleased to live in Silver Lake since 1974 and appreciate the activities of the SLRA and CSSLR on behalf of the community. A problem affecting many areas of L.A. is the slum-like appearance caused by the trash cans left out at the curb in violation of City Ordinances. City inspectors will issue warnings if complaints are made, but it is a lengthy and wasteful approach. Could the SLRA send an "official" notice letters to the irresponsible property occupants if residents complain to SLRA?" [Ed. Note: This is a City-wide problem and the most often heard complaint in the neighborhood. Any one willing to take the lead on a committee to work on this problem?]

"Thank you for your continuous work to keep our "Silver Lake Area", still a wonderful place to live. I've lived on Landa since June 1950."

"This is an issue which you may have addressed for some time since it is an old problem, but I wondered if any so-

Help Wanted!!



Bibliographer needed. Some years ago, someone prepared an index of SLRA's Newsletters. This list is complete to about 1988. With our new Web Site coming on line, it would be wonderful to have someone organize the balance of the Newsletters in the same way. It is a big job, but one that could be done at your own pace and wouldn't require meetings! Call Maryann at (323)665-4145.



Web author needed. We need someone to help with the Silver Lake web page. Right now we are trying to put together some pages about the history of Silver Lake. This includes searching out newspaper clippings, locating historic photographs, etc. and putting it together. If you don't know how to use the tools to create a web page, don't worry. "On the job training" is available. You just need to have some basic computer skills and access to the Internet. Call Spencer SooHoo at (323)666-7421.



Desktop Publishing. The SLRA needs someone to help produce mail the newsletters and special mailings. You must have a computer and know how to use Microsoft Word and Publisher. If you would like to help, please call Spencer SooHoo at (323)666-7421.

Other Positions. If you want to be more involved with the SLRA and help organize a cleanup, report code violations (abandoned cars, furniture, illegal street vendors, etc.), help monitor planning and development issues, traffic, etc. please call our hotline at (323)661-6465 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

("Gateway" continued from page 1)

Needless to say this has delayed what was to be a spring planting and irrigation installation at the Gateway site. Currently being explored are options for the removal of some of the concrete so the installation of landscaping can begin. Councilmember Jackie Goldberg's office has been contacted, as well as several City agencies to see if the removal can be handled by the City. Other options are also being explored for concrete removal. Anyone who has a working knowledge of concrete removal and wants to help can contact us at **(323) 666 6715**. We may be delayed but we are not deterred. The Gateway to Silver Lake project is still a reality. It just hit a speed bump along the way.

(Continued from page 6)

lution to the eyesore cement wall—hillside—desecrating mess made (by an absentee developer?) between Glendale Boulevard. and Fletcher on Riverside Dr. I think the City believes it is "out of sight, out of mind" but speaking for it definitely is not!" [Ed. Note: We agree. One of our general members dedicated hours to getting to the bottom of the problem. It is complex. SLRA has just written a letter to Councilmember Jackie Goldberg co-signed by Atwater Village, Los Feliz Improvement and Silver Lake Improvement to try to resolve this 10+ year eyesore.]



Silver Lake Web Site

If you have access to the Internet, check out <http://www.Silver Lake.org>. This is a web site for Silver Lake and includes some historical information about Silver Lake, the SLRA and other community organizations, a community calendar, and historic photographs.

We are just starting on this web site, so please bear with us while we add more material. And, if you have any suggestions, comments, or want to help, please contact Spencer SooHoo at (323) 666 7421.

SLRA NEWSLETTER

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SLRA HOTLINE (323)661-6465.

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

Important Reminder:

Second Silver Lake Master Plan Workshop:

6:30 - 8:30 PM, May 20, 1999

John Marshall High School

Faculty Cafeteria (Between Griffith Park Boulevard and Tracy St)

SLRA Newsletter

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