

SLRA Newsletter

Silver Lake Residents Association

April, 1998

SILVER LAKE MASTER PLAN

New DWP General Manager Freeman voices support. Process initiated by community leaders will proceed as planned.

by Spencer SooHoo

Mr. S. David. Freeman, the new General Manager for the DWP, was the featured guest at the February 5th community meeting co-sponsored by the SLRA and CSSLR (Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs). Freeman was joined by Council President John Ferraro, Councilmember Jackie Goldberg, and Tom LaBonge from Mayor Riordan's office. The meeting was well attended, as over 100 people filled the Fellowship Hall at the Silver Lake Community Church.

The SLRA and CSSLR invited Freeman to join the community to discuss his views on the Master Plan for the Silver Lake and Ivanhoe Reservoirs. As many residents recall, in 1989 the DWP proposed covering small open reservoirs and building on-site filtration plants at larger reservoirs throughout the city. Many community groups banded together to form the Coalition to Preserve Open Reservoirs (CPOR). The representatives from Silver Lake are the SLRA and the CSSLR. Rather than endure lengthy litigation, in 1991 both the DWP and CPOR agreed to a mediation effort. For Silver Lake, the results of the ongoing mediation effort are that the original proposal to cover Ivanhoe Reservoir and to build an on-site filtration plant are shelved, and that a Master Plan should be developed to identify and prioritize community and DWP interests and concerns. The Master Plan will serve as a guide for changes that affect the reservoir complex and its surroundings.

After over a year of work to identify those interests and concerns that are important to both the DWP and to the Silver Lake Community, the DWP was prepared to select a contractor to develop the Master Plan. Unfortunately, as this step was being taken, the DWP General Manager was replaced, and the future of the Master Plan process was uncertain. We were concerned that proposed budget cuts and layoffs would eliminate any chance of getting the Master Plan funded. We were also concerned that there would not be sufficient DWP staff to assist with its development.

Fortunately, at the Community Meeting, Freeman expressed strong support for both the mediation process and for the Master Plan effort and congratulated all involved. Ferraro, Goldberg, and LaBonge all echoed his comments and cited this effort as a model of how a community can work with public agencies to arrive at solutions to problems.

(See DWP on page 2)

SILVER LAKE GETS NEW SENIOR LEAD OFFICER

Silver Lake says farewell to George Caulford and welcomes Al Polehonki

by Kathryn Rowley

One year ago I wrote an article welcoming Officer George Caulford to the Silver Lake community as our new Senior Lead Officer (SLO). On Feb. 5, 1998, at an SLRA community meeting, I presented Sergeant Caulford with a plaque from the SLRA thanking him for his "exceptional service and leadership" to this community. George did so well by us that he got himself promoted to Sergeant and transferred out of the Northeast Area. As a member of SLRA Board and North Silver Lake representative on the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), I worked closely with Sergeant Caulford and am keenly aware of his efforts to make community-based policing a reality for Silver Lake — George will be missed.

As we send our congratulations and thanks to Sgt. Caulford, we also send a warm welcome to our new Senior Lead Officer, Albert (Al) Polehonki. SLO Polehonki is a seventeen year veteran of the LAPD, having worked in the Pacific, communications, Central, and Seventy-seventh Divisions. His assignments have included narcotics enforcement, a two-year stint as a vice investigator and for the last ten years as a field training officer for the Northeast Area. SLO Polehonki is currently a member of the Northeast Training Cadre. We are indeed fortunate that as a result of his service in the Northeast Area, SLO Polehonki is very familiar with the Silver Lake community.

SLO Polehonki is excited about his new assignment to work with the Silver Lake and Franklin Hills communities, and wants the residents to be assured that he is committed to the philosophy of community-based policing. He believes that by working together and forming a strong partnership between police and the community, crime can be reduced and the quality of life can be improved for all those who live and work in these communities.

Born in Pennsylvania, SLO Polehonki moved to California at the age of nineteen. He has been married for eighteen years and has a 13 year-old son and an 8 year-old daughter. Another member of his family is April,

(See SLO on page 3)

GATEWAY TO SILVER LAKE PROJECT UNDERWAY

Major mural and landscaping project seeks to transform Silver Lake Blvd. underpass to 101 Freeway, and provide an inviting entrance to the Silver Lake community.

by Vincent Brook, President of Silver Lake Improvement Association (SLIA)

A coalition of local community groups, spearheaded by SLIA, has undertaken a major mural and landscaping project called Gateway to Silver Lake - GSL 2000, for short. The project's goal is to transform the area around the Silver Lake Blvd. underpass to the 101 Freeway - currently an embarrassing eyesore and a blight on the neighborhood - into a glittering gateway into our extraordinary community.

Other groups actively involved include the Silver Lake Residents Association and the Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce; MZ Body Shop has garnered the support of the preponderance of businesses near the site. The field offices of Councilmember Jackie Goldberg, Mayor Richard Riordan, Assemblymember Antonio Villaraigosa and State Senator Richard Polanco are all strongly behind the project.

- **What GSL 2000 plans to do:**

1. *Paint murals:* Eight local artists will decorate the freeway bridge supports with bright, uplifting designs depicting the area's history, scenic beauty, ethnic diversity and community spirit. Local youth will help with the painting and the murals will be coated with a protective, anti-graffiti covering.

2. *Decorate the bridge:* The freeway bridge will be embellished with colored patterns that tie the murals into the rest of the structure, capped by an emblematic sign atop the bridge proclaiming the grand new "Gateway to Silver Lake."

3. *Enhance freeway on and off-ramps:* Excess foliage will be pruned and bare areas filled in with ground cover and low-lying shrubs. Multi-colored flowers will spell out "Silver Lake."

4. *Landscape parkways and surrounding slopes:* These trash and weed-encrusted areas will be spruced up with drought-tolerant shrubs and trees.

5. *Beautify the median strips:* The drab asphalt surfaces will be turned into an inviting and invigorating green belt. A true welcome to Silver Lake!

- **When we hope to finish:**

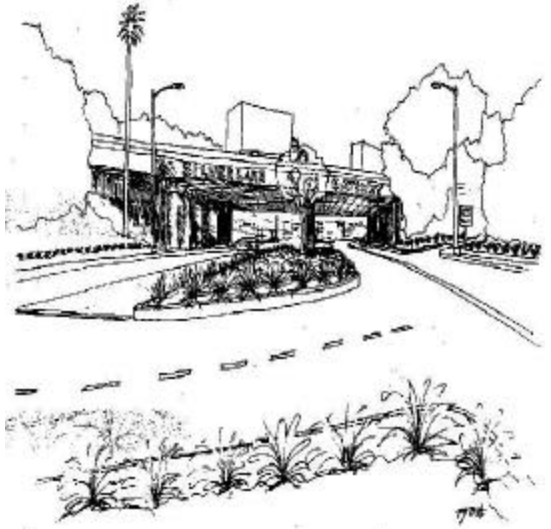
As our "GSL 2000" logo indicates, in time to greet the new millennium.

- **How we're going to pay for it:**

We're applying for every private and government grant available and hope to interest area residents and businesses, as well as large corporate donors, in sponsoring individual components of the project. Goldberg's, Villaraigosa's and Polanco's offices have promised not only to help in navigating the bureaucratic shoals but also in obtaining funding.

Now we're asking for your support...not only to keep the project going and to see it through, but for maintenance and upkeep afterwards. Please contribute generously to a cause that will greatly beautify the area, improve the environment, enhance neighborhood pride, and almost certainly raise property values.

Make checks payable to **Gateway to Silver Lake**. Address: Gateway to Silver Lake, Glendale Federal Bank, 2450 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90039. **ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!** For more information, contact the GSL 2000 Hotline: (213)228-9599.



(DWP...cont'd from page 1)

Freeman also introduced Cecilia Weldon, the new head of Water Operations. When asked about delays on the Rowena Reservoir project, Weldon replied that the project would be completed within 18 months. The reservoir will be replaced by a tank and concealed by a "water feature" consisting of ponds and a small waterfall. The Rowena site will not, however, be open for public access.

Someone else in the audience asked about the possibility of opening up parts of the Silver Lake and Ivanhoe Reservoir complex for recreational use. Freeman responded that it was a possibility that could be considered, and encouraged the Master Plan participants to proceed with getting a contractor to develop the Master Plan.

Of the firms that responded to invitations to compete for the contract, 5 were invited to submit formal proposals. In the upcoming weeks, one will be awarded the contract and it is our expectation that the Master Plan will be developed within about 12 months. During this period, there will be at least two community meetings to get public input and to validate the community and DWP concerns that we have identified over the past year.

DEVELOPMENTS PLANNED FOR SILVER LAKE LOTS

by William Wilbur

At a community meeting on February 24, 1998 at Ivanhoe Elementary School, two developments were presented to Silver Lake residents. The properties considered were the empty lot at the southwest corner of Silver Lake Blvd. and Glendale Blvd. — the old Chevron gas station site; and the lot at the northwest corner — the former site of the M-Z Body Shop, now empty except for the landmark abandoned Caterpillar tractor.

The former Chevron site was targeted as a possible site for a Burger King fast food operation in March, '97. The community opposed this based on the multitude of problems associated with fast food operations. The developer didn't proceed with the Burger King. Now, Walgreens — a national chain of pharmacies — is proposing a drive-through pharmacy. Walgreens entered the Southern California market in competition with SavOn Pharmacies.

The pharmacy will be small with an emphasis on prescriptions, rather than retail operations. The developer is requesting a 24-hour operation, a pole sign, and window space less than 50% of exterior walls. Two other requests — a 0 foot setback and lack of recycling area — have been dropped. Community residents had a lot of questions about the need or desirability of a pole sign. The sign originally planned was thirty feet high. The community viewed a drawing of the proposed sign and felt a monument type sign would be preferable.

Some question was raised about the 24-hour operation. Walgreen representatives said they wanted permission for a 24-hour store, but might not operate the store for 24 hours. Demand for a 24-hour operation would be assessed by the company at a later date.

The pharmacy spokesman indicated that 20% of business would be drive through, with most customers dropping off prescriptions and returning later to pick them up. Two existing driveways nearest the corner would be closed and there would be only one driveway on Glendale Blvd. and one on Silver Lake Blvd.

Community residents had legitimate concerns about the project, but were not in united opposition. A Council deputy from Jackie Goldberg's office indicated she would request a continuance of the Zoning hearing set for February 26, 1998 to allow for more public input.

However, on February 26, 1998, the zoning administrator refused to continue the hearing. Since most residents had relied on a continuance, only a handful of residents appeared at the zoning hearing. The zoning administrator took testimony under advisement. Residents had until April 3 to submit written comments to the zoning administrator about the project.

Alternatives for this site are limited. There is also the prospect of less desirable uses being proposed i.e., fast food or a convenience store. If you have comments you can call the SLRA hotline at 661-6465 or write the Zoning Administrator directly at: Office of Zoning Administration, 221 N. Figueroa St. Room 1500, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2600. Refer to Case No. ZA 97-0952 (CUZ).

A second proposal for the northwest corner of Silver Lake/Glendale Blvd. is in the planning stages. Originally the Mixville Collection was proposed for this site in 1991. That developer backed out and the site has been vacant since. The Mixville Collection was to have been a retail operation with commercial space facing Glendale and Silver Lake Blvds. with parking in the rear. The new proposal is also planning commercial use of the property toward the street, with parking in the rear. A 35' retaining wall will have to be built to stabilize the rear hillside.

The developer is in negotiation with Hollywood Video as a possible anchor tenant. Noah's Bagels was mentioned as a second possible tenant, with smaller spaces used for coffee/restaurant type uses. The community voiced concern about traffic and entrance/exit problems at this busy corner. The developer will come back to the community with further details and an update in the near future. The existing sorry sight of this abandoned property made the community residents open to discussion about an attractive commercial use for this property.

As an addendum, the Hughes/SavOn Shopping Center is constructing a 3365 square foot expansion with 3 retail spaces at the north end of its parking lot. There are no lease commitments for the spaces as of this date. This project is done "by right" with no public hearings required.

Any questions and/or comments regarding any of the above? Call the SLRA hotline at 661-6465,

(SLO... cont'd from page 1)

Australian Shepherd. When SLO Polehonki is not working, you might find him bicycling, hiking, fishing or doing woodcarving. On behalf of the Silver Lake community, we welcome SLO Al Polehonki and look forward to working with him.

SLO Polehonki can be reached by phone at 485-4079. Both SLO Polehonki and I, as a member of C-PAB, want to know of problems or concerns about the Silver Lake area that you think can be addressed by combined community and police action. Please phone and join the effort to make Silver Lake a better place to live and work. K. Rowley can be reached at 663-4720.



“THE MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR” of Silver Lake Gardens Set for Sunday April 19, 1998

by Greg Ptacek

Some of Los Angeles' most fascinating gardens will be revealed for the first time to the public during a tour of the historic Silver Lake district to be held Sunday, April 19, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entitled “**The Magical Mystery Tour**”, the tour will feature docent-guided journeys through nine extraordinary gardens.

This is the second garden tour organized and sponsored by the Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs (CSSLR). CSSLR is a non-profit citizen's action group dedicated to preserving and renovating the Silver Lake reservoirs. Funds generated by the tour will be used toward fulfilling a master plan for the future management of the Silver Lake reservoir complex (see article on page 1).

The hilly Silver Lake district is among the oldest neighborhoods in Los Angeles with homes dating back to and even before the turn of the century (See article on page 7). The area surrounding the reservoirs — after which Silver Lake is named — was established in 1926, and the houses reflect the multiplicity of architectural styles popular in pre-War Los Angeles.

Garden Tour Highlights:

- 9 never-before-shown beautifully landscaped home gardens, plus the landscaped gardens of Epitaph Records (headquartered in a former Red Car Trolley station)
- Afternoon tea catered by LA Nicola Restaurant
- Entertainment by a classical chamber quartet
- Garden lecture by a noted garden book author (to be announced)
- The Arts & Garden Bazaar featuring outdoor art by local artists, and exotic plants
- Contest: In keeping with this year's theme, attendees will be invited to play the “Magical Mystery Tour” game. Each garden will contain a sign with one word: together, the words comprise a famous quotation about gardening. The first to put the words together and correctly cite the quotation wins a garden objet d'art by a local artist.

The cost is \$30 per person and includes the self-guided tour of nine gardens, high tea, entertainment, lecture, contest, and Arts & Garden Bazaar. **To Reserve a Ticket: Call the CSSLR hotline at (213)612-5271.**

(History...cont'd from page 7)

Glendale Freeway Extension

Well before construction of the Glendale Freeway extension was to begin, the State Dept. of Highways (the precursor to CALTRANS) had purchased the homes located along the proposed right-of-way. Since construction of the extension was not expected for some time, the Dept. of Highways offered these properties for less than market rents rather than immediately demolishing these structures. Citizen opposition to the Beverly Hills Freeway (which the Glendale Freeway would connect to at its western end) was pushing the extension of the Glendale Freeway further down the list of construction priorities.

Since the Highway Dept. asked only minimal rents for their properties, they performed only minimal maintenance. While the strategy of reducing the value of residences prior to demolition may have been proper at the time, the extended period of time between acquisition, demolition and construction caused the surrounding area to deteriorate further.

Rising Property Taxes

During the 1970s, home values were increasing rapidly, and along with them property taxes. For elderly homeowners, many whom purchased their residence in the 1920's, it was a choice between housing maintenance or property taxes. These homeowners found it was often difficult to sell their home if it had fallen into disrepair due to lack of proper maintenance. Many buyers found it easier and a better bargain to purchase newer homes in the suburbs - that didn't require costly repairs. There were proposals to remedy this situation, from tax credits for home repairs to low interest loans, but nothing changed until Proposition 13.

Do you have an interesting tidbit of Silver Lake history/lore? Care to share it with others? Please call the SLRA hotline and let us know about it.

Thirty years ago when the SLRA was formed, the founder chose as the mission statement that the “specific and primary purpose is to promote and maintain the most desirable environment in the Silver Lake area and to contribute to the welfare of the community at large.” Today, while the issues affecting the quality of life may be slightly different, we are still committed to that goal. But a pleasant and civil quality of life can only happen with your participation and cooperation.

LEAF BLOWERS BANNED/NOISE & AIR POLLUTION REDUCTION: We are in complete support of the gasoline-powered leaf blower ban. While we encourage manufacturers to develop quiet and non-polluting blowers, until the Ordinance can be revised to be “performance-based”, we have the following suggestions. Communicate to your gardeners that you support this change and want to help them comply. Perhaps offer to purchase a small, rechargeable battery operated blower. Keep it on your premises and recharge it, it is adequate. Perhaps provide an exterior electric outlet for an electric blower. Revise your landscaping so there is less to blow. Perhaps provide quality rakes and brooms and dust pans. Offer to increase their monthly fee as a demonstration of your determination that they abide by this new “quality of life” ordinance. Phone L.A. City Councilmembers Ferraro (485-3337) and Goldberg (485-3353) and let them know that you support their efforts to make this Ordinance workable.

BIG BLUE RECYCLE CANS ADD TO NEIGHBORHOOD PROBLEM: The number one complaint on the hotline and at community meetings is people leaving out their trash cans — green, black, and now Big Blue. While we applaud the efforts of the City of Los Angeles to develop recycling plans for as much of our trash as possible, we are very unhappy with the lack of communication with communities to develop workable plans for those of us in older, hillside communities with small garages, stairs, and non-existent side yards. We hope to improve the situation with the help of our Councilmembers, but in the mean time, do your best to find room for your cans out of eyesight. Try sharing cans with a neighbor. They are so large that some of our seniors or live-alones don’t generate that much trash. Perhaps if we all call 800-773-CITY and request smaller cans, they will get the message that we have a serious problem.

SPEEDING ON OUR STREETS: About every 6 weeks, the LAPD motorcycle police issue numerous tickets to speeding motorists in our neighborhood. We wish we could have them more often, but there are too few officers assigned to this duty and it’s a big city. Everyone complains about excessive speed, but some of those complainers also speed through our streets. If the shoe fits, take it off the gas pedal and slow down. The life you save will be a loved one — loved by someone in our neighborhood.

Councilmember Goldberg announced at the SLIA’s community meeting that 2 speed humps have been approved for Armstrong (between Lakewood and West Silver Lake Dr.). The only reason this is going to happen is that these 2 blocks organized their Neighborhood Watch and reached consensus on these blocks and then applied to Jackie’s office for help. Each Council district is allocated only 2 sets of humps per District per year. The Dept. of Transportation criteria are very strict. It is unlikely that most of our streets would qualify — too steep, too curvy, too much traffic. But, these dedicated neighbors are making it happen. You can too. Phone our new LAPD/SLO, Albert Polehonki, at 485-4079 and set up a Neighborhood Watch meeting. Talk about the problems, develop a plan of action, reach consensus and then work with the City to make it happen.

In other traffic news, Jackie reported that a new left turn lane is being installed on northbound Silver Lake Blvd. at Effie. A 3-way stop sign will be installed at Silver Lake Blvd. and Duane. This will probably play havoc with commuter traffic, but perhaps we can then justify a signal (which is what we really wanted, but only 2/year/district are funded). In the meantime, this stop might slow traffic on Silver Lake Blvd., just as the 3-way stop at W. Silver Lake Dr. and Hawick has done.

POSTED SIGNS: A year or so ago, 2 SLRA Board members removed over 400 illegally posted signs from telephone and light poles over a 2-day period. In frustration, these signs were delivered to Councilmember Goldberg’s office to demonstrate that this neighborhood blight had reached epidemic proportions. We learned that while there is a municipal ordinance specifying fines (\$167), the position at Building & Safety had not been funded. The problem has once again gotten out of hand, the new City budget is in the works. Please phone Jackie Goldberg’s and John Ferraro’s offices and ask that this position be funded and that those prime offenders (computer show, boxing, dancing, used car sales), be fined AND be required to remove their signs city-wide, but especially in Silver Lake.

LOCAL SHOPS & STREET VENDORS: Small retail shops that make neighborhoods special can only survive with regular patronage from residents. The Silver Lake Chamber of Commerce (665-1281) is intended to promote just this kind of neighborhood vitality. Street vendors are illegal (except in designated areas of the City — none in Silver Lake), a visual blight, AND they take away business from the small retail shops struggling to survive. These businesses pay rent, and sales, business and property taxes and promote the visual health of a strong and successful neighborhood. SLRA regularly asks LAPD to shut down street vendors and continuous yard/garage sales. If you want to help, report the date, location and type of vending to our new SLO, Officer Albert Polehonki, at 485-4079.;

computer.fun.fair@ivanhoe.elementary.school

On Saturday, May 9th, from 11am - 3pm there will be a Computer Fun Fair at Ivanhoe Elementary School (2828 Herkimer). Planned events include classes (Introduction to the Internet, How to Shop for a Computer, How to Select Software for Children), exhibits, and hands-on demonstrations of computer art, and a raffle for computer equipment and software, free subscriptions for internet access service, and art projects for children, to name a few. Using the latest in digital technology, you will be able to create a personalized T-shirt with a creatively contorted image of your face. Also, plan to stop by the "Internet Cafe" and have coffee and pastries while you "surf the net", or take part in an electronic scavenger hunt. You can stay all day and feed your hungry family with a delicious Korean Barbecue.

This event is a way to showcase the computer technology that many of the parent volunteers have



installed at the school and it is a fund-raiser for Friends of Ivanhoe, which raises about \$35,000 per year to fund an art teacher, librarian, purchase supplies for teachers, library books, and to support the efforts of the Technology Committee.

Through the efforts of the Technology Committee, every classroom has at least one computer connected to the Internet. This year, the fundraising efforts provided enough money to pay for a part-time technology coordinator, and we are now working on teacher training and setting up a computer laboratory.

If you have any questions, please call the computer fun fair hotline at (213)769-5900, or send the organizers of this special event an Email message at SOOHOOS@OPTIMATRIX.COM. Have some cyber fun and help make a difference for the children of Ivanhoe Elementary School.

IVANHOE ELEMENTARY IS PART OF AT&T'S LEARNING NETWORK

by Jan SooHoo

Ivanhoe Elementary School is part of the AT&T Learning Points Program, which allows AT&T customers to enroll as supporters. Any AT&T residential long distance customer, anywhere in the United States, can enroll to support this local elementary school. Ivanhoe earns 5 learning points for every dollar its supporters spend on qualifying calls. The school can redeem learning points for a variety of free technology products. If you have not enrolled to support this local school, please enroll today! If you have relatives who use AT&T for their residential long distance service, recruit them to the program — grandparents, uncles, aunts, and other family members.

Each LEARNING POINTS supporter who enrolls on Ivanhoe's behalf will help the school achieve its technology goals. It costs you nothing, and it's easy to do!

Here's all you have to do to help Ivanhoe:

1. Call Toll-free 1 800 354-8800
2. Use this school account number, 00140638, to identify Ivanhoe Elementary as the recipient of your Learning Points.

Every supporter counts! This program costs you no extra money and will make an important difference to the education of Silver Lake children. Don't wait. Call now!

BIRDS OF SILVER LAKE

by Maryann Kuk

Spring is here and nest building is happening at a furious pace. I've seen several Great Blue Herons with branches in their mouths and perhaps we'll have a successful next or two on W. Silver Lake Dr. at Hawick again this year.

The Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count took place on the reservoir complex for the 30th consecutive year. The special treat for those of us participating was the sighting of 2 Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) — maybe a pair? maybe a nest? Not common in Silver Lake, it is reassuring that this bird continues to live in the reservoir complex. It is about 7 3/4" with a distinctive head crest. The male is shiny black with a white wing patch conspicuous in flight. It has a long tail and red eyes. Their call is a querulous, low-pitched, whistled "whurp". They nest in brush in early Spring and feed chiefly on insects — perhaps our midge fly?

While it is a bit early for Cliff Swallows (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) to begin nesting, no doubt they will be back nesting at the southern end of Silver Lake Reservoir at the bridge, and at several houses in Silver Lake. Their mud nest building is an exciting visual event. However, if you don't want them nesting in your eaves, you must hose down the mud the moment you see it before the nest becomes established. If you do this, they will go elsewhere. If you wait and the nest becomes established, it is a violation to disturb this wild bird.

SILVERLAKE - ECHO PARK HISTORY LESSON #101

by Joe O'Donnell

While digging around in the library, I found some "Neighborhood District Plans" prepared by the Department of City Planning in the early 1970s. Being new to area, I picked up the Plan for Silver Lake - Echo Park. These plans discuss a variety of the neighborhood issues, from family sizes and income, to education level, health and crime. In addition, these plans related a bit of history about the each area and I wanted to share a bit of that with you. Interestingly, while the City has developed more current plans, those from the 1970s made for more entertaining reading (i.e., they weren't so afraid of being direct in their observations and comments). I've taken most of the text that follows directly from the reports, but edited it for brevity.

In the Beginning - Let There be Water

Much of the early history is associated with attempts to bring water to L.A. and a good deal of that story occurred in our area. By the mid 1860's, the old Mexican aqueducts (called zanjas) had become overloaded, due to the increased population. In 1868, Jean L. Sainseviaan was awarded a contract by the City to create a new domestic water system. Before he finished the project, he sold his company to P. Beaudry (who later became Mayor), John S. Griffin and Solomon Lazard. These men formed the Los Angeles City Water Works Company. They finished the Sainseviaan project and created the Buena Vista Reservoir in 1869. Water for the system flowed in part through the City's first iron pipes; it was pumped to the Reservoir from the Los Angeles River. The Buena Vista Reservoir was used until about 30 years ago and can still be seen just southwest of the Pasadena Freeway in Elysian Park.

The Los Angeles City Water Works built a second Reservoir, the Beaudry Reservoir, at Figueroa Terrace and College Street. Later, in 1873, this company hired Alan Hancock to build a one million gallon reservoir on the hill just northwest of the old Buena Vista Reservoir. The Los Angeles City Water Works Company (which was originally called the Canal and Reservoir Company) was largely responsible for the subdivision of the Echo Park District. This subdivision was created around one of their early reservoirs (1899), Echo Park Lake.

In 1903, the City acquired the water company and constructed the then-huge ten million gallon Elysian Park Reservoir on land just north of the present site of the Los Angeles Police Academy. In 1905-6 the City built the Ivanhoe Reservoir. Later they constructed the adjoining Silver Lake Reservoir, which contained 727 million gallons of water when first built. (Due to reconstruction in 1945 and 1953, the capacity of the Reservoir was reduced to 658 million gallons.)

All These People are Going to Need a Place to Live - Housing Development

The Echo Park area was developed in the 1880's and 1890's due to the general economic growth and prosperity in L.A. and Southern California at that time. This period, known as the "Boom of the Eighties", was the region's first real period of population growth and economic expansion. Houses of different sizes were built, some quite large. Most were in the Victorian Style. The second era of growth occurred from about 1905 to 1918. At that time the Atwater (Elysian Valley) area was developed. Further subdivision and development in Echo Park occurred from 1910 to 1918, in conjunction with the installation of "red car" trolley lines along Sunset Boulevard and along Glendale Boulevard-Allesandro Street.

The Silver Lake-Echo Park District had a spurt of expansion during the Twenties, the third era of growth. At this time, the hilly areas were developed around Glendale Boulevard north of Earl Street, and on the north side of Silver Lake Reservoir. Most homes built were done in the California Mission Style, typical of Los Angeles at that time. Most of these houses were of moderate size, containing about 1,500 sq. ft. each. Also during this time, larger houses (4,000 sq. ft.) were constructed in the lower elevations of the Silver Lake Reservoir and in the Hyperion Canyon area.

Apartments were also constructed in various parts of the plan area during the Twenties. Often they were interspersed among the older single family housing units. Many of the apartment buildings contained 30 to 50 units and were characterized by brick or concrete construction, small individual units, and no off-street parking. Most were four stories or more. Other 1920's apartments were constructed as "court" developments. Most of these were one or two stories and had more square footage than the larger brick buildings. Also during the 1920's, four-plex apartment buildings were constructed. The individual units tended to be relatively large and most had off-street parking.

The final period of growth occurred after 1950. Many suburban ranch style homes were built, especially around the Reservoir and in Hyperion Canyon. During this period, Berkeley style glass and redwood homes were constructed in this area.

Threats to Housing in the Plan Area (circa 1970)

The Silver Lake - Echo Park Plan also discussed some of the problems homes in the area were facing from a variety of factors in the early 1970s. Chief among them were the extension of the Glendale Freeway and rapidly rising property taxes (pre Proposition 13).

(see History on Page 4)



Community Calendar



LA Family School, a private, non-profit, parent -owned preschool and child care facility, is having its 15th annual **Spring Faire** on **Saturday, April 18 from 11 am to 5 pm**. The event will be held on the school grounds at **2646 Griffith Park Blvd. (at Hyperion)**. The Faire will offer a raffle Grand Prize of a **trip for two to San Francisco**. The Faire will feature live entertainment by the Nassau Steel Ensemble, children’s comedy revue the Garbanzo Beans, Robin and her Belly Dancing spectacular, Kenton Youngstrom and his classical guitar trio, and it will all be hosted by Darryl Roach. There’s lots of fun for kids, including a cakewalk and the ever popular confetti eggs, plant and herb sales, craft booths, Knock the Cans, face painting, tattoos and many other delights to keep the kids amused and excited. Once again there will be incredible bargains to be found in the extensive Silent Auction. This year’s highlights include tickets to the Tibetan Freedom concert in Washington, D.C. with air fare and hotel included. There will be gift certificates galore to restaurants, bars, museums, and stores. Throw in a Richard Tyler gown, memorabilia, furniture and you’ll find yourself bidding like mad. Your **\$3 raffle ticket admits one adult and a child**. Raffle tickets are available at the school or at the door. Food will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the school. For more information, call Rick Podell at (213)664-4111.

“**The Magical Mystery Tour**” of Silver Lake gardens sponsored by the Committee to Save Silver Lake’s Reservoirs is set for **Sunday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** See detailed information on page 4.

Transport yourself to New Orleans for a day as Silver Lake’s **Neighborhood Nursery School** is transformed to “**Mardi Gras in May**”. This festive fundraiser is set for **Saturday, May 2 from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.** at NNS at **2700 Tesla Ave. (corner Tesla and Armstrong on the NE corner of Ivanhoe Reservoir)**. There will be games and crafts for the kids. This year’s entertainment features the Zydeco Party Band and Charlie the Magician. There will be a Mardi Gras parade. The Silent and Live Auctions will feature a variety of goods and services including gift certificates for restaurants, tickets to major sporting events, a custom-designed stained glass window, and a variety of children’s items and services. There will be a no-host bar. **This year’s NNS quilt will be on display and raffled at the end of the day.** Admission prices are \$10 for people over 12, \$5 for children 6-12, and children under 6 are admitted free. **Included in the price is entertainment, plenty of home-cooked food, and an afternoon of good old-fashioned fun!** Don’t miss this annual Silver Lake tradition! All proceeds benefit this not for profit, parent-owned and operated cooperative nursery school that has been serving the families of Silver Lake for nearly 50 years. If you want tickets in advance, call Jan SooHoo at 666-7421.

A **Computer Fun Fair** will be held at **Ivanhoe Elementary School on May 9 from 11am to 3 pm** (See article on page 6).

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

In this Issue.....

- DWP’s GM backs Master Plan process*
- Gateway to Silver Lake 2000 effort planned*
- Silver Lake Garden Tour set for April 19*
- New LAPD SLO assigned to Silver Lake*
- History of Silver Lake-Echo Park Development*
- Projects planned for long-empty lots*