

## President's Report 2012 and Forward

by Andrew Garsten

As we set foot into February now, the 2013 year feels like it is rushing up to us at a breakneck speed. Last year in Echo Park, we saw the continuation of long-term items of concern to the community, and the coming of a less-than-satisfactory conclusion to several long-term items.

With the Offices of City Council Districts 1 and 13 seeing new leaders in place later this year, 2013 will offer the opportunities for the community to assert its will and vision. Please pay attention to the candidates and make sure you vote March 5.

### BARLOW HOSPITAL

The proposed entitlements and subsequent development of the Barlow Hospital campus was given another breath of life, with Barlow receiving an extension to comply with state earthquake requirements. Barlow has been facing this imminent requirement for almost 20 years now, with continuous community involvement during this whole span.

### ELYSIAN RESERVOIR

Also concluding 20 years of community involvement, it has been more or less concluded that the Reservoir in Elysian Park will be covered with vinyl instead of the buried tanks and fields that were promised to the community only two years ago. This process ironically began with a proposal that the reservoir be covered in aluminum.

### 2 FREEWAY TERMINUS

The 2 Freeway Terminus is another 20+ year project. Originally envisioned as a traffic calming proposal to

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Echo Park Farmers' Market Spotlight: Shear Rock Farms



Check out our first of many series on the Echo Park Farmers' Market on page 8.

## The "Save Elysian Park" campaign



currently owned by Barlow Hospital directly adjacent to Elysian Park.

To sign the petition and learn more, visit [epia-echopark.org](http://epia-echopark.org) and [saveelysianpark.org](http://saveelysianpark.org)

## Cont.: EPIA President's report

(Continued from page 1)

make Glendale Boulevard more like a city street and less like a freeway, the project also ended up blowing past community-derived solutions that were originally approved in 2011.

Metropolitan Transit Authority, which is running the project, is moving forward with a program that is sure to anger everyone – the commuters and the community, and has pretty much stonewalled attempts to see if the final project can be tweaked and improved.

### SMALL LOT SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

2012 saw the EPIA weigh in on more than a handful of residential projects utilizing the city's Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance. What we see is that, more often than not, the city is allowing developers to utilize this development tool aimed at "in-fill development" to build out-of-character townhouse style blocks of residences. This, despite some pretty clear direction in the ordinance about what is and is not allowed in terms of scale and presentation.

The one project that exceeded the city's requirements saw some organized opposition. The EPIA in general takes an approach that development will happen, and is part of the cycle of a dynamic community, but that we need to get better projects.

### EPIA APPROVAL

Perhaps the biggest thing going on in the Echo Park area is the continued transformation of the commercial corridor towards dining and entertainment. With this come requests for alcohol sales permits, which we saw again from more than a handful of projects.

In general the EPIA recognizes that alcohol sales are an important element to the success of dining and entertainment businesses. We easily support businesses that have established a community presence first, and more critically examine those that have not. We expect that we will continue to see these requests as the downtown Echo Park area adds more and more dining options.

### IN OTHER EPIA NEWS

Notable of the one-off projects we saw – the space next to Walgreen's was leased to Fresh & Easy, only to see parent Tesco say that they were evaluating the continuation of the Fresh & Easy endeavor. Sunset Boulevard will be getting some sort of facelift with a small Streetscape plan which was introduced to the community at the end of last year.

The EPIA has been working to smooth out the path of relocating the Craftsman four-plex at Echo Park and Park to a new home in Angelino Heights. We saw a couple of city protected murals get destroyed last year, and so we are working on a project that will inventory and document the provenance of the community murals.

Finally, we have been working on and now monitoring a potential bad outcome from the city's financial crises – the elimination of dedicated park policing in Elysian Park and soon reopened Echo Park Lake. First, we lost the Rangers replaced by the Office of Public Safety (OPS), and now OPS is being folded into LAPD. All this we discover, without any transition plan.

### VOTE!

Remember, March 5 is our opportunity to try to assert our will and vision on our future city council representation. It is very important that as a concerned member of the community, you look carefully at each of the candidates, and evaluate their ability to understand, and then get results that are good for the community, regarding the issues that we are and will be facing in Echo Park.

#### EPIAn Ways Newsletter Credits

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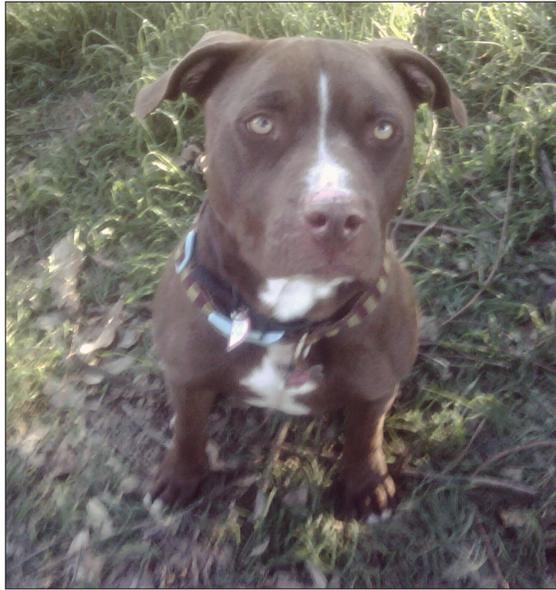
[www.epia-echopark.org](http://www.epia-echopark.org)

## Echo Park Animal Alliance pet spotlight

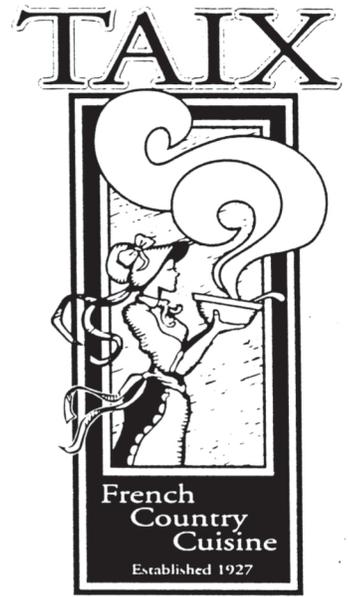
“Monty” is a young, one to two year old brown and white pittie mix. He was abandoned in Elysian Park, and after a week of being fed and socialized, he quickly warmed up.

The Echo Park Animal Alliance will be fostering him and doing some basic training. He is very smart and learned to “sit” right off. He walks well on leash, loves other dogs, and was very good around children.

He would do well in an active household, perhaps with another dog so that he’s not alone while you are gone.



For more info about fostering or giving Monty a forever home, please email [info@echoparkanimalalliance.org](mailto:info@echoparkanimalalliance.org)



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## Echo Park Community Calendar

Event	Date	Location	Comments
<b>EPIA Meetings</b>	Every 1st Thursday 7:00 pm	Williams Hall at Barlow Hospital, 2000 Stadium Way	Email EPIA to get monthly reminders of meetings and to be on email list.
<b>EPIA Steering Committee</b>	Every 2nd Monday 7:15 pm	Email <a href="mailto:EPIAmail@yahoo.com">EPIAmail@yahoo.com</a> for location	Take an active part in EPIA. Join the Steering Committee.
<b>EPIA Neighborhood Issues Committee</b>	Every 3rd Wednesday 7:00 pm	Williams Hall at Barlow Hospital, 2000 Stadium Way	
<b>Community Safety Meeting (EPSA)</b>	Every 3rd Wednesday 2:00 pm	GEPENC Community room 1572 Sunset Boulevard	Hosted by EPSA. Call (323) 860- 9914 for meeting location.
<b>Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park</b>	Every 1st Wednesday 7:00 pm	Williams Hall at Barlow Hospital, 2000 Stadium Way	Call (213) 666-9651 for meeting location
<b>Echo Park Chamber of Commerce</b>	Every 3rd Thursday 7:00 pm	Taix Restaurant	Call (213) 630-3032 for further information.
<b>Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council Meeting</b>	Every 4th Tuesday 7:00 pm	GEPENC Community room 1572 Sunset Boulevard	Call (213) 250-3400 for info or visit <a href="http://www.GEPENC.org">www.GEPENC.org</a>
<b>Edendale Library Friends Society (ELFS)</b>	Every 2nd Wednesday 7:00 pm	Edendale Library Community room 2011 W. Sunset Blvd.	Find out how you can help your neighborhood's branch.
<b>Positive Energy Group of Echo Park and Silver Lake Area</b>	4th Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Edendale Library Community room 2011 W. Sunset Blvd.	For info: <a href="http://www.positiveenergygroup.blogspot.com">www.positiveenergygroup.blogspot.com</a>
<b>EP Farmers Market</b>	Every Friday 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Parking lot #663 - half a block south of Sunset Boulevard (323) 463-3171 x13	
<b>Edendale Book Club</b>	Every 3rd Monday 6:30 pm	Edendale Library Community room 2011 W. Sunset Blvd.	

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### Echo Park Security Association

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[epsa@echoparksecurity.com](mailto:epsa@echoparksecurity.com)

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## Community Resources

### POLICE

Emergency ..... 911  
 Spanish Line ..... 213-928-8222  
 Narcotic Hotline..... 1-800-662-2878  
 Child Abuse Hotline ..... 1-800-540-4000  
 Police Non-Emergency ..... 1-877-275-5273  
 LAPD Air Support Division ..... 213-485-2600

### RAMPART DIVISION

Division Desk ..... 213-484-3400 ext 1  
 Vice Unit ..... 213-485-4080  
 Division Watch Commander ..... 213-485-4062  
 Senior Lead Officer Ford ..... 213-793-0775  
 Community Relations ..... 213-484-3400 ext 2  
 China Town Sub-Station ..... 213-621-2344

### NORTHEAST DIVISION

Division Desk ..... 323-344-5701  
 Northeast Report Unit ..... 323-344-5701  
 Senior Lead Officer Bobby Hill ..... 213-793-0760  
 Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki ..... 213-793-0763  
 Detectives ..... 323-344-5731  
 Community Relations ..... 323-344-5712  
 Gang Detail ..... 323-344-5754

### CLEAN-UP

Abandoned Vehicles..... 311  
 Cars Parked in Yards ..... 1-888-524-2845  
 Hazardous Waste Disposal Info ..... 1-800-988-6942  
 Storm Drains..... 213-485-5391  
 Trash & Bulky Item Pick Up..... 1-800-773-2489  
 LAFD Brush Clearance ..... 818-374-1111

### CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

Department Building & Safety ..... 1-888-524-2845  
 Department of Health..... 1-800-427-8700  
 Department of Transportation ..... 213-580-1177  
 Department of Water & Power ..... 1-800-342-5397  
 Parking Enforcement ..... 311  
 Loose/Stray Animals/Barking Dogs .... 888-452-7381  
 Legal Aid Client Referral..... 1-800-399-4529  
 Operation Bright Lights..... 311  
 Film LA ..... 213-977-8600

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report Graffiti/Free Paint..... 311  
 Copies of Crime & Traffic Reports ..... 213-485-4193  
 Dodger's Neighborhood Focus ..... 323-224-2636  
 Dodger's Community Affairs ..... 323-224-1435  
 North Central Animal Shelter ..... 213-847-1416  
 Elysian Park Ranger ..... 323-913-4688  
 Health Information..... 211  
 Los Angeles City Information ..... 311  
 Neighborhood Prosecutor Program .... 213-847-8045

### POLITICAL

1st District Ed Reyes ..... 213-473-7001  
 13th District Eric Garcetti..... 323-957-4500  
 Congressman Xavier Becerra ..... 213-483-1425  
 Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard.. 213-628-9230  
 State Senator Gil Cedillo..... 323-225-4545  
 Assemblyperson Kevin de Leon ..... 213-612-9566  
 LA County Supervisor Gloria Molina.. 213-974-4111  
 Mayor's Office..... 213-978-0600

More info also available at our website, [www.epia-echopark.org](http://www.epia-echopark.org)



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# Echo Park Confidential: The Dirty Dish

## What's the Dish in Echo Park these days?

by GloRia SwanSong

### RESTAURANT CH-CH-CH-CHANGES

Lots of restaurant news... what's the old adage? No publicity is bad publicity? Well, we can ask the owners of the new Cortez Restaurant of their opinion on that! Jonathan Gold's less than flattering article for the L.A. Times made the "skinny jeans" crowd to blame for small portions and large price tags. We've yet to give it a try, but, when we do, we'll make sure to wear appropriate attire, make sure we look like we "know we belong there."

In other restaurant news, the long awaited reopening of the former Allston Yacht Club (AYC), now "Alumette," should be exciting. We've had a glimpse at the new wood grain interior, and subdued lighting. Looks like the old AYC wave is gone back to sea? Or perhaps Allston, MA, and it's Atlantic ocean? Looking forward to more news from the hard working team at 1320 Echo Park Avenue.

Señor Fish finally got those much needed windows! Just in time for our winter cold snap and the rainy season! They are proposing some ambitious new plans to expand the existing beer and wine license into a full beverage license and some more expansion of the dining space into the old Santa Fe Tortilleria space. Sure do miss those blue corn tortillas, and totopas! We'll see what new proposals they have in the next month when they come and present at the Neighborhood Council and the EPIA.

### NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Taza Cafe, newly opened at 1825 W. Sunset Blvd., is offering specialties like Churros and Chocolate, Horchata lattés and artists of the month. Welcome Taza, hope to see you soon!

### CLOSING UP SHOP

In the "sad to see you go" side of things, City Sip LA has closed up shop for good as of January 31, 2013. Very sad to see local gal Nicole Daddio go, but we know she will turn up again, with another great endeavor. Best of luck to you! Feeding Birds, Backside Echo Park, and Hotel De Ville have also recently shut the doors, while Mi Alma and the nursery on Echo Park Avenue will vacate soon.

### ECHO PARK AVENUE NEWS

Speaking of Mi Alma and the nursery, in development news it looks like the shotgun/small lot developers for the former gas station at Avalon and Echo Park

*(Continued on page 8)*

Are you interested in helping students with storytelling, homework, restaurant reviews, or sonnets about monsters?



# VOLUNTEER AT 826LA!

826LA, a non-profit tutoring center for students and budding literary enthusiasts ages 6-18, is looking for adult volunteers in every shape, form, and skilled capacity, and for all hours and days of the week.

We're also looking for interns!

**Write us: [iwanttohelp@826la.org](mailto:iwanttohelp@826la.org)**



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826LA West  
685 Venice Blvd.  
Venice, CA 90291  
(310) 305-8418



826LA East  
1714 W. Sunset Blvd.  
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(213) 413-3388

# ECHO PARK PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

The EPIA is launching a new project aimed at the preservation of murals/public artwork in Echo Park.

We need your help capturing photos! Please visit [EchoParkMurals.com](http://EchoParkMurals.com) for more information on this project and to submit photos.

## New renderings proposed for Echo Park commercial development



Local architect Pete Lassen critiques the latest design for the "Montana Triangle" located on Montana Street and Glendale Boulevard in Echo Park. He argues, "A building in this location should express is that it is an integral



part of Echo Park, that it belongs to the community...This [new] proposal simply does not belong here." Do you agree with his sentiments, or do you like the latest revision? Read the full article on [epia-echopark.org](http://epia-echopark.org)

## Updates from Elysian Heights Elementary School

Submitted by Becky Mazel, Parent, School Site Council Secretary, FoEHES Treasurer

Staff, students and parents have a lot to be proud of at Elysian Heights Elementary School, an LAUSD public school serving pre-K (four year olds) through sixth grade students in Echo Park, as well as many students from beyond the Echo Park district of Los Angeles. With an API score of 825, they must be doing something great because enrollment is increasing in spite of several new charter schools opening in the area in recent years.

Elysian Heights benefits from a number of critical elements of a good school. Its Principal, Veronica Herrera Lynch is a child-centered, involved administrator who is encouraging of parent-involvement in all levels of the school's operations including classroom support, traditional school events and extra-curricular activities. Ms. Herrera personally runs two afterschool enrichment clubs including the Running Club, and the Book Club. Seasoned, dedicated teachers are also

a hallmark of the Elysian Heights staff, each of who provides the school with value-added including class and school-wide art projects and free after school classes in Gardening, Ballet, and Japanese.

The school is steeped in traditions with an annual Halloween Festival and Multicultural Dance Festival. A hub of parent involvement, there are a variety of ways that parents can contribute to the students' learning environment. A dedicated "parent center" plays host to office, classroom and school event support activities, and fundraising operations as well as providing parents a place to socialize and build community. The school's PTO Friends of Elysian Heights provides another avenue for parents who are interested in fundraising for unmet needs.

To find out more about Elysian Heights Elementary School, please contact the school at (323) 665-6315, check out the school's webpage [elysian-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com](http://elysian-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com), or on the website at [friendsofelysianheights.wordpress.com](http://friendsofelysianheights.wordpress.com)



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Echo Park Now is a local source for news, music, history and events in Echo Park.

[www.echoparknow.com](http://www.echoparknow.com)

## Cont.: What's the Dish in Echo Park?

(Continued from page 6)

Avenue have found a way around the City's denial for their permit requests back in 2010.

Building and Safety files show that the address 1901 Echo Park Ave is now slated for 7 apartments with lofts and subterranean garage????? On storm runoff Echo Park Avenue?? Wow. Looking forward to more info on this one. Sadly as a result Mi Alma, and the Echo Nursery are being evicted - there goes the neighborhood!

Magic Parking Lot, we mean Echo Fuels, no, Magic Gas? Well, looks like finally an owner has come forward and is preparing to reopen it as an actual gas station. Maybe they'll be true entrepreneurs and have preferential parking in the evenings for the crowd that circles for spaces along the avenue?

### ECHO PARK LAKE TO RETURN SOON

Down the street at Echo Park Lake things are looking on time, and on budget... it's hard to believe that the Lake has been closed since 2011. We look forward to the grand opening but, let's get to the important stuff:

1. First off, the paint color. Now, we're no expert on all things, but one thing we can tell you, is that Boathouse was NEVER Grey Poupon yellow!!! Do you want your Boathouse to be restored to its historic 1920's classic off-white? Give a call to your local council office at 323-957-4500, or email our local field deputy, oliver.delgado@lacity.org. We've been told that the Council Office needs to make the request! So dial now and often!!

2. The RFP-Request for Proposals to operate the Boathouses newly updated kitchen AND the pedal boats. Now again, not being experts on everything, we do have to question how you find someone who can cook, be a certified lifeguard AND be a master concessionaire that can turn the pedal boat operation into a revenue generating operation. We are thinking maybe, there should be two contracts, and make this reopening a recipe for success!

Well, that's all we have for this time, looking forward to more dish later!!!

For more about Echo Park and the EPIA, "like us" at [facebook.com/EchoParkImprovementAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/EchoParkImprovementAssociation)

## EP Farmers' Market spotlight



Be sure to say "hello!" to Sabrina Bohn behind the Shear Rock Farms table at the Echo Park Farmers' Market, open every Friday from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm (Parking Lot #663 on Logan Street, south of Sunset Boulevard).

"Our whole idea is that it's fresh-picked the day of or the night before." Right now they have some BEAUTIFUL Morrocan Winter Squash, as well as heirloom variety greens like broccoli, spinach and beets. While they are not "certified," they are indeed organic!

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