

Glendale Boulevard needs some serious TLC



TURN TO PAGE 2: Echo Park resident Josh Post takes on Glendale Boulevard - a seemingly dilapidated stretch of Echo Park just south of the 2 Freeway Terminus. He's called for community action to give this part of our neighborhood from TLC. Photo by Josh Post.

How the neighborhood animal rescue got its start

Joan Peck of the Neighborhood Animal Group is our focus for a series on Echo Park people

by Susan Borden

Echo Park's animal rescue movement may have got its start with Joan Peck's second-hand station wagon.

In the 1970s, coyotes prowled Elysian Heights hillsides, hunting nightly for the stray cats that were their favorite dinners. Homeless cats scrambled to hide under brush or scrub, but one colony of cats living on Kite Hill above Avon Street got some unexpected help.

Animal lover Joan Peck deliberately left the back open a crack when she

parked her old beige Volvo wagon outside her house every evening at the steep summit of Avon Terrace. The nearby kitties were able to creep into the vehicle, safe for another night.

Possibly the earliest of Echo Park's animal champions, Joan Dieter Peck was certainly one of the most effective. As the founder of the local Neighborhood Animal Group, she established two Sunset Boulevard thrift shops to fund its activities. "Trash to Treasures" at 2850 Sunset and "Neighborhood Animal Group



(Continued on page 11) Photo from the collection of Toni Peck Burnet

Save Glendale Boulevard for Echo Park

Attempting to revive a DEAD ZONE

by Josh Post

Call 911! A street in need of life support.

The portion of Glendale Boulevard that spans from the end of the 2 Freeway through Echo Park was once a thriving thoroughfare. Now, the corridor is blighted to the point where commuters are afraid to take even the slightest detour on their way to downtown, unaware that just blocks from this untended street lies fantastic restaurants, coffee spots, boutiques and art galleries of Echo Park and Silver Lake. The time is now to revive this area.

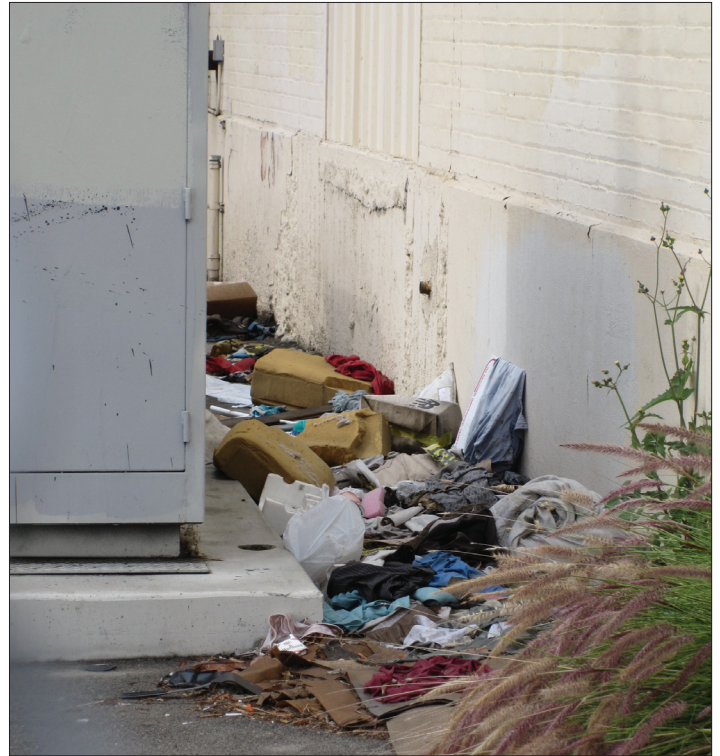
This corridor of Glendale Boulevard through Echo Park and into downtown has a rich history. In the early 1900s, the area, then known as Edendale, was home to silent movie studios, rail travel and a large artist community.

This district today is an unremarkable, to say the least, zone called the “Glendale Boulevard Corridor” known mostly for its function as a commuter thoroughfare between the southern end of the 2 Freeway and downtown Los Angeles.

If you walk down the sidewalks of Glendale Boulevard today, particularly the same area that was booming with silent film studios from Berkeley Avenue to Duane Street, you will see what I describe as a “dead zone.” Trash clutters sidewalks, graffiti adorns dilapidated/empty warehouses, overgrown empty lots sit litter-filled behind chain-linked fencing and not one tree is planted along this four-block stretch. The area has become the antithesis of “urban renewal.”

Unfortunately, this “dead zone” is the only part of Echo Park and Silver Lake that thousands of commuters see each day. After exiting the 2 Freeway traveling to downtown, commuters won’t dare stray into the nearby neighborhoods. Instead, drivers travel with tunnel vision hoping to leave the area as soon as possible for fear that the “dead zone” is as dangerous as it is ugly.

Fortunately, for those of us who live and work in Echo Park and Silver Lake, we know there is more allure in the areas adjacent to the boulevard than meets the



Trash piles up on the Glendale Corridor. Photo by Josh Post.

eye. However, as in life, it makes it extremely difficult to thrive and remain healthy when our main artery is terminally corroded. Instead of throwing up our hands, imagine a thriving Glendale Boulevard with art galleries, coffee spots, green space and, perhaps, even a silent movie theatre to pay homage to the corridor’s history. Now, imagine how beautifying Glendale Boulevard

(Continued on page 9)

Newsletter Credits

EDITOR: Kelly Smith

ADVERTISING: Darren Hubert

PRINTING: Davco



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Echo Park Holiday Parade theme announced

by Kelly Erickson

On Saturday, December 10th, 2011, the Echo Park community will celebrate its annual holiday parade with a new theme, **"Season with a Reason."**

Each year, the parade committee holds an art contest to commemorate the holiday season. This year's entries should keep in mind the theme when they submit their art.

A panel of judges will select four first place winners, who will be awarded a cash prize of \$50.00 and their art prominently displayed.

Cover art for the 2011 parade programs as well as parade flyers will be chosen from the youngest contestants, and two winners will be named. Poster art will be chosen from one entry submitted by grades six through 8.

The parade banner will be transformed from art submitted a senior high school student.

Guidelines are as follows:

Echo Park Community

PARADE

- All entries must be on 8.5" x 11" white paper.
- Include name, school, grade and telephone number on the back of each entry.
- Multiple entries are accepted and encouraged.
- Deadline: Wednesday, October 19th, 2011

Drop-off locations:

- Central City Action Committee (534 E. Edgeware Road)
- El Centro Del Pueblo (1157 Lemoyne Street)
- Echo Park Farmers' Market (coloring table, public parking lot #663, on Logan Street, south of Sunset Boulevard; every Friday, 3 – 7 pm)

For additional information contact Cindy Ortiz at (323) 664-2412 and visit www.echoparkcommunityparade.com for more info about the parade.

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Around town: What's new in Echo Park

by Kelly Erickson

Lots of stuff going on in Echo Park, and we try to keep an eye out on those new, moving or closing businesses, as well as some new things going on:

Speculation continues on what will replace the **Save-A-Lot** store next to Walgreens on Sunset Blvd., which had suddenly closed down on March 25, 2011. All signs are pointing to a Fresh and Easy, although there hasn't been final confirmation.



Villainy General Store took over the former Echo Curio space on Sunset and Lucretia. They'll be carrying: "cast iron skillets, simple cookbooks, rolls of vintage fabrics, vintage wallpaper,

various art supplies..." Check them out on Facebook!

After months and months of renovating the old Ramona Theater on Sunset Boulevard, **Mohawk Bend** opened its doors for dinner service on August 1.

A very happy birthday to **Masa of Echo Park**, which celebrated its seven-year anniversary on August 28.

Pescado Mojado on Sunset and Logan closed in August after the lease expired. The Eastsider LA says Señor Fish will be moving in within three months.

A retail space in the **Echo 1030** lofts on Alvarado and Sunset has a new tenant opening next year - a

vegetarian restaurant serving up drinks, traditional dining, and to-go counter with wraps and sandwiches.

iam8bit opened its new space on August 11 next to Mohawk Bend. The art gallery is now featuring a show with 80s-inspired gaming art.

Also next to Mohawk Bend - opened by Echo Park resident Isabelle Dahlin in June is **deKor**, a boutique featuring super cool Swedish stylings.



Want to become a US Citizen? You need to learn English and Civics!

Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Service (IRIS) is now offering ESL/Civics classes 4 hours per week for 14 weeks with a one time fee of only \$25!

Classes will begin **September 6, 2011** and are open to any **Legal Permanent Residents (anyone who has a green card)**

Classes will be held at two locations:

Cathedral Center in Echo Park:
840 Echo Park Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90026

IRIS:
3621 Brunswick Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Contact Chris Rhodes at IRIS (323) 667-2271
or crhodes@ladiocese.org

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Darren Hubert

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Update on the Echo Park Lake rehab project

You've probably noticed: Echo Park Lake has been gated up and construction vehicles on location for the two-year, approximately \$70 million project. Here's the latest we have on what's going on:

At press time, the lake is being prepared for draining, which includes removing/storing the Lady of the Lake and installing the temporary ponds for the wildlife. The first phase of draining includes a reduction of 4-8 feet.

The fish will be captured and relocated for the second phase of draining. Wildlife relocation activities supervised by a wildlife biologist will continue through the end of September 2011.

The sidewalk on the east side of Glendale Blvd. will be closed during the life of the project due to safety issues brought up during the last public forum. Street closure times for parking have also been reduced.

Visit www.echoparklake.org and sign up for email alerts to keep up to date!



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EPAA Pet Spotlight: CC



Hi, I'm CC. I have long, white hair, and soulful green eyes. Some of my favorite activities are helping you put laundry away, getting my belly rubbed and catnapping with my favorite human, which of course is you.

I'm 2 years young, and I'm homeless because my mom passed away. I miss her, but my foster dad is taking good care of me. I would really like to be an only cat and a quiet home would suit me fine. I am a little shy with people when I first meet them. I'm working on it, but not everyone is perfect, right? If you're patient, that won't matter though, because once I get comfortable, I settle right in for my favorite pastimes – helping with laundry, nibbling on delectables, belly rubs and hanging out with you.

I am up on my medical, so let's just meet, decide we can't live without each other and then live happily ever after together, shall we?

To meet CC contact EPAA to learn more at: info@echoparkanimalalliance.org

epn
echo park now

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

Email us your stories/ideas/tips: info@echoparknow.com

Echo Park Community Calendar

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

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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	213-485-2563
Northeast Report Unit	213-485-2563
Senior Lead Officer Bobby Hill	213-793-0760
Senior Lead Officer Al Polehonki	213-793-0763
Detectives	213-485-2566
Community Relations	213-485-2548
Gang Detail	213-847-4263

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
Street Lighting Repairs.....	311

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	213-473-7002
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



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Updates from Central City Action Committee

by Gloria Sohaki

My gosh, summer is almost over. It seems this past year has gone by quickly and the kids are getting older and I am too. At least the kids keep me young in thought. This summer is the first time CCAC is without a youth contract. All the money we use for program activities is made through our rummage sales. We have a core group of kids ranging in age of 10 to 20. The older ones have become supervisors for us and the younger ones help me in the office.

Starting in June, Maryanne has scheduled the kids to remove stickers from poles and/or paint the poles if necessary. For their efforts a stipend is given to them each month. The kids use the money to buy clothes, phones, shoes and purchase any items their families might need. In order to receive the stipend the kids have to give us hours doing volunteer work. Sam has been getting to the center at 9am and taking the kids to different areas. They scrape and paint brigade.

Along with working and volunteering CCAC has

managed to take the kids to the movies a few times. I took them to Hansen Dam (my favorite place) where we spent a wonderful time in the water. Bowling is popular as it is inside with air conditioning. Our big trip was to Disneyland from early morning till late at night. It was a beautiful day and not so crowded. Before we left Echo Park we made a stop at Burger King for the 88 cent special. Got them fed before we let them loose.

I got to see Mary Poppins and tried to do a little soft shoe with her, but Sam pulled me away. Our youngest, Valeria, asked me on each ride if it went up or down. I assured her all the rides were safe for her. By the look on her face, she was having a ball.

Sam the tour director was running back and forth with fast passes. I sure wished he would have gotten the passes for the area we were in instead of having to go from one end of Disneyland to the other end for each ride. Our other supervisor was Alexis and it was his first time. He managed to talk on his phone while going on rides. Course the kids laughed at him. Most of the kids loved Space Mountain and I think a few went on it 3 times. Towards the end of the day while I was saving our seats turkey legs became a contest between the turkey leg lovers. The contest continued all the way home - this trip was a special trip for special kids and

(Continued on page 9)



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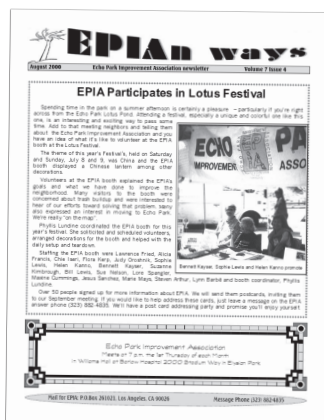
C A L L 2 1 3 4 1 3 4 9 5 0

11 YEARS AGO... in the 2000 issue of EPIAn Ways

EPIA members volunteered to man the booth at the Lotus Festival, which at the time included beautiful lotus blossoms in the lake.

"Volunteers at the EPIA booth explained the EPIA's goals and what we have done to improve the neighborhood. Many visitors to the booth were concerned about trash buildup and were interested to hear of our efforts toward solving that problem. Many also expressed an interest in moving to Echo Park. We're really on the map," the article reads.

Check out our website for more archives!



Cont: Save Glendale Blvd.

(Continued from page 2)

would benefit not only the Boulevard, but also the entire area from Silver Lake to Elysian Park and Echo Park to Historic Filipino Town. The point is not that we need to placate the commuters. We need to do this for our own well being.

The time is now to make it happen. Let's make this "Gateway to Echo Park / Silver Lake" into a zone that truly represents what the area has to offer. While this area from Berkeley Avenue to the 2 Freeway will not be transformed over night, we are starting with a trash pick-up / clean-up day on Saturday November 5, 2011 (more details to follow). The initial phase will consist of trash pick-ups and graffiti removal. It is then my hope that outreach and community awareness will lead to future tree plantings, revitalization and eventually to a clean, green, inviting boulevard of which we can be proud.

Stay tuned for more details regarding the upcoming clean-up day and/or contact Echo Park resident Josh Post at josh@joshpost.com



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(213) 413-3388

ECHO PARK LIBRARIES - UPCOMING EVENTS

ECHO PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

Game Day: Saturdays at noon.

LACMA Family Art Class: Sept. 8 at 4:00 pm.

Bilingual Baby and Toddler Storytime:

September 6 and 13 at 12:30 pm.

Teen Council: Tuesday, September 9 at 4:00 pm.

Volunteer Orientation: September 15 at 6:00 pm.

Cut Your Own Papel Picado: September 19 at 4:00 pm. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and learn how to make papel picado, the traditional folk art used in Mexico to decorate tables, ceilings and alters during festivals.

Computer classes:

Online Job Searching & Resume Review:

If you are a seasoned employee searching or a recent graduate looking for a job, this class will assist you in job searching, creating, and updating your resume. This class is by appointment.

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Wednesday:	10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Thursday:	12:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Friday-Saturday:	10:00 am - 5:30 pm

EDENDALE BRANCH LIBRARY

ELFS Used Book Sale: Wednesdays at 2:00 pm.

Book Club: First Thursday of each month, 6:30 pm.

For Children

Infant & Toddler Storytime: Wednesdays at 10:15 am and 11:00 am. Children 1-3 and their special grown-ups join the children's librarian for nursery rhymes, songs, finger plays, and books.

One World, Many Stories: June 25 at 10:00 am. Drop by the library anytime today for games and crafts from around the world and to sign up. Read great books this summer and get a free book to keep and a chance to win other prizes.

Legos Club: Saturday, Sept. 17 at 10:30 am. Join other children for some creative construction. We'll provide the Legos and Duplos, but donations are welcome to help build up our collection.

INCA, Music from Peru: Thursday, Sept. 22 at 6:30 pm. An exciting introduction to the music of the Incas, the Hispanic cities of coastal Peru, the Afro-Peruvian villages south of Lima and the natives of the Peruvian and Bolivian Amazon jungle.

For Teens

Teen Council: Tuesday, October 6 at 5:00 pm.

Teen Book Club: Thursday, Sept. 15 at 5:00 pm.

Teen Cooking Club: Thursday, Sept. 29 at 5:00 pm.

Halloween Horror Fest: Thursday, October 27 at 5:00 pm.

Computer classes:

Introduction to Computers: September 6 at 4:00 pm and October 4 at 1:00 pm.

Introduction to the Internet: September 8 at 4:00 pm and October 6 at 1:00 pm.

Introduction to E-mail: September 13 at 4:00 pm and October 11 at 1:00 pm.

Introduction to Word Processing: 9/15 at 4 pm.

Word Processing for kids: 9/20 at 3:30 pm.

For details: www.lapl.org

Continued: Joan Peck

(Continued from page 1)

Thrift" at 3901 Sunset paid the bills for food, vet services and whatever else abandoned animals needed.

After she lost a favorite dog in a freak accident, neighbors gave Joan two puppies. She watched as the puppies' parents, unrestrained by their owners, produced litter after litter. Seeing how badly people needed education, she dedicated herself not only to rescuing animals but also to making sure that owners understood their responsibilities to their pets. Joan, a teacher, always included references to animals and their well-being in the lesson plans she wrote.

The hillside house at 1421 Avon Terrace that Joan shared with daughter Toni since 1964 was a way station for hundreds of lost, strayed and discarded dogs, cats and the occasional bird. Toni remembers that her mother was frequently "busted for too many animals!" But once the word was out about her activities, Toni says, the numbers of dogs and cats arriving just snowballed.

In 1975 when Joan's daughter moved out, even more animals moved in. Joan kept the cats at her little home, which featured a 5-inch diameter hole in the floor of the living room, through which the cats she kept downstairs climbed for a nap on the sofa or playtime.

However she did not have enough room for the needs of many dogs. Joan and a core group of Echo Park animal lovers organized Neighborhood Animal Group, affectionately known as NAG, to provide care, find homes, and spay and neuter abandoned animals in Echo Park. Feral cats, including members of a large colony behind Pioneer Market (now Walgreens), were trapped, driven to a vet for spaying or neutering and an identifying nick in the ear, and then released back where they had been caught. NAG found homes for the rescued dogs through ads, word of mouth, and groups such as north Hollywood's "Pet Orphans."

At first NAG raised money by holding rummage sales in the Montana Street supermarket parking lot and similar places. However, as current Echo Park resident and former NAG member Jerry Campbell recalls, volunteers soon grew tired of hauling donations to and from multiple garages, leading NAG to open its two



A sign is the final remnant of "Trash to Treasures" at 2850 Sunset Boulevard - now Priscilla's Beauty Salon. Photo by Susan Bourden.

thrift shops.

Meanwhile Joan spearheaded Zero Pet Population Growth, a city campaign for more spaying and neutering, and Volunteers In Service to Animals (VISA) which let private citizens volunteer in city animal shelters.

In 1992 Joan bought a ranch in Acton where she built kennels to house the increasing number of animals arriving in Echo Park. Four years later she moved to Acton herself, and lived there until her death on March 11, 2011 at the age of eighty.

Echo Park has many hardworking animal activists who are following in the footsteps of Joan Peck and NAG. Echo Park's animals and residents have a great deal to thank her for.

Thanks to Toni Burnett and Jerry Campbell for their recollections of Joan Peck and NAG.

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Cont: CCAC Updates

co-workers. (Continued from page 2)

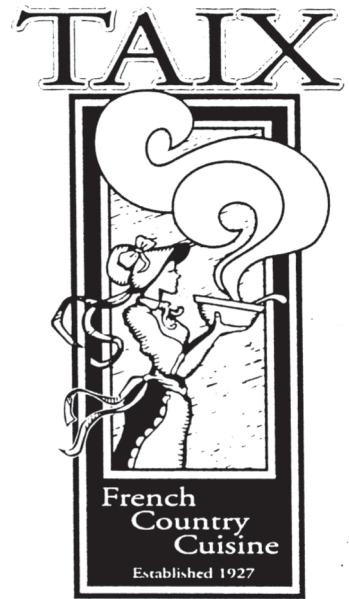
Okay so what do we do for an encore? On August 2, I took four of our finest to Rampart Police Department. It was National Night Out and for the past 6 years I cut the cakes. I came prepared with our own knives and an apron for me because somehow I get all full of frosting. We cut 525 pieces of cake. It is such a pleasure showcasing the kids.

Toward the end of the event the kids were helping to make corn on the cob (elote), and it was my job to say elote and the kids put the sticks in the corn, mayo on it, grated cheese and of course drizzle with butter and chili. Now that was something we

had never done before. Our kids are responsible, do not cause trouble and are able to make decisions on their own when we take them out and about. Thanks, Jennifer, Esmeralda, Patty and Alejandro (aka Leonardo or Percy) – good job!!!

The kids participated in the Mobile Pinhole Project. New to Echo Park, this group is teaching new and old ideas on photos. The kids enjoyed it when they went in a van that was converted into a camera - great project.

Next week Maryanne and Sam are taking the kids camping. I am still not a happy camper. Then after Labor Day we have a BBQ in the backyard and it is back to school!



1911 SUNSET BOULEVARD
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We need your help

This year we had donations from printers, other community groups and residents that has allowed us to continue to product our newsletter. Due to the cost of printing we run a deficit with each newsletter produced. This is not something that the EPIA can sustain for a long period of time if donations stop coming in. Therefore we are attempting to raise funds for continued support of the newsletter.

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All contributions are appreciated equally

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FIGHTING BLINDNESS,
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