

A big unveiling for Echo Park's Big Belly

Modern technology finds a solution to an old problem

by Susan Borden

Echo Park shoppers agree—they dislike strolling through garbage to reach stores along Sunset Boulevard. But the wire trash baskets aren't emptied often enough and the overflow piles up where passers-by walk. What's the answer? More trash bins? Three or four baskets in one place get unsightly. More trash pick-ups? Rolling those trash trucks for extra runs costs too much.

Ida Talalla has lived in Echo Park since 2000 and had her eye on trash for a long time before then. The former resident of New Mexico

organized clean-ups there along historic Route 66 and on forest service roads where drivers tossed rubbish out of the car windows. When she moved to Echo Park and began the walks she enjoys so much, Ida quickly realized that Echo Park had a problem too. She saw that trash spilling from street-side baskets was not only a nuisance but also fell into storm drains and polluted Echo Park Lake, helping kill off the famous lotus plants.

The retired school teacher and environmentalist thought she had

(Continued on page 5)



"I want to look at it every day!" says Ida Talalla, and thanks to her - we all can! Photo by Susan Borden.

Holiday spirit: Halloween decorations done right



Glenn Hill has a tradition of making stellar Halloween decorations using recycled materials.

by Kelly Erickson

As an overworked adult these days, it's easy to forget about the Halloween holiday. Not to mention, there are fewer decorations than the days of growing up in a small town, our mini suburbs full of kids trick-or-treating and haunted houses (remember the house that gave out full-size candy bars?!). Thankfully, however, we've got our very own resident bringing the Halloween spirit alive to one pocket of Echo Park.

(Continued on page 2)

Continued: Bringing back the Halloween spirit

(Continued on page 1)

I first noticed this house a few years ago when I lived in a dark little apartment across the street, my first Echo Park pad. As the Halloween holiday approached, we watched as an enormous figure took shape in front of our neighbor's home, its giant arms reaching out over the sidewalk and a vague grotesque expression on its face. It was completely made out of paper and tape, surprisingly surviving our street and the weather. It turns out the papier-mâché figure was one of many, and certainly not the last.

Hoping to catch a glimpse of more of these figures, we met up with the artist himself, Glenn Hill. He's lived in his Echo Park home on Douglas Street near Beverly Boulevard for about nine years now. Five or six years ago, he started hosting Halloween parties for fellow 12-step program members at his home – and what would a Halloween party be without decorations?

So he started putting up Halloween decorations – but these are no ordinary decorations, and you certainly can't find them at the local Walgreen's. Glenn creates the figures out of recycled newspaper, tape and plastic – anything he's got laying around, or donated by his neighbors, is contributed to the decorations.

In past years, neighborhood kids would come up the street to watch him forming the newest creation. Although he didn't do any decorations last year, and though he's not holding a party this year, questions by neighbor kids and a pile of plastic donated by the Dream Center prompted Glenn to make the Halloween decorations this year.

Glenn doesn't make any of his decorations gory,



Creepy but never gory! Photo by Kelly Erickson.

although you have to admit they are a little... creepy. "Halloween is not a pretty holiday like Christmas is," he said, "you can do anything you want with Halloween."

He considers making these over-sized papier-mâché monsters therapeutic. The papier-mâché is self-taught – he has an art background but no professional training so to speak. When he started in 2003, the creatures got bigger and bigger, and more creative. "I have no design when I start. I give birth to each from a single sheet of paper."

Surprisingly, no one ever messes with them – they've never been stolen or defaced, rather the neighborhood respects Glenn and his work.

His favorite piece? He doesn't have one! Collectively, they are all his favorite. He sees it as a "way of connecting back to the community that helped me."

When I was first there to interview Glenn, he had one big piece up. The next week he had another. By the time you read this, who knows – maybe he'll have even more! Which means you'll have to check it out on your own before the end of the Halloween holiday. Glenn's house is on Douglas Street, between Colton Street and Beverly Boulevard near the Echo Park Pool. His house is hard to miss!

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News from the Holiday Parade committee

Echo Park Community

PARADE

The EPIA is thrilled and humble to be a part of the Holiday Parade in any capacity, and this year we are honored to be Parade Ambassadors!

We are also joining fellow Parade Ambassadors Holly Calhoun, Site Manager of the Echo Park Farmers' Market, Masa of Echo Park, and Albert Torres, Senior Park Ranger II of Recreation and Parks.

This year's Grand Marshal is Mitch O'Farrell, Senior Advisor Director of Special Projects of the Office of Council President Eric Garcetti.

See you all at the parade on December 10, 2011!

Go to www.echoparkcommunityparade.com for more information.

EP Farmers' Market celebrating five years

The fifth anniversary of the Echo Park Farmer's Market is upon us, although it's hard to imagine we ever lived without one!

The Farmers' Market first opened on October 13, 2006 at its currently location in the parking lot between Logan Street and Echo Park Avenue. It was a huge success for the community, especially after the closure of Pioneer Market in 2004.

In addition to the Market's Healthy Basket program, it also accepts WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program checks and Food Stamps.



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EPAA Pet Spotlight

The Echo Park Animal Alliance is helping resident Courtney find an adorable grey and white cat find a new home! Here's her story:

As some of you know, this is the kitty who was up in a hawks nest for a week near my house in Echo Park. We were able to get a tree climber out there to try and get her down but she ended up falling 60 FEET out of the tree (into a blanket that we were holding) but she escaped from the blanket and took off into Elysian Park.

A week later my pitbull Elle found her late at night in the park! She has a clean bill of health (just need to get her spayed in the next couple weeks) other than that she is PERFECT. I am seeking a home for her. I would prefer she be indoor only.

She is ok with other cat friendly cats and could be ok with a calm, cat savvy dog. As it turns out, she is afraid of my dogs and has given "warnings" to them but has never struck or bitten them. She has gotten calmer about them being around in the few weeks that I have had her. A neighbor told me she was chased up in that tree by a coyote, no wonder she's afraid of the canines!!

Other than that, Ella is playful, LOVES to lay in your lap and/or be held, talk to you and has the a loud purring motor that never stops!

View a video of this purring companion at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQzkgeHgbyw

To get more info about adopting or fostering, contact EPAA at: info@echoparkanimalalliance.org

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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

*Naturalization & Other Immigration Legal Services
also available at IRIS!*

Continued: Solar-powered trash bin unveiled

(Continued from page 1)

found a high-tech, lower cost solution to keep Echo Park's sidewalks and gutters clean. However, it took Ida and her small committee five years to convince the city's powers-that-be that cutting edge technology could be the answer to Echo Park's trash-strewn streets. The five committee members—four of them local senior citizens—had to raise thousands of dollars through city grants and “sweat equity” to pay for the first community-supported Big Belly in Los Angeles.

Ida's been a fan of the solar-powered Big Belly trash bin/compactor ever since she found out about it in 2006. By crushing trash inside its bin, the innovative Big Belly can hold up to four times as much trash as a conventional wire basket. It also has a compartment for recycling. Best of all, the Big Belly's on-board computer lets the pickup service know when it's full.

Today Ida credits many local people and institutions for their help, especially the “Keep Los Angeles Beautiful” program of the Board of Public Works. Dozens of Echo Park businesses, believers as soon as the system was explained, wrote more letters of support than there was space for in the grant application; Maryanne Hayashi gave expert assistance; Central City Action Committee was a major help; Pastor David Farley of Echo Park United Methodist provided advice; Councilman Eric Garcetti was a strong supporter as was Councilman Ed Reyes; CD13 let them use the recent L.A. Storm Water education program graphic design on the bin's wrap. There were other donors too—the wireless call system manufacturer did not charge for the system it installed; the trash pick-up company, Shelter Clean, promises to pick up from the Echo Park Big Belly free for a year.



City staff unveil the new solar trash can on September 14, 2011. Photo by Susan Borden.

Ida's dream was realized on September 14, 2011 when the solar-powered Big Belly trash recycler/compactor was ceremonially opened for business on the northeast corner of Echo Park Avenue and Sunset Boulevard. Amid afternoon traffic, Ida was thrilled to greet the new Big Belly in its colorful wrapper. Even James Poss, the inventor of the Big Belly, flew in from Massachusetts to witness the red-carpet event. Along with city officials, including Eric Garcetti, Ida and her committee welcomed the new bin to our neighborhood.

Right now Ida's taking time to enjoy the improved cleanliness at the corner. She's looking forward to the first time Big Belly's emptied, but till then, she admits, “I want to look at it every day!”



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echo park now

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

www.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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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	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
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Día de los Muertos at El Centro Del Pueblo

The annual commemoration of Día de los Muertos along with the Echo Park Mariachi Festival takes place at El Centro Del Pueblo on Saturday, October 15, 2011. Entrance to the festival is free!

Everyone is welcome to create a free altar in commemoration of Día de los Muertos at the center, which goes on from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Vendor booths are \$50.



The Mariachi Festival (from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm) features LAUSD Middleton Elementary School Mariachi and Flocorico Dancers.

Join your neighbors, family and friends for altars, culture, food, free arts and crafts for kids, and plenty of entertainment - including an art exhibit.

This event is co-sponsored by GEPENC, State Senator Kevin De Leon, Assemblymember Gilbert Cedillo and Los Angeles Council President Eric Garcetti. El Centro Del Pueblo is located at 1157 Lemoyne St.

Contact Lidia Martinez at Imecdp@yahoo.com or 213-483-6335, if you'd like a space for your free altar or vendor booth.



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Thanksgiving giveaway for families in need



Photo Credit: Jon SooHoo/LA Dodgers 2010

Each year, the EPIA participates in the annual Los Angeles Dodgers and Dodgers Dream Foundation (DDF) Thanksgiving giveaway for families in need. Date of the giveaway TBA.

Ralphs/Food4Less for the provisions (turkey and stuffing for a traditional family Thanksgiving meal). Partners also include Council President Eric Garcetti (CD13), Councilmember Ed P. Reyes (CD1), CA State Senator Kevin de León (CA22), Citizen's Committee to Save Elysian Park, and the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council.

If you know of a family who is in needs a holiday meal, please email us at epiamail@yahoo.com

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ECHO PARK LIBRARIES - UPCOMING EVENTS

ECHO PARK BRANCH LIBRARY

Up Against the Wall: October 15 at 11:00 am

Teen Council: Friday, October 7 at 4:00 pm

Game Day Saturdays: Oct, 8, 22 and 29 at 12pm

Writing Your Own Story Workshop: Thursdays, Sept. 29–Oct. 13 (3-5p for teens; 6-8p for adults)

Readers' Theatre honoring Hispanic Heritage Month & Filipino American History Month: Saturday, October 15, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

How To Plan Your Quinceañera: Saturday, October 15 at 3:00 pm

Echo Park Drawn Time Capsule: Thursday, October 20 at 4:00 pm

Airbrush Workshop for Teens: October 21 at 4:00 pm

LACMA Family Art Class: Thursday, October 13, 20 and 27 at 4:00 pm

Marcus Miller Drumming Performance: Wednesday, November 2 at 3:30 pm

Teen Advisory Board: Friday, Nov. 4 at 4:00 pm

Computer classes: For info call 213-250-7808

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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.

Live Homework Help Demonstration: Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 5:00 pm. For parents and teachers.

Drama West: Saturday, Oct. 29 at 2:00 pm. Join us for live readings of original comedy and drama followed by short films.

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, Oct. 15 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.

For Teens

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

Teen Book Club & Wii Gaming: Thursday, Oct. 20 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: Oct. 4 at 1:00 pm

Introduction to the Internet: Oct. 6 at 1:00 pm

Introduction to E-mail: Oct. 11 at 1:00 pm

Introduction Word Processing: Oct. 13 at 1 pm.

Word Processing for kids: Oct. 13 at 3:30 pm.

For details: www.lapl.org

News from the Echo Park Branch Library

by Wendy McPherson

Teen Volunteers Awards Dinner in August

Young Adult Librarian, Wendy McPherson, honored 30 teen volunteers who worked at the Echo Park Library this summer for a total of 1,418 hours. They brought parents, siblings and friends to the dinner. Several restaurants and businesses in Echo Park donated lots of wonderful food for the dinner, including Taix French Restaurant, Two Boots Pizza, Costa Alegre, Echo/Echoplex and Brite Spot. There was plenty of delicious food for everyone.

We showed a movie (created by Wendy), which set to music photos and video clips of the teens volunteering—helping with summer reading, promoting to parents the online read-aloud program called TumbleBook, cooking for teen summer reading programs, helping with the book sale, and more. All involved had a really good time.

Los Angeles Public Library Volunteers Coordinator, Toria Aiken, and Youth Services Manager, Eva Mitnick, both sent messages of greeting and support that Wendy read aloud during the program. Northeast Area Manager, Sylvia Galan-Garcia (former resident and managing librarian at the Echo Park Library), attended to help give out the awards to each volunteer. She also made a motivational speech to the teens and their families about the importance of their work as volunteers for their community, and the value of their developing leadership.

Volunteers each received a beautiful City of L.A. Certificate of Appreciation that documented the number of hours they worked. The top volunteer, Kim Gutierrez from Roybal High School, worked 96 hours, and



Teen volunteers work hard all summer. Photo courtesy of Wendy McPherson

received a special award and gift. Several teens who had completed training in the Dewey Decimal System received Dewey Certifications (“Dewey Certs”). Two more volunteers, Daisy Cruz, and Alan Carrillo, also worked over 90 hours and received special awards and small gifts. Recognition and gifts were also given for “Greatest Longevity,” and “Most Enthusiastic.”

Wendy told the teens that they were a very special group of volunteers, great in numbers, great in commitment, and great in heart. She encouraged them as a trained group of leaders to consider using their new volunteer skills to help with Echo Park Library’s soon-to-be-opened Homework Center. She emphasized that this Center would be run by volunteers.

(Continued on page 12)

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Cont: Updates from the Echo Park Branch Library

(Continued from page 11)

Open House at Echo Park Library

Monday, October 17 through Saturday, October 23

Echo Park Library will host an open house that is particularly geared towards introducing parents and teachers to the many resources and activities available at this hub of the community. Activities will be scheduled all week, including programs for children, teens and adults, the launching the Echo Park Library's first Homework Center, and demonstrations of the library's wealth of digital resources.

Learn about recent advances in our e-media collection and Kindle-compatible e-books, free downloadable MP3 music, Text-A-Librarian reference services, Los Angeles Public Library app for your smartphone, RSS feeds of current book reviews, Facebook pages and blogs. Teens and adults can learn about volunteer opportunities at the library. Parents and teachers can learn about the many student resources we offer. All are welcome! Please stop by!



Summer reading club, sign up here!

Homework Center Opening in October

Opening on October 17, the Homework Center will provide study space, online live chat tutoring with Live Homework Help, and dedicated computers the students can use for assignments. For students in 4th through 12th grades, the Center will be open Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 – 5:00, and Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 – 5:30.

We need your help

This year we had donations from printers, other community groups and residents that has allowed us to continue to produce 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.

Thank you in advance for your Support.

Donation Amount: _____

All contributions are appreciated equally

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Address: _____

Email: _____

Yes! Sign me up for the EPIA email notifications

COMMUNITY Cleanup

CLEAN UP GLENDALE BOULEVARD

Trash Pick-Up / Graffiti removal / Sidewalk clean up

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2011
9:00 AM – NOON

Office of LA City Council President Eric Garcetti to provide trash bags & supplies!

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in front of the Jack in the Box restaurant at 1710 Glendale Boulevard.

For more info, contact Josh Post:
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