

An overdue revival of Glendale Boulevard

by Susan Borden

Between the Edendale post office and the terminus of the Glendale freeway, Glendale Boulevard is an unloved stretch of roadway hurried through by motorists generally on their way to or from work. Nobody pays the street much attention, and it shows in the dirty trash blowing on the broken sidewalks, and the vigorous weeds sprouting from the soiled gutters.

But Echo Park resident—and Glendale Boulevard jogger—Josh Post sees this grimy urban street as a potentially scrubbed clean and well-kept boulevard. So, on a bright and sunny Saturday morning, he got a head start on making that vision come true.

Tall and intense, Josh inspired dozens of residents and volunteers to spend several morning hours filling garbage



(Continued on page 2) Coordinator Josh Post gives over 50 volunteers directions on cleanup day.

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Pedestrian safety on Temple Street

by Margarita Fernandez

A community safety meeting was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2011, at Placencia Elementary School. Led by Patton Allianza Coalition, a community grass roots organization, the meeting was held to discuss safety measures with

emphasis on pedestrian safety.

In the early morning hours of Tuesday September 27, 2011, three students on their way to school were involved in an automobile accident at the intersection of Laveta Terrace and Temple Street.

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Echo Park Improvement Association meets at 7 p.m. the 1st Thursday of each Month in Williams Hall at Barlow Hospital 2000 Stadium Way in Elysian Park

Continued: Glendale Boulevard cleanup

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bags with trash, sweeping sidewalks and digging dirt out of gutters along Glendale Boulevard, and uncomfortably close to vehicles speeding past.

Boys and girls from Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic school, located just a little farther north on Glendale Boulevard, enthusiastically raked leaves under the direction of some of their teachers.

The kids from Central City Action Committee have always helped out and this time was no exception. Some of the sidewalks they cleaned had been dirt-covered so long that no one remembered the existence of pavement underneath! Los Angeles Conservation Corps fielded a crew as well.

Residents who pitched in were joined by Mitch O'Farrell and Alejandra Marroquin, deputies from Council District 13, who set to with a will, digging their shovels into the heavy dirt obstructing the storm drains.

Delilah Bakery made sure everyone got off to a good start with a breakfast of fresh muffins and coffee served at the staging area of the Jack in the Box parking lot. When the morning's work was over, Feeding Birds boutique rewarded volunteers with silkscreened "I Heart Echo Park" t-shirts from a nearby tabletop during the event.

It would be a stretch to call this part of Glendale Boulevard immaculate yet, but it does have a bit of a shine on it for the holidays. Take a good look the next time



you're over there and see what Josh Post and your neighbors have accomplished.

By the way, don't worry if you missed this clean up—Josh has more planned.

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Continued: Pedestrian safety on Temple Street

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This intersection is very dangerous as is Patton St. at Temple St, both sites need a pedestrian crosswalk.

The meeting had the support of Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, City of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, LAUSD Board President Mónica Garcíá, the Echo Park Improvement Association (EPIA), and the Echo Park Branch Library. In attendance were community members like Bennett Kayser (LAUSD District 5 school board member), Elmer Roldan (Community Affairs Deputy of LAUSD Board President Monica Garica's office), Lourdes Ortiz of the LAUSD, Carlos Torres (Environmental Health Manage, Safety & IH), Safety Officer Siegert of School Police, LAPD, and MaryAnn Hayashi

of Central City Action Committee.

Each spoke on what we as a community can do to make our community pedestrian safe. We acknowledged that this community has a high density of pedestrian usage, and we must act now to prevent another accident. We acknowledged that traffic on Edgware Road between Temple Street and Court must be alleviated, even valet parking was discussed.

The energy in the auditorium was electrifying and I knew together we would make a change. The 50 plus people in the audience contributed by asking questions and offering answers - as one person said, "The pedestrian is first and foremost, and the vehicle is second." Another said the city has a responsibility to pedestrians.

The Patton Allianza Coalition has been

working on getting a pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Patton Street and Temple Street since a parent was hit on their way to pick up children at Placencia Elementary School. We have been told that LADOT is doing a study and we hope to learn of the results soon. The study is long overdue.

With the support of the various offices, community members, the meeting was a huge success. Patton Allianza Coalition will have a meeting soon to inform the community of the latest news on both the intersections of Patton and Temple Street and Laveta Terrace, which are all dangerous intersections. There is double the danger, there must be double the safety. Two pedestrian crosswalks does sound nice!

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EPIA and friends thank Echo Park Fire Station 20

by Kelly Erickson

While many of us were lucky to enjoy the company of family, wine, turkey and pies on Thanksgiving Day, there are many individuals that served our community here in Echo Park.

EPIA members and friends helped organize the unofficial "adoption" of the Echo Park Fire Station 20 located on Sunset Boulevard for the Thanksgiving holiday. They asked for community members to contribute a Thanksgiving meal dish for our firefighters on duty for the holiday, including pies, rolls, cranberry sauce, turkey, mashed potatoes, and all the other fixin's.

And we had a huge response! Donations came in from EPIA members, families from a local play group, and other community families. There were about eight firefighters on duty that day, a lot of them pulling 24 hour shifts. A few of those families who brought a meal hung out with the crew as well, and the kids had a great time climbing in the fire trucks.

Thank you to everyone who brought the food, and to Andrea Barbosa and family for the idea and making it happen!

More importantly, thank you firefighters! With all the budget cuts going with our city services, we know you're working very, very hard to keep us safe. Happy holidays!



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