

## California High-Speed Rail Updates *May Impact Elysian Park, State Park at Taylor Yards*

by Andrew Garsten and Christine Peters

At the Thursday, September 6, 2012 town hall meeting of the EPIA, the Outreach Team for the Palmdale to Los Angeles section of the California High-Speed Rail Project presented an update on the project. This is the second time that the Outreach Team has presented to EPIA, and the team is now conducting further studies of the alignment alternatives as it prepares the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement for release to the public.

There were two major issues of interest to our community: The choice of route out of Union Station, and where the one and only San Fernando Valley stop will be as the train enters the Los Angeles basin in Sylmar from the Palmdale station.

The Union Station platform will currently need to be elevated to accommodate the intersections of

*(Continued on page 2)*



### Around town: What's new in Echo Park



Wells Antique Tile & Pottery has been offering the city's largest selection of antique tiles in Echo Park for 20 years. The store recently moved down the block to a larger space that it shares with Eric's Architectural Salvage. More about this and other stories on Echo Park happenings on page 7.

### Echo Park Community Parade 2012 announcements

This year's Echo Park Community Parade: takes place on Saturday, December 8, 2012 from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. The parade route is along Sunset Boulevard from Elysian Park Avenue to Park Avenue.

This year's theme is "Lights of Echo Park."

Grand Marshals are: Los Angeles Police Department Captains William A. Murphy, Captain III (Northeast Community Police Station) & Steve

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## Cont.: CA High-Speed Rail impacts on our community

(Continued from page 1)

MetroLink, Amtrak, and Metro sub-way system. As such, there are now two substantially different choices for consideration: A tunnel that would go from Union Station under Broadway and the Northeast Corner of Elysian Park and come to the surface past the 2 Freeway along San Fernando Valley Road, or a surface link that would go wide to the east of the “corn fields” then along the current southern border (LA River side) of Taylor Yards. As is the case for the entire High-Speed Rail proposal, both would be “grade separated” – meaning that the routes go under or over roads – no horns, noises or crossing barriers.

A tunnel carries some risk of unpredictable environmental impacts – like a possible impact on the flow of subterranean aquifers. It is also an alternative that is projected to cost \$500 million more than the surface route. The surface route will go along the current southern border of State Park at Taylor Yards and the LA River adjacent parcels that the Taylor Yards Master Plan calls for acquiring as a “passive” recreation area – essentially dissecting the long term vision of the State Park. It will also introduce concerns regarding noise. However, since the grade separated trains will be decelerating to about 60 mph at this point, slower than the traffic on the 5 Freeway, noise should not be that significant.

There were three choices for a San Fernando Valley stop: The City of San Fernando, near the Burbank Airport, and a stop in between. It was expressed during the meeting that Burbank Airport is embarking on a significant “transit hub” project to connect the airport, Metro Link, bus service and Rental Car services, and

## Neighborhood Council elections on Saturday, October 6

Elections for the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council (GEPENC) are on Saturday, October 6, 2012 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. All stakeholders (those who live, work or own property in those boundaries) can vote at:

**Edendale Branch Library  
2011 W. Sunset Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90026**

For more info about our neighborhood council and district boundaries, visit our website at [www.epia-echopark.org](http://www.epia-echopark.org)

that since it is likely that High-Speed Rail will displace some regional air usage, it would make the most sense to connect into the infrastructure this hub will represent.

The Palmdale to Los Angeles section Outreach Team is set to present again to the EPIA at the April 2013 Town Hall meeting with further input requested from the community. For more information, visit [www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/Palmdale\\_-\\_Los\\_Angeles.aspx](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/Palmdale_-_Los_Angeles.aspx)

To send your comments or opinions to the California High-Speed Rail Authority:

Email [boardmembers@hsr.ca.gov](mailto:boardmembers@hsr.ca.gov)

or

Dan Richard

Chairman, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
770 L Street, Suite 800  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**epn**  
echo park now

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

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

### EPIAn Ways Newsletter Credits

**EDITOR:** Kelly Erickson

**ADVERTISING:** Darren Hubert

**PRINTING:** Davco

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# Echo Park Animal Alliance pet spotlight

Caramelo is a very cute sweet 5 month old Miniature Pinscher/ Jack Russel Terrier mix (best we can figure).

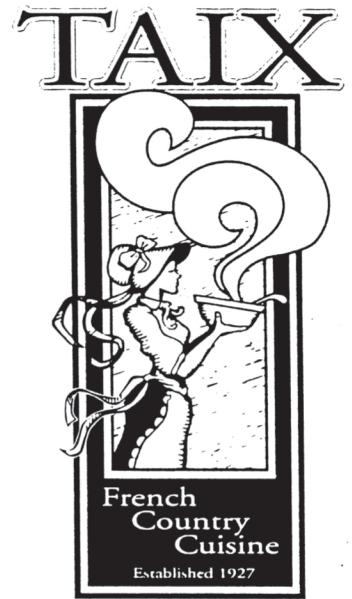
His mom was rescued from the Carson shelter and had her ten puppies at her foster home in Echo Park.

Caramelo has a sweet personality. He is a little shy when you first meet him, but he warms up. He was raised with lots of dogs and cats so he is okay in any situation. He is very athletic and loves to learn. He likes water and will help you water the garden if you like.

He is neutered, up to date on shots and micro chipped.



Caramelo is shown on top, but his siblings Dale and Sadie (as well as others) are also available for adoption. Visit our website at [epia-echopark.org](http://epia-echopark.org) for all the pics and profiles!



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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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## 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

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# Updates from the Central City Action Committee

by Gloria Sohaki

My gosh, summer is over. It seems this past year has gone by quickly and the kids are getting older and I am too. We made it through the summer. All the money we use for program activities is made through our rummage sales. We have a core group of about six kids who are all in high school. There are a few more who have moved on to community college but still come in when we need them for an event. There are for girls who try to come in and help me with chores in the office, and we manage to pay them money for their efforts. Don't know what I would do without their help - thank you Itzel, Patty, Kimberlin and Jennifer.

Starting in July, thanks to a grant from Councilman Eric Garcetti, Maryanne managed to schedule the kids to remove graffiti for the UN-TAG program. For their efforts a stipend was given to them each month. The kids use the money to buy clothes, phones, shoes and other incidentals they might need.

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.

## Día de los Muertos at El Centro Del Pueblo

The annual commemoration of Día de los Muertos takes place at El Centro Del Pueblo on Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm.

The free event will feature altars, music, culture, entertainment, an art exhibition, face painting, arts & crafts workshops, food and refreshments. A primary purpose of the event is to register voters as part of El Centro's civic engagement project.



There is also a free Altar making workshop, on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 from 5:30-7:00 pm.

For an Altar/Vendor application contact Lidia Martinez at [Imecdp@yahoo.com](mailto:Imecdp@yahoo.com), or Margaret Garcia for an art exhibition application [maggie-g@att.net](mailto:maggie-g@att.net).

For sponsorship, promotional opportunities or other info contact [conradoterrazas@roadrunner.com](mailto:conradoterrazas@roadrunner.com), or Sandra Figueroa-Villa at [jvillafigs@aol.com](mailto:jvillafigs@aol.com).

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  
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## Around town: What's new in Echo Park

by Kelly Erickson

### WELLS ANTIQUES MOVES

Wells Antique Tile and Pottery has occupied its small Sunset Boulevard location on the west end of Echo Park for 20 years, but recently closed those doors. Thankfully, the store has just moved down the block, taking over the former La Popular Furniture store near the Sunset and Alvarado intersection. They have also teamed up with Eric Ramos's Architectural Salvage to fill up the 8,000 square foot building.

### HATE CRIME WORKSHOPS HELD

In response to the May 24 stabbing of two men that police believe was an anti-gay hate crime, the Coalition to Celebrate, Educate and Stop Hate hosted Hate Crime Workshops in the month of August.

Local activists, citizens, politicians, and youth attended these workshops. For the full story and recap, read the article on our website at [www.epia-echopark.org](http://www.epia-echopark.org)

### ELF CAFE BREAKS GROUND

Vegetarian restaurant Elf Cafe just recently broke ground on the expansion of its Sunset Boulevard restaurant into the adjoining space. It is also in the process of applying for a beer and wine license (see the August-September 2012 issue for more).

Through October 31, 2012, Elf Cafe is offering "Elf Futures" - where you purchase a gift certificate that is worth twice as much when you spend it after January 1, 2013 (e.g. \$50 will actually get you \$100 worth of food and drinks).

Be sure to check out the restaurant's free cooking classes, which will focus on introducing vegetarian

cooking to Spanish-language speakers on Tuesday nights when the restaurant is closed.

### 1943 ROSEBUD AVENUE

You wouldn't think anyone could build on such a narrow street and steep hill, but the Rosebud developers have applied to build six 1,500 square foot single family homes on a mere 9,000 square feet of land. Concerns include the reduction in size of side yards between structures, the extreme and complicated grading, lack of attention to protected native trees, and more.

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

## What becomes a legend most?

*Christine Peters reminisces about an Elysian Park stray dog nicknamed "Little Man," who recently passed away after a few years in her care. The following is an excerpt of her story:*

In late September 2001 he showed up in Elysian Park, making a camp for himself on the Vista Gordo Meadow. A scrappy young thing, with a too-tight puppy collar growing into his neck, Little Man made it very clear, you can look, but don't touch. Oh, and you can feed me, leave me water, let me walk with you and your pack, but no touching.

Little Man was so well known in Elysian Park, people would make special trips to feed him and offer him treats. Or just stop by for a visit. He'd become very set in his ways where he would hang out. He would tag along with other folks on their walks, send out "woof woof" warnings to dogs he considered encroaching on his territory, and overall lived a simple life, hanging curbside.

One afternoon, Animal Control had a truck in the area, looking for a stray pit bull that had attacked another dog. They did not find him, but instead, a deeply slumbering Little Man basking in the shade of a coast live oak tree. After six and a half years, he was caught and sent to the "Big House."

*Read the full article at [www.epia-echopark.org](http://www.epia-echopark.org)*



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## Echo Park Avenue Cleanup recap

by Andrew Garsten

Despite a late August date, the clean up on the morning of Saturday, August 25, 2012 was blessed with relatively cool weather. We base camped at Elysian Heights Elementary at Baxter and Echo Park – big thanks to Elysian Height Elementary and Principal Veronica Herrera Lynch for being such a great host!

About a dozen volunteers showed up including our incoming US Congressman Adam Schiff, and a couple of CD13 candidates.

Everyone – including our politician volunteers worked a four block stretch along Echo Park Avenue, clearing the sidewalks and gutters of trash and debris, and rooting out weeds in the tree wells. We also had two trucks that drove up and down Echo Park Avenue and the immediate side streets to pick up bulky items and drop off to the dumpster that CD13 arranged for us.

All-in-all, it was a very productive morning, thanks to all that attended! Stand by for news on the next community clean up, and visit our website for photos!

## Cont.: Community parade

(Continued from page 1)

Ruiz, Captain III (Rampart Community Police Station).

Parade Ambassadors are: Central City Action Committee & El Centro Del Pueblo, Select Patrol, Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Station 20, Los Angeles Police Department Senior Lead Officers Lewis Ford of the Rampart Community Police Station, and Bobby Hill of the Northeast Community Police Station.



Visit [echoparkcommunityparade.com](http://echoparkcommunityparade.com) for more information on the parade, for sponsorship application information, and to sign up for the parade if you, your local business, or community group would like to participate.

## 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.

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All contributions are appreciated equally

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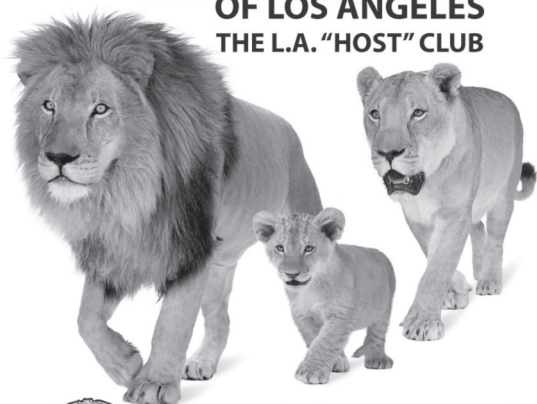
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