

# \* Atwater Village Monthly Report \*

Update on current issues in Council District 13, Office of Councilmember Eric Garcetti

December 2006

*\*New items in bold and italic\**

## Los Angeles River:

On November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, over 200 cubic yards of debris were hauled away from the River between Fletcher Drive and the Tyburn Waterpipe. There were 43 professionals involved on the morning of the clean up made up of: Army Core of Engineers, LAPD, County Social Services, County Mental Health Services, Social Security Administration, LAFD swift water rescue, LAHSA, LA lot clearing Division, City Housing Department, Park Rangers, and this Office. Of the 20 or so individuals who had been living in the River at any given time, 7 had not vacated in advance of the action date. Of those 7, 3 individuals accepted assistance, including the ability to keep their dogs with them!

My thanks to the County of Los Angeles for making exceptions for emergency shelter availability.

All parties are determined to keep the islands free of encampments. The LAPD will monitor daily and has stepped up, and gone above and beyond - as have all agencies involved in this effort.

A big congratulations also, to FAV, for the successful installment of the Acresite Gate, designed by the talented Bret Goldstone - whose art is visible more and more around Atwater Village.

- Graffiti Paint Out at the River- A meeting was held in early April 2006 with CD13, AV Neighborhood Watch, AV Neighborhood Council, Friends of Atwater Village, LA County Flood Control, Northeast Trees and Hollywood Beautification Team to discuss permits to get HBT the ability to paint out the river, and to understand what areas Northeast Trees has permits to paint out/ beautify. In late August, HBT's insurance renewal came in, and the permit has been issued! Paint Outs, with the assistance of the Neighborhood Council, will be done periodically. Additionally, the Army Core of Engineers has begun a pilot program to paint out graffiti on the Federally owned areas of the River. This is a huge improvement to the graffiti situation at the River, and can be attributed to the meetings of the:
- River Management and Maintenance Task Force- The fourth meeting was held in early September. HBT, LA County Flood Control, LAPD, CHP, Gloria Molina's office, BSS, Caltrans, LAHSA, CCAC, DWP, and the Army Core gathered together to discuss next steps and to continue the group effort to improve the LA River. Main topics include the issue of closing off drainage culverts to human activity, the homeless situation on the river, and law enforcement. The next meeting is scheduled for January. The fact that so many separate entities show continued interest in the task force is a very hopeful sign for real progress at the river. *The 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup>.*
- LAPD Foot Patrol- In early March, in response to a request from the Council Member, LAPD began new foot and bicycle patrols of the river. The river also now features mile markers that can be used as addresses along the river.
- LAPD Cameras- CD13 has procured funding for an LAPD monitored camera at the Red Car River Park (and Chevy Chase Rec Center- see below) *Installation should begin in late January.*

## Glendale Streetscape project:

This project began with public consensus meetings and the formation of a Master Plan for Glendale Boulevard. The larger plan is a multifaceted, multimillion dollar, longterm project. To begin, the city put together enough money for Gateway signs, a bump out and signal on Madera, modest landscaping, and increased wattage for the streetlights. Tiles were finally received for the monument signs, and were installed in the built sign! All that remains is for the second sign to be built and finished, which CD13 is seeing through. The funds for the sign are still being transferred to General Services to complete the sign. CD13 is working with the Mayors Office to get this done, soon. *The funds have been transferred and GSD has crews finishing the second sign!*

### Chevy Chase Park Public Safety

CD13, Park Rangers, LAPD, the City Attorney's Office and Chevy Chase Park Director met in April to discuss public safety at the park. The good news is that CD13 has procured funding for cameras and that the number one location priority is Chevy Chase park. Other actions items are an upcoming wattage increase for the lights, as well as bullet proof light covers. The wattage of the lights surrounding the park were upped to their fullest capacity in July. CD13 has also been working with the city's camera vendor and the LAPD on the best camera location around the park. Once all entities agree- camera installation will begin. Trees have been trimmed, and camera placement agreed upon. The final piece to be put in place is the camera monitoring room at Northeast Police Station. This will happen in the New Year!

### Fletcher Drive:

In April a meeting was held with CD13, the City Attorney, Captain Smith and concerned business owners along Fletcher Drive regarding public safety issues along the Drive. Turn out was good, and, as a result, the meeting was the official beginning of the Fletcher Drive Business Watch. LAPD listened to the concerns of the community (loitering, public urination, public drunkenness, and speeding on Fletcher) and, as a result, Captain Smith implemented the following changes:

- Foot beat along Fletcher 4 days a week.
- Bicycles to come through the remaining 3 days (on their way to the River).
- Senior Lead Officer Chovan to speak with select local businesses the Day Laborer situation.
- Traffic Solutions: Officer Belmonte of Central Traffic Division to begin shooting radar and monitoring speed more closely.

CD13 recently designed and provided new Business Watch Signage for Fletcher Drive businesses and continue to work with the FDIA (Fletcher Drive Improvement Association) on beautification and safety. Cathy Cerra has been hired to begin researching a Street Scape project.

### Metro link memorial:

Council Office is working closely with the Neighborhood Council on securing the city-owned plot of land at Los Feliz Place and Seneca to be the permanent home of the memorial. This location is 95% sure to be the final one. Christine Anthony/Forrest Lawn (which are forthcoming) have been working on designs and specifics. The permitting, maintenance and monument specifics are currently being worked out. Hopefully we can see completion by the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the disaster. CD 13 has been gotten the promise of Street Services to maintain the property once the memorial is installed. Permits have been issued by the City! CD13 is working closely with the NC Ad Hoc Memorial Committee to get the memorial in the ground by the Dedication on 1/21. Afterwards, we will follow through with landscaping.

### Farmers Market:

The Atwater Village Farmers' Market is open every Sunday from 10am to 2pm and located at 3250 Glendale Blvd. in the Wells Fargo Bank Parking Lot. The market features about 15 farmers selling their produce, nuts, honey and flowers. The market accepts both EBT and Farmers' Market Nutrition Program WIC coupons.

### Important phone numbers:

For non emergency police service – 1/877-ASK-LAPD

For emergencies – 9-1-1

For all city services – 3-1-1

For all County Services – 2-1-1

Atwater Village Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Gina Chovan: 213/793-0713

Northeast Division General Number: 213/485-2563

Report submitted by Atwater Village Deputy Kabira Stokes: 323/957-4500