

Echo Park Security Association

Newsletter

Fall 2014

Looking Ahead to 2015

By Darin Williams
Select Patrol Founder/President



At Select Patrol, we are firmly committed to clean air and a healthy environment. We do our part by using the least polluting, cleanest vehicles that we can. However, our patrol duties consist mainly of driving around the neighborhood for hours at a time, which means that we're heavily impacted by gas costs.

Unfortunately it looks as if we're going to incur higher gas prices due to a provision of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (also known as AB 32) that goes into effect on January 1, 2015.

Signed into law by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, AB 32 is designed to fight climate change by capping greenhouse gas emissions from all sources throughout the state. Beginning January 1, 2015, the caps will be applied to companies that produce transportation fuels, including gasoline. That means oil companies will have to pay for the greenhouse gases their products emit above the cap limits. The oil companies say they will pass this cost on to consumers.

On a different note, I hope you agree with me that it's time to give your hard-working patrol officers a raise. Our officers have invested a lot of time and energy in Echo Park and Angelino Heights and have established strong ties with community members.

Although we try to keep your fees as low as possible, sometimes an increase is difficult to avoid. As a result of the impending increase in gas prices and patrol officer wages, it is likely we will need to increase monthly dues in 2015.

Select Patrol has been keeping Echo Park and Angelino Heights safer and more secure for over twenty years and we trust you will continue to support us and the patrol in the coming years

Best Regards,

Darin Williams and the Select Patrol Team

Don't forget! Starting January 1st, Select Patrol will respond to alarm activations **only** during regular service hours:

2:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Monday through Friday

8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday

Fatal Stabbing at Echo Park Rising Festival

The Echo Park Rising festival was marred by violence last month when a man in his 20s was stabbed to death late Friday in a fight that began over a skateboard, police said.

Highland Park resident Carlos Arellano, 22, was walking with his girlfriend on Sunset near Laveta Terrace at about 11:30 p.m. on August 15 when he was approached by three men also in their 20s, said Officer Nuria Vanegas of the Los

Angeles Police Department. The men demanded the board. A struggle ensued. Witnesses said Arellano tried to defend himself with his skateboard before he was fatally stabbed in the torso.

Police have yet to solve the case. Authorities have said the assailants might have been gang members.

A skate contest to raise money for funeral expenses was held on September 13



Return of the Lotus Festival

The first Lotus Festival since the renovation of Echo Park Lake took place in July, complete with the famed lotus flowers which had been missing from the last few festivals.



Dragon boat races took place on the lake, now empty of floating islands.



This year's festival celebrated the heritage of the Philippines.

Reminder: No More Monthly Community Safety Meetings

As a result of low attendance, EPSA is no longer sponsoring monthly community safety meetings. Instead, the LAPD and other representatives will be asked to meet with us once or twice a year. To meet with your Senior Lead Officer at other times, you can attend the monthly Echo Park Improvement Association meetings, held at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of the month at Williams Hall, Barlow Hospital, 2000 Stadium Way.



A ten-foot "rubber ducky" made an appearance at Echo Park Lake this summer. The giant bath toy was a smaller version of a six-story-tall duck that appeared in Los Angeles Harbor as part of the Tall Ships event.

Coming Soon: Tickets for Quality-of-life Infractions

Quality-of-life issues such as loud parties, barking dogs, and gas-powered leaf blowers will soon be more than just annoyances. They will be ticketable offenses.

On September 16, the Los Angeles City Council voted to adopt the Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) pilot program, which gives police officers the ability to file a misdemeanor complaint as an alternative to just issuing a warning. Citations of \$250, \$500 and \$1,000 for the first, second and third offenses could be issued. An administrative review process would be available for citizens who wish to appeal a citation.

The program was originally proposed five years ago by former City Attorney Carmen Trutanich and former Councilman Greig Smith. Neighborhood councils have long been advocating for the program to help manage quality-of-life issues, which tend to come before them frequently.

City officials estimate the program will cost \$577,000 to launch and will generate more than \$2 million in revenue. Officials hope the measure will be ready to go into effect in 60 to 90 days, with a pilot program to be operated by the Department of Animal Services.

Register Your Cell Phone for "Reverse 911" Emergency Notifications at alert.lacounty.gov.

Los Angeles County has implemented an emergency mass notification system to contact County residents and businesses via recorded phone messages, text messages, or email messages. The system, called Alert LA County, will be used by the County's Emergency Operations Center to notify residents and businesses of emergencies or critical situations and to provide information regarding necessary actions, such as evacuations. If the call is picked up by an answering machine, the system will leave a recorded message. If the number called is busy or does not answer, the system will redial the number in an attempt to deliver the message. The system is TTY/TDD compatible.

Listed and unlisted landline numbers are automatically included in the database and do not need to be registered. If you have a cellular or VoIP number and would like to be notified on that device, or if you would like an email notification, you must complete the registration form at alert.lacounty.gov.

Because the Alert LA County system uses geomapping, each telephone number and/or email address can be associated with only one street address in the system.

Northeast LAPD Holds Annual SLO Summit

LAPD's Northeast Division held its annual Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Summit at Barnsdall Park in Hollywood on July 24th.

Sitting under the pine trees, residents were introduced to all of the division's Senior Lead Officers, including Echo Park's SLO Gina Chovan.

A representative from the Fire Department spoke about the importance of emergency preparedness and invited everyone to take Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training (<http://www.cert-la.com>).

An FBI agent spoke about identity theft, which is prevalent not only in Los Angeles but across the nation.

A beautiful black labrador, a member of the LAPD Metro Bomb Unit, demonstrated his bomb-sniffing skills, running across the grass to tackle a fake bomb in a cardboard box. The canine is a former Marine Corps dog who found a second career with the LAPD. Each police dog has its own "sniffing" specialty, such as bombs or drugs.

