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October 2025 EmpowerLA Newsletter

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Thu, Oct 16, 2025 at 10:49 AM



Celebrating the 2025 Congress of Neighborhoods



The 2025 Congress of Neighborhoods, under the theme “LA Strong”, was a resounding success with over 500 registered participants in attendance on Saturday, September 27, at City Hall. The Angelica Center for Arts and Music Youth Orchestra opened on the day of the events. We were honored to welcome Mayor Karen Bass, who joined us during the EmpowerLA awards luncheon, and LA County

District Attorney Nathan J. Hochman was also present. In addition, Councilmember Tim McOsker participated in and contributed to the Charter Reform workshop. With over 40 exhibitors and 18+ workshops ranging from public safety, planning, sustainability, and civic engagement, there was a conversation for everyone!

The Congress of Neighborhoods is an event that works to advance the mission of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system by promoting pathways for participation in local government and strengthening representation by bringing

together leaders from throughout the City to learn, support, and lead together. If you are interested in learning more, visit neighborhoodcongress.la.

Honoring the 2025 EmpowerLA Award Winners

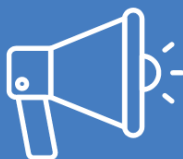
The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners awarded seven Neighborhood Councils with the prestigious EmpowerLA Award at this year's Congress of Neighborhoods. awards recognize Neighborhood Councils that best fulfill their City Charter mandate of promoting more citizen participation in government and making government more responsive to local needs. We join the Commissioners in celebrating [Central San Pedro](#) (Harbor Area), [North Hollywood Northeast](#) (South Valley Area), [Sylmar](#) (North Valley Area), [Hollywood Studio District](#) (Central Area), [Los Feliz](#) (East Area), [Empowerment Congress Southeast](#) (South Area), and [North Westwood](#) (West Area) Neighborhood Council on their awards! We recognize all Neighborhood Councils that were nominated, and thank you for all the work you do for your community.



General Manager Awarded Bruin Excellence in Civic Engagement



We are so excited to share that EmpowerLA's General Manager Carmen Chang is one of this year's cohort of UCLA Alumni Bruin Excellence in Civic Engagement honorees! Carmen joins fellow visionaries, volunteers and leaders serving in civic positions who engage with community organizations, find solutions to today's civic issues and improve the quality of life in our communities. We join UCLA in recognizing Carmen's contributions to the Neighborhood Council system and promoting grassroots civic engagement for all Angelenos. Join us in congratulating Carmen on this achievement!



**NEWS FROM
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS**

Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Beautifies Chatsworth Park North

Last month, [Chatsworth Neighborhood Council](#) came together with their neighbors to beautify Chatsworth Park North. Teaming up with local Cub Scouts, seniors, and board members, volunteers removed over 70 bags of trash from the area. True to Chatsworth Neighborhood Council's motto – Bring family & friends – the event was a multigenerational success story!



CELEBRATING YEARS OF SERVICE

This month, twelve Neighborhood Councils are celebrating an anniversary! Join us in congratulating the following Neighborhood Councils for their tireless dedication to improving their communities:



Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council (7 years)

Northridge West Neighborhood Council (21 years)

West Los Angeles Sawtelle Neighborhood Council (22 years)

Del Rey Neighborhood Council (22 years)

Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council (23 years)

Encino Neighborhood Council (23 years)

Reseda Neighborhood Council (23 years)

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council (23 years)

Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (23 years)

Arleta Neighborhood Council (23 years)

Studio City Neighborhood Council (23 years)

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (23 years)

Is your Neighborhood Council planning an anniversary celebration? [Let us know about it!](#) Want to be part of the next year of service on your Neighborhood Council? Fill out our [Get Involved survey](#).



NEWS FROM THE CITY

Lawn to Habitat Applications Now Open

The LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance is excited to open applications for the Lawn to Habitat project again this year! If you live in, own, or are otherwise connected to a multi-family residential property in the city of Los Angeles with a grass lawn and would like to see it converted to a 100% native plant yard with water capture features, this could be your opportunity. Applications are due by Saturday, November 15, 2025. Applicants in disadvantaged communities will be given special consideration. Questions? Comments? Contact Sustainability Alliance board member Charles Miller at charlesallenmiller@gmail.com.



Apply for Lawn to Habitat 2026

Introducing SORT LA



Throwing things away can be surprisingly confusing. Have you ever looked at a piece of aluminum foil and wondered if it should go in the recycling bin or the trash? Or if you should leave the cap on a water bottle? What about that paper takeout box - is it compostable or not? It's easy to get overwhelmed by all these rules! That's why [LA Sanitation & Environment](#) (LASAN) is excited to introduce SORT LA, a new app designed to make recycling and composting easy! SORT LA, which is short for "Separating Organics, Recycling, and Trash in Los Angeles," is your personal waste-sorting tool. Simply type in the name of any household item, and the app will instantly tell you which bin it goes into, or if the item requires special disposal outside of our three-bin system. You'll also get helpful tips on how to prepare items for disposal and learn why certain items are recyclable or compostable, while others are not.

Learn More About SORT LA



UPCOMING EVENTS

Bark-tober

Saturday, October 18, 9:00 a.m. | El Cariso Park | Sylmar Neighborhood Council
[Sylmar Neighborhood Council's](#) annual Bark-tober event will take place on Saturday, October 18th! This free community event is open to all human and furry Angelenos (as long as dogs remain on leash and cats remain in a carrier). There will be free pet vaccinations, microchipping, and veterinarian exams, as well as resources, vendors, and fun for the whole family! No registration is required.

[Learn More About Bark-tober](#)

Rocktober

Saturday, October 25, 9:00 a.m. | Stoney Point Park | Chatsworth Neighborhood Council
 Graffiti in Los Angeles sits at the crossroads of urban expression and public expense. While murals celebrate Chatsworth's cowboy culture, unsanctioned tagging erodes pride, impacts property values, and burdens city budgets. That's why the [Chatsworth Neighborhood Council](#) is launching Rocktober—a volunteer-driven event to REMOVE trash, RESTORE the rocks, and REFRESH this sacred space. This year's cleanup focuses on Stoney Point Park, a site sacred to the Tongva and Chumash peoples. Volunteers, guided by archaeologist Barbara Tejada and supported by the Chatsworth Fine Arts Council and Councilmember John Lee's office, will carefully remove graffiti and restore access to this historical climbing and hiking landmark.

[Learn More About Rocktober](#)

Sun Valley Annual Fall Festival

Saturday, October 25, 11:00 a.m. | Sun Valley Recreation Center | Sun Valley Neighborhood Council
 The [Sun Valley Neighborhood Council](#), in partnership with Recreation and Parks, and the Office of Councilmember Padilla, invites you to attend the annual Fall Festival taking place Saturday, October 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be games and prizes, arts and crafts, face painting, costume contest, pumpkin carving, music, and much more! A great afternoon for the whole family.

[Learn More About the Sun Valley Annual Fall Festival](#)

Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee Community Listening Session

Thursday, October 30, 6:00 p.m. | Virtual | LA Metro

Metro invites you to participate in an upcoming Community Listening Session focused on improving safety across the transit system. This is an opportunity for riders, community members, and partners to share their perspectives on recent station safety enhancements, pilot programs, and future priorities for the system. The Listening Session is hosted by Metro's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), a group of community leaders and stakeholders who work with Metro to shape policies and initiatives that make the transit system safer and more welcoming for everyone. Spanish interpretation and other language assistance will be available, and all participants are encouraged to bring their perspectives to the discussion.

Learn More and Register to Attend the Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee Community Listening Session

Are you a Neighborhood Council or City Department? We want to feature your events in our upcoming newsletters! Contact [Ava Marinelli](#), Public Information Officer, with event details.

For the most up to date schedule of upcoming Neighborhood Council General Board and Committee Meetings, [please visit this calendar](#).

@EmpowerLA



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