



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

February 2014

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STUDIO CITY CARES AWARDS HONORS COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Annual General Meeting on January 14, 2014 featured a special salute to five dedicated volunteers who do so much to make Studio City the wonderful community it is. The SCRA presented its annual Studio City Cares Awards to Karen Young for Excellence in Business Leadership; Deuk Perrin for Excellence in Community Service; Dorothy Barrett for Service to Developing Youth; and Ben Saltsman for Excellence in Government Leadership. In addition, the SCRA presented its highest honor, the Fran Quigley Award, in recognition of exceptional service, to Carol Armstrong, PhD.



Karen Young, Deuk Perrin, Carol Armstrong, Ben Saltsman, Dorothy Barrett

Karen Young, Former Editor of the *Sun Community Papers*, Founder of MyDailyFind.com and Writer for *The Ventura Blvd Sauce*

A 16-year resident of Studio City, Karen Young began her career in public relations, helping get the word out for many in the entertainment community, both as a vice president for film/television with Jonas Public Relations and later in her own firm. Young joined the *Sun Community Newspapers* where she was editor for six years, bringing readers highly relevant and engaging editorial content and raising the visibility of businesses in the community. With the closure of these newspapers in 2009, Young founded and published the highly popular MyDailyFind, the first and only online community lifestyle magazine in the San Fernando Valley, giving many small businesses a voice. She now writes a weekly blog for *Ventura Blvd* magazine called *The Ventura Blvd Sauce*

Deuk Perrin, President, Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association. For Excellence in Community Service

Over the years, Deuk Perrin has volunteered his time in so many different organizations but he is best known locally for his work helping to preserve Campo de Cahuenga, the place known as the birthplace of California. Perrin was also very active in protecting community interests through an organization formed to create a common vision that would benefit the developer, the MTA and the communities at large in the area surrounding the Studio City/Universal City Red Line Station. He always kept a sharp eye out for the interest of the Campo in maintaining its place as a significant site and is

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SCRA APPOINTS DIRECTORS TO STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Board of Directors has appointed Bill Harmond, Francesca Corra, Michael Klausman, Connie Elliot, Bryan Abrams, Barry Weiss, Barry Johnson, Lorena Parker and Alan Dymond as directors of the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA). The SCRA thanks the SCBA directors for agreeing to serve again for the 2014 term and extends its appreciation for the dedication and tireless efforts of these volunteers for their work to better the community.

(Awards, cont'd)

determined that the quality of the Campo experience not be diminished. Each year, Perrin and a group of dedicated volunteers spearhead a re-enactment of the signing of the Articles of Capitulation. That celebration, along with other numerous special events, bring visibility to the Campo and engage the community.

In countless meetings over the years with the City, County, the MTA, Universal Studios, lawyers, developers and others who would cite different ordinances or rules in order to make a favorable point, Perrin often responds by saying "I wrote that." Many communities are the beneficiaries of Perrin's involvement both professionally and as a volunteer over the years.

Dorothy Barrett, Actress, Dancer and Owner of the American National Academy of Performing Arts, Studio City For Service to Developing Youth



Actress and teacher Dorothy Barrett and students

Dorothy Barrett has lived in Studio City since 1957, following a successful career in the entertainment industry. She found her second calling teaching dance and theater

to young performers at the American National Academy of Performing Arts in Studio City. She has been a mainstay and a guiding light to numerous children and young people over the years. At the age of 96, Barrett is still providing this caring service to all comers, despite the fact that she recently had to leave the Academy building where she both taught and lived. When she heard the news that the building was being sold, Barrett commented, "All I really have is them, the students, and the lovely memories of Studio City."

Ben Saltsman, Planning Deputy, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky For Excellence in Government Leadership

As planning deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky since 2002, Ben Saltsman is responsible for planning, land-use issues and the review of projects in Supervisor Yaroslavsky's district. He has listened to the concerns of the Island community of Studio City, which is directly affected by NBC Universal's Evolution Plan. In working with the community, Saltsman applies both his experience and knowledge in a congenial manner. He has gone out of his way to do much more for the neighborhood than the scope of his job requires. While the NBC Universal Evolution Plan negotiations have concluded, Saltsman is involved quarterly at the newly formed Community Advisory Panel and also works on the technical advisory committee for the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program.

Carol Armstrong, PhD, Project Manager, Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan

The Fran Quigley Award

As project manager for the Los Angeles City Bureau of Engineering, Carol Armstrong, PhD, oversees implementation of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, which comprises an extensive network of parks, trails, wildlife habitat, recreation, and community revitalization amenities along 32 miles of the Los Angeles River. In her role, Armstrong has gone the extra mile to improve the River and its environments to the benefit of all communities adjacent to it. She was the project manager responsible for implementing the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan adopted by the Los Angeles City Council in 2007.

Armstrong counts intergovernmental collaboration, dealing with the public and businesses, and facilitation of projects that interface with the River as all part of her job. In Armstrong's contacts with the SCRA and its sister organizations, her enthusiasm for both her job and the River are apparent. Armstrong, who has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Purdue University, an MPP from Georgetown University and a PhD in planning from the University of Southern California, also coordinates the City's efforts as local sponsor of the US Army Corps of Engineers' Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and works to foster new relationships, including those with the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

BEAUTIFYING STUDIO CITY

The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) has had a busy January. The lengthy Moorpark Parkway side panel project across from Moorpark Park, installed by the SCBA five years ago, has been refurbished and amended. In addition, The "Studio City Welcomes You" monument on Laurel Canyon Blvd. at the 101 Freeway, which was damaged by an errant motorist, has been replaced. The Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) stepped up this month to underwrite SCBA's annual professional tree-trimming on Ventura Boulevard. As well, the SCNC provided political support for three new adoption projects in the city right-of-way that SCBA will tackle this year: creating a seating area at the entrance to Wilacre Park, landscaping the approaches to the Colfax Avenue pedestrian bridge over the Los Angeles River in Colfax Meadows, and adopting an additional median on Vineland Avenue.

Financial support for SCBA's efforts has been broadening. The SCBA offers many thanks to the many individual, community and corporate patrons who keep SCBA the most-active volunteer-run improvement association in Los Angeles.

ASK THE SCRA

One of the functions of the SCRA is to empower its members, who are the eyes and ears of the community. The SCRA can assist by providing opportunities to make all of Studio City a better place to live. Please send questions to scraboard@studiocityresidents.org.

Q: Sometime over the past year or two, signs appeared on Shady Oak Road that the street is now private with no parking or trespassing allowed. The street provides access to a fork feeding the Fryman Canyon Trail. Is there any possibility that a gate could be erected that would prevent pedestrians from accessing the trail? If the answer is yes, what can we do to stop it?

SCRA: The SCRA e-mailed the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and received an immediate response: "Zero rumblings, let alone any dialogue in our shop about that." It is important to SCRA members that all access trailheads stay open and accessible to the public. We thank our member for his diligence and requested he let us know if he observes any attempts to close off the path.

Q: On Laurel Terrace Drive, just past the intersection of Sunswept and Vanetta Streets, the street drain for run-off water has been completely clogged with deep squishy mud, trash, tall grasses and weeds for many weeks. Apparently the irrigation water/rain water runoff from the near-by hillside streets runs downhill and collects at the drain site, directly in front of 12464 Laurel Terrace Drive. Automobiles driving too close to the mess splash the unsanitary mud up on the sidewalk. I have made many calls to the Waste Water Management offices of the City of Los Angeles; the polite reply has been, "We'll get a work order written for that location," or "There is an open work order for that location, and we'll get to it in a day or two." Well, it's been many days, and we have not observed any changes. I would appreciate the SCRA checking out the situation and perhaps making some appropriate calls to move the drain cleaning forward.

SCRA: The SCRA asked Geoff Yazzetta, deputy to Councilmember Paul Krekorian, to address this problem. Yazzetta immediately contacted the SCRA member with instructions to call the Water Runoff Management office and request the number for the work order for the clogged street drain at 12464 Laurel Terrace Drive. The member was transferred to Anthony Winston, a supervisor who assured her he would have the appropriate crew and

equipment out to the site the next morning. The crew from the Sanitation Bureau showed up as promised, and the basin, the strainer grill and the adjacent curb are very clean and functional once again.



TO THE MARKET

The beautiful Southern California weather continues to make a Sunday morning stroll through the Studio City Farmers Market a highlight for many in the

community. While this area may not be experiencing the cold weather most of the country is, it is still flu season. Nothing is better for a healthy immune system than regular servings of fruits and vegetables, and plenty are in season right now.

A great way to get nutrients is through fresh squeezed fruit and vegetable juices from Menos Juices. Menos Farms has been selling organic vegetables at the Studio City Farmers Market for many years. It now features these same vegetables in delectable juice concoctions to fit everyone's taste. Stop by the booth, located on the north side of the street near the center of the Market, and try a sample.

In other healthy news, Sister's Caramel Crunch just introduced a gluten free variety of its delicious snack. In January, the company partnered with The Hirshberg Foundation to donate 10 percent of proceeds to benefit pancreatic cancer research as well as patient and family support, with the goal of finding a cure for this devastating disease. Sister's Caramel Crunch is on the north side of the street near the children's section of the Market.



The plastic bag ban in the City of Los Angeles began on January 1, 2014. Farmers markets do not have to comply until July 1, but why wait? The Studio City Farmers Market is selling gorgeous canvas bags, made in America, to be used at the Market or anywhere else where plastic bags are no longer available. The bags are only \$10 and are available every Sunday at the manager's table.

Q: I manage an apartment building at 3925 Riverton Avenue in Studio City. I am trying to get help regarding some very aggressive homeless that have been staying behind the Ralph's (Vineland Avenue and Ventura Blvd.) for about a month now. I caught one on the surveillance camera checking the garages and cars. There is a bunch of trash just at the Studio City welcoming sign, and a lot of my tenants are becoming uncomfortable and feeling unsafe. We have called the LAPD? What we can do?

SCRA: Studio City Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis attended the SCRA Community Meeting on January 14, 2014 and directly addressed this issue. Officer Lewis said he had

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(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

been made aware of the problem that morning, and that at the time of the meeting, undercover officers were in the area to make arrests. The SCRA contacted Officer Lewis afterwards. He reported, "Yes, they are out of there.....I was there this morning (January 23, 2014), and there is one pile of debris left, but it's going to be disposed of today. Everything else is cleaned up, and the homeless who were sleeping there are gone."

Q: While minimal improvement to Ventura Blvd. between Carpenter and Whitsett Avenues is evident with a few new trees, the boulevard remains pretty much a barren landscape unfriendly to pedestrians. That's not because of traffic, but because the sidewalks are so bleak and unplanted. The Studio City area is - could be - one of the great village spaces in all of Los Angeles, with the feel of a small town. However, until something is done to make it more inviting to people, and that means serious planting, it will remain pretty much what it is, a quick way to get somewhere else.

SCRA: The area that you are referring to is the area of the Studio City Business Improvement District (BID). The SCRA is reaching out to Lorena Parker, executive director of the BID with these comments. The BID has installed and maintains three medians and numerous trees in that area. It has also paved several alleyways, maintains a security service and sweeps and cleans up the Boulevard among other tasks to keep our community vibrant. Last year, the BID worked closely with the SCRA, the Studio Chamber of Commerce and the Studio City Neighborhood Council to make sure the CVS at the corner of Ventura and Laurel Canyon Blvds. was painted and to remove the pay stations in that area. That group is currently working on pedestrian safety. Improvements cannot be completed overnight. Remember what this area looked like 20 years ago? All of the community organizations are working together to help maintain Studio City as a village. All of this takes time, money and volunteers.

CAMPO DE CAHUENGA CELEBRATION SALUTES CALIFORNIA'S HERITAGE

The Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association hosted its annual Layers of History Celebration on January 12, 2014. Each January, the Campo marks the anniversary of the signing of the Articles of Capitulation in 1847 with a special event that includes a re-enactment of the treaty signing. The event features colorful period costumes with actors portraying the major roles in this historic event. The Campo,



which is located next to the Universal City/Studio City MTA Red Line Station, hosts an open house on the first Saturday of each month from noon-4:00 p.m. For more about the organization, visit www.campodecahuenga.com.



LAPD GROUP HOSTS PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Police Activity League Supporters (PALS), which hosts an annual fundraising lunch at Sportsmen's Lodge, has initiated public meetings that include speakers of interest to anyone interested in what is happening at the LAPD. The January guest speaker was Michel Moore, Assistant Chief of the Office of Special Operations, which includes Counter-Terrorism, Jail and Security Services.

Moore described the LAPD's efforts to prevent gang violence by working with after-school programs that reach families early and demonstrate a path that helps halt the road to gang membership. He provided the audience with statistics showing that violent crime has been declining for the last 11 years of his 32-year career. The San Fernando Valley is leading the City of Los Angeles in the reduction of violent crime. According to Moore, last year there were only two murders (though two too many) in Los Angeles. He said that the City budget should allow the LAPD to bring back some of the many civilian employees who were laid off and allow for some overtime hours for officers. Fingerprinting for property crimes has suffered as a result of these employees not being available.

Moore was introduced by LAPD North Hollywood division Captain Carmona, who will be a guest speaker at the next SCRA Community meeting on March 11. For questions about PALS and/or to be included on the email list for future talks, please call the LAPD Community Relations Office at 818-623-4001, or email PALS President Jean Sinatra at jeansinatra@earthlink.net.

LOS ANGELES PARKING FREEDOM INITIATIVE

Activist Jay Beeber, who was instrumental in having the red light cameras removed from Los Angeles, joined with local resident Steven Vincent at the January SCRA Annual General Meeting to present their work on a "Los Angeles Parking Freedom Initiative." Both are currently researching

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(Parking, cont'd)

the parking issues that plague Los Angeles with the idea of working with the City of Los Angeles to reform parking fees, signage and hours. Beeber and Vincent are reaching out to the communities to listen to concerns and gather support as they look to structure and shape an effective solution with the City of Los Angeles.

The speakers suggested the City needs to stop looking at parking as a revenue generating machine. They offered that fines and hours all need to be addressed in light of sharing our streets. Parking needs to be decentralized to reflect the needs of both local businesses and residents, all of whom must be able to provide input about the best use of the parking spaces in their communities.

Beeber and Vincent suggested this is a simple issue of fairness. Penalties for a parking violation affect peoples' lives. A \$60 ticket can be an entire day's pay for someone.



If the ticket is not paid within two weeks, it escalates to \$126 and keeps increasing. Parking meter fees were initially put in place to fund parking improvements, but the trust fund into which the fees go has been transferred to the general fund.

Parking meter fees are called a fee, but in reality they are an income generating device for the City. According to Beeber and Vincent, the way parking tickets are adjudicated must also be addressed.

Beeber and Vincent believe a carefully thought out parking scheme in Los Angeles would be a "win win" for everyone. It would generate more business and create less parking on residential streets. At the same time, fines collected could be returned to improve the local area and provide other economic benefits. This is a very complex issue; solutions will not be finalized overnight, and the issues should be addressed in a step-by-step manner. Visit www.parkinglosangeles.org for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

The Weddington Golf and Tennis proposal is under preliminary review by the City of Los Angeles Planning Department, and a Draft Environmental Report (DEIR) is expected to be issued in the next few months. The SCRA will respond to the DEIR through its retained counsel and will encourage other stakeholders to respond accordingly. Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS), SCRA's sister organization, is leading the effort to preserve this site as open space and was much encouraged by the response for donations to the organization from a recent request in the SCRA newsletter. More than 420 people responded.

The responses to Harvard Westlake's DEIR on its proposed extension on Coldwater Canyon Blvd. are undergoing review by the Planning Department prior to the issue of the Environmental Impact Report. That will then be subject to further public comment and adoption by the City. No action is expected on this Environmental Impact Report until March.

During the past year, both the SCRA and SLAROS have been attending workshops and seminars at Federal, State and local levels to keep abreast of and monitor water developments, including a proposed State Water Bond for 2014. The SCRA has come away convinced that much can be done to significantly reduce the amount of water imported into Southern California. For example, the SLAROS proposal for the Weddington Golf and Tennis site would capture more than 200 acres of runoff from the surrounding streets; rather than discharge this water into the Los Angeles River, the water would be used to recharge the San Fernando aquifer. It is not a large amount, but when added together to other water recycling and saving measures, the impact of these elements is significant.

A thought dawned on me that the Department of Water and Power (DWP) is really two agencies under one roof: water and power. Ignoring the "power side" of the equation for now, the "water side" deserves recognition for its lead on managing our water supply and reducing the amount of water needed. Despite population growth since 1970, water consumption has been reduced by 20 percent. The DWP is getting even better at this effort with the help of other innovative practices. The green lawns in Los Angeles account for 40 percent of water consumed. To that end, the DWP has a program that will pay \$2.00 per square foot of grass removed. While the applicant needs to comply with certain requirements, it is well worth it. In my case, my current water bill now shows a significant reduction in water charges.

Elections are looming again for State, local and law enforcement offices. State Senator Alex Padilla is termed out; Assembly member Adrin Nazarian is up for reelection for Assembly District 46; and the county supervisor seat is open as Zev Yaroslavsky is termed out. In addition to the assembly seat, the position of county supervisor is significant as the banks of the Los Angeles River come under County purview. This river runs through Studio City right past the Weddington Golf and Tennis site. Then there is election for sheriff, which is also of major significance. The SCRA's tax-exempt status prevents it from endorsing candidates for office; however, it will endeavor to bring our members a clear perspective on the issues the SCRA board feels should be addressed.

Alan Dymond



NO COMMUNITY MEETING IN FEBRUARY

March Community Meeting
will feature
Captain Stephen H. Carmona,
Commanding Officer
North Hollywood Division
Los Angeles Police Department

Mark your calendar for
Tuesday, March 11, 2013

Meeting Location

Beverly Garland Theatre
4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City

*When entering the hotel driveway, turn left and go through the parking turnstile. Drive to the end and turn right. Go to the large back lot. The handicap entrance is from this lot. Walk to the southwest corner of the lot, and signs will direct you to the Beverly Garland Theatre. **PARKING WILL BE VALIDATED** at the sign-in-table.*

The SCRA thanks the Beverly Garland for continued support of the monthly SCRA Community Meetings



SCRA Committees

Burbank Airport, Chair: Chris Barnes
Crime and Safety
Los Angeles River Committee
Membership
Planning and Land Use

Officers

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Bonnie Goodman, Exec. Vice President
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Bryan Abrams, Treasurer

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Barry Weiss
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Junior member Jason Goodman

Immediate Past President Art Howard

Beautification Association

Bill Harmond, President
Francesca Corra, Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Bryan Abrams, Treasurer

Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

Co-Directors
Laurie Cohn, Alan Dymond, Steve Hirsh,
Art Howard, Patty Kirby, Chip Meehan,
Aaron Mendelsohn, Barbara Robbin
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

School Liaisons

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman
Rio Vista - Barbara Robbin
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

Studio City Farmers Market

(818) 655-7744
www.studiocityfarmersmarket.com

Newsletter

Editor: Bonnie Goodman
Graphic Design: Kevin Lewis
(818) 667-6647 kevin@kevlew.com