



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

March 2015

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SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STUDIO CITY CARES AWARDS

At the January Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Annual General Meeting, SCRA members elected its officers for 2015. They are Alan Dymond, president; Bonnie Goodman, executive vice president; Connie Elliot, secretary; and Bryan Abrams, treasurer.

At that meeting, the SCRA presented a check for \$5,000 to the Studio City Recreation Center from funds raised during the SCRA's fourth Annual Winter Family Festival. Thanks to the support from Festival sponsors, the SCRA was able to both cover the costs for the event and support the park. Monies donated help buy equipment, field trips and uniforms for the park's upcoming summer programs.

The SCRA was pleased to present its Studio City CARES Awards to members of the community who have gone above and beyond to make a contribution to the community. SCRA board members presented awards to:

Kimberly Taweel, Music Teacher, Carpenter Community Charter School: Excellence in Service to Youth Development



Jason Goodman,
Kimberly Taweel

SCRA Junior Board member Jason Goodman presented the award to Kimberly Taweel, who was joined at the meeting by family, friends and many of her past and present Carpenter students, who attended the meeting to honor her. Taweel, who is the music teacher at Carpenter, has given back much to the youth in the community as a Girl Scout leader, a music merit badge counselor for the Boy Scouts, and as a private piano and voice instructor with students who have moved onto professional careers on Broadway, TV, and film. She founded and served as the co-artistic director of the Encore Theatre Group, an after-school musical theater enrichment program for students in the third through fifth grades. She was chairman of the Valley Cotillion for Studio City and Sherman Oaks students in the fourth through eighth grades. In addition, she founded and conducted a *tempo*, a 35-voice choir that held concerts to raise funds for a Mexican orphanage called Operation Mexico.

(Continued, Page 2)

OP-ED: CALIFORNIA RUBBER STAMPS EXPANDED USE OF DANGEROUS PESTICIDES: CONCERNED MOTHERS FIGHT BACK

By Diana Zogran, environmental advocate; member, Studio City Residents Association

For decades, the state of California has been spraying dangerous pesticides in populated areas for insects it considers a pest to agriculture. Each year, more and more of these pesticides are used. This past December, the state took its "business-as-usual" approach to an even more dangerous level when it approved the Department of Food & Agriculture's multi-million dollar pesticide plan that permits the spraying of 79 toxic chemicals anywhere in our community at any time into the indefinite future. There is no option to review and consider local impacts that can affect each and every one of us and our families and limit the effect these chemicals can have.

Where can they forcibly spray?

Our schools, homes, parks and organic farms can all be subjected to mandatory spraying, according to the state.

Instead of modernizing the state's agricultural system, the state program uses a decades-old, chemically intensive pest management methodology that ignores mounting scientific evidence about the risks that pesticides pose to human health, bees, the environment and the increasing demand for organic food. Apparently there are no efforts being made to modernize the state's agricultural system.

(Continued, Page 4)

(Awards, cont'd)

Rick Rabins, President of the Village Gardeners: Excellence in Community Service The SCRA presented this award to Rick Rabins for his devotion and hard work for the past eight years on improving the banks of the Los Angeles River and surrounding areas of Studio City. Rabins has spearheaded the recently completed North Valleyheart River Walk, between Coldwater Canyon Ave. and Fulton Ave. and on an ongoing basis organized maintenance and removal of litter and illegally dumped items.



L to R: Alan Dymond, Carol Armstrong, Marion Dodge

Marian Dodge, President of the Hillside Federation: The Fran Quigley Award SCRA presented its highest honor, the Fran Quigley Award, to Marian Dodge, president of the Hillside Federation. As leader of the Federation, whose mandate it is to protect property and quality of life for the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles, Dodge

oversees an organization that consists of 44 member associations. The Federation is an advocate for the restoration of the Los Angeles River and creation of wildlife protection corridors in the Santa Monica Mountains. Dodge spends many hours at city meetings campaigning for code compliance and open space. She has also been very involved in having Griffith Park designated as a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.

MARCH SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING TO ADDRESS LA RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

Dr. Carol Armstrong, director of Mayor Eric Garcetti's LA RiverWorks, will speak with Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members and guests at the next SCRA Community Meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. LA RiverWorks was established as part of the Mayor's office in an effort to engage local communities with efforts to revitalize the Los Angeles River. The director reports to one of the four deputy mayors. Armstrong will address the status of upcoming and present river improvements in Studio City and the Valley, funding proposals such as the Enhanced Infrastructure Financial District, as well as resources and methods to acquire critical river adjacent parcels by way of state grants and other funding sources. Armstrong was the recipient of the SCRA's Fran Quigley Award in 2013.



The meeting will be held at The Garland, formally known as the Beverly Garland, located at 4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments.

UPDATE ON THE LOS ANGELES RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL PROJECT

Community Conservations Solutions (CCS), the group responsible for the planning, design, permitting and constructing of the Los Angeles River Greenway Trail in Studio City between Coldwater Canyon and Whitsett Avenues, reports the processes up to the permitting stage for the Greenway are nearing completion with

construction expected to start this summer. CCS will build a half-mile walking trail that will bridge the gap between existing river trail segments. When this is complete, there will be three miles of continuous Los Angeles River trail, the longest in the Valley. The project will restore native habitat by planting more than 4,000 native trees, shrubs and plants in an ecosystem based design.

The first step in restoring a complex of native habitats to this barren site included the removal of 21 non-native trees. These will be replaced with more than 700 native trees and tree-sized shrubs. Native plants are already starting to grow. CCS has ordered more than 4,000 native trees, shrubs and plants from native plant nurseries.

There is a naming opportunity on parts of the Greenway, similar to the ones the Studio City Residents Association has overseen over the years. The Studio City Beautification Association has raised funds in the past by installing plaques at tree wells in Studio City. For further information, contact CCS at jlaskin@conservationsolutions.org. The progress of the project can be followed at facebook.com/L.A.RiverGreenwayTrail. For other information on the L.A. River Greenway Trail Project, go to conservationsolutions.org/largwt.html

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: I'm president of the Colfax Gardens Homeowners Association, located at 4220 Colfax Ave. There has been an old motorhome parked in front of our building since Thanksgiving. We have reported the vehicle online; we've called the abandoned vehicle hotline; we've called parking enforcement directly; and we've called the traffic supervisor's office. We have been unsuccessful at getting the vehicle towed and were wondering if you had any advice? It's unsightly and has unfortunately caused buyers to change their minds about buying in our building. Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide!

SCRA: This is not an abandoned vehicle. Someone is moving it (even just a little perhaps) at least every 72 hours. Any vehicle (if under 6,000 pounds in the case of Colfax Avenue) can legally park for 72 hours in one spot where there is no time restriction. The City will not tow it until you call it in, and they come out and check. As far as the City is concerned, the 72 hours starts when they come out and look at it after you've called.

You should not be calling the "Abandoned Vehicle Hotline" because this vehicle is not abandoned. Call Valley Parking Enforcement at 1-818-374-4823 (they seem to answer 24 hours a day.) Call them the minute you see this motorhome move a few inches so they can come out the same day (and they will) and start their official 72-hour watch.

Lastly, when you call Valley Parking Enforcement, also tell them that Colfax Avenue (within Studio City) does not allow vehicles over 6,000 pounds (except news microwave/satellite vans that are exempt from the City Ordinance that applies on Colfax and many other streets in the City). This motorhome broke the

(Continued, Page 3)

(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

overweight law driving on Colfax in the first place. If Parking Enforcement will not take the overweight complaint, ask them to refer you to the correct department. Alternatively, you can call the LAPD non-emergency number at 1-877-ASK-LAPD (toll-free) to report the overweight issue.

Q: Regarding tree replacement to begin at the LA River Greenway from Whitsett Avenue to Coldwater Canyon Avenue (north side). What are the "non-native trees" that will be removed specifically? Are they large trees? What size will these "native trees" be when they are planted?

SCRA: The Greenway developer, Community Conservation Solutions (CCS) had a walk-through on January 10, 2015 to show the residents what trees would be removed and what would replace them. The Greenway is receiving a two million dollar renovation from grants and donations. Both CCS and the SCRA have been working together on this project for several years. If you take a walk down there, you can see the marked trees for removal. Some Eucalyptus and Fichus are being removed. What will happen to the palm trees along the golf course is yet to be determined by the County. Log onto Community Conservation Solutions' web site at conservationsolutions.org to get a comprehensive picture of the improvements.

Q: Regarding CicLAvia, I'm not opposed to closing small sections of streets for street fairs, farmers' markets and the like, but closing down miles and miles of our roads, incurring the extra police expense, and causing major inconvenience and hardship to individuals and businesses just to create a bike path is absurd. There are plenty of places to bicycle. And now their website says they'd like to do it three times a month! Where does the SCRA stand on this issue? How can I lodge a protest?

SCRA: The SCRA, the Studio City Business Improvement District, and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce are in full support of CicLAvia coming to the Valley and especially Studio City. In other parts of the city where CicLAvia has taken place, businesses have reported increased sales of 15%–20%. Residents can walk or ride their bikes on the open streets, and people from all over the city can come and experience what Studio City has to offer. It's fun, it's good for business, and it's good for the community.

CicLAvia will be having events all around LA, but this is the only event planned for the Valley at this time. The SCRA could not find your reference to three times a month on the CicLAvia website. Rest assured that they would be referring to different routes throughout the city, not three times a month in Studio City.

You can lodge a protest with Councilmember Paul Krekorian's deputy, Courtney Hamilton, at 818-755-7676, and you can contact CicLAvia at info@ciclavia.org or 213-355-8500.

Another member's comment on CicLAvia: "Awesome - so happy this event is coming to the Valley! The SCRA should endorse and encourage participation. Good for the community and businesses."

Q: Whom do I contact or what city branch do I call regarding the need for a crosswalk at the corner of Coldwater Canyon Avenue and Valleyheart Drive on the south side? People drive by this corner very fast, and no one stops for pedestrians. This area has a



TO THE MARKET

The Studio City Farmers Market has some great new vendors that are sure to please the many foodies that visit the market.

Healthy Butter is now selling its 100% organic nut butters at the market. Made with all natural superfoods, such as chia seeds, hemp seed, raw cashews, macadamia nuts, peanuts and more, these nut butters are part of a healthy and nutritious diet. There are 13 flavors available, and with names like Cashew Kong, Pumpkin Spicy and Figzilla, there is something for everyone's palate. Healthy Butter is on the south side of the market next to the children's section.

Also new to the market are mini-gourmet French pastries from Chef Laurent and K. This husband and wife team comes straight from the streets of Paris to share their delectable and beautiful pastries. A perfect match with a cup of coffee (the booth is right next to Forge Coffee) or on a dessert table for guests, these delectable concoctions are a must-have.

After many years at the market, Dey Dey's Best Beef has decided to retire. Producers of grass fed beef and chicken, Dey Dey's has had a loyal following at the market and will be missed. Taking over for Dey Dey's will be Gold Coast Bison. They will carry grass-fed beef and chicken, in addition to grass-fed bison, lamb, pork, rabbit, goat and turkey. They start taking orders for their grass-fed Thanksgiving turkeys early, and their bacon is a bacon lover's dream. They also carry soup bones, marrow, oxtail, liver, and so much more. Stop by their booth, at the end of the market on Laurel Canyon and say hello.

The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Free parking is available at the CBS lot on Radford. Stop by and visit! The market is open on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

high number of apartment and condo owners, and many walk their dogs here. This is also a corner that is used as a shortcut to get to Coldwater, posing another problem with cars in a hurry. A crosswalk with blinking lights would be great! Please advise how I go about getting the ball rolling on this needed crosswalk.

SCRA: SCRA's Vice President Barry Johnson is the chair of the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) Transportation Committee and was present as the committee passed the following: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) install crosswalks on Coldwater Canyon Avenue where Coldwater Canyon Avenue crosses Valleyheart Drive South and Valleyheart Drive North." The motion was passed by the full Neighborhood Council board, and sent to Councilmember Paul Krekorian to request action.

NEW LEADERSHIP TAKES THE HELM OF THE STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION



After a number of years of service, Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) President Bill Harmond and Vice President Francesca

Corra resigned from the SCBA board, and Michael Klausman resigned as an SCBA board member. The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) extends its thanks to Harmond, Corra and Klausman for their dedication, hard work and the many contributions they made to the SCBA.

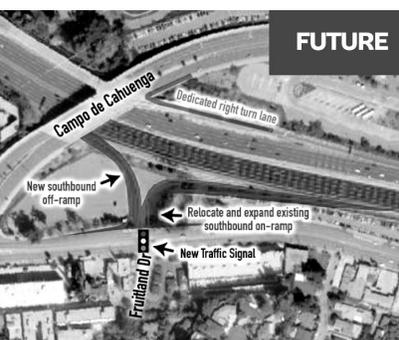
At the Annual General Meeting of the SCBA in February, and in accordance with the SCBA's bylaws, the SCBA appointed the SCBA's board members for 2015. Thereafter, the incoming SCBA board voted the following board members as SCBA officers: Barry Weiss, president; Lorena Parker, vice president; Connie Elliot, secretary; and Bryan Abraham, treasurer. Karen Younce was appointed as a board member, and Barry Johnson remains a board member. The SCBA is contacting members who indicated an interest in volunteering for the SCBA on their membership application. All members who are interested are invited to apply. Please contact the SCRA office at 818-509-0230 for more information and to get involved.

NEW 101 SOUTHBOUND OFF-RAMP AT FRUITLAND DRIVE AND VENTURA BOULEVARD

Residents of Fruitland Drive are concerned that a new southbound 101 off-ramp will feed directly onto Fruitland Drive and create a cut-thru to Vineland Avenue through their neighborhood. The new off-ramp and re-positioned existing on-ramp will bisect the large Hollywood Bowl Park-and-Ride lot. The new off-ramp is part of NBC/Universal's Evolution Plan and was approved by the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors last year. Corinne Verdery, a spokesperson for NBC Universal, has offered assurances that public comment from the neighborhood will be heard before the decision is made to let cars that exit from the new off-ramp do anything more than make a "right turn only" that will ultimately lead up to Universal Studios Hollywood Theme Park. Further, there will be no net loss of parking spaces at the Hollywood Bowl Park & Ride parking lot.

However, should cars go straight when exiting the off-ramp, it would allow the traffic to go directly onto Fruitland Drive. Also, a left turn would permit cars to proceed east on Ventura Blvd.,

leading almost immediately to the busy intersection at Ventura and Lankershim Boulevards. The SCRA has learned that a full traffic signal will be installed at the Ventura Blvd./Fruitland Drive intersection. The SCRA will keep its members apprised of any upcoming public comment meeting.



(Pesticides, cont'd)

The short list of pesticides used in the sprays includes chlorpyrifos; the neonicotinoid (nicotine) imidacloprid, which is highly toxic to humans and bees; the deadly, ozone-depleting fumigant methyl bromide; chloropicrin, which causes genetic damage; and 4-D, best known as a component of Agent Orange, a defoliant widely used in the Vietnam War. These pesticides are banned in Europe.

Total cost of the state's war on bugs? Unknown.

But, if the case of the light brown apple moth is any indication, there's a lot of money to be made spraying bugs. More than \$8.9 million tax dollars were reported to have been spent trying to eradicate this moth from Monterey and Santa Cruz counties less than six years ago. Hundreds of people reported illnesses after the state sprayed these populated counties with pesticides it deemed a threat to agriculture

Despite real-world cases such as the light brown apple moth, our elected officials have allowed more and more of these pesticides to be used on us each year, the cost of which is being paid for by taxpayers.

It is time to go beyond the old methods of releasing toxic pesticides into our community. There is a need for pest control, but the state plan is ignoring proven biological and ecological farming approaches for pest management practices in California and rejects modern growing techniques that protect pollinators, waterways, environmental health and human health.

A group of concerned mothers, Moms Advocating Sustainability, which has been joined by ten other groups, has filed a lawsuit against the state's pesticide spray plan last month in an effort to protect the health and well-being of our communities. The lawsuit alleges that the proposed spraying plan violates state environmental laws, including failure to notify the public of future pesticide spraying and failure to analyze the impacts of the pesticides on human and environmental health, such as harm to infants and contamination of drinking water.

But the genie is already out of the bottle here in Los Angeles. There are moves afoot to conduct similar spraying for one of the state's target insects right here in our neighborhoods. Little is known about how much and what they will be spraying in our communities or when. Unless demands are made to know, we will find out after the spraying has been carried out and the possible effects become apparent.

All of the members of the Los Angeles City Council need to hear from us before they realize that our neighborhoods belong to us, not the special interest groups behind this ill-conceived, expensive, toxic program. In short, we need more than moms to fight back.

Log onto www.momsadvocatingsustainability.org to learn more the state pesticide program and the lawsuit.

BARRY JOHNSON NAMED SCRA VICE PRESIDENT

After many years of service on the Studio City Residents Association board, Barry Johnson has been appointed by the board as vice president for the 2015 term. Johnson also serves on several committees with the Studio City Neighborhood Council.

CICLAVIA HITS THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

CicLAvia, which catalyzes vibrant public spaces, active transportation and good health through car-free street events, will take place for the first time in the San Fernando Valley on March 22, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Open to all, this free event will close streets to all vehicles so that people can bike, walk and enjoy their communities free from traffic. Six miles of streets will be closed to all cars along the following route: Lankershim Blvd. south from North Hollywood Red Line station, and diverting from Lankershim at Bluffside Drive through the MTA parking lot at Universal/Studio City Red Line Station. After crossing the parking lot, the route will continue along Campo de Cahuenga Way down to Ventura Blvd., all the way west to Coldwater Canyon Avenue.

Streets will be fully closed to cars by 8:00 a.m., and no vehicles or

on-street parking will be allowed on the route. Cars can cross the route at various major intersections. Those who must drive or travel by bus during the time of the event should expect medium-to-long delays on nearby streets. The route will be re-opened to cars by approximately 5:30 p.m.

Key facts:

- If you live or work on the route, you will need to park your car elsewhere before CicLAvia starts. All driveways on the route will be blocked.
- Cars parked on the route on CicLAvia day will be towed, and no cars will be allowed to enter or exit the route during the event hours.
- Check for posted parking restrictions on your street before the event. Additional street parking near the route may be restricted.
- If you are a resident or a business located directly on the route, CicLAvia will reimburse you for up to \$20 per vehicle for any parking costs you incur from 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 through 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 22. For reimbursement, mail a copy of your parking receipt and proof of residence to: CicLAvia, 3780 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1020, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

For more information, contact the organizers at 213-355-8500 or info@ciclavia.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

At times I feel that I am a worn record with a scratch, repeating over and over. Our senior members will understand that analogy. Alternatively, I feel I am caught in a never-ending loop; but repeat it I must.

Many times I have heard the comment, "It's their land," and the owners of Weddington Golf and Tennis should be able to do what they want with it. Right now, they can do something with it. The owners can build six houses on the property, provided they go back to change the community plan from privately owned open space. It is apparent from filings with the Planning Department that they want to build 200 condominiums on the site. However, they cannot do so under the present designation. The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) has done nothing to create or cause the present situation. Instead, the obligation to go through the environmental review, change the zoning, revise the designation on the maps, and eliminate the public access elements lie squarely with those who first arranged to down-zone the parcel. There is no doubt the down-zoning by the Weddingtons was done for the benefit of the community. Since the late 70s, there is no doubt the property has been of benefit to all of us, including our schools, students, tennis programs, golf, and open space. And the majority of us would like the property to remain of benefit to the larger community.

One final comment on this: the SCRA, Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS), neighbors, volunteers, and our elected officials are all looking to identify ways and means to purchase the property. We welcome any and all ideas.

The Studio City Farmers Market is jointly owned by the SCRA and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Any and all proceeds after paying payroll and other operating expenses have to be distributed back to the community. The IRS, in its approval letter, specifically referenced that the Farmers Market qualifies as a tax-exempt public benefit corporation by its donations to the Fourth of July celebration held each year at CBS, efforts to install public open space and a park on the site of Weddington Golf and Tennis, as well as neighborhood grants and beautification projects. Accordingly, the SCRA share of the proceeds from the Farmers Market is distributed between SCRA, SLAROS and the Studio City Beautification Association for their own projects and to cover the operating expenses of the three organizations.

The Greenway between Coldwater and Whitsett is under way. The SCRA supported the development of the Greenway by contributing to the original cost of grant writing to get the program up and running. The SCRA understands that this Greenway is a very important Los Angeles River project for Studio City and that it is closely tied into any proposed development on the Weddington Golf and Tennis site. As such, the SCRA has committed to providing further support to bring this project home.

Alan Dymond

SCRA Committees

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

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

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Beth Dymond
Martha Hanrahan
Steve Hirsh
Art Howard

Robin Seidel
Barry Weiss
Karen Younce
Jason Goodman, junior member

Immediate Past President

Art Howard

Beautification Association

Barry Weiss, President
Lorena Parker, 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,
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

School Liaisons

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman
Rio Vista - Barry Weiss

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RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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PRESORTED
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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, Mar. 10, 2015

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m. Reception
- 7:30 p.m. Presentation by
Carol Armstrong,
Ph.D., Director of
LA RiverWorks.
Sr. Lead Officer
Mike Lewis

Meeting Location

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

