



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

May 2015

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STUDIO CITY: ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE MAYOR'S SUSTAINABLE CITY PLAN

Mayor Eric Garcetti recently announced a 20-year plan for Los Angeles with environmental yardsticks, some of which are already a part of the mission of the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA). The Studio City Farmers Market, owned in equal parts by the SCRA and the City Chamber Foundation, is a prime example. Several years ago, the Studio City Chamber Foundation implemented the Mayor's plan to offer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) at the Market. Accepting EBT makes fresh produce available to families on food stamps. Also, Studio City Farmers Market vendors donate produce left over from the day's sales to local food pantries. The Market has arrangements with local pantries to pick up the produce at the end of Sunday's market day.

SCRA sister organization Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) has been in the forefront of a major component of the Mayor's plan. SLAROS believes the best use of Weddington Golf and Tennis, a site currently being studied to erect 200 condominiums, is to keep it as open space, develop a park, and return clean water to the East Valley aquifer. The SCRA and SLAROS have developed a plan and funded a feasibility study to help accomplish these goals. The study has met with the approval of the Los Angeles Sanitation Department. This is yet another example of the type of actions the Mayor's Sustainable City Plan discusses.

The LA River Project, a nonprofit based in Studio City, has removed miles of non-native plants and replaced them with California native species along the Los Angeles River and the Tujunga Wash. Through Water LA, the LA River Project has presented educational screenings about water issues, installed rain gardens and curb cuts and replaced water hungry gardens with drought-resistant sustainable plants.

In addition, for the last 10 years, the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), another SCRA sister organization, has beautified more than 12 abandoned city properties and medians in Studio City, using drought-resistant plants and drip system watering. In another location, SCRA is involved in the creation of the path along the north bank of the Los Angeles River between Coldwater Canyon and Whitsett Avenues.

The excellent support by SCRA members and other volunteers is very encouraging and the driving force behind the SCRA's current and ongoing success. Collectively, these efforts have put Studio City on the cutting edge of strategic, effective environmental programs that have a significant positive impact.



MAY SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING TO FEATURE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PROSECUTOR



Diego Edber, the new neighborhood prosecutor for the North Hollywood Division, which includes Studio City, will address the May 12 SCRA Community Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at The Garland Hotel. Edber is part of the City Attorney's Neighborhood Prosecutor Program. He works with law enforcement and members of the community to tackle quality of life issues that impact neighborhoods, such as vandalism, graffiti, illegal dumping, blight and different types of disturbances. The scope of work of this program also includes gang activity, gun violence, domestic violence, trespassing, prostitution, zoning code violations, health code violations and other issues.

The Garland, formally known as the Beverly Garland, is located at 4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments. Note that the meeting location for this month is the Cabrillo Room, located across from the Garland Theatre.

STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION FACILITATES GRANT FOR RIO VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Studio City Beautification Association recently facilitated a \$5,000 grant for Rio Vista Elementary School for the school's "Secret Garden." The grant was made by Warner Bros. to give back to the communities in which the studio operates and films. From time to time, Warner Bros. films on location in Studio City neighborhoods. The grant was part of an effort to acknowledge and thank the community.



Rio Vista Elementary's "Secret Garden" has recently been revitalized with the help of EnrichLA, in large part as a result of the Warner Bros. grant. Space has been cleared, weeded and mulched. Garden beds and picnic tables have been built. Seeds have been planted, and later this year, the school can expect carrots, tomatoes, beans, squash and more to populate this beautiful open space.



Beginning this September, Rio Vista will also participate in EnrichLA's Garden Ranger program. Each week, a ranger will provide educational lessons in an outdoor classroom where children can learn about gardening first hand.

WELCOME TO THE MUSEUM OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

The Museum of the San Fernando Valley now has a home. Several years ago the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) gave many historical documents and oral histories to the museum. Finding a home has been a great challenge for the museum, and the SCRA is pleased it is finally open.

Museum of the San Fernando Valley
(at Plaza De La Cordillera)
18860 Nordhoff Street, Suite 204
Northridge, CA 91324-3885
Hours:

Tuesdays: 1pm - 8pm
Thursdays: 1pm - 6pm
Saturdays: 1pm - 6pm

FOCUS ON SCBA: GREAT GARDENS FOR A NEW ERA



The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) uses sustainable ecological methods, including a mix of California native plants that

are water-conserving and beautiful, with plenty of lush foliage and a generous dose of seasonal flowers. All of the gardens are rich tapestries of color and motion, thanks to their diverse palettes of carefully chosen natives, perennials, ornamental grasses, shrubs or succulents.

April is all about the blooms. Purple Douglas Iris, Lilac Verbena, Pink Clarkias and yellow flowering Fremontias are blooming right now at SCBA's installations. The real stars at this particular moment are California Poppies and all the beautiful butterflies that visit them. Matilija Poppy is an SCBA favorite. Ceonothus shrubs are a real statement piece in any garden, and their electric blue flowers attract Swallowtail butterflies. The SCBA also likes Purisima Mallow with its hibiscus-like purple flower. Sages are best known for their fragrant leaves, but Pitcher Sages have attractive showy white pink flowers and have the most pleasing scent of all of the area's native plants.


The SCBA gardens are a perfect model for home gardens. For more information and the location of SCBA's garden projects, visit studiocitybeautification.org.

SIGN UP NOW AND DON'T BE LEFT OUT: SCRA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

June 1, 2015 marks the annual renewal date for Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members. The SCRA is a major advocate for the community, and the power is in the numbers. The more members who belong to the SCRA, the more impact the association can have. Please encourage your neighbors to join by visiting www.studiocityresidents.org. Feel free to share this newsletter so prospective members can learn of the many issues and challenges the SCRA tackles on behalf of residents in the community. All current members will receive a renewal reminder in the mail.

SCRA members who provide the SCRA with their e-mail address receive updates throughout the month on important breaking issues in Studio City. The SCRA staff strives to keep these messages short and to the point.

Feel free to call SCRA volunteers at 818-509-0230 regarding any questions about the SCRA or Studio City. The office is open Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. - noon. If there is no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Like us on 

SCRA MAY COMMUNITY MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

On May 12, 2015, the SCRA Community Meeting will be held in the Garland Cabrillo Room, located on the same level as the Garland Theatre. It is right across from the Theatre. Parking tickets will be validated at the meeting using a machine versus the prior ticket exchange.

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 hope one of your next newsletters will address the current condition of Coldwater Canyon Avenue north of Ventura Blvd. Now that the sewer construction along that segment has been completed, the stretch of Coldwater between Ventura and the freeway onramp is in a condition of which we should be ashamed. Given the number of Studio City residents who drive that route daily (and whose cars continue to suffer the consequences), I'm sure it would be of great interest to your members to know when the road will be fit for driving again and whether the SCRA or its members can do anything to hasten that day. Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of our community.



SCRA: The SCRA received the following from Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office: "Councilmember Krekorian had Coldwater Canyon Avenue on his priority list for street resurfacing, but the city wasn't able to take action on it because of the interference caused by the DWP trunk line project. Now that the DWP project has left Coldwater and moved onto Moorpark St., the Councilmember will request that Coldwater Canyon be resurfaced in the coming fiscal year." The SCRA followed up and learned that the "coming fiscal year" does not start until July 2016 so, as of now, it appears that paving on Coldwater will not occur until sometime after July 2016.

Q: I alerted the SCRA about large, beautiful city trees in the City Parkway at 4203 Beeman Ave. The developer has now poured the foundation for the new "mcmansion" and placed the garage directly in line with a large city tree. This was completely unnecessary and could have easily been avoided had the city been proactive. Why does City Planning continue to approve this? When is this blatant and unnecessary destruction of the city trees that line our streets going to stop?

SCRA: At the January 21, 2015 Studio City Neighborhood Council Board (SCNC) meeting, SCRA Vice President Barry Johnson drafted a motion for tree protection. The motion was passed by the SCNC board to be forwarded to Councilmember Krekorian. Subsequently, Councilmember Krekorian submitted a motion to City Council calling for better coordination between the relevant departments to limit the number of trees removed and, additionally, to report within 30 days on recommendations for penalties and fines for removal of trees without the requisite permits. The SCRA will keep its members apprised about the progress of this motion.

Q: It was with much regret and major disappointment that Studio City was NOT included in the Los Angeles City Council decision to have a two-year moratorium on mansionization.

SCRA: The reason Studio City was not included in the moratorium is because the SCRA, along with Councilmember Paul Krekorian, hammered out a mansionization ordinance for Studio City several years ago. The SCRA was seeking a more restrictive



TO THE MARKET

It is spring, which means stone fruits are starting to make an appearance at the Studio City Farmers Market.

Arnett Farms has already debuted an array of peaches that sold out on the morning they made their first appearance, and apricots, plums, pluots and apriums are on the horizon.

Probiotic Boost, makers of immune enhancing super foods such as kombucha and sauerkraut, which are Paleo Diet-friendly items, has started selling bone broth to keep up with the demand from Paleo savvy shoppers and foodies area wide. Paleo broth is the latest health food craze and is purported to provide many healing benefits.

Mama Musubi, makers of the gourmet Japanese rice balls that are stuffed with everything, including kelp, chicken, beef and salmon, is now selling brown rice balls that are as delicious as their white rice counterparts.

On May 17, 2015, the Market will welcome Frogs Organic Bakery. Frogs is the first organic certified French bakery in the country. They will be selling bread (along with an organic gluten free loaf) and pastries. Frogs will be at the Market every other week.

The Market's board of directors has selected Host Town Studio City as the recipient of this year's community grant. The \$5,000 grant will go towards housing, feeding and entertaining 100 delegates from the Special Olympics who are coming to the United States in July to participate in the Special Olympics World Games. Host Town Studio City is being spearheaded by the Studio City Chamber of Commerce.

"Ratio Floor Area" (RFA), but it ran into strong opposition from developers, contractors and residents who were concerned they would not be able to add onto their properties or that there would be limits on new houses being built. The final compromise was reached after much negotiation between all parties. Given restrictions from other ordinances on the books, the Studio City ordinance covers only the flatlands of Studio City within certain boundaries; however, the City Council passed a Hillside Baseline Mansionization Ordinance about a year later that has protected the hillsides in Studio City. This hillside ordinance is being revisited due to loopholes in the ordinance.

The Los Angeles City Planning and Building and Safety Departments are doing their best to enforce the RFA in Studio City, but it is up to all of us to make sure that any development complies with the ordinance. Karo Torossian, Councilmember Krekorian's planning deputy, helped develop the ordinance and is very helpful and familiar with construction in Studio City. If you give him the address and possible violation, he will check to make sure the builder is in compliance. Reach him at karo.torossian@lacity.org To review the ordinance, visit StudioCityResidents.org, click on "Our Community," "Over development" and click on the link to the "Ordinance."

(Continued, Page 4)

(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

Q: What's the status of the makeover for the CVS at Laurel Canyon and Ventura Blvds.? I believe the SCRA sent a letter a year ago agreeing with the proposed improvements. Do you know what the holdup is?

SCRA: The Studio City Improvement Association, the SCRA, the SCNC and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce wrote a letter to CVS' corporate headquarters about the rundown conditions of the CVS store and requested CVS to paint the building. The work was done, and this helped eliminate this particular part of the eyesore in this corner. Prior to painting the building, CVS presented its remodeling plans to the SCNC Land Use Committee; however, the plans for remodeling ground to a halt given the DWP's demands for upgrading the electrical requirements for the total facility. CVS has control only over its particular corner.

Q: As I'm sure you are aware, there is a new restaurant on Ventura Place called Joan's On Third. Their valet parking operation is posting "no parking" signs on the two public metered parking spaces located directly in front of the restaurant, and using them for cars pulling up for valet parking service. The parking is so limited on Ventura Place, and I'm wondering if it is legal for the restaurant to commandeer two public parking spaces for its private use. Thank you for looking into this.



use. Thank you for looking into this.

SCRA: In response to your questions about the two spaces in front of Joan's On Third, Courtney Hamilton, field representative for Councilmember Krekorian, informed SCRA that when a business gets its valet parking permit, the spaces that it takes up are approved by the City Department of Transportation. As a result of this permit, the public lost two parking spaces on Ventura Place.

Q: What is being done about the hole in the security wall at Bluffsidge Terrace and Lankershim Blvd. left over from CicLAvia?

SCRA: Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office responded to SCRA Board Member Connie Elliot saying that the MTA is fully aware of the problems that the "Island Community" is facing with the hole in the security wall. His office is working with the MTA to move quickly. Note: As of this writing, the gate has been installed.



Q: The "mess" in the corner behind Ralphs at Campo de Cahuenga Way and Ventura Blvd. has not been cleaned up, with transients frequenting the area almost nightly. There was a "screaming match" last night between transients at 2:00 a.m., waking me and my baby with their screaming. This is a daily struggle with any major city and any community, but I hate seeing it increase in my neighborhood. Thank you all for your time and dedication to our city.

SCRA: The homeless camp behind Ralphs has been an ongoing problem with many attempts to solve it. The SCRA suggests members contact Ralphs Corporate headquarters. Request they keep the area clean and put up lights at the back of the store. It may take time and effort to get to the right person, but please be

tenacious. Suggest to your neighbors that they write and call as well. Go higher than the property manager: Ralphs needs to know that the concerns are serious. You can also establish a dialogue on Next Door to gather comments and support from local neighbors, which can then be forwarded to Ralphs. Action at this level may go a long way toward solving this ongoing problem. Councilmember Krekorian's office is also looking into lighting for this area.

Q: Can someone please take a look at the overgrown ivy and trash located curbside on the west side of Whitsett Avenue between Moorpark Avenue and Sarah Street. I think it is important to do something about it.

SCRA: The homeowners whose houses are on the other side of the wall along this stretch are responsible for keeping this parkway clean and trimmed. Two years ago, as a neighborly gesture, the Studio City Beautification Association paid to have the ivy cut back and the trash removed. At the request of the SCRA, our member obtained the addresses of the responsible homeowners, which were forwarded to Courtney Hamilton in Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office. She reported the problem to the City Department of Street Services, which has the authority to cite homeowners for blocking the walkway.

Q: Can you tell me who to call when you have a big ugly camper with people living in it parked in front of your house for more than three days?

SCRA: For anything "big and ugly," don't even wait 72 hours. Instead, call Valley Parking Enforcement immediately, because once they come out to inspect, they will start their own 72 hours before they will ticket and/or tow. (So if you wait 72 hours before calling them and then they count their own 72 hours. 144 hours will have actually gone by before any action is taken, and the people will have already parked in that place for six days, not three.) You can reach Valley Parking Enforcement at (818) 374-4823. Be sure to say it is NOT an abandoned vehicle, but an RV with people living in it, and be sure you have the vehicle license number handy when you call.

EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Board of Directors is extending an invitation for a community-minded high school student to join the board as a junior member for the 2015-2016 session. The position is open to all high school juniors and seniors who either live in or attend school in Studio City. The term will begin in September 2015, and conclude at the end of the school year in 2016. The student who is selected will attend meetings of the SCRA Board every third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. as well as other committee meetings as opportunities arise.

The SCRA junior board member also supports the SCRA's social media efforts and provides a perspective on policy matters of importance to the community.

Self-motivated students interested in civic affairs may apply by emailing a resume and cover letter, expressing interest, to the SCRA Board at SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org.

STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION WELCOMES DIANA ZOGRAN



Diana Zogran has been named garden manager for the Studio City Beautification Association (SBCA). Born in Athens, Zogran grew up in Europe and New England. She ran a business that managed facilities and projects for The Walt Disney Company and other Fortune 500 companies both here in Los Angeles and in Orlando. Zogran studied horticulture at UCLA and is now an ecological gardener who engages local residents to build healthy habitats for wildlife and human life. As the SCBA garden manager, Zogran will oversee and manage all aspects of SCBA's installations. She will also interface with and advise contractors, landscape designers and others on future projects the SCBA is considering.

Zogran is committed to redefining the way people think about gardens and the role they can play in the health and overall well-being of the community. For more about her vision and work log onto ittakesagarden.com.

STUDIO CITY TO HOST SPECIAL OLYMPICS DELEGATES

The Studio City Chamber of Commerce has been selected to participate in the Special Olympics World Games "Host Town" program from July 21-24, 2015. As the organizers of Host Town

Studio City, the Chamber will be responsible for providing lodging, meals, training facilities and cultural events for 100 delegates (75 athletes and 25 coaches) leading up to the World Games. Host Town Studio City has been assigned the delegations from Cuba and the Czech Republic.

More than 7000 athletes from 177 countries will participate in the World Games, which begin on July 25, 2015, competing in sports ranging from tennis, swimming, track and field, volleyball, badminton, bowling, soccer and many more. The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympics-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. They receive continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

The World Games will be televised on ESPN with events taking place throughout Los Angeles, at locations such as USC, UCLA and Balboa Sports Center in Encino. Attendance at the Games is free. The community is encouraged to attend as many events as possible to cheer on the athletes.

Host Town Studio City is responsible for all expenses associated with the three-day event, and the Studio City Chamber has already started its fundraising efforts. If you would like to make a donation to, or be a sponsor of Host Town Studio City, please contact the Studio City Chamber at 818-655-5916 for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Alan Dymond*

Over the years, I have been contacted by the Daily News, KCET, the Los Angeles Times and other news organizations to answer reporters' questions on matters of interest to Studio City. Sometimes they call for clarification on an issue or a perspective. However, articles are often published without a reporter checking the facts, even though the information is presented by the media outlet as 100 percent accurate. Many times asking for comment is necessary in order to publish a factual version of events. That's why it is important to consider the source of information and how accurate it may be.

To that end, I recommend our members take advantage of the "Ask SCRA" column in the SCRA newsletter. We try to respond directly to a member's question and then publish the response, since typically more than one member has the same question. For instance, an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) to limit mansionization for certain areas of the city is currently being considered by the City Council. The SCRA has heard from more than one person asking why Studio City is not included in the ICO. Read "Ask SCRA" in this edition on what the situation is for Studio City, how to find the applicable ordinance, as well as tips on how to make sure that the regulations imposed by the ordinance that limit the size and bulking in Studio City are being followed.

Problems also arise when information that has been circulated to the public over time comes to the attention of those learning for the first time. NBCUNIVERSAL is a case in point. The SCRA had four seats on the board of Citizens United for Smart Growth, a non-profit organization formed by many local homeowners groups and associations to address concerns of the proposed developments at NBCUNIVERSAL and the site of the MTA Redline Station. The SCRA spoke at public hearings and meetings that were held pursuant to the Environmental Impact Requirements (CEQA). Case law was filed that appears for now to have delayed the over-reaching development on the MTA side of Lankershim Blvd. The information on the proposed Barham off-ramp closure was recently released by CalTrans and came as a surprise to many. Other than that, there is nothing new about this development that has not been subject over the years to public hearings, vetting and input by many local homeowners organizations in the area. (Note: The NBCUNIVERSAL Community Line at communityline.nbcuni.com can provide many answers to questions.)

Call us or email us and give us a chance to check it out. SCRA is an advocate for its members. Sometimes we cannot answer certain questions immediately since the matter is under consideration or in process at the City level. But that never stops the SCRA from pursuing the answer or finding a solution.

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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Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

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Art Howard, Patty Kirby, Chip Meehan,
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Rio Vista - Barry Weiss

Studio City Farmers Market

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m. Reception
- 7:30 p.m. Presentation from
Diego Edbler, Los
Angeles City
Attorney's
Neighborhood
Prosecutor Program

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 Cabrillo Room. PARKING WILL BE VALIDATED at the sign-in-table.

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

