



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

September 2015

SAVE THE DATE

**SCRA's 5th ANNUAL
WINTER FAMILY
FESTIVAL**

**December 13, 2015
1-4 p.m.**

SCRA COMMUNITY MEETINGS TAKE ON THE DROUGHT

The July Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Community Meeting included a number of important presentations from community resources, including insights on how residents should manage water use in the current drought.

At the start of the meeting, Philip Siodia of the Southern California Tennis Association (SCTA) announced details about the Studio City Youth Tennis Festival, which will be held at the Studio City Recreation Center (aka Beeman Park) on September 27, 2015 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. The event is sponsored jointly by the SCTA and the Studio City Recreation Center in cooperation with the SCRA. Further details will be announced through social media and in the SCRA's News & Notes.



Penny Falcon, manager of water conservation policy, legislation and grants at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, addressed the present drought situation and ways to handle it now and in the future. Those who have already significantly reduced water consumption will not have to reduce an additional 20 percent. The 20 percent reduction is an overall number for the city. It is not measured individually. Those who have already reduced their consumption below recommended limits will not be expected to reduce use by another 20 percent.

Inspections for overwatering or waste are being increased. To report water waste, residents may contact the Water Conservation Response Unit (WCRU) by email at waterwaste@ladwp.com or call 1-800-DIAL-DWP. Next month's meeting will address the type of landscaping residents should consider.

CASSY AOYAGI/THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS SCRA SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY MEETING



The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) welcomes Cassy Aoyagi, president, FormLA Landscaping and the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, as guest speaker at the SCRA's September Community

Meeting. The Foundation is a non-profit organization headquartered in the Sunland-Tujunga area with a mandate to preserve and reintroduce California native plants. Aoyagi is very knowledgeable about which plants and trees are well adapted to the Studio City area given the present drought situation.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Garland Cabrillo Room of The Garland, 4222 Lankershim Blvd. Refreshments and opportunity to meet members of the community begin at 7:00 p.m.

OP-ED: ARE YOU A WATER 1-PERCENTER? READ THIS BEFORE PAVING OVER YOUR LANDSCAPE

By Cassy Aoyagi, president, FormLA Landscaping and the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants

We have a message for the "water one percenters" whom the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has asked to remake their landscapes: WAIT!!!

Los Angeles' top water users need to know that saving water can actually enhance our lifestyles and leave Los Angeles with a sense of place all our own. In fact, our landscapes can maintain a lush, colorful aesthetic year round, better reflect our creative culture and save more water than the gravel scapes and synthetic lawns sprouting up throughout the city.

(Continued, Page 4)

OP-ED: WE MUST BAN BILLBOARD BLIGHT

By Dennis Hathaway, president, Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight

In 2009, the City Planning Commission approved a new citywide sign ordinance that limited any new off-site signs, including digital billboards, to special sign districts in 22 areas of the city that are zoned for high-intensity commercial use. These include Downtown, Universal City and Warner Center, among others. Since then, the ordinance, which is still pending before the City Council Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUM), has been under assault by billboard companies and other special interests that want to be able to install these signs anywhere in the city.

On June 30, 2015, PLUM directed the City Planning Department to develop an approach that would allow billboard companies to apply for conditional use permits to put up new digital billboards outside of sign districts. The Committee also sent the City Planning Commission a proposal to grant "amnesty" to almost 1,000 existing billboards that either lack permits or have been altered in violation of their permits. And, finally, the Committee decided that more than a dozen "grandfathered" sign districts that have been applied for but not yet approved should be exempt from a requirement that any new off-site signs and digital billboards put up in sign districts be offset by the takedown of existing billboards in the surrounding community.

Residents concerned with the quality of life in their communities vigorously oppose these measures, which will lead to more visual blight, more distractions to drivers, more light pollution and more broadcasting of advertisements for fast food, alcohol and other products to a captive audience of motorists and pedestrians. Residents who would like to weigh in with a point-of-view should contact PLUM committee members, as well as their City Council representative. Here are some major points in opposition to the measures, although communications are most effective when people personalize the issue by referring to the potentially negative effects on their own homes, the streets they drive for work and shopping and the general quality of life in their neighborhoods.

- A conditional use permit (CUP) process for new digital billboards would allow Clear Channel and other billboard companies to put up these brightly lit signs with rapidly changing ads on any commercial street in the city, as well as turn on the existing digital billboards turned off by court order two years ago.
- Most commercial streets in the city are closely bordered by residential areas of homes and apartments. It is virtually impossible to protect these residences from the negative effect of the intensely bright, constantly changing light of the billboards.
- Digital billboards are designed to attract the attention of motorists; adding them is another distraction in streets that are already congested and is irresponsible.

- Bright, constantly changing ads for corporate products such as fast food, alcohol, cars and electronics do nothing to help local businesses and degrade the character of local neighborhoods.
- The billboard industry should not be exempt from complying with city codes when other businesses and individuals are cited and prosecuted for violating city laws. (The city attorney has sent a letter to city officials saying that the code is enforceable against many billboards lacking permits and is in violation of their permits; he has offered his office's resources to aid this enforcement effort.)

Communications to PLUM committee members should be sent to the committee clerk, Sharon Dickinson, at sharon.dickinson@lacity.org. The email subject line should be Council File# 11-1705, Citywide Sign Regulations. The clerk should be asked to place the communication in the Council file and distribute it to committee members. The body of the email should address PLUM committee members Jose Huizar, chairman; Mitchell Englander, Gilbert Cedillo, Felipe Fuentes and Marqueece Harris-Dawson. It should also reference the Council file number. Copies of the email should be sent to one's City Council member.

For more information about these and other billboard issues, visit banbillboardblight.org.

To receive alerts about these issues, as well as upcoming meetings of the PLUM committee and the City Planning Commission, click the "Subscribe" button.

FROM YOUR BOARD

State Senator Robert Herzberg will be the speaker at the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Community Meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2015.

The SCRA is supporting the September 27, 2015 Studio City Youth Tennis Festival sponsored jointly by the Southern California Tennis Association and the Studio City Recreation Center (aka Beeman Park).

The SCRA's 5th annual Winter Family Festival is scheduled for December 13, 2015 at Beeman Park.

SCRA Vice President Barry Johnson was appointed to the SCRA's Burbank Airport Committee. The Committee will continue monitoring ongoing developments at the airport.

The board voted unanimously to appoint Diana Zogran to the Studio City Beautification Association board to fill a vacancy.

The board appointed Noah Bogner as the SCRA's junior board member for the 2015-2016 school year. Bogner has lived in Studio City for most of his life and has attended Carpenter Community Charter School and Millikan Middle School Civics Academy; this fall he will be a senior at Notre Dame High School. The board welcomes Noah and congratulates him on his appointment.

KARL JOHNSON 1945-2015

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) regrettably reports that Karl Johnson passed away on Friday, August 7, 2015. Johnson was a great part of Studio City life and was well known as the sculptor who donated and installed many works in and around Studio City. Perhaps the most acknowledged were his contributions to the Art Walk on Radford Avenue that extends one quarter mile from Moorpark Street (Tujunga Wash) south to Valleyheart Drive.

Johnson's family is not planning a memorial in light of the tribute and honor paid to him at a special ceremony at CBS Studio Center on June 15, 2015.

Johnson will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues at the SCRA and the Studio City Beautification Association.

VINELAND AVENUE BIKE PATH AND SCENIC HIGHWAY DESIGNATION

The long awaited bike path from Burbank Blvd. to Ventura Blvd. has finely been completed on both the east and west sides of Vineland Avenue. Vineland Avenue is a designated Los Angeles City Scenic Highway from Ventura Boulevard to Chandler Avenue. The Liquid Amber tree-lined median in the center of the street from Ventura Blvd. to Chandler Avenue was built on top of the former Pacific Electric Red Car light rail transit tracks on Vineland Avenue around 1960 when the Red Car ceased operating, and the tracks were torn out. For trivia buffs, the back side of the Big Lots store building at Vineland and Chandler Avenues is curved because the former tracks used to turn from northbound Vineland Avenue onto westbound Chandler Avenue, right behind the store.

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: Construction started 8:30 this morning at 12035 Laurel Lane and 12040 Laurel Lane with the garage being modified. It looks like a doorway is being added to the patio, which is fine, but I am certain there are no permits for doing any modification of that scale, and I think a home needs covered parking for two cars according to the law. Certainly there is no permit for a new block wall they built on that side of the property last week. Any work of a large scale with workers on a holiday is suspicious. I am sorry to be another pest with the SCRA, but where do some of the older residents turn to for help?

SCRA: Karo Torossian, director of planning and land use in Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office, checked out the two properties for permits and compliance and reported the following: "It looks like 12040 Laurel Lane is adding a 360 square foot master bedroom to a 943 square foot home, to bring the total to 1303 square feet. Under the Baseline (Hillside ordinance), they are allowed more than that. I do not know the slope of the property to do slope density calculations, but if it were a very steep slope of up to 100 percent (and it is clearly not), it would still be allowed



TO THE MARKET

As summer winds down, it is time to take advantage of the stone fruits that are so abundant this time of year. The Studio City Farmers Market is home to many varieties of peaches, apricots, plums, nectarines, pluots and much more.

Rice and Beans joins the Market in September. Founded in 2011, it specializes in the freshest, 100% organic, certified non-GMO, California grown beans and grains. The bean selection includes lentils, black turtle beans, pinto beans, red beans, black eyed peas, split peas and chickpeas. Grains include basmati rice, brown rice, millet, farro, barley, couscous and even popcorn. In the near future, Rice and Beans will also be selling organic flours.

Also coming in September is Granola Mama handmade granola. With 14 flavors inspired by places and cultures near and far, the granola is made with only the best, minimally processed, organic or California grown ingredients possible. Flavors include Hanalei Blend, Paris Blend, Oaxaca Blend, Marrakesh Blend, Holiday Blend and many others. Both new vendors are a great addition to the Market.

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 parking structure on Radford. Stop by and visit! The Market is open on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

1250 square feet. With 14 percent to no slope (0 percent), it is allowed up to 4200 square feet, as it appears to be fairly flat using Google maps. The property seems to have permits for this addition and for a 6' x 10' pool. As for 12035 Laurel Lane, they have permits for the block wall and for sewer repairs, but nothing for the doors. There is an ongoing investigation by Los Angeles Building and Safety Department to review if work is being done without permits.

FYI: Laurel Lane is considered a "Hillside street" and, thus, is not part of the Studio City Ratio Floor Area (RFA). The Studio City RFA only covers single-family homes within the Baseline Mansionization boundaries of the flatlands in Studio City. "Hillside" classed streets in Studio City are covered by the "Hillside Baseline Mansionization Ordinance." RFA are enacted for separate areas. Thus far, the SCRA has only completed the flatlands. The Hillside Baseline Mansionization ordinance is at StudioCityResidents.org; click Our Community, then Overdevelopment.

(SCRA note to members: To check out construction permits in your area, visit www.permitla.org. At the bottom of the page, click on "continue" - "next" - "Permit & Inspection Report").

FREE TENNIS ANYONE?

The Southern California Tennis Association (SCTA) and the Studio City Recreation Center (aka Beeman Park) are sponsoring a FREE Studio City Youth Tennis Festival at the park on September 27, 2015 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. The program for youth ages 5-18 includes a tennis clinic, a demonstration by HEAD tennis racquets, the opportunity to win prizes and more. Beeman Park is located at 12621 Rye Street, Studio City, CA 91604. Equipment will be provided.

For more information, contact Philip Siodia (SCTA) at 818-472-2028. Register for the event at www.youthtennis.com

UPDATE: YOUNG TREES AT STUDIO CITY RECREATION CENTER

The Studio City Residents Association has periodically reported on Studio City resident Gary Shapiro and his efforts to save trees at Studio City Recreation Center (aka "Beeman Park"). Shapiro began this initiative in May 2014 and has continued through July of this year. Following is brief chronology of Shapiro's persistence and caring, which have brought about very positive outcomes:

May 9, 2014: The Studio City Recreation Center emailed neighbors that seven young recently planted trees in Beeman Park on the Milbank Street side were not getting enough water and three were about to die. SHAPIRO: "I live on Milbank Street and can't get over there with pails of water. In the last few years, all the new trees that were planted in the same location died as a result of too little care. Can someone water these trees right away? If this cannot happen, I will try to come to the park with pails of water."

May 12, 2014: PARK: "I will forward your email to our maintenance division."

May 24, 2014: SHAPIRO: "The trees are looking good on the Milbank Street side of Beeman Park in Studio City. I notice they are getting watered now. Thanks for correcting the situation."

Jun 14, 2014: SHAPIRO: "The trees in Beeman Park in Studio City are not getting watered again. The leaves on these young trees have begun to curl and get brittle. So I have been bringing pails of water from my house and watering the eight young trees in the park along Milbank Street every few days. This helps a bit, but I am quite certain they will all die if you don't get them watered sufficiently and that would not be good."

June 16, 2014: PARK: "Our maintenance staff has been informed. Thank you for looking out for the trees."

Mar 27, 2015: SHAPIRO: "I've just watered eight young trees (it's 8:00 p.m.) in Beeman Park along Milbank Street with my watering can, getting water from the water fountain near the park's exercise equipment. I know you do your best to get these trees and others in the park watered and properly cared for, but they are simply not getting enough water. One tree may be dying. I've been giving it even more water than the others. Will you

(Continued, Page 5)

(Water, cont'd)

To save water and improve your life at the same time:

1. **Stop sacrificing:** Los Angeles is not England, but it is not Arizona either. Going low water doesn't mean looking all dried up. It means developing a distinctive, authentic look all your own.
2. **Throw off conformity:** Lawns are the school uniforms of landscaping. The new look, like L.A. itself, is all about self-expression.
3. **Envision your new life:** The new look showcases your values. Do you glow when you meditate? Do you love connecting large groups of family and friends? Your look should enhance the way you want to live.
4. **Evaluate your structure:** A good look will fit your frame. L.A.'s new landscape look is as diverse as our architecture. Highlight your home's good bones; cover its less appealing aspects.
5. **Recruit the new "It" girls:** While there will always be a place for the grand dames of L.A. - our roses, camellias and birds of paradise - it's time to make room for the ingénues. California natives look fantastic au naturel. Unlike their classic counterparts, these beauties need no chemicals and little maintenance to look their best.
6. **Notice what clicks:** Like people, some plants just click, needing similar mixes of soil, sun and water to shine. Set your new friends up for success by grouping them into hydrozones with like-minded companions that will help them thrive.
7. **Hide your crazy:** Pop-up sprinklers have always been unsightly; now they are just plain rude. Save your neighbors the hassle of re-routing their walk when you water and deliver water right to the roots of your foliage where it can have the greatest impact.
8. **Lose the stiff upper lip:** Those who must shovel snow might see beauty in expanses of concrete and straight walks, but we have the freedom to move about our landscapes more naturally. Paving in a variety of permeable materials and meandering paths distinguishes Los Angeles.
9. **Hydrate! Hydrate! Hydrate:** Mulch is the landscaping equivalent of a great lotion. Exposed dirt loses its luster and begins to crack, doubling the water you must consume to stay lush.
10. **Take it to the street:** Dropping your creativity at the sidewalk is a thing of the past. There is no need to curb your enthusiasm at your parkway - your community may even provide grants for you to amp up your curb appeal!

By taking these simple steps, we do more than save water, we save the look of Los Angeles.

For more information:

- In and Out in LA
www.formlainc.com/resources/inandoutinlosangeles
- Synthetics vs. IdealMow lawns
www.formlainc.com/resources/synthetic-vs-idealmow-lawns
- Don't Gravelscape L.A.
www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-lehrerlatanejacobs-gravel-should-not-be-the-new-grass-20150614-story.html

(Trees, cont'd)

please direct the appropriate people to get more water to these trees?"

Mar 28, 2015: PARK: The grounds caretaker has been asked to water the trees more often.

May 21, 2015: SHAPIRO: "I noticed that those eight young trees along Milbank Street in Beeman Park, Studio City are drying up. The leaves are gnarled and are turning brown. We can't let them die! Please have the caretaker water them!"

May 21, 2015: PARK: "We noticed that yesterday, and the caretaker was informed. They were watered today."

June 15, 2015: SHAPIRO: "Those eight young trees in Beeman Park on the Milbank Street side are not doing well. The leaves are turning brown again, and the trees are too dry. I will try to bring

buckets of water this evening, but I have not noticed any wet soil around these trees in weeks. Please see what you can do. I did spend more than an hour this evening watering the eight trees with my watering can. I fill up at a water fountain and then water two trees at a time. Of course this is archaic and difficult, but the leaves on six to eight trees are brown and crunchy. Someone has to keep these young trees from dying. It's bad for all the people who use this park."

June 15, 2015: PARK: "We know that this is an ongoing problem, and we are trying to correct it. We emailed the maintenance supervisor and asked for the trees to be watered more frequently. Thank you very much for taking the time to water them tonight."

July 7, 2015: SHAPIRO: "The young trees in Beeman Park are looking much healthier. I know you are watching over this. Thanks for getting them watered properly! The entire neighborhood thanks you."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

All appeared to be under reasonable control after I returned from a two-week road trip until I heard that architect Frank Gehry had been retained to master plan the 51 mile improvements to the Los Angeles River. This announcement was not made publicly; the information was "leaked" after the city had made the agreement with Gehry. The scope of the agreement is not known, so it is unclear whether it is the 51 mile stretch or perhaps select river locations that may develop an iconic status. Who knows?

Volunteer organizations, including board members from the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA), Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) and the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) worked in cooperation with the city and county on visions to revitalize the Los Angeles River, but these volunteers have no idea of the scope of the agreement. The agreement was made with no input or acknowledgement from the community and, as a result, is seen as dismissive.

Point one: It is not all about the water in the River that flows all year round to some extent. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, in conjunction with other local agencies, has for years been working on means and methods to capture this run-off without compromising the safety aspects of the flood control system. Water retained in the River could be used at certain locations for recreation purposes, e.g., Sepulveda Basin periodic kayaking. Water captured can be used to recharge the aquifer in the San Fernando Valley.

Point two, which is the most important in relation to the River as open space for the benefit of the public: As confirmed by polls taken by the SCRA and SLAROS, keeping open space for public use and enjoyment is paramount. The largest areas that can be made open to the public are the banks of the Los Angeles River that at present come under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. Ever notice the "No Trespassing" signs at entry point to the river banks? Members of the community are expressing concerns that the focus may be on commercial interests that could limit public access to the banks, e.g., river parks, dog trails, bike/walking trails, etc., bringing the river back, wherever feasible, to what it was before.

The river system is complex. Starting at Calabasas, it transverses the Valley where it has vertical sides. It then meanders through a natural ecosystem that has sprung up at Atwater Village. The channel shape is trapezoidal and turns south to the city. Gehry's architectural projects are impressive, but are nothing of this scale, complexity or magnitude. Any architectural treatment for 51 miles of a river (if that is the case) is a challenge, and local input is invaluable. Therefore, it is imperative that input is received from locals for their part of the River as it passes through their neighborhoods. All would welcome the opportunity to learn about the design concepts that Gehry envisions for the 51 miles (or parts thereof) for the Los Angeles River.

The Los Angeles public is the ultimate client in the relationship between Gehry and the city. The client is not limited to city officials; they act on behalf of the electorate, not solely on behalf of those who would see the River as a means to build out to the banks and limit public access. Local input and participation is paramount: Gehry and the city are urged to work towards that end.

The SCRA will continue to consult and cooperate with officials to revitalize the River in all of its aspects and what it can mean to the members of our three sister organizations. The SCRA will inform our elected officials of our concerns and suggest that lines of communication be established so that, going forward, no one will be left with the feeling that he or she is being ignored. Our members, the general public, as end users, are necessary partners in these endeavors.

Please let our city council member and mayor know your thoughts. Don't forget to copy us if you send an email or any other communication.

Alan Dymond

SCRA Committees

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

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Studio City Farmers Market

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SEPTEMBER 2015

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2015

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m. Reception
- 7:30 p.m. Cassy Aoyagi, president, Theodore Payne Foundation on what to plant to manage water use

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 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

