



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Your Advocate for Studio City*

**April 2013**

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## LAUSD BOARD MEMBER TAMAR GALATZAN AND CARPENTER PRINCIPAL JOE MARTINEZ TACKLE SCHOOL OVER-CROWDING ISSUES

The March Studio City Residents Association Community meeting provided some answers for SCRA members, including parents and prospective parents of Carpenter Community Charter students, about the school's challenges with over-crowding. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board Member Tamar Galatzan and Carpenter Principal Joseph Martinez spoke about the school's current situation and the anticipated plan to help fix the problems.



According to Galatzan, Carpenter currently has approximately 1,000 students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 5 classes, which leaves very few spaces for new students moving into the district. The school discovered this year that there are about 120 currently enrolled students who do not live in the Carpenter district. Up until now the only tool Carpenter could use to help weed out fraudulent applicants was one employee making home visits. However, the LAUSD board recently passed a new rule that will allow schools to use electronic searches, such as "Lexus/Nexus," to review applications and determine which students do not reside in the district of the school they attend or want to attend. The LAUSD is also providing Carpenter with funding

to support a second counselor, who will make home visits to verify residency. With Carpenter aggressively reviewing applications, the school anticipates the word will spread with the hope that fewer fraudulent applications will be submitted.

In addition, Carpenter has 64 students who do not live in the district but whose parents have applied for and received an annual permit for their child to attend the school. These annual permits, called "work permits" or "child care permits," were issued to parents who work in the area of the school but who do not live in the district. The school may also explore reviewing these permits, depending on the number of seats needed for incoming students who are residents within Carpenter's boundaries.

Members of the community had raised concerns that the school's borders might be redrawn; however, Galatzan assured the SCRA that moving the district borders is not on the table at this time. All other avenues to free up space will be exhausted first.

Because Carpenter is an affiliated charter school, under State law, it must allow students who move out of its boundaries to stay in the school if the family makes that choice. The law puts further pressure on the school's numbers.

Galatzan explained that funding for our local schools is still in flux pending the outcome of Governor Jerry Brown's proposed formula, called the Local Control Funding Formula. In fact, this plan will have a significant impact on affiliated charter schools, such as Carpenter. While, in theory, the governor's plan will give more money to schools under a traditional budget arrangement, it takes away access that affiliated charter schools had to State block grants. Galatzan suggested that schools

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## (Over-crowding, cont'd)

such as Carpenter may decide to decertify once the funding model is determined, although their budgetary needs and access to funds they have had as an affiliated charter will be grandfathered in for the 2013/2014 school year. After methods of funding are established, the LAUSD will work with individual schools to determine the best funding method to use.

In preparing for Carpenter's 90th anniversary, Principal Martinez found that in 1986, Carpenter was slated to be closed given poor attendance (only 300 students). At that time, the SCRA, knowing the importance of this school in the community, went to bat for Carpenter and helped rescue and keep it open.

On a related note, SCRA President Alan Dymond announced that thanks to the work of SCBA Beautification President and SCRA Board Member Beth Dymond, the Studio City Farmers Market (owned and operated by the SCRA and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation) has granted Carpenter Community Charter \$5000 for improving underutilized space on the school campus. The funds will help create a "Kinder Den" where students can eat lunch and an "Outdoor Arena" with a mural as a backdrop for outdoor plays.

## HILLSIDE FEDERATION REPORT: BILLBOARDS- HELICOPTERS-MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA

### Electronic Billboards

TakeThemDown.org is collecting signatures in an online petition to get the City Council to honor the Court of Appeals decision in the Summit Media case regarding electronic billboards. The court declared the city's agreement with CBS Outdoor and Clear Channel Outdoor to install 100 digital billboards illegal. Councilmembers Alacon and Krekorian have submitted motions to make some billboards legal. Summit Media, having prevailed in the matter, wants the billboard permits revoked per the court decision.

### Expanding the Santa Monica Recreation Area

The National Park Service is considering expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to further protect the natural, cultural and historic resources in the area. This effort would establish greater cooperation and sharing of expertise by all agencies involved. Congressman Schiff has introduced a bill for expansion of the preservation and protection of the Rim of the Valley area. The bill would preserve wildlife and connectivity and increase recreational uses in the hillside area surrounding the San Fernando Valley. Although the official comment period has ended, Congressman Schiff encourages the public to continue to send in comments to [pwr\\_rimofthevalley@nps.gov](mailto:pwr_rimofthevalley@nps.gov). Summaries of the Rim of the Valley proposal alternatives can be found at [www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley](http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley).

## OP-ED: REDUCING BILLBOARD BLIGHT

by Paul Krekorian

Last year, I introduced a motion that outlines a path forward for Angelenos looking for relief from the onslaught of billboards throughout our city. The motion began the analysis and public dialogue necessary to achieve three important policy goals I believe the City must pursue: A significant reduction in the number of billboards of all kinds, revenues to mitigate blight and otherwise assist communities that have suffered impacts, and a final resolution, once and for all, of this seemingly endless battle over past failures in policymaking and bad deals.



We are still on the right track, and, in fact, the timing couldn't be better. We now have a tremendous opportunity to take control of this issue and determine our own destiny in the best interests of all Angelenos. Only by having a fully public process and discussion about the best path forward with all parties can we substantially reduce billboard blight in all parts of the City.

Together, we can determine whether any digital billboards are appropriate anywhere, and, if so, we can regulate them and reduce their impact on communities. We can identify and secure funding to address the urgent needs of neighborhoods across Los Angeles.

As a lifelong Angeleno, I fully understand the frustration of billboards and how emotional this issue can be for people on all sides of the debate. Please keep in mind, though, that we can't achieve what I believe are our shared goals if even discussing ideas becomes a basis for contempt.

I was elected to help steer our city through a time of great crisis and challenge and to build a foundation for a much better future. Developing straightforward solutions to the billboard problems that have vexed us for years is a part of that mission, and I will continue to work hard to achieve them in the most inclusive and open manner possible.

I also invite your feedback. Please, email me at [councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org) or call my field office at (818) 755-7676. Together, we can reduce billboard blight and improve and beautify our neighborhood.

*Councilmember Paul Krekorian represents Council District 2, which includes Studio City. His website is [cd2.lacity.org](http://cd2.lacity.org). You can find him on Facebook or Twitter @PaulKrekorian.*

## TO THE MARKET



The unseasonably warm weather makes for a perfect outing to the Studio City Farmers Market, where there is something for every member of the family. While delectable peaches, plums, apricots and stone fruits are just around the corner, the market currently has more than 10 varieties of apples, along with pears, mandarins, oranges and grapes to satisfy a sweet tooth in a healthy way. Looking for Sunday night dinner? Pick up some tamales from Corn Maiden, winners of seven first place awards for best traditional/gourmet tamales at the Indio International Tamale Festival. There are many flavors to choose from, including goat cheese, sun dried tomatoes and basil, smoked salmon, cream cheese and chives, or vegan options, such as spinach, artichoke hearts, fresh corn and chipotle. Each tamale is handmade and hand tied using only the freshest corn masa, with no lard or added preservatives. The tamales keep for two weeks refrigerated and unopened, so any leftovers can be saved for lunch during the week.

The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce. 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.

## PAY STATIONS CHALLENGE THE PUBLIC

The Studio City Business Improvement District, the Studio City Residents Association, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce and the Studio City Neighborhood Council held a meeting with a senior representative of the Department of Transportation (DOT) to address the ongoing problems of the pay stations installed more than five years ago on Ventura Blvd. between Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Whitsett Avenue. At that time, the DOT represented the stations as "an

experiment" in what was called an "entertainment district," which apparently established the rationale for the experiment. However, despite numerous requests and research of City Council records, no one has been able to locate the definition of an "entertainment district."

Customers have lodged a number of complaints, including problems with the functionality of the pay stations. They report receiving tickets while waiting to pay, as but one

example. In addition, the system has a problem registering the \$3.00 default charge; when the customer re-inserts a credit card, he or she is often charged \$6.00.

Other complaints include:

- 1) The pay stations are designed to communicate with each other; however, when one pay station is inoperable, it will not allow the customer to use another pay station.
- 2) Many screens are difficult to see as if they are filled with either fog or condensation; no matter the weather, it is difficult to see the screen.
- 3) The pay stations chew up credit cards.
- 4) Businesses are losing traffic because customers do not want to use the pay stations; they avoid the area altogether, especially short-term customers.
- 5) Customers must spend too much time figuring out how the pay stations work.

The group reiterated the request that the pay stations be removed, notwithstanding any interim repairs measures DOT may undertake.

## 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](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org).

**Q:** I have always been curious as to why drivers going eastbound on Ventura Blvd. are forbidden to make a right turn on red at the Colfax Ave. intersection (the corner on which Jinky's Studio Café sits). There is no cross traffic from Colfax (it dead-ends at Ventura Blvd.), nor any more pedestrians than Ventura Blvd. & Tujunga Avenue or Ventura Blvd. & Whitsett Avenue. Just an abiding curiosity!

**SCRA:** The SCRA got this information from the Department of Transportation: Historical records show that this "No Right Turn on Red" restriction was authorized on August 7, 1997. The restriction responded to a request from then Councilmember Joel Wachs for the installation of various traffic control devices to mitigate the anticipated traffic impact of the CBS Studio Center Expansion project and to minimize the amount of cut-through traffic in the Colfax Meadows community.

**Q:** When will the CVS store at Laurel Canyon and Ventura Blvds. be upgraded and painted?

**SCRA:** CVS has complied with the Ventura Corridor Specific Plan and has removed the shelving from the Ventura Blvd. windows, which has been a real improvement. CVS is working with the City on a design plan, which should be completed in a couple of weeks. CVS will then appear before the Studio City Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee for comments.

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(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

**Q:** I have a Girl Scout who is ready to start on her Gold Award and a Boy Scout ready to start on his Eagle Project. Both service projects involve 80 - 100 hours and the involvement of their friends, family, neighbors and fellow Scouts. The project should be sustaining. Both of our kids would like to do something for their community. Outside of Scouting, among other hobbies, our daughter loves to ride horses competitively and has a love for special younger children (she has been involved with autism on and off over the years). Our son loves to fly and has a particular interest in older veterans. If you have any ideas of a service project in which they can be involved, from planning, budgeting, fundraising, through to completion, please let me know so I can put them in touch with you.

**SCRA:** The organization 4Good ([www.4goodcommunity.org](http://www.4goodcommunity.org)) is a local Studio City nonprofit whose mission is to inspire families to actively participate in volunteer activities. 4Good is sponsoring an event on Sunday April 7, 2013 at Bridges Academy. The event will have hands-on family-friendly volunteer activities and opportunities. Their aim is to spark the spirit of giving back.

**Q:** As small as it may seem to the City of Los Angeles, I am one of several owners in the North Weddington/Toluca Lake HOA area, who are aggressively trying to get Midway (rental cars) to move their vehicles out of our neighborhood. I call parking enforcement at least once a week to ticket their vehicles.

**SCRA:** The SCRA contacted Midway's executive vice president and were told the reason those vehicles were parked on a weekend was the result of many vehicle returns by the studios. The SCRA was also informed that Midway has located an additional lot in which to park their overflow returns. Hopefully, this will ease the parking situation.

## SEPULVEDA BASIN UPDATE

The Army Corps of Engineers has resumed vegetation management and reinstallation work after clear cutting the Sepulveda Basin in December 2012. The original work generated outrage from local groups as well as local and state elected officials. The remedial work is part of the first part of a three-phase, five-year project to convert the area to a more valuable and sustainable habitat that will improve flood risk management operations, enhance public safety when visiting the area and recreate riverside native habitat.

The work will be a cooperative effort among all interested parties, using best practices regarding what vegetation should be planted, what fauna may be expected to populate the area and what habitat will be necessary to sustain them. "Let's work out those details, because this does get to be fairly complicated with the different species and how long they live and what fauna they support," said Dave Weeshof, president of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society.

A representative from the Corps suggested the area should be a valuable habitat for all, but the Corps does not want it to consist of vegetation that is expensive to maintain.

## WEDDINGTON GOLF & TENNIS - POSSIBLE SALE

SCRA sister organization, Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) has heard that the present owners of Weddington Golf & Tennis may be in the process of selling the property to an unidentified buyer. A sale is the trigger of the process to obtain permits to build condominiums or apartments on the site. In the past, there was a proposal to build 200 condominiums on the property; however, if there is a new owner, the scope of development may be greater than 200 units.

SLAROS has started a campaign to obtain 5,000 signatures in opposition to development and to support open space. The group envisions a "Los Angeles River Natural Park" for this site and is attempting to raise or identify funds from many sources in order to make an offer on the property.



Interested individuals can add their name to the list by logging on to Facebook at [www.facebook.com/savelariveropenspace](http://www.facebook.com/savelariveropenspace), following SLAROS on Twitter at [twitter.com/SLAROS](http://twitter.com/SLAROS) and visiting the SLAROS website [saveLARiverOpenSpace.org](http://saveLARiverOpenSpace.org).

## FROM YOUR SCBA BOARD

### Studio City Beautification (SCBA) Board Elections

The SCBA's sole board member is the SCRA, whose duty it is to appoint the SCBA board, including six members from the SCRA Board and three outside members. This year's appointments are Bryan Abrams, Alan Dymond, Beth Dymond, Connie Elliot, Barry Johnson and Barry Weiss from the SCRA board, and Francesca Corra, Michael Klausman and Lorena Parker as outside members. All have agreed to serve on the SCBA board. The SCBA elected officers are Beth Dymond, president; Francesca Corra, vice president; Connie Elliot, secretary; and Bryan Abrams, treasurer.

### Tree Trimming on Ventura Blvd.

The City will be doing tree trimming along Ventura Blvd. in late April or early May. The Studio City Neighborhood Council has again funded a portion of SCBA's ongoing maintenance of SCBA's 174 trees along Ventura Blvd., from Lankershim Blvd. to Carpenter Avenue and from Whitsett Avenue to Fulton Avenue. The SCBA believes keeping trees well maintained in the commercial area of Studio City is of vital importance to a healthy community.

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### "Welcome to Studio City" Monument

For the last couple of years, the SCBA has been working on plans to place a "Welcome to Studio City" monument at Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Mulholland Drive on the Department of Water & Power property. This monument is similar to the one that was erected at Laurel Canyon Blvd. and the 101 Fwy and the monument at Campo de Cahuenga Way and Ventura Blvd., both installed and maintained by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Beautification Association.

The bad news: The SCBA met with the planning department on its requirements to bring this project before the Mulholland Design Review Board. In order to comply with the planning department's rules, it would be necessary for the SCBA to hire professional help to guide the organization through the planning department's check list. That cost, plus the cost of filing and posting notice, was much greater than the budget for this project. The SCBA board has voted to find an alternate location.

The good news: The SCBA is planning to place a "Welcome to Studio City" monument at the west entrance to Studio City at Longridge Avenue and Ventura Blvd. The SCBA is moving forward to obtain both local community support and the required support from the Studio City Neighborhood Council and Councilmember Paul Krekorian. All are necessary to file an adopt-a-median for a permit to install.

### Thank You CD2

Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office has been instrumental in removing several eyesores in Studio City. As reported last month, thanks to this office, 15 trees stumps left by the Department of Water and Power have been ground down. Also, the debris on the northwest corner of the Los Angeles River and Laurel Canyon Blvd. has been removed, and the ivy choking the trees on Whitsett Avenue just north of Moorpark Street is also being cut down.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** by Alan Dymond

*We thank Paul Krekorian, councilmember for our community, for providing us with an Op-ed on digital billboards in this issue of the SCRA newsletter. The councilmember has invited feedback by email. (See the Op-ed for details). He says together we can reduce billboard blight and improve and beautify our neighborhood. The SCRA board, too, invites your feedback on this issue and would like to hear from you at [SCRABoard@StudioCityResidents.org](mailto:SCRABoard@StudioCityResidents.org) or 818-509-0230. Feel free to copy us on your emails on this issue.*

*We heard from a Los Angeles Times reporter seeking comment about a bill introduced by Senator Mark Leno from San Francisco. Senator Leno's bill, SB635, proposes to extend the opportunity for restaurants and bars to serve alcohol to 4:00 a.m. So I checked into it. (Present State law prohibits serving alcohol after 2:00 a.m.) Leno said many cities in California have dynamic social activities that are vital to their economies, but they lack the flexibility to expand their businesses. The rationale for the legislation is that it would allow cities such as Los Angeles to "talk" about the possibility of expanding nightlife and the benefits of boosting jobs, tourism and local tax revenue for the community. The way I read the bill is that, if it passes, it gives local authorities power to extend hours. It is not a case of "talking" about it: it's about giving the power to decide if alcohol can be served up to 4:00 a.m. to local decision makers. I didn't need to poll our members before returning the reporter's call. Given the amount of clubs and late night restaurants that exist from Laurel Canyon Blvd. eastward, the way sound travels up the hills and bounces around, and the other problems present even with a 2:00 a.m. closing (parking on side streets, trampling yards after closing), I doubted very much if the SCRA membership would support this senator's bill.*

*Our State Senator for Studio City is Alex Padilla. His district office can be reached at 818-901-5588 and/or via Lauren O. Gallant [lauren.gallant@sen.ca.gov](mailto:lauren.gallant@sen.ca.gov)*

*Now for the final leg of the mayor's race. As poll worker volunteers for our neighborhood over the years, my wife Beth and I can vouch that Studio City turnout is always above average. So to continue to maintain Studio City as active in the issues that affect our members, the SCRA and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsoring a no-host lunch for each candidate on separate days at Sportsmen's Lodge. It is not a fundraiser and there is plenty of free parking. The candidates have chosen the following dates: Wendy Greuel: March 28, and Eric Garcetti: April 28. You may already have received information about these lunches by the time you receive this issue, but if not, keep an eye out for an SCRA News & Notes eblast for more details. If you are an SCRA member and not signed up for this service, please call the SCRA office for details at 818-509-0230.*

*Alan Dymond*



**NO  
SCRA  
COMMUNITY  
MEETING  
IN APRIL**

**MAY 14, 2013 MEETING**  
to feature Esther Feldman of  
Community Conservation  
Solutions who will discuss  
“Habitat Restoration for the  
LA River - Whitsett to Coldwater”

**Meeting Location**

**Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn 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 Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn 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**

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

**Board Members**

Beth Dymond  
Martha Hanrahan  
Steve Hirsh

Art Howard  
Barry Johnson  
Robin Seidel  
Barry Weiss

**Immediate Past President**

Art Howard

**Beautification Association**

Beth Dymond, 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, Barbara Robbin  
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

**School Liaisons**

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman  
Oakwood - Tammy Lundgren  
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

**Studio City Farmers Market**

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**Newsletter**

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