



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Your Advocate for Studio City*

**April 2009**

## **NEW PARKING METERS RAISE COMMUNITY IRE**

Responding to neighborhood frustration and anger, a group of Studio City community groups - including the Studio City Residents Association, the Studio City Neighborhood Council, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, the Studio City Business Improvement District and representatives for the Ventura Blvd. Specific Plan - met with Council member Wendy Greuel and the assistant general manager of the Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss dissatisfaction with the new parking meters in Studio City. The local retail community was represented by Art's Deli, Mexicali, A & B Stationers and Artisan Cheese.

The group had many question and concerns such as:

- Why is Ventura Blvd. from Laurel Canyon to Whitsett Ave. designated as an entertainment district, which has resulted in extended parking hour restrictions?
- What parameters or guidelines were used to determine this stretch is an entertainment district?
- Why is parking now charged for Sundays, which had been free in the past?
- Why have the parking hours been increased?



The group expressed concerns the DOT never consulted with merchants or other Studio City organizations that are very familiar with the parking challenges and requirements along Ventura Blvd. Other complaints centered on the signage, which many claim is confusing, as well as the meters themselves. The DOT agreed to examine issues raised in the meeting and will conduct further studies and analysis during the month of April.

During the meeting, the group learned Los Angeles is a city of 469 square miles, generating \$30 million in parking meter fees per annum. The Mayor's budget proposal projects an additional \$18 million from increased parking fees; however, this will be the first overall raise in parking meter rates in more than 17 years. The Mayor's budget is in the formative stages and is being discussed at all representative levels (SCRA, SCNC etc.) before being finalized and presented to the City Council. One tentative suggestion from the Mayor is to privatize the meters. Council member Greuel expressed reservations but took no position pending more study and review. The SCRA and other organizations will have considerable input on any such proposal to privatize. The group also learned Mark Gelfat's proposal for a nursery to be located on top of the Studio City Parking Lot is on hold pending further revenue studies.

A follow-up meeting on this issue took place on March 31. Additional updates will be presented at the April 14 SCRA Community Meeting.

SCRA members are invited to submit questions, concerns and suggestions about the parking meters to: [SCRABoard@StudioCityresidents.org](mailto:SCRABoard@StudioCityresidents.org). Submissions will be forwarded to the DOT on behalf of the community.

## **CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2: WHAT'S NEXT?**

The SCRA will join with other homeowners and residents groups from City Council District 2 (CD2) to form a coalition of residents who will be heavily involved in the election for the next council member in this district. The Studio City community's concerns about overdevelopment, transportation and traffic, lack of infrastructure and the need for parks and open space are similar to those of the other communities in the district.

When Wendy Greuel becomes City Controller in July 2009, all residents from Sunlund Tujunga to Sherman Oaks to Studio City will

**(Continued, Page 2)**

## (CD2, cont'd)

be without a vote in City Hall for several months. The coalition will be designed to help these communities speak as one voice during this period in order to protect the many common interests. It will also help the communities work with Council member Greuel in creating her list of instructions for the district that she will give to the Chief Legislative Analyst who will oversee the district during the period of no elected representation.

The CD2 Coalition hopes to interview all prospective City Council candidates and provide residents with information about the candidates' positions on the issues. The CD2 Coalition also hopes to host a joint CD2 candidate forum.

## IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

### Carpenter Avenue Elementary School

Seven Carpenter Elementary School students are district winners in this year's PTA Reflections Arts Recognition Program. The winners are Marshall Schaffer, Dani Fish, Nikita Melwani, Elder Gindroz, Max Wollof, Hana Odson and Rachel Herstik. They will be honored at a reception on April 17, 2009.

### Studio City Branch Library

**Suspenseful Saturday Cinema:** Saturday, April 18, 2009, 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. "The Last Man on Earth" (1964), starring Vincent Price; this is the final version of the film that became "I am Legend."

**Free cello performance:** Saturday, April 25, 2009, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Adam Hurst will perform his haunting and beautiful compositions. No reservations required. <http://www.adamhurststudio.com>

### The Village Gardeners

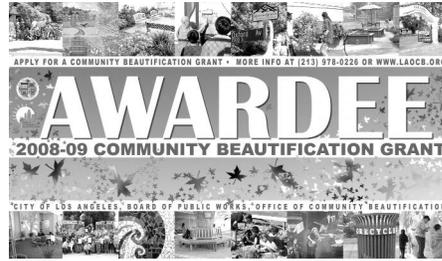
**Earth Day Weekend with The Village Gardeners:** April 17-19, 2009. Help The Village Gardeners restore natural habitat along the Los Angeles River at the Richard Lillard Outdoor Classroom in Studio City, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Valleyheart Drive at Longridge Avenue at the south side of the river. For more information, visit: <http://www.TheVillageGardeners.org>. Please RSVP to [info@thevillagegardeners.org](mailto:info@thevillagegardeners.org) or (818) 788-8531.

### SCRA Committee Meetings

#### **Studio City Beautification Association Meeting**

Saturday, April 4, 2009, 10:00 a.m.  
Bill Harmond's home, 4505 Colfax #3  
Agenda includes: progress on the "Oasis;" Moorpark Parkway; Laurel Canyon improvement; the triangle at Maxwellton Road and Laurel Terrace Drive; City-owned property on Laurel Canyon Boulevard at Fryman Place and Oakdell Road; the southern intersection of Coldwater Canyon Boulevard and Mulholland Drive; and installation of Studio City Welcomes You displays.

## BEAUTIFUL STUDIO CITY: BEAUTIFYING "THE OASIS"



On March 16, 2009, Bill Harmond, executive director of the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), along with SCBA directors, Beth

Dymond and Francesca Corra, attended an awards presentation for a \$10,000 matching grant given to the SCBA by the Los Angeles Board of Public Works.

Corra, a landscape designer with Dirt Diva Designs, has graciously donated her time and expertise to create a design for "The Oasis" beautification project. This project, located at 11200 Ventura Boulevard, is breaking ground now with completion expected by end of summer. The SCBA thanks the SCRA and the Studio City Neighborhood Council as well for their support and financial aid in making this long-awaited project a reality.

## LAUSD BOARD MEMBER TAMAR GALATZAN TACKLES LA'S EDUCATION CRISIS AT APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> COMMUNITY MEETING

The SCRA April Community Meeting will explore the challenges and possible solutions facing the Los Angeles Unified School as District 3 Board Member, Tamar Galatzan, addresses the community. Galatzan will bring SCRA members and guests up-to-date about the District's plan on the heels of sizable state budget cuts and what the impact will be on children in our area who attend public schools.

The meeting will be held at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre, 4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City. Members and guests are invited for refreshments at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

## IN DEVELOPMENT

**Colfax Avenue and Ventura Blvd:** a scoping meeting regarding this development will take place on April 2, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn.

**11540 Amanda Drive:** the owner has requested a zone variance on the required road width. A hearing will be held on April 3, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Marvin Braude Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd. The developer met the SCRA and the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) to discuss concerns and acceptable solutions.

# BREAKING NEWS

## Hillside Boundaries Redefined - Mansionization Ordinance

The City Planning Commission heard and approved the idea of redefining flatland properties that will be included in the Mansionization Ordinance. "Hillside" is defined as property with more than a 20 percent grade. This is good news for many SCRA members south of Ventura Blvd. whose property will now be protected by the Mansionization Ordinance and will be included in the first phase of the Studio City Overlay as presented to the City by SCRA. The Overlay is currently being reviewed by the Planning and Land Use Department.

## Trees Saved at Fire Station 78

Representatives of the SCRA, Save LA River Open Space, SCBA and the Studio City Neighborhood Council spoke at a recent South Valley Area Planning Commission hearing regarding the proposed removal of four 70-year old eucalyptus trees on Whitsett Avenue, just north of the Fire Station 78 driveway. Community member, Barbara Monahan Burke, filed an appeal, leading the effort to oppose the tree removal. Representatives from Council member Wendy Greuel's office attended the hearing and indicated the Council member would vote on the basis of safety. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Commission voted in favor of the appeal to save the trees.

There are conditions to the ruling, including the removal of parking from the west side of Whitsett Avenue north of the fire station, with the firemen themselves painting the curb red. Eventually, there will be a flashing light and warning sign hanging over Whitsett Avenue, adjacent to the station. The fire fighters will also take down the new wall to the north, which currently blocks their view.

# COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

## By Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis

The Studio City crime numbers continue to fall and are the lowest since 2001. Still, there was a heavy concentration of burglary/theft from motor vehicles in the southeastern area of Studio City. There were multiple crimes and victims on Arch Drive, Bluffs Drive, Aqua Vista Street and Fair Avenue. Most of the crimes were committed in the middle of the night, and, usually, the suspects entered subterranean parking garages, breaking into multiple vehicles.

Photographs show the same suspects, a male and female,



# TO THE MARKET

With this busy month of holy days and celebrations, the Studio City Farmers Market is ready to meet the needs for family gatherings and special occasions. A great

way to mark Earth Day, April 22, 2009, is to choose beautifully hand-crafted bamboo kitchen bowls or cutting boards from Malibu Dan. For an alternative to fresh flowers, there are silk arrangements and centerpieces from Sam. Cherries are the word for April and May, but since it is a short season, visit the Studio City Farmers Market soon. New vendors include Bonnie the Bug Lady with her exotic, framed bugs and butterflies.

The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce. Parking is available in the structure at CBS Studios on Radford.

both Hispanic, in their 20's. These same suspects were also caught on surveillance tape breaking into cars in the northern part of North Hollywood Division (Laurel Canyon Blvd. near Vanowen Street) as well as in the Devonshire Division.

The North Hollywood Police Department, acting quickly, set up a task force and worked undercover into the morning hours in an attempt to catch these suspects. Soon the detectives discovered both the male and female suspects were arrested in the Devonshire Division. Detectives said these suspects were potentially responsible for more than 100 burglaries/thefts from motor vehicles.

With that news, the task force turned its attention to the recent spike in commercial burglaries along Ventura Blvd. Undercover officers followed a suspicious vehicle, and when the car was stopped, the officer discovered two window punches inside (a device that can add pressure to a car window so the window shatters), along with flashlights, gloves, cell phones, a GPS device and miscellaneous burglary tools. The driver had been released from prison three weeks prior, and his female passenger was on probation for grand theft.

Both suspects went to jail that night. One of the cell phones was stolen. It appears the male suspect, who was on parole,

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# CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND WITH FIRST ANNUAL STUDIO CITY COMMUNITY BARBEQUE AND ROUNDUP

Save the Date for the **First Annual Studio City Community Barbeque and Roundup**. May 24, 2009 from noon to 6:00 p.m. (the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend) at the Hirsh Ranch (Laurel Canyon Blvd. at Fryman Road). This event is sponsored by the Studio City Residents Association for the benefit of Save LA River-Studio City Open Space (formerly Save Studio City Golf and Tennis) and the Studio City Beautification Association. Enjoy California State champion barbecue, beer, wine, relaxation, entertainment, fun, games and prizes. Parking and shuttle buses will be available. Adult and child tickets will be on sale during May at Studio City Farmers Market and other locations. Tell your family, neighbors and friends!

## (Crime Report, cont'd)

will be going back to prison, and, hopefully, the female passenger will get some jail time as well.

With these two suspects and the male/female Hispanic burglary team in custody, Studio City should see an even further reduction in local crime numbers.

## FROM THE SCRA BOARD

**NBC/Universal/MTA Development:** The SCRA board voted the development plan for the Universal MTA station, as proposed by Thomas Properties Group, is totally unacceptable in its scope and consequences, and can only have adverse effects not only for Studio City, but also for local communities and Valley wide.

**Riverwalk Plan:** The SCRA board voted it held significant reservations about specific elements of the Riverwalk Plan (anchored at the MTA site) as developed by Communities United for Smart Growth (CUSG). The board also voted to develop a position paper about the positive and negative aspects of the Riverwalk plan.

## SAFER STREETS CELEBRATED

Getting to Woodbridge Park used to be a very unsafe experience, requiring parents and children and caregivers to cross four lanes of traffic on busy Moorpark Street at the corner of Elmer Avenue. Since Oakwood Elementary School is located only one-half block from this corner, numerous parents and children cross Moorpark during rush hour traffic, intensifying the safety hazard for everyone. The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) and Oakwood Elementary School successfully joined forces to resolve this safety issue by getting a four-way street signal installed within a year and a half.

The community celebrated the installation of this street signal earlier this year at the new site. Guests also visited the Oakwood Elementary School's courtyard to see the beautiful wall sign acknowledging the parents who contributed almost \$200,000 and Wendy Greuel who contributed \$25,000 from her office holder's account to this project. "It is very rewarding to see the signal in operation after a year and a half of preparation, approvals, design and construction," Oakwood school representative Mikie Maloney said. "This is significantly sooner than the initial timeline of five years, due, in part, to Studio City residents, Oakwood and the City working together."

## SCRA WATCH: WORKING FOR A BETTER STUDIO CITY

**Editor's Note:** In this space we will report about things that are broken or problems in our community, including information about who is responsible, what has been repaired and who in the City made it happen.

**STILL BROKEN:** 45 days and counting



The constant pool of standing water at the corner of Whipple Street and Satsuma Avenue, immediately across the street from Rio Vista Elementary School, exists rain or shine and is a mosquito breeding ground, in addition to being a safety hazard for both pedestrians and the school's students. This is in the frequently ignored section of Studio City situated in Councilmember Tom LaBonge's CD-4 district. Despite repeat calls from residents to LaBonge's office, no repairs have been made to date.

**Who is in charge:** Bureau of Street Services, Dept. of Public Works, John Sapone, Acting Division Manager: 311 or 213 847-2999. Email: John.Sapone@lacity.org and Alice Roth, CD-4 Deputy District Director, North Hollywood/Toluca Lake. Email: alice.roth@lacity.org

**GRAFFITI WATCH:** As of this writing, prominent graffiti requires removal at:

1. The south bank of the Riverwalk between Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Whitsett Avenue on the back wall of Public Storage located at 12345 Ventura Court.
2. The AT&T utility box on the southwest corner of Ventura Blvd. and Vantage Street.
3. The front poles of Fed-Ex Kinkos on Ventura Blvd. and Laurel Canyon
4. All over the southern fencing of Motorville Tires at 4165 Lankershim Blvd.
5. On the AC units and other roof components of 4150 Lankershim Blvd.
6. The billboard at 4100 Lankershim at the Toyota preowned lot. Summit Media is the name on the billboard.
7. The construction site fencing on the NE corner of Coldwater Canyon Blvd. and Hortense.

**Who is in charge:** Office of Community Beautification, Graffiti Removal: 311 or <http://anti-graffiti.lacity.org/welcome.cfm>

**PLEASE BE OUR EYES AND EARS.** Is something broken in your neighborhood and not being repaired? Call the SCRA at 818-509-0230 or Email: [scraboard@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org)

# ASK THE SCRA

**Editor's Note:** Email your community questions to [scraboard@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org)

**Q:** What can we do about the many vacant and unkept properties in our community?

**SCRA:** The underlying issue here is safety. The lots whose yards have grown unruly pose a danger by harboring rodents and, as we head into the dry months of the year, fuel brush fires. The lots that sit with a vacant building invite squatters looking for a place to live or hide. The best way to combat the safety issues with vacant properties is to remain vigilant and call immediately when the property becomes an issue. Invite neighbors to do the same. Contact the appropriate city departments to report problems with vacant properties.

- To report single family properties, call 3-1-1.
- To report multi-family properties call the housing department at 866-557-7368.

## SAVE LA RIVER-STUDIO CITY OPEN SPACE UPDATE

*(formerly Save Studio City Golf and Tennis)*

**Learn more about this organization and its mission to save as much open space as possible on the property formerly known as Studio City Golf and Tennis. View the no-development alternate vision for the last 16 acres of unprotected open space abutting the Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley. To learn how to help save this jewel, please visit [www.SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org](http://www.SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org).**

**Voluntary financial contributions are welcomed and can be made online.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Alan Dymond*

The recent City elections were not conclusive. There is a run off in Council District Five: some of our members live in this district and have to decide who they would like to replace Jack Weiss as their council member. The City Attorney's seat is also headed for a run off. In Council District Two (CD2), Wendy Greuel was successful in her run for the City Controller's seat and will take that position on July 1, 2009. Meanwhile, Measure B, the solar energy initiative, did not pass. From the sentiments expressed by many of our members, there were no tears shed about that measure. But how will these circumstances affect life here in Studio City?

Of immediate concern is the vacant seat for CD2. The City Council has the power to appoint a council member for the remaining term or can set a special election. The City might say it cannot afford a special election given the present economic climate, which will pave the way for an appointment. However, the voters in CD2 should reject any such assertion out of hand. This is not a sufficient reason to deny the residents of CD2 their vote for this seat. It has been 33 years since such an appointment was made. There is a reason for this: only in the direst of circumstances should this power to take away someone's vote be exercised. Should it be exercised, however, the appointee should be concerned about carrying baggage as the "chosen one" at the next election. Yet, given there are two years remaining in the seat, it might be a sufficient gamble for an appointee to take. As voters, we should demand the right to have our election and not have council members over the vast area of Los Angeles decide who should represent us.

The SCRA held a successful forum of the candidates for the City Attorney's office, with the exception of Jack Weiss who declined to participate. Now that the field has thinned, we should expect a debate between the two front runners Carmen "Nuch" Trutanich and Jack Weiss. The SCRA may join with other local Valley organizations to host this forum.

There are two contenders, Paul Koretz and David T. Vahedi, for Jack Weiss' seat. The SCRA traditionally does not endorse any particular candidate for office. You can get more information by visiting the candidates' web sites at: [www.PaulKoretz.com](http://www.PaulKoretz.com) and [www.votevahedi.com](http://www.votevahedi.com) Expect to see updates on these sites as the wind changes direction.

*Alan Dymond*



# MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING

**Tuesday, Apr. 14, 2009**

Meeting Starts at 7:30 p.m.

## Agenda

**7:00 p.m.** Light refreshments

**7:30 p.m.** LAUSD District 3 Board  
Member Tamar Galatzan  
on L.A.'s Public Education  
Crisis

## 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.*



### **SCRA Committees**

Civic  
Crime and Safety  
Membership  
Overlay  
Planning and Land Use  
Studio City History Project

### **Officers**

Alan Dymond, President  
Mark Batterman, Exec. Vice President  
Bonnie Goodman, Exec. Vice President  
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President  
Connie Elliot, Secretary  
Laura McKinzie, Treasurer

### **Board Members**

Beth Dymond  
Bill Harmond

Steve Hirsh  
Bonnie Kalaf  
Andrea Neumann  
Tiffany Petroc  
Robin Seidel

### **Immediate Past President**

Art Howard

### **Beautification Association**

Bill Harmond, Executive Director  
Francesca Corra, Director  
Rick Rabins, Director

### **Park Advisory Board Liaison**

Mark Batterman

### **Director of Animal Welfare**

Robin Seidel

### **Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space**

Co-Directors  
David Burg, Laurie Cohn, Alan Dymond,  
Kathy Hassett, Steve Hirsh, Art Howard  
SaveLARiverOpenSpace@studiocityresidents.org

### **School Liaisons**

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

### **Studio City Farmer's Market**

Manager: Carol Gallegos (818) 656-7744  
studiocityfarmersmarket@yahoo.com

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