



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

December 2009

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING LOOKS AT THE FUTURE OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER

Revitalization of the Los Angeles River is becoming a reality, according to experts who spoke at the Studio City Residents Association November Community Meeting. River revitalization is important to improve blighted areas, create recreational areas and bike trails, ease methods of transporting people across demographic lines through the city and create jobs. It is also a necessary aspect of storm water cleanup and recapture of this water for storage in the San Fernando aquifer.

Carol Armstrong, PhD, project manager for the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, spoke with SCRA members and guests about the current 'political will' to create 52 miles of parks, bike paths, restoration and, consequently, livable environments on the Los Angeles River. Within two years, the Corps of Engineers will complete a river study from Griffith Park south to the rail yards in Los Angeles. This study will explore how to connect the areas of the River that have already been improved with unimproved portions in this stretch. The Mayor and the City Council have already appointed board members to the LA River Revitalization Corp., which is funded and will hold its first meeting by the end of this year. The LA River Foundation (stakeholder focus groups) will be formed early next year. The City Attorney is currently drafting an ordinance for the LA River Improvement



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IT'S HOLIDAY PARADE TIME, STUDIO CITY STYLE



This year's Studio City Holiday Parade: Stars Shine Bright will be the biggest and best ever with more floats, more participants and more music than in years past. The parade takes place on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. Spectators are encouraged to arrive early to get a space along Ventura Blvd. to view the parade. The parade goes from Whitsett Avenue to Laurel Canyon Blvd.

Presented by the Studio City Residents Association, the Studio City Holiday Parade welcomes Grand Marshall Ed Begley, Jr., who will be joined by such community supporters as Assemblymember Mike Feuer, City Controller Wendy Greuel and KCBS/KCAL weathercaster Josh Rubinstein.

The SCRA thanks sponsors CBS Studio Center, the Studio City Improvement Association, the Rotary Club of Sherman Oaks and Studio City, the Studio City Neighborhood Council, Tutor Doctor, JJKO Design (who graciously designed the parade logo), Sportsman's Lodge, Keyes Lexus, Minuteman Press, Toluca Times, Toluca Pharmacy, Studio City Lifestyle and Veterinary Medical Center. To become a sponsor and/or participate in the parade, please contact Ann Husvar, parade coordinator, at studiocityholidayparade@gmail.com or 818-980-0722.

Be sure to bring your family and friends to the parade!! Happy Holidays from the SCRA!!

(LA River, cont'd)

Overlay. Meanwhile, the Cornfields-Arroyo Seco Specific Plan is being developed, which will include LEED (environmental friendly) developments.

Studio City's Weddington Golf and Tennis facility is part of the Los Angeles River Master Plan. Although Ms. Armstrong did not address this location specifically, the organization called Save Los Angeles River Open Space is acting with the support of the SCRA and other local contributors to have this location preserved for public use so it can become a vital link in the Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan.

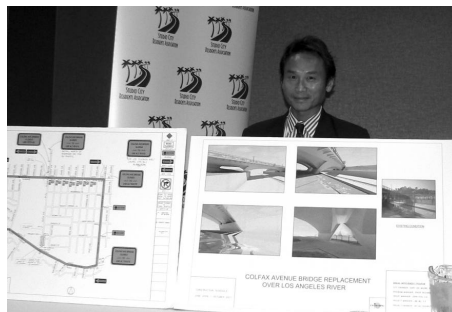
BREAKING NEWS

Building Rentals on Single Family Lots

The California State Legislature has enacted regulations establishing State standards for approving or denying applications to build living quarters on single family lots that may be rented. The SCRA web site www.studiocityresidents.org has the Q & A, the interim Los Angeles City Planning Department guidelines and other detailed information. To date, Los Angeles has not enacted an ordinance revising the building code to allow construction of these units that, at present, are prohibited in general.

Colfax Bridge Update

According to Jim Woo from the Bureau of Engineers, who spoke at the November SCRA Community Meeting, the closure of the Colfax Bridge has been delayed because of the status of and plans for the footbridge. The main bridge is being replaced as it has to be seismically sound and needs to be widened to alleviate the traffic bottleneck given its narrow frame. The original plan was to ensure the existing footbridge would be safe during construction; however, this proved impractical, and a new footbridge will be built. The footbridge needs to be installed downstream to a location away from the demolition. The City recognized the footbridge is critical for access from Colfax and surrounding areas to Ventura Blvd., so to remove or close it would not be acceptable to the community.



LAPD TOY AND FOOD DRIVE

The Studio City Residents Association is collecting new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items for the annual LAPD Holiday Toy and Food Drive. Last year the items contributed and collected by the SCRA put holiday smiles on dozens of children. Please remember to bring items for collection to the December SCRA Community Meeting.

GET OUT THE VOTE

The City Council run-off election on December 8, 2009 between Paul Krekorian and Chris Essel is very important to Studio City. This election is the same day as the SCRA Community Meeting so please be sure to vote early. See the November SCRA newsletter for highlights of the SCRA-sponsored candidates debate.



DECEMBER COMMUNITY MEETING TO HONOR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS AND ADDRESS CRIME

The Studio City Residents Association will honor three local individuals with its Studio City Cares Awards at the December SCRA Community Meeting. The awards, presented annually to community activists dedicated to improving Studio City, will be awarded in the following categories: Excellence in Community Service, Excellence in Government Leadership and Service to Youth Sports. Also being honored at the same meeting are three recipients of The Fran Quigley Award, previously awarded by the Studio City Civic Organization.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the LAPD will discuss the rash of recent burglaries and problems with solicitors in Studio City. There has been a lot of activity by the LAPD and residents to try to decrease the number of victims in the recent months. The LAPD will be addressing the impact of recent arrests and how residents can not only protect their property, but also assist the police in reducing burglaries in Studio City.

The SCRA Community Meeting will take place on December 8, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre. Light refreshments, including cake in celebration of the award winners, begin at 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

By Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis

On September 28, 2009, a community member reported her security camera system captured a Burglary from Motor Vehicle suspect in her condo building's subterranean garage on Moorpark near Coldwater Canyon. The video showed a male/white in his early 20's, wearing a baseball hat with an unusual design, who was walking around the garage and looking in car windows. He was out of camera when he broke into a car, but the next morning the victim discovered her driver's side window smashed and her GPS missing. The suspect's pictures were posted on a crime flyer and sent to the officers.

The first week of October Studio City experienced a rash of residential burglaries with most of them occurring in the Dona's as well as in an area south of Ventura Blvd., between Laurel Canyon and Rhodes Ave. On October 7, 2009, another

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(Crime Report, cont'd)

burglary occurred in the Dona's, but this time a security camera may have captured the suspect's photo. Undercover officers found the suspect was the same individual in the Moorpark video.

Over the next week, undercover officers worked overtime looking for the suspect. On Friday, October 30, 2009, a rookie officer realized he had recently given the suspect a ticket, and that the violator had provided his Van Nuys address and a cell phone number.

Officers visited the address and learned the suspect had been evicted the week prior. A number of the neighbors said they suspected both he and his girlfriend had broken into apartments in the complex. The officer called the suspect and said, "This is Officer Chacon, who gave you the ticket the other day. I think I dropped my wedding ring somewhere inside your car. Is there any way I can come by and quickly look for it? It will only take a minute." The officers subsequently arrested him.

The 21-year-old suspect is addicted to oxycotin. He had been committing residential burglaries not only in Studio City but all over the Valley. He has a prior conviction for burglary, a prior conviction for robbery and a prior conviction for taking a vehicle without the owner's permission (in which he led officers in a pursuit.) On November 10, 2009, detectives submitted the case to the District Attorney's Office, filing 10 counts of residential burglary, one count of attempted residential burglary and two counts of burglary from a motor vehicle.

Remember to keep your eyes and ears open. If you see something suspicious or a crime in progress, call 911. The non-emergency number is 1-877-ASK-LAPD. Please feel free to call Officer Lewis at 818-634-2593.

BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

By SCRA Crime and Safety Chair Tiffany Petroc

Consider taking these steps to protect your home from being burglarized.

- 1) Lock all doors and windows before leaving your home. Nearly half of all residential burglaries occur through unlocked doors or windows.
- 2) Do not leave keys under mats, above doors, in flower pots or other locations around your house. These places are the first spots burglars check.
- 3) Make sure all doors, including sliding glass doors, and windows have substantial locks.
- 4) Do not leave house keys with valets while dining or shopping. Only leave the ignition key to your car. Also consider keeping your registration with you instead of leaving it in the car since it has your address printed on it.



TO THE MARKET

December is a busy month for all with the holidays, parties and shopping. Support the local economy and shop the Studio City

Farmer's Market for a great selection of unique gifts and the freshest, natural foods for holiday tables. The pomegranates, pears and persimmons are exceptional this season. The Studio City Farmer's Market welcomes two new vendors: Nangarine Gourmet Cookies and Menos Organic Produce. A seasonal favorite coming back is The Grove (organic avocados and citrus). On December 13, 2009 and December 20, 2009 bring the kids to the children's section for a FREE picture with Santa.

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.

Note: The market will be open December 27, 2009 and closed on January 3, 2009.

- 5) Make your home visible by installing lighting and cutting back shrubs and trees so neighbors can see if someone is trying to break into your home.
- 6) Consider installing a home alarm that lets off a loud siren when a door or window has been breached so that neighbors can hear it. Simply posting an alarm company sign in your yard can be a deterrent.
- 7) If you are home when someone knocks on the door, do not answer it but simply let the person know you are not interested by speaking through the door.
- 8) If you see someone trying to enter your neighbor's house by trying the doors and windows, call 911. Relay all suspect information you can to the operator: height, weight, skin color, clothing and vehicle information, including license plate number.

ASK THE SCRA

Q: What can be done about the proliferation of trailer signs in our community?

SCRA: The Los Angeles City Attorney is currently finalizing regulations on trailer signs in our city streets. The SCRA is watching this process closely and will keep the community informed.

Q: What is going on with the development at Colfax and Chiquita, which appears to be a multi-family dwelling?

SCRA: The SCRA attended hearings at the Building and Safety Department about this house. It is being built as a single-family dwelling; however, it appears to have the potential to become two units. The SCRA is watching the structure closely to ensure it remains a single family home.

IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

Church of Christ Scientist Presents A Holiday Musical, December 10, 2009, 7:30 p.m. at the 36th Church of Christ Scientist, 4032 Whitsett Ave. The community is invited as well to enjoy Calico Winds, a woodwind quintet, and a sing-along of favorite holiday carols. Refreshments will follow the concert. For more information, call 818-761-4322.

Studio City Recreation Center (aka Beeman Park), 12621 Rye Street, Studio City

Winter Camp: Studio City Recreation Center's Winter Camp runs December 21, 2009 - January 8, 2010 for ages 5-12 years-old. Registration begins Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 10 a.m. Camp hours are 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Extended child care is available. The camp offers a wide variety of activities, including sports, games, arts & crafts, cooking and Tuesday field trips. For more information, call the park office at 818-769-4415.

Winter Classes: Classes run from January 19, 2010 - March 14, 2010. Online registration is December 26-28, 2009, with walk-in registration starting on December 29, 2009. For more information, visit www.laparks.org/dod/reccenter/facility/studiocityrc.htm or call 818-769-4415.

Campo de Cahuenga

CORRECTION OF EVENT TIME:

Campo de Cahuenga Celebration on January 10, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. at 3919 Lankershim Blvd., Lankershim at MTA station. This annual event re-enacts and celebrates the signing of the Treaty of Cahuenga in 1847, ending hostilities in California between Mexico and the United States. For more information, visit www.campodecahuenga.com.

Studio City Library

Book Donations: Every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in the library community room. Donations in "good enough

condition to be resold" accepted. Receipts for donations are available.

Year-End Book Sale: December 26, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please bring bags or boxes for purchases of books, videos and DVDs.

HELP FOR THE COMMUNITY'S ANIMAL FRIENDS

Be an Animal's Foster Parent

It's the holidays, and, as the community thinks of others, the SCRA wants to ensure members and friends do not forget about the animals in shelters. LA Animal Services (LAAS) is looking for foster homes for underage kittens and puppies that come into the animal care centers without a mother. They need foster parents who are willing to feed and nurture the animals until they are old enough to be adopted. Last year, LAAS more than doubled the number of foster parents in its program to a total of 277. LAAS encourages interested parties to sign up now in anticipation of a large number of kittens and puppies. Contact New Hope Coordinator at 888-452-7381 or visit www.LAAnimalServices.com.



Keep Them Warm and Healthy

Another way to help animals in shelters is to donate old sheets, towels and blankets. These donations help provide warm and cozy beds. The only requirement is that the fabric be machine washable. All donations can be dropped off at local shelters during business hours. As times get tougher, many people feel that they cannot take care of their animals with medical conditions and want to drop them off at the shelters. LAAS has a list of services provided at low cost or no cost to qualified recipients available at each shelter or online.

SCRA WATCH: WORKING FOR A BETTER STUDIO CITY

Editor's Note: In this space, we 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.

EYESORE: I would appreciate any assistance you can offer in dealing with a small bus that has been left on a vacant hillside lot (which had collapsed in the last earthquake) at 4001 Sunswept Drive. I believe the abandoned vehicle represents a safety issue (the hillside fronts down to Ventura Blvd) and is an eyesore.

Action Taken: SCRA Land Use Chair, Art Howard, is in contact with the City of Los Angeles Building and Safety Department to determine if this bus can be removed from the hillside.

LA CITY SAFETY ISSUE: In the 4200 block of St. Claire Ave., the trees in the parkway have lifted the sidewalk, causing it to buckle haphazardly. In October, a 91-year-old SCRA member stepped on a raised edge of this lifted sidewalk, fell and broke his hip. As a result, he had to undergo surgery and will require physical therapy for an undetermined amount of time.

Action Taken: Numerous reports have been made to the City, and the SCRA is putting the City on notice of this dangerous condition.

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

UPDATE FROM SAVE LA RIVER OPEN SPACE

(formerly known as Save Studio City Golf and Tennis)

Fall Fundraiser

Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) thanks to all who have donated to its Fall Fundraising Campaign to date. The campaign is ongoing, and SLAROS appreciates consideration by those who are making year-end donations. All donations made to the organization are tax deductible. Contribute online on the SLAROS web site, www.savelariveropenspace.org, or mail checks to Save LA River Open Space, P.O. Box 1374, Studio City, CA 91614. For additional information, please visit www.savelariveropenspace.org to review Frequently Asked Questions or email saveopenspace@SLAROS.org.

Sierra Club Supports SLAROS Game Plan for Weddington Golf & Tennis

The Sierra Club-San Fernando Valley Group voted unanimously in support of the project being proposed by SLAROS with support from the SCRA to address the need to save open space at the Weddington Golf & Tennis site. SLAROS will now draft a resolution to present to the Sierra Club Conservation Committee.

STUDIO OAKS WALKING PARK WORK STOPPAGE

Improvement work on the three Ventura Blvd. medians, called Studio Oaks Neighborhood Walking Park, between Van Noord and Fulton on the border of Studio City and Sherman Oaks has stopped. Work on the panels was interrupted in early September when a 64-inch DWP water main pipe on Coldwater Canyon

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

Usually I give a report on the events of the past month, provide comments and possibly look ahead, but this month I felt it necessary to present an open letter to whoever may be our new councilmember. During the campaign for our council seat, I attended many debates as your observer. I came away hearing that SCRA members were frustrated and dissatisfied that they had been ignored and that decisions were made without their consultation. Hence, I came to the conclusion that an open letter from the Studio City Residents Association should outline the expectations SCRA members have of the individual who is elected to this council seat.

Open letter to the Council Member for Studio City

The SCRA is represented by you as well as Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Paul Koretz, but, for now, these remarks are solely for your benefit. Since you will be reading this before the results of the election of December 8, 2009 are known, the SCRA wishes you every success. We hope that, along with our other council members, you will be breathing new life into the Los Angeles City Council.

The problems you will be facing are legion. For example, there is too much development without control and little regard for the welfare of the residents of Studio City. Huge condominiums and massive houses are being built on relatively miniscule lots, destroying the character and sense of our neighborhoods and spawning excess traffic. Since profit margins on developments are higher here than in other parts of the Valley, that benefit, combined with the unique character of Studio City, make it a magnet. Frankly, it is being destroyed by its own success. Hard work over many generations and with many organizations, together with the collective memory developed over the years, makes Studio City a special place to live, shop and raise families. But it is slowly being eaten away. We are not an urban downtown environment; we are Studio City at the southeast end of the Valley and would like to keep it that way.

During the election campaign, you met with representatives of the boards of the SCRA and other organizations and debated your opponent many times in many diverse forums. At these meetings, speakers informed each candidate that local organizations want to be represented at the earliest level of any development or in any decisions that affect the quality of life in Studio City. They want a seat at the table from the start and do not want to wait to get invited until one side has been heard and tentative decisions made. Assurances were given at these meetings that local organizations would be invited into the decision making process at the earliest stage. SCRA accepts these statements at face value and looks forward to a relationship of this nature. In the past, you indicated you acted with the benefit of local knowledge for a grasp of local issues. No matter what is needed by the greater Los Angeles area, please remember those who elected you to represent our council district. Studio City residents will be here for you and look forward to joining you in keeping Studio City one of the most vibrant communities in Los Angeles.

SCRA wishes you every success in your new position.

Alan Dymond

P.O. Box 1374, Studio City, CA 91614

DECEMBER 2009



**MONTHLY
COMMUNITY MEETING**

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Agenda

- 7:00 p.m.** Light refreshments
- 7:30 p.m.** Presentation of Studio City CARES Awards and the Fran Quigley Award; LAPD on How to Prevent Crime During the Holidays.

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.*

**SALUTE TO BEVERLY
GARLAND'S HOLIDAY INN**

The SCRA thanks Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn for its many years of generously subsidizing SCRA's use of the hotel theater and for providing complimentary parking for SCRA members during the SCRA monthly community meetings.



(Studio Oaks, cont'd)

ruptured and flooded the easternmost median (along with nearby homes and businesses). The DWP is working with the Public Works Department's Bureau of Street Services to determine the amount of the damage so that repairs can begin. Once the repair work is done, the Department can resume necessary improvement work on all three medians, including the installation of mulch (for weeds prevention) and hard-scape.

Both the Studio Oaks Steering Committee and Studio City Residents Association have received complaints from local businesses and residents about the run-down, shabby conditions of the easternmost median. Both organizations are in touch with Bureau of Street Services to get the work done as quickly as possible.

For additional information and updates, visit www.StudioOaks.com or email info@studiooaks.com.

**SCRA SURVEYS RESIDENTS:
BEVMO OR NO BEVMO?**

BevMo has applied to open a liquor store in the closed Shoe Pavilion's prior location. An SCRA survey shows the community is split 50/50 on whether it wants a local BevMo store. Those in favor of BevMo liked the convenience and they would welcome the competition and the store's contribution to bringing business into Studio City. Those opposed said there is already enough competition in the community and that the BevMo concept does not fit here and that there is insufficient parking. Those who want to make their position heard should attend the public hearing at a date to be determined. . The SCRA will publish that date via "News and Notes."