



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Your Advocate for Studio City

July 2013

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Status of Weddington Golf & Tennis .....	Page 1
Consolidation of City Departments .....	Page 3
Beautification Progress .....	Page 4

## UPDATE: WEDDINGTON GOLF AND TENNIS DEVELOPMENT

A proposed Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is now on file with the Los Angeles City Planning Department for the Weddington Golf & Tennis property. To date this "document" has been reviewed and has undergone what the Planning Department calls the first "screen check." It was sent back to the property's consultants on approximately June 3, 2013 for further work.

Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) has been told that a "screen check" is the equivalent of an administrative review of a submitted draft by the Planning Department. Usually there are two such administrative screen checks; sometimes, there may be three or more drafts going back and forth between the Planning Department and the consultants. It depends on a number of factors such as staff workload, as well as how long the consultants take to prepare the documents and make the revisions, provide relevant back up documents, etc.

It is not known if the Planning Department has received the consultant's response to the first screen. If the response is adequate, the proposed draft will move to the next point, allowing the DEIR to be issued for public review and comment.

Although there is word the purported buyers have dropped their plan to purchase the property, the fact that a DEIR is in process indicates a sale in some form or another is in the works. Once the DEIR is issued, the SCRA, SLAROS and other interested organizations will review it and act in the best interests of not only Studio City and the Valley, but also for the Los Angeles River Project overall.

### OP-ED: THE COURTS IN CRISIS

by Eric Bailey, communications director, Consumer Attorneys of California

We think of our courts as stolid, unbroken realms of justice, an independent third branch of government that functions as our most direct form of democracy. But this bedrock of our democracy has been under assault by unprecedented budgetary pressures in California. It has forced the closure of whole courthouses, the firing of court employees and a marked slowdown of justice. As the old axiom goes, justice delayed is justice denied. These days, a lot of justice is being denied in California.

The past five budget cycles have seen the court's share of the state's General Fund budget - the principle

(Continued, Page 2)

## JULY SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING WELCOMES ASSEMBLYMEMBER ADRIN NAZARIAN AND THE RIVER PROJECT



Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian will speak at the July 9, 2013 Studio City Residents Association Community Meeting about elements of the recently passed state budget. In addition to plans to bring more financial resources to our local schools, the Assemblymember will discuss health care issues and the basics of the Affordable Care Act and to what extent funding is being restored to the California Court system to address the present severe cuts in services. He will also provide information about the proposed sound walls along the 170 freeway.

In addition, Melanie Winter, director of the River Project, will provide a preview of an upcoming program on local water issues, addressing what is shaping up to be another drought period this summer and fall. She will provide details about a Sunday evening documentary screening series, which will take place at CBS Studios on Radford from mid-July through August. This series will provide guests an opportunity to hear from and engage in dialogue with a panel of filmmakers as well as local water activists. Series attendees will receive



(Continued, Page 4)

## (Op-Ed, cont'd)

funding source for most programs - slashed dramatically by more than \$1.1 billion. That 30% reduction in General Fund support is among the highest percentage cuts to any sector of government. Courts used to be two percent of the budget. They're now one percent.

Whole courthouses have been closed in some regions - Los Angeles County alone has seen six courthouses closed, and more than 60 have been shuttered statewide. Operating hours have been slashed in 30 counties, and 70% of the courts have instituted furloughs that have slowed down services. It has led to swelling lines and frayed tempers as the public has tried to tap the most basic services. Size hasn't mattered. Kings County Superior Court has imposed 27 unpaid furlough days on its workers, closed the Lemoore courthouse, and forced executive officers to job-share. In Los Angeles, people queued up to settle traffic tickets have been turned away at day's end and told to come back the next day.

The threat to civil justice isn't just on individuals, but to our economy as a whole. When the courts grind to a crawl, commerce can stall for businesses that rely on prompt civil court decisions in matters like patent disputes and intellectual property conflicts - one of the fastest-growing litigation trends in the state that is home to Hollywood, the Silicon Valley and other booming enterprises.

After years of cuts, the budget blueprint for the upcoming (2013-14 fiscal year wasn't much better. Heading into the budget debate, court leaders were seeking a more than \$300 million funding increase in hopes of restoring some of the services cut in recent years. They reasoned that state tax coffers were doing better than at any time since the start of the Great Recession, and courts should get their share.

Instead, with Governor Jerry Brown taking a hard line, the budget negotiations yielded just a \$63-million boost for the \$3-billion court budget. That's like getting a two percent pay raise - it hardly keeps pace with inflation.

In short, much work remains to be done to ensure the survival of our courts. If you would like to see how you can help, visit our web page at [www.caoc.org](http://www.caoc.org) or contact me at [ebailey@caoc.org](mailto:ebailey@caoc.org).

## 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:** The sidewalk between Sarah St. and Moorpark St. on Whittsett Ave. is a disaster. The ivy has virtually taken over most of it and is slowly creeping up the trees. Many of the trees will die as the ivy cuts off the sunlight from their leaves. In addition, the ivy has narrowed the sidewalk itself into a 12 inch path, making it inaccessible in some areas to someone in a wheelchair. There is trash dumped in the tangle of vines. Finally, it is unsafe at night. Walking behind that thick wall of ivy is like walking

through a dark tunnel, with no view from the street. Please take a look at it and get the city to make this area presentable and safe.

**SCRA:** The SCRA has received multiple complaints about these dangerous conditions. The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) took action and hired a contractor to remove the ivy from the trees and clear the sidewalk (See Studio City Beautification Keeps the Community Beautiful in this newsletter). Upon completion, the SCRA received the following: "The work has been completed on Whittsett Ave. and it looks like a completely different street. You can actually see the trees. Hopefully the city will come by and tear out the rest of that invasive ivy. I just wanted to say thank you for your help. I was not a member before this, but I am a life-long member now. Keep up the good work!"

**Q:** As a result of vacant land, abandoned construction projects and some general neglect, Laurel Terrace Drive has a great number of unoccupied and untended parkways, giving the street a blighted appearance. We also have a problem with many old, dead and dying street trees. This is despite the best efforts of most of the neighbors, who take pride in their properties and in the neighborhood. What can the neighborhood do to improve this situation?

**SCRA:** There is a city grant called "million trees" that will work with you and your neighbors to replace dead and dying trees. However, the caveat is that someone, usually the property owner, needs to complete a maintenance agreement, pledging to water and maintain the tree for five years. Consult with "million trees" regarding pledges on parkways not owned. Amy Schulenberg, the coordinator for the grant, [amy.schulenberg@lacity.org](mailto:amy.schulenberg@lacity.org) will work with you and your neighbors.

**Q:** The latest edition of the SCRA newsletter contained the statement: "A recent law now bans advertising on parked vans and trucks." Can this apply to automobiles as well? I'm referring to the black-and-white Ford sedan, painted to look like a CHP cruiser, which screams the advertisement "TRAFFIC LAWYERS – DON'T PAY THAT FINE," which is permanently parked near the entrance to Bridges Academy at 3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd. just north of Maxwellton St. This eyesore has been there for months.

**SCRA:** The SCRA contacted Tamar Galatzan, deputy city attorney and received this response: "What the new law bans is trailer signs or other signs that are not designed to be attached to a car. So, if this car has stickers or magnetic signs or words painted on the side, that's okay. If there are wooden or other signs screwed into the car, that might be a violation."

**Q:** I have watched the many twists and turns regarding the status of the exterior of the CVS store at the corner of Laurel Canyon and Ventura Blvds. I was told the corporate offices of CVS were seeking permits to paint the exterior of the building or that some plans were sent back for approval, etc. That was many months ago. The sidewalk is trashy, stained, dirty, discolored and disgusting. The exterior walls and overhead canopy of the store front are peeling, damaged, cracked, stained and unsightly. Why have the long-discussed exterior improvements of the building taken so long?

(Continued, Page 3)

(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

**SCRA:** The Land Use Committee of the SCNC is in contact with the management company, MileStone Management/ProTMPO, regarding the progress of improvement to CVS on the corner of Laurel Canyon and Ventura Blvds. The proposed project involves both interior and exterior improvements to the store. The SCRA has been informed it is the property owner's responsibility and that permits are still going through the process with the City of Los Angeles.

## CBS STUDIO CENTER CONTINUES TO GO GREEN

For the third year, the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) was invited to have a booth at the "Eye on the Environment" event sponsored by CBS Studio Center on Radford Avenue. The focus of the event was to share tools and ideas on



bringing together companies with energy-saving methodologies and products. Participating organizations presented new ideas ranging from recycled office supplies to the installation of hydrogen fuel cells with the goal of reducing the individual and corporate carbon footprint.

More than 60 exhibitors and corporations were present, many of which were of interest to SCBA, including locations to obtain free mulch, worm castings, etc. United Parcel Service displayed the latest edition to its fleet, which is an all-electric delivery truck, CBS spoke about the studio lot's new power source from hydrogen fuel cells and provided information about how the company reduces its carbon footprint.

## BUILDING AND SAFETY DEPARTMENT TO BE CONSOLIDATED WITH THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT?

At the recent Hillside Federation meeting, the Los Angeles City Planning Department Deputy Director Alan Bell addressed possible consolidation of the Los Angeles City Planning Department, and the Los Angeles City Building and Safety Department into one department.

The Los Angeles City Council has recommended that Building and Safety and Planning become functionally integrated, combining key development functions of the Engineering and Contract Administration of the Department of Public Works Bureau, the Fire Department and the Department of Transportation

According to the City Council's review, a consolidation would likely result in the following benefits:

## TO THE MARKET



*The Studio City Farmers Market continues to expand by bringing more and unique vendors to Studio City. Pupusas Salvadorenas joined the market a few weeks ago to rave reviews. Made with fresh corn masa, these Salvadorean treats are stuffed*

*with a variety of fillings from beans and cheese to grilled vegetables, shrimp, chicken, beef and pork. All pupusas are gluten free and are also available with Daiya cheese for the lactose intolerant or those who prefer vegan options. The market also recently welcomed Fruigees. With an almost pudding consistency, Fruigees are made with organic vegetables and fruit and no added sugars. They are dairy, gluten, soy and nut free and delicious! They come in two sizes and make great treats in a child's lunch or a perfect snack for everyone in the family. Flavors include carrot and orange, kale and grape juice, and beet and cherry. Both the pupusas and Fruigees can be sampled at the market before purchasing.*

*Now that it's May, stone fruits are around the corner, and soon peaches, plums, apricots, pluots, cherries and all the wonderful fruits of summer will be overflowing at several of the farmers' stands.*

*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.*

- Clear jurisdiction over zoning functions and early zoning review;
- Consolidation of common administrative functions, making the permit process logical and linear;
- More efficient coordination and collaboration;
- Greater accountability and transparency; and
- The implementation of true performance measures.

The SCRA has had experience in which certain planning measures were negotiated and agreed upon by all parties, only to see a disconnect between what was agreed upon and what takes place on the construction site. This proposal will go a long way to eliminating any such issues. Pending further view of the proposal, the SCRA supports the proposed changes. The SCRA will be commenting at community and stakeholder input sessions. The timeline for the consolidation includes:

- July 1, 2013: Integrate the Department of Transportation, the Fire Department and the Department of Public Works
- July 1, 2013 - December 1, 2013: Community and stakeholder input
- January 1, 2014: Integrate Building and Safety - full implementation

# RIO VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONORS THE SCRA

The Studio City Residents Association joined the Rotary Club of Universal City, NBCUniversal, the Studio City Farmers Market and the Studio City Beautification Association to complete the Rio



Vista Reading Garden inside the school grounds. The school later added funding and support from Century West BMW and the neighborhood councils in the area. NBCUniversal gave permission to the school for the use of the Dr. Seuss Lorax character from the recent film. The parties met and planned a garden, designed by Francesca Corra of Dirt Diva Designs, which would be self-sustaining and encourage use by the students without being trampled. There was enough money left over to start beautification of a garden at the entrance to the school.

Recently, the school had a ceremony during its regular assembly to honor the participants. The school honored each group with a certificate, each of which included a different work of art by a student. The kindergarten classes sang a flower song, and students read poems they had composed on the garden topic.

The reading garden effort, started by the Universal Rotary Club, was an example of community groups coming together to benefit local students. The Rotary representative, Jim Miceli, once attended Rio Vista and reminisced about the building being condemned after the 1971 earthquake. The current building is not the two-story school many of Studio City's adult residents remember. Recently the SCRA also donated \$500 to the school for a fifth grade dancing classroom. Under the guidance of Principal Kevin McClay, Rio Vista Elementary School is a local school of which we can be proud.

## SAVE THE DATE: VALLEY VILLAGE GARDENERS GROUNDBREAKING AT LA RIVER

Valley Village Gardeners is holding a groundbreaking ceremony for its next project, located on the north bank of the Los Angeles River (opposite and across the street from 12953 Valleyheart Drive, west of Coldwater Canyon Blvd.). The event takes place on July 13, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. and Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky will preside. This section of the River Walk will connect with the section that SRCA is working on between Coldwater Canyon Blvd. and Whitsett Ave.

The County of Los Angeles, which has jurisdiction over the Los Angeles River banks, has given its final approval for the project.

(July Meeting, cont'd)

free various water conservation devices for home use.

Part two of these presentations at CBS will include implementing projects that capture, conserve and re-use water at a dozen homes in Studio City as part of the Water LA Program work being done in partnership with the City of Los Angeles (WaterLA.org).

The meeting will be held at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre Room at 7:30 p.m. An opportunity to meet community members and neighbors begins at 7:00 p.m.

## SCRA MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

The SCRA membership drive is in full swing. Be sure to return your membership form and ask a neighbor to join as well. You can sign up on line at [StudioCityResidents.org](http://StudioCityResidents.org).

## STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFICATION KEEPS THE COMMUNITY BEAUTIFUL



**Median at Coldwater Canyon Blvd. and the 101 Freeway:** A year ago, a "hit and run" driver damaged the curb and ruined the landscaping the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) had planted on this median. The SCBA has repaired the curb and will be replacing plants and shrubs, adding a tree at the southern end of the median. The SCBA will work with LA City's "million trees" project to secure the tree for free.

**Removal of Ivy on Whitsett Ave. (between Moorpark St. and Sarah St. - east side of Whitsett Ave.):** This section of Whitsett Ave. has been an eyesore for many

years, and the SCRA has received multiple requests about cleaning it up. Last year, the LA Conservation Corps cleared a path through the sidewalk, but they were unable to remove the ivy from the trees. In June, the SCBA hired a contractor to remove the ivy from the trees and cut back the ground ivy. In doing so, the SCBA found sneakers, duffel bags, furniture, car parts and other assorted unhealthy garbage. The SCBA is looking at the next stage of cleanup and will be contacting the



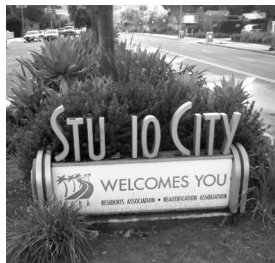
responsible homeowners to request they keep the now manageable ivy under control. To that end, the SCBA has recruited a concerned neighbor to monitor this area.



(Continued, Page 5)

## (SCBA, cont'd)

**Monument at Laurel Canyon Blvd. and the 101 Freeway:** Vandals have worked very hard to remove the "D" on the "Studio City Welcomes You" monument on Laurel Canyon Blvd. The SCBA contacted the original designer and fabricator and has installed the new "D."



**Eastside Median Project (Ventura Blvd., between Lankershim Blvd. and Campo de Cahuenga Way):** Demolition: In planning for this project, the SCBA anticipated the possibility of two layers of concrete on the old highway but instead found two layers of concrete and one layer of asphalt. Demolition has been

completed; a water meter is being installed, and soil and compost will be delivered. Planting will begin in the fall, which is the best time of year for establishing new plants. NBCUniversal has contributed \$10,000 to



this project and The Blvd Hotel & Spa contributed \$5,000, all of which will offset more than half of the installation costs.

## FREE PARKING AT NBCUNIVERSAL

With summer holidays in full swing, SCRA members may want to apply for complementary parking at NBCUniversal.



The Universal Studios 2013 Globe Partner Pass program is specifically designed for the property's closest neighbors to access and enjoy Universal City. Residents of Studio City who are within the NBCUniversal designated area are eligible for a parking card that provides 12 complimentary self-parking passes. This offer by Universal is non-transferable and is limited to one request per household per year.

Members of SCRA should send their request to Universal Studios, Community Parking Pass Program, 100 Universal City Plaza, 1280-3, Universal City, CA 91608-1002. Be sure to state that you are a member of the Studio City Residents Association.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Alan Dymond*

*The Platinum Live site on Ventura Blvd. is again in the news. Platinum Live's owners appeared at the Studio City Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee meeting, seeking to have the restrictive conditions removed and the property revert back to the prior zoning. The SCRA was present and objected to removal of any restrictions pending review of what alternates are being proposed. A motion to preserve the status quo did not pass; thereafter, the chair appointed an advisory committee to investigate and report back: some local residents volunteered and were appointed to the committee. The SCRA will continue to closely monitor and make our members' position known.*

*The Joan's on Third restaurant is in the process of taking over the old post office building at 12059 Ventura Place. The owner has indicated there will be no impact on the Studio City Farmers Market. There was no public opposition to Joan's on Third establishing the restaurant at this location.*

*The SCRA membership drive for 2013 is in full swing, although we continue to recruit members throughout the year. To date, we are pleased to report 250 new members. For the benefit of our new members (and perhaps those who are alumni as well), here is a brief background on the SCRA and our sister organizations, the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) and Save Los Angeles River Open Space (SLAROS).*

*The SCRA was formed in September 1977 to serve the residents of Studio City. The organization was designed to serve all homeowners and renters alike. The SCRA serves as a community advocate and addresses numerous policy issues that impact the community.*

*The SCRA had a beautification committee but disbanded it to form a separate not-for-profit public benefit corporation in April 1984, now known as the Studio City Beautification Association. With this reorganization, donations made to SCBA could be claimed as a deduction for tax purposes.*

*The SCRA also formed a committee, called Save Studio City Golf and Tennis, to work to preserve Studio City Golf & Tennis (now known as Weddington Golf and Tennis). The committee was reorganized in May 2004 as a not-for-profit public benefit corporation. In September 2008, the name was changed to Save Los Angeles River Open Space. Donors can claim a deduction for tax purposes under this reorganization.*

*Finally, the SCRA has asked our incoming mayor to speak at our upcoming September Community Meeting. We will keep you posted on his office's response.*

*Alan Dymond*



# SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

## Tuesday, July 9, 2013

### AGENDA

**7:00 p.m.** Refreshments

**7:30 p.m.** Assemblymember  
Adrin Nazarian on the state  
budget, education and  
healthcare. Melanie Winter  
of The River Project on local  
water issues.

### 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  
Rio Vista - Barbara Robbin  
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

#### Studio City Farmers Market

(818) 655-7744  
www.studiocityfarmersmarket.com

#### Newsletter

Editor: Bonnie Goodman  
Graphic Design: Kevin Lewis  
(818) 667-6647 kevin@kevlew.com