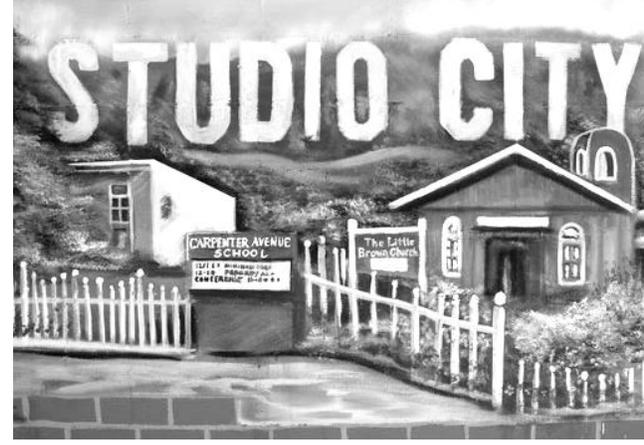




STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City



June 2009

CITY COUNCIL FIELD DEPUTIES FORUM ADDRESSES COMMUNITY ISSUES



In an effort to give members and guests at its May Community Meeting the opportunity to ask questions about local issues, the SCRA welcomed representatives from Wendy Greuel and Jack Weiss' Council Districts, including Field Deputy Evan Roosevelt (Councilmember Wendy Greuel), Planning Deputies Jim Dantona and Dale Thrush (Councilmember Wendy Greuel) and Field Deputy Joan Pellico (Councilmember Jack Weiss). Topics included:

Replacement for City Council District 2 Seat

City Council will call a Special Election, likely in mid-August or early September of this year, to fill Wendy Greuel's seat when she leaves for her new position as City Controller on June 30, 2009. As a result, Council District 2 will be without a council vote from July to the end of 2009. The district will be managed by the Chief Legislative Analyst's Office with the agenda outlined by Councilmember Greuel prior to her vacating her current position. Certain members of the Councilmember's staff will remain on board and available so the work will continue.

Condo/Apartment Balconies

The group fielded questions about privacy issues related to condominium and apartment balconies that overlook residential properties. While condos have zoning regulations that address this issue, apartments do not, meaning their balconies can overlook single family residences. Specific Plans could be a means to regulate the apartments, according to Jim Dantona.

Redistricting

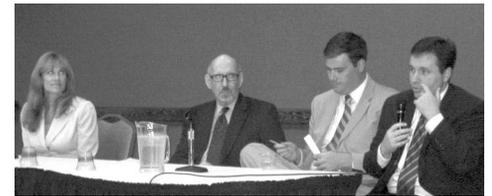
The City will see a change in district boundaries around 2012. Redistricting is done every 10 years and follows the Census. There may be public hearings associated with this process.

Bicycling in and around Studio City

According to Joan Pellico, there are plans for more bikeways in the Valley with the Studio Oaks project in Sherman Oaks/Studio City adding more areas for pedestrians and bicyclists. There will be 20-30 new bicycle racks installed on Ventura Blvd. between Whitsett and Laurel Canyon.

Studio City Public Parking Structure

Evan Roosevelt reported the Department of Transportation was going to seek green proposals for the top floor of the Studio City Public Parking Structure (as reported earlier in this newsletter), but the process was put on hold as the City examines how they operate parking lots in general.



SCRA JUNE COMMUNITY MEETING TO ADDRESS CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The SCRA will welcome Ernesto Cárdenas, Commissioner of the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works, to speak at its upcoming June 9 Community Meeting. The mission of the Board of Public Works is to support and enhance a high quality of life for the City's residents, businesses and visitors by providing well planned, environmentally sensitive, cost effective infrastructure and services to promote public health, personal safety, transportation, economic growth and civic vitality.

(Continued, Page 2)

(Community Meeting, cont'd)

Cárdenas was confirmed by the Los Angeles City Council for a position on the Board of Public Works on June 13, 2007. He is an accomplished mechanical engineer with extensive experience in project management, infrastructure programs, contractor relations and government affairs. Not a newcomer to city commissions, Cárdenas served on three different boards from 2000 through 2005. Former Mayor Richard Riordan appointed him to the North Valley Area Planning Commission in 2000 where he worked on the area's issues regarding land use, conservation and zoning regulations. As a member of the Board of Public Works, Cárdenas serves as Board liaison to the Bureau of Street Services and back-up liaison to the Bureau of Contract Administration.

CAMPBELL HALL TO EXPAND AND UPGRADE CAMPUS

Campbell Hall's headmaster, The Reverend Julian P. Bull, addressed SCRA members and guests at the SCRA May Community Meeting about the status of the school's planned expansion. Currently in the public comment period of its implementation plan, the school will add three buildings over a period of time, not to expand enrollment - which is capped at 1,200 students - but with the goal of upgrading and improving traffic flows. The expansion will include two levels of underground parking as well as arts and general purpose classrooms in the first phase, followed by construction of a 650-seat auditorium in the second phase and an additional gym and swimming pool in the third phase.



Campbell Hall will install a traffic light. The school is also encouraging car pools and the use of public transportation.

According to Bull, the project is also designed to help increase awareness of Campbell Hall within the community. A capital campaign with a \$25 million target is currently underway. Bull hopes to break ground within a year with an estimated 18 months for construction.

The first public hearing for the expansion will happen in June. SCRA members will be notified about meeting details via the SCRA's "News & Notes" e-blast.

Traffic mitigation comes along with the first phase of the plan. Bull explained mitigations currently proposed, including the ingress and egress of parent drop-off at the gate next to the Tujunga wash, south of Landale on Laurel Canyon Blvd., where

SCRA TAKES ON BIG SUNDAY IN A BIG WAY

Campbell Hall Mounts Multiple Projects

Once again, Campbell Hall teamed with Studio City Beautification, the Village Gardeners and The River Project to improve Studio City during Big Sunday, the largest regional community service

event in America. For the Village Gardeners, students turned out to help restore the natural habitat along the Los Angeles River at Fulton Avenue. For the River Project, freshmen adeptly repainted Toad Gate to Valleyheart Greenway at Laurel Canyon Blvd.



On campus, the school hosted recycling of obsolete electronics, collected worn athletic shoes to be recycled into rubberized track surfaces and collected clothing for the needy. Younger students manned lemonade stands to benefit Shane's Inspiration, which builds accessible playgrounds for children with disabilities.

The leadership at Campbell Hall deserves great credit for their extraordinary push behind Big Sunday with Studio City the beneficiary.

SCRA Teams With the Girl Scouts for Studio City Senior Clean-up

In a pilot program for what may become a yearly activity, the SCRA partnered with the Girl Scouts of Los Angeles and Big Sunday to host Studio City Senior Clean-up. Senior residents, age 70 and up, were invited to submit projects they needed help with around their homes, such as yard work, garage clean-up, painting, etc. More than 40 volunteers, led by Senior Girl Scout Jillian Goodman, washed windows, painted and varnished fences, cleaned garages and removed hazardous waste at the homes of ten seniors in the community. Goodman managed the project for her Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. Studio City resident Bud Vanatta, whose mother benefitted when a group of volunteers painted the fence in her yard, said, "You guys were a godsend. Not only did the team do a great job, but they did their work with a great attitude. They were terrific."



NEIGHBORS - THE BEST CRIME DETERRENT

In last month's SCRA newsletter, Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis showed proof that despite the best efforts by police to hunt down criminals and arrest them, incarceration time is

(Continued, Page 3)

(Neighbors, cont'd)

often minimal for thieves in Los Angeles. As a result, preventing crime is the first, best step. The best way to prevent crime is for residents to be aware of suspicious behavior and the potential for crime in their neighborhoods. Neighborhood Watches are one avenue to educate neighbors on how to stay informed and alert.

The Studio City Residents Association provides information about how to start a Neighborhood Watch and provides templates to help manage the process, as well as links to other helpful tools. Visit the Crime and Safety page of the SCRA web site: www.studiocityresidents.org/crime_safety. Residents should also consider regularly visiting the LAPD web site at www.lapdcrimemaps.org to view information about recent crimes in the area. Informed and proactive neighborhoods are the safest ones.

BREAKING NEWS

Who Is Butchering Our Trees?

A number of trees along Ventura Blvd. have recently been horribly disfigured. The cost of installing these trees and the subsequent watering and pruning by licensed landscapers at the proper time is paid for by either the Business Improvement District or the Studio City Beautification Association (an affiliate of the SCRA). The trees in question are being investigated by the City in an attempt to identify who is responsible since the unauthorized pruning is tantamount to vandalism. Trees are one of the street elements that make Studio City not only aesthetically pleasing, but help create a climate and ambience that is great for businesses and residents. If anyone has information about what happened to the trees or believes specific street trees are not getting the pruning or care they need, please contact the SCRA office and leave a message with the tree's location.



Parking Meter Update

In response to member demands, and after three meetings with Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office, the SCRA, together with SCNC, the merchant representatives, the Studio City Business Improvement District and the Chamber of Commerce, reached an agreement there will be no parking fees on Sundays along Ventura Blvd. Since the new signs and meter adjustments are currently underway, drivers should follow posted requirements until the changes are made and are in place.

Colfax Bridge Update

At a May 19, 2009 meeting, City representatives made a presentation concerning the demolition and construction of the bridge at Colfax. A major concern expressed was who is going to be responsible for any damage to the homes since homes were damaged during the Moorpark Bridge reconstruction.



TO THE MARKET

With summer approaching, Studio City Farmers Market shoppers are seeing the arrival of wonderful stone fruits. While cherries arrived first, apricots and apriums (a cross

between a plum and an apricot) are soon to follow. Next come peaches, plums, nectarines and pluots. Shoppers who support local farmers not only help the environment, but will enjoy better-tasting produce. Look for Tennereli Farms' return to the market. During the hot summer months, the Soup Guy will be selling refreshing chilled gazpacho and a variety of fresh salads.

While there was no clear answer given, the City is planning to undertake a survey of homes prior to the start of construction. The design does not call for driven piles for the foundations, but piles will be installed by drilling and pouring concrete into the drilled holes. No other "driving" methods will be used for the remainder of the work. Traffic rerouting signage will be installed in July of this year prior to the October start of demolition. The footbridge will remain open except for those times during construction when pedestrian safety is compromised. The City will have a web site with additional information and the SCRA web site (www.studiocityresidents.org) will have a link to the City web site. Anyone with project-related questions should call the Bridge Improvement Program at 213-202-5595. Traffic-related questions should be directed to 213-928-9969. The SCRA will continue to update members via the "News & Notes" e-blast and in future issues of this newsletter.

IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

Studio City Recreation Center Summer Camp

Registration is now open for camp registration. Camp runs from June 22 - September 4, 2009, Monday-Friday for \$180 a week and Monday-Wednesday-Friday only for \$125 a week. Extended day care is available for additional fees. Studio City Recreation Center, 12621 Rye Street, Contact Adam Monick, Park Director at 818-769-4415.

Studio City Branch Library

Friends of the Studio City Library present New York Times best-selling fantasy fiction author, Cornelia Funke, on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Funke's [Inkheart](#), [Inkswell](#) and the final book in the trilogy, [Inkdeath](#), are among the most popular children's books of all time. The event is free with books available for purchase courtesy of Book Events.

Book Sale: Saturday, June 27, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please bring your own bags or boxes for purchases.

Book Donations: Every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The library also accepts CD's, DVD's, videos and audio tapes.

Children's Book Club

Children's Book Club meets Wednesday, June 10, from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. Call 818-755-7873 for the title of the book or email Barbara at bmetzenb@lapl.org.

NEWS ABOUT THE OVERLAY

Over the years, the SCRA has expressed concerns, as have other communities, about overbuilding on small lots, commonly referred to as "Mansionization." In response to these events, the SCRA provided a plan, called an overlay, to address this problem. The Los Angeles City Planning Department divided the areas of concern into four stages, including:

Flatland Single Family Residential Properties

The Flatland Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (FBMO), which took effect last June, allowed homes to be no larger than 50 percent of the lot size square footage. This ordinance has a provision that allows a further reduction of approximately 40 percent. The Planning Department is currently drafting the requisite paperwork to enable this reduction and will set up a community meeting, which is mandated by the codes. The SCRA will advise members via its "News & Notes" e-blast of the time and place of the meeting as soon as that information is available. If the reduction is approved, Studio City will be the second community in all of Los Angeles (after the Sunland/Tujunga flatlands) to enact a reduction over and above the provisions of the FBMO.

Hillside Single Family Residential Properties

In February, the City Planning Department began the process to enact a Hillside Baseline Mansionization Ordinance similar to the flatland ordinance. Highlights of this ordinance include many of the same items as those in the flatland ordinance, plus further reductions depending on the increase in the slope of the grade. If the grade is 20 percent, the City Council will be asked to vote that lots south of Ventura with less than a 20 percent grade will be considered a flatland designation (see above), which will put

these lots under the existing flatland ordinance.

Multi-Residential Properties

The City Planning Department has not been able to provide an avenue for tackling the height and massing problems with condos and apartments. However, there is an opportunity to take advantage of a planning program called a "Community Plan Implementation Overlay" (CPI). Similar to a Specific Plan, but easier to enact, the CPI has to be ready for the next time the Community Plan comes up for review. The CPI overlay will, among other things, bring the maximum height of condos and apartments down to 36 feet from 45 feet and allow building on 75 percent of the lot size square footage. Subterranean setbacks (garages) from property lines would allow trees to be planted and thrive around the entire perimeter of the building, much like the vanishing garden apartments that are regrettably being lost. There would be 2 3/4 minimum required parking spaces for every unit.

Commercial Properties

The "Community Plan Implementation (CPI) Overlay" for commercial properties outside the Ventura/Cahuenga Boulevard Specific Plan will be utilized. These properties lie at the intersections of Moorpark Street with Tujunga Avenue, Colfax Avenue, Laurel Canyon Boulevard, Whitsett Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Avenue. This CPI overlay would, among other things, standardize these intersections with the current Tujunga Village height limit of 30 feet and floor area ratio of 1.5:1. The exception will be the Universal/Metro Station property located at Ventura/Lankershim. A separate challenge is being mounted to this proposed development by many community organizations including the SCRA.

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.*

BROKEN: Abandoned construction site at 11448 Canton Drive. The fence securing the property was removed around the first of May. On May 5, the SCRA notified Inspector Cochran at the Department of Building and Safety of the hazard. On May 12, 2009, Inspector Cochran phoned the SCRA with a status report. He has tried to contact the developer with no success and the Architect, William Hefner, has not returned his phone call. He will continue to search the records for the current owner of the property.

NEARLY FIXED: In front of this same location there are four or five potholes that are more than one foot deep. On May 12, the SCRA phoned Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office and was told her office would take care of this problem.

NEARLY FIXED: The parking pay station on Ventura Blvd. in front of Good Earth was malfunctioning on May 12, 2009. The pay station would not accept credit cards or quarters. The problem was reported to Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office, and a report will be made of the malfunction.

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

COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

By Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis

The Senior Lead Office of the LAPD's North Hollywood Division tracks four specific crimes called repressible crimes, including Burglary from Motor Vehicle, Burglary/Residential or Commercial, Grand Theft Auto and Robbery (taking of property by the use of force or fear). These crimes are selected since it is LAPD's belief that Senior Lead Officers teamed with the community can have an impact on these crimes. April's numbers include:

29	Burglary from Motor Vehicle
8	Burglary/Residential or Commercial
13	Grand Theft Auto
2	Robbery
<hr/>	
52	Total

Studio City has seen a reduction in burglaries; in fact, the numbers are the lowest they have been in about seven years. The community usually averages approximately 30 residential or commercial burglaries per month versus the eight in April 2009. Burglary from Motor Vehicle crimes include suspects targeting subterranean parking garages, with a number of break-ins along Bluffside Drive and just south of Moorpark

between Whitsett and Coldwater Canyon. iPod's and GPS systems left in cars are prime targets.

The LAPD continues to need help from the community in reporting crimes and suspicious activity. Residents who want to start a Neighborhood Watch are invited to contact Officer Lewis, who will attend the meeting, pass out crime maps, talk about crime trends in the neighborhood and discuss possible suspects and vehicle descriptions.

ASK THE SCRA

Editor's Note: Email your community questions to scraboard@studiocityresidents.org

Q: What is the road work taking place on Ventura Blvd. between Radford and Carpenter for and who is paying for it?

SCRA: This road work is for a landscaped median to be installed at this location. It will be built and installed in accordance with the Ventura Blvd. Specific Plan that directs which plants and trees will be used. Research has shown these medians improve localities visually and have the added benefit of slowing traffic. The median is being paid for by the Studio City Business Improvement District.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

There are three items of interest to report this month.

#1: On May 24, 2009, the SCRA held its First Annual Studio City Community Barbeque and Roundup. This newsletter went to press before the event took place; however, if all went as planned, Wendy Greuel's office presented us with a plaque commemorating the occasion, and several prominent politicians stopped by, including County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. The event was a fundraiser for Save Los Angeles River Open Space (SLAROS) and Studio City Beautification (SCBA). Net proceeds from the event will help these two organizations in their efforts to add improvements to our neighborhood and to continue the fight to preserve the open space at Ventura Blvd. and Whitsett. The event marks the first time the SCRA attempted anything of this scale. We learned many lessons about what worked, where improvements could be made and what to do differently next time. Depending on how successful we were and the feedback we get, the Roundup may become an annual event. A great big thank you to the members of SLAROS, SCBA and SCRA, who put in many hours organizing and performing physical labor. A special thank you to Anita Hirsh who generously allowed SCRA to use her beautiful ranch on Laurel Canyon and for the financial contribution she made that helped make the event happen; it couldn't have been done without her.

#2: The SCRA is pleased to welcome Todd Royal as a liaison to the SCRA on transportation matters. Todd is the Chair of the Studio City Neighborhood Council's Transportation Committee and has been actively involved in Studio City affairs for many years. The SCRA is lucky to have Todd work with us to coordinate efforts by the two organizations.

#3: The SCRA and the SCNC have many areas of common interest. Case in point is traffic issues. The SCRA represents the residents of Studio City, while SCRA represents all stakeholders, including homeowners, residents, business owners, social organizations and others as an adjunct to and advisor to City Council with certain privileges. Both of our organizations recognize the impact of traffic to our community. It affects all who physically move through Studio City whether by car, public transportation or even on a bike. This united effort may be just the beginning. In the coming months, the SCRA will be reaching out to the SCNC to discuss other areas of common interest. SCNC's president, Ben Neumann, has expressed interest in furthering our discussions.

I will continue to keep you posted.





MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Meeting Starts at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda

7:00 p.m. Light refreshments

**7:30 p.m. Presentation by Ernesto
Cárdenas, Commissioner of
the City of Los Angeles
Board of Public Works on
City Infrastructure**

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.*



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

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Kathy Hassett, Steve Hirsh, Art Howard
SaveLARiverOpenSpace@studiocityresidents.org

School Liaisons

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Oakwood - Tammy Lundgren
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

Studio City Farmer's Market

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

Newsletter

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