



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

November 2009

INSIDE:

CD2 Candidates Debate Page 2

Holiday Parade Update Page 2

Coldwater Construction Page 2

Action on Marijuana Dispensaries ... Page 2

Burglaries in the Donas and the Silver
Triangle Page 5

STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION presents



Stars Shine Bright

December 6, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Ventura Blvd. from Whitsett to Laurel Cyn.

Music, Merriment, Floats from Local Schools and the Community and More!

For more information or to be a sponsor or participant, contact the parade coordinator at studiocityholidayparade@gmail.com or call 818-990-0722.

SCRA HOSTS FIRST POST-ELECTION DEBATE BETWEEN CD2 RUNOFF CANDIDATES



City Council District 2 runoff candidates Paul Krekorian, Assembly member for the 43rd District, and Christine Essel, former senior vice president for Paramount



Pictures, participated in their first post-election debate at the October SCRA Community Meeting. Questions submitted in advance and during the debate by the community were posed to the candidates by SCRA member and Save LA River Open Space Co-Director, Kathy Hassett, during a 90-minute session. In opening remarks, Krekorian acknowledged the activism of Studio City and suggested his local and state level policy-making experience was a complement to the community's efforts. Essel focused on the combination of her business experience and role as a community advocate as potential contributions to the City Council position.

Both candidates were asked for their views on the proposed NBC/Universal development at the MTA site on Lankershim. Essel suggested the project needed to be downsized, but in a way that still allowed for production jobs to come into the community. Krekorian outlined his opposition to the project and its impacts to the community and said he would "...stand opposed unless the immitigable impacts are addressed." Both indicated opposition to SB1818 when discussing the idea of slowing efforts to replace single family homes with larger development. Krekorian suggested the "need to have reasonable restrictions on square footage and ratio to lot size so Studio City retains the village character that used to exist in neighborhoods throughout the Valley." Essel said, "The City Planning Department needs a checklist for better fit of SB1818 developments." She indicated she would work with the State assembly members to get the bill rescinded if need be.

Speaking about efforts to save the Weddington Golf & Tennis property as open space, Essel said City Council should deny any zone change requests, while Krekorian suggested the Save LA River Open Space alternate plan is an environmentally sound model of what the City needs to do to preserve open space.

SUPPORT THE ANNUAL LAPD TOY AND FOOD DRIVE

The Studio City Residents Association will again be collecting new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items for the annual LAPD Holiday Toy and Food Drive. The officers collect these items to distribute to children in need across the North Hollywood Division. Please remember to bring items for collection to SCRA's November and December Community Meetings.

SCRA WELCOMES HOLIDAY PARADE TO STUDIO CITY

Participants and sponsors are lining up to be involved in this year's "Studio City Holiday Parade: Stars Shine Bright" on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. The parade will travel down the traditional route along Ventura Blvd., from Whitsett Ave. to Laurel Canyon. This year's parade will outshine those of prior years with more music and new parade entries, bringing holiday excitement to the community. To encourage creative entries, the SCRA has added the following award categories: Best Overall, Best Match to Theme, Best School Entry and Best Use of Special Effects - Sound, Animation, and Lighting.

The SCRA thanks sponsors already on board, including CBS Studio Center, the Studio City Improvement Association, the Rotary Club of Sherman Oaks and Studio City, the Studio City Neighborhood Council, Tutor Doctors and JJKO Designs (who graciously designed the new parade logo). To become a sponsor and/or participate in the parade, please contact Ann Husvar, parade coordinator, at studiocityholidayparade@gmail.com or 818-980-0722.

The SCRA is looking for convertibles to be used to transport our elected officials and other personalities down the parade route. If you have a convertible and would like to show it off during the parade, please contact the parade coordinator (818-990-9722). The SCRA will provide banners for the vehicle with your name or business.

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

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

Regulation Of Medical Marijuana Collectives: The SCRA board passed a motion to support the proposed ordinance scheduled to come before the City Council to regulate and enforce California laws regarding marijuana collectives in accordance with the Medical Marijuana Program Act (2003), i.e., compassionate use for medical purposes.

Coldwater Canyon Blvd. Construction: From November 2009 to May 2010, Coldwater Canyon will be reduced to one lane each way from Valleyheart Drive to Bloomfield Street. Inquiries can be made about traffic mitigation measures. SCRA members will be kept updated via the SCRA's News & Notes eblast.

Universal Evolution Plan at Lankershim: Two SCRA Board members attended a presentation by Universal on the proposed development since they have seats on a separate board known as Communities United for Smart Growth. They reported there were changes from the plan that was touted more than a year ago. Neither the SCRA nor the Studio City Neighborhood Council were invited to this presentation, nor were other surrounding communities that will be affected by this expansion. The SCRA Board took the position this development is so large that it impacts all surrounding community organizations, and the association should be invited to be part of the decision making process.

ASK THE SCRA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Email your community questions to scraboard@studiocityresidents.org

Q: Can you tell us whom to contact regarding homeless in our neighborhood?

SCRA: The SCRA called 311 and was connected to the Homeless Services Authority (HSA) (213) 683-3333. The SCRA explained the problem and was connected to the Emergency Response Group of HSA. After speaking to an employee there, the SCRA was informed the group would be able to take care of the problem. HSA acted swiftly, and the problem was resolved. However within a couple of days, more homeless people were seen at this corner. The SCRA called and again swift action was taken.

(Dialing 311 connects you to an extremely successful program in the City of LA where a live operator listens to your problem and connects you to the proper City agency.)

SCRA ELECTIONS 2010: OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following candidates as SCRA officers for the term 2010: Alan Dymond, President; Mark Batterman and Bonnie Goodman, Executive Vice Presidents; Claudia Freedle, Administrative Vice President; Laura McKenzie, Treasurer; Connie Elliot, Secretary. Additional names as officers may be proposed by any regular SCRA member in accordance with the bylaws as follows: "Article 7 Section 7.5 Nominations by Petition: In addition to names proposed by the Nominating Committee, any person residing in the household who is a Regular Member may be nominated as an Officer by a written petition bearing the original signatures of at least twenty five (25) Regular Members received at the principal office of the Association not later than December 1 of such year. If the Nominating Committee nominates only one (1) candidate for any elective office, and if no nominations by petition for such office are received, such candidate of the Nominating Committee shall be deemed elected, without the necessity of balloting." A Regular Member is defined as a household located in Studio City with one vote per household.

NOVEMBER SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING TO SPOTLIGHT LA RIVER POTENTIAL

The November SCRA Community Meeting will feature a presentation by Carol S. Armstrong, Ph D., Project Manager and Environmental Supervisor, Bureau of Engineering, Public Works for the City of Los Angeles. Armstrong will present details on the City's plans to reinstate the Los Angeles River as a viable integrated element of life in Los Angeles. This presentation is timely for all who are concerned about the status of Weddington Golf & Tennis since the current vision for



TO THE MARKET

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, it's time to start planning holiday meals and get-togethers. The Studio City Farmers Market has all the freshest fall vegetables available. It's peak season for root vegetables and all the different varieties of squash, which are great for the soups and stews that are excellent to eat in the cooler weather. New to the market is Menos Farm, an organic farmer from Riverside County, who has a wide array of produce. Also look for Nan of Nangarine, who bakes unique and sinfully-delicious cookies. Studio City Farmers Market vendors also have unique holiday gifts, and all purchases help support the local economy.

A recent survey of visitors to the Studio City Farmers Market indicated people from twenty different postal zones visit the market. The top two areas represented were 91604 and 91607. The survey showed the Studio City Farmers Market attracts visitors from all across the San Fernando Valley and even some from over the hill.

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.

the site is in close alignment with plans to revitalize the River. It is also important given the challenges posed by plans for high-speed rail to those who want to preserve the River and adjacent open space.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at the Beverly Garland Holiday Inn, 4222 Vineland Avenue. There are light refreshments at 7:00 p.m. with the presentation at 7:30 p.m.

NEW BENCH AT FIRE STATION 78 HONORS WENDY GREUEL



Last year SCRA gave the "Studio City Cares Award" to then City Council Member Wendy Greuel and presented the award in the form of a brass plaque. The fire station on Whitsett Avenue was the

location chosen for installation of the plaque. Coincidentally, in earlier conversations with station personnel, the firefighters indicated a bench outside the fire station would be most welcome. Through the generosity of Larry Casey, who works for the company that provided the benches on Ventura Blvd, the bench was donated. The sales tax and transportation costs were covered by then Council member Greuel. The bench has been delivered, and the firefighters poured the concrete foundation.

Greuel's honorary plaque was installed on her behalf on October 13, 2009 at the fire station in conjunction with other

(Continued, Page 4)

(Fire Station, cont'd)

scheduled work. Battalion Chief Peter Benesch offered some interesting historical facts about benches outside fire stations. Once called "floor watch benches," these benches were not provided for locals to sit and visit with the fire department personnel. Rather, in the days before telephones, the purpose of the floor watch bench was to have a firefighter positioned outside, conditions permitting, so anyone who wanted to report a fire, accident or other similar emergency had a defined place to go to report the incident. Now, this new bench will remind Studio City residents and guests of times past and provide a place to rest during a morning walk.

In a related note, the clock above the station's stained glass window is still out of commission. Mark Levy, the designer of the stained glass, said the clock is linked electronically to the station, but there are some bugs still being addressed.

STAY UPDATED ON SAVE LA RIVER OPEN SPACE ACTIVITIES

Save LA River Open Space has added a new feature to its web site, www.savelariver.org. Visit the site and click the link on the home page to see **Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**.

BREAKING NEWS

Radford Place/Ventura Blvd. Intersection

Our members have raised concerns about the intersection at Radford Place and Ventura Blvd., where southbound traffic on Radford turning left to go east on Ventura Blvd. meets traffic exiting the parking lot at Trader Joes. The SCRA checked with the City Council office and learned this set of traffic signals was scheduled to be reorganized in the coming months during the present fiscal year. The plans include providing a left turn signal for traffic going east on Ventura and turning south on Radford. In light of the concerns, the council office has requested the Department of Transportation review the situation and consider whether additional improvements to this intersection should be made.



LAUSD Task Force Considers Electronic School Marquees

Subsequent to a motion by LAUSD Board member Tamar Galatzan, Raymond Cortines, Los Angeles School

(Continued, Page 5)

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.

TREE STUMPS: In the Woodbridge Park area and along Tujunga Avenue, there is a growing proliferation of tree stumps that are capped with bright, orange traffic cones. These cones are unsightly and add to the visual blight already caused by the tree stumps.

Solution: The SCRA contacted Urban Forest East Valley and passed on the following information to the SCRA member who reported the problem:

1. Write down the addresses and the number of stumps at each address.
2. Call 311, and the operator will take a report and provide a reference number.
3. In a couple of days, after you receive the reference number, call Urban Forest East Valley (818) 756-8755. The office hours are 7:00-9:00 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. (there is no answering machine). With the reference number, Urban Forest can provide information on what will be done to remove the stumps and replant.

COMMERCIAL TRUCKS ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS: On Decente Drive, two big white commercial trucks were parked for long periods of time without being used, taking valuable parking spots and creating an eyesore. These trucks also blocked the view for cars turning corners on this hillside street.

Solution: SCRA Land Use Chair, Art Howard, communicated with City Council deputy, Evan Roosevelt, who contacted the Department of Transportation. The Department marked the trucks for possible tickets/towing; the owner got the message and moved them.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS REPAIR: The sidewalk on Woodbridge Street between Bakman and Elmer is in great need of repair.

Action Taken: The SCRA provided information to the reporting SCRA member on how to proceed with the City. The member spoke to LA Street Maintenance Department (800-996-2489) on September 10, 2009. She was given a confirmation number of 09058420 and will call back periodically to find out when maintenance is scheduled.

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

(Breaking News, cont'd)

Superintendent, convened a task force to develop a reference guide for schools that use marquee neon signage on campus. The SCRA was invited to a seat on the task force, and Board Member Beth Dymond attended the first session on October 15, 2009. According to Dymond, items under consideration by the group include the intensity of lighting and flashing cycles, placement of signs, operating times, traffic safety issues and other concerns. Further meetings are scheduled in the coming months; the superintendent will report the findings and recommendations of the task force to the LAUSD Board.

IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

Studio City Library

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

Book Sale: Saturday, November 28, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please bring bags or boxes for purchases of books, videos and DVDs.

Campo de Cahuenga Celebration

January 10, 2010, 11:51 a.m., Campo de Cahuenga, 3919 Lankershim Blvd. at MTA station. The annual celebration re-enacts 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.

Colfax Meadows Tree Planting Project/Kraft Avenue Street Tree-Planting Event

Saturday, November 21, 2009, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Join volunteers and neighbors to plant trees and learn how to have trees planted on local streets. Meet at the corner of Kraft Avenue and Valley Spring Lane for information and tree planting followed by food, music and fun for the kids.

COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

By Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis

While overall crime numbers in Studio City look really good, there have been recent problems with burglaries in the Silver Triangle and in the Donas.

Silver Triangle

On Friday, October 9, 2009, at approximately 1:00 p.m., a van pulled up to a house on the 12100 block of Maxwellton Rd. The homeowner saw a suspect begin to walk towards the house. The homeowner was aware of recent burglaries in the area and was particularly cautious. He walked to his living room window to get a better look at the suspect and was met by the suspect looking through the same window. The homeowner yelled, "What do you want!" The suspect said he was looking for Johnny. The homeowner told him he did not know a Johnny, and the suspect quickly walked back to the van and drove away.

(Continued, Page 6)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

I often wonder why people who need information tend to seek it from others who do not have correct information to pass on or why information received gratuitously is taken on faith. It is then passed on as if it were true, and, in the process, the "telephone" game kicks in, and information is unwittingly distorted. In the September SCRA newsletter, the SCRA board report said [in reference to the application by the new tenants at the old Gaucho Grill] that SCRA opposed the owner's requests for extended hours past midnight, live music outside with disk jockeys and an entertainment license for 365 days/year. These three items comprised the full extent of SCRA's concerns; the board opposed only those parts of the application. So, when I was approached recently and asked why the SCRA opposed a restaurant going in at this location, why the SCRA was opposed to the full liquor license and didn't SCRA know that Studio City needs good restaurants etc., I had to wonder where this incorrect information was coming from. Of course, when pressed, people respond vaguely at best. But it is frustrating when the correct information has already been disseminated to our members.

Also, another case in point is the new dog grooming/boarding facility going in at what used to be King's Western Wear. I was asked why SCRA opposed this change in use. The SCRA filed a response to address the concerns of members who live across the alley from the facility and the potential for barking dogs. The SCRA raised these concerns before the hearing officer but did not oppose this change of use other than to ask for remediation measures to address the potential for noise.

The SCRA board does not act unilaterally; the board listens to SCRA members. The board asks our members in need of information to call or email the SCRA office. Please don't rely on second-hand sources..

Finally, a member asked about putting a turn signal where the south bound traffic on Radford going east meets the traffic exiting from the Trader Joe's lot as cars are trying to turn west. When the SCRA asked about this problem, we were told there is a left-hand turn arrow scheduled to be installed for east going traffic on Ventura turning north onto Radford. In conversations with the City Council District 2 office, we discussed this extra left-turn signal, which will now be brought to the attention of the Department of Transportation. Would you like to know who is paying for these improvements? Stay tuned: rely only on the SCRA to give you the correct story.

Alan Dymond



MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Agenda

7:00 p.m. Light refreshments

7:30 p.m. Carol S. Armstrong, Ph.D.,
Project Manager and
Environmental Supervisor,
Bureau of Engineering,
LA City Dept. of Public Works
on the future of the LA River.

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.*



(Crime Report, cont'd)

The homeowner ran out of his house, jumped into his car and began following the van. He called the police and, as luck would have it, the air unit was close by and heard the radio call of a victim following a possible burglary suspect. The air unit quickly picked up the suspect's van (communications told the victim to stop following) and followed until there were enough black and white units to conduct a felony traffic stop.

There were four people in the van, along with gloves, map books, chisels and crow bars. All suspects were booked for attempted burglary. Congratulations to the homeowner for his diligence.

As of mid-October, there have been **no other burglaries in the Silver Triangle area.**

The Donas

On Tuesday, October 13, 2009, a burglary occurred in the 11400 block of Dona Theresa at about 4:30 p.m. The suspect(s) entered the house via an unlocked rear sliding glass door. The suspect took a video game system and games and was scared off by a house alarm.

Officers discovered two houses on the street that had video surveillance cameras. Both homeowners are making a copy of footage from the cameras that were directed towards the street with the goal of officers finding a suspect walking up and down the street or a vehicle description to pursue.

Remember to keep your eyes and ears open in your neighborhood. 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.