



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Your Advocate for Studio City

October 2011

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## WALK ALONG THE RIVER GETS EVEN BETTER

New improvements in the East Valley along the Los Angeles River are helping to unify segments of the river walk, making it easier to bicycle, walk or run without having to make major detours. Here are the details:

**SOUTH BANK:** Funds are now dedicated to improve the south bank of the Los Angeles River between Whitsett Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Blvd. Work will consist of landscaping and development of a bicycle and pedestrian path, starting at Radford and continuing across Laurel Canyon Blvd. with access at Whitsett Avenue. Sportsman's Lodge cooperated with the project, giving up certain rights so access at the Coldwater Canyon Blvd. entrance will remain in perpetuity. Design work for the project has been completed. However, since the land is part of the flood control district, the project is now before Los Angeles County authorities for final review and comment.

**NORTH BANK:** Plans to improve the north river bank opposite Whitsett Avenue to Coldwater Canyon Blvd. are in the initial stage (see photo). Potential improvements include a pedestrian path through what is called an "urban forest" of 3,000 native trees and shrubs, along with other upgrades. At present, the banks connected to the road are in bad shape with several failures, surface water overflow from the adjoining streets and poor protection at the river edge. The SCRA is partnering with many other non-profit groups and individuals in pursuit of grants under development by Community Conservation Solutions (also a nonprofit organization), which has identified two possible funding sources. The SCRA reports that many Studio City businesses, realtors, schools, churches and temples have offered letters of support, important to the grant application process.

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## COUNCILMEMBER JAN PERRY KICKS OFF SCRA MAYORAL CANDIDATE SPEAKERS SERIES



Mayoral Candidate Jan Perry spoke at the SCRA September Community Meeting, outlining her background and accomplishments. SCRA members asked questions on topics ranging from Farmer's Field (new stadium), billboards and the proposed development at NBC/Universal, Save LA River Open Space to Perry's view on the City Attorney's office.

Asked how she is different from other candidates, Perry said she speaks Spanish, is candid and unvarnished, has a nine-year body of work as well as a capacity to understand and listen.

Perry said the Farmers Field project would create 20,000 jobs, 40 percent of which will be permanent positions from higher management to minimum wage. The "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) with AEG for this project can be found at <http://downtownstadium.lacity.org> click on "Committee Documents." Perry also mentioned there may be two football franchises, and the stadium will be used for other events, such as concerts, etc. Traffic mitigation has yet to be discussed, including the radius of the mitigation, public transit and freeway ramps. According to Perry, the San Fernando Valley will benefit from additional monies coming into Los Angeles, which should help stabilize the city.

Regarding the Universal development, Perry explained she comes from a planning background and would be able to take a position at the end of the review process, once all reports have been completed.

(Continued, Page 2)

(Perry, cont'd)

On the LA River Natural Park concept, Perry supports Save LA River Open Space's request for Proposition "O" funds, which would go towards the acquisition of Weddington Golf and Tennis.

She also talked about billboards being grouped into "Supplemental Use Districts" for offsite billboards, a proposal that will be vetted in public hearings.

Perry would like to start a discussion about splitting the office of the city attorney to create an appointed position of administrative attorney for the City Council. Currently, the LA city charter requires the city attorney to be an elected position.

For more information about Jan Perry's candidacy for mayor, visit [www.JanPerry.com](http://www.JanPerry.com).

## FAITH IN THE PANTRY FOR FOOD



In the early 80s, two members of the Valley Interfaith Council (VIC), whose primary focus was providing emergency food and shelter to those in need, came to realize that there was a growing problem of hunger right in their own backyard. With the support of the VIC, Marj Luke and Florence Adler formed a small task

force to explore the feasibility of such a project by sending out postcards to neighboring congregations. Three others joined Marj and Florence at their first meeting to address this problem. Using the "interfaith" aspect of their group as a model, they developed a plan to establish a food pantry that would be entirely organized, operated and maintained by participating congregations. It would be an all-volunteer operation, including its board members.

The basement of Temple Beth Hillel became the storage and packing facility with a school room at First Christian Church of North Hollywood the distribution site. Today, the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry (NHIFP) is a coalition of eleven Jewish and Christian congregations, which provide foodstuffs to the unemployed, seniors, the disabled as well as homeless adults and children. More than half of the recipients have children.

The NHIFP is represented by Florence Adler from Temple Beth Hillel, Marj Luke from First Presbyterian Church, Eleanor Hirsch from Adat Ari El Synagogue, Mary Louise Smith from St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church, and Gilmer Reinhardt from First Christian Church. As Florence Adler said from the beginning, "The goal of the food pantry has always been to put ourselves out of business." That still has not happened and the pantry continues to distribute bags of staple foods two mornings a week, 52 weeks a year.

**The North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry will hold its 27th Annual Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving, Wednesday, November 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 6020 Radford Ave., North Hollywood 91606. This is a family service and is wheelchair accessible. There will be a reception following the service. Donations of staple foods or money are welcome and will benefit the pantry. For information, please call (818) 761-6124.**

## SUPPORT THE "ULTIMATE GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY EVENT" AT THE STUDIO CITY WINTER HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

For the first time, the SCRA, in concert with Studio City Recreation Center, will host a special free holiday celebration, complete with SNOW!! The event, called the Studio City Winter Holiday Festival, will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at Studio City Recreation Center (aka Beeman Park) from 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Open to the public, the festival will feature musical performances from area school bands and choirs plus entertainment by local musical artists; a snow field for sliding and making snowmen; arts and crafts; face painting; an antique car display; free photos with Santa and more. While the event is free, guests are asked to bring canned or packaged food for a food drive that will benefit underserved families in the community.

The Studio City Residents Association & The Studio City Recreation Center present



December 4th, 2011 1:30p - 5:30p

Volunteers are needed both for planning and day-of-event support. Interested parties should contact Ann Husvar at [annhusvar@keynoteeventsinc.com](mailto:annhusvar@keynoteeventsinc.com).

## BILLBOARD BLIGHT CONTINUES TO PLAGUE THE VALLEY

Guest Speaker Dennis Hathaway of the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight addressed the Hillside Federation on September 7, 2011 and reported that lobbyists for the billboard industry and development interests have mounted a behind-the-scenes attack on the sign ordinance passed by the City Planning Commission. According to Hathaway the version now before the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management committee (PLUM) makes a mockery of billboard and sign control by:

- Allowing hundreds of new billboards, super graphic wallscapes and digital signs without getting rid of a single billboard now blighting many communities and neighborhoods;
- Allowing commercial advertising in more than 400 city parks and other public properties; and
- Allowing digital business signage anywhere in the city without regard to light trespass in residences, traffic safety, excessive energy use or change in community character.

Hathaway said removing blight by taking down billboards has a real, quantifiable community benefit. He offered that parks are not a place to market movies, fast food, soft drinks and

(Continued, Page 3)



# TO THE MARKET

Fall is here and that means the end of stone fruit, but melon season is quickly approaching. Don't miss out on the mouthwatering pluots (try "Flavor Grenade," a beautiful greenish red fruit), nectarines and

plums before they are gone. Be sure to check out Island Farms' selection of stone fruit and congratulate the owners on their recently acquired organic certification. Try Ha's Apples' "Papaya" melon or "Persian" melon with a squeeze of lime. Feel free to stop at the market manager's table for more information about the Studio City Farmers Market.

The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Free parking is available at the CBS lot on Radford.

## (Blight, cont'd)

other products to a captive audience of young people and children.

According to Hathaway, members of the community can take action on this issue, including:

- Emailing or calling their city councilmember to urge opposition to the lobbyist-gutted sign ordinance;
- Attending the October 18 PLUM committee meeting when the ordinance is scheduled for a vote; and
- Visiting [www.banbillboardblight.org](http://www.banbillboardblight.org) and clicking the "red box" for more details and actions.

## 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:** I'd like to call your attention to an unsightly hazard on the west side of Whitsett Avenue between Moorpark and Sarah.

The ivy from the curb has grown into the sidewalk and in some sections has made it almost impassable. There is trash in the ivy and, of more concern, graffiti and tagging is starting to appear. Who is responsible for maintaining this sidewalk area, and what can be done about it? It's starting to look like an abandoned area and could impact the neighborhood.



**SCRA:** Geoff Yazzetta, field deputy from Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office, arranged for a volunteer group of teenagers called Clean & Green to clean up this section of Whitsett Avenue. As of this newsletter, all the ivy has been cut back, bagged and taken away. However, the problem of street trees being choked by the ivy remains. The SCRA is working with the council office to determine if Clean & Green has the equipment and the ability to remove the ivy. If not, another option is to request the City's street trees department to remove the ivy. A third option is to partner with the City to pick up some of the costs for an independent contractor to handle the removal. The SCRA has approached the Studio City Beautification Association for quotes on the cost of cleaning up this eyesore and saving the trees. Hopefully the community will see the results of this effort in the next couple of months.

**Q:** Potholes! Middle of Woodhill Canyon Road, Canton Drive or any street in Studio City. What should we do?

**SCRA:** A street services repair map identifies streets that are coded for repair in the council district. Woodhill Canyon Road and Canton Drive are "red" streets, which means they need to be completely removed and rebuilt. These streets are put on a list, and work is done when money becomes available. It is cheaper and faster to put a slurry coat on a street than to completely rebuild it. The good news is that the worst potholes on both Woodhill Canyon Road and Canton Drive were filled as a temporary measure.

## REGARDING FOLLOW UP ON TUJUNGA WASH

**From the SCRA member:** Wow!! I just took a look at the Tujunga Wash behind us, and it looks terrific! SO much better. Many thanks to you for helping us out with what had really become an eyesore! It is greatly appreciated.

**UPDATE ON COUNTY CONTACT FOR RIVER ISSUES:** In the September SCRA newsletter, the SCRA directed members to Ms. George for river issues. Ms. George is no longer the contact person. Inquiries should go to: Oliver Galang, PE, Sr. Civil Engineer | Section Head, LA River Watershed Section, Watershed Management Division | LA County Dept. of Public Works, office: 626.458.4341 | cell: 626.608.8385

**Q:** I've noticed for some months now that the parking lot south of CVS, Urban Outfitters and Bookstar on Ventura Blvd. is filthy with trash all over the place. Can something be done?

**SCRA:** Several members have complained about the problem of trash in the parking lot south of Ventura Blvd. off of Laurel Canyon Blvd. The SCRA called Lorena Parker, director of the Business Improvement District (BID). She informed the SCRA that she is working out solutions. The BID has two full-time people who do nothing else but pick up trash along Ventura Blvd. from Carpenter to Whitsett Avenue. The trash behind the stores is the responsibility of the renters of the commercial buildings. Some of the stores keep up their section of the lot, but others do not. When the wind blows, it creates a mess for the entire area. As a solution, the BID has instructed its trash collectors to go into this lot and pick up trash on their regular rounds. However, there are still large trash items that need to be dealt with on an ongoing basis, which the BID is addressing.

# STATE SENATOR FRAN PAVLEY MEETS WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

State Senator Fran Pavley held the third meeting of her advisory committee, which is designed to connect with communities across the Valley and to provide updates on legislation working its way through Sacramento. The committee is comprised of 24 community leaders, including the SCRA. Participants are encouraged to provide comments on pending legislation.

## Assembly Bill 52: To Prevent Health Insurers From Raising Rates with No Oversight By the State

AB 52, carried by Assembly member Mike Feuer, was passed and will be heard in the Senate during its next session. The bill would require a review of rate increases for health insurance sold in California either by the Department of Managed Health Care or the Department of Insurance. The bill would also prohibit the reviewing agency from approving any rate or rate change that is found to be excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory. Pavley made the point that auto insurers and homeowner insurance premiums are reviewed for fairness by the appropriate regulatory agency; therefore, there is no reason why health insurers should not also be regulated in a similar manner. The senators found that 35 states have such regulatory provisions, while 15 do not.

## Downtown Stadium and Expansion Of the Convention Center by AEG

Senator Pavley supported legislation to expedite the legal process for actions filed against proposed mitigation measures offered by developers of the proposed stadium. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will not be affected by this legislation, and the CEQA process will proceed in the normal manner. After the EIR, there are two remedies for disputing the mitigation outcome. One is mediation and the other is through the judicial process. The bill passed with support by Senator Pavley as it affects the judicial process only. Litigation would bypass the Superior Court and go directly to the Appellate Court, thus shortening the time it takes to obtain a resolution.

## Senate Bill 617: Analysis of Economic and Environmental Aspects for Any Regulatory Reform

Senators Pavley and Calderon authored this bill to provide a more creative way to combine environmental regulations with economic interests. Doing so would create a balanced approach to regulatory reform.

## In-State Workers for Stateside Projects

The committee discussed large projects going to out-of-state contractors with the out-of-state employees of these firms doing the work. Senator Pavley said the time has come to make changes to create more jobs in California.

(Riverwalk, cont'd)

**BICYCLE PATHS:** Federal funds to support further bicycle path improvements are available under TIGER grants. The SCRA is supporting an application by the Los Angeles City Council for funding from the TIGER grant program. If the Council is successful, funds awarded will be used to develop and increase the amount of bicycle paths, all in accordance with the terms of the grant. Some of the bicycle paths will be in the Studio City area, and talks are in progress, even absent the TIGER grant availability, to link the existing paths and tie them into other bicycle paths along the river and in and around the community.

**STATE HEARING ON LOS ANGELES RIVER:** State Senator Fran Pavley, chair of the Senate Committee of Urban Rivers, and Assembly member Felipe Fuentes, chair of the Assembly Select Committee on revitalization of the Los Angeles River and Pacoima Wash, will chair a hearing on Wednesday, October 12, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., to focus on the San Fernando Valley portion of the 51 mile-long L.A. River. Both the SCRA and its sister organization, Save LA River Open Space, will attend. The hearing will be held on the CBS lot on Radford, Building 8, Room #3. (Enter Gate A of the parking structure). Interested attendees must call or email Kara Seward in advance for a reservation and access to the CBS lot at (818-831-6082 or Kara.Seward@sen.ca.gov).

## SCRA TO HOST CONGRESSMAN HOWARD BERMAN



Please join the SCRA for a special meeting with U.S. Congressman Howard Berman at the November 8, 2011 SCRA Community Meeting. Congressman Berman will address two pieces of legislation he is currently sponsoring: one that focuses on making the curfew permanent at Bob Hope Airport, as well as one that addresses helicopter noise. Berman,

who has a long career as an elected official, spent time in the California State Assembly and became Assembly Majority leader, the youngest person ever to serve in that capacity. He was elected to Congress in 1982 and named to the Foreign Affairs and Judiciary Committees. He was born in Los Angeles and attended UCLA, where he received his B.A. in 1962 and his LL.B. in 1965.

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

## ANNUAL ELECTIONS FOR SCRA BOARD

The SCRA has formed a nominating committee to nominate candidates for its officers. The committee includes Alan Dymond, Martha Hanrahan, Steve Hirsh, Barry Johnson and Robin Seidel. Pursuant to SCRA bylaws, Alan Dymond, as president of the SCRA, is chair of the committee. No current officer or past president may serve on the committee.

Nominations for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer should be sent to the SCRA office on or before October 25, 2011. Contact the SCRA office at 818-509-0230 or SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org

## SCRA THANKS ITS OFFICE TEAM

The SCRA held a luncheon at La Loggia to thank its office workers for the many hours they volunteer. SCRA office volunteers respond to member inquiries, send out various mailings and update membership and email databases, among many other tasks. SCRA President Alan Dymond, Administrative Vice President Claudia Freedle and Board Member Beth Dymond attended in addition to the office team.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

*I recently spent time at the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) meeting when Bill Harmond, president of the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), made his presentation to the Council on the structure and performance of SCBA. I had the opportunity to observe how the SCNC conducts business. As SCNC is an elected body, it is part of the political structure of Los Angeles. As a result, it is bound by the Brown Act (open meetings with adequate public notice being given) and operates under Roberts Rules of Order.*

*How does this relate to the SCRA's activities? The SCRA is not bound by state- and city-mandated procedures. There are no formal rules, such as Roberts Rules of Order. This flexibility and lack of formal restraint is a great asset to the SCRA as it works on behalf of our members' interests. Frankly, it makes for a more relaxed way of doing business. Now that the time is approaching to elect officers of the SCRA for 2012 (each will have a seat on the board), why not think about joining us, if not as an officer, then as a board member?*

*SCRA board members focus on their area of interest. Some have a visible presence, while others work behind the scenes. Occasionally I hear passing comments from other community leaders that some of their prospective board members want to join just to be in the know on what is going on: I am happy to say that our SCRA board does not suffer from this; each is fully in the know and committed to the SCRA business.*

*Over the coming year, board positions will be opening up. Anyone interested should come to an SCRA board meeting to see if there is a place or activity that interests you. Be sure to tell us you are coming as space is limited. Contact us at SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org.*

*In other matters, the AEG downtown development has much political support and opposition to the way the agreement might be structured. What are the chances that taxpayers are going to end up paying for it, if not now, but later, in twenty or more years? And what about traffic? Dollars and gridlock are the prime issues for our members. Councilmember Krekorian is correct in asking questions and wanting more information. The SCRA is following this proposal very closely.*

*There is good news to report on moving the Studio City Floor Area Ratio forward. On September 13, 2011, the acting chair of the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) committee passed the item out of PLUM with the amendments presented from Council District 2 (the agreed RFA plan). There are a few technical steps that will move the item to the Planning Department and the City Attorney's office, which should be non-controversial steps. The departments will return to PLUM and the Council for the adoption of the final RFA ordinance. It has been a long road, but finally it looks as if there will be controls in place to stop massing and bulking without diminishing the property rights of all who live here.*

*Come join the SCRA board. We are indeed "your advocate for Studio City."*



## FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

### Police Activities League

The SCRA continues to support the Police Activities League annual luncheon and will be a sponsor of its upcoming event.

### Sidewalk Repairs

The SCRA will attend upcoming hearings scheduled before the joint committee and make public comment as appropriate on who will be obligated to pay for sidewalk repairs.

### Volunteers/Winter Holiday Festival/December 4, 2011

Adults and teens are needed to volunteer to support the SCRA's Winter Holiday Festival at Studio City Recreation Center (Beeman Park). Volunteers can join the planning committee now or work on the day of the event. Contact Ann Husvar at annhusvar@keynoteeventsinc.com.

### Residential Floor Area

The proposal supported by the SCRA and Councilmember Paul Krekorian was heard before the Planning and Land Use Management committee, and approval was recommended. The action now goes to the Planning Department and the City Attorney's office before it is submitted to the City Council.

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



OCTOBER 2011

Last Newsletter if Address Label Reads "6/11"  
Renew Today!

**No Community Meeting  
in October**

**Congressman Howard  
Berman at November 8  
Community Meeting**

**SCRA MEMBERSHIP ALERT**

If the address label on this newsletter shows "6/11," then the SCRA has not received your annual membership renewal for June/2011-June/2012. You will no longer receive this newsletter unless you renew your membership ASAP. To do so, please visit the SCRA website at [www.studiocityresidents.org](http://www.studiocityresidents.org) and renew on-line, or call the SCRA office at 818-509-0230 for a renewal application. Once again, October will be the LAST NEWSLETTER for all who have 2011 labels.

Membership in the SCRA has many benefits and helps strengthen the voice of all who live in Studio City. The SCRA is in the unique position to be heard by local, state and federal representatives and agencies. Given the size of the SCRA membership (one of the largest in Los Angeles), SCRA members have input and influence in the community.



**SCRA Committees**

Burbank Airport, Chair: Chris Barnes  
Crime and Safety  
Los Angeles River Committee  
Membership  
Overlay  
Planning and Land Use

**Officers**

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

**Board Members**

Barry Johnson  
Beth Dymond

Martha Hanrahan  
Steve Hirsh  
Art Howard  
Todd Royal  
Robin Seidel

**Immediate Past President**

Art Howard

**Beautification Association**

Bill Harmond, Executive Director  
Francesca Corra, Director  
Michael Klausman, Director

**Park Advisory Board Liaison**

Mark Batterman

**Director of Animal Welfare**

Robin Seidel

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

Co-Directors  
Laurie Cohn, Alan Dymond, Steve Hirsh,  
Art Howard, Patty Kirby  
[saveopenspace@SLAROS.org](mailto:saveopenspace@SLAROS.org)

**School Liaisons**

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

**Studio City Farmers Market**

Manager: Melody Dosch (818) 655-7744  
[studiocityfarmersmarket@yahoo.com](mailto:studiocityfarmersmarket@yahoo.com)

**Newsletter**

Editor: Bonnie Goodman  
Graphic Design: Kevin Lewis  
(818) 667-6647 [kevin@kevwlew.com](mailto:kevin@kevwlew.com)