



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

March 2010

INSIDE:

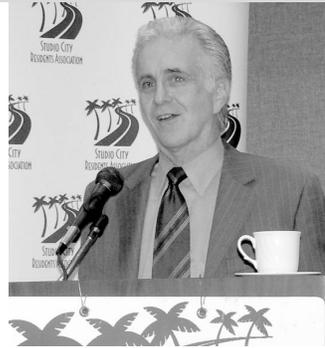
BevMo Decision **Page 3**

Crime Report **Page 3**

Trees Become Art **Back Panel**

KREKORIAN GREETES STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS AT FIRST SCRA MEETING APPEARANCE SINCE INAUGURATION

City Council Member Paul Krekorian addressed SCRA members and guests at the February SCRA Community Meeting, bringing residents up-to-date on the status of issues he is tackling since assuming the reigns of City Council District 2.



According to Krekorian, the marijuana ordinance will close down 85 percent of Los Angeles' marijuana outlets while keeping enough open to service the medical needs of patients. He expects many lawsuits will be brought against the City challenging the ordinance because those opposing it are well funded.

The City is in the worst budget crisis since the Great Depression, perhaps worse than has been reported. Years of spending in excess of receipts, coupled with a patchwork of fixes over the years, has led to the financial crisis. The recession has caused city revenue to drop off, leading to a \$200,000,000 deficit for the current year and anticipated deep cutbacks in city services. Potential revenue sources for some relief include the potential for federal stimulus funds and collections owed to the City that have gone unpaid, including fines and fees for code and ordinance violations. Krekorian welcomes suggestions on how to create income for the City and invited written suggestions be sent to: Councilmember.Krekorian@LACity.org

Krekorian has been appointed to four City Council committees, including:

- **Planning and Land Use Management:** This committee hears all the land use controversies in Los Angeles. The first action before this committee was a 140-unit, four-story building on Magnolia. The developer was taking advantage of SB1818, the "affordable housing ordinance," which gives height and density bonuses over the opposition of the local community. Krekorian had the matter moved to the City Council, which determined the project's traffic study was invalid and voted the project down.
- **Vice Chair of the Jobs & Business Development Committee:** This committee's focus is on jobs and getting Angelinos back to work. For example, for 15 years, Los Angeles has not been competitive with other states for TV and movie productions. As a California Assemblyman, Krekorian wrote a bill that gave certain entitlement to production companies. Los Angeles has already seen 60 projects that are now being filmed here instead of in alternate geographies. The committee is developing a list of venues around Los Angeles for industry projects, with plans to make the list large enough so filming does not impact one area alone but is spread out around the City. Krekorian said he is not satisfied with the concept of building more to create revenue for the City. He said the City needs sustainable jobs that will continue to bring in revenue.

(Continued, Page 2)

BEAUTIFICATION WINS GRANT DOLLARS

Once again, the SCRA's sister organization, the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), was an awardee for the Los Angeles Community Beautification Grant. The SCBA competes for these grant dollars with beautification projects throughout Los Angeles. There are about 80 projects that are awarded money from these limited funds. The SCBA will use this grant money to erect Welcome to Studio City monuments at Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Mulholland Drive and at Coldwater Canyon Blvd. and Mulholland Drive. The matching funds required by the grant will come from the SCRA.

(Krekorian, cont'd)

- Energy & Environment Committee: Krekorian proposed that this committee oversee the Department of Water & Power (DWP) contracts and rates with oversight by a ratepayer advocate, and the intent of reviewing contracts into which the DWP enters.
- Chair of the Education & Neighborhoods Committee: This committee will oversee local schools, the Neighborhood Councils and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Krekorian also discussed the state law known as the Speed Trap Law. According to this statute, if 85 percent or more drivers are surveyed going a certain speed on any given street, the speed limit of that street can be posted at the going speed. If the speed limit is not raised to the higher speed, then the police are not permitted to use radar to catch speeders and issue tickets. At the moment, both Riverside Drive and Chandler Blvd. are up for review.

Krekorian recommended looking into public/private partnerships to operate the public assets, such as the Los Angeles Zoo, the Los Angeles Convention Center and parking lots. He pointed out that other cities have adopted this arrangement quite profitably.

STUDIO OAKS MEDIAN NEARS COMPLETION

The water main break at Coldwater Canyon Blvd., south of Ventura, damaged the beautification project on the Studio

Oaks median. Work has resumed, and the final mulching has taken place. In addition to improving the look of the park and helping mitigate dust and mud, the mulch will conserve soil moisture, moderate soil temperature and suppress weed growth. Meanwhile, Public Works' Department workers have installed the last 10 percent of the eastern-most median's irrigation system.

Next comes grading of the median and replacement of decomposed granite and trex edging damaged by the water break. A final landscaping touch includes boulder placement and hardscaping.

CITY ATTORNEY CARMEN TRUTANICH TO ADDRESS MARCH SCRA MEETING



City Attorney Carmen Trutanich will address the SCRA Community Meeting in March with insights on such issues as marijuana, billboards and pending City layoffs. Trutanich has come out aggressively to regain control of the City's medical marijuana dispensaries with lawsuits and letters that claim they are in violation of

state law. He has also questioned the need to cut staff in his office. The SCRA Community Meeting will take place on March 9, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theater Room. Light refreshments and an opportunity to meet community members and neighbors begin at 7:00 p.m.

SCRA WATCH: WORKING FOR A BETTER STUDIO CITY

Editor's Note: In this space, we report about things that are broken or problems in our community, including information about who is responsible, what has been repaired and who in the City made it happen.

Dogs Bite and a Local Hero Emerges: An SCRA member was recently walking her dog along Valley Spring Road and Klump Avenue when she was attacked by two pit bulls and three boxers who escaped from an allegedly non-secure enclosure. The dogs bit her and her dog. A community member named Tom was driving by with his convertible top down and heard her screams. Without considering the danger to him, this Good Samaritan fought the dogs off until the owner could run with her injured dog to a safe place. She, her dog and Tom all suffered bites.

Action: Reports were made to Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis and to Animal Services. The SCRA asked the member to keep us informed. The SCRA is devoted to keeping our neighborhoods safe.

Parkway Trees Versus Solar Energy: The owner of 4426 Irvine Avenue has made a request to cut down three liquid amber trees on the lawn between the sidewalk and the street in order to install solar panels on a remodeled "green LEED" house. The home is eligible for solar energy incentive points from the Department of Water & Power, based on the amount of light the panels collect. As these trees sit due west of the home, they will block summer light coming from the west. The State Solar Rights Act states that existing trees take precedence over solar panels. Public Works denied the owner's request to cut the trees, and the owner is appealing. No hearing date has been scheduled, but the SCRA will notify members in its News & Notes e-blast.

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

BevMo Decision

On February 5, 2010, the City Planning Department approved the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit to allow the sale by BevMo of a full line of alcoholic beverages for off-site consumption and on-site wine tasting at 12123 W. Ventura Boulevard in the Vons/CVS shopping plaza. The permit was granted for five years, after which time the permit it is null and void, and the applicant shall file and obtain approval for a new grant of a permit in order to continue its operations.

Several conditions were imposed that will be in full force and effect from the time of the permit. For example, all graffiti must be painted over in matching colors within twenty-four hours of its occurrence; recycling bins shall be emptied as part of the project's solid waste management disposal system; and construction debris shall be separated from other recycling materials. The store's hours of operation will be 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday. No coin-operated games will be allowed on the premises, and no pay phone will be allowed on the store's exterior.

The permit will run with the land as will all other conditions of the permit. In the event documented evidence is presented indicating a disruption of or interference with the peaceful enjoyment of adjacent neighboring properties, the zoning administrator reserves the discretion to hold a public hearing. The full context of the approval letter can be found at Case #ZA-2009-2851 (CUB) on the City's website.

Studio City Overlay-No Decision by Commissioners

On Thursday, Feb 25, 2010, City Planning Commission heard discussion of the the proposed Studio City Zone Overlay (the measure to control masionization).. Council Member Paul Krekorian's planning director spoke in full support of the Overlay. Both the SCRA and the Studio City Neighborhood Council were well represented by board members, SCRA members, and stakeholders; however, there was an organized opposition from no-residents. Several commissioners expressed concern that certain public input provisions may not have been complied with; therefore, the Planning Commission made a decision to continue the hearing to April 22, 2010. The Commission also ordered two workshops to be held for the purpose of additional public comment. The SCRA will inform our members of all critical dates.

COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

By Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis

Last month Studio City had 52 Burglaries from Motor Vehicles, a very high number. The average is 25-30 in any given month. The crime maps show a heavy concentration of these break-ins in the Colfax Meadows area. Residents can protect themselves by not leaving anything in their cars.



TO THE MARKET

People are always looking for hidden gems in Los Angeles and the Studio City Farmers Market has quite a few. FAST Hydroponics has been selling

all of its hothouse-raised Japanese cucumbers for the past few weeks, and the Tomato Man's hothouse tomatoes are always a hit with regular customers. Spring vegetables are back! Asparagus, artichokes, green onions and many more are in full supply. Island Farms is now offering a wide array of unsulfured dry fruit as well as a variety of chocolate covered fruits and nuts. Check out Mark of Tealandia and his wonderful selection of gourmet teas. If you have not tried Grill Masters Chicken yet, you have probably smelled this awesome herbal aroma floating around the market. They have the tastiest rotisserie chickens and garlic-herbed potatoes.

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

Door-to-door solicitors still plague the neighborhood with dozens of complaints, including solicitors being rude, argumentative and, at times, refusing to leave the property if they don't make a sale. Many of them are knocking on doors late into the evening, trying to intimidate homeowners. The best thing to do is to go to the door, let them know you are home, but do not open the door. Give them an excuse such as an ill child or a long distance call, but be sure not to engage. Once these solicitors get the homeowner to open the door, they attempt to hold him or her almost captive until they succeed in selling their products.

During a recent attempted burglary in the 4200 block of Vantage, one suspect was seen going over the victim's fence as the victim's housekeeper spotted the suspect. The suspect (female/white 6'0", 150-160lbs., 25-30 years-old) then ran back and got into the get-away vehicle parked in the driveway of the victim's home. Seen in the driver's seat of the get-away vehicle was a male, 6'0", 30-40 years-old. Ironically, the get-away vehicle was a U-haul truck.

While we want your help to find these suspects, please do not call just when you see a U-haul truck with a man and woman inside driving down the road. But, if you see a U-haul truck parked in your neighbor's driveway when no one is at home, and you know your neighbor is not moving, please call 911. It will most likely be an out-of-state Arizona plate.

If you see something suspicious, call the LAPD non-emergency number at 877-ASK-LAPD. If it is a life-threatening situation, or a crime in progress, call 911. Officer Lewis' number is 818-634-2593.

IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

Senior Exercise Class at Studio City Recreation Center (aka Beeman Park), 12621 Rye Street, Studio City, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for all seniors from 55 to 95. Join this fun class and learn to exercise the entire body; includes chair and standing exercises. For more information, call the park at 818-769-4415 or Marge at 818-763-6779.

Studio City Beautification Association Annual Board Meeting, March 8, 2010
12:00 p.m. Swear in new officers and discuss the Moorpark Parkway completion and 2010 upcoming projects. Space is limited: If you wish to attend please send an e-mail to the attention of the SCBA to SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org.

Special SCRA Community Meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2010. The SCRA is moving its regularly scheduled second monthly community meeting in April to the second Thursday of the month, April 15, 2010. During this meeting, Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) will discuss the positive outcomes of its long awaited feasibility study which is a giant step towards preserving the valuable open space known as Weddington Golf & Tennis. SLAROS will unveil the positive results of the study, which is a cornerstone of the realization of its no-development alternative, known as Los Angeles River Natural Park.

The SCRA's March Community Meeting will be held on the regularly scheduled day, which is March 9, 2010.

"And All That Jazz!" Saturday, March 6, 2010 Attend an evening of improvisation featuring classic Hollywood movie music with Bob Mintzer and Russell Ferrante of the world-famous jazz quartet, "Yellowjackets." Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a cheese & wine reception, with the concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Studio City, 12355 Moorpark Street. For more information, contact Gene Herd at 818-384-6516.

Studio City Library

The Friends of the Studio City Branch Library present Sheila Lowe on March 22, 2010, 7:00 p.m. Lowe, a forensic handwriting expert, author of several books on handwriting and the creator of the forensic handwriting mystery series featuring Claudia Rose. The evening promises exciting analysis and insights of some well-known personalities in addition to interesting stories and highlights of Lowe's career.

New Friday Hours: The library is now open Fridays from 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Book Donations: Every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in the library community room. Donations in "good enough condition to be resold" accepted. Receipts for donations are available.

Book Sale: Saturday, March 27, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please bring bags or boxes for purchases of books, videos and DVDs.

MEET THE SCRA BOARD: CONNIE ELLIOT, SECRETARY



As the SCRA Board Secretary, Connie Elliot is responsible for the corporate records, such as Articles of Incorporation, current bylaws, taking and filing minutes of board meetings and copies of other documents on file with the respective authorities who oversee not-for-profit corporations. Elliot notifies the time, date and place of

meetings to SCRA board members and guests, updates distribution lists and writes any requested letters. An active SCRA board member, Elliot volunteers often for additional activities and committees and represents the SCRA on the board of the Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association. She is also a director of Communities United for Smart Growth, which is involved in issues surrounding the proposed development at the Metro Universal station and Universal City.

Elliot graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a B.S. in Business Administration. Immediately after graduation, Elliot signed up as an airline stewardess (now known as a flight attendant). For 40 years she traveled all over the world. Elliot is married to a retired actor and sportscaster, who Connie says spends his time providing lap time for their cat. Her family home since 1978 has been in the "Island Community of Studio City" near Universal Studios. In addition to support for numerous community activities, Elliot also volunteers at the Griffith Observatory for the Friends of the Observatory.

IT'S A SIGN

Four years ago, the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) set out to get the blue "Studio City" signs with the city seal placed at all "ports" of entry into Studio City. For years, communities surrounding Studio City, such as Toluca Lake, Toluca Terrace, Toluca Woods, Valley Village, Valley Glen and Sherman Oaks, have not missed a beat when it came to the proliferation of community signs.



Four years later, the SCNC is pleased to report the job is complete. Thanks are in order to Brian Gallagher of LADOT, Joan Pelico from City Council District 5 and Barry Johnson, SCRA Board Member. This could not have been done without them.

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

The SCRA Board voted to oppose the sale of the City's parking assets; should the City enter into leases or other private management arrangements, the City should retain control of parking rates. As well, the Board agreed the City should

(Continued, Page 5)

review existing contracts on the use of outside consultants to advise on selling or leasing these assets as the City has departments that can adequately advise on potential leasing/sale arrangements.

The Board supports a resolution by Council Members Garcetti and Cardenas to support the ballot initiative that will prevent the State from seizing tax revenues dedicated to local government services.

On the proposed developments for the MTA Universal sites, the Board requests the city have a common environmental statement (EIR) covering both sites, which are adjacent, rather than have the two sites develop two separate EIRs. The SCRA board has produced and adopted a position paper that reviews and analyzes the alternate proposal by Communities United for Smart Growth (CUSG) for these two sites. This position paper will be posted on the SCRA website.

The Dash line that runs from Studio City up to Van Nuys city offices is slated to be discontinued in June. The Board opposes the discontinuance as many SCRA members use this line as do other members of the public.

ASK THE SCRA

Q: We need your help regarding the ongoing problem of the severe pot holes at the corner of Coldwater Canyon and Milbank Street. Several of us have called the Department of Street Maintenance at 800-996-2489 over the years, numerous times. The most the City has ever done is throw asphalt into the holes, which wears away in very little time and with rain. Most of the neighbors avoid the corner altogether, rather than risk damage to their cars. Neighbors have given our tireless Neighborhood Watch Captain, Seraphine Segal, money to fill the holes, which she herself has done time after time; she has placed caution signs over the holes and elicited builders in the area to help her with filler.

Please, please give this to someone who can really reach the appropriate people at Street Maintenance and have the corner properly and permanently repaired. The reference # for my latest call during the week of February 2, 2010 is #10008452.

SCRA: We are sorry to report some bad news. The SCRA spoke with Joaquin Macias in Paul Krekorian's office. The City has no money to do proper repairs, and, as a result, they just fill in the pot holes as they deteriorate. That stretch of Coldwater Canyon is due for resurfacing, which would actually correct the problem along the entire canyon. Macias agreed to check to see when this resurfacing is scheduled to take place.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

In the general discussion following the talk by Council Member Paul Krekorian at the February SCRA Community Meeting, one of our members suggested the residents should volunteer to pick up where the City has had to cut back on services. Krekorian said it was inevitable that services will be cut given the present state of the City budget. The idea put forward was welcomed, but it appeared to be in the context of the City organizing it. As any of the SCRA volunteers, including committee and board members will say, the initial move starts with identifying the work that needs to be done, generating the labor force and then organizing it. So, if there is a readily identifiable thing that needs to be done, then let's not delay; get a group together and go for it, and don't wait for the City to organize the volunteers.

By way of example, the City has installed perforated grills at street drains to catch and prevent debris flowing into the river because Los Angeles is under Federal mandate to clean the river and stop street-born pollutants draining to the ocean. At this time of year, leaves become a significant source of pollutants. However, there is a limit to the numbers of street sweepers available to keep these drains clear. So, instead of bemoaning the fact as some folks have that these clogged filters are causing flooding, one solution is to clean them out, asking one's gardener to do so or doing it yourself, if you have the time and are physically capable. Leaves should not be just put back on the street for obvious reasons. They do make excellent mulch and compost material or can be put into the green trash bin.

I am sure many other examples come to mind. There are parallels to earlier times, before government subsidies, when farmers got together and shared a combine harvester, or in more of Hollywood's style, joined together in a big barn raising. When Colfax Meadows needed street trees, a group got together and did it. The SCRA didn't wait for the City to implement graffiti control but paid a man to go around painting it out until the City was able to assume this service. I am sure our members can relay similar instances and come up with other areas where "self help" can be instituted.

And by the same token, as Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis has told us many times, we are the eyes and ears of our neighborhoods. The police rely on this cooperation. Why not set up a Neighborhood Watch? The police will be happy to assist, but we must make the first call.

Alan Dymond

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

MARCH 2010



**MONTHLY
COMMUNITY MEETING**

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Agenda

- 7:00 p.m.** Light refreshments
- 7:30 p.m.** City Attorney Carmen Trutanich takes on the issues: marijuana, billboards, City layoffs and more.

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.*

**THANK YOU TO BEVERLY
GARLAND'S HOLIDAY INN**

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



**HOMEOWNER TURNS LOSS OF
TREES INTO ART**

By Marsha Lewis

We have always treasured the trees on our property. They were a big attraction when we bought our home almost 32 years ago. In fact, our biggest annual home maintenance expense has always been the proper pruning of those trees.

One noble old stone pine, 75 years in age, had been leaning closer and closer to our garage over the years. We have pruned it and cabled it. Finally, in this year's rainy season, one huge branch lay on the garage, causing damage. We knew it had come to this: the tree or the garage. We had to say good bye to this beautiful piece of nature.

We thought of Joyce Kilmer's poem's opening lines "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree" ...and we grieved. Then, serendipity struck! Just before the tree was to be removed, we decided, while doing repairs on the garage and other repairs to landscaping, we would install new automatic garage doors. We called the door company's representative and, by accident, got a strange answering phone message about a chain saw wood sculptor. The garage door representative said,

"Oh, I work for the door company -- that's my day job. My other job is the business end of things for my friend who is a wood sculptor."

An idea formed: turn the bifurcated trunk of our tree into sculpture! We saw the sculptor's work online; we saw it in person. We asked our tree trimmer to leave six feet of trunk. And now our noble pine will live on, thanks to Stacy Poitras and Deadwood Tree Sculptures, as a family of carved wooden deer. The sculpture is not yet complete, but we already experience such joy in being able to keep something lovely of that dear old tree. We think Joyce Kilmer might agree!

