



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

May 2010

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SAVE LA RIVER OPEN SPACE MAKES SIZABLE PROGRESS ON NEW LA RIVERPARK

Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) revealed its cutting edge "green vision" with strong "water elements" for the property currently known as Weddington Golf and Tennis at the April 15, 2010 Studio City Residents Association Community meeting. California State Senator Fran Pavley, Esther Feldman of Community Conservancy International and Drew Beck of Psomas Engineering addressed the standing room only crowd of close to 200 people. Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office was represented by Daniel Brumer, Planning Director, along with Damian Carroll and Karo Torossian. Also in attendance were Callie Hurd from Senator Pavley's office, Lupe Villa from Councilmember Ed Reyes' office as well as Carol Armstrong from the Bureau of Engineering.



A longtime supporter of SLAROS' efforts, Senator Pavley chairs the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. She views the SLAROS' project as a great opportunity to ensure important water supply and water quality improvements at this last 16 acres of unprotected open space abutting the Los Angeles River and the concomitant overall public benefits offered by the proposal. She explained the State is very interested in projects that capture storm water runoff, clean and recycle water and provide regional connections to trails and bike paths. She cited possible funding sources, such as the state water bond scheduled for the upcoming November ballot, Proposition 84 monies, transportation funds and federal government involvement. The enthusiasm of the community, matching funds and overall efforts to save the property have captured the attention of elected officials. An ardent supporter, Senator Pavley gave the crowd hope as she said, "Hang in there and never give up!"

STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Radford Sculpture Garden

CBS is funding an ambitious Studio City Beautification Association Adopt-a-Median project, landscaping two blocks along the east side of Radford Avenue between the Los Angeles River and Tujunga Wash. Plans call for a sculpture garden featuring works by Karl Johnson, a meandering path and extensive new landscaping.

Mulholland Gateways

Studio City Beautification is asking DWP to use distribution substation grounds – a first for the DWP – at Laurel Canyon and Mulholland for a "Studio City Welcomes You" monument. Farther west, the barren median island at Coldwater and Mulholland is proceeding under the Los Angeles City Adopt-A-Median process for landscaping and placement of a matching "Studio City Welcomes You" monument. Both projects will be submitted to the Mulholland Design Review Board. These two welcoming projects will define Studio City to all motorists entering over the canyons from Hollywood and Beverly Hills.

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Presentations made by Esther Feldman and Drew Beck outlined the steps needed to bring the Los Angeles River Natural Park concept to life. The park will include a natural ecosystem with open water features such as riparian habitats, as well as bioswales and underground cisterns, all designed to capture and remove pollutants from the storm water, recycle it for other uses or filter it into the aquifer. Recreational elements of the park include 12 tennis courts, a driving range, a golf practice area and putting green.

Feldman explained all water in the Los Angeles River is in violation of the U.S. Clean Water Act. However, one strength of the proposed project is that not only will it capture and clean the storm water during the rainy season, it will capture the "dry weather" run-off from sprinklers, etc. from the 200 acres that surround the site. Together, this amounts to 3.7 million gallons of water per year. Another important aspect of



the project is that the solar energy source will make it "power neutral" so it will not draw from the National Power Grid: in effect, the park will be energy independent.

(Continued, Page 2)

(Save LA River, cont'd)

Feldman said this study has confirmed the "green vision" is a viable project. Next steps include a geotechnical study, detailed design, acquisition of the site by public agencies and construction.

In his closing remarks, SLAROS President Alan Dymond thanked Senator Pavley for her time and support and credited the hard work being done by SLAROS co-directors, Art Howard, Laurie Cohn, Patty Kirby, and Steve Hirsh; and the SLAROS committee members. Those interested in supporting SLAROS' efforts with volunteer time or donations can contact Save LA River Open Space, P.O.Box 1374, Studio City, CA 91614.

UCLA STUDY ON RODENT CONTROL

UCLA is studying the effects of rodent control on the local environment. As a part of the study, UCLA has invited SCRA members to participate in a brief survey. The SCRA was chosen because of Studio City's proximity to the study area, the Santa Monica Mountains. The purpose of the survey is to study the reasons for and the use of rodenticides around the area. The survey will take about 5-10 minutes; as an inducement to participate and by way of a "thank you," participants can enter a drawing for a \$50 Best Buy gift card. UCLA assures SCRA members that all information from the survey will be anonymous and kept confidential.

Those interested should log onto the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/studiocity>. The deadline to participate is May 7, 2010. Please direct any questions to Stephanie Hoekstra at shoekstra@ucla.edu or to Dr. Travis Longcore, the faculty advisor, at longcore@ucla.edu.

MAY SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING IS A DOUBLE-HEADER

Representatives from the LAPD will appear in a doubleheader of sorts at the May SCRA Community Meeting. The LAPD will address the present status of the department followed by a Q & A session with members and guests. The current debate on DWP rates and the present rate/zoning system for Studio City will be discussed. The meeting will take place on May 11, 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.

BREAKING NEWS

Sportsmen's Lodge Update

The SCRA has learned the Sportsmen's Lodge is about to embark on a development that will entail further renovation and improvement on the site. The owner plans to build a two-story health facility – Equinox Health Club – on the southeast corner of the property. The health club will comply with the present zoning codes and the height limitations of the Ventura Blvd. Specific Plan. The front of the improvement will be at 29'-0"; however, given the sloping nature of the site towards the river, and the desire to keep the project level throughout the property, the owner has requested a minor 'adjustment' allowed in accordance with the Specific Plan. If granted, the roof line will remain level, keeping a standard height throughout the structure. No parking structure is planned as the club will share parking with the other facilities on

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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.

Parkway Trees Versus Solar Energy: The owner at 4426 Irvine had petitioned the City for a permit to remove three tall 50-year-old liquid amber parkway trees because the trees occasionally shaded part of the west-facing roof where he had installed solar panels. Street Services recommended that Public Works deny the application but suggested that the homeowner be given a permit to trim the trees.

Action: The SCRA and the SCBA attended the hearing on April 19, supporting Street Services, based on the negative environmental impact and the loss of neighborhood character that removing the trees would cause. The Board agreed with the SCRA and Street Services and denied the permit to remove the trees. As a study for future similar conflicts, the Board decided to make a test case of this location, instructing Street Services to trim the three trees to city standards and study the impact on the trees and solar installation for one year.

Homeless on the Oasis: The SCBA volunteers who are keeping an eye on the Oasis have reported up to four homeless people living there, posing a danger to the new plantings and the drip system. This problem was reported to Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis.

Officer Lewis reported these individuals are locals known to the LAPD. One was cited for drinking in public, and the others were told move on and warned not to return. The LAPD will continue to check, and SCBA neighborhood volunteers will continue to monitor the situation.

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)

the site. The SCRA has not yet had the opportunity to review the architectural plans.

Carpenter Avenue Elementary School Fundraiser

Carpenter Avenue Elementary School will hold an opportunity drawing for three cash prizes totaling \$5,000 as part of the efforts of Parents for Carpenter (PFC) to continue to support the school. Tickets will be available at the Studio City Farmer's Market on Sunday, May 9, 2010. This drawing is part of Carpenter's 22nd Annual Auction & Dinner Dance, a major fundraising event sponsored by PFC and held at CBS Studios on May 22, 2010. Winning tickets will be pulled the evening of the event; winners need not be present to win. Every year, PFC honors a group of parents whose contributions from volunteering to fundraising play an enormous role in enriching the education of the Carpenter children. Wells Fargo Bank of Studio City will be recognized as the community honoree. For more information, visit www.ParentsForCarpenter.com.

National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles (NCJW/LA) Opens New Thrift Shop

An established provider within Los Angeles' social services community, the NCJW/LA has opened a new thrift shop in Studio City. The Council Thrift shop sells donated gently used high quality merchandise to support a variety of services and programs for those who are at risk and in need regardless of culture, ethnicity, religion or race. The shop is located at 12203 Ventura Blvd. Donations can be dropped off from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To learn more about NCJW/LA, visit www.ncjwla.org.

IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

Studio City Library, 12511 Moorpark Street

Change of Hours as of April 11, 2010: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Friday, 1:30 p.m.- 5:30pm. Closed on Sunday.

The Universalist Unitarian Church of Studio City, 12355 Moorpark Street

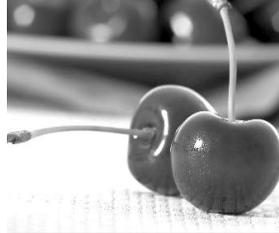
Musical Performance & Dinner, Saturday, May 15, 2010. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and performance starts at 6:30 p.m. Includes UUCSC Choir's Cabaret, rock, jazz, and opera. Tickets \$25/person. To purchase tickets, call the UUCSC office at 818-769-5911.

Vitello's Italian Restaurant, 4349 Tujunga Avenue

Opera Dinner Event: Spring fundraising event for non-profit organization, OperaWorks, featuring professional artists, Saturday, May 8, 2010, 6:00 p.m. cocktails (no host bar), 6:30 p.m. dinner, 8:00 p.m. performance. For more information, visit www.operaworks.com or contact Patty Kirby at 818-898-9597 or patty@operaworks.com.

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED:

The SCRA is looking for a web savvy person to oversee cleanup of the SCRA web site. Daily updating work is covered, but help is needed to update the overall actual site itself. Please contact board member Beth Dymond at SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org



TO THE MARKET

The Studio City Farmers Market now features the "best beef ever" from Lompoc. This grass-fed beef has no hormones or antibiotics. The market

also features a new organic produce farmer from Santa Ynez. Chris Finley of "Finley Farms," who offers a wide variety of greens, vegetables and even a few flowers. Emily of Pop Shop is back with her gourmet popsicles. She will be at the market until November, so there's plenty of time to slurp a pop made with fresh ingredients. May is cherry time. The Studio City Farmers Market has varieties such as Bing and Rainiers. The cherry season is a short one so be sure to load up on this sweet, succulent fruit.

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

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

T Mobile: the SCRA has joined in the appeal of the neighbors who live behind the proposed. T Mobile tower on the Public Storage Building behind Good Earth Restaurant. The antennas will be visible from the Weddington Golf and Tennis site and the proposed Los Angeles River trail along this stretch of the River.

Coyote Pizza application for liquor license: The Board voted to support the request of a beer and wine liquor license at Coyote Pizza in Tujunga Village. This establishment had been a "bring your own." Coyote intends to continue to offer this accommodation to its patrons upon issuance of the beer and wine license.

SCRA Membership: Membership renewals will be mailed towards the end of May for June renewals. The Membership Committee is assembling a "Welcome to Studio City Informational Packet" to send to new residents of Studio City, informing them of the work of the SCRA, SCBA, SLAROS and the Farmers Market.

Advisory Transportation Motions passed by the Board:

1. Measure R (Mass transit) monies should be spent at the rate at which they are collected and not accelerated to spend anticipated dollars.
2. The Trust Fund of the Ventura-Cahuenga Blvd Corridor Specific Plan (VCBSP) projects should include maintenance, repair and improvements of alleys.
3. Seventeen miles of the VCBSP should be considered as a whole, making it a regionally-impacted traffic zone.

Holiday Parade: The Parade Committee will convene to explore the 2010 Holiday Parade. Volunteers are welcome.

Campo de Cahuenga: The Campo has completed its renovations and is starting to furnish the Campo. The Board of the Campo is looking at two long tables to put into the Campo. The SCRA will donate one table if the Campo can find matching funds to buy the second table.

(Beautification, cont'd)

Moorpark Parkway

The two-block Moorpark Parkway project is now complete and home to more than two dozen young trees, including Coast Live Oak, plus hundreds of smaller plantings. A special thank you to Environment Furniture - www.environmentfurniture.com - for its generous beautification grant to Studio City.

Moorpark Pocket Park

Studio City Beautification is in the process of gathering formal support for a pocket park on city right-of-way along the Tujunga Wash from Gentry to Radford Avenues. This concept calls for extensive Sycamore and Oak tree planting, plus other natives, and a path allowing pedestrian access between Moorpark Street and Radford Avenue.

Anita's Triangle

Preliminary outreach has begun with the neighbors in Fryman Estates to improve the large unsightly weedy triangle at Fryman Place and Oakdell Road facing Laurel Canyon Boulevard. If you live in Fryman Estates and would like to help SCBA improve and landscape this parcel, contact scraboard@studiocityresidents.org.

Beautification Needs You

Studio City Beautification is growing and needs your help. As the scope of beautification projects and related budgets continue to grow, the organization needs your tax-deductible contributions for improvements. Volunteers are also needed to support organization, outreach and engineering. Please join Studio City Beautification in making Studio City a better place.

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY BY STUDIO CITY LEAD OFFICER MICHAEL LEWIS

(Editor's Note: the Crime Report will return next month; please enjoy this feature by Officer Mike Lewis)

I have been the Senior Lead Officer of Studio City for about eight years and spend the vast majority of my time in Studio City. Even though North Hollywood Division extends as far north as roughly Roscoe Blvd, rarely do I find myself traveling farther north than Moorpark or Riverside Drive.

Prior to this assignment I was the Senior Lead Officer for Sun Valley for about one year, and, before that, I was a training officer both here in North Hollywood Division and in Rampart Division. During that time, I remember thinking to myself, "If others in the City, whom I considered sheltered, had any idea how so many Angelenos lived, they would be shocked." I was amazed to see the two different worlds, so far apart and, yet, in many instances, almost literally touching each other. The differences were not obvious, such as the shootings, the street sales of narcotics or gang members. They were the subtle, small differences, such as the dozen or so push carts parked in front of the elementary and junior high schools that sell corn, ice cream or bacon-wrapped hot dogs. It was the music playing in many different languages coming from the passing cars and nearby homes. It was the

incredible number of people who drove cars without driver's licenses, many with a warrant for their arrest. It was the impromptu businessman who sold CDs on the sidewalk in front of a legitimate store that sold the same thing. Most amazing was the front row view I had, witnessing how so many lived and raised their children. It was an amazing sight, often an amazing dichotomy of how different members of the community lived and how they lived so closely together.

Recently, I heard from a young woman – I'll call her Jennifer – who called to tell me about her parents, who own a restaurant (in North Hollywood Division) near Lankershim and Vanowen. She said people across the street would set-up an impromptu overnight restaurant in a parking lot of a closed business and serve food all night to hundreds of people. She explained how slow her parents' business had become and how unfair it was that they had to pay rent, business tax, electricity and all of the other costs associated with running a restaurant, while others didn't have to play by the same rules. She asked if the impromptu restaurant was illegal and if we could do something about it. While I recorded her report, the Senior Lead Officer for that particular area was on vacation. To be honest, I didn't have a good understanding of what she was explaining since what she was describing was news to me. A couple of days later, I went to see this overnight impromptu restaurant. I found a large tent that had cascading lights illuminating the four-five cooks who were preparing everything from chicken, beef, carne asada and lengua. You name it and they had it. They had a generator for the lights, and an assortment of drinks and deserts. To the rear of the large canopy were tables and chairs that seated 40-50 people. Approximately a dozen people were waiting in line and another 10-15 were milling about or sitting and enjoying their meals. When I pulled up, people began to yell, "Leave them alone. They haven't done anything wrong. Arrest the drug dealers." I asked who was in charge, but no one would answer. I finally spoke to two people who were working there, including Maria, who was collecting the money, and Jorge, who was one of the cooks. I told both of them it was against the law to set up a restaurant in a parking lot and said they had to shut down. I warned them if they came back, I would call the Health Department, which would cite everyone and confiscate the equipment. They said they would close up and never return, thanking me for warning them.

A week later I drove by. The restaurant was still in business and busier than ever.

We set up a vending detain with the Health Department, and, within a week or two, visited this same location. When I again spoke with Jorge, he told me how sorry he was, but said he had tried to find work to no avail. When he came to the United States 12 years ago, he never had trouble finding work, but now he has no options and doesn't know what else he can do. He talked about his kids in Mexico and how he sends money back to them each month. I also spoke to Maria again, who said she came to the United States about a year ago, paying a coyote (a person to helps people get over the border) \$5,000, which took her three years to save. I truly felt bad for them. They were just trying to make a living and survive. We all watched as the Health Department truck took away all of their equipment. It was not a scene that made one terribly happy, but something we had to do.

Three days later I received a call from Jennifer, who reported the

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(Life, cont'd)

same people were back again. We again called the Health Department and followed the protocol to shut down the outdoor restaurant.

The following day, at about 9:00 p.m., I visited Jennifer's parents' restaurant. They had only one customer at the time in what was a small, 12-15 person Asian fast-food establishment. Jennifer's mother knew who I was immediately and thanked me repeatedly. Her husband came out from the back kitchen area and shook my hand. The mother told me how bad their business had become and how difficult it was for them. She said Jennifer didn't work there much anymore because of her school work. With a great sense of motherly pride, she reported Jennifer was in law school. I was moved by her pride for Jennifer and gratitude for me. Out of curiosity, as I was leaving, I asked if she had any other kids. She said she had an older son. When I asked, "What does he do?" she said, "He is at West Point, studying for his MBA."

It reminded me again of the two worlds, this time seemingly separated by four lanes.

CONGRATULATIONS WALTER REED

The SCRA congratulates Walter Reed Middle School's Hip Hop Team, which recently competed in the Sharp International California State competition and became the new California State champions.

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.

Q: Several of our members have asked why the SCRA newsletter is printed on "glossy" paper, questioning if this paper is environmentally friendly.

SCRA: Our very efficient news staff did extensive research on the type of paper we needed to create a readable professional newsletter. The paper we use is environmentally sound recycled paper. Neither the SCRA Board nor the newsletter editor are really pleased with the 'slick' glossy paper we use, but when we estimated the price of using matte paper, it was much more expensive. At present, we will continue to use the less expensive recycled glossy paper.

Q: Who maintains the Moorpark Parkway?

SCRA: The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) has started the maintenance of the landscaping on the Moorpark Parkway. The SCBA also maintains the Oasis (opposite Ralphs at Vineland), the median at Coldwater, the medians on Laurel Canyon, plantings on Ventura Place, the median at Radford and Ventura and boulevard trees planted by the SCBA.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

RFA Status

The Floor Area Ratio (RFA) proposed for Studio City issue is on hiatus.

In the original planning report on this matter, the Planning Department said the proposed ordinance qualified for an exception from environmental review as the impact was lesser than existing density, and no zone changes were involved. Questions were raised at the public hearings as to the environmental impact. After consultation with the City Attorney's office "...The Planning Department has determined that an initial study needs to be prepared for the RFA, specifically to evaluate whether the environmental impacts of the RFA proposal are cumulatively considerable in view of the environmental impacts of other projects such as the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, the Sunland Tujunga RFA District and the currently proposed Baseline Hillside Mansionization Ordinance." The Baseline Mansionization Ordinance has been in effect for two years and the Sunland-Tujunga RFA for many years. As Alice remarked, "Curioser and curioser," and I say, what price rabbit holes!?

No matter. Nothing will happen as the Planning Department works through the process of preparing its supplemental report. The Department is gathering additional input and discussions are taking place on how to create an RFA that in some manner may work. We shall see.

SCNC Elections

SCRA members can get involved in the upcoming May elections for the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC). The SCRA works closely with the SCNC, which represents all interests in Studio City, including business, religious organizations, property owners, etc. The SCRA solely represents the residents of Studio City and their interests. The SCRA is also a member the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, and our sister organization, Studio City Beautification Association, has two members on its board from the Studio City Business Improvement District. The SCRA has as many bases covered as possible and actively engages in numerous aspects of the Studio City community.

One last thing: the mantra the City needs to keep building, in order to increase its tax base and generate jobs, is getting a little tired. Councilmember Paul Krekorian put his finger on it by pointing out the infrastructure is finite. Transitional jobs are a fact of life, but the jobs the Valley and the City need are those that have a life or a longer period to them. Buildings wear out and become redundant; needs change and evolve: but it should not be at the degradation of the core values of the City. This is a complex discussion for any great city; however, an expansive vision and leadership that can do more than look at short cash fixes are sorely needed.

Alan Dymond



MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

- 7:00 p.m.** Light refreshments
- 7:30 p.m.** Representatives from the LAPD on the state of the department and a discussion on DWP rates/zoning.

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 complimentary parking for SCRA members during the SCRA monthly community meetings.



TIME TO RENEW YOUR SCRA MEMBERSHIP

At the end of May, you will receive your SCRA June 2010 - 2011 renewal notice in the mail. Please check the expiration date that appears on the address label of this newsletter. If it reads 06/10, your SCRA renewal is due. The cost of membership remains the same low price of \$25 per household, or, if you are a senior, the cost is \$10 per household. Of course, the SCRA appreciations any additional contributions.

The SCRA Board thanks each and every one of our members for their support and their faith in the SCRA. The Board pledges to continue the work of preserving our unique community. Every membership counts! When our Board members speak on your behalf at public hearings, they make a powerful impact on the hearing officers when they hear how many households are standing there with us.

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