



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

May 2016

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AUTHOR MARTIN M. COOPER TO ADDRESS SCRA MAY COMMUNITY MEETING



Author Martin M. Cooper will discuss the origins and growth of the San Fernando Valley at the May 10, 2016 Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Community Meeting. Cooper's presentation will draw from his award-winning new book, Read all about It! The Valley: 1946-1970, which looks back in time at the Valley's post-war population explosion and development. The book draws on 70,000 photos from the old Valley Times, many of which are now being scanned by the Los Angeles Public Library. Cooper speaks frequently on Valley history and has addressed more than 20 groups on this topic.

A prolific writer, Cooper has four books and more than 100 magazine articles and newspaper columns to his credit, including a book about the Academy Awards. His second book, North of Mulholland, is a compilation of some of his essays published in the San Fernando Valley Business Journal, and his third book, Coping with Crisis in a Complex World, is used as a textbook by several colleges and universities.

Cooper serves as the chairman of the Boys and Girls Club of the West Valley. Proceeds from the sale of his new book will go to that organization. He is a graduate of UCLA, where he was editor of the Daily Bruin, and has studied at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in the U.K.

Cooper has served on various Los Angeles commissions and task forces under three mayors. In 2014, Mayor Eric Garcetti appointed Cooper to the Los Angeles Convention & Exhibition Center Authority.

The Studio City Residents Association's meetings have moved to Rio Vista Elementary School, 4243 Satsuma Avenue, Studio City, CA 91602. Meet and greet the community and enjoy refreshments at 7:00 p.m. The program begins at 7:30 p.m.

BEAUTIFYING STUDIO CITY

The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) has developed and planted medians, pocket parks and parkways throughout Studio City, and they are in full bloom for spring. Each location has a different palate of plants, which makes each one unique. For Studio City residents who are thinking of adding new plants to your garden, now is the time to visit the SCBA sites to see what the native plants do in the spring. To find the locations of the SCBA sites, visit StudioCityBeautification.org.

The wildflowers at the Moorpark Parkway (on the south side of Moorpark Street, just east of Laurel Canyon Blvd.) are the most dramatic, accenting the bushes and brush with a variety of colors. The yellow Agave blooms are shooting straight into the air.

The flowers turn into baby Agave plants, so when they fall, new plants grow from them. This is essential to this species, because after shooting up the giant stalk, the plant dies.

The SCBA is proud to announce that the medians at Eureka Drive and Ventura Blvd. are now complete. This installation is the first of the SCBA's non-irrigation

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BREAKING NEWS: THE LOS ANGELES RIVER

Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) gave the Studio City Residents Association a heads up that the City of Los Angeles may have an opportunity to purchase the G2 Parcel of the Los Angeles River at Taylor Yard. Once there is official word of this, FoLAR will launch a letter writing advocacy campaign to urge the City to purchase this parcel, as it is vital for Alternative 20 and the Los Angeles River Revitalization as a whole.





(Beautifying, cont'd)

installations, meaning that after the plants are established, they will require very little regular watering to continue to grow.

The SCBA crew had to bore through almost a foot of concrete and asphalt to get to raw dirt. Removal of the solid material was important to allow for drainage.

The SCBA planted the eastern median with California natives, which start out little and will grow to fill the area.

Plantings included Prostrate California Sagebrush, Dudleya, San Diego Poverty Weed, and Sticky Monkey Flower. These are the best suited plants to withstand the heat from the street and fumes from traffic.



On the western median, the SCBA crew bore through the layers of concrete and asphalt to get to the raw dirt. This was done to allow water to drain, not into the street, but into the soil and down to the aquifer. The crew filled the space with decomposed granite infused with rock for stability.

The SCBA just finished refurbishing the median on Laurel Canyon Blvd. and the 101 Fwy. That work included reconfiguring the irrigation, removing the dead plants and thinning the aloe, then mulching to amend the soil and retain water. Unfortunately, someone else had more need for the "STUDIO CITY" letters on top of the sign at this location, so they are now being fabricated in a way that will deter future theft.

In the transition to summer, Studio City residents will see native plants showing characteristics that are different from the ornamental plants that are more common. Many of the native plants will begin to appear dead; however, that is how they protect themselves from the summer sun and heat.

UPDATE ON THE GREENWAY TREE PLANTING

Given adverse weather conditions, the tree planting event at the Los Angeles River Greenway across from 4041 Whitsett Avenue was postponed until May 7, 2016. The event runs from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



Community Conservation Solutions (CCS) is pleased to report there are many RSVPs from prospective participants and that these volunteers are still available to help plant 50 trees along with shrubs and bushes. Those who are volunteering

should bring a hat, sunscreen and sturdy footwear. Water and snacks will be provided.

Having lost the window for the original tree planting and resulting adjustments, CCS is estimating a new completion date of December 2016.

IMPORTANT PARKING INFORMATION FOR THE SCRA COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Please note that the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Community Meetings are now being held at Rio Vista School, 4243 Satsuma Avenue, North Hollywood, CA 91602. The next meeting is on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.

There is an on-campus parking lot located at the end of Satsuma Avenue, just down the street from the school. Street parking is also available. However, there is a "No Parking" zone directly across the street from the school, which is enforced 24/7. Please do not park in this "No Parking" zone.

BRENT SELTZER

The Studio City Residents Association is sad to report that dedicated community member and hard-working volunteer, Brent Seltzer, recently passed away. Seltzer served as the eyes of the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) for opportunities to transform areas in the community and helped maintain the Oasis, a beautification project developed and managed by the SCBA opposite Marshall's on Ventura Blvd.

Seltzer is survived by his wife, Meg. He will be sorely missed.

WENDY GREUEL ADDRESSES SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) held its first Community Meeting at Rio Vista Elementary School this past March. SCRA members and guests reported enjoying the new location, which provided ideal accommodations for them to meet and greet their neighbors and friends, enjoy coffee and snacks, and speak with SCRA board members prior to the meeting.

Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis returned after a major on-the-job injury to update meeting attendees on Studio City crime issues. He reported that the homeless camps in the community are the worst he has ever seen and cautioned against an aggressive person who is most likely off his medications. Meanwhile, crime has decreased 20 percent.

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) made a short presentation about the detrimental use of rodenticides on other wild animals and birds. They presented the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) with a Barn Owl box to be placed on the upper slope above the Oasis (Ventura Blvd. across the street from Marshall's). This area is riddled with gophers that are invading this SCBA mini-park.

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Former City Controller Wendy Greuel was the meeting's keynote speaker. Greuel, who has been appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's Board of Commissioners, outlined many approaches to address the homeless issues in Los Angeles. She discussed affordable housing; prevention steps, such as connecting foster youth to adult services when they reach 21; Veteran's Administration housing

vouchers; and treatment programs. Greuel is new to her position but not new to the problem and is gathering information in order to determine the best, most appropriate solutions.

FROM THE SCRA BOARD

Rio Vista Elementary School honored the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) by presenting the organization with a key to the schools "Hidden Garden." The SCRA also received an appreciation certificate for its donation of \$2,000 to Rio Vista's arts and science programs.

The SCRA Board approved a \$1,000 donation to help Save Coldwater Canyon meet its expenses in responding to the revised Draft Environmental Impact Report issued on the proposed development at Harvard Westlake School on Coldwater Canyon Avenue.

The SCRA Board approved a \$500 full page ad in the tribute book for the Campbell Hall Bagpipers Ball.

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife approached the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) for support for a bill to ban the use of rodenticide. While the SCBA cannot take a position, the SCRA can. The SCRA Board suggested the bill include alternatives.

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: We are having a problem with people blocking our driveway on Dilling Street when they go to work on Ventura Blvd. Sometimes they are parked for eight hours. I always leave notes on their windshields asking them to please not block the driveway. The next day someone else just takes their turn. I am wondering about getting two-hour permit parking on that end of the street. What about having the cars towed? Should I just call 311?

SCRA: Call this number for Parking Enforcement: (818) 374-4823. They will record the information and send an



TO THE MARKET

Spring is in the air and that means the arrival to the Studio City Farmers Market of fresh cherries,

peaches, plums and a wonderful variety of stone fruit that is abundant this time of year. They are perfect for pies, smoothies and, of course, as nature intended, to enjoy all by themselves.

The Studio City Farmers Market is happy to welcome Authentic Greek. Run by husband and wife, George and Christina Anastasopoulos, Authentic Greek offers delectable savory pies made from scratch with no preservatives - moussaka, spinach feta (or for our vegan customers - spinach pie) and Italian lasagna. The pies can be purchased cooked or frozen for the perfect no fuss weeknight dinner. They also carry authentic Greek yogurt in glass jars with fruit on the bottom and smoothies. Authentic Greek is located on the north side of the Market, near Laurel Canyon Blvd.

The Market also welcomes another new vendor, King's Empanadas, makers of healthy, low calorie, all natural, non-GMO empanadas. Flavors include beef, chicken, mushroom and cheese, vegetable, broccoli and béchamel, ham and cheese, spinach and cheese and pepperoni. They can be purchased warm and ready to eat or frozen. King's Empanadas offers another perfect addition to the weeknight rotation of simple, yet healthy, dinners. They are also perfect for lunch at the office or at school.

For more information on all the great vendors at the Market, check out the new website at studiocityfarmersmarket.com and follow the Market on Instagram @studiocityfm.

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. Stop by and visit! The Market is open on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

enforcement officer out, sometimes even right away. They have enforcement officers available to respond 24/7. Cars and trash cans must be at least two feet away from the edge of your full driveway apron, and the trash cans must have two feet of space between each can. When you call, they will ask you if you want the car towed or just ticketed.

Information on how a neighborhood can apply for a two-hour permit parking does not seem to be available on the Department of Transportation website. This program was suspended during the recession and subsequent inquiries by the SCRA have confirmed there is continued resistance to the creation of Preferential Parking Districts. The SCRA has heard there is a city flyer on what it takes to create such an area and

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(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

how many signatures to gather in your neighborhood; supposedly, this flyer can be turned into the Department of Transportation for review and approval. You can call the Department of Transportation hot line at 310-843-5936.

Q: I live in Colfax Meadows and was wondering if it would be possible to do a community event near the Colfax Avenue foot bridge? There is a space under the larger bridge that would be a perfect spot for a small gathering with live music. Right now, the area sometimes has homeless people, and I think it would be great for the community to reclaim that space. Would we need a permit to organize something there for a late afternoon event over the summer? Would there be a charge?

SCRA: From what you describe, that area under the bridge is on Los Angeles County land and is part of an access maintenance road to the river. Check with the County to determine if you need permission (or a permit/fee) to enter. The City maintains only the stairs, ramp and bridge. A very active local volunteer organization, Village Gardeners successfully installed and maintains an amphitheater (Richard Lillard Outdoor Classroom) on the south side of the Los Angeles River just east of Fulton Avenue. This theater hosts educational events. For more information, visit StudioCityResidents.org, Our Community, Parks & Programs, The Village Gardeners of The Los Angeles River.

Q: We need policemen between 7:00-9:00 a.m. and 3:00-6:00 p.m. to monitor the stop sign areas, especially at Dona Emilia and Dona Pegita. These policemen can come on random work days to catch drivers who do not stop. To whom do we reach out?

SCRA: Studio City Residents Association Vice President Barry Johnson is also the chair of the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) Transportation Committee. Barry's response: Last year, the SCNC Transportation Committee sent a motion to the SCNC Board that was passed unanimously and sent to Councilmember Paul Krekorian. Here are related suggestions on what actions can be taken:

December 2014: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that Councilmember Paul Krekorian take action along with the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation to stop Laurel Canyon Blvd. cut-thru traffic on the residential streets of Fryman Road, Oakdell Road, Laurel Terrace Drive and the "Dona" Streets.

October 2015: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports Councilmember Paul Krekorian's motion (CF 14-1741 and 14-1741-51) to regulate internet-based navigation applications such as Waze and further asks that these apps be prohibited from sending cars through neighborhood streets not classified for thru-traffic or approved by the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation for thru-traffic. We submit this motion in the form of a community impact statement.

Here are some steps you can take:

1. Write to Councilmember Paul Krekorian requesting that the SCNC motions be heard at City Council. And ask that his office contact the LAPD to request traffic officers to be assigned to Dona Emilia and Dona Pegita and specify the hours. The stop signs on Berry Drive, the Cantons and Wrightwood Drive are also being disregarded. You can reach the Councilmember at paul.krekorian@lacity.org His area representative is Courtney Hamilton courtney.hamilton@lacity.org

2. Contact the North Hollywood LAPD traffic division at (818) 754-8300 and request that they police these areas.

Q: A friend and neighbor of mine was at the SCRA meeting this week and learned about the program to encourage barn owls to nest on their property to naturally curb the rodent population in Studio City. I am a Studio City resident and have lots of fruit trees and, therefore, lots of rats. The city gave me poison, but I do not want to use it! I would LOVE to enroll in the barn owl program; how do I get more information and/or sign up? I live by Moorpark Street and Coldwater Canyon Avenue.

SCRA: The SCRA hosted Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) at its last community meeting. CLAW is a grassroots organization with a mission to ban rodenticides, which are a killer of our wild animals all the way up the food chain. Please check out the use of the owl box on their website clawonline.org. It takes effort on your part to clear the area and make it ready for the owls. Another parallel path with more immediate results would be to call Rodent Guy (626) 222-2453, who uses traps or a nontoxic exhaust to kill rodents. The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) has used this service for the last three years. The SCBA is also installing barn owl boxes. The SCRA is troubled the City gave you poison to use and very grateful for your interest in not using poisons to rid your area of pests. The more we can educate our neighbors on the detrimental effects of poisons, the healthier Los Angeles birds and animals will be. Please keep us informed about your progress.

Q: When is Coldwater Canyon Avenue going to be paved? The short segment of Coldwater running from Ventura Blvd. to Moorpark Street is the problem area. It was never properly repaved following the completion of the lengthy underground work. It is now nothing more than a series of potholes and depressions that have shaved years off the life of every vehicle traversing it. The distance cannot be more than a few hundred yards. The cost cannot be that great. The tens of thousands of residents who use this busy artery have suffered the inconvenience of having Coldwater Canyon Avenue torn up for years. Surely restoring a short segment of a major artery to a driveable condition is not too much to ask?

SCRA: The SCRA wrote the following to Courtney Hamilton in Council District 2 (CD2) to request information: "The residents on the west side of Studio City have been patient for more than 10 years waiting for Coldwater Canyon Avenue to be paved. The SCRA heard a couple of weeks ago from one of

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(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

our members that they have had to replace their car's axle twice in the last couple of years. Would you please check with the City to see when Coldwater Canyon Avenue is scheduled to be repaired and paved? As you know, this is a major commuter artery, and patience is running thin. The last promise was to expect the repairs after July 2015."

According to CD2, the funding for repaving Coldwater Canyon Avenue is part of the June 31, 2015-June 31, 2016 City of Los Angeles budget. That means that this project should be completed or at least started by June 31, 2016. The City keeps the scheduling or timing of street repair under wraps due to the nature of street repair projects. Timing can be moved in either direction as a result of completion or delays on other projects. The SCRA has asked CD2 to notify us as soon as the start date of the repairs is known.

SIGN UP NOW AND DON'T BE LEFT OUT: SCRA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

June 1, 2016 marks the annual renewal date for Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members. The SCRA is a major advocate for the community, and the SCRA's power is in the numbers. The more members who belong to the SCRA, the more impact the association can have. Please encourage your neighbors to visit StudioCityResidents.org to join. Feel free to share this newsletter so prospective members can learn of the many issues and challenges the SCRA tackles on behalf of residents in the community. All current members with a 6/16 date in the address section of this newsletter will be receiving a renewal reminder in the mail.

SCRA members who provide the SCRA with their e-mail address receive updates - News and Notes - throughout the month on important breaking issues in Studio City. The SCRA staff strives to keep these messages short and to the point.

Feel free to call SCRA volunteers at (818) 509-0230 regarding any questions about the SCRA or Studio City. The office is open Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. - noon. If there is no answer, please leave a message, and your call will be returned.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Alan Dymond*

The Ventura Blvd. Cahuenga Pass Specific Plan (Specific Plan) is a powerful tool that helps Studio City remain a pleasant livable community. For example, the Specific Plan regulates commercial advertisements, details parking requirements, imposes height limitations and controls activities generated by businesses on Ventura Blvd. Advertisements are a major source of complaints. Recently, a newcomer to Ventura Blvd., Sage Pre-owned Cars, erected signage, a blowup animal on the roof and other super graphics. Many complaints were filed with the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA), and we called 311 to file a report. The operator explained that other complaints had been made and that a reference number had been issued. He advised us not to file another formal complaint as doing so might slow down investigation of the first complaint. If necessary, the number could be used to track progress; however, more recently, the signage has been removed. The SCRA subsequently met with the owners, who have assured us they want to become supportive members of the Studio City community. Visit the SCRA website at StudioCityResidents.org to review the complete Specific Plan,

On another front, the SCRA has always supported the efforts of the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) to protect the Santa Monica Mountains. In recent news, a motion was made to identify and maintain existing corridors that connect wildlife habitats. Wildlife corridors are essential so that wildlife can pass between habitats and help maintain a healthy productive gene pool. The motion passed unanimously at a Los Angeles City Council committee, and on April 22, 2016, which was Earth Day, the City Council unanimously passed the motion. It was supported strongly by City Councilmember Paul Krekorian. Similarly, the SCRA supported another effort by the MRCA to establish such a corridor at 3604 Woodhill Canyon, which is located just off Laurel Terrace.

The SCRA has worked diligently to replace the brickwork for the planter on Ventura Place that was considerably damaged by a car. The final touch of replacement letters may be in place by the time of this publication. The planter was originally built with resources from the SCRA, CBS Studio Center and other personal donations. Research of the SCRA archives disclosed a document that the City approved this planter, which is on city property; however, to get the repairs moving, the SCRA, the Studio City Business Improvement District (BID) and the Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) split the cost to get the repairs done. The driver was cited by the police, and the police file indicates that the SCRA, the BID and the Chamber have damages arising from the accident. Hopefully these organizations will see recovery of the expenses incurred. Please drive safely.

Alan Dymond

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Los Angeles River Committee
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Studio City Farmers Market

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

NEW MEETING LOCATION:

Rio Vista Elementary School
4243 Satsuma Avenue
Studio City, CA 91602

*Located on the corner of Whipple
Street and Satsuma Avenue.*

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Refreshments/meet
your neighbors

7:30 p.m. Author Martin M.
Cooper on the history/growth of
the San Fernando Valley

The SCRA Community Meetings have moved to Rio Vista Elementary School, 4243 Satsuma Avenue, Studio City, CA 91602. Free parking is available in the school parking lot along with street parking. Do not park opposite the school. Follow the signs to the meeting.

