



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

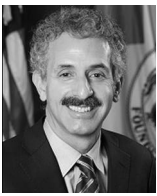
Your Advocate for Studio City

May 2017

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LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY MIKE FEUER TO ADDRESS MAY SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING



Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer will provide Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members and guests with a crime and safety update at the association's monthly community meeting on May 9, 2017. This session continues the SCRA's focus on safety issues. Feuer has long been one of California's leading lawyers and lawmakers. As Los Angeles' chief lawyer and prosecutor since July 2013, Feuer has brought an innovative, problem-solving focus to the office that combines tough and effective prosecution with creative initiatives to improve public safety and quality-of-life throughout the city. His efforts have also sparked change throughout the state and the nation.

Feuer has nearly tripled the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, won a settlement against Wells Fargo's conduct, fought elder abuse, cracked down on patient dumping, combated wage theft, tackled substandard housing, closed more than 800 illegal medical marijuana dispensaries and instituted a program to protect immigrants from fraud. He has been the first in the state of California to enforce new legislation designed to ensure women have full information about their reproductive choices when they go to so-called pregnancy crisis centers.

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JOIN THE SCRA AND STAY IN-THE-KNOW

June 1, 2017 marks the annual renewal date for Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members. The SCRA is a major advocate for the community, and its power is in the numbers. The more members who belong to the SCRA, the more impact the association can have. Using the online renewal process saves postage. Visit StudioCityResidents.org to join or renew. Note: You do not need to be a PayPal subscriber to pay online. The "Pay Now" button takes you to PayPal, where you have a choice to either pay from a PayPal account or pay by credit card. If you do not want to pay using PayPal, click "New to PayPal" where you can pay by credit card as a guest.

Please encourage your neighbors to join and 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 6/17 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 throughout the month on important breaking news and 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.

The SCRA Community Meeting takes place at Rio Vista Elementary School, 4243 Satsuma Avenue, Studio City, CA 91602. Meet and greet the community at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Parking is available in the school parking lot. All members of the public are invited to attend.

STUDIO CITY SENIOR LEAD OFFICER MIKE LEWIS RETIRES



The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) and its members extend best wishes

(Continued, Page 2)



(Lewis, cont'd)

to Officer Mike Lewis on his April 2017 retirement. Officer Lewis has been a major force in helping to keep Studio City safe. His willingness to quickly respond to inquiries, help with homeless problems and obtain signage to hide valuables at the parking at Fryman Canyon were just a few of the many things he did for the community. In January 2008, the SCRA honored Officer Lewis for his service and presented him with the Studio City Cares Award for Excellence in Community Service. The SCRA extends its deepest thanks.

Members who would like to send their best wishes to Officer Lewis can do so by contacting Sergeant Chris Rowland at e34296@LAPD.lacit.org. Sergeant Rowland will pass along all messages to Officer Lewis.

A FOND FAREWELL TO ANN UDELL

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) salutes Ann Udell, who passed away last August. Udell was a dedicated SCRA volunteer who always said yes when asked to sit at a booth, work at the SCRA office or help with decorations for the Studio City Winter Family Festival.

Udell was born on September 4, 1926 in Boston, MA. She moved to Los Angeles as a young woman. She was a member of the Screen Writers Guild and worked on such television productions as "Death Valley Days" and "The Secrets of ISIS." She also contributed to Disney's "Barry of the Great St. Bernard." Udell was a devoted member of the Sherman Oaks Women's Club; in 1990, this civic organization was absorbed under the SCRA umbrella. Udell arranged for the organization's remaining funds to be donated to the SCRA and asked the SCRA to continue honoring outstanding community members with the Fran Quigley Award. This award is the SCRA's highest honor. It is bestowed each year as part of the SCRA's Studio City Cares Awards. The SCRA honors Udell's devotion to Studio City.

METRO BIKE SHARE IN STUDIO CITY?



The Metro Bike Share program is expanding across Los Angeles. For a small fee, riders

can take a bike from one bike station and ride to a bike station close to their destination. Similar programs now operate in Downtown Los Angeles, New York Miami, Tel Aviv, and other US and European cities. The bikes are easy and convenient to ride, and the seats adjust easily to fit one's size.

The Metro Bike Share program welcomes suggestions about where new bike stations should be located. Please visit wikimapping.com/wikimap/LA-County-Map.html, and, on the interactive map, add or like locations for bike stations in Studio City. Supporters of this program can also

email City Council member Paul Krekorian's Planning Deputy Karo Torossian at karo.torossian@lacity.org to show support for Metro Bike Share.

UPDATE ON THE LOS ANGELES RIVER GREENWAY

The greenway that runs from Coldwater Canyon Avenue to Whitsett Avenue on the north bank of the Los



Angeles River is steadily progressing towards completion. The on-ramp to the river bank at Whitsett Avenue has been



concreted; the fence at the river is in place; benches have been delivered; and irrigation pipes are being installed at the west end. On the opposite bank on the south side, the bike path that continues up to Coldwater Canyon Avenue is in place; however, the bike path has not yet been opened to the public. When completed, the path will link to the bike path that runs from Whitsett Avenue to Laurel Canyon Blvd.

SCRA MARCH COMMUNITY MEETING TACKLES CRIME & SAFETY ISSUES

The SCRA March Community Meeting featured Ron Dresher from the LAPD North Hollywood Division Community Police Advisory Board along with LAPD Captain Don Graham and Interim Studio City Lead Officer John Antonioli, who provided SCRA members and guests with several safety tips and updates about crime in the area.

Captain Graham welcomed community feedback on the performance of the four temporary senior lead officers who have been filling shoes left by former Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis, who retired in April 2017. The LAPD's policy says that temporary senior lead officers can serve for two months. Applications and interviews for a permanent senior lead officer for the community will begin in May.

(Continued, Page 3)

(Meeting, cont'd)



Captain Graham has served as an LAPD captain in Downtown Los Angeles for two years. He offered that residents need to weigh "security vs. convenience." For example, residents should set a house alarm and lock the doors every time they leave. Move items

from the inside of a car to the trunk. Residents may be a little inconvenienced but will be much less likely to be the victim of a crime. The LAPD's iWatchLA website instructs the public on spotting and reporting suspicious activities. Check out lapd.org/iwatchla

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: Lankershim Blvd. Road Striping: I am calling your attention to the barely visible lane lines leading to the entrance of Universal Studios from the north as you pass Ca de Sole. They are virtually invisible during the evening hours. It is a driving hazard. I am sure a call from you will be more effective than if I were to call.

SCRA: The SCRA wrote to Geoff Yazzetta, deputy to Councilmember Paul Krekorian, and received this response: "The Department of Transportation has several open requests for this restriping job. I asked if they could bump it up on the list."

Q: Traffic Officer at Coldwater Canyon Avenue: I am writing in the hopes that someone will raise the issue of the removal of the morning traffic officers at the intersection of Coldwater Canyon Avenue and Ventura Blvd., which has created significant resulting gridlock. When I leave for work at 6:30 a.m., the intersection is already blocked by cross-traffic heading over Coldwater Canyon. I understand that funding for the officers dried up, but that the Council member was attempting to get such funding reinstated. This is a quality-of-life issue that affects his constituents at the most basic level. An inability to get in and out of our neighborhoods to our workplaces (and elsewhere) diminishes the desirability of living in what is otherwise a highly sought-after area. I hope you will ask about the Council member's efforts to get officers back at the intersection and when we might know if those efforts have succeeded or failed.

SCRA: The SCRA received this reply from Council District 2 (CD2): "The placement of these officers last year was a trial



STUDIO CITY
farmers market

TO THE MARKET

The Studio City Farmers Market is pleased to welcome back Lou, The French on the Block. Lou and his wife Karima, natives of France, were at the Market a couple of years ago with their delectable mini French pastries. Their new booth will include bigger versions of said pastries, croissants, fruit tartlets, éclairs and more, along with traditional French sandwiches such as French brie with avocado, roasted chicken with tomatoes and hard boiled eggs, and salmon with cucumber and Boursin cream cheese. All sandwiches are made with a French traditional crispy baguette baked in house. Visit Lou and Karima on the north side of the street near the center of the Market.

A reminder that dogs are not allowed at the Market except for service dogs. Having dogs at the market violates the health codes. Please leave pets at home when shopping at the 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. Stop by and visit!

The Market is open on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

with a limited budget. We are looking to see if it is something we can continue funding."

The SCRA responded to CD2: Thank you for your reply about a traffic officer at Coldwater Canyon Avenue and Ventura Blvd. Yesterday, the SCRA received a verbal inquiry about the same issue, and this morning at 7:00 a.m., representatives from the SCRA drove the area and saw that east, west and southbound traffic was backed up going over Coldwater Canyon Avenue. We saw major congestion and gridlock. This problem needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. Please bring this issue to the attention of the Council member to see if funding can be worked out and please keep the SCRA informed of progress.

Q: Whitsett Trunk Line Completion: Can you provide an updated status of the city trunk line project on Whitsett Avenue south of Riverside Drive? It appears the construction team is wrapping up, but we wanted to get the timing for completion and restoration of the street to normal conditions.



(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

SCRA: The City Trunk Line South Unit 4 project is 97% complete and on schedule for completion later this spring. We anticipate it to be done by May and hopefully the weather continues to cooperate. This project was behind schedule with an original completion date of October 2017, but the contractor gained time by working 24-hour shifts.

Q: Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis: Do we know what happened to Studio City Senior Leader officer Mike Lewis? Is he okay? He seemed to really care about Studio City.

SCRA: We have been told Officer Lewis is retiring. Captain Graham said he would be happy to pass along any cards or well wishes to Officer Lewis and that they would be much appreciated. Officer Lewis' official retirement was in April. (See additional information in this newsletter.)

Q: Studio City Boundary Sign: A member of the Studio City Residents Association has brought to my attention a missing Studio City sign. This is the blue one with the City of Los Angeles seal. The missing sign is located at the southwest corner of Tujunga Avenue and Sarah Street. I hope we will be able to get another one.

SCRA: The Department of Transportation will order a replacement sign. Thanks for letting us know.

Q: Crosswalk at Rhodes Avenue at Ventura Blvd.: Members continue to make inquiries regarding the installation of the crosswalk lighting at Ventura Blvd. and Rhodes Avenue.

SCRA: The SCRA is continuing to follow up with the Department of Transportation and CD2 to see when funding will be available to make the necessary additional upgrades to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. (See article in the March 2017 SCRA newsletter.)

Q: Overdevelopment: Recently, the house across the street has done some construction/additions that have obstructed the beautiful view we have enjoyed for the past two decades. The house is three stories and is now obstructing the view. The property owners added a tower structure on top of the garage. We believe this may be in violation of the maximum height zoning regulations, and, ultimately, may be in violation of the RFA. Is there any action we can take to rectify the situation?

SCRA: If this house is in the hills, as you say, it was never within the Studio City RFA. The Studio City RFA covers only single-family homes in the flatlands of Studio City. However, single-family homes in the hills are covered by the Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO). The BHO was

recently amended (overhauled is a better term), with much tougher restrictions. These tougher restrictions took effect on March 17, 2017. However, it is likely the home you are speaking of had its permits pulled way before March 17, so this house would be under the original BHO rules. You can find a link to the 2011 BHO at StudioCityResidents.org under Our Community and Overdevelopment.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ADRIN NAZARIAN ASSIGNS FIELD REP TO SAVE LA RIVER EFFORT



Emma Taylor, field representative for Sherman Oaks for Assembly member Adrin Nazarian, has been given additional responsibilities in Studio City. Taylor will be focused on keeping the Weddington Golf &

Tennis site as open space for public use. Stephen Butcher, Assembly member Nazarian's field representative for Studio City will continue in that position. The Studio City Residents Association and sister organization SLAROS welcome this additional help to maintain the current open space status for this location with the goal that it could eventually become the Los Angeles River Natural Park.

LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION

Assembly member Adrin Nazarian is asking Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members to provide their top three priorities in the ongoing efforts to revitalize the Los Angeles River. The Assembly member has provided a survey to the community at a46.asmdc.org/la-river-survey-0

The SCRA listed key priorities in a recent News & Notes eblast, which included:

- Open Parks and Spaces: Create potential for 2300 acres of accessible and equitably distributed open space within a mile of the river;
- Water Recharge: Capture up to 28.5 billion gallons of water per year to replenish the aquifers; and
- Water Quality: Improve river water quality to positively impact the region's natural ecosystem.

This survey can play an important role in engaging Sacramento and generating funding opportunities. The SCRA board strongly encourages members of the community to complete the survey.

STUDIO CITY SIDEWALK REPAIRS REPORT

Here is the latest information on scheduled sidewalk installations:

MILESTONE 1:

Ventura Blvd. and Fruitland Avenue
11453 to 11459 Ventura Blvd.
11533 to 11537 Ventura Blvd.

Tentatively scheduled to start mid-April 2017 with a duration of six weeks.

MILESTONE 2: Schedule not yet available.

11117 to 11119 Ventura Blvd.
11144 to 11156 Ventura Blvd.
11222 to 11252 Ventura Blvd.
11545 to 11548 Ventura Blvd.
12548 to 12744 Ventura Blvd.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Alan Dymond*

Several events have come to a head this past month or so, including efforts to revitalize the Los Angeles River and the role of the property at the Weddington Golf and Tennis site in that revitalization.

On April 7, 2017, Jon Switalski, director of external affairs, River LA, was given a site tour of Studio City river environments as they connect to the revitalization plans for the Los Angeles River. Discussions during that tour focused on how the Weddington Golf and Tennis site is a necessary component of the Los Angeles River. The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) provided Switalski with a copy of the Vision Plan for the site and shared with him that Technical Feasibility Studies were readily available to his board. SCRA members may recall the SCRA provided these studies to the Bureau of Sanitation for review and that the bureau accepted these documents. In a further discussion, Switalski informed the SCRA about The River Index produced by River LA. In addition, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, supervised by Sheila Kuehl, authorized an LA County River Master Plan with the storm water element. Switalski advised me that River LA is discouraging speculation: Frank Gehry has suggested at staff meetings that the river project is not for private benefit and profit. This supports statements by State Senator Kevin DeLeon that the river is for everyone. Finally, there is a proposal to have a zone around the river, e.g., a half-mile radius would be taxed on any new developments.

I invited Switalski to speak at the July 11, 2017 SCRA Community Meeting since SCRA members have a strong interest in this site and how it ties into the river revitalization improvements here in Studio City. Switalski will make a presentation and be available for Q&A.

Additionally, I met with Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's policy advisor since the Council member chairs the Los Angeles River committee. The meeting presented an opportunity to inform his committee of SCRA's and SLAROS' efforts to keep the present status of the property as open space for public recreational use and possibly bring about a permanent change so it becomes a park on the river.

The SCRA has also approached the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to join in a letter to Council member Paul Krekorian in support of his efforts to keep the Weddington Property as open space and oppose the development proposed by the owner. The MRCA board passed a resolution to this effect and approved the use of the MRCA logo for this purpose. In addition, the Hillside Federation passed a motion joining in the letter and permitted use of its logo. The SCRA has also secured support from Former State Senator Fran Pavley and political activist Ed Begley, Jr., along with many other business entities and individuals. The SCRA has approached the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to provide its support and approve use of its logo. A motion to that effect is scheduled on the agenda for the next meeting of the conservancy.

Finally, SCRA members and the public in general have responded to the need to keep the Weddington Golf and Tennis site as open space by signing post cards addressed to Council member Krekorian, supporting his efforts to keep the Weddington property from development. Post cards were completed at the Studio City Farmers Market and promoted in social media, the Studio City Neighborhood Council Green Fair, the SCRA and SLAROS websites and in a brochure delivered to 4,500 houses. The numbers of post cards received to date exceeds that of a similar effort that took place two years ago. Final numbers will be published in the near future.

If you haven't done so yet, please visit StudioCityResidents.org and submit a post card electronically. The SCRA and SLAROS thank you for your support.

Alan Dymond

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RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

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**SCRA
COMMUNITY
MEETING**

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

AGENDA

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

7:30 p.m. Presentation by Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer

MEETING LOCATION:

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

Located on the corner of Whipple Street and Satsuma Avenue.

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.

