



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

March 2019

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING ON MARCH 12 TO HOST SPEAKER KEVIN JAMES, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, ON "QUALITY OF LIFE" CITY SERVICES AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

Kevin James, Commissioner and President of the Board of Public Works oversees more than 5,000 employees and is responsible for design, construction, renovation and operation of public projects. The Commissioners act as chief administrators of the Department of Public Works that cover maintenance of streets, sidewalks, sewers, street lights, trees, curbside collection, and graffiti removal.



Kevin James also serves as Director and Chief Liaison of the Mayor's Film and Television Production, overseeing the relationships between numerous City departments and the entertainment industry to ensure that film, television, commercial, and music video production feels at home in the City of Los Angeles.

Some examples of recent activities over the last two years are: Yearly paving of a record 2,400 lane miles of city streets in the past two fiscal years and the improvement of the Pavement Condition Index; Bureau of Sanitation's creation of Clean Streets Los Angeles to reduce litter and trash, including technology to steer resources in a more efficient manner; improving the tree removal process and working to develop a more equitable tree replacement program; and, *Working with the Mayor's Office and the City Council in revitalizing the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety.

SPEEDING

State of California law requires cities to perform speed surveys every five to ten years as a condition of setting and enforcing speed limits on local streets and mandates that speed limits be set according to the speed that 85% of drivers are traveling on corresponding roads. Without this State Law required adjustment, LAPD cannot write tickets for speeding. These surveys measure the actual speeds driven by the vast majority of users when the street is uncrowded, along with road collision history, roadside conditions, residential and business density, and pedestrian and bicyclists.

(Continued, Page 2)

UPDATE ON SPORTSMEN'S LODGE



Ben Besley of Midwood Investment & Development has reported on the anticipated redevelopment of the Sportsmen's Lodge. With the assist of landscape design firm OLIN, the Sportsmen's Lodge project received an approval from the Cultural Heritage Commission in November after the Commission

reviewed the landscape, water features and pedestrian amenities proposed to commemorate the history and heritage of the Lodge. With this approval, Midwood is continuing with design and leasing while they negotiate with potential tenants that includes Equinox. Midwood states that interest from retailers and restauranteurs remains high: the mix of tenants will complement tenants located east along Ventura Boulevard. A timeline for start of construction has not yet been determined. SCRA will keep members informed as to the start date and other updates by keeping in close contact with Besley and Midwood.





(Speeding, cont'd)

The LA Department of Transportation completed the required survey that now will allow the LAPD to prioritize traffic enforcement of the new limits. City Council voted to approve speed limit changes on selected city streets. Barry Johnson, Transportation Chair of the Studio City Neighborhood Council and board member of the SCRA wrote to Councilmember Paul Krekorian questioning the State of California law requiring cities to perform speed surveys every five to ten years which then allows the LAPD to enforce traffic regulations on those streets

Councilmember Krekorian responded:
"I couldn't agree with you more. The state "speed trap" law is an unnecessary and problematic intrusion on local control of our streets. I'm not sure if you're aware of my history on this issue, but as a State Assemblymember, I actually introduced legislation to correct this exact problem and eliminate the current prohibition on effective enforcement of speed limits. Unfortunately, that bill was crushed -- we didn't even get it out of the Assembly Transportation Committee. Both of my successors took up the effort after I left the Assembly and yet the problem remains. I'm confident that all of our local state representatives would be supportive of changing this law, but I have no confidence that such a change would be approved by the full Assembly and Senate.

"All that being said, completing the speed surveys and changing the speed limits has been the right thing to do, and I am convinced that our more aggressive enforcement is the best thing we can do to fight speeding and save lives. All the evidence shows that people don't start driving faster on the same street just because the posted speed limit goes up; they drive at the highest speed that they feel comfortable with given the nature of the street. The new speed limits are based on the actual flow of traffic, but the biggest danger to lives is the outliers who drive much faster than the flow of traffic. For those drivers, I believe that we can influence their behavior through more effective enforcement."

The effect of this State Law forced the City Council to take action. For Studio City, this means that 2-laned Colfax Avenue from Ventura Boulevard to Moorpark Street and 2-laned Whitsett Avenue from Ventura Boulevard to Riverside Drive will have speed limits increased from 35 MPH to 40 MPH. Meanwhile, 4-laned Laurel Canyon Boulevard will remain at 35 MPH. Go figure!

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Meg Seltzer, SCBA President

The city of LA recently finished putting in the new sidewalk on the south side of Ventura at Fairway (across the street from Jerry's Famous Deli). Partnering with the Studio City Business District (BID), the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) will turn the parkway and the steep triangle shaped hillside in front of the Crown Media Building into low maintenance, colorful and draught-tolerant plants and ground cover. Thank you again for your landscape designer suggestions. We interviewed them all and the winner is...Studio City's own Wild Flora. We'll keep you updated as things progress.

And speaking of progress, the ivy that has been strangling trees on the west side of Whitsett between Sarah Street and



Moorpark has been cleaned up with an assist from Studio City Beautification. This area has been an eyesore for years. We express our gratitude to the "Clean and Green LA Conservation Corps" for doing the work and say thank you to Jessica Fugate, Councilmember Krekorian's Field Deputy for following through and making the cleanup happen.

*And a 14-point **bold** thanks to you for donating. The Studio City Beautification Association is very grateful and appreciative for your generous 'during and end-of-the-year' tax-deductible donations. It is only through your generosity that SCBA can be your representative to beautify and improve our community. So when you drive by medians that used to be overgrown with dying weeds but now have trees and lush ground cover or walk through pocket parks like the Oasis (across the street from Marshall's) where the plants are now mature and vibrant, be proud. We all did this together!*

When you have time to relax and put your feet up, we invite you to visit the SCBA website studiocitybeautification.org to see pictures of our completed beautification projects and sites currently in progress where beauty awaits. There are many and if you would like to tour the sites to see them first hand, SCBA has created a tour route that will take you from one site to another with a start point at CBS on Radford. We're happy to email you a free copy of the route. Just send us a note at studiocitybeautificationassoc@gmail.com or if you prefer, call the office at 818-509-0230 and we'll put one in the mail to you.

See you in the neighborhood.

GOOD NEWS FOR LOS ANGELES URBAN FOREST

Further to the article in the January Newsletter, on page 3, a plea to sustain the Los Angeles Urban Forest, the SCRA wrote to the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee in support of two motions coming before the committee. One motion sought to establish a Director of Community Forestry position within the Urban Forestry Division of the Bureau of Street Services. The other motion was to restore the Urban Forestry Division's staffing levels to pre-2008 levels, conduct a citywide street tree inventory and urban forest management plan, address the City's tree maintenance and replacement policy, and analyze new sidewalk designs that consider the need to preserve the City's street trees.

On February 6th, 2019, the Public Works Committee considered and approved the recommendations relative to hiring of a Director of Community Forestry and additional staff to support the City's urban canopy. The file was then forwarded to the Budget and Finance Committee. File number is 18-0988.

The January Newsletter article details why an urban forest is an essential presence in any city scape and the benefits on many levels to all of life who live there.

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: I can hear not just every footfall, but every drawer opened, word spoken, and every other sound from the unit above mine. Help?

SCRA: SCRA called Todd Gilman, neighborhood prosecutor about the problem. Todd suggests that our member contact HCID (Housing Community Investment Department) hcidllacity.org/renters and register a complaint. The HCID will follow up on the complaint with a visit to the site to see if the building and landlord are in compliance.

Q: Member reported a large eucalyptus tree fell last night along the LA river walkway (on the north side between Tujunga and Colfax). The fallen tree also took out a section of chain link fence.

SCRA: Moses Ledesma, Los Angeles County sent a request to DWP and the tree was removed



TO THE MARKET

It's turning out to be a rainy winter in Southern California, and the Market has seen more rain in the last month than in all of last year. Market policy is, rain or shine, the

Market stays open. That said, there are exceptions to this. If there are high winds, or lightning, the Market will close. If this is anticipated, announcements on the closure will be posted on the website, studiocityfarmersmarket.com, on Instagram and on Facebook, and an email will be sent to SCRA members.

Profits from the Farmers Market are donated back to the community throughout the year. Non-profit organizations and schools looking for donations should send an email to the Market Manager with specific needs. Requests are considered and voted upon by the Board of Directors at quarterly meetings. For more information and to request a donation, please email: manager@studiocityfarmersmarket.com.

Q: Someone discarded a brown sofa at the Oasis (across the street from Marshall's). I just reported it to MyLA311 for "Bulky Item Illegal Dumping" pickup.

SCRA: Response from Sr. Lead Officer Shawn Smith: *I will get down there today and see if anyone is there that can be issued a citation. I will also put another request in for pick up. Please everyone put another request in as well. It seems with sanitation the more requests they get the more chance of an actual pick up.*

Q: I recently paid a visit to the Laurel Canyon dog park located at 8260 Mulholland Dr., I haven't been there in about 4 years. It is a mess! No grass, a few new trees, leaking irrigation heads, debris all over the place. This is a City owned and managed property, correct? It looks more like a war zone.



SCRA: Councilmember Ryu's office addressed the problem by contacting Recreation and Parks who have confirmed that they will clear the site of debris and will repair the irrigation. There is a sign on the gate that allows 3 dogs per person is the park, however sometimes as many as 10 dogs are brought to the park by dog walkers. The consequence is that the park is used beyond its capacity.

(Continued, Page 4)

(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

Follow-up: clean-up and repairs have been completed by Recreation and Parks. They removed a lot of tree debris and fixed some broken irrigation leaks. At the same time our board members found out Tree People is coordinating a nice tree planting project there, adding a lot of new trees to the park.

BE COYOTE AWARE

Coyotes are common throughout North America, including in urban areas. You may see and hear them more during mating season (Dec-Feb) and when juveniles are dispersing from family groups (Sept-Nov). These facts and safety tips will help increase comfort and decrease conflicts when living or recreating near coyotes, America's native "Song Dog".

Coyotes are members of the dog family; they are curious, adaptable, and learn quickly. Coyotes often mate for life, are devoted parents, and are highly communicative (barks, yips, howls). Coyotes weigh 18-35 pounds in the West and may be more protective of dens/territories during pup rearing (April-Aug).

Coyotes eat large numbers of rodents and rabbits, as well as fruit, vegetation, insects and carrion. They help keep ecosystems vital, healthy and clean. Coyotes are naturally wary of people.

For your safety: **DON'T FEED COYOTES.** Their life and your safety depend on coyotes remaining wild and naturally wary of people. Remove attractants; pick up trash, secure garbage, and feed pets inside. Don't leave food or pets outside at night. Walk dogs on leashes, especially during pup rearing season (April-Aug). Pick up your small dog if you see a coyote and don't let pets roam. If approached, don't run. Wave arms, make noise and walk toward the coyote until he retreats. Be "Big, Bad and Loud." Avoid areas where coyotes may be denning or feeding/hiding pups.

SENATOR HERZBERG'S LEGISLATION TO HELP CALIFORNIANS PREPARE FOR "BIG ONE"

Senate Majority Leader Bob Hertzberg has introduced Senate Bill 254 legislation that will allocate \$1 billion in funding over the next 10 years to seismically strengthen homes in California. It comes on the 25th anniversary of the 6.7 1994 Northridge earthquake that caused widespread devastation leaving almost 60 dead and approximately 9,000 injured. In response, the legislature created the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) in 1996 to better prepare Californians. A Brace & Bolt Program was launched in 2014 leading to 4,000 homes in Los



Angeles County taking advantage of the program that offered financial support.

The present legislation is supported by Glenn Pomeroy, CEO of the California Earthquake Authority "...We know that if we take bold steps now to strengthen older homes in areas of high seismic risk, our communities will be better able to survive after the Big One strikes." Dr. Lucy Jones, a widely regarded expert authority warned "The earthquake is inevitable, but the disaster is not." Senator Hertzberg also said, "Each dollar spent today will save thousands of dollars tomorrow. We have to get ahead of the game." The odds are 99% percent that California will experience a 6.7 or larger earthquake within the next 30 years.

Under this legislation, the CEA's finances will be restructured. Dollars will be used to fund retrofits of homes by shifting its resources to undertake preventative action and so lessen the impact of the next "Big One." As the Senator stated "... it could prevent a family from losing everything. It could be the difference between life and death."

The bill is identified SB 254 Contact Katie Hanzlik of the Senator's office at Katie.Hanzlik@sen.ca.gov. The website of California Earthquake Authority is: earthquakeauthority.com

PRESENTATION OF THE STUDIO CITY CARES AWARD TO TONY RICHMAN



Tony Richman, President of the Studio City Business Improvement District was unable to attend the January Studio City Cares Award ceremony to receive the Award that was granted him by the SCRA Board. The SCRA is pleased to be able to present the award to Tony, in person, at the upcoming March Community Meeting.

THE SCRA BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Studio City Beautification Board Members: Meg Seltzer, Karen Younce, Charles Blakeslee, Connie Elliot, Beth Dymond, Barry Johnson, Andy Epstein .

Save LA River Open Space Board Members: Alan Dymond, Laurie Cohn, Chip Meehan, Charles Blakeslee, Patty Kirby, Beth Dymond (non- voting)

Each of the above boards appointed its officers.

Studio City Beautification Officers:
Meg Seltzer, President; Beth Dymond, Vice President; Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer ex officio; Connie Elliot, Secretary.

Save LA River Open Space Officers:
Alan Dymond President; Laurie Cohn, Vice President; Chip Meehan, Vice President; Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer Ex Officio; Beth Dymond, Secretary (non- voting)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

No more polling places -- voting centers are coming

The California Voter's Choice Act was passed by the California State Legislature in 2016. In compliance with the act the traditional polling places in Los Angeles County will be replaced with Vote Centers. These Vote Centers will allow voters who are registered voters in Los Angeles County to vote at any Vote Center in Los Angeles County during an 11 day voting period. This new way of voting will start with the March 2020 Presidential Primary election. From July 2018 to Jan 2019, LA County Registrar of Voters invited communities to suggest Vote Center locations. As reported by Meg Seltzer, committee chair, the committee participated by proposing sites in our three zip codes in 91602, 91604, 91607 all of which are within Studio City. It is anticipated by the committee that more outreach events in Studio City will be conducted by the County Registrar of Voters so as to familiarize voters with this new voting process. As always, our members will be kept informed as things progress.

Sacramento wants to override LA Zoning ordinances

In 2018 State Sen. Scott Wiener authored Senate Bill 827 by which local authorities must allow developers to override local zoning ordinances and place high-rise apartment buildings deemed as "affordable housing near light rail stations or heavily used bus routes". Due to opposition by local governments, homeowner groups, lack of support from former Gov. Jerry Brown, the bill failed. Senator Wiener has now re-written SB 827 as SB 50 that if passed the city must grant a developer waivers from maximum density and parking requirements if it is designated as a "Transit-rich housing project". That is, the project is within a one-half mile radius of a "major transit stop" or is within one-quarter mile radius of a stop on a "high-quality bus corridor". Valley organizations are joined again by SCRA in opposition to SB50. SCRA has sent a letter of opposition to our elected officials, state and local that the lack affordable housing in not addressed or resolved by this bill. Better solutions are required. The SCRA letter is posted on the SCRA website.

Foreseeable results should SB50 pass

High end towers in single-family areas. Up-zones thousands of single-family areas within a 1/4 mile of a high quality bus line or 1/2 mile of a major transit hub.

Forces cities to allow high end luxury towers in single-family areas.

Up zones streets to 6- and 8-story apartments if an area is "jobs-rich with good schools." Up zones thousands of single-family areas within a 1/4 mile of a frequent bus stop or 1/2 mile of a rail station.

Parking requirements are reduced on the claim that those in the vicinity Transit Rich Housing Projects will "Use transit." Provides that developers can file suit should any city not comply with the mandate. Allows developers not to comply with setbacks, backyards, green belts.

Comments from the Studio City Cares Awards

At the January SCRA Annual General Meeting, the Studio City Cares Awards were presented to four outstanding people. As acting MC of the event, after introducing and handing over to the presenters, I was free to step back and listen. One common theme that became apparent was the appreciation of the recipients for the awards, the thanks they received for what they do and to know that the community reached out to them to show its appreciation. A common theme was for Respect, Civility, and Giving. Respect for all people in the community, Civility when communicating with each other and Giving by these people to the community,

Guest Speakers for 2019 Community Meetings

This Month Tuesday March 12 - Kevin James President Board of Public Works

Tuesday May 14th - Michael Feuer. Los Angeles City Attorney

Tuesday July 9th - Sara Sheehy Burbank Airport Authority

Tuesday September 10th - Council Member Paul Kerkorian

Tuesday November 12th - Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian

Bridges Academy Library (Laurel and Ventura across from Carpenter School). 'Parking is well lit and there is security personal'
The SCRA community meetings present an opportunity to increase understanding how our city and state functions, and equally important, to ask questions.

Alan Dymond

SCRA Officers

Alan Dymond, President
Barry Johnson, Vice President
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

Board Members

Beth Dymond
Martha Hanrahan
Stephen Sass
Robin Seidel
Karen Younce

Beautification Association

Meg Seltzer, President
Beth Dymond, Vice President

Connie Elliot, Secretary
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

Board Members

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Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space Officers

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Laurie Cohn, Vice President
Chip Meehan, Vice President
Beth Dymond, Secretary
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

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Studio City Farmers Market

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, Mar 12, 2019

MEETING LOCATION:

Bridges Academy
LIBRARY
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments/meet your neighbors.
- 7:30 p.m.** Announcements; Studio City Cares Award: Tony Richman; Shawn Smith, LAPD Senior Lead Officer; Speaker: Kevin James
- One block south of Ventura Bl, at Laurel Canyon Bl. and Maxwellton Rd. Parking off of Maxwellton Rd. Free parking is available in the school parking lot. Enter from Maxwellton Rd. Security will assist.*

