



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Your Advocate for Studio City*

**May 2024**

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## JOIN THE AMAZING GROUP OF RESIDENTS BEHIND SCRA!



Ever thought of volunteering but just haven't gotten around to doing it? It's never quite the right time, or the right place, or the right cause. But that little voice inside keeps saying, "C'mon, let's do it - let's get involved!"

If the idea of meeting neighbors, being in the know on local issues, and investing in your community sounds wonderfully rewarding, then that up there is your sign!

The Studio City Residents Association is an independent, community-based, 100% volunteer organization that for over 60 years has been advocating for Studio City and zealously protecting the character and charm that makes this town the place we all know and love.

Today, we are a group of about 15 or so volunteers. We come from different backgrounds and walks of life, but we all share a love for Studio City and want to give back to the community.

### ***We'd be delighted to count you among us!***

As one of our Board Members put it: "My hope is that more people get involved and enjoy the unexpected dividends of giving back to the community." The camaraderie, the sense of purpose, the connection - these are the things that have made many of us "lifers."

Indeed, some of us have been doing this for 33 years! Just as well, some have been volunteering for three years, and some are fresh out of the bag. Some give a few hours a week, some every day, and others whenever they can. All are key to SCRA's operation.

### ***So, what is it exactly that SCRA volunteers do?***

We meet with local officials, organize community events, manage the Farmers Market (along with our partners at the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation), run Studio City Beautification and Save LA River Open Space, answer phones, connect residents to critical resources, work closely with law enforcement, produce a bi-monthly newsletter, fight unwelcome development, and serve as Board Members.

There's truly something for everyone, and right now, we are seeking volunteers to:

**(Continued, page 2)**

## SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

***Bridges Academy, Tuesday May 14, 2024  
Meeting from 7:15 PM to 8:45 PM***

## THE STATE OF STUDIO CITY

The SCRA Board has designed the May 14th Community meeting as a forum for our members to ask questions and become better informed about issues and challenges facing Studio City, now and in the future.

Your board is inviting the leaders in our community to give you an update on vital issues that are coming our way. An informed membership is our best defense against City Hall. Efforts are currently afoot to erode zoning laws, create parking nightmares, weaken the specific Plan on Ventura,

**(Continued, page 2)**

## (Volunteers, cont'd)

- **Join our Events Committee.** Help plan and organize community meetings and special events like our annual Membership Appreciation Dinner.
- **Become our social media guru.** A perfect opportunity for a highly entrepreneurial, social-media savvy individual to help establish SCRA's online presence.
- **Be our eyes and ears at other community (non-SCRA) meetings.** Being on top of the many issues impacting Studio City is a critical part of the work we do. We need more people to attend meetings around town and report back so we can stay well-informed and take appropriate action as needed.
- **Help in the office.** We need volunteers with computer skills to work as needed in the SCRA office.

## Ready to roll up your sleeves? Want to contribute your time in some other way?

For more information on joining our efforts, please email us at [scraboard@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org)

We look forward to connecting with you!

Your neighbors,  
The Studio City Residents Association

## BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President



Spring is in the air and the plants are in bloom showing off their spring splendor. There is so much beauty at

our SCBA sites now, we invite you to come by and take a look. And 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 from Marshalls) where the plants are now mature and vibrant, be proud. We all did this together! For a list of sites and locations, visit the SCBA website [www.studiocitybeautification.org](http://www.studiocitybeautification.org)

And, of course, spring means spring cleaning which is what your Studio City Beautification Association did with the two green Mutt Mitt dispensers at the Oasis. These two boxes, one at the east end and the other at the west end of the Oasis were so damaged and covered with graffiti they couldn't be cleaned or repaired so we replaced both of them. Special thanks to SCBA Board Member Barry Johnson for



## (Meeting, cont'd)

and much more. Our panel includes:

### Who's Who in Studio City - Leadership Panel

*Barry Johnson, Acting President - Studio City Residents Association*

*Dean Cutler, President, and Vicki Nussbaum, Exec. Director - Business Improvement District*

*Esther Walker Exec. Director - Studio City Chamber of Commerce and Farmers Market*

*Beth Dymond, Vice President - Studio City Beautification Association*

*Dale Fernandez, President - Save LA River Open Space*

*Chip Meehan, President - Studio City Neighborhood Council*

*Lisa Sarkin - Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan*

We will also let you know about what good things are happening in Studio City. Bring your questions and get ready for a discussion on the well-being of Studio City.

installing them and a special SCBA thanks to our Studio City neighbor and proud poop bag volunteer Diane Stinson who keeps the boxes filled with bags.



Thanks to a grant from the Studio City Neighborhood Council, we have enough funding now to move forward on refreshing the Eastside Median on Ventura near Lankershim (across from the BLVD Hotel). SCBA board member Doug Short has created the new landscaping design and is working with our SK maintenance crew to have the median refresh completed before June 1.

And in our Futures File, SCBA is looking at the possibility of replacing the missing trees on Ventura Blvd. between Carpenter and Lankershim. Yes, it would be a massive undertaking but how wonderful it would be to create a tree-lined Ventura Boulevard. Tony Lucente, who was President of the Studio City Residents Association from 1991-2006 is a key player on this committee.

Stay safe and see you in the neighborhood.

## TAKE A WALK ON THE ZEV

Zev Greenway Trail on the LA River from Whitsett to Coldwater is looking good and will look even better thanks to the leadership of North East Trees.

(Continued, page 3)

## **(Trail, cont'd)**

North East Trees coordinated the services of several organizations including Tree People. They applied and received grant money and restoration work was started in October 2023. Visit [www.northeasttrees.org](http://www.northeasttrees.org).

North East Trees' goal was to ensure the optimal condition and user experience of the Zev Greenway Trail.

### **Trail Inspection and Assessment**

The entire Zev Greenway Trail was inspected during adverse weather conditions, to identify areas requiring attention. This involved a particular focus on assessing the trail surface and natural elements affecting the trail. Additionally, the bioswale was inspected to ensure it is functioning as intended by effectively collecting stormwater runoff and contributing to the overall environmental sustainability of the trail.



**BEFORE**

### **Vegetation Management**

Overgrown vegetation was trimmed, invasive species removed along with potential hazards. This effort resulted in the accumulation of approximately 40 cubic yards of material. This approach not only ensures the safety of trail users but also promotes the health and resilience of the local ecosystem.

### **Future Additional Improvements**

A cost estimate for implementing additional river rock wall cladding to seamlessly blend the constructed elements with the natural surroundings, enhancing the aesthetics while ensuring functional durability has been submitted. Furthermore, there is a proposal for the re-doing of the drip irrigation system in the bioswale to optimize its functionality and efficiency while addressing the existing issues, such as leaks and excessive tubing that hinder its proper operation ensuring it efficiently manages stormwater runoff while supporting the growth of native vegetation.

### **Upcoming Enhancements**

The bioswale grading and drainage will involve the strategic removal of accumulated dirt within the bioswale, with plans to repurpose the excavated material to rebuild the berm within the bio swale and leveling low areas in the trails where water tends to collect during rain. This comprehensive approach aims to optimize the drainage system, ensuring the bio-swale functions efficiently.



**AFTER**

Take a hike and enjoy the trail.



## **TO THE MARKET**

It's spring and that means stone fruits are slowly arriving at the Farmers Market - peaches, plums, and apricots, are fresh and juicy and ready to be enjoyed. Whether on their own or in salads and pies and everything in between, now is the time to start enjoying the season's bounty.

The Market welcomed Nia and Jags Barbecue last month. They sell delicious barbecued meats, brisket, smoked meats, sandwiches, and wonderful sides like macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, and potato salad. Great for a lunch at the Market and even better for a no-fuss dinner at home. Nia and Jags is located to the right of the main entrance in the small parking lot.

Please remember that only service animals approved as such by the ADA are permitted at the Farmers Market. Therapy dogs are not qualified as service animals. This regulation ensures compliance with health codes and maintains the cleanliness and safety of the market environment for all customers to enjoy.

## **STATUS OF WEDDINGTON GOLF AND TENNIS ~ APRIL 2024**



On Wednesday April 3rd, 2024, Harvard Westlake closed the golf and tennis operations at Weddington. The community came out in droves to show their appreciation for the decades of recreational resource that Weddington Golf & Tennis offered since it's first official tee shot by actor Dean Martin in 1956. Save LA River Open Space along with Save Weddington staged a "Unite the Fight by Candlelight" event to ensure to the community that the fight is still ongoing. If you were not personally able to be there, please go to [SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org](http://SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org) for the links of all the news footage of that event.

There are currently three ongoing lawsuits that pertain to protecting the 16 acres of green open space at Weddington. The first one is a lawsuit regarding the Historical Cultural Landmark Designation. In May 2021, the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission deemed the Weddington Golf & Tennis a historic monument. Unfortunately, the L.A. City council had downgraded its designation to only include the clubhouse, putting green, and golf ball shaped floodlights.

The second and third lawsuits are the ones filed by Save LA River Open Space and Save Weddington addressing violations of CEQA and other planning laws. All these lawsuits are filed against the City of Los Angeles as

**(Continued, page 4)**

**(SLAROS, cont'd)**

Respondent. Harvard-Westlake School and the County of Los Angeles as Real Parties in Interest. Our organizations want to hold these parties accountable.

The SLAROS lawsuit against the city is still in the "Administrative Record" phase. This phase is similar to the 'discovery phase' of a lawsuit. Upon the completion of this phase, each party will be able to submit briefings addressing legal violations, based upon the contents of the Administrative Record. This lawsuit is being presided by Honorable Judge Leiter and since it is Writ case, there is no jury decision. The litigation phase is estimated to last another six to nine months, possibly to the Fall/Winter of 2024.

We have two primary goals as these lawsuits proceed. The primary one is to ensure there is no irreparable harm done to the property by the developer until the merits of the case is fully heard by the judge. That means besides protecting the already historically designated areas and structures, we want to protect the old growth trees, wildlife, existing landscape, ecology, and respiratory health of the local community from any actions of the developer. We have filed a motion for a preliminary injunction on this manner. The hearing will be April 26th on this injunction.

Our secondary goal is to ensure the community knows that SLAROS will continue its fight during the lawsuit. We will continue to engage with the local community in teaching the importance of keeping open green space for everyone to enjoy. Please join us for our next event on Sunday April 28th. We have partnered with the Natural History Museum and the California Academy of Arts and Sciences in participating with City Nature Challenge 2024. We are inviting the whole community for a 'Bio-Blitz' on Sunday 10 am 4/28/24 at the Zev Greenway. We'll show how everyone can participate in documenting the local wildlife and plant organisms during the City Nature Challenge weekend.

For more information or to donate, please visit [SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org](http://SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org)

*Dale Fernandez, President*  
[SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org](http://SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org)



**FLIGHT PATH REPORT FROM UPROARLA - GET LOUD WITH US!**

UproarLA is pleased to provide an update to SCRA and its membership.

Our organization was formed in 2018 in response to flight path changes at Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR) tied to the FAA's NextGen airspace modernization program.

Without environmental review or public notice, the FAA in late 2016-2017 moved the BUR paths over 2 nautical miles south of the historical path, bringing severe impacts to Studio City with new condensed tracks and lowered altitudes.

We are a coalition of Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley residents committed to rolling back harmful jet noise and pollution-spewing aircraft traffic over our schools, homes, neighborhoods, and the Santa Monica Mountains.

Together with sister organizations such as Studio City For Quiet Skies, we have been advocating for a fair resolution that brings long overdue relief to Studio City, without sacrificing any other community.

Most recently, we submitted comments last month on the FAA's draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the BUR departure procedures.

Despite participating in the Southern San Fernando Valley Airport Noise Task Force of 2019/2020, which was convened because of the BUR flight path changes, and after taking nearly 5 years to complete the draft EA, the FAA proposes only to continue the existing flight paths or to make them even worse!

Thanks to generous donations from supporters, we are ready to bring a legal challenge if the FAA's final EA does not include real solutions. We may need additional funding if the FAA continues its delay tactics.

While BUR flight paths have been the core of our mission, we have also been working on other environmental issues related to BUR, including BUR's airport expansion with the Replacement Passenger Terminal Project under

**(Continued, page 5)**

**(Noise, cont'd)**

construction now, and new "flying taxis" coming to Los Angeles skies soon.

Please visit our website at uproarla.org to sign up for email updates.

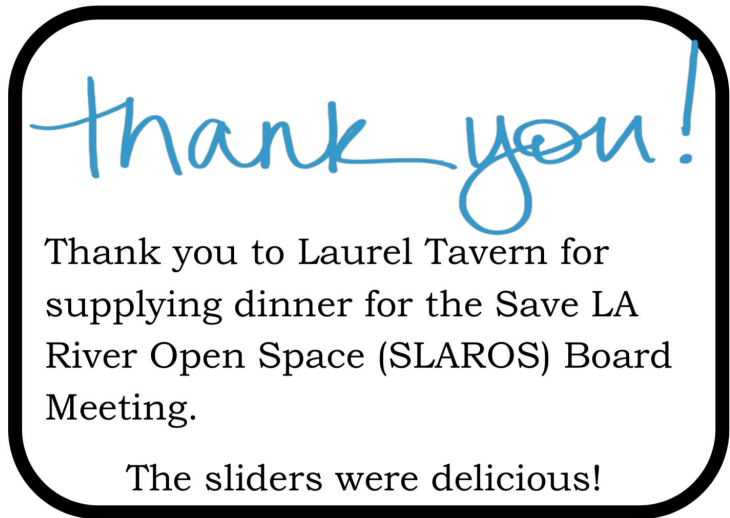
**TREES**

**By: Alan Dymond, SCRA President Emeritus**

*Our office received an anonymous letter addressed to me accusing the SCRA of a vicious attack against Harvard-Westlake. The letter writer was misinformed about the destruction of 240 mature trees and the proposed replacement of trees by Harvard-Westlake.*

*The Harvard-Westlake athletic facility project ("Project") would remove approximately 240 mature trees from this site and replace the green space of the golf course with artificial turf covered athletic fields, a swimming pool, and a large gymnasium. Tree removal would occur at the beginning of construction activities, and those activities would continue on the project site for approximately 30 months. It will take 25 years for the planted trees to get to their fully mature canopy. According to Harvard-Westlake, (click The Harvard-Westlake River Park Project) the trees will not reach their full maturity until the Year 2049. The Angelenos for Trees letter to city planning states "by Year 5, nearly a third (121 of the proposed 393) of newly planted trees will have died." (Click for report)*

*Although a number of the existing trees on the project site are not native California trees, these mature trees provide important habitat for numerous bird and bat species. A recent report prepared by California State LA Professor Eric Wood and his student Sevan Esaian assessed which trees the wintering and resident birds used in residential neighborhoods within Los Angeles (Wood and Esaian 2020). This study demonstrates a significant positive relationship between the area of street trees and the density of both resident and migratory bird species. This relationship will hold true for trees in general and not only street trees. The removal of 240 mature trees to begin construction at the Weddington site would therefore decrease the number of resident and migratory birds in this Studio City neighborhood, causing a*



*significant adverse environmental impact on the local wildlife food chain.*

*The mature trees on the Project site that would be removed are very tall. Owls and hawks prefer to perch as high up as possible, thus the Project site currently provides excellent perching habitat for these and other raptor species. Research has demonstrated that Aleppo Pines, Eucalyptus, and Mexican Fan Palms, like those present on the existing Weddington site, are a favorite spot for local raptors. Removal of these trees would eliminate important habitat throughout the years of construction.*

**2023 Raptor Study**

*Additionally, the conditions of approval for the Project provide for 24-inch box replacement trees. These trees are significantly smaller in height and canopy than the existing mature trees. It will take many years before the replacement trees reach a size that can provide the necessary replacement habitat, prolonging the irreparable harm caused by the massive tree removal required for this Project.*

*The Project site is also an important flyway site for Western migratory birds due to its tranquility and large number of mature trees. The tree removal and years of construction will prevent the use of this site by migratory birds. California*

**(Continued, page 6)**



## (Trees, cont'd)

*Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposed mitigation for these temporary impacts urges a phased tree removal plan to reduce impacts to nesting and migratory birds that rely on the existing mature trees.*

*Due to the Project site's proximity to the LA River, the many trees on the site and the adjacent Greenway provide habitat to local bat species, including bat species of special concern. In particular, roosting habitat for the western yellow bat is present. The removal of approximately 240 mature trees and two and a half years of construction at this site will likely result in significant harm to bats as well.*

*Loss of tree cover is a cumulative environmental impact in Los Angeles and wildlife will not be able to easily relocate. First, suitable habitats will be already occupied, and species cannot move away from destroyed habitats to crowd themselves into smaller and smaller areas. Second, previous research has shown a significant decline in the urban forest in Los Angeles, both in published research covering the period 2000-2009 and in spot checks of neighborhoods, including in the San Fernando Valley, in the following decades. Consequently, the number of suitable habitats for wildlife is limited and decreasing and other potential habitats are already occupied.*

## **WRIGHTWOOD DRIVE TRAFFIC**

It's another Wednesday morning and just past the rush hour traffic on Wrightwood Drive. I'm writing letters to the residents of Wrightwood Dr. as part of a campaign I've created to have traffic redirected off our street. Delivering each letter into neighbors' mailboxes proves to be a daunting errand as cars fly by weaving up and down the road.

This is my childhood home; my parents bought our property in 1967. We've seen many changes here in Studio City over these decades. Returning to live on Wrightwood Drive after 8 years of living in Larchmont Village and a 2 month sabbatical on the Big Island of Hawaii. I was shocked at the high volume of traffic that moves through this narrow winding road on a daily basis. We, the residents, take our lives in our hands walking our dogs, and biking and we seem to have lost the privilege of pulling safely out of our driveways and collecting daily mail from our post boxes.

Wrightwood Drive Commuter Bypass has become a dangerous street that has created an unsafe environment for the residents and wildlife.

Wrightwood Estates was once a quiet hilltop community where children could ride their bikes and skateboards and play outdoors. Those days are long gone! With Los Angeles' growing population and commuter traffic clogging the



canyons that run north and south from city to valley. The narrow winding roads running parallel to Laurel Cyn Blvd and Coldwater Cyn have become quick and dirty bypasses for commuters. Residents experience a high volume of cars and trucks during the weekday rush hour. Wrightwood Drive is not designed to handle heavy traffic. It has created safety issues for residents in which there has been property damage to parked cars, inability to walk the hills with our pets, and families with children moving down to the valley where their children can safely venture out to play.

Most drivers have a cellphone in one hand and are speeding up, down, and around our neighborhood. Some residents place orange cones by their street parked cars due to side swiping and collisions. Stop signs seem to be merely a suggestion and drivers are aggressive with neighbors who are on foot, bikes, and pulling out of driveways. "We would like to enjoy our neighborhood". "It's the Wrightwood Freeway". There's a sense of lawless chaos on Wrightwood Drive.

A solution would be to redirect daily commuters to the canyons and freeways by adding balustrades to Dona Emilia at Laurel Cyn Blvd. and at the top of Wrightwood Drive at Mulholland Drive to prevent the funnel of cars from accessing our neighborhood. Speed humps have little effect as do the signs prohibiting turns onto Wrightwood Dr. from 7 am-10 am. We are working with the SCNC, Councilwoman Nithya Raman's office, and LADOT to help calm commuting in our neighborhood and restore a sense of safety. We do ask for the public's support in easing traffic in our neighborhood. This is our residential neighborhood: please drive slowly and respectfully.

- Maria Sulprizio Wrightwood Estates Community Organizer

## FROM YOUR BOARD

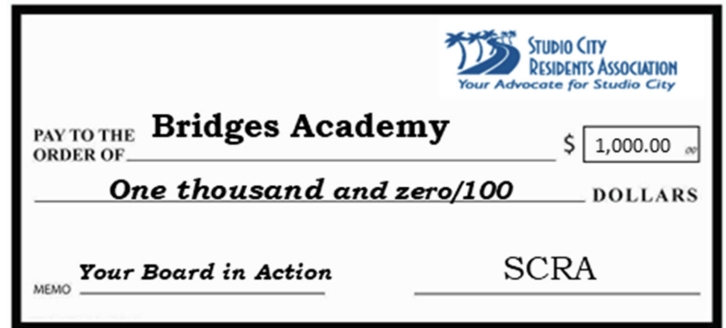
As expected, the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) committee denied our appeal and the appeal of two other entities for the proposed 8-story, 94-foot-tall Sportsmen's Lodge Apartments. On April 3rd, the full City Council rubber-stamped the PLUM committee's vote. Apparently, only one councilmember voted against it in the final vote, and it was not CD4. (CD2 was not even present at the meeting.) The SCRA shall now pursue its next course of action on this proposed project. Should this project go ahead as currently planned, it would set a precedent for 94-foot-tall buildings up and down Ventura Boulevard in Studio City as well as other communities along the boulevard. (Presently, we have almost nothing over 45 feet.) The precedent is also there for our other multi-family zoned streets all over Studio City. While the SCRA does not oppose housing along our Ventura Boulevard corridor, we do oppose more than tripling the current allowed height of 30 feet at this address to 94 feet. Our continued efforts in fighting this project will try to force a compromise somewhere between 30 feet and 94 feet particularly because the proposed Sportsmen's Apartments location is in the lowest of three density zones in the Ventura-Cahuenga Corridor Specific Plan cited here:

**NEIGHBORHOOD AND GENERAL COMMERCIAL PLAN DESIGNATION:** A land use designation in the Community Plan which is a focal point for surrounding residential neighborhoods and contains a diversity of land uses, such as restaurants, retail outlets, grocery stores, childcare facilities, small professional offices, community meeting rooms, pharmacies, religious facilities, and other similar services.

## KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR MAILBOX

**Our membership drive for 2024-2025 will be in full swing starting mid June.**

**Renew your membership and help us continue our over SIX decades of advocating for you, our valued members, and our neighbors. Your new SCRA Member Discount Card will be mailed out after July 1st — a great way to celebrate our local businesses.**



**One of the many ways the SCRA supports our community.**

## WHO WE ARE

### SCRA OFFICERS

Barry Johnson, Acting President  
Stephen Sass, Vice President  
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President  
John Hartich, Secretary  
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

### BOARD MEMBERS

Alan Dymond, President Emeritus  
Beth Dymond  
Martha Hanrahan  
Lana Shackelford  
Karen Younce

### BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Meg McDonald Seltzer, President

Beth Dymond, Vice President  
Marsha Lewis, Secretary  
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

### BOARD MEMBERS

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### SAVE LA RIVER OPEN SPACE OFFICERS

Dale Fernandez, President  
Barry Johnson, Vice President  
Beth Dymond, Secretary  
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

Alan Dymond, President Emeritus  
SaveOpenSpace@SLAROS.org

### STUDIO CITY FARMERS MARKET

(818) 655-7744  
StudioCityFarmersMarket.com

### NEWSLETTER

Graphic Design: Kevin Lewis  
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SCRABOARD@STUDIOCITYRESIDENTS.ORG

# SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

**Tuesday, May 14, 2024**

## AGENDA

**7:00 p.m. Meet and Greet**  
**7:15 p.m. Meeting Begins**  
**\*\*\***

### The State of Studio City

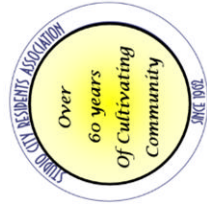
Your time to ask questions and become better informed about issues and challenges facing Studio City, now and in the future.

LAPD, if available, will be there to give a report.

### MEETING LOCATION

Bridges Academy  
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd  
Studio City, CA 91604

Free parking in school lot.  
Enter on  
Maxwellton.



SCRAB card@studiocityresidents.org  
www.studiocityresidents.org



# Hello Again.

The SCRA Member Discount Card is back for our 6th year! Join us as we continue celebrating our 6 decades of advocating for you. When you renew your membership, you will receive your new Member Discount Card that is welcomed at these local businesses: (New cards available after July 1st)

- Anna Cheselka Dance
- April Davis Investigations
- Arnold's Copy & Print
- Auto Plaza
- Back to Wellness
- Belle Bakery Cafe
- BLVD Hotel & Spa
- Charlies' Shoe Repair
- Chateau de Luce
- Classic Toys
- Cocoa and Candy
- Creation Station Studio City
- Dana Kathryn Jewelry
- Danielli Menswear
- Diana's Boutique
- Eye Candy Optometry
- Eyedentity Eyewear
- Flair Cleaners

- Floaty Swim School
- Gisele Tune Clothing
- Gramercy Boutique
- Habit Boutique
- James Thomas Stained Glass
- La Knitterie Parisienne
- Matthew's Jewelry Store
- Panache Boutique
- Pepe's Pizza
- Prosecco Trattoria
- Rain Bar & Lounge
- Rouge
- SALT. Optics
- topdrawer
- The Village
- Vitello's Restaurant
- Wild Flora

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To see more info on the businesses and their discounts.



STUDIO CITY  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Your Advocate for Studio City

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



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