



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

July 2024

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Bridges Academy Tuesday, July 9, 2024
Meeting from 7:00 to 8:45 PM

RADFORD STUDIO CENTER EXPANSION PLAN

Lead Officer David Nguyen will update us on what's happening in Studio City. Bring your questions and concerns.

The rest of the July meeting will be devoted to discussions and concerns about the Radford Studio Center plans to create a Specific Plan for Radford Studio Center to construct additional office space; additional sound stages; the addition of access and egress gates and all-around traffic congestion that needs to be mitigated. Representatives from the Radford Studio Center will be on hand with their latest presentation and will be available to answer questions.

Please join us in this discussion and let the SCRA know what you think of this expansion as relates to the residents of Studio City.

FROM YOUR BOARD

Question that should be asked...

BACKGROUND: From 2001 to 2010, Studio City was divided between 3 separate City Council Members. When the 2010 Redistricting Commission commenced in 2010, some of your SCRA Board Members vowed to get Studio City represented by a single Councilmember. After attending two dozen or more in-person Redistricting Commission meetings and bringing obscene-shaped cut-out visual aids of the, then, gerrymandered Council Districts, SCRA was successful in getting Studio City represented by 1 City Councilmember from 2011 to 2020. Unfortunately, when the Covid-delayed 2020 Redistricting Commission began via Zoom, it was extremely difficult to be heard. Without being in the same room with the Redistricting Commissioners, it was mostly impossible to ever state our case for a Studio City represented by 1 Councilmember. So when the

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KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR MAILBOX

Our membership drive for 2024-2025 is in full swing. Don't wait, renew your membership now and you will receive your new SCRA Member Discount Card to support our local businesses. New businesses are joining all the time. Our newest business is Argo Mediterranean Grill. Visit our website for more information on them and our other Participating Businesses.

Visit StudioCityResidents.org.





Thank you, Agro Mediterranean Grill, for suppling dinner for the Board meeting of Save LA River Open Space. The plates of chicken and shrimp along with wonderful condiments was delicious.

(Board, cont'd)

Commission released its final maps, Studio City was divided again... this time by 2 council districts... and divided in a way that was not acceptable to Councilmember Krekorian and Councilmember Raman. They each put forth Motions to craft the districts they wanted... a process allowed then and even now... unless and until a ballot measure creating a truly independent Redistricting Commission passes ending this practice.

RESULT FOR 2021 - 2030: Studio City ended up with about 20,000 people in Nithya Raman's Council District 4 and 17,000 people in Paul Krekorian's Council District 2. The saddest part of all is that the totality of CD4 ended up with about 20,000 more people than the total number of people in CD2. Had those 20,000 people stayed in Krekorian's CD2, Council District 2 would have been the district with 20,000 more people instead of CD4 and Studio City would have remained whole under 1 councilmember. The end result is further exacerbated the way Studio City was divided... not in a north/south manner as was done in 2001, but mostly in an east/west manner that cuts 17,000 people north of Ventura Boulevard off from Studio City's premiere shopping district... and cut off in a way that makes it much more difficult to have a say in what happens in the heart of Studio City now that it's in a separate Council District.

THE FUTURE IN 2031: All we can do is try again and absolutely hope that a ballot-passed independent Redistricting Commission has meetings which are once again in-person. There's nothing like an in-person meeting for any commission to get the real feeling of the room... and this next time we will have the obscene-shaped cut-out of CD4.

How did this happen to Studio City... a question that should be asked.

Copy of a Letter to the Editor of the Los Angeles Times

SHORT TERM RENTAL

Your article on the rented house in L.A. that the tenant secretly listed on Airbnb highlights just one of the impacts of the short-term rental (STR) industry and the dismal response from city leaders. While eager to tout their efforts to address housing affordability, L.A.'s mayor and City Council members have turned a blind eye to the cavernous loopholes in the ordinance that's supposed to limit STRs to registered primary residences with no more than 120 rental days per year.

Not only are our elected officials leaving big money on the table from unregistered STRs, but their lack of action often leaves residents on their own to face unruly occupants, noise, trash, illicit drug use and occasional violence. STRs take otherwise rentable spaces off the market and drive up rental prices, seriously diminishing affordability.

Last summer, my quiet Studio City neighborhood dealt with an Airbnb "party house" and was able to get the assistance of our Council member, police and the city attorney's office following local media coverage. Our sustained efforts resulted in the owner selling the property.

Yet, one year later, little has been done to address the larger STR impacts. Until Mayor Karen Bass and the City Council take action, residents will continue to endure the avoidable impacts highlighted by The Times.

- Anthony Lucente, Studio City

STATUS OF WEDDINGTON GOLF AND TENNIS AS OF JUNE 2024

Although Harvard-Westlake has gone forward with their demolition phase of Weddington for the construction of their sports complex, there are still three ongoing lawsuits against the City of LA regarding this development. These lawsuits were filed by [SaveLARiverOpenspace.org/SCRA](https://www.SaveLARiverOpenspace.org) as well as [SaveWeddington.org](https://www.SaveWeddington.org). The basis of the lawsuits include the appeal to designate the whole property as a historic cultural monument as well as violations of CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act). The SLAROS

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(SLAROS, cont'd)

lawsuit against the city is still in the "Administrative Record" phase. This phase is similar to the 'discovery phase' of a lawsuit. The certification of the Administrative Record is slated for July 9th. The opening brief would be filed soon after. The final decision will be made by an administrative court judge, the Honorable Judge Leiter on October 14, 2024.

Through community reporting and records request, we found Harvard-

Westlake had illegally removed trees from LA County Land **along the Los Angeles River**. The incident was discovered by local residents submitting pictures of the remnants of those destroyed trees. These trees, some of which were decades old, play a crucial role in the local ecosystem by providing habitat for wildlife, transpiration cooling, improving air quality, and enhancing the aesthetic value of the community. Those trees were also noted to be within the bird nest buffer zone survey, a mitigation that was mandated in the project's Environmental Impact Report.



In May 2024
Harvard-Westlake
illegally
destroyed
several trees

"We completed our site inspection and did discover some trees were removed from the Los Angeles County Flood Control District property without permission. We have notified Harvard Westlake to cease all construction activities on the District's property," said Dayna Rothman, Head, Real Estate Los Angeles County Public Works. County officials have conducted an investigation into the incident but no



TO THE MARKET

As summer settles in, Studio City Farmers Market bursts with vibrant colors and flavors, particularly in its array of stone fruits. From juicy peaches to succulent plums, the market showcases nature's bounty at its finest. These versatile fruits inspire an array of culinary creations, from refreshing salads to delectable desserts like peach cobbler or plum crumble.

For those planning a Hollywood Bowl picnic, the market's prepared food vendors offer tantalizing options to fill your basket. From artisanal cheeses to gourmet sandwiches, pupusas, crepes, tamales, dim sum and freshly baked pastries, there's something to satisfy every palate.

However, it's essential to note that while furry friends are beloved companions, the market strictly enforces a no-dogs policy due to health code regulations. A therapy dog is not considered a service animal per ADA guidelines. While you can't bring your pet along, you can still enjoy a delightful outing filled with summer's finest flavors at the Studio City Farmers Market.

consequences for Harvard-Westlake were instituted to-date. Possible consequences may include substantial fines, mandatory replanting of trees, and legal action. In the meantime, SLAROS is calling for increased transparency and stricter enforcement of environmental regulations to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

SLAROS has presented an alternative plan to save a contiguous area of mature trees and green open space from the monstrous sports facility development. If

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(SLAROS, cont'd)

accepted, it would create a green 'buffer zone' for the local neighborhood from the activities of the sports facility. To read more about the alternative green open space plan:

www.studiocitync.org/assets/documents/15/event6552796528ec0.pdf

SLAROS functions as a grass-roots volunteer organization, to help with our efforts or to donate to the legal fund, please visit SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org Please follow us on social media to get the latest updates.



WALTER REED MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT

There has been some social media chatter about trouble at Walter Reed Middle School. Bonnie Kalaf, past SCRA board member reached out to the main Vice Principal about the rumors and he explained what's going on.

There are 1600+ students in the school. Out of that group they have identified a handful of students who have been of concern and the administrators knows exactly who they are. As a result, these troublemakers are not allowed to mingle with the student body during snack break and lunch break... they have to sit together under supervision so a staff member can keep an eye on them. The Vice-Principal stated that out of 1600+ students, having only a few troublemakers is actually doing pretty well and they keep an eye on them. He also acknowledged that this age bracket is tough... the kids don't know their boundaries.

Bonnie, who has worked closely with Walter Reed over the years can attest that it is a good school, and the kids sound happier now under the new principal and staff. Walter Reed students take part in one of the schools Smaller Learning Communities of Academies and their Music Department is known as being very popular and very good.

The residents of this neighborhood stay on top of filing complaints with the city regarding the surrounding area when it gets over grown with weeds and they think nothing of reaching out to CalTrans to get something taken care of if it's on state property. It's the hope that the traffic, at pick up time, may be straightened out next year. There are several places to park to pick up the kids and the school encourages parents to use these areas.

ONE MEMBER'S ISSUE WITH HOMELESS

I just want to express my concern with increased homeless situations my family has come across. The neighbor across the street is doing some type of home repairs and has a portable toilet stationed in the front. The issue is a homeless man was seen using it. Also on Agua Vista near Vineland an elderly woman was on the street without clothing on her upper body. I hate to be the one to complain about unfortunate situations but getting a bit scary.

Anything Studio City can do is appreciated.

SCRA suggestions: If you have not already done so, ask the contactor or the owner to put a lock on the portable toilet overnight. The SCRA and the Farmers Market work closely with the NoHo Alliance. Visit nohohome.org. If you contact them, they may be able to send someone out to see if they can help this individual. The only other avenue is to call LAPD North Hollywood division. (And basically good luck there.) Also, call Paul Krekorian's office to see they can lend some assistance. 818-755-7676.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President

As you may recall in a previous newsletter, we reported to you the heartbreaking news that the Eastside median on Ventura Boulevard near Lankershim (across from the BLVD Hotel) had lost its beauty. A single vehicle ran over the median tearing up the ground cover, irrigation system and taking out all the trees.

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(SCBA, cont'd)

But, in this report your Studio City Beautification Association is happy to tell you that the Eastside median has been refreshed and beautified with a new landscape design.



In this redesign SCBA has planted three Santa Cruz Island Ironwood trees. This is a rare and beautiful native tree from Santa Cruz Island off the Southern California coast.

SCBA also planted ground cover and small shrubs that are climate appropriate including Aeoniums, Senecio and Muhlenbergia 'deer grass'.

And to complete the new look, SCBA has added "Santa Barbara"

boulders (collected after winter storms) to protect the trees and plantings from cars driving over the median.

Shades of starting a baby album, here is a picture of the median. Though it looks sparse now it will fill in soon as



the plants grow. When the plants get bigger, we'll update you on their beauty with new photos.

We are also proud to share with you that your Studio City Beautification Association was invited by Gerry Valido, Assistant Director Board of Public Works, Office of Community Beautification to be on "The Power of Community" panel at the city's 6th annual Beautification Conference. SCBA board member Doug Short, our lead board member on beautification site maintenance was our representative.

And we close this report with a special SCBA thanks to the LA Conservation Corps for removing weeds and trash on both sides of Ventura Boulevard from Colfax to Lankershim and to our CD4 Studio City Field Deputy Sidney Liss for coordinating this clean up.

Stay safe and see you in the neighborhood.

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

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NEWSLETTER

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SCRABOARD@STUDIOCITYRESIDENTS.ORG

Hello Again.

The SCRA Member Discount Card is back for our 5th year! Join us as we continue celebrating our 60+ years 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 on or after July 1st)

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anna Cheselka Dance | Flair Cleaners |
| April Davis Investigations | Floaty Swim School |
| Argo Mediterranean Grill | Gisele Tune Clothing |
| Arnold's Copy & Print | Gramercy Boutique |
| Auto Plaza | Habit Boutique |
| Back to Wellness | James Thomas Stained Glass |
| Belle Bakery Cafe | La Knitterie Parisienne |
| BLVD Hotel & Spa | Matthew's Jewelry Store |
| Charlies' Shoe Repair | Panache Boutique |
| Chateau de Luce | Pepe's Pizza |
| Classic Toys | Prosecco Trattoria |
| Cocoa and Candy | Rain Bar & Lounge |
| Creation Station Studio | Rouge |
| City | SALT. Optics |
| Dana Kathryn Jewelry | topdrawer |
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| Eye Candy Optometry | Wild Flora |
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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

AGENDA

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

- Crime report Lead Officer David Nguyen
- Discussion re Radford Studio Center With Lisa Sarkin and Barry Johnson, Transportation and land use

MEETING LOCATION

Bridges Academy
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604

Free parking in school lot.
Enter on Maxwelton.



SCRABear @studiocityresidents.org
www.studiocityresidents.org

