



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

March 2016

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THE SCRA SHOWS THAT STUDIO CITY CARES

For the past six years, the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) has recognized those who have made significant contributions to life in Studio City with the SCRA's Studio City CARES Awards. This past January, the SCRA presented its awards to the following individuals for their hard work and dedication:

- Esther Walker, executive director, Studio City Chamber of Commerce, for excellence in community service. A long-time supporter of Studio City, Walker most recently managed the fundraising efforts for and organized Studio City's participation in the 2015 Special Olympics.
- Hector Banuelos, Los Angeles Department of Urban Forestry, for excellence in government leadership. Banuelos has been instrumental in advising and steering the Studio City Beautification Association through the city processes on projects to improve city medians with landscaping.
- Corinne Verdery, chief real estate development officer, NBCUniversal, Inc., for excellence in business leadership. Verdery works closely with local communities, listening to and addressing concerns, seeking input on development underway at the studio, and supporting community improvement projects.
- Laurie Shiers of the Hidden Garden project at Rio Vista School for service to youth development for encouraging and involving students and parents with hands-on participation in the development of the school's "Hidden Garden."



L to R: Esther Walker;
Alan Dymond, SCRA



L to R: Courtney Hamilton,
CD2; Hector Banuelos;
Beth Dymond, SCRA



L to R: Corinne Verdery;
Beth Dymond, SCRA



L to R: Barry Weiss,
SCRA; Laurie Shiers

(Photos by Barry Wise)

The SCRA presented its highest honor, the Fran Quigley Award, to Renee Weitzer, presently consultant to Councilmember David Ryu, in recognition of her outstanding service to the people of Los Angeles. Weitzer has served as chief of staff for former City Councilmember Tom LaBonge, where she worked with the community to address concerns related to the proposed developments for NBCUniversal and the Metro Redline station. This award was named after Fran Quigley who founded the Studio City Civic Organization, one of her many significant contributions to the community. The Studio City Civic Organization was eventually folded into the SCRA.

MAJOR SUPPORT FOR STUDIO CITY RECREATION CENTER

Thanks to the wonderful response from sponsors of the Studio City Residents Association's fifth Winter Family Festival this past December, the Studio City Residents Association once again made a \$5,000 donation to Studio City Recreation Center, "aka Beeman Park." This contribution will help fund programs for the many people of all ages who use the park.



L to R: Bonnie Goodman, SCRA;
Julie Monroy, Beeman Park; Ann
Husvar; Beth Dymond, SCRA



BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

On January 19, 2016, the board of the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) made appointments to the boards of the Studio City Beatification Association (SCBA) and Save Los Angeles River Open Space (SLAROS).

Members of the board of the SCBA are Bryan Abrams, Connie Elliot, Barry Johnson, Barry Weiss, Karen Younce and Diana Zogran. At its annual general meeting, the SCBA board elected the following officers: president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. Two SCBA board seats remain open. The qualification for a board position is the applicant be an SCRA member in good standing. PLEASE NOTE: Membership in the SCRA is not limited to those who live within the SCRA's boundaries. Please call 818-509-0230 or email [SCRABoard@StudioCityResidents Association.org](mailto:SCRABoard@StudioCityResidentsAssociation.org) for more information. Members of the SLAROS board are Bryan Abrams, Laurie Cohn, Alan Dymond, Steve Hirsh, Art Howard, Chip Meehan and Patty Kirby. The SLAROS board will elect the following officers at its annual general meeting: president, vice president, treasurer and secretary

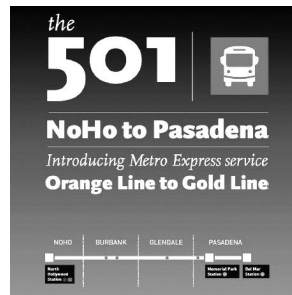
HILLSIDE FEDERATION REPORT

Proponents of a measure called the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative Measure presented details of the measure to the Hillside Federation Board at the organization's monthly meeting in January 2016. The measure addresses what the proponents see as circumvention of city zoning codes by employing a direct approach to the decision makers at City Hall. The Hillside Federation Board took no formal action but requested further information. The Studio City Residents Association board will review the details of this measure and consider action on it as more information becomes available. The measure includes:

- Establish a two-year moratorium on exceptions given to developers to build taller and denser projects than the zoning of the General Plan allows;
- Halt agreements by the City that award "spot rezoning" to developers;
- Have the City Council create a rational long-term plan for growth through a new citywide General Plan;
- Prevent developers from significantly cutting the parking spaces they must provide; and
- Ban developers from selecting and retaining experts to draft Environmental Impact Reports for their projects and, hence, avoid what is seen as a conflict of interest.

The initiative will halt the building for two years of any project that requires an exception to build at a taller height and/or with more density than allowed (unless the City creates a new General Plan during that period). It will not stop development that complies with density and/or height rules. In addition, the measure will allow neighborhoods to have a say in what is to be built around them.

MEASURE R: AN EXTRA HALF-CENT ON THE SALES TAX?



Mass Transit Ordinance Measure R took effect on January 2, 2009, adding a half-cent sales tax in Los Angeles County. The purpose of this extra half-cent tax was to finance new transportation projects and programs and accelerate projects already in the pipeline. Measure R is set to expire in 2039.

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian recently held a mass transit forum at Valley College. According to the Assemblymember, while there are 80 Metro Rail stops in Los Angeles, only two of them are in the Valley, despite the fact that the Valley represents 20 percent of the population. With two million residents in the Valley, mass transit is crucial to the quality of life, especially as the population grows and the Valley changes. Councilmember Paul Krekorian, who is on the board of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, made the point that any funds raised for Metrolink must also support the Valley's needs.



Several transit plans are currently in the works or being investigated:

- The 501: NoHo to Pasadena - Starting on March 1, 2016, bus line 501 will offer express bus service from North Hollywood to Pasadena.
- Sepulveda corridor to the Westside: Plans are being explored to improve the Orange Line with grade separation; change the North/South corridors in the East Valley (Van Nuys Blvd. or Sepulveda Blvd.) to light rail; build the Red Line pedestrian underpass at North Hollywood station under Lankershim Blvd.; and extend the Red Line to Burbank Airport and over to the Gold Line, creating a link from the Valley eastwards.

Funding for these and other projects is ongoing, and the way has been cleared to place new sales taxes measures on the November 2016 ballot. These measures have not yet been developed but will most likely be a combination of either a vote to extend Measure R for 20 additional years or a vote to extend Measure R for 20 years and approve Measure R2, which would be an additional quarter to half-cent sales tax increase for 40 years. The measures will spell out to which projects the tax revenue will be allocated.

The Valley is in line for several projects, including "Mobility Hubs," which are located on mass transit corridors and draw people from surrounding locations. In addition, the City will update and reorganize the "Dash" routes.

Ready now is a new smart phone app, GoLA, which provides users with real-time travel choices by using various modes of mass transit.

KEEPING STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFUL

As Angelenos wait for El Niño to show up and are experiencing summer weather, the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) has been busy preparing for the late rains, which are still to come, according to the scientists.

At the Oasis (across from the Marshall's shopping center), the SCBA stabilized the hillside above the installation by laying jute to hold the topsoil. Jute allows water to seep into the ground and on to the aquifer. It also helps keep the ground from compacting and will degrade over time to allow for nutrients to seep into the soil. Spontaneous vegetation (sometimes referred to as "weeds") can grow through the jute and help stabilize the top soil.

Years ago, the SCBA planted the sidewalk trees along Ventura Blvd. from Lankershim Blvd. to the western edge of Studio City. The SCBA, with the Studio City Business Improvement Association, is responsible for trimming the 248 trees in this area. This year, in addition to the tree trimming, the SCBA had the tree wells "dug out" to capture rainwater runoff and divert it to the trees that have suffered during the multi-year drought. The SCBA's survey of street and sidewalk trees has shown them very thirsty. This action, even if the El Niño rains are light, will allow the trees to collect water from the occasional rains throughout the year.

Studio City residents should keep their eyes peeled for the upcoming beauty at the "Maxwellton Triangle," located at the intersection of Maxwellton Road and Laurel Terrace. SCBA board member Diana Zogran found a specially prepared mix of wildflower seeds from the Theodore Payne Foundation and has been hand watering them to ensure germination. She also spread these at some of the SCBA's other locations and, with any luck, the winter and spring rains may wake them up for a burst of color.

The SCBA is well on its way to installing medians at Eureka Drive and Ventura Blvd. The current concrete and weed-strewn eyesores will be planted with drought-tolerant plants on the east median, and a small part of the west median will be cut open to allow water to seep into the aquifer, rather than run off down the street and into the Los Angeles River. The SCBA has included a "swale" to catch water from the rains to nourish the plants.

The SCBA makes updating and maintaining its sites a major priority. There are two short windows of time when planting can take place; late winter offers an opportunity to replace plants that have not survived and to augment the gardens with new, native and drought-tolerant plants. Improving these locations with updated irrigation and mulch will ensure they survive the upcoming summer heat. The other short planting period is late fall, where the SCBA plans to do a lot of updating and planting.

Please visit StudioCityBeautification.org to see the locations, photos and descriptions of the SCBA's many medians, pocket parks, art walk and gardens. One installation that stands out is



TO THE MARKET

Californians are fortunate when it comes to the availability of fresh local produce year round, and that is always evident at the Studio City Farmers Market, where, even in the winter, the booths are overflowing with a wonderful variety of fruits and vegetables.

Last month the Market welcomed Blode Kuh, makers of organic, plant-based raw "cheeses" and yogurts. They are located on the north side of the Market Radford Avenue. Stop by for a sample.

Recently, a Market shopper asked how food is chosen to be sold at the Market, and what the requirements are. Here is the response from Studio City Farmers Market Executive Director Esther Walker, "We receive requests from vendors wanting to be at the Market daily and are extremely particular about whom we choose. We look for artisanal foods with the freshest and most natural ingredients that are unique to our market. We taste test all the products, which seems like the obvious thing to do, but you would be surprised how many vendors tell us we are the only market that has asked them for samples before giving them a space. We often turn down vendors based on taste and quality. We only allow food vendors who prepare their food in a commercial kitchen. In addition, every vendor must be vetted by and have a valid permit from the Los Angeles County Health Department. All of our farmers are also vetted and have current permits from the California Agricultural Department."

In other news, the Market has a brand new website; check it out at StudioCityFarmersMarket.com. Follow the Market on Instagram at [studiocityfm](https://www.instagram.com/studiocityfm). Be sure to take your photos when shopping at the Market with [#studiocityfm](https://www.instagram.com/studiocityfm). Those photos will also appear on the new website.

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.

the Wilacre seating area, adjacent to the parking lot for the hiking trail in Fryman Canyon on Laurel Canyon Blvd. This installation was done to provide the many bus riders a place to sit and exchange stories of their days while waiting for the bus, or hikers a chance to create fellowship before and after their hikes. Local sculptor, Karl Johnson, who passed away last year, designed, built and installed the artistic benches, tables and even a kaleidoscope.

(Continued, Page 4)



(Beautiful, cont'd)

The SCBA thanks its more than 125 donors who took part in the organization's year-end campaign and contributed nearly \$6,000. Many have been long-time supporters of the SCBA's work, while 41 families made first-time contributions. With such broad community support, Studio City residents can be proud that they participate in making Studio City the most beautiful part of Los Angeles.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WHITSETT TO COLDWATER GREENWAY

Continuing its work on the Coldwater Greenway, Community Conservation Solutions' construction team, led by North East



Trees, has completed rough grading of the walking trail, construction of the bioswale retaining walls, installation of the permanent water meter, and removal of the gate that previously segmented the trail.

Starting in February 2016, North East Trees began trenching for the water quality improvement bioswale, installation of rock cladding to the bioswale retaining wall, initial trail work for the native habitat walk and river viewing area and control of non-native species, all in preparation for native habitat restoration and installation of the primary water main line for potable use and irrigation.

The target date for planting trees is Saturday, April 9, 2016, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Follow the progress on CCS Facebook page at facebook.com/L.A.RiverGreenwayTrail/
For more information, visit conservationsolutions.org/largwt

MEMBER SURVEY: SCRA NEWSLETTER

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) is interested in its members' perspectives on the SCRA newsletter.

The newsletter is mailed as a printed piece to SCRA members each month with a copy posted on the SCRA's website after publication.

The newsletter is not a newspaper, meaning it covers issues over time and not "breaking" news. The SCRA uses its "News and Notes" e-blast to distribute important, timely news and alerts to its members. The open rate for "News and Notes" is 50-60 percent; this is an above average open rate, which suggests this is a service our members appreciate.

- Should the SCRA continue with the print version of its newsletter or switch to an electronic version?
- If feasible, should SCRA members have the choice of receiving either an electronic or print version, or both?
- What articles are of interest to our members? Would more op-ed pieces be of interest? Other suggestions are welcome.

Please email your comments/ suggestions to SCRABoard@StudioCityResidents.org or leave a message at 818-509-0230.

NEW LOCATION FOR SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING: MARCH 8, 2016

The Studio City Residents Association's meetings have moved to:

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

Join us to meet and greet members of the community at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Free parking is available on-site in the school parking lot along with street parking. Rio Vista Elementary School is located at the corner of Whipple Street and Satsuma Avenue. Access Whipple Street from Vineland Avenue or Lankershim Blvd. The school parking lot is at the end of Satsuma Avenue. The meeting will be held in the school's auditorium, which is on the corner of Whipple Street and Satsuma Ave.

WENDY GREUEL TO ADDRESS MARCH SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Former City Councilmember and former Los Angeles City Controller Wendy Greuel will speak at the March 8, 2016 SCRA Community Meeting. Greuel currently serves as the veteran housing and homelessness policy expert appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's Board of Commissioners (LAHSA). The LAHSA Commission has the authority to make budgetary, funding, planning and program policies for federal funding allocated to homelessness programming in the Los Angeles area.

Greuel served as a member of the Clinton Administration in her capacity as deputy director of the Interagency Council on Homelessness at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She also served in the office of Mayor Tom Bradley for ten years where she acted as a liaison to elected officials, city departments and the community as a key advisor on a range of public policy issues, including education, housing and homelessness.

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization will also present a program and initiatives to protect wildlands and open space, raise awareness about the use of rodent

(Continued, Page 5)



(Greuel, cont'd)

poison on wildlife, pets and children, and provide restoration and habitats for the barn owls.

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 at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments. The program begins at 7:30 p.m.

ASK THE SCRA

Q: The pedestrian bridge across the Los Angeles River at Colfax Avenue has a number of homeless people camping under it. It is sad that this looks like this, especially with more rain coming. Can we get it cleaned up ASAP?



SCRA: This area is never going to be clean until the City of Los Angeles has a comprehensive program to put people in permanent housing. And then, and only then, when it is built and available to all, the City will need to make it a crime to "camp out" in the city. (But you can't make it a crime to "camp out" until every last one of

the homeless people has a roof over his or her head and a bed to sleep in.)

Q: Question to CD2 with a copy to the SCRA: Is there something that can be done about the Laurel Canyon Blvd. exit from the 101 West, regarding people who exit and then turn left (southbound) onto Laurel Canyon Blvd.? They tend to try and beat the light and invariably back up the entire intersection, which then prevents the two left lanes from being able to enter the 101 West (on a green arrow light). Can the City of Los Angeles install a hatch-box and signage not to block the box, or could the LAPD traffic division position officers to ticket people who run red lights and end up blocking traffic?



Request from CD2 to the Department of Transportation:

Can the Department look into this and make a recommendation? I can confirm the comments of this SCRA member. It reflects a common experience of this problem. Perhaps adjust the light for traffic exiting westbound from the 101 and the light for the traffic trying to go on the ramp going west on the 101. Caltrans may also need to be involved.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Alan Dymond*

Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said, "If a problem has no solution, it may not be a problem, but a fact, not to be solved, but to be coped with." And this may now be the time to cope with our problems, not focus solely on solutions.

Homeless: *There is no real solution for this problem, no matter what is proposed. The homeless are on the street right now, and many will join them given circumstances not of their creation or other personal problems. We need to cope, using measures that will help the homeless now and later focus efforts on solutions that will start to reduce their numbers. We must continue to do so until it is no longer a problem for our city. We can work on a solution, but it is too far off. By its very nature, this issue is complex; the very fabric of our society is involved. Yet, we must act, be it with temporary measures or otherwise.*

Mansions: *Studio City has limits on how big a house can be built on a lot zoned for a single family residence. The square footage of the lot establishes the limit on how big it can be: 53 percent of the area of the lot. Despite this rule, we are hearing of too many instances where projects do not comply; flat roofs are being built and height limits exceeded. When the plans are in compliance, the structure is modified in the field and violates what has been approved.*

Presently there is an ordinance working its way through the city process system that will reduce the 53 percent down to 45 percent. This will simplify permit applications and the job of the Building and Safety inspectors in the field who are charged with ensuring the building complies with the approved plans, other code requirements and specifications.

This solution is in the works, but coping with the problem now is very much the concern of our members. Until the proposed reduction to 45 percent is passed, the need will remain. To help Studio City cope with this problem, perhaps the City would authorize increasing the number of building inspectors by contracting with retired inspectors or other consultants to help relieve the load. Perhaps for Studio City, the head of Building and Safety in Van Nuys could be funded with overtime pay to hold refresher and educational workshops for his staff at all levels.

The Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) is making a motion on this and other issues concerning regarding amendments to the existing Baseline Mansionization Ordinance and Baseline Hillside Ordinance. To review the motion, visit the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) website at Studiocityresidents.org The SCRA supports this motion.

For now, please let Councilmember Krekorian and the Mayor know that you are in support of the 45 percent ratio and the SCNC's motion.

Alan Dymond

SCRA Committees

Burbank Airport, Chair: Chris Barnes
Crime and Safety
Los Angeles River Committee
Membership
Planning and Land Use

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Immediate Past President

Art Howard

Beautification Association

Barry Weiss, President
Karen Younce, Admin. Vice President
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Bryan Abrams, Treasurer
Diana Zogran

Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

Co-Directors
Laurie Cohn, Alan Dymond, Steve Hirsh,
Art Howard, Patty Kirby, Chip Meehan,
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

School Liaisons

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman
Rio Vista - Barry Weiss

Studio City Farmers Market

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Newsletter

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, March 8, 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. Meet & Greet the
community

7:30 p.m. Former Los Angeles
City Controller Wendy Greuel;
Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife

**DO NOT GO TO THE
GARLAND ON VINELAND**

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. Follow the signs
to the meeting.

