

September 2020

IN THIS ISSUE:

Juneteenth Walk Page 2

Ask SCRA

Your questions answered Page 4

Latest from our President Page 5

WE'RE BACK! ZOOM COMMUNITY MEETING

Join us on September 8, 2020 at 7:30 pm for our Virtual Community Meeting



Councilmember Paul Krekorian is the SCRA's Guest Speaker. The Councilmember will talk to the community about the City Budget as related to the economic downturn and include police budget issues; progress on the homeless housing issue; Community Plan update; airport noise update; and City council action (if any) on State Senate and Assembly bills overriding local zoning. Motion to curb developers' influence on projects is before the City Council.

The SCRA Community meeting will be conducted by participants logging in on their computers or by phoning in.

HOW TO RECEIVE A ZOOM INVITATION TO THE MEETING:

Email SCRA, no later than September 4th, at ZoomMeeting@studiocityresidents.org, and we will place you onto the invitation list for this meeting. On the morning of the meeting, SCRA will email you an invitation link to attend this meeting on Zoom.

PREPARING TO ATTEND THE MEETING:

We recommend that you download the Zoom app onto your

device (computer, tablet, iPod, or smartphone) before the Community Meeting, as it can take a few minutes to do this and set up the app, so best to do so before the meeting. You need not sign up for a paid Zoom account to participate in the meeting. The app is available at www.zoom.us and through your device on the App store.

JOINING THE MEETING:

When you click on the link provided, your device, or Zoom, may ask you to allow using the Zoom App, using your video, and using your audio. Allow these, then enter your name and email address as requested to join the meeting. There will also be instructions for joining by phone.

As a meeting attendee, you will only watch and listen (your camera will be off, and your microphone muted). So, don't worry about anyone seeing you on-screen during the meeting.

MEETING Q & A:

We hope to provide you the opportunity to ask questions for Councilmember Krekorian to answer after his presentation. Look for more details on this in your invitation link email.

PROJECT ROOMKEY AT SPORTSMEN'S LODGE

Project Roomkey is a collaborative effort by the State, County, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to protect high-risk individuals and to prevent the spread of the deadly COVID virus in our communities by securing hotel and motel rooms for vulnerable people experiencing homelessness. Sportsmen's Lodge is partnering with the County of Los Angeles and dedicating 148 of the hotel's 190 rooms to the Project Roomkey program. Their agreement with the County is for an initial three-month period. Representatives from the hotel's ownership expect the program to be in place for no more than five months. The program started in mid-August.

The Project Roomkey program at the Sportsmen's Lodge will be managed by LA Family Housing and the SCRA has sent a list of known camps to assist in LA Family Housing's outreach efforts. LA Family Housing will coordinate with other service providers to offer participants a full range of services including case management, medical attention, and food. No alcohol or drugs will be allowed at the property. SCRA was informed that participants may be walking on Ventura Blvd. but that all occupants are checked in and checked out by the service providers. Address any inquiry to Shauna Spellman at sspellman@lahsa.org or Kris Freed at kfreed@lafh.org. For further information about Project Roomkey, visit covid19.lacounty.gov/project-roomkey.



BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President

Studio City is our community and we are all members of the Studio City Beautification Association.

Thanks to one of our attentive Studio City residents, it was brought to our attention that Ranger was being sprayed at beautification sites for weed abatement. Both Roundup and Ranger contain glyphosate which is the ingredient that causes cancer. SCBA policy prohibits the use of such products. Straightaway SCBA corrected this breakdown in communication with our maintenance crew and the use was immediately discontinued. We are reviewing non-toxic weed abatement alternatives that are certified by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI).



And a round of applause for our fabulous vendor Signs and Services for fixing the light fixture that illuminates our Studio City Welcome sign behind Ralphs on Ventura Boulevard. This has been a

favorite target of vandals who kick it in and break the lights out of meanness. But this time, SCBA repaired and fortified the lightbox with a strong metal security grill over the front. Good luck to us.



SCBA's consulting partnership with the Studio City Business District (BID) to beautify the south side of Ventura at Fairway (across the street from Jerry's Famous Deli) is still in our future. Yes, it's been a slow go but Vicki Nussbaum, Executive Director of the BID is in tenaciously frequent contact with the city checking on the progress of the paperwork. We are ever closer to getting approval to turn the parkway and the steep triangle-shaped hillside in front of the Crown Media Building into a showpiece of low maintenance colorful drought-tolerant plants and ground cover. We'll keep you updated as things progress.

Also in our Futures File, installation of our "Studio City Welcomes You" sign at Vineland and Whipple is scheduled for the week of 10/5/2020.

We are still living in a coronavirus pandemic world that keeps us apart. Stay safe. We are all in this together and when it's over we will see each other again in the neighborhood.

COLFAX MEADOWS' JUNETEENTH WALK

Every year on the 4th of July, the Colfax Meadows neighborhood of Studio City, the neighborhood that sits between Tujunga and Colfax and Moorpark and the Los Angeles River, has a huge block party and parade. But this year because of the pandemic, the event had to be canceled. So the Colfax Meadows 4th of July Committee, along with family and friends, enthusiastically facilitated the First Annual

Juneteenth Walk. Juneteenth celebrates the anniversary of June 19th, 1865 (Juneteenth) when Union Troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to let people know that slavery had ended. That was two and a half months after the Civil War had ended and two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.



The educational walk, spearheaded by Erica Fox and Bipasha Shom, wove around Colfax Meadows, guided by 25 markers/signposts detailing events that are often left out of our history books. The walk was about 3 miles and could be spread out over three days from Friday, June 19th through Sunday, June 21st. There was no set time for the walk to take place as they wanted everyone to practice social distancing. Visitors were guided through this remarkable public event by arrows chalked in the street as well as a "you are here" map on each marker.

African American history is U.S. history so the markers spoke about slave rebellions, black heroes of the Civil War, important Supreme Court cases with terrible decisions that upheld Jim Crow laws, Integration of the US Military, the Freedom Rides and Freedom Summer (both of which John Lewis was involved in), Thurgood Marshall, the Black Panthers, the removal of Confederate symbols and statues, etc.

Neighbors posted informative placards on their lawns, which added more to the occasion, detailing topics such as Reconstruction, Ivy League colleges' connection to slavery, young black men trafficked to U.S Steel coal mines in the 1900s and more.

Couples, families, groups of friends from all over Studio City, and even from as far as La Canada, Silverlake, and West Hills, took part in the walk. Many came back more than once to tour the exhibit.

This project was a great occasion, a gift to the community. Thank you to all involved and to those who came to visit.

Log on to StudioCityResidents.org for ANTIRACISM RESOURCES to examine the history of racism.

CAMPO DE CAHUENGA BOARD WANTS MORE MEMBERS

The Board of the Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association is adding members to their board. The Campo is an important historical site, also known as the birthplace of California, is where a treaty was signed in 1848. For more information visit their website at campodecahuenga.com. The Campo is currently holding zoom board meetings but during more normal times, they meet monthly and sponsor twice-monthly open houses for the public with tours on request for school children and other groups. If you are interested, please

(Continued, Page 3)

(Campo, cont'd)

email connie.elliott@studiocityresidents.org. Connie, who is on the SCRA board as well as the Campo board, can answer questions and facilitate an invitation to sit in on a board meeting. An interest in California history is a plus as well as the time to be an active member of the board. The biggest event is the annual celebration of the signing of the treaty between Mexico and the United States. The celebration, which is open to the public, includes Mexican dancing, actors dressed up in costumes from the 1800s, re-enacting the signing of the treaty, food trucks, booths, etc. This is an opportunity to give back to the community.

SCRA MEMBER CARD

By now, you should have received your new Member Card.



New features this year include:

- Detachable Keychain Tag. You can use either the Member Card or Keychain Tag at any of our participating businesses.
- QR Code added to the Member Card. Using your smartphone, you can check the most current list of participating businesses and discounts in real-time.

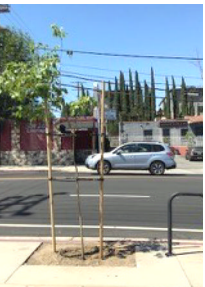
Your SCRA Member Card is now welcome at the following local businesses:

April Davis Investigations * Auto Plaza * Blacksmith Digital * BLVD Hotel and Spa * Ceremony * Charlie's Shoe Repair * Classic Toys * Creation Station Studio City * Dana Kathryn Jewelry * Danielli Menswear * Eye Candy Optometry * Flair Cleaners * Gangadin Indian Cuisine * Indian Art Center of California * James Thomas Stained Glass * Kit Kraft * La Knitterie Parisienne * Lemonade * Matthew's Jewelry Store * Mister O's * Panache Boutique * Pepe's NY Pizza * Pinz Bowling * Rain Bar & Lounge * Rudy's Barber Shop * Sportsmen's Lodge * Victoria's * The Village * Vintage Wine+Eats * Vitello's and Wild Flora

Newly added: Gisele Tune Clothing

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Thanks to the diligence and tenacity of one of our SCRA members, a new tree was planted in front of Holly's Donuts on Tujunga Ave.



TO THE MARKET

The Studio City Farmers Market continues to follow all city and county COVID-19 guidelines in our efforts to make shopping at the Market a safe and pleasant experience for our customers. Masks continue to be required, as well as one entrance through Laurel Canyon and an exit through Radford.

While vendors who cook on site are still not allowed to be at the Market per the County Department of Health, we are happy to welcome back a few vendors who have converted to prepackaged permits. Among them, BreadBlok, selling gourmet gluten-free products, Baja Burrito, selling premade breakfast burritos, and Kings Empanadas, whose savory empanadas are now sold frozen. We are also delighted to welcome Hemera's Bench, makers of gourmet New Zealand pies with meat and poultry fillings, as well as vegetarian options. You can find Hemera's Bench, Baja Burrito, and BreadBlok in the small parking lot. King's Empanada's is on the main street, near Radford.

We truly appreciate the work of Ignacio Alvarado of LA City Urban Forestry for making this happen. Also, the other new tree on Moorpark, in front of the gas station, is doing well.

SHOP LOCAL

In the July newsletter, SCRA announced that the Coalition of Business and Residents' Associations (COBRA) was organizing an event over the weekend of July 11th to celebrate the opening of businesses in Studio City and Sherman Oaks. Due to a resurgence of COVID-19 cases, businesses were ordered to once again shut down and the July event did not happen.



The Coalition is however moving ahead with flyers, banners, and flags. There is no date planned at this time but when appropriate, you will see the banner go up and the

flags put out to encourage everyone to SHOP LOCALLY. Studio City Residents Association, Studio City Chamber of Commerce, Studio City Business Improvement District, and Studio City Neighborhood Council are all participating.

FELLED TREE ON VENTURA

The SCRA was notified of a Chinese Pastiche tree in front of 11138 Ventura Blvd. that was cut down and laying on the sidewalk. Lisa Sarkin provided pictures that were sent to



Urban Forestry. Urban Forestry reacts quickly to any illegal trimming or removal of a street tree. However, in this instance, Urban Forestry responded that

this was a split tree emergency. The E-truck crew removed the rest of the tree because it was irreversibly damaged. A new tree will be planted in the fall. Members need to report any street tree that is damaged either by improper trimming or because it was cut down. You can send the address and a picture to the SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org.

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: For quite some time, I have noticed two swastikas embedded into the sidewalk on the West side of the Laurel Canyon sidewalk where it crosses over the LA River (near Valleyheart Drive). My main concern is how we can remove them and beautify Studio City. I live on Vantage Ave. and pass by the etchings whenever I walk to Ventura Boulevard.

SCRA: Jessica Fugate, Studio City Deputy to Councilmember Paul Krekorian responded immediately to SCRA asking if this should be reported to the city's Graffiti removal department. Our member is forwarding a picture and Jessica will send in a removal request and will report it to the Anti-Defamation League.

Q: The abandoned half-demolished house at 3779 Berry Drive has been vandalized and there is large graffiti facing the street as you come up Berry Dr. We would like it removed and the owners notified. What can be done to keep it from happening again? Please let me know if I should contact the city or anyone else to resolve and clean off the walls.

SCRA: You would contact Councilmember Krekorian's Studio City deputy, Jessica Fugate. LAPD does not want to handle issues like this. Jessica may be more able to contact the correct City department to get some action.

Q: An apartment building is currently being built at 12436 Milbank St in Studio City. Also the house immediately east of

that at 12430 Milbank St has a sign stating that it will be demolished. I spoke to a workman and he said they were planning to build an apartment building on the property. My question is, can builders erect apartment buildings in a single-family home area?

SCRA: Both 12436 and 12430 Milbank Street are zoned "R-1" for single-family homes. ONLY single-family homes (that must have 2-car garages) can be built at these two addresses. BUT, because each lot is 8387.5 square feet, (larger than average for the flats of Studio City), the house on each lot can be 3774 square feet (.45 of the lot size plus an extra 200 square feet towards the minimum 400 square feet garage). A 3774 square foot house may look like an apartment where a much smaller house once stood. I suspect the "workman" you spoke with was pulling your leg. If there truly IS something more than a 3774 square foot single-family house going up on either property, then we need to re-connect immediately and stop illegal building on each property.

Q: The trash and growing homeless community starting at the backside of the Ralphs at Campo de Cahuenga and continuing in the Caltrans parking lot and along the 101 entrance is unacceptable. Surely as a community, we cannot accept this violation of our community.

SCBA: Urban Forestry is the agency overseeing the area behind Ralphs at Campo de Cahuenga and the SCBA has reported the problem. Urban Forestry replied stating that, as soon as Los Angeles Sanitation Department disposes of the encampment, contractors for Urban Forestry will clean up any remaining trash and debris. (see related article on Project Roomkey)

Q: Many pedestrians walk in the middle of Iredell Lane and Iredell Street, disregarding what may be a California state law requiring pedestrians to walk at the side of a road. Many walk three, four, five, and even six abreast, thus extending into most of the width of the street. Some are wearing earphones and as a result, they are unable to hear motor vehicles approaching. More than one hundred walkers are entering and exiting the trail even hours after sundown, the closing time as posted by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Many of them carry flashlights or wear lights on their heads.

Suggestions: 1. Post signs requiring pedestrians to walk at the sides of the road at the intersection of Iredell Street and Fryman Road, at the intersection of Iredell Street and Iredell Lane, and the trailhead as the trail exits to Iredell Lane. 2. This neighborhood is a designated fire area, a sign exactly like the one posted at the northernmost point of the median of Fryman road should be posted at the entrance to Iredell Street at the intersection with Fryman Road. This should minimize the incidence of pedestrians smoking on Iredell Street, Iredell Lane, and the trail. And 3. Physically close the parking lot on Fryman near Laurel Canyon at sundown, open it at dawn to coincide with the operational hours of the park.

(Cont'd, Page 5)

SCRA: Part of this will be addressed in the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP) which will include lane painting which will give the appearance of a more narrow roadway but the city will not put up signage along the street. Jessica Fugate, Deputy to Councilmember Paul Krekorian will follow up on high fire zone signage, with LAFD and LADOT. Also, a good source of information on the LA Fire Department is at <https://www.lafd.org/faqs> And the SCRA has reached out to Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to close the parking at sundown.

RELAXING THE RULES DURING THE PANDEMIC - Signage Motion

Los Angeles City Council passed a Motion that allows businesses to post signs without fines. Building and Safety was not aware of the Motion and was fining businesses for hanging banners announcing that they are open for takeout and delivery, specifically businesses in Studio City, on Ventura near Laurel Canyon.

MOTION

I HEREBY MOVE that Council AMEND the Motion (Krekorian - Martinez) relative to relaxing quality of life and vegetation related code enforcement activities to add the following

bolded language to the recommendation:

INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety to relax quality of life and vegetation related code enforcement activities (other than fire-prevention brush clearance requirements), with a sunset date of September 24, 2020.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021: STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The election for the Studio City Residents Association offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, for the 2021 term will take place at the Annual General Meeting on January 12th, 2021.

The nominating committee encourages members to nominate candidates. Nominations for the above officers may be filed, in writing, by mailing to: SCRA, PO Box 1374, Studio City, CA, 91614 no later than October 10th, 2020. Send to the attention of: Nominating Committee, Martha Hanrahan, Claudia Freedle, Robin Seidel. Pursuant to the SCRA bylaws, Alan Dymond, as President, will act as chair of the committee. Be sure to include the following contact information for yourself and your nominee: Name, Mailing address, Email address, and Phone number.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

"Breach of promise is a base surrender of truth," Mahatma Gandhi.

Members were emailed in May 2019 that, "we are alarmed and disappointed by the size and scope of the proposed Harvard-Westlake project". The Head of School Rick Commons on October 30, 2017, wrote to the neighbors that Harvard-Westlake values the tranquility of the Weddington property, and it will offer athletic and recreation to its students and the community. But in November 2017, Philip Holthouse, Chair of the Harvard-Westlake Board of Trustees was quoted in the school newspaper the Harvard-Westlake Chronicle. "Right now we've got this big piece of land, we can't really start imagining what we might be able to do with it over a period of time. I can't say the opportunities are endless, but they're defiantly vast".

Since 2017, the project it has grown from practice fields to ease the burden on the main campus to a full-blown sports campus with no community athletic opportunities other than the Harvard-Westlake's eight tennis courts which they say they will make available to the community if they are not in use by the school.

There have been other changes since the first announcement. The "River Park" they've promised to build is now no more than a glorified walking path. There's no park.

What else have they offered our community as part of this allegedly community-oriented project? Outdoor PA systems? Special Events running late into the evening? A 500 car garage and seats for several thousand spectators? 80-foot tall floodlights? That is not community-oriented, it's not tranquil, and it's not a park.

As we see it: promises have been made, but to date, no promises are being kept. If that's how Harvard-Westlake is going to treat the community when they don't even have a project approved, imagine how cavalier they will be if a project gets approved?

Thank you to members and others for the contributions that are essential for legal work and experts to counter those employed by Harvard-Westlake.

Alan Dymond

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

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Martha Hanrahan
Stephen Sass
Robin Seidel
Karen Younce

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RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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**SCRA
VITRUAL
COMMUNITY
MEETING**

Tuesday, Sept 8, 2020

**ZOOM
MEETING**

**Refer to Page 1 for detailed
information on joining the
Zoom Meeting. Sign-up
required by Sept. 4th.**

AGENDA

7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker:
Councilmember Paul Krekorian

