



May 2023

THANK YOU, SCRA MEMBERS!

Let's keep it going!

Another productive year in Studio City and for the SCRA, and we have our members to thank for making it happen!

This year, our amazing group of volunteers, fueled by the generous contribution of our members, garnered an impressive portfolio of accomplishments on issues impacting daily life in Studio City.

Noteworthy among them: Working closely with the LAPD on local crime, homelessness, and safety matters; facilitating the installation of traffic lights on Ventura Boulevard at Berry and Rhodes Avenues; joining the "Save our Skies" federal lawsuit against Burbank Airport jet noise; hosting the Studio City Farmers Market - our award-winning joint venture with the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation - and securing free parking for patrons at Radford Studio Center; filing a response to Harvard-Westlake's 6,000-page Environmental Impact Report for its proposal to replace the beloved Weddington Golf & Tennis with a private sports complex; landscaping five medians along Vineland through our sister organization, Studio City Beautification Association; and running the popular "Ask the SCRA" column, which appears in our bi-monthly newsletter, answering member questions and connecting you with local resources and solutions.



COMMUNITY MEETING **May 9, 2023**

The SCRA Board is pleased to announce that Supervisor Lindsey Horvath will be our guest speaker at the May 9th, SCRA Community Meeting.

Studio City's supervisorial districts were split during the 2022 redistricting and Supervisor Horvath now represents Studio City from Laurel Canyon to the West.

Included in the specific county property in Horvath's district is the Los Angeles River (including encroachment onto county land by Harvard-Westlake), the Tujunga Wash, and the Sepulveda Basin.

Supervisor Horvath will speak on county issues such as the county's role in implementing measure H (homeless housing) and the cost of housing units, reforms taking place within the Sheriff's Department, LA County Heart Heroes 2023 Campaign, and other county measures.

Senior Lead Officer Shawn Smith is still on leave and Lead Officer Kurtis Delbar is unable to attend our May meeting. Officer Delbar asked members to please let him know if you have any questions or concerns that he can assist with. Officer Burke will be helping as well to cover for Officer Smith. Officer Delbar can be reached at 424-267-9558, or email: 38887@lapd.online

As you read through the above list, keep in mind the SCRA is a 100% all-volunteer, independent, community-operated nonprofit. We are your neighbors. Our 12 Board Members, six office staff, and 30 or so other community volunteers are the beating heart of the SCRA - and your support, as a member, is our lifeblood.

The modest \$25-per-household membership fee (\$10 for senior households) makes it possible for us to protect and enhance the beauty, safety, and quality of life of our community year-round.

Please take a moment to renew your membership. (Renew early and keep your membership current through June 30, 2024.) If you have an extra moment, tell your friends and neighbors about us. SCRA is the #1 advocate for Studio City residents. Representing thousands of homeowners and renters since 1961, we make sure elected officials pay attention to this community and its specific needs. Join our membership. You'll be in good company.

Renew/Join at:
studiocityresidents.org/membership/joinrenew



ESCAPE TO THE ZEV YAROSLAVSKY GREENWAY

Just steps away from the hectic pace of Ventura Boulevard lies an urban oasis where you can immerse yourself in nature. Officially known as the Zev Yaroslavsky L. A. River Greenway Trail, this half-mile path between Whitsett Avenue and Coldwater Canyon attracts hundreds of species of animals to its stunning native habitat. Planted with species such as Western sycamore, black sage, California sagebrush, arroyo lupine, and showy California brittlebush, birds, bees and insects of all types have made this their home. So too have dozens of California ground squirrels and adorable desert cottontails.

Last year alone, 35 species of birds and more than 20 species of butterflies visited and fed in the area. And if you like bees, more than ten species of native bees were seen pollinating flowers. Considering that the number of native bees in California numbers almost 1600, that is a fairly small percentage, but one that is significant in a very urban neighborhood.

The secret to all the activity along this path is the habitat. Planted with all native vegetation, local wildlife made its way here to take advantage of all that these plants offer from food to shelter to nesting materials and shade during the hot summer.

While California offers an incredible climate where almost any plant can grow, native plants provide the building blocks to create an ecosystem where all our local wildlife can thrive. In a world where habitat is rapidly being replaced with development, it's inspiring to see what planting even a small number of native plants can do.

If you haven't checked out the Greenway, take a minute to stop by and enjoy a respite from your busy day.

Susan Schable and Andrew Epstein are members of the Studio City Neighborhood Council Sustainability Committee.

UPDATES ON STUDIO CITY PROJECTS

Bridge over the LA River at Radford and Valleyheart Dr.

SCRA requested that remedial work be conducted on the bridge over the LA River at Radford and Valleyheart Dr. SCRA has been informed that the Bureau of Engineering is getting a design consultant to work on the redesign plans as they have obtained the funding they need.

River revitalization, southside Laurel Canyon to Whitsett

Council District 4 is getting Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Police Foundation back together to coordinate on the River Path revitalization after it hit a slow patch. There is no concrete update but it's something that CD4 is trying to spearhead with the necessary departments.

Revitalization of the LA River Zev Yaroslavsky Greenway Whitsett to Coldwater, Northside

In January we reported that the greenway revitalization would begin in the new year, most likely in March. The work is now

expected to begin this summer. Funding is in place and work will be done by Tree People, North East Trees, and volunteers to remove non-native plants and replace them with natives. Volunteer opportunities will be announced in the near future.

Beeman Park Gym

Beeman Park is getting a new gym, but when? LA City has the design, the location on the property, and some of the funding. Recently, Congressman Brad Sherman acquired an additional \$3,000,000 in Federal funding and we still do not have any date for the construction of this much-needed replacement.

Crosswalk on Ventura at Rhodes

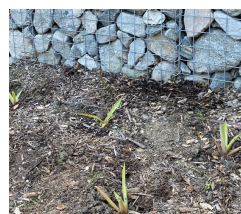
As previously reported, the crossing light has been installed but the SCRA and the Business Improvement District (BID) are disappointed by the type of crossing light that was installed. After waiting for years for this safety feature to be installed, what we got was extremely underwhelming. The small flashing lights on the sidewalk poles and overhead flashing only lights for traffic traveling west. Totally inadequate for this crossing.

The BID, upon inquiring, received this reply from the Department of Transportation, "The project includes numerous intersections so even if work at Rhodes appears complete, the contractor needs to finish other locations and close out the project before we touch anything that's worked on. I'll talk to the project managers but I think that should happen in a few months. In the meantime, I will discuss with my colleague who manages our signal construction staff to have them take a look at Rhodes and see what may be possible for near-term smaller upgrades.

At the same time, my team will work on authorizing hybrid beacons here but these will be unfunded for now and there is no timeline for that to be implemented."

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President



Ah, spring has sprung and there's so much beauty in bloom at our beautification sites each median, pocket park, and parkway has an assortment of plants. If you're thinking of adding new flora to your garden, we invite you to visit our beautification sites.

You'll see plants that are mature and robust showing off their spring splendor as well as baby plants just beginning their journey to beauty. Like the 16 baby Agave plants recently donated by Melanie Winter with The River Project and planted at the Oakdell Sanctuary by SCBA's newest board member Doug Short.

And since our last report to you, the dull dirt around the new "Studio City Welcomes You" sign on the Vineland median at Whipple is now planted with a mixture of



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(Beautification, cont'd)

colorful native and drought tolerant plants; Sacred Heart Purple trailing plants, Dudleya, Senecio Blue Chalksticks, Flapjacks, Aeonium (low bunching variety), Echeveria, Aloe and Green Apple/myoporum. The plants are small now, but the good news is they will grow quickly in this spring weather.

On the not-so-good news side of things, SCBA is sorry to report to you that two of our beautified medians have been disfigured by vandalism...again.



A car ran over the Eastside median on Ventura Boulevard near Lankershim (across from the BLVD Hotel) tearing up the ground cover, irrigation system and taking out all 4 trees.



And the Coldwater median just south of the 101Fwy has once more been a victim of vehicle vandalism destroying plants and the irrigation system.

The Studio City Beautification Association is an all-volunteer organization and it's our team work with you that keeps Studio City looking beautiful. With the increase in vandalism and destruction, your support is needed more than ever to cover the hard costs of repair and replacement.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible spring donation you can contribute online at our website StudioCityBeautification.org or call the office at (818) 509-0230.

Stay safe and see you in the neighborhood.

VALLEY SPRING LIGHT



SCRA Vice President Barry Johnson, working with Mehmet Berker, Council District 4, Senior Deputy Transportation, Infrastructure, and Public Space, announced that the signal at Whitsett and Valley Spring is being installed. This signal is much needed to slow traffic on Whitsett and allow residents to safely merge into the Whitsett traffic from their neighborhoods.

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR MAILBOX

Our membership drive for 2023-2024 will be in full swing starting June 15th.

Renew your membership and help us continue our 60 + years of advocating for you, our valued members and neighbors. Your new SCRA Member Discount Card will be mailed out no sooner than July 1st and/or approximately 10 days after your renewal – a great way to celebrate our local businesses.



TO THE MARKET

Spring is in the air, and that means stone fruit is making its way back to the Farmers Market.

Tired of apples and oranges? No need to despair. Not only are peaches back but so are plums, apricots, pluots, cherries, and grapes. And of course, a favorite of many a shopper - sweet cherry tomatoes.

Want a quick and delicious dinner? Take home a few Aussie meat pies from Hemera's Bench. From Guinness steak pies to chicken and vegetables, and mushrooms and tofu, they have something for every palate. But shop early, as many flavors sell out before the end of the day. Hemera's is located in the small parking lot.

As a reminder, dogs are not allowed at the Farmers Market, and therapy dogs are not considered service animals. This policy is in place for the safety and comfort of all Market visitors, so please leave your furry friends at home.

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: Letter to Bureau of Street Service from Barry Johnson, SCNC Transportation Committee Chair & SCRA Vice-President: "Yesterday at Noon I was in my work vehicle at a red light watching a pothole filling crew on Vineland Avenue just south of Moorpark Street. They filled the holes, but there were many asphalt pebbles on the ground away from each hole that they had filled. Why does this crew not carry a broom to sweep up the asphalt on the street that's not part of the filled pothole? It's tough enough keeping our streets clean without this extra loose asphalt being left behind. It just seems like City crews never take any pride in their work product, ever."

Bureau of Street Service Response: Thank you for bringing this to my attention as I agree with you. We are always working to improve our standards and you have my personal commitment we will do so. We are currently working on a training program specifically for our pothole trucks to improve quality of services. I will be in that area tomorrow and will take a look at the location.

Q: I was recalling that when Universal opened their Harry Potter world there was a special offer to get tickets for Studio City residents association members. Do you know if the same special will be offered for the opening of the new Super Mario world?

SCRA: This is the website where you can ask that question: communityline.nbcuni.com. In recent years if you qualify for free parking at Citywalk (also at this website) then you get

(Continued, Page 4)

(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

invitations. Universal said that they had cut back on the numbers and are concentrating on the neighborhoods closest to the studio.

Q: The lights along Ventura Blvd. from Fulton to Coldwater, both sides of the street have been vandalized and out for months. Do you know when they will be fixed? This is a particularly dark area.

SCRA: Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) said that there is multiple light issues reported on that stretch (Incident 525626) stating that 14 lights are reported on January 15, 2023. It will take 45 business days for inspection. Furthermore, after inspection, it can take 6-9 months for BSL to repair street lights due to significant underfunding, staff shortages, lack of materials, and backlog of service requests. I hope to have an update for you in the next month or two and will be sure to let you know when I have new information.

Q: My neighbors and I received notices taped to our properties for Slurring on Friday, March 31st. I'm confused because our street was just slurred within the last year. The residue from the slurry fills our gutters for months and months after the scurrying... it's only now that the residue has pretty much subsided. I know because I've been sweeping up this residue for months and months. Does a street that was slurred in the last year really need to be done again so soon? And our gutters drain directly into the very nearby L.A. River.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR



“What attracted me to join the SCRA was the chance to get involved within the community I live in and contribute to the dialogue that is shaping the future of Studio City.”
John Hartich



Is all this residue and the chemicals it must contain good for the environment as it runs into the river? Plus there are other streets in our neighborhood that have not been slurred or repaved for years and years.

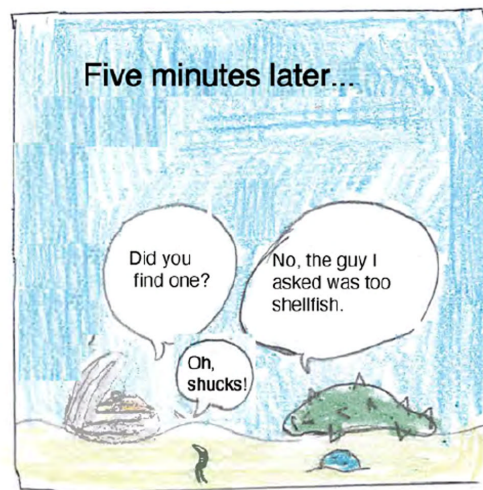
Response from LA City: Good morning, Sorry about the inconvenience. This was a mistake with the flyer on this project. We will not be slurring your street again.

Follow-up from neighbor: Well, the "No Parking" signs from 6 AM to 6 PM for Friday went up this morning. Are you saying we are definitely not being slurred? And if this is indeed true, can we get those "No Parking" signs down as soon as possible?

From Our Junior Member

Underwater Currency

By Ruby Lerner - 4th grade



Sea Cucumber searches out for a dollar loan for his good friend Clam.

Sea Cucumber asks Anemone, who turns him down. Eventually, Sea Cucumber finds a dollar on his journey and returns to deliver it to Clam.

Unfortunately, it is not quite the dollar Clam had in mind...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

More on the Harvard-Westlake Sports Complex

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), as submitted by Harvard-Westlake, is DEFICIENT in many areas. SCRA attorneys have asked Planning, Harvard-Westlake, and our council members to recirculate the DEIR and address those elements that have a profound impact on the environment. Especially elements such as the use of artificial turf that will pollute our water supply with "forever" chemicals. Also of concern, the DEIR shows that our fire station on Whitsett may result in that fire station needing to be moved.

There will be a massive amount of dirt removed during the excavation for a huge gym, Olympic size swimming pool, and 500-car underground parking garage. Haul routes are a whole other matter that needs to be addressed as 250,000 cubic yards will be cut, filling 50,000 trucks with thousands of tons of dirt that will need to be trucked through the neighborhoods.

To date, SCRA has not received support from councilmember Raman on these issues. An approach mentioned by her was that SCRA should talk directly to Harvard-Westlake. SCRA and SLAROS have done so on many occasions over the years but the Harvard-Westlake deciders, those with authority, were not at the table and are not willing to come forward. I speak from personal experience.

Councilmember Raman cannot stand by, she must take a position. Harvard-Westlake is proposing to cut down over 200 trees and cover acres of open space with artificial turf that will create a DEAD ZONE for biological organisms. Councilmember Raman will have to sign off on any Conditional Use Permit that Harvard-Westlake must obtain from the city council. We need councilmember Raman to stand up for what is right for the neighborhood and for the environment but as of now, she is silent.

I urge all of you to call councilmember Raman's office (213) 473-7004, leave your name, phone number, and zip code AND request that the Harvard-Westlake DEIR is recirculated to address all outstanding environmental elements.

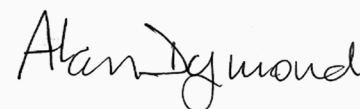
Report on SCRA's Annual Meeting and who your officers are

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the SCRA took place on March 14th, 2023. The earlier scheduled AGM was canceled due to flooding at Bridges Academy.

The first order of business at the AGM was to appoint the officers for the SCRA. No nominations for officer positions were filed with the SCRA Nominating Committee by the cut-off date so the nominating committee proposed a slate for the officer positions. All the outgoing officers had agreed to serve for the 2023 term so SCRA would have had ongoing continuity at the officer level. So, with no candidates filing for an officer position, the recommended slate was adopted at the AGM.

Your officers are Alan Dymond, President; Barry Johnson, Vice president; Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer; Connie Elliot, Secretary. Claudia Freedle agreed to serve the 2023 term as Admin Vice President.

Councilmember and President of the LA City Council, Paul Krekorian was the guest speaker at this meeting. Krekorian proposed that the ability of individual council members to decide the makeup of the LA council districts' boundaries should be given over to an independent commission. Independent commissions worked very well at the state-level assembly and for senate seats. To have the power removed from individual council members and given to independent commissioners will require having the public vote in favor of changing the City Charter.



WHO WE ARE

SCRA OFFICERS

Alan Dymond, President
Barry Johnson, Vice President
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Joanne Brenner
Beth Dymond
Martha Hanrahan
John Hartich
Stephen Sass
Lana Shackelford
Karen Younce

BEAUTIFICATION ASSN. OFFICERS

Meg McDonald Seltzer, President
Beth Dymond, Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Barry Johnson
Lynette Berg Robe
Doug Short
Karen Younce
StudioCityBeautificationAssoc@gmail.com

SAVE LA RIVER OPEN SPACE OFFICERS

Alan Dymond, President
Beth Dymond, Secretary
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Dale Fernandez
Barry Johnson
Kelsey McCallister
Holly Noelle-Levy
SaveOpenSpace@SLAROS.org

STUDIO CITY FARMERS MARKET

(818) 655-7744
StudioCityFarmersMarket.com

NEWSLETTER

Graphic Design: Kevin Lewis
(818) 667-6647 Kevin@KevLew.com

STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1374, STUDIO CITY, CA 91614
PH: (818) 509-0230 FAX: (818) 206-3419

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 | Gisele Tune |
| April Davis Investigations | Grimercy Boutique |
| Arnold's Copy & Print | Habit |
| Auto Plaza | James Thomas Stained Glass |
| Back to Wellness | La Krittterre Parisienne |
| BLVD Hotel & Spa | Matthew's Jewelry Store |
| Charles' Shoe Repair | Mister O's |
| Chateau de Luce | Panache Boutique |
| Classic Toys | Pepe's Pizza |
| Cocoa and Candy | Prosecco Trattoria |
| Creation Station Studio City | Rain Bar & Lounge |
| Dana Kathryn Jewelry | SALT Optics |
| Danielli Menswear | topdrawer |
| Diana's Boutique | The Village |
| Eye Candy Optometry | Viteilo's Restaurant |
| Eyedentity Eyewear | Wild Flora |
| Flair Cleaners | |



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To see more info on the businesses and their discounts.



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



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SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

AGENDA

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

Introduce 2023 SCRA Officers

Guest Speaker: Supervisor
Lindsey Horvath

MEETING LOCATION

Bridges Academy—Classroom
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604

Free parking in school lot.
Enter on Maxwellton.

SCRABoard@studcityresidents.org
www.studcityresidents.org

