



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

January 2013

IN THIS ISSUE:

Beautification Plans for 2013 Page 2

Major Grant Received for River Trail Page 3

Campo Celebration Page 5



THOUSANDS JOIN IN THE FUN AT SECOND ANNUAL WINTER FAMILY FESTIVAL

More than 2,000 people attended the SCRA's Second Annual Winter Family Festival plus Radio Disney's Festival of Giving at Studio City Recreation Center (aka Beeman Park) on Sunday, December 2, 2012. The threat of rain did not keep guests from enjoying this rich holiday celebration, which was bigger and better than ever. Families and kids of all ages played in more than 60 tons of snow, sledding and building snowmen, and enjoyed an afternoon of fun, music, food and more. In fact, the Winter Family Festival has become a Studio City holiday tradition. This year's Festival featured music from local schools and community groups; crafts for kids; A Taste of the Holidays with sampling by area restaurants; free photos with Santa shot by professional family photographer, Michaelyn Straub; food trucks; face painting; Radio Disney's Road Crew; and more. Working with the Studio City Recreation Center, the SCRA once again partnered with Radio Disney AM 1110 to include Radio Disney's Festival of Giving, where guests could donate items for those in need.

(Continued, Page 4)



Photos: Michaelyn Straub; Barry Weiss; Barry Wise; Natalie Eig

SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO SALUTE THE COMMUNITY

The SCRA Annual General Meeting on January 8, 2013 will feature a packed agenda with a special salute to dedicated volunteers in the community. In addition to confirming the appointment of the SCRA board officers for 2013, the SCRA will present its annual Studio City Cares Awards to five very deserving individuals who do so much to make Studio City the wonderful community that it is.. Awards will be presented to Sandra Reed Funnell, Art Ginsburg, Lisa Sarkin, Carey Banks and Karl Johnson. Please join us to salute these fine individuals and learn more about their defining contributions.

In addition, the SCRA will present a check to the Studio City Recreation Center (aka Beeman Park) from monies raised in conjunction with the SCRA's Second Annual Winter Family Festival. This grant, which was made possible by contributions from local organizations, merchants and others to support the December 2, 2012 Festival held at the park, will be used to support future park programs.

The meeting will also include a presentation to SCRA members and guests by the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) on the proposed electronic communication device to be installed on residential and commercial natural gas meters. Called "advanced meter," this new device that will read and transmit gas usage information to the SoCalGas customer service and billing center. A discussion and Q&A session will follow the SoCalGas presentation.

The meeting will be held at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre Room at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments and an opportunity to meet community members and neighbors begin at 7:00 p.m.

BEHIND THE SCENES

[Note: Periodically, this newsletter will provide an update of activities undertaken by the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) and its sister organizations, the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) and Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS).]

Campo de Cahuenga Way (At the 101 Freeway and Ventura Blvd.)
Discussions are underway with the Bureau of Street Trees for the placement of donated oak trees and other landscaping at Campo de Cahuenga Way. The SCBA has repaired the gateway sign to Studio City, "Studio City Welcomes You," and installed a new light.

Eastside Median (Ventura Blvd. opposite the Park & Ride at the Universal Metro Station)

The SCBA has applied for a grant to Keep Los Angeles Beautiful to cover costs associated with removing the black

top and replacing it with landscaping. Once the project is completed, the SCBA will formally adopt the median.

Los Angeles River Improvements

The SCRA joined in a conference call held by the EPA (Urban Waters Federal Partnership) and chaired by Pauline Louie to discuss and review proposed and approved projects for Los Angeles River improvements. (In October Louie met with SLAROS at the proposed LA River Natural Park site on Whitsett Avenue and toured the anticipated bike path on Radford Avenue that will be a connector to other river improvements.)

CVS at the Southwest corner of Laurel Canyon and Ventura Blvds.

The SCRA sent a letter to the architect for CVS encouraging CVS to proceed with refurbishing the façade of the property, which is on a highly visible corner.

Donation to Citizens United for Smart Growth (CUSG)

The CUSG board is involved in many aspects of the developments at Universal Studios. The SCRA, which has four seats on the CUSG board, recently gave a donation to CUSG to help meet the cost of renewing insurance coverage for the board.

A NEW YEAR AND NEW PLANS FOR THE STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION



The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) will add two new projects for 2013 and, at the same time, will continue to maintain the landscaping around the community that it has previously installed.

The organization will adopt and landscape the median located on Ventura Blvd. between Lankershim Blvd. and Vineland Avenue, across from the "Park & Ride" facility. The other project is the bus stop area on the west side of Laurel Canyon Blvd. at Wilacre Park. The SCBA has been asked to review and undertake improvements at this site.

In addition, the SCBA will continue with a refurbishing program at Moorpark Parkway that will add plants needed to fill bare spaces. The curb at the median on Coldwater Canyon Blvd. at the 101 Freeway that was damaged by a hit-and-run driver will be repaired and plants replaced as needed. Lighting will be installed at the Oasis (opposite Marshalls), and the monument at Laurel Canyon and 101 Freeway will also be refurbished.

Work continues at the parcel between Oakdell Road and Fryman Place along Laurel Canyon Blvd., now known as

(Continued, Page 3)

(SCBA, cont'd)

"Oakdell Sanctuary," named both for its location and incorporation of a bird sanctuary. The sanctuary was designed and supervised by SCBA vice president Francesca Corra of Dirt Diva Designs (DirtDivaDesigns.com). Corra has volunteered countless hours to this project, developing the design and supervising the many contractors involved. The rock wall segments of the design are called "gabion walls," which are more natural than a more traditional line of vertical posts. This wall will separate pedestrians who walk through this area from traffic. The SCBA hired Andreas Hessing of Scrub Jay Studios in Altadena (ScrubJayStudios.com) for his expertise in assembling the separate elements of the wall. Upon seeing the progress of the project and learning the SCBA is an all-volunteer organization, Hessing donated his time and waived his fee. The SCBA thanks both Corra and Hessing for their support. The SCBA hopes the sanctuary will attract the birds that were temporarily displaced by providing a bird bath as well as native plants and trees that will provide a source of food. Improvements to this prior weed infested area are "eye popping," and over the years it will develop its own character. SCBA members are invited to park nearby and enjoy the serenity of this mini-park.

In other news, The Village Gardeners reported cedar waxwings have been seen foraging on toyon berries along Valleyheart Drive, together with mallard ducks in the river. There have also been numerous sightings of egrets, herons, ospreys and more. For more information, visit www.TheVillageGardeners.org

Sportsmen's Lodge reports that an osprey visits the hotel's water features on a regular basis.

Look for the SCBA annual fundraiser mailing at the first of the year. The SCBA thanks all of those who support its effort with resources, time and ideas. Please "like" the SCBA Facebook page to keep updated on projects to keep Studio City beautiful.

STUDIO CITY RIVER TRAIL TO BENEFIT FROM GRANT FOR MORE THAN \$750,000



California Natural Resources has awarded Community Conservation Association (CCS) \$751,000 to extend the Los Angeles River trail and create public access along the closed section of the Los Angeles River next to the proposed L.A. River Natural Park site in Studio City. This extension will bridge a gap in the trail,



TO THE MARKET

Winter is a time for hearty stews and soups, and what better place to get the ingredients for such comfort food than at the Studio City Farmers Market. Its wonderful farmers not only have everything you need to keep yourself and your family well fed throughout the year, but they are

reaching out and helping to feed the less fortunate in the community as well.

In September, the Market joined forces with Food Forward, an organization that collects excess fruits and vegetables from the Market every Sunday and donates 100 percent of it to food pantries across Southern California. The generous farmers donate more than 600 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables every single Sunday! After only seven weeks in the program, the Market donated more than 4,000 pounds of produce, which, in turn, served more than 6,000 people.

And it's not just the farmers who provide for the community. The Market recently made a \$5,000 donation to the Rio Vista Elementary School Reading Garden. The garden will be a wonderful quiet area for the students to read and enjoy the outdoors. In addition, the upper grade students will be doing some of the planting and will maintain the garden area. The Studio City Farmers Market truly is for the community. The Market appreciates the many local residents who help make it as special as it is.

restore native habitat, create five continuous miles of walking trail and transform a degraded half-mile section of the river bank. The following organizations partnered with CCS to secure this grant: the Studio City Residents Association, Save L.A. River Open Space, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, the City of Los Angeles, Mia Lehrer and Associates, Northeast Trees and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps.

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: We used to get people driving around in the middle of the night to go through the bins on our street. Now there is always someone who comes during the day. Yesterday a car drove up to our street, dropped off a woman and went off down the road. She started going through our neighbors' bins, while their kids were playing outside. I asked her if they were her bins and told her several times that she should not

(Continued, Page 4)

(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

be doing that; she ignored me and kept lifting lids. Finally, she walked down the hill, waving goodbye. On previous weeks I have taken down the registration number of various vehicles and informed the North Hollywood Police who never get there in time. I wonder whether there is a kind of organized group that sends different people to certain areas so we can't track them easily. Any suggestions?

SCRA: This has been a concern in other many other neighborhoods. The SCRA spoke with our City Councilmember's office about this, and he said that the only real recourse you have, other than putting the bins out right before pickup (morning of the pickup day), is to call the police, which you have already done. The LAPD doesn't put a high priority on these calls because it is difficult to get a police officer out before the scavenger leaves. You can call and/or email our Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis at 818-634-2593, 31575@lapd.lacity.org and alert him to the problem, so that he can, if possible, get a response to your call. (If your neighborhood isn't in his area, you may have to email Officer Benavidez at 32151@lapd.lacity.org). The SCRA recommends you do not confront the trash pickers, since doing so may lead to more trouble.

HILLSIDE FEDERATION UPDATE

Huge Victory for Hastain Trail Supporters: Members Ellen Scott and Eric Edmunds reported the Los Angeles Superior Court issued a tentative ruling for a public easement over a portion of the Hastain Trail outside of Franklin Canyon Park, even though portions of the trail cross private property. In April 2011, Mohamed Hadid erected fences and barriers that closed the trail in order to facilitate grading the ridgeline above Coldwater Canyon Blvd. This would have enabled the construction of up to five homes of 35,000 square feet or more. In her ruling, Judge Yvette Palazuelos found the trail had been "impliedly dedicated" for public use as the trail has been used by the public since the 1920s. The court ordered Hadid to remove the fences and barriers.

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) Reports on Advanced Meters: SoCalGas gave a presentation on upgrading the system it uses to read gas meters. The upgrade consists of adding a battery powered communication device to all residential and business gas meters. This device will then transmit the readings to nearby data collectors. SCRA Administrative Vice President Claudia Freedle reported there was an extensive discussion regarding the approximately 4,000 data collectors to be installed throughout the SoCal Gas service territory, which encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles throughout Central and Southern California from Visalia to the Mexican border. SCRA members will have an opportunity to hear SoCalGas present details about the advanced meter program at the SCRA Community Meeting on January 8, 2012 at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn on Vineland Avenue. SoCalGas is scheduled to install the advanced meter

(Winter Festival, cont'd)

The event was made possible by the following highly community-minded sponsors:

Presenting Sponsors

CBS Studio Center
Century West BMW
Radio Disney/Project Family
Studio City Chamber of Commerce
Saller's International Body Shop
Studio City Improvement Association
Studio City Neighborhood Council
Studio City Residents Association
Studio City Recreation Center
Universal Studios

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All Ages Chiropractic
Creation Station Studio City
Michaelyn Straub Photography
Sportsmen's Lodge
Star Parking
Studio LOL
Studio City Farmers Market
Studio City Lifestyle Magazine
Shaolin America Self Defense Academy

A Taste of the Holidays-Participating Restaurants

Casa Vega
Daily Grill
Hugo's Tacos
Loteria
PizzaRev
Pressed Juicery
Tula's
Take a Bao

Special thanks to the core event team of Ann Husvar, Beth Dymond, Bonnie Goodman and Justin Walker and the Winter Family Festival Committee, which included the core team plus Patty Kirby, Barbara Robbin, Barry Weiss, Steve Hirsh, Adam Monick and Julie Monroy. The SCRA thanks all of the volunteers who worked countless hours to put on this amazing festival. We will have more details soon on next year's Winter Family Festival.

communication device on approximately six million natural gas meters from 2012-2017. An installation schedule and more information are available on socialgas.com (search "ADVANCED").

LAYERS OF HISTORY AT CAMPO DE CAHUENGA



Local historical site, Campo de Cahuenga, will again celebrate the signing of the Articles of Capitulation at the Campo in 1847 by opening its doors free to the public on Sunday, January 13, 2013, from 12:30-2:15 p.m. The event is sponsored by

the Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association, NBCUniversal and the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department.

The annual event features an historical re-enactment of the signing, complete with actors dressed in period costume. Visitors will also enjoy fiesta dancers, a self-tour of the archeological dig, the firing of the Howitzer Cannon and children's activities. Food trucks will be selling food, and the Campo will provide light refreshments. Local elected officials, including Grand Marshall Tom LaBonge and City Council member Paul Krekorian, will be in attendance. The SCRA representative on the Campo board, Connie Elliot, reports the

festivities are much anticipated and encourages Studio City residents and guests to join the fun and get an opportunity to learn more about the community.

During the year, the Campo is open on the first Saturday afternoon of each month and features occasional fireside chats in the evening. For more information about the Campo's history, visit www.campodecahuenga.com or contact the Campo at campodecahuenga1847@hotmail.com.

Parking is free in the adjacent Metro station lot. The Campo is located at 3919 Lankershim Blvd. just opposite Universal Studios and next to the Universal Red Line station.

2013 SCRA OFFICERS

The SCRA did not receive nominations for SCRA officer positions other than those submitted by the Nominating Committee; therefore, in accordance with the SCRA bylaws, those candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee shall be deemed duly elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Studio City Residents Association on January 8, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn, 4222 Vineland Ave, Studio City. The elected officers will be: Alan Dymond, president; Bonnie Goodman, executive vice president; Bryan Abrams, treasurer; and Connie Elliot, secretary. Pursuant to SCRA board resolution, made and carried unanimously, Claudia Freedle has agreed to serve as administrative vice president for the term of 2013.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

Going forward into the New Year, the SCRA will continue to hold its community meetings every other month on the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments, with the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. Meetings take place at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn on Vineland Avenue. We encourage you to attend and learn more about key issues facing our community. We also encourage you to email or call the SCRA office with any suggestions or concerns; we will respond promptly.

Given very favorable response, we will continue to publish the SCRA newsletter in printed form. The newsletter is also available on our web site once it is mailed to members. Members should be sure to sign up for the SCRA's "News and Notes" eblast list. That list is jealously guarded by SCRA and used solely for alerts sent to members who are interested in receiving them.

A proposed parcel tax for Los Angeles County is on the horizon: it will be used to clean the water that flows into the Los Angeles River from regional watersheds in the county. Public hearings will be held, after which the County Board of Supervisors will decide whether or not to place the parcel tax on the ballot. There is a related case pending before the U.S. Supreme Court concerning whether or not the Los Angeles Flood Control District is responsible for polluted discharges into the river.

A discussion about why there is no tunnel under Lankershim Blvd. from the Redline station, as well as no input on the bridge design, in the Universal Studios development is working its way through the process. (There are many other issues and concerns presented by this development that are being addressed by other organizations).

In the various political races, there will likely be run-offs for mayor, city attorney and controller, among others. Just a reminder that SCRA officers and board members may not use their official position to support any candidate for public office. While they have every right to support the candidate of their choice and speak on behalf of themselves as individuals, the SCRA as an organization and its individual board members do not endorse any candidate for office.

The SCRA Board and its volunteers wish all our members and their families a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Alan Dymond

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



JANUARY 2013

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2013

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments
- 7:30 p.m.** Election of officers for
2013 SCRA Board plus
presentation of SCRA's
Studio City Cares Awards
and major donation to
Studio City Recreation
Center

Meeting Location

**Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre
4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City**

*When entering the hotel driveway, turn left and go through the parking turnstile. Drive to the end and turn right. Go to the large back lot. The handicap entrance is from this lot. Walk to the southwest corner of the lot, and signs will direct you to the Beverly Garland Theatre. **PARKING WILL BE VALIDATED** at the sign-in-table.*

The SCRA thanks Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn for continued support of the monthly SCRA Community Meetings

SCRA Committees

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

Officers

Alan Dymond, President
Bonnie Goodman, Exec. Vice President
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Bryan Abrams, Treasurer

Board Members

Beth Dymond
Martha Hanrahan
Steve Hirsh

Art Howard
Barry Johnson
Robin Seidel
Barry Weiss

Immediate Past President

Art Howard

Beautification Association

Beth Dymond, President
Francesca Corra, Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Bryan Abrams, Treasurer

Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

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

School Liaisons

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman
Oakwood - Tammy Lundgren
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

Studio City Farmers Market

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