



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

May 2021

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ZOOM SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

May 11, 2021 - 7:00 PM

Keynote speaker: Los Angeles City Controller, Ron Galperin



Ron Galperin has been the city watchdog for taxpayers at City Hall since 2013 making sure public dollars are spent efficiently and effectively. During his tenure, Galperin has worked to create a more transparent, accountable, and modern city for residents. From the beginning, Galperin has led a data revolution by launching Control Panel L.A. which is the City's first open data portal. (<https://lacontroller.org/controlpanel-la/>) Galperin conducts results-oriented audits. For example, after an audit conducted by Galperin's office and a subsequent partnership with the City Council, Street Damage Restoration Fee receipts are set to grow to \$40.2 million this year and \$70.5 million next year - 10 times the revenue L.A. recovered for the fee in 2018. This will allow the City to fix more streets that badly need it both now and in the future.

SCRA welcomes Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin with his depth of knowledge about City Hall and your tax dollars. Q & A to follow.

To attend the SCRA virtual meeting, send an email to SCRA no later than Friday, May 7th at ZoomMeeting@studiocityresidents.org, and we will place you on the invitation list for this meeting. On May 11th, the morning of the meeting, SCRA will email you an invitation link to attend this meeting on Zoom.

CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN'S REQUEST

At the March Community Meeting, Congressman Brad Sherman ask the SCRA to send him projects in Studio City that could be considered by Congress for funding.

SCRA submitted two infrastructure projects for consideration that are a benefit to the entire Valley.

Two bridges over the Los Angeles River in Studio City are major Valley escape routes (north/south) should a major disaster occur. These are the bridges at Laurel Canyon Blvd./Valleyheart Drive and Radford Avenue/Valleyheart Drive, which are over seventy years old.

The Federal Government scheduled the Radford Avenue bridge replacement about eleven years ago, but it never happened. They presented plans and conducted preliminary outreach to the community only to cancel the project for unknown reasons.

The sidewalk on the Radford Avenue Bridge is very uneven and has large gaps. Parents who walk their kids to school have raised concerns. This bridge is crumbling and uneven at both ends and visibly not up to earthquake standards. The Tujunga Avenue Bridge, also on the docket with the Radford Bridge, was completed, this may help locate Radford's initial shovel-ready plan.



thank you!



Long-time Board member Robin Seidel is leaving her work on the SCRA Board to retire out of state.

The board wishes her well in her new adventure. Robin's work on the holiday floats and the Winter Family Festival was greatly appreciated along with her willingness to shepherd SCRA through the social media world. Studio City is a better place for having had Robin work for our members.

THANK YOU, ROBIN SEIDEL



SCRA MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

It is hard to think of a time in recent memory in which community mattered more than during this past year. As weeks of uncertainty gave into months of isolation, the importance of connecting became exceedingly clear. It was heartening, therefore, to see our community show up in a big way, organizing food and clothing drives, delivering meals to seniors, and rallying to help save local restaurants teetering on the edge.

To be sure, Studio City has much to be proud of. Yet we are not without our problems: homelessness; airplane noise; efforts to undo local zoning laws; businesses reeling from the pandemic. These are the challenges we grapple with - and must continue to demand action on.

On all these issues and countless others, SCRA stands at the forefront, advocating decision-makers, coordinating with law enforcement, connecting residents to essential services, tracking legislation, monitoring progress. The list goes on.

Last year, we suspended our usual membership drive, resolving instead to gift SCRA members a free year of membership. Today, we are asking everybody to step up and renew.

Please take a moment to renew your membership at www.studiocityresidents.org, and ask friends and neighbors to join too because the more members we can count on, the stronger our collective voice.

Thank you for your enduring support. Much work lies ahead, and we simply cannot do it without you.

*With best wishes,
Your SCRA Board*

P.S. Our popular SCRA Member Discount card is back for the third year in a row! Not only do we love the special deals, but local merchants love the continued patronage, making it a fun and easy way to support the Studio City business community. Send us a note at scraBoard@studiocityresidents.org and let us know which businesses you would like to see added to the list this year! Or better yet, urge your favorite business to contact us directly.



It's easier than ever to renew, just use this QR code to go directly to the online form.



FROM YOUR BOARD

Your Board in Action

The SCRA Board has voted on a variety of issues that directly affect Studio City. Letters were sent to the appropriate government officials and public comments were placed into the appropriate Council file.

SUBDIVIDING PARCELS

The Board opposed Senate Bill 9 "lot splitting", i.e., the subdivision of a parcel or parcels into additional buildable lots and removes the administrative and environmental reviews that currently apply. Further, it provides for the ministerial ("by right") approval of duplex (two residential units) construction and prohibits a local agency from requiring the dedication of rights-of-way or offsite or onsite improvements for parcels created by a lot split.

ZONING INTERFERENCE FROM SACRAMENTO

The Board supported a city council motion to oppose Senate Bill 10 which seeks to impose a one-size-fits-all solution to California's affordable housing shortage.

PREFERENTIAL PARKING DISTRICTS

The Board supported Council File 21-0105 by Councilmember Mike Bonin to modernize the Preferential Parking District (PPD) program to be easier for residents to access and for staff to administer.

KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Transit-Oriented Community (TOC) SCRA supports two council motions. Both are a revision of TOC Program Guidelines to maintain the unique and varying characteristics of neighborhoods and for developers to create affordable housing around Transit Corridors. The city must do all within its power to protect rent-burdened moderate-income residents.

PRESERVE PARKWAYS

Request to Councilmember Paul Krekorian to make a Motion to keep sidewalk widths and parkway widths in front of all new residential developments the same as adjoining properties to keep our much-needed tree canopy in parkways. Residential developments just do not need 10 to 15 foot wide sidewalks that are out of character with the rest of the neighborhood.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President

We're back in gear and back on the road moving forward to adopting the Vineland median over the L.A. River. Affectionately known as "Vineland Median C" in the paperwork Studio City Beautification Association submitted to the city, Wild Flora's new pro bono design includes pink, blue, green plantings, and ground cover with a beautiful Tristania Conferta tree. We'll keep you posted on our progress.

And a welcome back to our Studio City Welcomes You sign behind Ralphs on Ventura and Campo de Cahuenga. For the longest time, it's been ever more covered by the foliage

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growing around it. But thanks to the talented crew with Urban Forestry Division-Bureau of Street Services and their trusty clippers, the Lantana has been trimmed and the sign is once again extending a welcome to everyone coming into our community.

Damage to SCBA's medians by cars and trucks is happening more frequently and your board is looking at options on how to protect them.



Early this year, a car ran over the East Side median on Ventura Boulevard near Lankershim (across from the BLVD Hotel) tearing up the ground cover, crushing plants, and taking out a tree. The site was repaired and replanted.

And since our last report to you, the Coldwater median just south of the 101Fwy has been a victim of vehicle vandalism. The deep tire track indicates a very large, heavy truck drove the length of the median destroying plants and damaging the irrigation system. The area was so flooded SCBA contacted DWP to make sure the main water line had not been broken. The site is being repaired and replanted.

It never occurred to me that I would find a way to include Sir Issac Newton's third law of motion to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction in a Beautification Update report to you. But after the damage to the Coldwater median, it came to me like a light bulb inside a cartoon thought bubble. SCBA Beautifies and Drivers Destroy.

This circumstance amplifies how very important your donations are to keep our community looking beautiful. Your continued support is invaluable and needed more than ever to cover the hard costs of materials and contract labor. You can make a tax-deductible donation online at our website www.StudioCityBeautification.org

Thank you and stay safe.



TO THE MARKET

The Market is happy to report that after more than a year, the children's section is back. A little smaller than before to allow for continued social distancing, Non-Stop Fun has some of the old favorite attractions ready

to delight the children who have been tremendously missed this past year. The train will make its debut with plexiglass partitions and there will be swings and the climbing wall. For now, masks will be required on everyone two and older, as well as hand sanitizing. As California plans to fully reopen in June, we hope to expand the children's section at that time.

Another great thing that is back is tables on the grassy area where shoppers can sit and eat. There are just a few tables right now, socially distanced, but it's brought back a little bit of normalcy to the Market and everyone is grateful for that.

One of our newest vendors, Aguas Freskas, has delicious fresh juices in wonderful flavors to enjoy now that the warm weather is here to stay. They are on the south side of the Market near Radford We hope you will give them a try.

STUDIO CITY GOLF AND TENNIS DECLARED A HISTORIC MONUMENT

On April 15 the Cultural Heritage Commission held public hearings on a staff report submitted to the commissioners. The staff report made findings that Weddington Golf and Tennis Club "exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community" as an excellent example of a 1950s private recreational facility and golf club in Studio City The report recommended the Commissioners adopt the staff report and the Weddington Golf and tennis be declared a Historic-Cultural Monument and that the facility is renamed to reflect the original, historic name with which it was associated for 50 years. "The Studio City Golf and Tennis Club."

The recommendation to the Cultural Heritage Commission was to adopt the staff report and declare the subject property a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles.

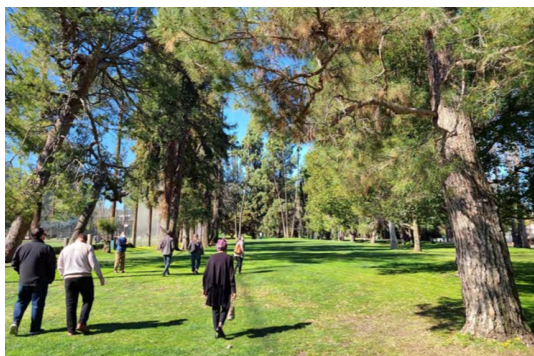
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(Monument, cont'd)

The recommendation was adopted by the Commissioners. It will now go to the City Council to designate the site a Historic-Cultural Monument named Studio City Golf and Tennis Club.

If the City approves the historical designation for the entire facility it will require a detailed assessment in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). For example, any demolition of any character-defining the historical feature of the site would be considered a significant adverse impact. The city would have to find that the HW proposal for an athletic facility for a private school has overriding benefits and that there are no feasible alternatives that would eliminate or substantially lessen the significant impact of its historical community monument status. There are many feasible alternatives.



Bottom line is that the EIR must address the Historical-Cultural Designation and the Harvard-Westlake proposal for the property.

VICTORY - CRUSHING DEFEAT FOR LA BILLBOARD INDUSTRY- PLAN FOR MORE DIGITAL BILLBOARDS REJECTED BY LA PLANNING COMMISSION

The SCRA joined hundreds of individuals, Homeowners Associations, and 27 neighborhood councils who objected to the City's plan to expand digital signage across the city and into our neighborhoods, city-owned properties, and parks and medians.

The SCRA and others weighed in on the discussion that was before the Los City Planning Commission requesting them to reject the City's plan and instead support the sign code known as "B Plus" that the Coalition for a Scenic Los Angeles has advocated for since 2015.

B Plus:

- Forbids digital billboards on city-owned property
- Preserves the ten-to-one takedown ration requiring billboard companies to remove 10 current billboards before being granted one new digital
- Relegate new digital billboards to the city's 22 Regional Commercial districts.

WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE REVITALIZATION OF THE LA RIVER?

The SCRA followed up on the promised revitalization of the Los Angeles River from Whitsett to Laurel Canyon, south side. The project is funded and LA City Recreation and Parks is tasked to create a design and to implement the construction. This project was scheduled for the spring of 2020. As is evident, nothing has been done. SCRA has been assured that the funding for the project has not disappeared and that the design plans are scheduled to be completed by the end of spring and the project will then go to bid and be awarded. The anticipated goal now is to hopefully start construction at the end of summer (Sept) with construction to take 12-15 months to complete.

VACCINATIONS AT THE FARMERS MARKET

The Farmers Market vaccine clinic was a huge success. Due to the efforts and persistence of our Executive Director, Esther Walker, 172 people were vaccinated with first or second shots.

More than 100 were farmers and their families, people who have found it almost impossible to get a vaccine elsewhere because they lack the means to navigate the city and county systems.

We also vaccinated quite a few CBS security guards and janitorial staff, as they are in qualifying tiers, and many of them were able to walk on as they let us take walk-ons that day.

CBS was once again an amazing community partner. In addition to providing the space, they provided all the tables, chairs, and canopies we needed. They closed the entrance to the main gate so we had full access, and paid for security to cover the Colfax gate, which is normally not open on Sundays. And they did it again for the second dose.

Quote from Esther: "I've put on a lot of events during my career, and this was definitely one of the best. There was a lot of gratitude and even some tears that day."

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: The SCRA has had several inquiries regarding the homeless issues at the Park and Ride on Ventura west of Lankershim, the conditions under the Laurel Canyon and 101 Freeway, and the Drop-in at the Unitarian Universal Church on Moorpark

(Continued, Page 5)

(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

SCRA: Answering the inquiries, one at a time:

Park & Ride: The SCRA, Studio City Neighborhoods Council, Studio City Business Improvement District, Studio City Beautification Association, Studio City Chamber of Commerce, and Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Association sent a joint letter to County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. A demand was made that the county, as the property owner, cleans up the lot, further, it is the county's obligation for many reasons to provide services for the homeless and indigent such as sanitation stations, mobile showers, porta-potties, washing/drying stations, and trash bins with ongoing trash collection services. A response from the Supervisors office did not address the points made in the demand. So a second joint letter was sent. No response. NBC News became aware of the situation. A segment was presented on channel 4.

Laurel Canyon and 101 Freeway: Campbell Hall contacted SCRA to help find a way to humanely house the campers at this site and remove the debris. SCRA coordinated a meeting between Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, Councilmember Paul Krekorian, and Campbell hall. Solutions were discussed including housing, lighting, and installing cameras. Campbell Hall has offered to assist.

Drop-in program at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Moorpark: Our members' concerns were security, outside portable toilets, food and services taking place outdoors, and

the possibility of camps being erected in the immediate neighborhood.

The program contemplates the Unitarian church will be used on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 to 12 noon. A security guard will be present and two property monitors stationed at both corners of the back perimeter. Security, property monitors, and volunteers will be on the property one hour early at 7:30 a.m. The security guard will remain on-site for one hour past noon. All attendees will have left by noon. NOHO Alliance, the sponsoring organization from prior experiences, expects about 20 to 25 un-housed people will be fed and will receive access to services. The people receiving food and services are local people who are already in Studio City. NoHo Alliance's first outreach will be to the homeless at Laurel Canyon and 101.

Due to COVID restrictions, the Moorpark Drop-in must be outdoors. This includes bathroom facilities, hence the reason for the portable toilets and no use of indoor church facilities.

If members would like to know more about the program there is a video specifically about the Studio City program at www.nohohome.org – go to the middle of the webpage.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

In this May edition of the newsletter, members are asked to renew their membership. Like a continuous loop or a broken record, for those who can recall using that term, the message is the same as before. Numbers count. And we all know why. Want to get listened to? How many people do you speak for? We would like to see our membership roll exceed the present 1,000 households. Assume each household has at least two members and it is apparent that the SCRA speaks on behalf of many who call Studio City their home.

The membership appeal article speaks to who we are as SCRA, our past accomplishments, and how Studio City overall came together last year, some problem areas are still unresolved.

But to look forward, 2021 could be a significant year, a watershed year for Studio City in many aspects. There will be an election for the Studio City Neighborhood Council, City Council, and other offices having new leadership elected. Closer to home, it may be the year that the Golf and Tennis facility on Whitsett may finally be determined as to what is going to be there for many generations to come.

The prior proposal for condos at Weddington Golf and Tennis included a zone change from agricultural to residential. There was no support for it at many levels of local government and there was fierce local opposition. The attempt to build condos was withdrawn.

The latest proposal is to develop the site as an athletic facility for a private school and does not include a zone change. But papers filed with the Planning Department include Thirty-One elements that must be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report by SCRA and by other interested parties who have concerns over the fate of this property.

So, you can see why we need members to renew, and it would certainly help to tell a friend.

Alan Dymond

SCRA VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

ZOOM MEETING

- Refer to Page 1 for detailed information on joining the Zoom Meeting.
- Sign-up required by May 7th.

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Ron Galperin,
LA City Controller.
Q & A to follow.



SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org
www.studiocityresidents.org

Hello Again.

The SCRA Member Discount Card is back! This year, **more than ever**, we are proud to come together as a community to support our local businesses. When you renew your membership, you will receive your new Member Discount Card that is welcomed at these local businesses:

April Davis	James Thomas
Investigations	Stained Glass
Arnold's Copy & Print	Kit Kraft
Auto Plaza	La Knitterie
Back to Wellness	Parisienne
BLVD Hotel & Spa	Matthew's Jewelry
Ceremony	Store
Charlies' Shoe Repair	Mister O's
Classic Toys	Panache Boutique
Creation Station	Pepes Pizza NY
Studio City	Pinz Bowling
Dana Kathryn Jewelry	Sportsmen's Lodge
Danielli Menswear	The Village
Eye Candy Optometry	Vitello's Restaurant
Flair Cleaners	Wild Flora
Gangadin	

Scan this



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businesses
and their
discounts.



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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