



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

January 2018

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NO CONDOS ON WEDDINGTON GOLF AND TENNIS. A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY IS CLAIMED BY STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AND SAVE LOS ANGELES RIVER OPEN SPACE

This holiday's present arrived by notification on December 15 that escrow had closed and ownership of the site transferred from the Weddington family to Harvard Westlake School. But more work lies ahead.

The proposed uses of the property by Harvard Westlake are of a totally different nature from a condo development, however, it will be treated no differently from other iterations of the many development projects for this property that were presented to us over the years. We are confident that SCRA and SLAROS will be closely involved in the process with the new owners, Harvard Westlake.

Our confidence is based on the presentation made on December 11 by Rick Commons, President and Head of Harvard Westlake School, to the Board of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, entitled "Presentation by Harvard Westlake School concerning revised plans and acquisition of the Weddington Golf and Tennis Property, Studio City." No revised plans were given, but SCRA and SLAROS will rely on, and respond to, the representations made by Commons. He explained,

"We are taking our identity and aspiration toward 'purpose beyond ourselves' seriously, and in our acquisition of the Weddington property, we want to do the same—to serve, we hope, the neighbors of the Weddington property. We hope that we can work together to find ways in which it is a win for Harvard Westlake, a win for our immediate neighbors around the upper school campus and a win for the residents around the Weddington property. If we can do that, we can of course, as an institution, do the things that our students and our graduates are describing. As an institution we can be a stronger citizen of Los Angeles, a better citizen of Studio City and a better neighbor. And that's our aim.

"We want to begin this process of figuring out how to achieve our goals at Weddington in ways that are consistent with what our neighbors and other members of the Studio City community are looking to do."

Presenting one of the most significant issues concerning this site, he continued,

"We'd like that to be a place where public access is certainly a primary objective. We'd like it to be a place where open space is a primary objective. We'd like to share use of that property with greater Studio City. In the process of making our plans, we aim to listen."

(Continued, Page 2)



(Weddington, cont'd)

A meeting was held the following Friday but again nothing was learned other than escrow had closed, many sports fields were contemplated and Harvard Westlake was searching for an architect.

Issues that need to be addressed are: golf elements; water reclamation and clean up; infiltration to the aquifer; lighting; layout; sound; hours on the playing fields; parking access and public access to the property; compliance with the Los Angeles River Improvement Overlay. Tennis professionals, such as the Southern California Tennis Association, schools and others that use the courts need to be included in any discussions, and this must be part of the development process.

Hard work by our volunteers, generous donations by members and concerned citizens, coupled with support and donations from other non-profits, gave us the financial resources needed to continue our efforts over the past eighteen years.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone, and I hope you stay with us as we enter this next stage.


President, SCRA

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM SCBA



Monument sign at Laurel Cyn/101

As we begin this new year, we are looking forward to completing not only the "Studio City Welcomes You" monument sign on the Vineland Median at

Whipple, but also to the installation of three of the late Karl Johnson's sculptures on another Vineland Median. Plans for both 'Adopt-A-Median' projects have been submitted to the City and are currently in various review and analysis phases. We will keep you apprised of our progress as we proceed with both these projects in the coming months.



East end of Oasis

You may have noticed that the west end of our Oasis site is not looking quite as good as it should, having received a recent 'facelift'.

Shortly after we completed the long-anticipated restoration of this site, sidewalk construction began on the south side of Ventura Boulevard and unfortunately, we lost many plants during that ill-timed construction project. The good news is that we are poised to replace those plants, but we must be patient and wait for some of the site-specific plants to become available at the nurseries. It shouldn't be long, and as soon as they are available, the repair work will be scheduled, and we will once again, have the west end looking as good as the east end.

It truly takes a team to keep Studio City looking beautiful. SCBA is an ALL volunteer organization dedicated to the beautification and improvement of our community, and we are always welcoming of volunteers who can help us in our efforts, won't you consider joining us this year? We greatly need volunteers who can be our 'eyes and ears' and who can alert us if they see something requiring our attention at any one of our project sites, but specifically, we are looking for volunteers for Moorpark Parkway, Oakdell Sanctuary, and Maxwellton Triangle. If you are interested in joining our volunteer team, please email your contact information to: studiocitybeautificationassoc@gmail.com.

SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STUDIO CITY CARES AWARDS

Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members, guests and neighbors are invited to the SCRA Annual General Meeting on Tuesday January 9, 2018, starting at 7:30 p.m., during which the SCRA officers for 2018 will be installed. The meeting location is at Rio Vista Elementary School, 4243 Satsuma Avenue. Light refreshments and an opportunity to meet members of the community begin at 7:00 p.m.

The evening program will also include the presentation of the SCRA's Studio City CARES Awards to James Astman, Principal of Oakwood School, for Excellence in Service to Youth Development Award; Ron Dresher, LAPD Community Police Advisory Board, for Excellence in Community Service Award; Robert Benavidez, Senior Lead Officer, Los Angeles Police Department, North Hollywood Division, for Excellence in Government Award; David Geisen, owner of Burbank printing, for Excellence in Business Leadership.



James Astman



Ron Dresher



Robert Benavidez



David Geisen

CALIFORNIA HISTORY MADE IN STUDIO CITY RE- ENACTMENT AT CAMPO DE CAHUENGA

On Sunday, January 14, 2018, from Noon to 4:00 p.m., the Campo will hold its Annual Celebration of the signing of the 1847 Articles of Capitulation, which ended the fighting of the Mexican-American War in Alta California in 1847.

There will be a live re-enactment of the historic event, cannon firing salutes, music, fiesta dancing, a new arts and crafts village and a re-enactors camp. The formal program will start around 1:00 p.m. Woody's Grill food truck, which was very popular last year, will be returning. There will also be complimentary cookies, coffee, and lemonade.

The Campo is located next to the MTA station parking lot at 3919 Lankershim Blvd. 91604. Contact the Campo at info@campodecahuenga.com for free parking instructions.

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 street tree at the corner of Moorpark and Laurel Canyon, 4359 N Laurel Canyon Blvd., has been butchered by the owners of the Mobil gas station and when asked, the manager said that they cut it. No denial. They most likely killed the tree.

SCRA: The SCBA sent an inquiry to LA City's Urban Forestry asking what steps can be taken to have this tree replaced and received this reply: "This kind of trimming is not permitted nor tolerated." SCBA was directed to call the Bureau of Street Services (BOSS). Urban Forestry also notified our area Supervisor requesting that he have the location inspected and take the appropriate action. SCBA has subsequently filed a formal complaint with BOSS.

Q: There has been much discussion surrounding the visual pollution (signage clutter) created by the boxing supply store at Laurel Canyon and Moorpark going back



A GOOD YEAR 2017 FOR THE STUDIO CITY FARMERS MARKET

The Studio City Farmers Market had a wonderful year serving the community. At the end of 2017 the Market made donations to the Amerman Family Foundation Dog Therapy program at Children's Hospital, Covenant House, WeSpark and The Studio City Chamber of Commerce's Adopt A Senior Program.

The Amerman Family Foundation recruits, trains and supports a roster of roughly 100 therapy dog teams who visit every inpatient unit at Children's Hospital Los Angeles except for surgery. Covenant House provides services to homeless youth including shelter, case management, food, clothing, education, career services, outreach, and medical care. WeSpark offers free support groups, integrative therapies, and creative and educational workshops to those whose lives have been affected by cancer. The Adopt A Senior Program pairs senior citizens in need with community members who in turn purchase items on the senior's holiday wish lists.

to the Wendy Gruel days. It appears the business is either moving or opening another location in Studio City - Ventura Blvd. right across from the Studio City shopping center where Marshall's and Michael's are located in the abandoned house. There must be some guidelines or ordinances around making every square inch of an awning a sign by employing large type-set, multiple repetition of name, additional window signs and banners, etc.

SCRA: Fortunately, unlike Laurel Canyon and Moorpark, Ventura Boulevard is part of the Ventura/Cahuenga Boulevards Specific Plan which has strict signage parameters. See Section 8 on Signage. The link to the Specific Plan can be found at StudioCityResidents.org, under "Our Community", "Overdevelopment", "Development Updates". SCRA will keep watch, but we need you to do the same. The more monitoring eyes, the better.

Q: I wanted to ask if there was any way Carpenter could be included in the Waze "redirect". Officer Rausch told me Waze is directing motorists to turn on Carpenter to avoid having to turn left on Ventura at Laurel Cyn. In

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(SCRA, cont'd)

the past, there hadn't been so much traffic after school hours unless there was some event at the school. Now it's every day between 4 and 6 or so. This added to the normal school traffic makes for some nasty interactions on the street. If there's anything I need to do please let me know. Happy to help if I can!

SCRA: The only way Waze will change its program is for the City of L.A. to install something like a no left turn or no right turn sign. Then Waze has to make a change, because their program won't tell its users to do something that is breaking the law.

Councilmember Krekorian (and the other councilmembers from the Santa Monica Mountains within L.A.) are trying to address the regional problem with Waze from the Cahuenga Pass all the way to Encino (where the ability to get to the other side of the mountain stops.) Unfortunately, major changes like this always take time. I suggest writing to Councilmembers Krekorian, Ryu and Koretz. In the meantime ask them to appropriate money to speed up this process. SCRA was told that at present funding levels it will take 10 years to fix. This problem cannot be fixed piecemeal because that only pushes the problems to the neighborhoods on either side of the "little" fix.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER ADRIN NAZARIAN'S ANNUAL UPDATE TO SCRA MEMBERS

In November at the SCRA Community meeting, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian lead a lively and informative discussion with members on the current events in Sacramento and local issues including a lengthy discussion on homelessness and the loss of open space at Weddington Golf and Tennis.

Our state legislatures have over 2000 bills introduced each year. The focus in 2018 will be on Education funding, small businesses, Infrastructure (earthquake activity), poverty/homelessness, and health care. Nazarian stated that he is in favor of Universal Health Care and presented his views on how it can be paid for. Nazarian stated that the high speed rail has environmental value.



The discussion then turned to Weddington Golf and Tennis. Nazarian stated that

this is not a state matter but a city matter. Nazarian gave a list of proposals he would like to see for this land. Water reclamation, integrate with the river, open space maintained in perpetuity. Rick Commons, President and Head of Harvard Westlake School was present but unable to respond sufficiently to questions on the plans and goals as envisioned by Harvard Westlake for this property. Commons stated that the east Coldwater Canyon parking structure was "on hold."

Also speaking at the meeting were Sr. Lead Officer Shawn Smith and Neighborhood prosecutor Todd Gilman. Officer Smith gave a comprehensive crime report and Gilman introduced himself as our new neighborhood prosecutor talked about the duties of the neighborhood prosecutor and he works closely with the LAPD and the community to address crimes in an efficient and just way. Todd Gilman's contact information: todd.gilman@lacity.org, 818- 374-6820 Officer Smith's contact information: 33751@lapd.online, 818-634-2593.

CPAB MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Long time Studio City activist and member of the board of Save LA River Open Space, Patty Kirby, was honored at the Police Activity League's (PALS) annual luncheon. Patty is also a director of the Business and Industry Council for Emergency Preparedness and Planning (BICEPP.org). Patty Kirby, along with Linda Pantell, received the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) "Member of the Year" award. Congratulations to both Patty and Linda, and thank you for the work that you do to improve our lives in Studio City.

THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY – ANOTHER HUGE HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE SUCCESS

SCRA board member, Connie Elliot, was the driving force behind the Studio City Residents Association Toy Drive at the Farmer's Market. Working with the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) of the Los Angeles Police Department North Hollywood Division, the SCRA collected numerous toys for LAPD. Over the



(Continued, Page 5)

(Toys, cont'd)

Holiday toys were delivered by the LAPD to children throughout the San Fernando Valley. CPAB stated that the community was so generous and welcoming and they thank everyone who gave.

Thank you from the SCRA to our volunteers for spreading the word, handing out fliers and being the friendly face that greeted people at the booth.

UPDATE ON SAVING THE TREES AT 11580 SUNSHINE TERRACE



The property to be developed on Sunshine Terrace has twenty-one protected trees. Eighteen Coast Live Oaks and three Black Walnuts. Ten Black Walnuts have already been illegally cut down. In October this proposed development was temporarily postponed by the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works despite CD2's request

for a denial. The Commissioners decided to continue the hearing to allow the parties one more opportunity to come to some agreement. The neighbors met with the applicants and their representatives and it was ultimately decided that the developer would redesign the project. An agreement was made for a 60 day continuance. In December the applicant contacted CD2 with a new plan that will remove only one more protected tree. The homeowners and neighbors will be meeting to review the new plan. The hope is that all the illegally removed trees will be replaced.

OPEN SPACE ON LAUREL CANYON IN STUDIO CITY NEEDS PROTECTION

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is leading an effort to permanently protect the California sycamore wooded three-acre stream property that hugs the west side of Laurel Canyon Boulevard just south of the Dona Pegita Drive intersection. The 3.3-acre property is part of an oak studded, one-mile-long, 12.5-acre contiguous habitat block that extends westward beyond Oakdell Road.

Although both rough for driveway access (directly from

busy Laurel Cyn Blvd.) and to build on (lot of native trees), the property's roadside beauty, year-round water source, and contribution to local wildlife habitat will remain in jeopardy until it is officially

preserved. A time will come when hillside lot scarcity and escalating house prices combine to bring about a formidable development effort. It is not a recreation/hiking parcel or a property typically funded by State bonds funds accessible by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. It is a scenic wildlife habitat that benefits all in its current state. The MRCA has the property under purchase contract and seeks full private funding via one or two large donors. Donations are fully tax deductible. The MRCA commits to use its local Community Facilities District funding to maintain the property. That maintenance would include fire brush clearance by homes, trash pick-up generated from Laurel Canyon Boulevard abusers, and eviction of any overnight campers by park rangers.

Studio City has an oasis gem in its midst and a cooperative willing seller. The MRCA just received a verbal extension of its property option through the end of January 2018. The MRCA's option is at the appraised value. However, the MRCA will float the viability of any serious donation amount to the sellers who can use the differential as a tax deduction. The MRCA Governing Board has approved the acquisition and acceptance of donations. The MRCA mailed letters regarding this campaign to all abutting property owners and those with a direct view of the land. Only time will tell if a member(s) of the Studio City area community has the resources and the will to make sure this stream and woodland will flow free forever. Questions about the property and acquisition can be directed to MRCA Chief of Planning and Natural Resources at paul.edelman@mrca.ca.gov.



SCRA Officers

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

Board Members

Beth Dymond
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RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

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**SCRA
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

Tuesday, Jan 9, 2018

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Refreshments/meet your neighbors.

7:30 p.m. President's report for the year 2017 and upcoming activities for 2018. Studio City Cares Awards

MEETING LOCATION:

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

Located on the corner of Whipple Street and Satsuma Avenue.

Free parking is available in the school parking lot along with street parking. Do not park opposite the school on Satsuma Ave. Follow the signs to the meeting.

