



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

March 2020

IN THIS ISSUE:

Report on Harvard-Westlake Page 2

Beautification Update Page 3

Ask the SCRA Page 4

SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING ON MARCH 10TH WITH A PRESENTATION FROM "FRIENDS OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER"

Our guest speaker, Chip Meehan, Director of Corporate Partnerships, Friends of the LA River (FoLAR), is very familiar with the mile of river that runs through Studio City.



In 1986, poet activist Lewis MacAdams, in an act of civil disobedience, cut a hole in a chain link fence to lead a small group to the bank of the Los Angeles River declaring that the river belonged to the people! With that, FoLAR came into being and to this day continues it's work towards ensuring equitable public access to the river while managing meaningful ecological restoration.

Chip will talk about the river areas at Sepulveda and Glendale Narrows, both locations having been declared "Recreation Areas". What were once lost and neglected areas, now feature many summer activities like nature walks, kayaking, bird watching, bat watching, and yoga.

In addition, Chip will discuss other policy or advocacy topics such as 'Crack the Concrete', the fight for 100 acres of contiguous parkland on the east bank of the Taylor Yard G2 site, as well as the push to get an extension for responding to the Environmental Impact Report for Casitas Lofts, a proposed luxury housing development.

FoLAR's educational curriculum includes a program, Source to Sea, a highly regarded Next Generation Science Standard curriculum that, when coupled with the LA Rover, their flagship mobile classroom, can bring the river to the students.

Everyone, in one way or another, is affected by the Los Angeles River, not only is it a source of water but it has many recreation opportunities right here in Studio City. Join us for this meeting to hear about what is going on with our river and see how you too could be a part of this ongoing effort to revitalize the Los Angeles River.

SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STUDIO CITY CARES AWARDS

Officers of the Studio City Residents Association were installed for 2020: Alan Dymond, President, Barry Johnson, Vice President, Connie Elliot, Secretary, and Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer.

Studio City is fortunate to have many community members who care about Studio City. On January 14, the Studio City Residents Association held the Studio City Cares Awards, honoring five outstanding members of the community. This year, the SCRA was honored to present these awards to Vicki Nussbaum for Excellence in Business Leadership, Joe Martinez for Excellence for Youth Development, Blake Lamb for Excellence in Government Leadership and to Darnell Tyler for Excellence in Community Service. The Fran Quigley Award, as a special honor in memory of Anita and Stanley Hirsh, was presented to Steve and Jennifer Hirsh, children of Anita and Stanley.



IT IS STILL NOT A DONE DEAL

At the February 12th meeting of the Studio City Neighborhood Council's (SCNC) Land Use Committee hearing, representatives David Weil and Ari Engelberg for Harvard-Westlake told the committee that Harvard-Westlake will be revising the project but they did not provide any further details.

HW presented basically the same original proposal without slides or visuals. (Took about 10 minutes). Harvard-Westlake said that in the next few months they would have a revised proposal. SCRA hopes it will have more information about the intended use of the property on the revised proposal. Harvard-Westlake gave no timeframe when they would be filing their plans with the Planning Department and they are still taking community input. David Weil and Ari Engelberg, speaking for the school, confirmed that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be filed.

Approximately 35-40 people were in attendance. 5 stakeholders spoke in support of the proposal and 7 stakeholders were in opposition.

Notes of comments by stakeholders were:

- The EIR for the Harvard-Westlake project should not be filed until all the impacts from the Sportsmen's Lodge project are known.
- EIR must also wait for the impacts from the large development that is proposed across from Staples.

Both Projects will have a large impact on traffic at Whitsett and Coldwater.

There was some discussion about Councilmember Krekorian's letter to the Head of School and the Harvard-Westlake letter to their Alumni that followed the Krekorian letter.

A committee member remarked about how the Olympics could use the property. This remark caused strong opposition. There were other comments about loss of trees, the ramp from the LA River up to Coldwater and public use of the property.

The committee chair reiterated that HW has NOT filed the Notice of Preparation and there is no case number assigned by the Planning Department. The SCNC Land Use committee will hold other hearings as the project develops.

SCRA will notify its members of all public hearings after Harvard-Westlake has filed its plans with the Planning Department and has been assigned a case number. It is expected that the Studio City Neighborhood Council will hold public hearings and will thoroughly review and take stakeholders input in their responses to the EIR.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Lawn Signs are the best way to show your support to keep OPEN SPACE and community access at the Harvard Westlake development on the Weddington Golf and Tennis site.



Get your Lawn Sign now! Lawn Signs are VERY effective, and we need as many signs around town as possible. Show that you care what is developed on Weddington Golf and Tennis. North Hollywood Hardware is the place to go to get one, so

PICK UP YOUR **FREE** LAWN SIGN



North Hollywood Hardware
11847 Ventura Blvd.
M-F 8:30 - 6:00, SAT - 9-5:30, SUN 10-4 pm.
Parking in front of store.

Thank you,
North Hollywood Hardware



DIGITAL FORMAT NOW AVAILABLE!

Receive the SCRA bi-monthly Newsletter by Email

We are always working on ways to enhance your membership and are happy to announce that the SCRA Newsletter is now available for email delivery in digital form.

If you would like to begin receiving the SCRA Newsletter in digital form, instead of a print copy, you need to opt-in by emailing us your request, to:

SCRANewsletter@studiocityresidents.org.

Just let us know you prefer the digital form and you will begin receiving it to your email address starting with the next publication.

If you prefer to continue receiving the print version, no action is needed on your part. The choice is yours.

FLOOD CONTROL NEEDED AT TUJUNGA AND MOORPARK

The following news was welcomed by all those who cross the intersection of Ben Avenue and Victory Boulevard in North Hollywood.

In October, the City Council approved Councilmember Krekorian's motion to provide \$850,000 for a storm water infrastructure project at Ben Avenue and Victory Boulevard, the site of intense flooding over the years. The project started in February.

Money for the project comes from Proposition O, approved by the voters in 2004 to provide funds to prevent and remove pollutants from waterways and oceans. One feature of the project is that DWP will be able to recapture as much as 90 percent of runoff during a 24-hour, five-year storm event.

The Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power were joined by members of Councilmember Krekorian's staff to provide additional information to the public.

SCRA will continue to press for a similar infrastructure to be installed at Tujunga and Moorpark that also has continuous flooding and standing water problem.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President

Time, Team Work and Tour Route sums up our beautification report to you.

The last time we were together we were wishing each other Happy New Year and now here we are in March the last month of the first quarter. What is it about time? It either drags on or zooms by. Remember in school watching the clock on the wall and wishing it would go faster. Now we look back on those days and say where did the years go?

It took time to get a downed tree replaced in front of the gas station on Moorpark at Tujunga but team work and tenacity finally made it happen. Cooperation credit goes to Studio City Beautification Association, local residents, local business and Geoffrey Yazzetta Deputy District Director for LA City Councilmember Paul Krekorian, District 2. And a BIG thank you goes to Urban Forestry and CityPlants for taking care of this project and planting a "Pink Dawn Chitalpa" tree.



TO THE MARKET

The Studio City Farmers Market continues to provide the local community with an assortment of locally grown fruits and vegetables and gourmet artisanal foods for the healthiest of eaters.

Continuing in this tradition, the Market is proud to welcome Bread Blok, makers of organic, gluten-free, wheat-free, gum-free, refined sugar-free breads and baked goods. Founded by the Charlier family, Bread Blok has its roots in Provence, France, where the family has been making gluten free bread for three generations. It's no wonder Bread Blok has a huge following - their products are not only healthy, but they taste great as well. On their first Sunday at the Market, with very little fanfare, they sold out. Bread Blok is located on the north side of the Market, near Laurel Canyon. Stop by and try a sample.

Management of the 76 station has adopted this tree and agreed to water it. As you can see from the picture, right now it's a skinny little baby tree not even as thick as the poles holding it up. SCBA will follow its growth and from time to time give you an update on its progress.

Friends and family visiting from out of town and you're looking for something to do, take them on a tour of our Studio City beautification sites. There are many and SCBA has created a tour route that will take you from one site to another with a start point at CBS on Radford. We're happy to email you a free copy of the route. Just send us a note at studiocitybeautificationassoc@gmail.com or if you prefer, call the office 818-509-0230 and we'll put one in the mail to you.

We all take pride in our community and it's ok to show it off.

See you in the neighborhood.

STUDIO CITY ON INSTAGRAM



Follow us on Instagram
@StudioCityBeautification
and

Send your own photos and description for consideration to
mystudiocity@gmail.com

DON'T MISS OUT!

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, renew now and get your SCRA Member Card!



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

Belle Bakery * BLVD Hotel and Spa * Ceremony * Classic Toys * 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 * Spa Le' La * Sportsmen's Lodge * Victoria's * Vintage Wine+Eats * The Village * Vitello's * Wild Flora and The Yellow Balloon.

For more information on each business' offer, visit studiocityresidents.org/scra-member-card

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: HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT UNDER THE 101 Fwy on Laurel Canyon. All the underpasses along the 101 from Studio City to Reseda are kept clear by the other Councilmembers in our area and I am at a loss as to what to do. They seem to be content with allowing Los Angeles Family Housing (LAFH) to service them. It's been years now and things have reached a tipping point where we cannot have such a security issue next to the school. I'm sure you've heard all of the stories and concerns.

SCRA: Jessica Fugate from CD2 gave SCRA a schedule of requested cleanup of the underpasses and how often the service 'is completed' and 'scheduled but not completed'. When CARE and CARE + do a cleanup they move the homeless to the east side away from the school and must make the sidewalk ADA compliant thus leaving space for a wheelchair. At the time of the cleanup they will do outreach. Housing will go to parents with children first. There are two disabled people in this area who are offered food, shower, SSI

| DATES FOR CARE | SERVICE |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 12/30 | SERVICE COMPLETE |
| 1/14 | UNABLE TO SERVICE |
| 1/21 | UNABLE TO SERVICE |
| 1/27 | COMPLETED |
| 1/29 | COMPLETED |
| 2/3 | UNABLE TO SERVICE |
| 2/7 | COMPLETED |
| 2/14 | ON SCHEDULE-TOP PRIORITY |

| DATES FOR CARE + | SERVICE |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1/27 | COMPLETED |
| 2/24 | ON SCHEDULE |

***Note: Reasons for location not being serviced include-locations that had larger encampments were not being serviced in a timely manner, and cold weather conditions.**

information and medical care but there is no available housing for them. These people are using the gas station facilities for sanitation.

Q: What is the status of the Beeman Park construction of the new gym?

SCRA: Full funding is being sought through Prop 68. If all funding is approved, construction may start in September 2020 with a completion date of around March 2022. In order to protect the children in the preschool childcare center they will have to move them to an offsite location during construction.

FOLLOW UP to a question in January 2020 newsletter about alleviating morning traffic gridlock on Ventura and Coldwater Canyon:

SCRA: Jessica Fugate, Deputy to Councilmember Krekorian, informed SCRA that there will be an item in the July 2020 city budget to fund traffic control for two years at Coldwater Canyon and at Laurel Canyon/Ventura alternating with Laurel Canyon/Mulholland. If this item is passed in the budget hearings, we could see some relief starting in July 2020.

NOTE: The crosswalk on Rhodes and Ventura Blvd. is funded and SCRA is awaiting notification of the scheduled installation.

UPDATE ON LA RIVER REHAB (From Laurel Canyon to Whitsett)

The SCRA was anticipating that the work would begin sometime in the spring on this much needed renovation of the south side bike path of the LA River from Laurel Canyon to Whitsett. However, funding for the project is still currently working its way through the grant process and because the planting season for natives is in the winter months, the anticipated start time will now be in September 2020. This is a much needed project for Studio City and SCRA will keep you informed.

SLAROS BOARD'S CHANGES

Laurie Cohn has retired as the Vice President and Board member of SLAROS. Laurie has served for the last 20 years in opposing any development of Weddington Golf and Tennis, not only as a Committee Chair but when the committee transitioned to SLAROS as a separate nonprofit corporation, Laurie took the position of Vice President. Laurie is sincerely thanked for her herculean efforts and dedication on behalf of the entire community. She has made the volunteer efforts so much more enjoyable and Laurie is wished well by us all!

Other changes to the SLAROS Board include: Board member Chip Meehan has taken a leave of absence and the SLAROS board vacancies have been filled with two new members, Barry Johnson and Karen Younce. Barry Johnson, who is SCRA Vice President and board member, SCBA board member and Chair of the SCNC Transportation Committee, is well known for his work on land use issues and traffic impact. Karen Younce is SCRA board member, SCBA board member

(former president of SCBA) and SCRA representative on the Farmers Market Board.

STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFICATION 2020 BOARD

Outgoing President, Meg Seltzer seated the new 2020 SCBA Board: Charles Blakeslee, Beth Dymond, Connie Elliot, Andy Epstein, Barry Johnson, Christine Hsia, Chip Meehan, Meg Seltzer, and Karen Younce.

Officers were elected: Meg Seltzer, President; Beth Dymond, Vice President; Connie Elliot, Secretary; and Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer.

The board welcomes new member Chip Meehan to the SCBA. Chip's expertise will bring a fresh perspective to the beautification of Studio City.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Alan Dymond*

A digital format of the Newsletter is now available for those members who would like to receive it by e-mail. See page 2 of this newsletter for details. In brief, if you do not request it, nothing will change. You will still get the printed version.

Harvard-Westlake: CM Krekorian's letter of Jan 23, 2020 to Rick Commons, Head of School, was made public. It is posted at StudioCityResidents.org. Specific language in the letter that is most welcome to our members is as follows,

"The school must prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIR)."

This statement in the letter confirms what the CM said at a SCNC meeting on November 20th, 2019. Further, Councilman Krekorian has stated that he will mandate specific conditions from Harvard Westlake, refer to the letter to see those conditions. (Eighteen bullet points in total.)

This is taken to mean; further discussions will take place on some of the changes and conditions outlined in the bullet points and possibly further changes and conditions. The final bullet point states: "The school must prepare a full Environmental Report with expanded public comment periods that will analyze and mitigate its environmental impacts and ensure that all of my requirements specified herein are met."

We are advised that any approval by the City for any development site will be pursuant to issuance of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The CUP is comprehensive detailed conditions of operation imposed on Harvard-Westlake at the site. But the first step, however, is to complete the EIR and that will take time to go through the filings with the Planning Department and the requisite public hearings.

The SCRA board remains the same for 2020 as it was last year. Also the officers for 2020 are the same as last year. Studio City Beautification Association Board. Chip Meehan, lately of SLAROS, has joined the board of SCBA. Chip's further local activities are as Director of Corporate Partnerships for Friends of Los Angeles River (FOLAR).

Chip will be the guest speaker speaking for FOLAR at the SCRA community meeting March 10th that will talk about the Los Angeles River related topics.

Alan Dymond

SCRA Officers

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

Board Members

Beth Dymond
Martha Hanrahan
Stephen Sass
Robin Seidel
Karen Younce

Beautification Association

Meg McDonald Seltzer, President
Beth Dymond, Vice President

Connie Elliot, Secretary
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

Board Members

Andy Epstein
Christine Hsia
Barry Johnson
Chip Meehan
Karen Younce
StudioCityBeautificationAssoc@gmail.com

Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space Officers

Alan Dymond, President
Beth Dymond, Secretary
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

Board Members

Barry Johnson
Patty Kirby
Karen Younce
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

Studio City Farmers Market

(818) 655-7744
studiocityfarmersmarket.com

Newsletter

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

Like us on 

Follow us on Instagram

(818) 509-0230 Fax: (818) 206-3419
P.O. Box 1374, Studio City, CA 91614

scraboard@studiocityresidents.org
www.studiocityresidents.org



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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



MAR 2020

PRINTED WITH SOY-BASED INKS

There is strength in numbers!

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 772
Van Nuys, CA

**SCRA
COMMUNITY
MEETING**

Tuesday, Mar 10, 2020

MEETING LOCATION:

Bridges Academy
COMMUNITY ROOM
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Refreshments/meet your neighbors.
7:30 p.m. Announcement; Crime & Safety Report; Guest Speaker Chip Meehan, FoLAR

One block south of Ventura Bl, at Laurel Canyon Bl. and Maxwelton Rd. Parking off of Maxwelton Rd. Free parking is available in the school parking lot. Enter from Maxwelton Rd.

