



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

April 2011

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SCRA HONORS COMMUNITY LEADERS WITH STUDIO CITY CARES AWARDS

Each year, the Studio City Residents Association recognizes four community leaders with the SCRA Studio City Cares Awards for their exceptional contributions to the quality of life in Studio City.

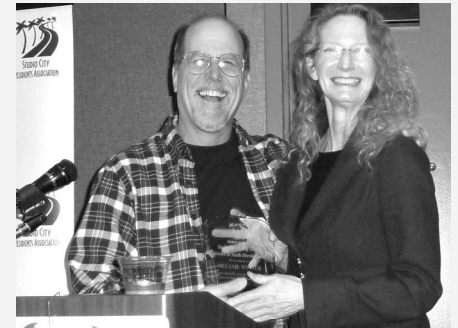
The SCRA gave Melanie Winter the award for "Service & Youth Development" for her continuing support for the children of Los Angeles. When improvements were being made in Studio City to the Los Angeles River, Winter engaged local students in the art work and the design of the snake-shaped river bank and the toad gate. Inscriptions of the



SCBA President and SCRA Board Member Bill Harmond presents the SCRA Studio City Cares Award to Francesca Corra

names of the children who participated in the designs can be found on the adjacent rocks that comprise a giant snake. Winter has also worked with children throughout Los Angeles, engaging them in the revitalization of the Los Angeles River and introducing them to the wonders of nature.

The SCRA recognized Francesca Corra for "Excellence in Community Service" for her contribution to the creation and design of three years of beautification projects in Studio City. Corra is the backbone of recent improvements implemented by SCRA affiliate, the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), which works to improve the walkways, medians and other landscaped areas for the enjoyment of the community. As but one example of her many contributions, Corra oversaw the landscaping at the "Oasis" on Ventura Blvd. across from Marshalls, which took an unused overgrown area and turned it into a beautiful site of respite and beauty along an otherwise busy, crowded boulevard.



SCRA Executive Vice President Mark Batterman presents the 2010 SCRA Studio City Cares Award to Melanie Winter

POSSIBLE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL: CITY CONTROLLER WENDY GREUEL ADDRESSES REVENUE ISSUES AT SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Speaking at the March SCRA Community Meeting, City Controller Wendy Greuel tried to take a positive approach to recent negative economic news. During a conversation with her 7½ year-old son, Thomas, who said, "Mom, these are difficult times to be a city controller," Greuel said these are actually great times. With all the fiscal shortages and tight budgets, Greuel explained that now is the time to make the City of Los Angeles more efficient, responsive

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Recognizing his vision for bettering the community, the SCRA gave Michael Espinosa the award for "Excellence in Government Leadership." Michael shaped a beautification program for Los Angeles that has fostered more than 1,000 beautification projects throughout the City. Several of these projects have directly benefitted Studio City and provided the support necessary for SCBA's efforts over the years.

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SCRA Board Member Beth Dymond presents the 2010 SCRA Studio City Cares Award to Michael Espinosa



SCRA President Alan Dymond presents the 2010 SCRA Fran Quigley Award to Marilyn White Sedel

(Awards, cont'd)

The Fran Quigley Award was given to Marilyn White Sedel for her diligence and commitment to community activism. No matter the need, Sedel attempts to address it, from supporting local schools to helping to ensure information is communicated to Studio City residents who may be impacted by a local issue or development.

Honorees were also recognized by Councilmember Paul Krekorian for their service to the community.

A SAFER WAY TO WALK TO SCHOOL

By Gussie Millar and Shanee Krebs

We are students at Millikan Civic Academy. We were looking for a project as part of our civics course. One of us, Gussie, went to Carpenter Community Charter that is less than one mile north on Laurel Canyon from where Gussie lived. (Gussie's younger sister still goes to Carpenter). Gussie always said she wanted to walk to school but couldn't because there was no sidewalk providing a safe way to go to school. So instead of walking to school, she had to get in the car and drive not even five minutes.

We agreed that this unsafe way to Carpenter could be a project so we conducted surveys of the Canton Hills neighborhood of Studio City. The surveys showed approximately 250 plus homes east of Laurel Canyon and Fryman Reserve and many children from the Canton Hills area attend Carpenter Community Charter. The only outlet from our area to Carpenter is the intersection at Canton Drive and Laurel Canyon, but the problem is that there is no sidewalk for children to walk to school safely. From Canton Drive at Laurel Canyon, the route north to school is a treacherous, narrow dirt path, forcing children, parents and others who come to the area on foot to step into the road to get around overgrown plants and trees. This problem is widely recognized in the area.

At first we contacted John Walker, the president of the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC), who referred us to Lisa Sarkin, the land use committee chair. In turn, Ms. Sarkin recommended us to Bill Harmond, the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) president. Mr. Harmond said, "This is a project that one of our organizations may be interested in supporting." He introduced us to Alan Dymond, the president of the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA).

We then met with members of the SCRA and SCBA, who told us that in situations similar to ours, the first step would have to be a "scoping study" done by the City. A scoping study investigates, locates and identifies utilities, etc., but to have a study performed by the City, a request would have to be made to the local council office.

We understood we would have to present our idea to the SCNC initially through its land use committee and to the SCRA board. This was necessary so we could show support for the scoping study before going to the council office.

We prepared our presentation and made it first to the SCNC land use committee on March 9, 2011. The group supported our request, but the final approval had to come from the SCNC board. The night before the SCNC board meeting, the SCRA reviewed our request and recommended a scoping study be performed. The SCNC board also supported our request. Naturally we were nervous in appearing before all these boards, but they were all so nice and considerate, and we were ready for their questions.

The next step is to ask Councilmember Krekorian to arrange for the scoping study. We understand it is done by engineering with Los Angeles Street Services. We are hoping to meet with Councilmember Paul Krekorian to present and show him what we have done and why the study is necessary.

BOB HOPE AIRPORT UPDATE

SCRA President Alan Dymond and SCRA Bob Hope Airport Committee Chair Chris Barnes recently met with Congressman Howard Berman to discuss the current proposal for airport expansion and the status of the airport's nighttime curfew.

Dymond and Barnes informed the congressman of a successful meeting held in February 2011 with the Valley Industry and Commerce Association on the Airport Authority's plans for developing a new transportation hub. The Airport Authority had earlier made its presentation on the proposed hub to SCRA members.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the SCRA requested Berman's help in bringing all parties back to the table to address how a version of the contract approach work might work. Berman was very receptive to the idea.

The SCRA remains convinced that all parties involved have never been this close to a breakthrough. The organization believes a potential key to successful implementation of an acceptable nighttime curfew would be getting the Airline Airport Affairs Committee (AAAC) to enter into the contract proposed by the Airport Authority. Previously the AAAC had issued a letter declining to enter into a contract for a nighttime curfew,

SCRA hopes to hear from Congressman Berman in the near future and will keep SCRA members informed of developments.

EDITORIAL

It's Your Farmers Market: Or How All The Benefits Go Back To The Community

Did you know that every time you shop at the Studio City Farmers Market, you are giving back to the community? It's true. In 2009, the Market became a 501(c)(4), a California nonprofit mutual benefit corporation, which means that all the proceeds from the Market must go back into the community. The Market does this through grants and donations to other non-profit organizations, civic groups, local schools and local government organizations, such as the police and fire departments.

Did you also know that the Market is owned and operated by the SCRA and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation? The hard work of resident and business volunteers from both organizations make it possible for the Market to promote and support community programs and events, such as the Studio City Beautification Association and the Studio City Fourth of July Festival, in addition to many others.

Each year, the Market's Board of Directors selects one local charity to be the Studio City Farmers Market Charity of the Year. The Market awards the charity a lump sum grant and a monthly stipend for the year. This year's charity of the year is the Turning Pages Foundation, an organization founded by several local school teachers in an effort to fill the holes left in summer and after-school programs as a result of severe cuts in school funding. For more information about Turning Pages Foundation, contact Gail Craven at gcraven.tpf@gmail.com.

Now more than ever, it is so important to do all that we can to support the local community. By shopping at the Studio City Farmers Market, you are not only doing something good for yourself, you are doing something good for the entire community.

For more information on the Market, its vendors, programs and charitable work, go to www.studiocityfarmersmarket.com, or contact Melody Dosch, Studio City Farmers Market manager, at the Market office at (818) 655-7744. See you on Sunday at the Market.

FROM THE SCRA'S DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL WELFARE, ROBIN SEIDEL

Bothered by stray cats in the neighborhood? It is likely a single stray cat is part of a colony of wild (feral) cats that live in the alleys and empty lots in the community. Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) is a way to control the population growth of the colonies and to provide a safe living environment for the feral cats. Found Animals Foundation, Inc. is hosting a day-long

TO THE MARKET

It's green salad season at the Studio City Farmers Market. The recent warm weather has produced beautiful lettuces and radishes, and ripe avocados are aplenty. Visitors to the market can enjoy the many unusual varieties of grapefruit available at the Market in a salad of avocado, grapefruit, crisp leaf lettuce and Fat Uncle Farms almonds. Finish the salad off with a splash of Robust Extra Virgin Olive Oil from the Olive Press and a sprinkling of one of Uncle Berch's tantalizingly flavored vinegars, and create a healthy lunch or a great start to an early spring dinner. The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Free parking is available at the CBS lot on Radford.



course on May 22, 2011 that will address how to work with neighbors to care for the cats, to trapping, nursing kittens, adoption and colony maintenance. The session will be held at the Van Nuys Airtel Hotel. Registration is \$20 (early bird sign-ups are only \$10) and include food and a trap to help participants implement what they learn. Sign up at feralcatworkshops.eventbrite.com.

RENAMING UNIVERSAL CITY METRO STATION

Board member Barry Johnson is working to have the Universal Metro Station renamed to Studio City/Universal City Metro Station, reflecting the accurate location for the stop. He is also endeavoring to have all related signage corrected to read, "Studio City/Universal City Metro Station" and has provided MTA, at its request, with a list of signs that would need to be changed. The SCRA is continuing to work with MTA to effect this change.



FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

Permit Parking

The board discussed a request from the neighbors who live on Iredell Street (the very top portion), asking for support for parking restrictions. Hikers at Wilacre Park at Fryman Canyon have been parking on this narrow canyon road, increasing concerns among residents about a number of safety issues. The SCRA board supported the request (as has Studio City Neighborhood Council).

A Safer Way to Walk to School

The Board unanimously approved a motion to support a request for a "scoping study" for Laurel Canyon from Canton Drive to Carpenter School.

Donation to Disaster Victims in Japan

The board agreed to make a \$500 donation to help victims of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

UPDATE FROM THE FEDERATION OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS

As a result of the Hillside Federation's letter last month to the City of Los Angeles Planning Department, the Mulholland Bridge realignment project was reevaluated. The good news is the bridge will not be relocated. However, the original bridge will be torn down and a larger bridge erected at the original site.

The Baseline Hillside Ordinance, (CPC-2010-581-Ca, Council File No. 10-1001) was heard at the March 4, 2011 City Council meeting and received 10 yes votes and zero no votes. Three members were not present, so the Council was short one vote for passage on the first reading. At the second reading, the ordinance passed. This ordinance should significantly limit the size of all residential developments in the hillsides.

On February 10, 2011, KCET's "So Cal Connected" segment, "Show Me the Money," exposed a plan to allow businesses to place signage on fences, benches, roofs, walls and pools in city parks for a fee. Barry Sanders, president of the Recreation and Parks Commission, proposed selling signage space in city parks to Warner Bros. to promote its new movie, "Yogi Bear." Warner Bros. would pay \$57,000 to the LA Parks Foundation, which would forward \$42,636 to the Department of Recreation and Parks. The remaining monies would be kept by the LA Parks Foundation for administrative fees.

Deputy City Attorney Arletta Brimsey informed Sanders that such signage was prohibited in city parks and added, "You are sending the message to sign companies and corporate sponsors that, for a price, it is okay to violate city law." When Sanders' proposal went to City Council, Councilmember Paul Koretz questioned approving something the City Attorney's Office said was illegal. The City Council rejected the recommendation from the Recreation and Parks Commission.

(Revenue, cont'd)

and fiscally responsible.

Wendy reported revenue projections for 2012 are up six percent. Although this is a positive sign of recovery, that amount is not nearly enough to bring the City back to the revenue stream it experienced prior to the recession. She offered that two proposed solutions, the selling of city property and implementation of furloughs, are short-term fixes and do not solve anything. According to Greuel, the City cannot continue to use short-term solutions for long-term problems.



As revenue improves, Greuel explained the City must create a "rainy day fund," which would put five percent of revenue into reserve. She said city leaders also need to look at better ways to use tax payer money, such as how benefits for city employees are allocated, including city-issued cell phones and city-issued cars. She also advocated for better debt collection, enforcing changes recommended in recent city controller audits, and explained pension reform must be addressed since 40 percent of the City's revenue will be used for pensions by the year 2016.

Dennis Hathaway of Ban Billboard Blight says, "It isn't over; they'll be back." The Hillside Federation is actively involved with this effort and will report on any further developments.

ASK THE SCRA

Q: Can anything be done about the yellow bicycle with a trailer billboard hitched to it and secured to the Moorpark Park fence at the NE corner of Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Moorpark Avenue?

Another trailer has been parked on Sepulveda Blvd. and Greenleaf Street for well over a month and still another at a long expired meter on the Cahuenga Pass. Please let me know where this type of abuse can be reported, or if it is a loophole in the new unhitched billboard trailer ordinance.

SCRA: So far, they are legal! There was a recent state law passed to help but it has yet to yield results. As you unfortunately know, these billboards began as trailers attached to cars. The newest version substitutes a bicycle for the car. Now they are placed on sidewalks instead of streets and violate good taste. Contact Assembly member Mike Feuer's office with your concerns at (818) 902-0521.

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(SCRA Board, cont'd)

Q: The east side of Willowcrest Avenue, south of Vineland Avenue to the end of the Willowcrest Avenue cul de sac, has a constant flow of muddy, dirty, slippery, mossy water going down the curb, every day, all year. At the southern end of the Willowcrest Avenue cul de sac (uphill), the ground is flat, and the water just lies there. It is a visual blight and is filled with nasty bacteria. City/County mosquito abatement staff members monitor that section monthly during the summer because of the concern for West Nile virus with the heavy mosquito population.

Willowcrest Avenue resident have tried during the past few years to get a street sweeper assigned on a regular basis (and street parking posted and limited on those days). We have also tried to get an engineer out to assess the drainage from the flat top of the hill to the bottom where the street intersects

Vineland Avenue. There appear to be drains along the length of the downhill slope of the avenue, but no water enters these 'areas. The Willowcrest Avenue residents and their gardeners and repair workers often slip and fall in the mucky water that constantly flows down the curb. Can you help us solve this problem, please?

We have attempted to work staff in Tom La Bonge's office but have had no success.

SCRA: The SCRA contacted Renee Weitzer, chief planning deputy for Tom LaBonge. She recommended that our member send an e-mail to Sharon Shapiro at Sharon.shapiro@LACity.org explaining the nature of the problem and the exact address. Shapiro will visit the site to see the exact nature of the problem and help determine possible solutions.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

An organization that resists change, does not recognize the need for change or will not take action to keep up with the times risks becoming a spent force with inevitable ossification. It can become set and inflexible in behavior, attitude and actions. Perhaps "hidebound" is a better word.

The three sister organizations, the SCRA, the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) and Save Los Angeles River Open Space (SLAROS) are not exhibiting indicators that ossification is taking place: they are, however, encouraging others to join and move into those areas where some members are, shall we say, a little behind the times. This president does not have a "communications device" as in Star Trek. Just an old cell phone that doesn't take photos, text, tweet or log on to Facebook. So we are seeking out members whose skills range from management to those who know how to use social media to keep the presence of SCRA, SCBA and SLAROS current, fresh and, as a result, appealing to members.

Here's a case in point. In this edition of the newsletter, two local students, Gussie and Shane, write about their desire to have the City take a look at establishing a safe pedestrian pathway from Canton Drive down to Carpenter Community Charter. Over the years, the SCRA has pushed for this with no success. Gussie and Shane, however, used technology to get a proposal together. They conducted surveys and then applied public sources, mapping and computer graphics to make the points they needed to support their proposal. They were successful both in front of the SCRA board and the Studio City Neighborhood Council. In effect, they approached it from a different direction to achieve success. It was a pleasure watching and seeing them develop their approach and learning from them in the process.

So moving back to the theme of this message, the SCBA is running a "want ad" for two project administrators. The SCBA has an excellent, diverse board. However, just below board level, the organization has the need to develop a team of middle managers who can become involved in specific projects with a view to joining on an ongoing basis.

Similarly, the SCRA is on a recruiting drive. The organization needs committee chairs who can assemble teams and follow through when the board needs assistance.

SLAROS is also on a roll. Engineers and consultants will have completed the next steps for the proposed LA River Natural Park in late May. SLAROS will present the outcomes of this work both to SCRA members and to similar organizations throughout the Valley. Support from the public at large is critical in order to continue the momentum to move the LA River Natural Park one step closer to reality.

Finally, so that no one will be able to ask, "Whatever happened to those three organizations Studio City used to have?", the SCRA will ensure that new ideas, new approaches and the latest technology will be embraced by all three groups so we maintain our presence in Studio City as viable, relevant entities.

Alan Dymond



**NO COMMUNITY
MEETING IN MAY
WATCH FOR SPECIAL
MEETING IN JUNE**

**Interested in
Community Emergency
Response Team
Training (CERT)?**

**The SCRA-sponsored CERT
training sessions
(May 4-June 15)
are currently full.**

**If you are interested in
joining and adding your
name to the waiting list,
please contact**

**SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org
or 818-509-0230.**



WANTED

**TWO PROJECT
ADMINISTRATORS
FOR A GROWING
STUDIO CITY
BEAUTIFICATION
ASSOCIATION**



**Studio City
Beautification**
An Affiliate Group of SCRA

Have fun making Studio City a better place!

The Studio City Beautification Association needs two volunteers to assist with projects for the upcoming year. The projects are in place and are funded and include working with the landscape designer and the board members to move the projects forward. Time commitment is no more than four hours in any one week and may be less.

Please leave contact information at (818) 509-0230 or e-mail
SCRABoard@StudioCityResidents.org

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