



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

June 2010

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CRIME IS DOWN AND THE COMMUNITY GETS MUCH CREDIT

Los Angeles Police Department Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis presented Studio City Residents Association members and guests at the May SCRA Community Meeting with an overview of the police force and how police department policy affects all members of the community.



With the current fiscal crisis, LAPD officers will not be paid for overtime. In effect, when an officer accrues overtime at the end of a shift, that officer will not be paid for the overtime but will be required to take time off work. As a result, the number of officers on duty will decrease.

According to Officer Lewis, crime in Studio City is down. With the implementation of lead officers and community policing, the community has become more aware of crime in the area. Those initiatives have created a perception that crime has increased, when that is not the case. Statistics suggest robbery, burglary and theft from motor vehicles are at historically low levels. In fact, the 2010 crime numbers are equivalent to the numbers in 1957, and crime has been cut in half since 2004. Officer Lewis attributes this downturn to the fact that members of the community have become the eyes and ears of the police and are able to communicate directly with the lead officers, making the job of policing easier. The officers get to know residents in their communities: officers talk to them and members of the community talk to the lead officers.

Another reason for the drop in crime is the "three strikes" law, an important tool in getting criminals off the streets. If a person is convicted of a serious violent felony twice and is convicted of one more felony, the judge can give the felon a sentence of 25 years. This is an important tool for judges to use to remove violent criminals from the community.

Los Angeles's new Police Chief Charlie Beck recently reviewed police operations and, as a result, was able to send fifty percent of the officers working inside Parker Center out to divisions throughout the City. The North Hollywood Division will benefit directly by gaining additional officers.

LAPD LAUNCHES NIXLE UPDATE SYSTEM



The Los Angeles Police Department has introduced its new Nixle e-mail alert system.

This notification system will enable the police to get information out quickly to the community. Community members can register on this system by going to LAPDonline.org and clicking on the Nixle frame on the lower right side of the web page. This will open the Nixle log-in page, where one can register both an e-mail address and cell phone number for a text message.

UPDATE ON DWP ZONE RATE CHANGES

Studio City Residents Association members and guests at the May SCRA Community Meeting heard an update on the Department of Water and Power (DWP) rate changes. Lisa Sarkin and Barbara Monahan-Burke of the Studio City Neighborhood Council have been working with Councilman Paul Krekorian's office to address the rates being charged for Water Zone District in both the 91602 and 91604 areas. Ratepayers in these two areas of Studio City have been paying higher Zone 1 rates when these ratepayers actually qualify for the lower rate of Zone 2. The DWP was put on notice in May of 2009. One year later, as of May 2010, the City Council passed an ordinance that moves thousands of residents from the DWP's higher paying Zone 1 to

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IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

Studio City Library, 12511 Moorpark Street

Book Donations: Every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The library accepts used books in "good enough condition for resale," as well as videos, CDs, DVD's and books on tape. No textbooks please.

Monthly Book Sale: June 26, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Universalist Unitarian Church of Studio City (UUCSC), 12355 Moorpark Street

Live & Silent Auction: Saturday, June 12, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. UUCSC presents "Evening of Elegance," featuring dinner, entertainment and auction. Cocktail attire.

Musical: July 3, 10 and 17, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. UUCSC presents "Music Out of Nowhere", a love story in Los Angeles during the 1930's with a message "wonderful things can happen to people even in the worst of times." For more information, contact the UUCSC office at 818-769-5911 or Judy Leslie at judy@lesliemail.com.

Studio City Beautification Association Monthly Board Meeting: June 14, 2010 at noon.

The agenda includes an ongoing discussion about current beautification projects. Space is limited. RSVP by sending an email Attn: SCBA to SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org.

(DWP, cont'd)

Zone 2. The ordinance should take effect by June. (Studio City's postal zone 91607 has been charged as part of Zone 2 and will not be affected by the ordinance.) However, the ordinance does not provide for the DWP to refund the overcharge to impacted residents.

The overcharge was brought to the attention of the DWP in May, 2009; suggestions that residents were being overcharged since 2008 cannot be confirmed given the inability to obtain documentation.

When it recommended the Zone Rate change, the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee also requested a report in 30 days from the DWP on how DWP bills can be easily read and understood by the consumer so that residents can better understand what the charges are for.



MEET THE SCRA BOARD: BETH DYMOND

Former Executive Vice President and currently a member of the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) board, Beth Dymond is a Studio City transplant from

Ellensburg, Washington. Over the years as a resident of Los

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SCRA WATCH: WORKING FOR A BETTER STUDIO CITY

Editor's Note: *In this space, we report about things that are broken or problems in our community, including information about who is responsible, what has been repaired, and who in the City made it happen.*

Homeless on the Oasis: Last month we reported the LAPD had removed the homeless who were camping on the Oasis. However, one person has become belligerent and kicked up an entire section of the irrigation tubing. He is disrupting tubing, mulch and new plantings. The LAPD, SCRA volunteers and the SCBA are continuing to monitor and search for a solution.

Trailer Signage: Assembly member Mike Feuer's Field Representative, Stephanie Gillette, reported at the May SCRA Community meeting that AB2756 has passed the Assembly and is now in the Senate. This Planning and Zoning Law authorizes the legislative body of a city or county to adopt ordinances that regulate, among other things, signs and billboards.

"This bill would prohibit a person from parking a mobile billboard advertising display, as defined, in a public place within a city or county, other than a parking lot or parking garage. This bill would declare that its enactment shall not create any inference that the Legislature intends to occupy the field of mobile billboard advertising displays or preempt any local ordinance that regulates those displays and would expressly provide that the bill does not preempt a city or county from adopting or enforcing an ordinance regulating those displays. This bill would exempt a vehicle that displays an advertisement or identifies the business of its owner from the prohibition against the parking of any mobile billboard advertising display, so long as the vehicle is engaged in the usual business or regular work of the owner, and is not parked for the primary purpose of advertising."

PLEASE BE OUR EYES AND EARS. Is something broken in your neighborhood and not being repaired?

Call the SCRA at 818-509-0230 or email: scraboard@studiocityresidents.org

(Beth Dymond, cont'd)

Angeles, Beth has had careers in retail management, causality insurance and law office management. Beth is retired and is now very active with both the SCRA and the Studio City Beautification Association, is a committee member of Save Los Angeles River Open Space and serves as treasurer of the Studio City Farmers Market.

Beth fulfills numerous SCRA duties including: chair of the membership committee, contributor to the monthly SCRA Newsletter, monitor for Studio City Watch, manager of the SCRA database and manager of the SCRA's eblast, News & Notes. She also serves on the SCRA's budget committee; manages the SCRA's insurance needs; helps on special events; and supports SCRA's web master, administrative vice president and secretary.

Beth and her husband, Alan (SCRA president), moved back to Studio City in November 1991. In 1993, Beth and Alan, with the help of the SCRA, successfully spearheaded a fight to save a 17-acre hillside from development. After this effort, Beth joined the SCRA board as secretary and then became executive vice president. When Alan became SCRA president, Beth stepped down as an officer but continues to be heavily involved in the day-to-day workings of the organization.

IT IS TIME... TO RENEW YOUR SCRA MEMBERSHIP



The SCRA Membership Committee has kicked off the 2010 SCRA Membership Drive. Renewal notices were mailed at the end of May to all SCRA members.

Membership in the SCRA provides residents with a number of benefits, including:

- A voice on issues that are critically important to preserving the integrity of the Studio City community
- The monthly SCRA newsletter with important information and updates on issues facing Studio City (from crime and safety to the status of "mansionization" to tips on how to get the City to take action and more)
- Notice of the monthly SCRA Community Meeting
- The SCRA News & Notes eblast updates, featuring breaking news, local events, police alerts, etc. (note: an email address is necessary to receive News & Notes)

2009 has been a very active year for the SCRA Board. The four main issues that continue to dominate are the proposed development at Universal/MTA, the continuing effort to preserve Weddington Golf and Tennis as open space, the rewarding work of beautifying the Studio City community and the ongoing effort to curb mansionization in Studio City. The membership committee has compiled a "Welcome to Studio City" package for new residents in Studio City. These



TO THE MARKET

Warmer weather is finally here, bringing with it all the wonderful fruits of the summer harvest. Sweet, ripe cherries are a favorite and sell

out every year, and the crop this year does not disappoint. This is also the season for tree-ripened succulent apricots, plums and pluots, followed by nectarines and peaches. Studio City Farmers Market's new vendor "CHEW" brings macrobiotic vegan dishes that are the latest trend in prepared foods. Families are encouraged to visit the Market's children's area for fun activities, such as a ride on the little train. Don't forget to stop by the Pop Shop for one of Emily's wonderful gourmet popsicles.

The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce. Free parking is available at the CBS lot on Radford.

packages are excellent for neighbors who are not aware of the SCRA. For more information, and/or to get this package, contact Carol at 818-509-0230.

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

The SCRA Board voted to support the SCNC recommendations to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation regarding the following issues:

- Preferential parking south of Ventura Blvd. for Blue Canyon Drive south to Picturesque Drive; Picturesque Drive from Blue Canyon Drive west to the dead-end; Big Oak Drive from Ventura Blvd, south to the dead-end; and Berry Drive from Ventura Blvd., south to Sunshine Terrace.
- Removal of the two-hour parking restriction on Mound View Avenue between Maxwellton Road. and Viewcrest Road.
- Opposition of all commercial advertising within the corridors of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific plan to include removal of advertising signs from the Metro Bus Stop #218 at Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Mulholland Drive.
- Opposition of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance unless the following revisions are made:
 - Homeowners and residents associations must be notified in the event of deviation, discretionary actions and proposed variances by zoning administrators.
 - Provisions for the preservations of ridgelines are incorporated

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(SCRA Board, cont'd)

- Provisions for the 20 percent bonus are eliminated.

The Board plans to issue a letter requesting that Council members from City Council Districts 2, 4 and 5 oppose the proposed revision to the municipal code that would transfer costs for repair of sidewalks from the City to property owners.

Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) President Bill Harmond announced the receipt of a generous grant from CBS Studio Center and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation. Harman also reported progress on the gateway monuments at Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Coldwater Canyon.

Board Member and Farmers Market Chair Art Howard announced the Farmers Market is now accepting credit cards for purchases.

Overlay Committee Chair Barry Johnson encouraged SCRA members to attend the City Planning Commission hearing on June 24 at 8:30 a.m. at the Van Nuys City Council Chambers regarding the proposed overlay that would control mansionization.

ZONE OVERLAY/RFA HEARING

The ordinance to stop mansionization in the designated flat areas of Studio City will be heard by the City Planning Commission on:

Thursday, June 24, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.
Marvin Braude Center
6262 Van Nuys Blvd.,
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Those who want to speak to the Commission in support of, or in opposition to, oversized houses on small lots in the community can do so at this hearing. The SCRA has been working on an overlay to address this issue for eight years, and the committee needs SCRA member support at this hearing.

PLATINUM LIVE UPDATE

Platinum Live on Ventura Blvd, had requested modifications to the conditions of operating at its establishment. The Studio City Residents Association was instrumental in having the conditions initially imposed and opposed any change in the conditions. The issue finally came before the Planning and Land use Committee (PLUM) at which two SCRA Board members testified along with other local community members. PLUM denied the application for any changes. The matter will now be decided before the full City Council. The SCRA will continue to oppose any changes requested.

THE BUREAU OF SANITATION OPENS ITS DOORS



The Bureau of Sanitation holds open houses for members of the community. For more details, visit <http://bureauofsanitationopenhouses.blogspot.com>.

Saturday, June 5, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
South Los Angeles District Yard
786 S. Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90023

Saturday, June 26, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
West Los Angeles District Yard
2027 Stoner Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025

LOCAL HOME GARDEN DESIGNER A FINALIST IN DESIGN COMPETITION

Studio City's Francesca Corra of Dirt Diva Designs, one of the directors of the SCRA's sister organization, the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), is a finalist in the City of Santa Monica's home gardens design contest. Corra was responsible for designing the SCBA project opposite Marshalls on Ventura Blvd.

The Santa Monica concept asks for submissions to incorporate outdoor living, drip systems and other water saving features. Corra's design incorporates underground modular rain tanks that capture rainwater for later use on the garden, vegetables, flowers, etc. The garden will be built on city-owned property and, once built, its designs will be available for homeowners to download in the form of templates for their own use. To view the short-listed plans, read more about the proposals and vote for your favorite, visit www.smgov.net/departments/ose.

JUNE SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING TO FEATURE BURBANK AIRPORT AUTHORITY PANEL

Burbank Airport Authority representatives, Mark D Hardyment, Director of Noise and Environmental Programs, and Victor J. Gill, Director of Public Affairs and Communications, will address the June SCRA Community Meeting. They will speak about state-of-the art regional airport facilities and address such issues as aviation-related noise, environmental protection and traffic. The evening will include a question-and-answer session.

The meeting will be held on June 8, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theater Room. An opportunity to meet community members and neighbors, with light refreshments, begins at 7:00 p.m.

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: I noticed city workers cutting up and disposing a fallen tree that appeared to be on private property. Is this City procedure and paid for by our tax dollars?

SCRA: If the tree is within the right-of-way, then it is considered the responsibility of the City. Should it be

determined that the tree is indeed on private property, then appropriate back charges are made. Where a public safety hazard exists, the City is obligated to act and not wait to determine who is liable for the costs.

FIRE STATION NEEDSTREADMILL

The Studio City Fire Station on Whitsett Avenue has asked the SCRA to help it locate a tread mill (used or otherwise), comparable to those used in health clubs and gyms, that could be donated to the station. Please contact the SCRA office at 818-509-0230.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

Over the years, Los Angeles has adopted ordinances that are commonly referred to as Specific Plans. They are enacted after input from various organizations but usually have their genesis in actions by concerned citizens and other organizations that saw the environments under danger of urban blight and other pressures. Studio City has two Specific Plans, both of which run the length of the Valley: the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan (MSP), enacted June, 1992, and the Ventura Cahuenga Corridor Boulevard Specific Plan (VSP), enacted February, 1991.

The general intent of the MSP is to promote and maintain Mulholland Drive as a scenic parkway. Anyone who has driven or stopped along Mulholland and seen the lights in the dusk of the Valley floor while the setting sun catches the top of the San Gabriel Mountains understands that the view belongs to all and the need to keep the "park-like environment." That is why the SCRA takes issue with the advertisements placed on the bus shelter at Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Mulholland Drive. As member of the Mulholland Design Review Advisory Board to the Planning Department for many years, I recall the DWP, cell phone companies and other city agencies all going through the process so input could be offered on how best to comply with the intent of the MSP. The need for a bus shelter may be there, but the need to start adding advertisements is not. The shelter was added without notice and without going through the review process. The scenic parkway is not going to be maintained if commercial advertisements are allowed, no matter where they are placed. These advertisements should be removed. Calls from many sources are being made, and must be made, to have these advertisements removed.

The other Specific Plan that controls Ventura Blvd in Studio City is the VSP. This plan runs from the Cahuenga Pass all the way to Woodland Hills. It is this plan and the alleged violation of some of the provisions of it that were reported recently in the Los Angeles Daily News, covering, in part, the question of the mural at the Hand Car Wash in Studio City. Evidently the City Building and Safety Department decided the mural contained promotional references, making it a business sign and not a mural, notwithstanding the claim that it depicted historical events of Studio City. The car wash was ordered to remove the mural in no uncertain terms; however, in response, and despite the order to comply, the car wash covered the mural. Some residents support the mural. Yet, others want to know why it was not run through the proper procedures so all could have input on what could be posted at the site in compliance with the intent of the VSP.

One has to have certain empathy with city workers who do their jobs in accordance with city ordinances and statutes, yet see no tangible results for their efforts. At best it must be frustrating. Therefore, it is up to us to give the City support when it acts appropriately in enforcing the laws passed on behalf of the community.

The argument, "It's only a sign," just like "It's only an advertisement on a bus stop," fails. A little bending of the rules recalls the analogy of "the camel's nose under the tent" or the "slippery slope." The VSP and the MSP are under constant attack by use of the "exceptions" rule and other political and commercial pressures. Those before us worked hard to get our neighborhood to where it is today. To date, Studio City has its boulevard, "a wide street lined by trees," and Mulholland Drive has its views. The SCRA would like to see both kept that way.

Alan Dymond



MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

7:00 p.m. Light refreshments

7:30 p.m. Presentation by
representatives of the
Burbank Airport
Authority on aviation
noise, environmental
protection and traffic

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.***

THANK YOU TO BEVERLY GARLAND'S HOLIDAY INN

The SCRA thanks Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn for its many years of generously subsidizing SCRA's use of the hotel theater and for providing complementary parking for SCRA members during the SCRA monthly community meetings.



SCRA Committees

Burbank Airport, Chair: Chris Barnes
Crime and Safety
Los Angeles River Committee
Membership
Overlay
Planning and Land Use
Studio City History Project

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Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

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Oakwood - Tammy Lundgren
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

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