



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

January 2020

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: JANUARY 14, 2020

Studio City Cares Awards

The entire community is invited to attend the Studio City Cares Awards where the SCRA recognizes the outstanding service that the awardees have given to the community.

Since 2008, Studio City Cares Awards have been awarded to those who have acted for the overall benefit of Studio City. The tradition of awards was started in 1998 when the precursor of the Cares Awards was given by the Civic Committee under Fran Quigley. The SCRA is pleased to continue that annual tradition, with this year's awards going to:



Excellence in Youth Development: Joe Martinez. Principal of Carpenter Community Charter. Joe has overwhelming support from the Carpenter community.



Excellence in Business Leadership: Vicki Nussbaum, Executive Director Studio City Business District. Vicki is taking Studio City in a new direction including a major face lift of newly planted medians and repaired sidewalks.

Excellence in Community Service: Darnell Tyler, director of Real Estate Planning and Community Relations, NBCUniversal. Darnell's worked with the island community, local schools and greater Studio City by partnering NBCUniversal on many local projects.



Excellence in Government Leadership: Blake Lamb, Senior City Planner, LA City Planning Department. Blake is originally from St. Louis and now in her 10th year in LA, has become an expert in planning issues in the Valley. Currently, Blake is spearheading the East Valley Community Plan Update.



Fran Quigley Award: SCRA's Highest Award: In Loving Memory of Great Community Activists, Anita and Stanley Hirsh.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President

Happy New Year from the Studio City Beautification Association and welcome to 2020.

This year, our long range plan is to beautify all the Vineland medians between Ventura Boulevard and the 101 Freeway. In July, we completed the paperwork and submitted our landscaping plan and irrigation proposal to the city for the Vineland median at Bluffside Drive and the median in front of The Garland. We thought we were picking up speed moving forward with approval from the city to beautify these two medians. But we just got word last month that instead of giving us a green light, the city has hit the brakes on giving us approval. There has been an update in requirements which will require us to revise our plans and resubmit.

SCBA is also in the process of doing a fresh design and installation proposal for the Vineland median over the LA River. You may recall we were going to install metal sculptures by the late artist Karl Johnson on this median. But the city turned down our

(Continued, Page 2)



(Beautification, cont'd)



plan saying the sculptures would attract people to walk on the median to get a closer look and create a safety hazard.

We are ever closer to getting final approval from the city to install the "Studio City Welcomes You" sign on the Vineland median at Whipple. We'll keep you posted during the year on all these projects.



And a New Year update on the Eastside Median (opposite the Blvd Hotel). It's once again beautiful after a complete landscape makeover with new drought tolerant plants. We thought you'd enjoy seeing its transformation so we've included in this report pictures showing you before and after.

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'd like to invite you to join our volunteer team. If you are interested please call the office (818) 509-0230 or send us an email studiocitybeautificationassoc@gmail.com

See you in the neighborhood.

AN UPDATE ON SACRAMENTO FROM ASSEMBLYMEMBER ADRIN NAZARIAN

At the SCRA November Community Meeting, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian spoke about the State of the State. Members were told that the State is doing well with a healthy budget and a healthy reserve.

Assemblymember Nazarian co-authored AB479 California School Plant-Based Food and Beverage Program. This law will incentivize plant based meals and bring balanced meals to schools.

The Assemblymember spoke about the needs of the elder population and to create a "No Wrong Door" help policy. When a person calls any agency, they will either be helped directly or referred to the right agency. Also of concern is that age 62 and older make up the fastest growing population of homeless.

Bringing public transportation to Los Angeles is an ongoing project of Assemblymember Nazarian along with finding relief for the growing homeless population.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

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 * 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 * Wild Flora and The Yellow Balloon.

Just added : Eye Candy Optometry and Vitello's Restaurant

WE LOST THIS ONE Measure JJJ is hurting single family residents

In September, the SCRA and neighbors appealed to the Department of City Planning about the Director's Determination to allow an apartment complex on the corner of Riverton Avenue and Fruitland Drive Studio City with a height limit increase from 56 feet to 70 feet and a 70% increase in occupancy from 11 units to 19. This apartment building is adjacent to hillside single-family residents with narrow streets and limited parking.

We did not prevail with our appeal. Neighbors had only five minutes to voice our facts and concerns. The principle owners and their architect, who after we finished speaking, addressed the commissioners stating that there are numerous four-story apartment buildings already in place on Fruitland. (Not so). They presented a photo-shopped slide show of the street making it appear as though it was freshly paved and with virtually no vehicles in sight. We were not given the opportunity for any rebuttal on his statements. Final comments from commission stated that Measure JJJ, Transit

(Continued, Page 3)

(Measure, cont'd)

Oriented Communities (TOC) was voted on and approved by the will of the people. And that NO conditions are included in the TOC for the protection of homeowners within the radius of any TOC project.

ILLEGAL DAMAGE CAUSED TO CITY TREES



Studio City Beautification has reported to Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office that two city trees were illegally cut back and a third one cut down. They are on the north side of Moorpark, west of Tujunga. This is brutal.

The Council office response, "Thanks for the heads up. A request was submitted to The Department of Urban Forestry for investigation. Here is the file number: 1-1510631091."

HARVARD-WESTLAKE DEVELOPMENT OF WEDDINGTON GOLF & TENNIS

In order to increase the awareness that "IT'S NOT A DONE DEAL" and the threat of a major escalation of "TRAFFIC" on Whitsett, Save LA River Open Space has Lawn Signs for you and your neighbors.



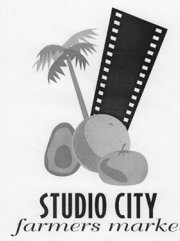
Stop by North Hollywood Hardware, which is located at 11847 Ventura Blvd, and ask for a lawn sign. North Hollywood Hardware is open: M-F 8:30 - 6:00, SAT - 9-5:30, SUN 10-4 pm. Parking available in front of the store. Thank you, North Hollywood Hardware.

You can request a sign by calling our office volunteers at 818 509-0230 and leave your full name, address and phone information. Or go online to order for you and/or your neighbors.



Visit savelariveropenspace.org/lawn-signs

This Community cares about Weddington Golf and Tennis.



TO THE MARKET

The Market welcomed Fresco Pasta, makers of some of the finest cheese found this side of Italy. Their burrata is a mere \$5 and sells out every Sunday. They are located

on the north side of the street towards the Laurel Canyon side. Stop by on a Sunday and check out all their amazing cheeses.

The Studio City Farmers Market continued to support local community groups with generous donations in 2019. Recipients include The Blind Children's Center, San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission, the Adopt a Senior program sponsored by the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, Campo de Cahuenga, North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry and the Children's Burn Foundation. In addition, the Market purchased over \$2000 worth of toys for the California Highway Patrol CHPs for Kids toy drive and the LAPD toy drive.

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 live on Kraft Avenue between Moorpark and Lansdale. My neighbors and I feel we need some speed bumps (or even just one) on this street, as many of us have children and it's concerning how many cars speed down our street. What can we do-if anything- about this.

SCRA: This query came through the Studio City Neighborhood Council and was referred by Brian Carroll, SCNC president, to Barry Johnson, SCNC transportation Chair and SCRA Vice President, who responded.

Every 6 months the window opens up for Speed Hump applications. The next opening is Wednesday, January 29th, 2020 at 8AM. I suggest you call exactly at 8AM on 1/29/20 because the amount of applications they take every 6 months is usually full within the first hour of neighborhoods applying. For more details, see article, and visit ladot.lacity.org/how-do-i/request-speed-humps

Q: I am in a 'high risk' fire area in the low foothills and the City monitors land/weed clearance around our home but no one is checking for wood shingle roofs. There are two houses across from me with wood shingle roofs, even though both homes were bought at a time when it was required for new or selling owner to fix wood shingle roofs. Also for their privacy,

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(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

neighbors have planted big tall trees or shrubs between their houses which is dangerous to both houses in high fire danger! Why is no one inspecting for those issues.

SCRA: LA City Building and Safety requirement on shake/shingle roofs states the requirements for percentage of repair or replace and fire resistance. Just Google: "roofing requirements for wood shakes and shingles - LADBS" to find the Building and Safety publication.

One of the basic things that you can do is to organize a neighborhood emergency plan. LA Neighborhood (RYLAN) is a free service offered by the City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department that empowers neighborhoods to be more prepared for the next big disaster. This may be a way to start the process of engaging responsible neighbors and to be able to suggest the next steps to fire safety in your neighborhood. Visit emergency.lacity.org/rylan/about

Regarding brush clearance you can register your complaint on the properties that you are concerned about. You will need the addresses, state the problem and take a picture of the problem. Start by calling or going to your local fire station.

Q: Do you know whether anything is being (or can be) done to alleviate the morning traffic gridlock at Ventura and Coldwater Canyon? I leave between 7 and 7:30 every morning, and the situation is getting worse by the day. There was a time when we had a traffic officer to keep people honest, but I was told funds for that dried up. If so, why are there two - count 'em, two - traffic officers at Ventura and Beverly Glen and none at Ventura and Coldwater? (I realize the former area is in a different councilperson's district.) I can keep getting up earlier and earlier, but I fear I'll simply be joining the hordes of others doing the same.

SCRA: Years ago, CD2 and CD4 split the cost to hire white gloves at Coldwater and Ventura. Karo Torassian, Councilmember Paul Krekorian's chief of staff, has said that he will again work with CD4 to see if they can find funding for a traffic officer at Coldwater and Ventura. SCRA will continue following up.

Q: SCBA Board member Andy Epstein placed a request with Doug Mensman, Director of Transportation and Planning for Councilmember Paul Krekorian to replace several dead trees at the NBCUniversal/ Studio City Metro station near the Campo de Cahuenga entrance.



SCRA: Within a couple of weeks Doug had arranged for the replacement trees to be planted. SCRA and SCBA wish to thank the council office for their help in this matter.

HOW YOU CAN REQUEST A SPEED HUMP

Speed Humps are designed to reduce vehicular speed on residential local or collector streets that have a single lane of travel in each direction.

For additional information regarding speed humps, visit ladot.lacity.org/how-do-i/request-speed-humps and refer to "What You Need to Know about Speed Humps" Fact Sheet and the "Speed Hump Evaluation Guidelines".

The Speed Hump Program opens a review cycle every 6 months to take petitions for speed humps. The speed hump application window will open Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 8 a.m. PST. For more info and to start the ONLINE process, click on the Step 1 and follow the instructions. Additionally, after you have completed Step 1 and still believe you qualify for Speed Humps, you can then download and complete Step 2. Both parts are needed to start the process.

While generally effective in reducing vehicle speeds and volume, one disadvantage is the potential for increased vehicle noise when traversing the hump as well as increased emergency vehicle response times.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Nominating Committee has nominated the following candidates as officers of the association for the year 2020:

President, Alan Dymond; Vice President, Barry Johnson; Treasurer, Charles Blakeslee; and Secretary, Connie Elliot.

SCRA OFFICERS FOR 2020

Any person residing in the household of a Regular or Senior member may nominate a member in good standing as an officer of the SCRA by filing a petition bearing original signatures of a minimum of twenty-five (25) members in good standing and an acknowledgement signed by the proposed officer with the Association's office no later than December 1, 2019. No such petition has been filed at the Associations office by a candidate seeking election as an officer of the SCRA therefore the nominating period is closed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The SCRA Nominating Committee nominations for officers of the association for the year 2020 stands and so will be duly appointed at the Annual General Meeting as follows:

President, Alan Dymond; Vice President, Barry Johnson; Treasurer, Charles Blakeslee; Secretary, Connie Elliot.

The office of Administrative Vice President is a SCRA board appointment. Claudia Freedle is so appointed to this office.

The nominating committee wishes to thank the past officers for their work over the last year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

The Labyrinth that led Theseus to the Minotaur's den is similar to negotiating the various city agencies and complying with their necessary procedures. But once understanding is gained on how to navigate the system, then, like a modern-day Greek hero, one does not get lost.

Section 245 of the City of Los Angeles Charter provides a procedure that is reserved for extraordinary circumstances, by which the City Council may assert jurisdiction over an action taken by the Planning Commissioners. This, however, will not be the case for the athletic center proposed by Harvard Westlake for the Weddington Site as there are no, as yet, foreseeable extraordinary circumstances.

Councilmember Krekorian confirmed before the Studio City Neighborhood Council Board he will insist Harvard Westlake produce an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for their project on the Weddington site. (A position he has held to for some time now.) The EIR procedures will ensure public hearings, and everyone will have the opportunity to weigh in on whatever Harvard Westlake is proposing. (All we have to date is a presentation by Harvard Westlake to select groups). Harvard Westlake has not yet taken the first step in filing with the City Planning Department. Once this file is open, in addition to the EIR processes, Community Impact Statements can be made to the file. SCRA will advise further on this.

STUDIO CITY COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

As reported in the November 2019 SCRA newsletter, during a presentation by the Department of City Planning, public comments were made, such as: "Our neighborhood is characterized by narrow streets and many dead ends.", and "People didn't put their hearts and souls, as well as their life savings to live in a neighborhood of triplexes." This discussion continued with more neighbors stating their case. Councilmember Krekorian said, "Not on my watch" to the whole idea of three units being allowed on all these single-family properties. The discussions with Planning are continuing and are being monitored with input made by Board member Barry Johnson.

SAVING TREES BY IMPOSING MITIGATION MEASURES

When a development is imminent, such as mansionization, it has often resulted in removal of trees, especially those that are not protected species. For example, in a remodel, a garage, located immediately behind a tree would result in a mature shade tree being cut down rather than relocating the garage to the other side. (Over the years this issue has been covered in prior SCRA newsletters.) Cutting down a tree goes against the wishes of the neighbors and those who walk through our neighborhoods to say nothing of the benefits offered by having an urban forest.

The City Council approved a policy submitted by Councilmember Krekorian. The policy as adopted will protect the City's tree canopy that will not only mitigate negative impacts of mansionization, but correct poor design considerations where trees are impacted or destroyed. It will help clean the air and reduce the heat load.

Going forward. When property owners wish to redevelop their property the city's Urban Forestry Division will be notified prior to the approval of any permits. The policy will allow the city to intervene at the beginning of the process and prevent unnecessary tree removals.

BURBANK AIRPORT

As reported in the news and social media, a lawsuit has been filed by the Los Angeles City Attorney. At the third Task Force meeting held at the Marriott regarding airplane noise from low flying takeoffs out of Burbank and Van Nuys Airports, the FAA finally admitted, as residents have claimed, that planes leaving Burbank and Van Nuys airports are flying more southerly. The next two upcoming meetings of the Hollywood Burbank Airport Noise Task Force are scheduled for Jan. 15 and Feb. 19 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport at 2500 N. Hollywood Way. I urge all our members who can, to attend. Numbers do count.

BEEMAN PARK GYM UPDATE

As reported earlier, the present gym will be demolished to be replaced by an updated modern functional gym. SCRA, SCNC and neighbors were appointed to the Local Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee, questions were taken from the community and input given as to design and placement of the Gym. Construction is anticipated to begin May 2021 and the city has anticipated the project will be complete by spring 2022.

SPORTSMEN'S LODGE UPDATE

The demolition and grading were completed in December, with construction beginning the first week of January and a target completion date of November 2020.

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
Karen Younce
StudioCityBeautificationAssoc@gmail.com

Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space Officers

Alan Dymond, President
Laurie Cohn, Vice President
Chip Meehan, Vice President
Beth Dymond, Secretary

Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer
Board Members
Patty Kirby
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

Studio City Farmers Market

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Newsletter

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**STUDIO CITY
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

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JAN 2020

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There is strength in numbers!

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**SCRA
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
Tuesday, Jan 14, 2020**

MEETING LOCATION:

Bridges Academy
GYM
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604

AGENDA

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

7:30 p.m. Installation of Officers;
Studio City Cares Awards

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

