



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

July 2021

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## GREENWAY DRINKING FOUNTAIN BACK IN OPERATION - THANKS TO MRCA

Because of the Covid-19 lockdown, the volunteer cleanup of the Greenway from Whitsett to Coldwater, previously overseen by the Audubon Society, was shut down for the last fifteen months. One of the casualties was the lack of maintenance to the stone drinking fountain that a local family had donated in memory of their son, Michael James Kelly. Michael, who had spent a lot of time playing golf on the Weddington Golf & Tennis grounds, which is located just above the trail, frequently hiked along the river and he cared deeply about the preservation of this area.

This drinking fountain was designed with three different multi-use water sources; the top one for adults, one midway and lower down on the side for children and those in wheelchairs, and on the other side a spigot that can be used to fill dog bowls. A lot of debris had gathered in the two top fountains along with dust, dirt, and leaves which had collected at all the drains. Without proper and continual maintenance, the drains become stopped up and cease to function and repairs could be very costly. The donor was concerned since people seemed to enjoy using the drinking fountain as well as just taking pleasure in watching walkers fill up their water bottles and run water for their dogs' bowls.



The SCRA contacted the maintenance arm of the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), the fountain was cleaned and will have periodic cleaning going forward. The donor very much appreciated the response from the MRCA.

### NO JULY COMMUNITY MEETING

This month, as we all slowly venture out and as life starts returning to normal, the SCRA Board wants to wish you all a happy summer vacation. Rather than having another Zoom meeting, we will instead, look forward to seeing you, IN PERSON, when we reconvene our community meetings in the fall. Save the date, September 14th at Bridges Academy, see you then.

Have a wonderful summer.

#### ITS NOT TOO LATE

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, renew now and get your SCRA Member Card! {Refer to the back page of this newsletter for Participating Businesses.}

thank you!



SCRA Treasurer,  
Charles Blakeslee  
CPA and his wife  
Carol have moved  
from Studio City to

be closer to family. Charles recently completed his Master of Science in Taxation. Charles will continue to work with the Boards on a smooth transition of the SCRA, SLAROS, and SCBA books and records. His professionalism and insight have been a great asset to our organizations, and he will be missed.

THANK YOU,  
CHARLES BLAKESLEE



# BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

**Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President**

In our last report, we were sorry to share with you that the Coldwater median (near the 101) had lost its beauty. A very large, heavy truck drove the length of the median leaving a deep tire track, destroying plants, and damaging the irrigation system. But in this report, your Studio City Beautification Association is happy to tell you the Coldwater median is getting back its beauty. SCBA filled in the tire track trench, repaired the irrigation system, and replanted nearly 2 dozen Society Garlic plants. Also known as "Pink Agapanthus",

Society Garlic is a groundcover that produces spherical clusters of delicate, star-shaped lavender-pink flowers. As you can see from the photo, right now these beautiful plants are small but they will grow to be about a foot tall.



And speaking of getting back to looking beautiful, the Oasis Pocket Park on Ventura Blvd. (across the street from Marshalls) is once again free of graffiti. We tip our hat and express our gratitude to "New Directions for Youth" for doing the work and say thank you to Gerry Valido with the Board of Public Works, Office of Community Beautification for arranging the cleanup to happen.

Continuing our conversation on looking better, the Oakdell Sanctuary on Laurel Canyon recently received a "nip and a tuck" beauty treatment. Of all the sites that SCBA has adopted to beautify, the Oakdell Sanctuary gets perhaps the most foot traffic because of its proximity to Fryman Canyon. And with all the foot traffic comes some wear and tear on the property. Recently, one corner needed a little TLC and SCBA added some additional grasses (Carex Tumulicola) to fill in the empty patches and restore its beauty. Here is a photo of the replanted area...



And, in our Futures File, the Laurel Canyon median (near the 101 Freeway and across from Campbell Hall School) will get a late spring/early summer touch-up. SCBA will add some plants on the median that will complement the existing landscape look of the school. This newest beautification will be colorful and showcase Blue Chalk Sedum and Red Kangaroo Paw. Campbell Hall is dedicated to the beautification and improvement of our community and has generously volunteered to pay for the upgraded planting.

Stay safe and see you in the neighborhood.

# SCRA OPPOSED SOLAR PANEL ASSEMBLY BILL 1139

Board member Martha Hanrahan alerted the SCRA board about Assembly Bill AB1139, which is backed by the utility companies. It will effectively negate the reasons for, and benefits of, having solar power in homes. After further research, the SCRA board voted to oppose AB1139 and informed our Assemblyman, Adrin Nazarian, of the board decision.

AB 1139, officially died when the author, Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), failed to garner the votes needed for passage thereby moving the bill to the "inactive file." This is not the end of the fight. It will continue when the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will consider adjustments to net metering. The Commission is asking for many of the same changes that were in AB 1139. Members of the public can sign a petition to Governor Newsom and the CPUC, just go to: [www.savecaliforniasolar.org](http://www.savecaliforniasolar.org). The CPUC is expected to act on net metering reforms before or around the same time that the legislature reconvenes in 2022.

## CULTIVATING COMMUNITY FOR 59 YEARS AND COUNTING...



### BENEFITS OF YOUR SCRA MEMBERSHIP

- Digital Newsletter option now available. You can Opt-in to receive the Digital version of our newsletter, email us at [SCRANewsletter@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:SCRANewsletter@studiocityresidents.org) and we will add you to our digital mailing list.
- 'News & Notes' email blasts cover breaking Studio City news, police advisories, community events, calls to action, and so much more. If you are missing out on these advisories, email us at [SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org) and we will add you to our email mailing list.

### GET TO KNOW OUR WEBSITE

In this issue, we are spotlighting: **Local Gov't Contacts.**

[www.studiocityresidents.org/our-community/local-government-contacts](http://www.studiocityresidents.org/our-community/local-government-contacts)

- Have you heard about MyLA311?
- Want to report Graffiti? Or report Vandalism?
- Need to schedule a Bulky Item pickup?
- What if you must report a pothole? Or check Street Sweeping Calendar?

Additional information and direct links to the appropriate government agencies for these topics AND many more can be found under Local Gov't Contacts on our website, [StudioCityResidents.org](http://StudioCityResidents.org).



# TREES NEED OUR PROTECTION, TOO

## Residential concern

A large pine tree is being cut down today, at the corner of Laurelgrove Ave and Valleyheart Dr. Many of us residents stood and watched, angrily, some in tears. I'm pretty sure it's illegal to cut down this type and size of the tree in California. The developers wait for a holiday or a Sunday when the city won't see them doing it. Can something be done to get the city to come out and at least fine them?

Barry Johnson, VP of SCRA, responded: *Unfortunately, the tree was on private property. It would have had to be one of the four (4) protected native trees in the City of Los Angeles for there to have been any legal protection. (If it had been on a parkway, they, at least, would have needed a permit for removal.)*

## Protected Tree

Any of the following Southern California native tree species, which measures four inches or more in cumulative diameter, four and one-half feet above the ground level at the base of the tree:

- (a) Oak tree including Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) and California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), or any other tree of the oak genus indigenous to California but excluding the Scrub Oak (*Quercus dumosa*).
- (b) Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*)
- (c) Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)
- (d) California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*)

See: [https://planning.lacity.org/Code\\_Studies/Other/ProtectedTreeOrd.pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/Code_Studies/Other/ProtectedTreeOrd.pdf)

## Business District concerns

1. On Ventura Blvd, the tree at 11925 Ventura Blvd. in front of Naturewell Cafe Organic Juice Bar & Cafe was trunked? It is awful! I literally want to cry when people do this. As part of the beautification committee, I thought you would want to know.



This travesty was reported by the Business Improvement District to Street Trees. Unfortunately, the Bureau of Street Services' hands are tied as the responsible party is unknown and no action to enforce a fine or replacement will happen.

2. At Los Balcones Restaurant, (Moorpark and Bakman) there is another desecration of a street tree.



See the BEFORE and AFTER pictures for yourself:

<<<< - >>>>



BEFORE

AFTER

# TO THE MARKET



The Studio City Farmers Market is overflowing with summer fruits, picked at the last minute and arriving from local farms full of flavor. These fruits were made for summer pies and are delicious in salads, smoothies, and on their own. It is a short season, so enjoy them while you can.

It is also tomato season, and the cherry tomatoes that taste like candy have an even shorter season. Even if you are not a tomato fan these mini miracles will change your mind.

As a reminder - dogs are not allowed at Farmers Markets throughout the state. This is a health code violation. Service dogs must provide a service for a person with a disability. We know everyone loves their pets, but if your dog is not a service animal within the confines of ADA laws, please keep him or her at home.

# FROM YOUR BOARD

## Your Board in Action

The SCRA Board has voted on a variety of issues that directly affect Studio City. Motions were sent to the appropriate political leaders.

### Oil Can Harry's

The board supports Councilmember Krekorian, to initiate consideration of the property located at 11506 Ventura Boulevard - Oil Can Harry's, as a City Historic-Cultural Monument and instruct the Planning Department to prepare the Historic-Cultural Monument application for review and consideration by the Cultural Heritage Commission.

### Four new cannabis store applications:

The Board opposes all four new cannabis stores and any/all cannabis stores beyond Studio City's current quota set by the City of Los Angeles.

### Proposed Locations:

- 4233 Coldwater Canyon Avenue
- 12159 Ventura Boulevard
- 10970 Ventura Boulevard
- 12915 Ventura Boulevard

### Increase fines for illegal handbills

The Board supports increasing the violation fines for posted handbills, signs, and objects in public places to reduce visual blight throughout the City of Los Angeles.

### Food street vendors must have a permit

The Board opposes re-establishing a moratorium on enforcing the issuing of citations for street vending of food without a valid health permit.

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## (Board, cont'd)

### Recommending solar power on public right-of-ways

The Board supports LA City Council to instruct the Department of Water & Power (LADWP) and Los Angeles City Street Services (Streets LA) to make recommendations for installing solar power panels for generation and storage of electricity on the public right-of-way (such as bus shelters) as part of the Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP) using LADWP's Distributed Energy Resources (DER).

### Strategy to reduce risk of property loss

The Board supports State Senate Bill 12 to require local planning agencies to have a comprehensive retrofit strategy to reduce the risk of property loss and damage during wildfires, earthquakes, and floods.

### Limited Parking Requirement

The Board supports a City Council Resolution opposing Assembly Bill 1401 which would prohibit local governments from enforcing minimum automobile parking requirements for developments located close to public transit. While the elimination of parking minimums may reduce overall construction costs, oftentimes projects near high-quality transit corridors include only a limited number of affordable units and instead provide housing for high-income tenants who use the transit services provided far less frequently. The City of Los Angeles currently has limited policy tools to require the construction of a significant percentage of affordable units, and as such AB 1401 would simply perpetuate the status quo - the unnecessary construction of market-rate and luxury housing units, and thereby creating an added financial windfall for developers, exacerbating traffic and parking congestion in residential communities and areas intended to be served by high-quality transit, and leaving ridership numbers in these areas low.

## 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](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org).*

**Q:** It looks like a triplex is being built or two Additional Dwelling Units (ADU) on a residential lot in my neighborhood. Is this legal?

**SCRA:** State laws allow for a single-family home + 1200 sf max ADU + 600 sf max JADU. (Junior ADUs can be a max of only 600 sf and must be attached.) This property has permits for all 3.

**Q:** As a longtime SCRA member, I was pleased to read in the Newsletter (and later see myself) the successful efforts to clean-up of the 101 freeway underpass at Laurel Canyon. Kudos and thank you. Can the same efforts be brought to bear to clean up the 101 underpass at Coldwater? There is abandoned debris, along with a Portapotty. Those of us on the western edge of Studio City use this off-ramp more than any other.

**SCRA:** SCRA contacted Council District 4 and received a schedule of work to be performed. On June 10th we received an update that the LA Homeless Services Authority has housed

every person that was staying on the Northside of the underpass and CD4 and Sanitation is scheduled to remove the items that have been left behind. LAHSA will continue doing outreach here and work to house all of the remaining individuals. This location has been prioritized.

**Q:** RE: Senate Bills 9 & 10 Urgent Action request to oppose these Bills: While we appreciate much of your advocacy on behalf of Studio City residents we don't believe you should assume that it is in the best interest of those who have/need/aspire to residential housing in our neighborhoods to oppose the proposed legislation. It's disturbing that the SCRA has just presented this legislation in such a negative way when our communities have an acute housing shortage. We have contacted our representatives urging them to supporting this legislation.

**SCRA:** The board does strive to state all the facts on all issues. Regarding SB 9 and SB 10, the members were informed of the board's position in the May 2021 newsletter. (Excerpts below). Your board is in agreement with many HOAs across Los Angeles and in agreement with the vote at City Council to oppose this intrusion from Sacramento on our local zoning laws. Neither of these bills from Sacramento will increase "affordable housing". In fact, the last bill that was passed, SB 1818, took away affordable housing in our area where developers demolished existing affordable apartments and built high-end condominiums. It is understood that SB 1818 did work in other parts of LA but definitely not in Studio City. SB 9 & 10 are just like SB 1818, "one size does not fit all."

LA City Council is in the process of re-zoning to create more equitable housing throughout the city of Los Angeles. Your board believes that zoning laws must be kept with the City and not dictated by Sacramento.

Excerpts from the May 2021 SCRA Newsletter issue:  
SUBDIVIDING PARCELS

The Board opposed Senate Bill 9 "lot splitting" ", i.e., the subdivision of a parcel or parcels into additional buildable lots and remove the administrative and environmental reviews that currently apply. Further, it provides for the ministerial ("by right") approval of duplex (two residential units) construction and prohibits a local agency from requiring dedication of rights-of-way or offsite or onsite improvements for parcels created by a lot split.

ZONING INTERFERENCE FROM SACRAMENTO

The Board supported a city council motion to oppose Senate Bill 10 which seeks to impose a one-size-fits-all solution to California's affordable housing shortage.

## REDISTRICTING - COHESIVE SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS

SCRA Vice President, Barry Johnson, is working on the redistricting of the Los Angeles County Supervisor Districts' ten-year redistricting map.

Surveys now show that the San Fernando Valley is more diverse than ever with over 2 million people residing here. We are currently within the 3rd district, under Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. This 3rd District does not serve the needs of the San Fernando Valley. The district includes not only the San Fernando Valley, but is extended all the way to Downtown, Westwood, Bel Air, Santa Monica, Venice, Malibu, and points

(Continued, Page 5)

## **(Redistricting, cont'd)**

in-between. The districts that currently go over the Santa Monica Mountains or other physical barriers do not serve the interests of the diverse 2 million people within the SF Valley. We need one supervisor that can focus their attention on one physical area. The status quo is not working for us.

Los Angeles has 10 million people. Each of the 5 districts is therefore comprised of roughly 2 million people each. Since the Valley is now 2 million people, it should be its own district. Plus, state law says districts should be based on geography and not Gerrymandered.

## **TREASURERS POSITION**

SCRA is currently taking applications for the board position of Treasurer. This position encompasses the three corporations, Studio City Residents Association, Studio City Beautification Association, and Save LA River Open Space.

The Treasurer is required to attend two board meetings each month and at each meeting, give a report based on the financial statements as generated by our independent bookkeeper. The Joint SLAROS/SCRA Board meeting is held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM and the SCBA Board meeting is held on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 PM.

The Treasurer must know basic bookkeeping and accounting practices, QuickBooks, and be able to monitor tax filings prepared by an independent CPA.

This is a unique opportunity to become involved and to give back to your community.

If interested, applicants are asked to email Beth Dymond at [Beth.Dymond@StudioCityResidents.org](mailto:Beth.Dymond@StudioCityResidents.org) and we ask that you attach your resume.

The deadline for submissions is July 20th.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *by Alan Dymond*

*After two public hearings and a site visit by the Cultural Heritage Commissioners, the Commissioners recommended the Weddington Golf and Tennis site be designated a Historic-Cultural Monument and renamed to Studio City Golf and Tennis Club.*

*At the final public hearing before the Commissioners, the councilmember's Chief of Staff, Karo Torosian, testified to the events and efforts over the years. He closed by stating "... whatever the commission decides about the appropriate and legal scope of the designation the council members office will remain committed to respecting and preserving the history of this property and ensure that the public benefits from its uses."*

*After a prior public meeting on the scope of the project, five hundred and sixty-three public comments were filed with the Planning Department. Of the 563 comments, 538 were in opposition to the proposed development, 3 were in favor, and 22 were not applicable. Of that total, 95% were opposed, representing not only SCRA members.*

*Why is the designation and confirmation as a Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) for the Golf and Tennis site so important?*

*The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is due soon, date not yet known. It is imperative; however, that the Historic-Cultural Monument designation is endorsed by City Council. "Cultural Resources" is part of the Initial Study prepared by the Planning Department and is part and parcel of the EIR process.*

*Call or write to Councilmember Paul Krekorian and let him know that you support the Cultural Heritage Commissions Designation, Case No.: CHC-2020-7764-HCM. Be sure to give your name and zip code. CD2 LA Office: 213 473-7002 - Valley Office 818 755-7676 - email: [Councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org)*

*Goodbye to ZOOM*

*While it has served its purpose, Zoom is not the same as in-person Community meetings. Assuming that Covid 19 continues its downturn and restrictions are lifted or greatly modified, we are planning for an in-person Community Meeting on September 14th. Bridges Academy, where we had previously met, has offered the SCRA space once again.*

*Wildlife Corridors*

*Los Angeles City Council reinstated funding to complete the Wildlife Pilot Study and expand it throughout the Rim of the Valley. Many council members, including Budget & Finance Chair Paul Krekorian, stated that this was a priority item. Citizens Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) Center for Biological Diversity and a coalition of environmental advocates worked hard to influence the city council to support this priority. Anyone who resides near or hikes the Santa Monica's is directed to the CLAW Website.*

*[www.clawonline.org](http://www.clawonline.org)*



# SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

**No meeting in July**

- **Happy Summer!**
- **Looking forward to the return of in-person Community Meetings in the fall**

**Save the date,  
September 14th**

**SCRA Board@studiocityresidents.org  
www.studio cityresidents.org**



## STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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



JULY 2021

PRINTED WITH SOY-BASED INKS

**There is strength in numbers!**

*Hello Again.*

The SCRA Member Discount Card is back! This year, **more than ever**, we are proud to come together as a community to support our local businesses. When you renew your membership, you will receive your new Member Discount Card that is welcomed at these local businesses:

April Davis Investigations	Habit
Arnold's Copy & Print	James Thomas Stained
Auto Plaza	Glass
BLVD Hotel & Spa	Kit Kraft
Ceremony	La Knitterie Parisienne
Charlies' Shoe Repair	Matthew's Jewelry Store
Classic Toys	Mister O's
Creation Station Studio	Panache Boutique
City	Sportsmen's Lodge
Eye Candy Optometry	The Village
Gangadin	Vitello's Restaurant
Gisele Tune	Wild Flora

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