



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

May 2014

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ELECTED OFFICIALS VISIT WEDDINGTON GOLF & TENNIS

At the invitation of Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Mayor Eric Garcetti toured Weddington Golf and Tennis on Whitsett Avenue and viewed the greenway in the works along the banks of the Los Angeles River immediately adjacent to the golf and tennis facility. The greenway is scheduled to break ground in fall 2014. Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) President Alan Dymond, Board Member Beth Dymond and Save LA River Open Space



Mayor Eric Garcetti, Patty Kirby, Alan Dymond

(SLAROS) Board Member Patty Kirby were also invited. Using schematics, they demonstrated the connection with the Los Angeles River Natural Park proposed by SLAROS for the site, the greenway that will run from Whitsett Avenue to Coldwater Canyon Blvd., and collectively how all of this will tie in with the plans to revitalize the River, particularly on this section in the East San Fernando Valley. Later in the tour, the group stopped by the clubhouse to speak with Guy Weddington McCreary and his wife, Diane. Overall, SCRA and SLAROS were much encouraged by the visit to this open space, which is the first by a mayor of Los Angeles.



Karo Torossian, Doug Mensman, Jackie Keene, Patty Kirby, Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Mayor Eric Garcetti, Alan Dymond, Areen Ibranossian, Geoff Yazetta, Courtney Hamilton

LAPD CAPTAIN ADDRESSES SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Guest speaker North Hollywood LAPD Captain Stephen Michael Carmona addressed the March SCRA meeting regarding the creation of a "Citizens Volunteer Surveillance Detail." Sometimes known as the Citizens Surveillance team, this group of volunteers provides extra eyes and ears to the LAPD. Captain Carmona encouraged interested volunteers to get involved. For details on how the program works, what is expected of volunteers and other matters such as background checks, call the North Hollywood Police Station at 818-623-4006.



During his discussion, Captain Carmona also addressed the enforcement of traffic signs on Coldwater Canyon Blvd., south of Moorpark and Coldwater. Frustrated motorists are making dangerous illegal moves that are creating real problems for the

(Continued, Page 2)

LA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY EXPLAINS PRIORITIES

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey spoke recently to the Valley Advisory Committee, a group established by State Senator Fran Pavley. The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) has a long-standing invitation to be a part of this group and attends meetings regularly.

According to District Attorney Lacey, taking violent criminals off the street and seeking justice for victims by prosecuting elder abuse cases, hate crimes, sexual crimes, stalking cases, and family violence are among the top priorities of the District Attorney's Office. The office is an active member of the Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (C.L.E.A.R.) program. This multi-agency collaborative law enforcement effort targets members of specific gangs who pose the

(Continued, Page 4)

(LAPD, cont'd)

area. Given that construction is slated to continue for some time, Captain Carmona said officers will be focused on the area to help ensure safety. He also reported that 10 officers have been added to the scientific investigation division to solve more crime and expedite analysis and monitoring.

Captain Carmona responded to questions about the traffic danger to valets when they are out in the streets. Although some wear reflective vests, the captain charged LAPD Studio City Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis to explore the idea of getting more valets to wear these vests.

BEAUTIFYING STUDIO CITY

In an important endorsement for its leading work, the Studio City Beautification Association's (SCBA) Oakdell Sanctuary site on Laurel Canyon Blvd. at Oakdell Road was selected for the Theodore Payne Annual Garden Tour. This unique adventure, which took place on April 5 and 6, is a two-day self-guided journey through 35 or more of the Los Angeles region's most beautiful and inspiring native plant home landscapes. At each location, visitors met garden owners, designers, knowledgeable docents and fellow gardeners.

Until just recently, the Oakdell site was a large, abandoned, weedy mess. Extra financial help from Fryman-area residents, the Studio City Residents Association, and CBS Studio Center allowed the SCBA to transform the site from weedy to wonderful.

SCBA Vice President Francesca Corra, owner of Studio City-based landscape design firm Dirt Diva Designs, heads landscaping for the SCBA. "To be selected for Theodore Payne's annual garden tour is quite a feather in our cap," Corra said. "SCBA's goal is to enhance our public spaces in a sustainable way, and one means of doing that is to use California native plants."

The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and use of California native wild flowers and plants.



The SCBA adopted, developed and maintains the Oakdell Sanctuary. With decades of actively installing and maintaining boulevard trees, landscaped medians and micro-parks such as the Oakdell site, the SCBA is recognized as the leading volunteer-managed community improvement nonprofit in Los Angeles.

JOSH RUBENSTEIN AND ESTHER FELDMAN TO ADDRESS MAY SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING



The Studio City Residents Association welcomes two guest speakers to the May Community Meeting. KCAL's Josh Rubenstein will speak in his role as president of the North Hollywood Community Police Advisory Board (PAB) and a vice president of the East Valley Police Activity League Supporters (PALS).

In addition, Esther Feldman, president of Community Conservation Solutions, will present the plans and designs for a greenway on the north bank of the Los Angeles River from Whitsett Avenue to Coldwater Canyon Avenue. The greenway, scheduled to break ground this fall, is another link in the ongoing improvements of the Los Angeles River.



The meeting will be held at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn, Theatre Room at 7:30 p.m. Join the SCRA at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments and an opportunity to meet community members and neighbors.

SIGN UP NOW AND DON'T BE LEFT OUT: SCRA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

June 1 marks the annual renewal date for Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members. As always, the SCRA wants to increase its numbers. Please encourage your neighbors to join. If you know of someone who would like to do so, ask them to visit www.studiocityresident.org. Please feel free to share this newsletter so prospective members can get an idea of the many issues and challenges the SCRA tackles on behalf of residents in the community. All current members will receive a membership renewal reminder in the mail.

SCRA members who provide the SCRA with their e-mail address receive updates during the month on important breaking news and issues in Studio City. The SCRA volunteer staff strives to keep the messages short and to the point without attachments.

Feel free to call SCRA volunteers at 818-509-0230 regarding any questions about the organization. The office is open Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If there is no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Like us on FACEBOOK.

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 am a resident who frequently uses the bike path along the Los Angeles River with my two young children. It is a safe place to let them run around, or at least that's what I thought. It may be safe from bike traffic, but it is often scary being down there. There are always homeless people. On one occasion, I sat down on the rock bench to give my son a snack. I quickly realized we were sitting on spattered blood and broken glass. Not fun. Actually my beloved little bike path that I am trying so hard to enjoy is not fun. It's dirty and scary, and I really would love to see it cleaned up, and maybe even lit up at night...that would be truly amazing!

SCRA: The Studio City River Greenway, planted in 2004, was the City's first native landscape project on the Los Angeles River. In the March 2014 SCRA newsletter, the SCRA reported on preliminary talks for the bikeway upgrade. The River Project has submitted a proposal to Councilmember Paul Krekorian, outlining the scope of work, including removal of non-native plants, watering schedules, and cleanup and establishment of a detailed maintenance plan with the Department of Parks and Recreation. The proposal is a two-year plan in three phases, including Phase One (one month): Survey of invasive and existing plant material and schedule of management; Phase Two (three months): Invasive species control, native species shaping, replanting, and mulch, and Phase Three (20 months): Management of an early establishment period.

The SCRA is committed to revitalizing this section of the Los Angeles River and will keep members informed of further development.

Q: Why are restaurants still serving unsolicited drinking water? Whom can I contact regarding this?

SCRA: From the Department of Water and Power Water Conservation Ordinance section on "Other Prohibited Water Uses":

- Watering of any hard surfaces such as sidewalks, walkways, driveways or parking areas;
- Outdoor watering during periods of rain;
- Allowing runoff onto streets and gutters from excessive watering;
- Allowing leaks from any pipe or fixture to go unrepaired;
- Washing vehicles without using a hose with a self-closing water shut-off nozzle; and



TO THE MARKET

The Studio City Farmers Market welcomed its newest vendor in April, Uncle Tanous Products. Specializing in Mediterranean delicacies, Uncle Tanous carries a complete line of

healthy vegetarian and vegan dishes, with the majority of them gluten free. There is no other vendor at the Market like Uncle Tanous, and they are happy to offer samples of all their products. Uncle Tanous is located on the north side of the street near Laurel Canyon Blvd.

During its February meeting, the Studio City Farmers Market Board of Directors selected the North Hollywood High School band as the recipient of this year's community grant. The award-winning band will use this \$5000 donation to purchase new instruments. In addition to this grant, the board will make smaller grants to other worthy organizations throughout the year. Past recipients include Carpenter Avenue Elementary School, Rio Vista School, Colfax Charter Elementary School, Walter Reed Middle School, Shane's Inspiration, the YMCA, the North Hollywood Food Pantry, the Studio City Library, Village Gardeners and more.

The Studio City Farmers Market provides free booth space to non-profit organizations wishing to promote an event or a cause. Space is assigned on a first come, first served basis, and is reserved several weeks in advance. Any organization interested in having a booth at the Market should email the market manager at manager@studiocityfarmersmarket.com. Given the high demand, booth space is limited to twice a year per organization.

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. Stop by and visit! The Market is open on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- Serving water to customers in restaurants unless specifically requested.

For a comprehensive list of all the prohibited uses of water, visit ladwp.com and click on the About Us tab (top middle of screen), Conservation and Ordinance & Codes.

Q: I live in the 4300 block of Rhodes Avenue, and the home next to me is being purchased by a builder. Where is the best place to find out my rights, the hours and days the builder can work, etc.? I want to address parking issues and other matters before construction begins.

(Continued, Page 4)

(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

SCRA: The best place to get this information is from the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (ladbs.org). There you can find all of the regulations pertaining to building projects, including work times and other rules that will help you address problems that may occur during construction. At this web site, you can also report violations, should they occur. We recommend using this means to resolve any problems that may occur, in order to avoid direct confrontation.

Also this property is within the hard fought for "Floor Area Ratio" ordinance, which has strict rules on size, roof slope, articulation, etc. You can find the ordinance on the SCRA website at Studiocityresidents.org. under Advocacy, then Planning and Land Use. Click on Ordinances and Frequently Asked Questions.

Q: I am writing in regards to the recent removal of a Sycamore tree on the parkway of 12346 Cantura Street in Studio City. On February 14, 2014, a demolition crew showed up at approximately 8:00 a.m. and immediately ripped out the tree, even though the tree was not in the way of where they needed to drive a tractor or any of their other trucks. They simply removed the tree just to remove it. Currently there are two large healthy Sycamore trees in the parkway in front of the above address (after the third one was ripped out). There is one on the east corner and one on the west corner of the property. From what I understand, one of the trees was among the first to be planted on Cantura Street. These trees absolutely should not be removed.



SCRA: Check out the article in the March SCRA newsletter article entitled "Protected Trees." The Western or California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) is a protected tree, and removal without a permit is punishable by fines up to \$10,000. The ordinance can be found at Bureau of Street Services (bss.lacity.org) Divisions Tab, Urban Forestry. Search for "protected trees" or call the City of Los Angeles hot line 311, and operators will connect you directly to the correct department.

(D.A., cont'd)

greatest threat. By teaming with the Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, probation officers, the City Attorney's office and others, prosecutors are able to effectively combat gang activity.

In addition, the District Attorney's office vigorously seeks justice for victims of sexual assault and child sexual abuse. The Sex Crimes Division program ensures that specially trained prosecutors handle sexual abuse cases throughout Los Angeles. District Attorney Lacey emphasized that many prostitutes are under age, and they are the victims; her office is focused on prosecuting both the clients of prostitutes and the procurers.

District Attorney Lacey also spoke about early steps being taken to prevent individuals from entering or drifting into a life of crime. She detailed a program being developed by her office that will provide early intervention and education in order to reduce the possibility of future criminal activities.

On a personal note, she described how her elderly mother was harmed by a scam in which she was asked to send money: her mother actually drove across town to make the transfer. Evidently this scam is still being perpetrated not just on seniors, although they are deemed the most vulnerable. In fact, SCRA members have called the office recently to advise about activity of this nature in Studio City

A representative from the California Senior Legislature who represents the interests of elderly Californians in Los Angeles County also spoke at the meeting. This group proposes legislation, seeks out elected officials to carry their proposed bills, and comments on and analyzes other pending legislative actions that may affect seniors. For more information about the structure and activities of this organization, visit www.4csl.org.

KEEP UP WITH THE SCRA 24/7: NEW WEBSITE AND NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

The Studio City Residents Association is proud to launch its new website at www.studiocityresidents.org. The site not only sports a new, fresh look and feel, but provides users with an easy way to find updates on the latest issues and opportunities in Studio City and the SCRA's many activities. In addition, the SCRA is now on Facebook with its own page. Like us on Facebook to get news and views on hot topics and opportunities to get involved and make a difference in our community.

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

The Special Olympics' World Games will be held in the Los Angeles area in 2015. Studio City has been selected as a host town. The Studio City Chamber of Commerce is coordinating the hosting of athletes and coaches.

The SCRA has a new website, which was just launched. The board also approved plans for an SCRA Facebook page, which will be launched simultaneously with the website.

The selection of proposed improvements on city property in Studio City at large, being funded in part by NBC Universal, is in the final determination process. The pocket park on Laurel Canyon Blvd. on the northeast corner of the Los Angeles River has been selected for landscaping improvements. Another

project under consideration is a water feature at Moorpark Park. Both projects are presently under review for further cost analysis.

CicLAvia is coming to the San Fernando Valley in Spring 2015 and will run through Studio City. The exact date and final route are not yet finalized, although organizers have said the starting point will be somewhere near the two Red Line stations in the East Valley.

The bike path on the south bank of the Los Angeles River from Laurel Canyon Blvd. to Whitsett Avenue is being surveyed to identify invasive non-native species and recommended replacements.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

Over the years, I have hiked many trails in the Santa Monica Mountains, including the "Backbone Trial," "Dirt Mulholland," "From the Valley to the Sea," and other trails from Wilacre Park in Studio City to the Ventura County line. Recently, a call from a Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) member alerted me to an article in Supervisor Yaroslavsky's March 21 newsletter in which the Supervisor stated that the Board of Supervisors by a 4-1 vote had adopted a landmark plan known as the Local Coastal Program (LCP). This program is the first step in protecting the Santa Monica Mountains area from uncontrolled over-development.

*The article alleges that a campaign of misinformation is being conducted in opposition to the LCP by those who have development interests at heart. According to the Supervisor, it is a manufactured opposition rather than a response to the factual elements of the LCP. By way of example, he says statements are being circulated such as "The LCP will take away your dogs." I logged onto the County website and read the LCP. Separate areas of interest are addressed, and there are many FAQs about these areas of interest. I also reviewed a copy of the top 15 environmental benefits of the plan. I reached the conclusions that the Supervisor's rebuttal points are verified by the LCP. (The newsletter can be found at <http://zev.lacounty.gov/blog/exposing-a-mountain>) The LCP can be found at Planning@Lacounty.gov /coastal **

Given the fact that the SCRA has always supported the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in its many efforts to protect the mountains, the SCRA filed a letter of support of the LCP with the Coastal Commission. Other organizations supporting the LCP include the Sierra Club, Heal the Bay, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, California Coastal Protection Network, State Senator Fran Pavley, Assembly member Richard Bloom and a broad cross-section of the equestrian community. The Coastal Commission held a hearing on April 10 during which the Commission adopted the LCP. Further public hearings will be necessary for a Land Use Plan Amendment to be put into effect. The SCRA will keep our members informed.

Finally, SCRA members were contacted about this topic via SCRA News and Notes and encouraged to provide their support via email with the Commissioners. Thank you to our members for taking the time to provide support for the plan.

** To navigate the site, go to Land Use and Zoning and access the drop-down menus to Community Planning Efforts, Santa Monica, LCP.*

Alan Dymond

SCRA Committees

Burbank Airport, Chair: Chris Barnes
Crime and Safety
Los Angeles River Committee
Membership
Planning and Land Use

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Art Howard

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Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

Co-Directors
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Art Howard, Patty Kirby, Chip Meehan,
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saveopensepace@SLAROS.org

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Rio Vista - Barbara Robbin
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

Studio City Farmers Market

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MAY 2014

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m. Reception
- 7:30 p.m. Josh Rubenstein,
President, North
Hollywood Community
Police Advisory Board.
Esther Feldman,
President, Community
Conservation Solutions

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.***

The SCRA thanks Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn for continued support of the monthly SCRA Community Meetings

