

IN THIS ISSUE:

Alternate Plan for HW Page 2

Beautification Update Page 3

From Your Board Page 5

January 2024

**SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND
CANDIDATE FORUM - COUNCIL DISTRICT 4**

*Bridges Academy
Tuesday, January 9, 2024
Meeting from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM*

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is where the 2024 SCRA Officers are introduced and recognized to serve another year.

Candidate Forum

The SCRA is Hosting a Candidate Forum for Council District 4 before the March Primary.



Candidates:

Incumbent Councilmember Nithya Raman

Neighborhood Prosecutor Ethan Weaver

(Any candidate that polls at 20% or more of the vote will also be invited to participate in the forum.)



Rules:

There will be an opening statement for each of the candidates followed by a Q&A from the audience. Due to time constraints, the audience will be given 1 minute to ask a question; the candidate will give a 2-minute answer and the opposing candidate will then have a 1 minute rebuttal. There will be a short summation from each candidate at the end of the Q&A period.

FOOLISHNESS OF THE DIGITAL BILLBOARD REVENUE

In the November newsletter, we reported that the digital billboard blight that we will endure will generate very little revenue for LA's public transportation.

Metro's Transportation Communication Network (TCN) Project is the definition of Fool's Gold. Purported to generate anywhere from \$300M-\$500M over a 15-to-20-year period, this ploy by the outdoor advertising industry to litter our streets with more blight will have a minimal impact in generating meaningful revenue for Los Angeles' public transportation needs.

Each year, the City and Metro are expected to share 50/50 in the revenue. The impact of dividing \$151 million equally over 15 districts in Los Angeles, over 20 years is quite minimal, amounting to just over \$500,000 annually per district. But this is if all goes well. Chicago and Denver experienced market disruption due to an influx of digital billboards, resulting in decreased rates, lower occupancy, and reduced revenue for both operators and the cities. Also, who bears the brunt of the revenue lost from the removal of 125 static signs on LACTMA property? That is not clear and would also skew these financial projections considerably.

And, finally, only one vendor (AllVision) has an opportunity to bid on this impactful project.



UPDATE FROM SLAROS

ALTERNATE PLAN FOR WEDDINGTON GOLF AND TENNIS DEVELOPMENT



Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) continues to champion the preservation of open space along the Los Angeles River,

specifically, we are working to save a portion of the natural land at the Weddington Golf and Tennis facility.

The Los Angeles City Council gave short-shrift to the community's concerns and ignored the California Environmental Quality Act requirements to provide an environmentally superior plan for the Harvard-Westlake project. In a world where hotter temperatures are crippling our environment; how can a school be given the go-ahead to clear cut over 200 trees and suffocate open green space in plastic and concrete? It is unacceptable that City Planning and The City Council did not push back or even attempt to mitigate the profound consequences building a private school sports complex will have on the surrounding city. We have filed a petition with the court, challenging the inadequacy and inconsistencies of the Environmental Impact Report.

We are proposing an alternative, reasonable solution, one which we have carefully considered and for which we have received overwhelming support.

Our goal is to save precious open space, prevent the destruction of over 200 trees, and prevent the installation of acres of impermeable, artificial turf. Professionals hired by SLAROS agree that saving open space is the correct way forward.

Many community members and organizations presented an alternate plan to the School that would reduce the impact on the neighborhood and the environment, keep the historical elements, and ensure that this open space will be a community gathering spot while preserving over 100 trees. However, because our City Council members were deaf to our concerns and to the many environmental experts who pointed out the environmental consequences of paving over green open space, the School did not listen.

At this point, in mediation, Harvard-Westlake will be asked to consider an alternate plan that will create an open-space, green park as part of their project. To accept it would be a win-win for Harvard-Westlake School and the community.

The alternate plan would allow Harvard-Westlake to meet their stated objectives, as well as create a unique park, we call "The Commons" as a buffer for the neighborhood between the build-out of their sports center which includes a gymnasium with bleachers, parking lot, a sports field, pool, and tennis courts. It would also offset the carbon footprint of the sports complex and be a place to plant an urban forest.

In addition, The Commons would offer an inclusive space—a place for students and the community alike to flourish in a natural environment. The Commons would create space for wildlife to thrive, a place to teach sustainable living, room for students to think and dream, and green space for Angelenos to continue to enjoy the many benefits of cooling mature trees, and land along the LA River that will absorb water and deposit it into the aquifer.

Your donation in any amount will help us to continue to hire the professionals we need to turn this site into The Commons, a true green, community gathering place.

Save LA River Open Space is an all-volunteer, nonprofit group of your neighbors fighting to preserve the Open Space at Weddington Golf and Tennis site in Studio City and keep it available to the public. I invite you to visit our website, www.saveLARiveropenspace.org to stay updated on our efforts. We are also on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

As you might know, this site is still threatened by development. This threat is becoming even more urgent.



AN EVENING AT THE CAMPO WITH FRITZ COLEMAN

Campo de Cahuenga will be having its annual celebration on the evening of January 18, 2024, from 7-9 pm and it will include some local history for all those history buffs out there. Thanks to Los Angeles Recreation and Parks and City Council President Paul Krekorian, the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Cahuenga will be noted along with the humor of local comedian Fritz Coleman.

The Campo is located at 3919 Lankershim Blvd. 91604, next to the MetroRail station, where free parking will be available. The event is planned for outdoors, weather permitting.

For more information, go to www.campodecahuenga.com

SCRA, YOUR COMMUNITY ADVOCATES FOR 61 YEARS AND COUNTING...



BENEFITS OF YOUR SCRA MEMBERSHIP

- **SCRA Member Discount Cards** are mailed approximately 7-10 days after membership renewal or upon joining. We have over 30 businesses participating in this program, don't miss out on all that Studio City has to offer. See the back page of this newsletter for a quick list of participating businesses. Use the QR code to get further information on the discounts they offer.

- **Digital Newsletter option available.** You can Opt-in to
- (Continued, Page 3)**

(SCRA, cont'd)

receive the Digital version of our newsletter, email us at SCRANewsletter@studiocityresidents.org and we will add you to our digital mailing list.

GET TO KNOW OUR WEBSITE

In this issue, we are spotlighting:

STUDIO CITY CARES AWARDS.

studiocityresidents.org/about-us/studio-city-cares-awards

Each year the Studio City Residents Association Board has recognized outstanding service to the community with the presentation of the Studio City Cares Awards. Starting in 2022, we began awarding these awards throughout the year. More information and a look back at past recipients can be found under STUDIO CITY CARES AWARDS on our website,,

studiocityresidents.org.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President



Happy New Year from the Studio City Beautification Association and welcome to 2024.

The last time we said Happy New Year was to welcome in 2023 and now here we are saying hello to 2024. Can you believe a year has gone by already?

Studio City Beautification Association had a remarkable 2023 and we couldn't have done it without you. Because of your support, we were able to:

- Beautify the Oakdell Sanctuary with new Agave plants
- Replace the destroyed Welcome sign on Laurel Canyon
- Plant native/drought-tolerant plants on the Vineland/Whipple median
- Mulch, weed, and prune all beautification sites
- Remove graffiti from our beautification sites and Welcome signs
- Repair water leaks caused by vandalism and illegal camping
- Repair and replant medians damaged by cars & trucks

This year, the center of our concentration will be adding more trees to create more urban tree canopy, enhancing our existing sites with native and drought-tolerant plants, installing a new Welcome sign on the south side of Ventura at Longridge, beautifying the Coldwater Canyon median and the Eastside median (across from the BLVD Hotel).

SCBA is an all-volunteer team dedicated to the beautification and improvement of our community and we invite you to join us. If you're interested, call the office at (818) 509-0230 or send us an email at studiocitybeautificationassoc@gmail.com

And if the excitement of all the holiday activities distracted you from making your End of the Year tax-deductible donation to



TO THE MARKET

As the sun sets on 2023, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible journey we've had at the Studio City Farmers Market throughout the past year. It was a year filled with growth, community engagement, and a celebration of local flavors.

Continuing with the tradition of giving back to the community, the Market donated funds to many organizations in 2023, including Tierra Del Sol, Valley College Helping Hands, Careers Through Culinary Arts Program, Cedars Sinai Virtual Concerts, Power of Sight Foundation, Street lights on Ventura Place, East Valley YMCA, Adopt a Senior, the Interfaith Food Pantry and the North Hollywood High School Drama Department.

As we say goodbye to 2023, we are grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of the Market - the farmers, artisans, volunteers, and, most importantly, our customers - who have all played a vital role in making this past year exceptional.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the prospects for the new year. The Studio City Farmers Market will continue to evolve, adapt, and grow, remaining a vibrant hub where community and commerce intersect.

Here's to a new year filled with fresh possibilities, local delights, and the continued joy of community at the heart of it all.

Happy New Year from the Studio City Farmers Market family!

SCBA say hello to 2024 with a Happy New Year gift.

Go to our website StudioCityBeautification.org and click Donate, scan the QR code, and go directly to the SCBA donation page or give the office a call.



Stay safe and see you in the neighborhood.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS THE LATEST NEWS

Tujunga Village / Woodbridge Park Party House Sold - Neighborhood Response Gets Results but City Ordinance Needs Added Protections

We're pleased to report that the "party house" in Studio City's Tujunga Village / Woodbridge Park neighborhood has been sold. Overall, we believe that the sale of the party house could be a positive step and are grateful to the ad-hoc neighborhood team who acted swiftly, smartly, and strongly, with the support of Councilmember Paul Krekorian's team (CD2), LAPD, the City Attorney's office and the SCRA, to tackle this explosive issue. LA's City Attorney Office told us that the prior owner was fined

(Continued, Page 4)

(Rentals, cont'd)

over \$15,000 for various violations of LA's Home-Sharing Ordinance, providing further incentive to sell the property. Together, we had a meaningful impact on a situation that was a real threat to the neighborhood.

We have spoken with the new owners who are seeking long-term renters for the main house, the 2-story detached ADU, and the junior ADU attached to the main house. As we go to press, one of three units has been rented. The new owners were made aware of "noise-related" issues prior to the sale but not aware of the June 25 episode and subsequent disruptive parties previously reported in this newsletter which ignited the strong neighborhood response to preserve our neighborhood tranquility.

Longer-term, we will continue to support Councilmember Paul Krekorian's efforts to strengthen and close loopholes in LA's Home-Sharing Ordinance to prevent this from ever happening again. Studio City residents must remain vigilant, as this is likely not the last time our neighborhoods will experience illegal short-term rentals and party houses. In fact, we have already identified another illegal Short-Term Rental (STR) in our neighborhood that is being rented illegally as it is not owner-occupied in clear violation of the Ordinance. We are also closely monitoring the Brady Bunch House which was allegedly purchased with the intent to use it for STRs and events.

The issue of owner occupancy is THE primary neighborhood protection in the Home Sharing Ordinance. The City currently relies on a government-issued ID, utility bills, and other valid forms of identification to validate owner occupancy. However, we know how easy it is to produce utility bills and other IDs with an address of a residence one may own but does not occupy. This is a loophole in the validation process and as a City trying to balance everyone's rights and needs, we can't stand by when unscrupulous owners take advantage of an obvious loophole impacting what may be the most important protection in the Home Sharing Ordinance. Owner occupancy validation is complicated but if the City can't figure this one out, we have a real problem.

On another note, we have suggested that the City require Airbnb and realtors (leveraging the LA Board of Realtors) to validate that all properties have a valid registration with the City BEFORE STR listings can be posted on Airbnb and other sites. This would greatly reduce owners using expired or inaccurate registration numbers to advertise their illegal listings.

We'll continue to provide updates on this all-important issue of Short-Term Rentals and their impacts on our neighborhoods. In the meantime, CD2 has provided the following resource list for residents experiencing issues:

- For excessive noise, unruly gatherings (party houses), and criminal activity please contact the Police Department (LAPD) at 877-275-5273 (non-emergency number). For violent crimes in progress, call 911.
- To report disruptive activity to the registered Host of a Short-Term Rental, please call the 24/7 Home-Sharing Line at (213) 267-7788. If the property is registered, a call will go out to the Host's emergency contact. Please note that emergency contact information is only available for registered properties.

- For concerns regarding trash/litter, please contact the Bureau of Sanitation at 888-524-2845.
- For parking issues, please contact the Department of Transportation (LADOT) at 213-485-4184 or 818-374-4823.
- For fire hazards, please contact the Fire Department (LAFD) at 213-978-3800 or 800-994-4444.
- For building code violations in single-family homes or in condominiums, please contact the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) using the following link: www.ladbs.org/services/core-services/code-enforcement
- For building code violations in multifamily dwellings (including single-family homes with an ADU on the same property) and apartments, please contact the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) using the following link: housingapp.lacity.org/ReportViolation/Pages/ReportViolation

NEIGHBOR

TO NEIGHBOR



The SCRA is always in the 'know' and works tirelessly for our community with a firsthand understanding and compassion of the homeowners in mind.

Gail Steinberg



OPEN SPACE IS THE KEY TO TRANQUILITY

For many years SCRA had opposed the commercial development of Weddington Golf and Tennis which would have taken away precious open space forever. Initially, SCRA welcomed the opportunity to have Harvard Westlake as a stable entity as the steward of the property. We welcomed the press release by Rick Commons, Harvard-Westlake School President, with a promise Harvard-Westlake with a promise to keep the tranquility of the neighborhood and its unique location as a family center open to all. SCRA welcomed a Public / Private partnership to preserve this open space. One that would be a benefit to both the neighborhood and Harvard-Westlake. The school instead decided to create a huge sports complex that is not in keeping with tranquility, open space, or a community center.

At present, Harvard-Westlake has received a unanimous vote at the City Council for a Conditional Use Permit to proceed with the destruction of 240 trees and replace them with acres of non-permeable artificial turf and generally not keep the promise of a tranquil residential neighborhood.

(Continued, Page 5)

(Space, cont'd)

The SCRA and SLAROS have filed a petition with the court challenging the inadequacy and inconsistencies of the Environmental Impact Report. Follow our progress at www.savelariveropenspace.org

Alan Dymond, President Emeritus

FROM YOUR BOARD

The Los Angeles City Council has approved a proposal for creating an Independent Redistricting Commission to draw future City Council District boundaries.

The proposal is the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on City Governance Reform, led by Council President Paul Krekorian and Vice Chair Councilmember Nithya Raman. The Committee's proposal took shape over a dozen meetings held around the City and was informed by seven hours of public comment, testimony from reform advocates and academic experts, and a 100-plus-page report from the City's Chief Legislative Analyst.

Speaking to the press prior to the Council vote, Common Cause Vice President of Programs Kathay Feng, a nationally recognized expert on redistricting reform, praised the Committee's work as "the gold standard" for independent redistricting.

Redistricting Reform: The Details

- The commission selection process is to be administered by the City Clerk's office. Volunteers can apply to become redistricting commissioners, but applications will not be accepted from elected officials, their family members, their staff, candidates, lobbyists, or political consultants.
- Applications will be published for public review and the City's Ethics Commission will screen applicants for conflict of interest.
- Applicants will be chosen at random from eight large

geographic divisions of the City, all roughly equal in population.

- The first eight commissioners will select eight more from the same citywide pool of applicants, to balance the diversity of the Commission, taking race, gender, age, income, and other factors into account.
- The commissioners will be tasked with drawing districts that are roughly equal in size, based on the latest census data.
- Districts will comply with state and federal laws requiring that no recognizable group, such as a race or ethnicity, may be arbitrarily divided into multiple districts to dilute their opportunity for representation.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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. The petition must bear original signatures of a minimum of twenty-five (25) members in good standing along with an acknowledgment signed by the proposed officer with the Association's office no later than December 1, 2023.

No such petition has been filed at the Association's office by any candidate seeking election as an officer of the SCRA, therefore the nominating period is closed.

Nominations

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Nominating Committee has nominated the following candidates as officers of the association for the year 2024.

President, Barry Johnson
Vice President, Stephen Sass
Treasurer, Sharon Udkoff
Secretary, Connie Elliot

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

WHO WE ARE

SCRA OFFICERS

Barry Johnson, Acting President
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Alan Dymond, President Emeritus
Beth Dymond
Martha Hanrahan
John Hartich
Bonnie Kalaf
Stephen Sass
Lana Shackelford
Karen Younce

BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Meg McDonald Seltzer, President
Beth Dymond, Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Barry Johnson
Marsha Lewis
Lynette Berg Robe
Doug Short
Karen Younce
StudioCityBeautificationAssoc@gmail.com

SAVE LA RIVER OPEN SPACE OFFICERS

Dale Fernandez, President
Beth Dymond, Secretary
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Alan Dymond, President Emeritus
Barry Johnson
Holly Noelle-Levy
SaveOpenSpace@SLAROS.org

STUDIO CITY FARMERS MARKET

(818) 655-7744
StudioCityFarmersMarket.com

NEWSLETTER

Graphic Design: Kevin Lewis
(818) 667-6647 Kevin@KevLew.com

STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 1374, STUDIO CITY, CA 91614
PH: (818) 509-0230 FAX: (818) 206-3419


SCRABOARD@STUDIOCITYRESIDENTS.ORG

Hello Again.

The SCRA Member Discount Card is back for our 5th year! Join us as we continue celebrating our 60+ years advocating for you. When you renew your membership, you will receive your new Member Discount Card that is welcomed at these local businesses: (New cards available on or after July 1st)

- Anna Cheselka Dance
- April Davis Investigations
- Arnold's Copy & Print
- Auto Plaza
- Back to Wellness
- Belle Bakery Cafe
- BLVD Hotel & Spa
- Charlies' Shoe Repair
- Chateau de Luce
- Classic Toys
- Cocoa and Candy
- Creation Station Studio
- City
- Dana Kathryn Jewelry
- Danielli Menswear
- Diana's Boutique
- Eye Candy Optometry
- Eyedentity Eyewear
- Flair Cleaners
- Floaty Swim School
- Gisele Tune Clothing
- Gramercy Boutique
- Habit Boutique
- James Thomas Stained Glass
- La Knitterie Parisienne
- Matthew's Jewelry Store
- Panache Boutique
- Pepe's Pizza
- Prosecco Trattoria
- Rain Bar & Lounge
- Rouge
- SALT. Optics
- topdrawer
- The Village
- Vitello's Restaurant
- Wild Flora



Scan this  To see more info on the businesses and their discounts.



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



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



JAN 2024

PRINTED WITH SOY-BASED INKS

There is strength in numbers!

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 772
Van Nuys, CA

SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024

AGENDA

Candidate Forum

- 6:45 p.m. Meet and Greet
- 7:00 p.m. Meeting Begins
- 7:15 p.m. Candidate Forum

Annual General Meeting

Candidate Forum : Council

District 4

MEETING LOCATION

Bridges Academy
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604

Free parking in school lot.
Enter on Maxwelton.



SCRABear@studiocityresidents.org
www.studiocityresidents.org

