



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

February 2010

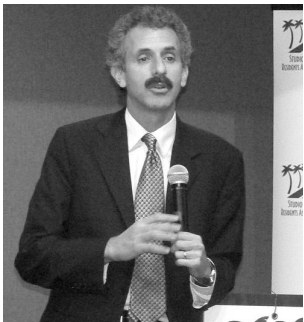
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ASSEMBLYMEMBER MIKE FEUER UPDATES THE SCRA ON THE REAL STATE OF THE STATE



Assemblymember Mike Feuer addressed the January SCRA Community Meeting, giving SCRA members and guests a review of 2009 legislative accomplishments and a perspective on what to expect in 2010.

According to Feuer, 2009 was a very challenging year given the impact of the State budget; however, major legislation was still passed. Feuer authored two bills that will have a major impact on Californians, including the Urban Water Conservation Requirements. This bill requires a 20 percent reduction in urban water use by 2020. In addition, the bill requires agricultural water suppliers to develop water management plans and to adopt specified efficient water management practices, both at no cost to taxpayers.

The state legislature also enacted landmark legislation that makes California the first state in the nation to establish a model program providing the right to counsel for low income people involved in critical civil cases. Criminals are afforded the right to counsel at no cost, while others who cannot afford to have representation have been left out up to this point. Feuer also reported that nursing homes will be required to post quality of care ratings, helping families looking for a nursing home for a loved one to have a better means to compare and evaluate their options. According to Feuer, "Families trying to choose a nursing home need more information so they can compare quality of care information and make the right decision." He added, "Soon nursing homes will post their federal ratings, and families confronting this very difficult choice will be better informed. Most importantly, their loved ones will be better protected."

This year, Feuer is joint chair of a Senate Assembly Committee on Improving State Government. He offered, "Our economic crisis compels us to transform California's budget process, prioritize our core services and squeeze every ounce of efficiency from scarce tax dollars." He also discussed Prop 13, saying it will be revisited to exclude commercial properties and retain residential, called "splitting the roll."

Feuer encouraged the community to become engaged at all levels of government, suggesting citizens can play a big part in determining where limited State funds should be allocated. He is also open to hearing from constituents who have ideas about job creation, offering his cell phone (310-367-9558) so individuals can contact him personally with their ideas.

BASELINE FLATLAND MANSIONIZATION ORDINANCE UPDATE

The proposed "Studio City Residential Floor Area District" ordinance (known as the "Studio City Overlay") will be heard before the City Planning Commission on Thursday, February 25, 2010, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Van Nuys City Hall. This is the last hurdle prior to the City Council vote. Members are urged to attend this hearing to support the long and hard fought five-year battle to save local neighborhoods from the impact of huge, out-of-proportion mansions.

This overlay is a part of the city's Baseline Flatland Mansionization ordinance that allows communities to determine what percentage single family residences may take up on a lot. Currently, that number is 50 percent. The Studio City Residential Floor Area District (RFA) will reduce the percentage further on flatland lots. This new RFA is based on Studio City's overlay, which has been overwhelmingly supported by residents at SCRA-sponsored town hall meetings held in May 2008 and July 2009.

BREAKING NEWS

Colfax Bridge

Two days before the demolition of the Colfax Bridge, Jim Wu and Christine Jones of the Bridge Improvement Program provided SCRA members and guests at the SCRA January Community Meeting with the latest updates on detours and traffic control related to the bridge construction. Earlier that day, the SCRA and the Studio City Neighborhood Council met the contractor, city inspector, as well as Jim and Christine to review last-minute details.

SCRA members can track progress and reports at <http://eng.lacity.org/index.cfm>. Under the section for "Construction," there is a bullet with "Project Information Reports." From there, the project can be found through various means, such as Council District and Project Title. Check the report for Colfax Ave/LA River-1141. The site will be updated at least once a month or whenever there is a significant change. For additional questions or concerns, please contact Lisa Sarkin at lsarkin@sncninfo.

Studio Oaks

The Steering Committee for the Studio Oaks Neighborhood Walking Park heard on January 6, 2009 from the City of Los Angeles Public Works Department regarding the Studio Oaks Park construction schedule. Public Works expects to complete the park construction by the end of the first week of February, provided there are not unexpected events that cause a delay. Construction includes repair to the median between Van Noord and Valley Vista damaged by the September 2009 Coldwater Canyon DWP water main break. Additional improvements include mulching and hardscaping.

ADVANCE NOTICE: DATE CHANGE FOR APRIL COMMUNITY MEETING

The April SCRA Community Meeting will be held on Thursday April 15, 2010 at the Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn. The meeting will feature a presentation of the updated Save Los Angeles River Open Space plans for Weddington Golf & Tennis, which will show the extended scope, new engineering solutions, energy/solar efficiencies and water storage and river water clean up, plus other new features of this plan. The SCRA has asked Senator Fran Pavley to discuss the elements necessary to proceed with making this open space a reality. Other government representatives will be invited to attend.

MOORPARK PARKWAY GOES GREEN

The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) has completed its second major project within a year's time, this time planting more than 600 plants on the two strips of tarmac that parallel Moorpark Avenue across from Moorpark Park. The project was a collaboration of various entities. North East Trees designed and installed the plants and also made a connection for the SCBA to Environmental Furniture. Assisted by Clean Air, Environmental Furniture provided a generous grant to partially fund the project, receiving full credits for the



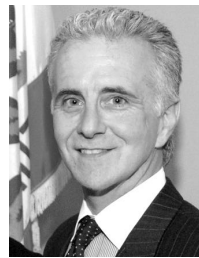
planting of a dozen Quercus Agrifolia Coast Live Oaks as a responsible green manufacturer.

Although the oaks are small right now and will take generations to reach full maturity, the splendor and dignity they bring is significant. To see how oak trees grow, take a walk along the pathway under the mature oaks at Ventura west of Coldwater. When an acorn first starts growing into a tree, it pushes a taproot straight down into the ground. There are many baby oaks growing among the ivy under these oak trees; their roots are strong. That will be the same situation on Moorpark.

In addition to the oaks, the planting on Moorpark Avenue included 17 Arbutus 'Marina' Strawberry Trees and a palette of Mediterranean varieties. There are different varieties of Aeonium, Agaves, Aloes, Sedum, Sempervivums, as well as Bougainvillea and Phormium. The native California fuchsia is such a fast grower that it could almost catch up to the oaks by the end of spring.

The surface between the trees and plants is permeable: the plants are fully compatible with the local Mediterranean climate and feature a water-conserving drip system. All this is part of the effort to "green up" Studio City.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER PAUL KREKORIAN TO SPEAK AT FEBRUARY SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING



Newly elected City Council member Paul Krekorian will address SCRA members and guests at the SCRA Community Meeting on February 9, 2010. Although Council member Krekorian supports smart development that allows for continued economic growth and vitality, he nevertheless has said planning for that kind

of development should rely heavily on neighborhood-based decision making. Krekorian will discuss how doing so will enhance and preserve the character of neighborhoods; bring together housing, transportation and jobs; and make communities more livable. The Community Meeting will take place on February 9, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theater Room. Light refreshments begin at 7:00 p.m.

IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

Senior Exercise Class at Studio City Recreation Center (aka Beeman Park), 12621 Rye Street, Studio City, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for all seniors from 55 to 95. Join this fun class and learn to exercise the entire body; includes chair and standing exercises. For more information, call the park at 818-769-4415 or Marge at 818-763-6779.

Studio City Beautification Association Annual Board Meeting, March 8, 2010, 12:00 p.m. Swear in new officers and discuss the Moorpark Parkway completion and 2010 upcoming projects. Space is limited: if you wish to attend please send an e-mail: Attn: SCBA to SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org

Special SCRA Community Meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2010. The SCRA is moving its regularly scheduled second Tuesday community meeting in April to the second Thursday of the month, April 15, 2010. During this meeting, Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) will discuss the positive outcomes of its long-awaited feasibility study, which is a giant step towards preserving the valuable open space known as Weddington Golf & Tennis. SLAROS will unveil the positive results of the study, which is a cornerstone to the realization of its no-development alternative, known as Los Angeles River Natural Park.

The SCRA's February and March Community Meetings continue on the regularly scheduled days, the second Tuesday of each month.

Studio City Library

New Friday Hours: The library is now open Fridays from 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Book Donations: Every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in the library community room. Donations in "good enough condition to be resold" accepted. Receipts for donations are available.

Book Sale: Saturday, February 27, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please bring bags or boxes for purchases of books, videos and DVDs.

SAVE LA RIVER OPEN SPACE TAKES BIG STEP FORWARD

The preliminary results from the first phase of the feasibility study for the Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) no-development alternate vision for the property known as Weddington Golf and Tennis are in! The study confirmed that the LA River Natural Park concept, which focuses on the capture and clean-up of runoff water from a very large surrounding area – with all of its "river-friendly" components, including riparian habitat – is definitely feasible, and can preserve the traditional uses of this site, including tennis courts and golf practice elements.

The second phase of the study is already underway and is being partially funded by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC). With this concept vision, SLAROS



TO THE MARKET

February is usually a quiet month at the Studio City Farmers Market but not in 2010. Be sure to visit the market to try its new vendors. In the farmers section, look for Fat Uncle

Farm and sample its almond products from the San Joaquin Valley, including spicy almonds, honey roasted and much more. Scott the Tomato Man has returned with his hot house tomatoes that always sell out each week. In the food section, be sure to taste the rotisserie chicken and roasted garlic potatoes from Grill Masters and take home a whole roaster for later. Grill Roasters is currently at the market every other week until it receives a new truck, currently on order from Germany, which will allow it to be in Studio City each week. Last but not least, try Brent's Dazzle Gourmet Baked Corn.

The Studio City Farmers Market is pleased to support the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry, which comes to the Studio City Farmers Market at the end of each Sunday for anything the farmers would like to donate. According to pantry leadership, market has changed the lives of the people served by the pantry, which is providing food to record numbers of needy families and the homeless. Fresh fruits and vegetables given by the market have become a real treat.

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.

continues to engage Senator Fran Pavley, who, in addition to the SMMC, is supportive of this cutting edge "green" river park. SLAROS appreciates the private donations made so generously by the SCRA membership and other organizations. Those monies help provide for the continuous efforts to save this precious open space. Visit SLAROS on Facebook and Twitter. For more information, visit the SLAROS web site at www.SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org.

MEET THE SCRA BOARD: CLAUDIA FREEDLE, ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT



As Administrative Vice President for the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA), Claudia Freedle is responsible for leasing and managing the SCRA office as well as overseeing and recruiting the volunteer office staff. Claudia arranges for all SCRA Community and special meetings, handling any special requirements for meeting presenters. Claudia also works with Burbank Printing for the production of the SCRA newsletter and handles other printing needs for SCRA sister organizations, Save LA River Open Space and

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Studio City Beautification Association. She also serves as one of the proofreaders for the newsletter. Claudia keeps SCRA board members up to date by routing electronic communications received from the City to the appropriate board members. She assists in the annual membership renewal drive and keeps the SCRA informed on a daily basis.

Claudia, a 30-year Studio City resident, owned a real estate business for thirty years, serving as both a real estate broker and property manager. Her late husband, Sam, worked in the television and motion picture industry for more than forty years. Sam was the original production manager of the television series "Star Trek, The Next Generation" with Sir Patrick Stewart. When Sam retired for health reasons, Claudia sold her business in 2000. She became active in the SCRA, first as board secretary and then Administrative Vice President, a position she has held for the past five years.

COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

By Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis

Within the last year or two, there have been a number of neighborhoods in Studio City that have held Neighborhood Watch meetings; as a result, they have come together to report and respond to suspicious activity in their communities. Many of these neighborhoods have established databases of hundreds of neighbors' e-mail addresses and phone trees of those living in the area. Neighbors regularly email each other regarding suspicious activity or just ask each other questions about what to do or who to call in a given hypothetical situation. This process has provided the LAPD with a means to quickly get information out.

Residents who are not yet connected to each other and who want to share information with each other and with the police can work with us to create a Neighborhood Watch, which is essentially a group of residents who get together to exchange information. The first step is to agree to be the "building block," by contacting the lead officer and setting up a meeting with your neighbors, usually in someone's home. During the first meeting, all participants will exchange phone numbers and e-mail addresses and discuss ways to prevent becoming victims to crime. Topics addressed in the meeting include the first place burglars go and what they look for, how to harden the target and how community members can help the police catch perpetrators. Plus, there is the added benefit of getting to know the neighbors.

Community members who are not interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch, but who want to get updates on local crime activity, can send in their email address to 31575@lapd.lacity.org to be included in the distribution list of the Neighborhood Watch group closest to them.

There is a downside to increased awareness of criminal activity in our community and that is the possibility of creating a perception that crime is out of control. Recently, a Studio City resident said, "I'm confused. Do we live in a high- or low-crime neighborhood? It seems like these house-casings happen several times a week now."

The fact is Studio City has led North Hollywood Division in property crimes for at least the last 15 years. However, the community is very low on violent crime (robbery, shootings, etc.). There are more houses and cars broken into in Studio City than any of the other eight sections of North Hollywood Division. Part of the problem of being so connected to LAPD and the local community in a Neighborhood Watch group is that neighbors are made aware of the incidents and suspicious circumstances. Yet, things have not gotten worse; in fact, eight-to-ten years ago, the number of cars and homes that were broken into were twice as many as they are now.

The reality is the crime numbers for Part-1 crimes (Robbery, Aggravated Assaults, Homicide, Rape, Burglary, Grand Theft Auto, Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicle, Arson and Thefts) in the City of Los Angeles for the year 2008 were equivalent, per capita, to the crime numbers not seen since 1961. And in 2009, we had an eight percent decrease compared to the historic low crime numbers in 2008. The North Hollywood Division reported a 12 percent reduction compared to the crime numbers in 2008. We are at historic lows.

In 2002, the City had 167,000 crime reports, while in 2008, the community reported 116,000. These are huge decreases. Ten years ago, the crime numbers in Studio City were often double that what we are seeing now.

If you see something suspicious, call the LAPD non-emergency number at 877-ASK-LAPD. If it is a life threatening situation, or a crime in progress, call 911. Officer Lewis can be reached on his cell phone at 818-634-2593.

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

Past SCRA Board President Art Howard was appointed the SCRA Director to the Studio City Farmers Market. Art has performed this duty since the inception of the market and is willing to continue in this volunteer role.

The SCRA Board voted to send \$500 to Haiti earthquake relief. The funds will go to the organization already in place through Campbell Hall.

As the SCRA Land Use Committee Chairperson, Art Howard is dealing with issues at Platinum Live. The venue is starting a dinner theatre without the required valet parking or an adequate parking lot. It is advertising hours later than the conditions negotiated by SCRA that were placed on Platinum Live at its inception. These conditions are part of the permit to operate.

Art is also working on proposed parkway tree removal in the 4000 block of Irvine to accommodate solar panels on a private home. The SCRA will provide updates on these issues as information develops.

Board member Andrea Neumann was appointed Crime and Safety Chair in place of Tiffany Petroc, who is on maternity leave.

The SCRA is working with Campbell Hall on Big Sunday, May 2, 2010 and will provide updates as projects are finalized. SCRA members are encouraged to participate,

ASK THE SCRA

This month, "Ask the SCRA" recaps problems that faced Studio City recently and the solutions the SCRA was able to provide. Interestingly, many of these issues addressed by the SCRA are now showing up in other neighborhoods. 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.

311

311 is a very important telephone number to know after 911. A call to 311 will connect callers to a City of Los Angeles operator who will listen to the problem, concern or request and connect the caller to the proper City Department. Most calls reach a live person. Be sure to write down the phone number the operator provides in order to follow up directly. Call 311 for any issue that is City-related, including damaged sidewalks, city trees, homeless problems, eyesores, parking issues, construction issue, pot holes, street repair, street lighting, etc.

Universal Parking Passes

Members of the SCRA are eligible to receive 12 free parking passes to Universal Studios, City Walk, etc. per household per year. Call (818) 777-5296 and provide a name, telephone number and address.

Farmer's Market

The Studio City Farmer's Market is presented each Sunday by the SCRA and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce. It is open every Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Unhitched Trailers

The SCRA is continuing to address this problem. Currently, enforcement remains the same as a year ago. Unhitched trailers can be removed if the street features signage that calls for "no unhitched trailers." If advertisements are hitched to a vehicle or a flatbed truck, the vehicle can park in the same space for only 72 hours.

Sidewalk Repair

For street maintenance issues, call the City of Los Angeles Street Maintenance Department at 800-996-2489 or dial 311. Be sure to write down the confirmation number and call back periodically to learn when maintenance is scheduled.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

In last month's newsletter, I asked how our members felt about whether to continue the SCRA newsletter in its present print form or whether we should switch it to an online publication. The response was very one sided. One woman who said she is very computer literate and had all the electronic devices necessary to keep her day organized wrote succinctly that she still reads the Los Angeles Times and the Wall Street Journal in the print format and would very much like the SCRA to continue to print the newsletter. When I met members at random, I would ask what their thoughts were about our going electronic: I received similar responses -- "keep the newsletter as is." Finally, I asked for our members' perspectives at the January SCRA Community Meeting. Only two members raised their hands in support of changing to a digital format. They mentioned the benefit of saving costs and some suggested we have two versions, a print version and one available online for those who requested it. But given that the hard work of putting out a print version is quite enough for the team and that the print version would have to reformatted so that an electronic version would be attractive and easy to read, we will opt to keep things as they are. The SCRA newsletter will be there in print for you to read over morning coffee, afternoon tea, or just when you want kick back for a brief break to find out what's going on in Studio City. Plus, you can always download it from our web site, where it appears after it has been distributed directly to SCRA members.

You have heard about "the three tenors." Well, Studio City has something similar. No, we don't sing, but we do have three stars: the SCRA, Save Los Angeles Open Space (SLAROS) and Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA). SCRA is a not-for-profit corporation whose mandate is, in a nutshell, to promote the welfare of the residents of Studio City, encourage cooperation among residents in keeping Studio City beautiful and, last, but not least, provide comment to government and quasigovernment agencies on proposed laws, policies, procedures, land use and development relating to the quality of life in the vicinity of Studio City. As SCRA's co-stars, we have the Studio City Neighborhood Council, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, and the Business Improvement District, all of which work closely with the SCRA.

Funding for the SCRA comes from two sources: membership dues and a half share of the revenue generated by the Studio City Farmers Market, a nonprofit mutual benefit corporation of which SCRA is a member along with the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Over the years, SCRA has funded the activities of Save Los Angeles River Open Space and Studio City Beautification Association and funded many other activities, all of which enhance, maintain or protect the quality of life in Studio City.

In future editions of this newsletter, I will give additional background, goals, plans and current information about both SLAROS and SCBA and what they hope to achieve. As a result, I hope you will not only be better informed, but find a way to support this fine work..

Alan Dymond

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

FEBRUARY 2010



MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Agenda

7:00 p.m. Light refreshments

7:30 p.m. Remarks by newly
elected City
Councilmember
Paul Krekorian

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.



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Crime and Safety
Los Angeles River Committee
Membership
Overlay
Planning and Land Use
Studio City History Project

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Oakwood - Tammy Lundgren
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

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