



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City



March 2023

SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bridges Academy

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Meeting from 7:15 PM to 8:45 PM

President of Los Angeles City Council, Paul Krekorian

The SCRA wishes to apologize for abruptly canceling its January Annual General Meeting. The major rainstorm that hit earlier that day, caused Bridges Academy to lose power, stopping their pumps and resulting in the flooding of several buildings. Thankfully Bridges has recovered, and we are happy to announce that Councilmember Paul Krekorian was able to rebook and join us for the rescheduled March 14th meeting.

At this meeting, the 2023 SCRA Officers are recognized to serve another year. LAPD, if available, will be there to give a police report, followed by Councilmember Paul Krekorian, President of the Los Angeles City Council.

Krekorian will give us an update about the new makeup of the city council and will brief us on the council's move to create smaller more manageable districts, create an independent redistricting commission, and other topics that will be heard by the council. In addition, he can update members on homeless housing and the airport noise lawsuit. A Q&A session will follow.



The SCRA Meeting is moving from the gym into a classroom that has much better acoustics. Doors open at 7:00 PM, and the meeting will start at 7:15 PM and end at 8:45 PM.

SUCCESS - SMART CROSSWALK AT RHODES AVENUE

Yes! It has finally happened! Since 2014, SCRA has been pushing and pushing the city to install and activate a smart crosswalk at Rhodes Ave. and Ventura Blvd. and now it has finally happened. Pedestrians can now cross Ventura Blvd. (by Granville and Lemonade restaurants) with the aid of a flashing yellow light. It "only" took our great city nine years to install this much-needed safe crossing, but at least now it has been completed.

Now let's see how long it will take to repair the street lights on Ventura Blvd. from Fulton to Coldwater. (See Ask the SCRA column for further information on this.)



ORGANIC LA - TIME TO RECYCLE KITCHEN SCRAPS

Effective immediately, all residential households served by LASAN must recycle all food scraps and food-soiled paper into their green bin, along with yard waste.



To find the list of scraps that can be placed in the green bin, visit lacitysan.org.

To help residents start recycling their food scraps, LASAN is offering a free kitchen pail to City of Los Angeles residents. These pails are available for pre-registered pickup at participating distribution sites, one pail per household, while supplies last. Pails are not required to participate in the new organic waste recycling program. Any container of choice (e.g., bowl, paper bag, etc.) can be used to collect food scraps and take them to the green bin.

Please also note that these pails are not available to customers serviced by recycLA; however, they may be available by request to your property manager through your recycLA service provider.



WORKING TO STOP MANDATORY ROAD CUTOUTS

SCRA Vice President and Chair of the SCNC Transportation committee, Barry Johnson wrote to Councilmember Nithya Raman's office: "Thank you for your Motion to preserve consistent roadway widths and curb lines on each block. Just thought you should know I wrote the following Motion ten years ago that was unanimously passed by the Studio City Neighborhood Council. It fell on deaf ears."

Link to City Motion: S14KONICA_C22112215380 at lacity.org.

Current Motion to be heard by the SCNC: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) supports Council File 22-1476 to preserve consistent roadway widths and curb lines on each block to eliminate spot road widenings and have consistent sidewalk/parkway widths.

HARVARD-WESTLAKE CREATES CONFUSION AND AMBIGUITY FOR THE TENNIS PROS

EMAIL sent to Tennis Pros from Weddington Management LLC:

"January 3, 2023

Effective Friday, March 31, 2023, we will no longer be booking pros a block of hourly courts - particularly not in advance.

We haven't yet decided how many hours in a row can be booked by pros but will let you know.

Harvard-Westlake would like this order of priority for court usage:

- HW Teams / Matches & Practice
- HW Students, Alumni, Full-Time Faculty
- Leagues
- Weddington Customers
- Pros

We will allow customers to book six days in advance, but pros may only book four days in advance.

We will keep you posted as the year progresses.

Harvard-Westlake has asked us to encourage pros to find other courts to continue their programs. We thank you for your anticipated cooperation and patience."

PROS CONCERNS, as expressed in their newsletter on January 18, 2023:

Last year and continuing now, several pros pay a premium to insure to get a court for afterschool lessons and group classes. We pay the rates because we know how important after-school tennis lessons are for our community and all our mental health. It is so important for us to be allowed to have cost-effective group lessons in our own community. Harvard Westlake states our facility will be open to the community but looking at the email, not sure how much our community will be able to use it. Management recommends we find other courts to coach at but that would mean moving to private clubs because there are no other public courts in our area in which coaches can run an afterschool program.

MANAGEMENT Response to Pros:

We apologize for any confusion caused by the email dated January 3, 2023.

We understand how some in the tennis community were troubled by such an email. To clarify Harvard-Westlake's (hereafter "the School") position, they have not requested nor proposed that new limits be set on when courts can be booked, the block booking of courts, or the amount of time required in advance of the booking. The information in that email was incorrect.

Sincerely,
Weddington Management LLC

DIGITAL BILLBOARDS ARE LOOMING ONCE AGAIN

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is moving toward approving as many as 93 billboard-size digital signs across the city.

This would bring digital signs to dozens of streets and freeways in downtown, the Westside, the San Fernando Valley, and other areas.

MTA says that this makes traffic move more smoothly by giving drivers public safety alerts and information on bottlenecks, however, seven out of every eight images on the digital signs would show advertising.

Potentially, the billboards could generate \$300 to \$500 million in advertising income, over a 20-year time span, with ad revenue that would be split 50-50 with the city of L.A. (LA City could potentially receive \$7,500,000 a year but to the detriment of its citizens.) L.A. streets, which had more than 300 traffic deaths last year, could become even more perilous for bicyclists, drivers, and pedestrians.

Many of these billboards are 48 feet wide, with images changing every eight seconds, distracting drivers and causing accidents. This ordinance will undermine the city's existing restrictions on new digital billboards.

The MTA Board, including Mayor Karen Bass, signed off on the environmental analysis of the sign program last week. CD2 Councilmember Paul Krekorian and supervisor Lindsey Horvath are also on the Board.

Opponents are contemplating a legal challenge. The political fight is moving to City Hall.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President

Philosophy, Birds and The Oasis sums up our beautification report to you.

As the great philosopher George Harrison said in song, "All things must pass". Last month, Amazon pulled the plug on AmazonSmile and that certainly turned our smile upside down.



(Continued, Page 3)

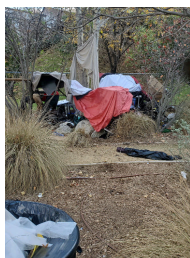
(Beautification, cont'd)

AmazonSmile was launched in 2013 to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. It has been a very popular program. So why is Amazon shuttering AmazonSmile? According to Amazon: "The program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped."

Fortunately, the Ralphs Rewards Card is still in business. This wonderful program donates to our non-profit Studio City Beautification Association every time we shop and there is no cost to us. If you have not yet enrolled in this opportunity to link your Ralphs card to SCBA, we invite you to visit our website www.studiocitybeautification.org, and click on "Loyalty Programs".

And a quick SCBA reminder for the birds. This is Nesting Season. Most types of birds in Southern California nest between February and August 31. So, trimming trees and pruning palms should be done outside of the nesting season to avoid needlessly destroying the nest or eggs of any bird.

The Oasis pocket park on Ventura Boulevard across the street from Marshalls is our largest beautification site and unfortunately attracts the largest number of homeless encampments. We share your frustration driving by and seeing these camps set up in an area we all work to keep beautified and community friendly.



Sometimes we think we're all alone in removing these homeless camps and complain that the city is slow to respond. But recently, the city moved quickly to remove a homeless camp at The Oasis with a multi-agency team.

A special all-cap SCBA THANK YOU to General Services Department's Nuisance Abatement office, Council District 4, LA Family Housing, LAPD, and LA Sanitation.

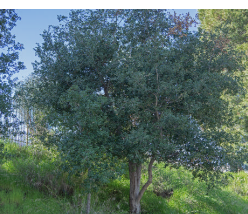
Stay safe and see you in the neighborhood.

NATIVE TREES AND PLANTS - LINEAR PARK - LA RIVER COLFAX TO TUJUNGA

Even in our developed landscape, nature is close at hand. A recent habitat and species survey completed by Studio City resident Susan Schalbe revealed a vast number of native trees and plants and a surprising amount of wildlife living and thriving along the LA River from Colfax to Tujunga in Studio City.

This is a "linear park" habitat along the Los Angeles River channel. There are very few of these undeveloped slopes left - most have been disturbed by city planting and park development.

Because there is the threat of new development along the river in this area that would destroy the significant tree canopy and habitat, it is vital to document



TO THE MARKET

The Farmers Market is a bustling hub of activity, and it has just gotten even better with the addition of two new vendors, Fred's Crepes and Kneaded Cuisine. Fred's Crepes offers a delicious selection of sweet and savory crepes, made fresh to order. Whether you're in the mood for a sweet treat, or something savory, Fred's Crepes has you covered.

Kneaded Cuisine is making waves with its fresh bread, baked to perfection in its clay oven. They specialize in gourmet artisanal sandwiches with only the freshest ingredients and organic produce. Whether you're in the mood for a classic meaty sandwich or something vegan, Kneaded Cuisine has something for everyone.

Both Fred's Crepes and Kneaded Cuisine can be found in the small parking lot food court, where they join a roster of other top-notch vendors.

As a reminder, dogs are not allowed at the Farmers Market, and therapy dogs are not considered service animals. This policy is in place for the safety and comfort of all Market visitors, so please leave your furry friends at home.

and know what is in the area and assess how development might impact it. This is a worthy piece of land to conserve.

There are at least 100 Coast Live oak trees growing here joined by Southern California Walnut and California Ash trees. There are also numerous California native plants including Cliff Aster, Bedstraw, Blue Elder, common Chickweed, Toyon, and Horsetweed.

Flying in and out among the trees and shrubs are dozens of bird species including Black Phoebe, Anna's Hummingbird, Northern Mockingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Dark Eyed Junco, Bushtit, Feral Pigeon, Bandtail Pigeon, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Oak Titmouse, California Towhee, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Yellow-Rumped Warbler and Common Raven.



Crawling among the trees and shrubs are several amphibians and mollusks including Black-bellied slender salamanders and Trask Shoulderband Snails, the latter of which is critically endangered in the United States.

Susan Schalbe and Andrew Epstein are members of the Studio City Neighborhood Council Sustainability Committee.

COALITION ON HOUSING STUDIO CITY, SHERMAN OAKS, ENCINO

As previously reported, SCRA has joined Sherman Oaks and Encino to find appropriate sites to comply with the mandates imposed on the city under State Senate Bill 9 (SB9).

(Continued, Page 4)

(Housing, cont'd)

The purpose of SB9 is to increase housing stock. The mandate is binding on the city and noncompliance carries the possibility of a financial charge being imposed by the State.

Targeted properties are single-family residences to be rezoned to multi-family structures which would tower over our single-family homes. The coalition's focus is to identify probable sites that would meet the state requirement yet not compromise our single-family neighborhoods.

SCRA has identified multiple properties for rezoning along Ventura Blvd. that would comply with the Specific Plan and create mix use walkable areas along Ventura. We will continue to meet and seek support from Councilmember Nithya Raman.

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: All of the lights are out from Coldwater to Fulton on Ventura Blvd., both north and south sides. Can you please let me know if there is an ETA for when the lights on Ventura will be fixed?

SCRA: In January, the request to fix these lights was made to the Bureau of Street Lighting. It will take 6-9 months for BSL to repair.

Q: Can you find me the email or phone of someone whose job it is to ticket cars? We have vans at South Weddington park that have acquired handicapped placards and claim they can park any time. As someone who once got a ticket on my own block with a handicapped plaque, I want a printed copy of the rule that no parking means no parking even if you have a placard. It used to be written on the rules that came with the placard but is no longer there probably because it was redundant.

SCRA: Vehicles with Handicapped Placards can only park in legal parking spots. They cannot park along a red curb or where "No Parking" is posted.

Call Valley Parking Enforcement at 818-374-4823. You can call this number 24/7. Have the license plate number and make and model of the vehicle (or in the case of an RV, just say RV). They will send someone out to check almost immediately and will ticket if the vehicle is truly illegally parked as described above.

FROM YOUR BOARD

Proposed Project Location: Matthew's Jewelry Store, Ventura Blvd

The project proposes the demolition of an existing one-story 2,453 sq ft of retail building for the construction of a three-story 6,036 sq ft commercial building containing 2,975 square feet of ground floor retail and 3,061 sq ft of office spaces on the second and third floor. The project also includes a 640 sq ft trellis on the third floor. The project parking is deficient by 14 spaces.

The SCRA has filed an appeal opposing this proposed project at 12218, 12220, and 12222 Ventura Boulevard, located just east of Art's Deli.

The Studio City Neighborhood Council has filed a Motion in

opposition to this proposed project for largely the same reasons as the SCRA.

SCRA's Appeal

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) appeals Case No. DIR-2022-1022-SPP-SPPA-WDI at 12218, 12220, and 12222 Ventura Boulevard for the following reasons:

1. The intent of the Ventura-Cahuenga Corridor Specific Plan's 30-foot height limit on the south side of Ventura Boulevard between Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Whitsett Avenue is to not have 3-story buildings.

The Planning Department's Determination states (on Page 9): "The surrounding properties are developed with one or two-story commercial retail buildings along both sides of Ventura Boulevard and single-family dwellings across from the alley at the rear of the property. The Ventura/Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan designates the subject property for Community Commercial land uses which are a 'focal point for surrounding residential neighborhoods and containing a diversity of land uses, such as small offices, retail, cultural facilities, schools, and libraries, in addition to neighborhood-oriented services'. Currently, there are no 3-story buildings on Ventura Boulevard between Vantage Avenue and Rhodes Avenue, the block where this 3-story building is proposed. The block is comprised of mainly 1-story buildings with a few 2-story buildings mixed in.

To say (on Page 12), "The strict application of the Specific Plan would result in practical difficulties and would render the proposed project infeasible", is, of course, true, because the Applicant wants to build 3-stories high on a block where there are no 3-story buildings.

To say (on Page 12), "The Specific Plan's 30-foot height limit is impractical as it would not permit a commercial building with sufficient height to accommodate three floors of uses...", is also true because, again, the Specific Plan's intent, is to prevent 3-story buildings on the south side of Ventura Boulevard between Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Whitsett Avenue.

To say (on Page 12), "The development standards are limited by the Specific Plan." YES, that's the reason for a Specific Plan in the first place. "While appropriate for maintaining a reasonable amount of commercial development amid low-density housing". Yes, single-family homes are directly adjacent to the same subject property alley from Vantage Avenue to Whitsett Avenue.

To say (on Page 13), "The unique design requirements and building characteristics of a commercial building cannot be accommodated within the parameters of the Specific Plan regulations, specifically the site's height limitations, and without the adjustment, it is impractical and infeasible to build such a building on the subject property", is again, only true because the Applicant wants to build 3-stories high on a block where there are no 3-story buildings. How is this (on Page 9), a "...focal point for

(Continued, Page 5)



(Matthew's, cont'd)

surrounding residential neighborhoods...?"

2. The SCRA opposes the proposed project's "Roof Terrace". This essentially places an open-air 4th story on the building, and even though it may be at the front of the building, the noise will carry to the single-family residences immediately behind the proposed building.

3. The SCRA opposes the proposed project's front yard setback of 3 feet, 7 inches. The rest of the buildings on this block of the subject property only have an 18-inch setback. There is absolutely no need to make this proposed building further stand out in the crowd.

Representing the Studio City Residents Association,
Barry Johnson, Vice-President & Land Use Chair
Studio City Residents Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

For starters, as it relates to the latest news and events, yes, it's regarding the perennial Studio City Golf and Tennis facility concerns.

A motion out of an SCNC committee to oppose the project based on two environmental elements of the Harvard-Westlake Sports Complex was heard by the SCNC board on January 12, 2023.

Harvard-Westlake was invited, by the president of the SCNC, to make a presentation in response to the proposed motion placed before the SCNC Board. After Harvard-Westlake's presentation, the hearing was then open to the public for comment. Many comments were made by those in attendance, both for and against the motion.

The SCNC board voted on the motion to oppose the Harvard-Westlake River Park Project as currently submitted, based on the effects of greenhouse gas production and the installation of two fields of artificial turf proven to be toxic.

Our volunteers were pleased with the decision/result, it is exactly the position that our 2,000 members have taken. Over the years many proposed developments of this site would have denied the use or changed the function of Golf and Tennis, which historically has been for the benefit of the general public. Consistently over the years, the goal has always been to keep the golf and tennis facility open to the public under its present use. This use has been supported by the Weddington family and prior owners and managers of the facility.

Unfortunately, that's not all the latest news and events, it gets worse, much worse. Keep reading.

Shortly after the result of the motion, representatives from the SCNC committee met with Harvard-Westlake representatives, Ari Engelberg, David Weill, and Stacy Marble. It was stated and has been reported back to us, I'm paraphrasing here, that in no uncertain terms, nothing is going to stop them, they are going to get what they want.

So, taken at face value, there is no choice but to act accordingly and take this as an existential threat, it will be a challenge but we will take whatever means is appropriate to keep this special open space with its Historical-Monument designation.

Our bumper stickers and lawn signs declare "It is not a done deal", and it is not.

WHO WE ARE

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

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Martha Hanrahan
John Hartich
Stephen Sass
Lana Shackelford
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SCRABOARD@STUDIOCITYRESIDENTS.ORG

Hello Again.

The SCRA Member Discount Card is back for our **4th** year! We are celebrating the SCRA's **60th anniversary** and are proud 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:

- Anna Cheselka Dance
- April Davis Investigations
- Arnold's Copy & Print
- Auto Plaza
- Back to Wellness
- 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
- Gisele Tune
- Gramercy Boutique
- Habit
- James Thomas Stained Glass
- La Knitterie Parisienne
- Matthew's Jewelry Store
- Mister O's
- Panache Boutique
- Pepe's Pizza
- Prosecco Trattoria
- Rain Bar & Lounge
- SALT. Optics
- topdrawer
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- Wild Flora



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STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



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SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Meet and Greet
7:15 p.m. Meeting Begins

- Introduce 2023 SCRA Officers
- Guest Speaker: President of LA City Council, Paul Krekorian

MEETING LOCATION

Bridges Academy—Classroom
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604

Free parking in school lot.
Enter on Maxwelton.

SCRAB [or d@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:scrab@studiocityresidents.org)
www.studiocityresidents.org

