



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

March 2014

## IN THIS ISSUE:

LA River Bike Path Upgrade ... Page 2

New Sidewalks ..... Page 3

Fines for Removing Trees ..... Page 4

## STUDIO CITY TO BENEFIT FROM MAJOR NBCUNIVERSAL GRANT

**N**BCUniversal has made a grant of \$100,000 to Studio City at large towards the capital costs of improving the community, with landscaping and improvements to public parks and properties in Studio City. In addition, NBCUniversal will provide planning and architectural services to help develop designs for the selected projects.

Several local groups have come together in response to an invitation from Council District Two to form a team that would suggest possible sites to benefit from such improvements.

The team is comprised of the Studio City Business Improvement District, the Studio City Beautification Association, the Studio City Farmers Market, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, the Studio City Neighborhood Council, the Studio City Residents Association and The River Project. Over the past few months, the team proposed a number of possible locations for improvements; after several meetings, along with considerable review and input from the professionals retained by NBCUniversal, the team and NBCUniversal agreed on three projects. They are:

1) Improve pedestrian safety at the Studio City Farmers Market; 2) Create a water feature at Moorpark Park; and 3) Establish a pocket park at the northeast corner of Laurel Canyon Blvd./Los Angeles River (diagonally opposite from the Toad Gate).



*Prospective pocket park*

Cost estimates are now in the works; however, the team was advised by the council office at a meeting on February 12, 2014 that Quimby Funds were available for projects that are related to park projects. Apparently the pocket park and the water feature could qualify for some of these funds. (Quimby Funds are fees charged to developers that can be spent only on park-like projects within a certain radius of the park.) The team was asked to go back to their respective organizations to inquire to what extent they could provide funding to supplement these funds. The SCRA will keep members and stakeholders informed on the status of these projects as they evolve from planning to implementation.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS PAY A VISIT TO THE SCRA

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) annual volunteer thank you event was graced this year by three special guests, including a last-minute surprise appearance by Mayor Eric Garcetti. This social function salutes major volunteers from the SCRA, along with its two sister organizations, the Studio City Beautification Association and Save Los Angeles River Open Space, along with volunteers from other Studio City-based

(Continued, Page 2)

## FUNDING NEW HELMETS FOR FIRE FIGHTERS



At a recent Hillside Federation Meeting, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Foundation demonstrated a standard issue fire helmet called a structural helmet. This sturdy helmet is used by fire fighters when entering buildings in order to prevent impacts. It is also used outdoors by fire fighters who are tackling brush fires. Unfortunately, this type of helmet is hot, heavy and the protection at the back of the helmet tends to bears down on one's neck.

There is an alternative helmet available, called a brush helmet, which is particularly well suited to fire fighters who are on the fire line when fighting brush fires. It is lighter, cooler and does not need to have the structural element of the standard issue. Unfortunately, city funds are not available to purchase brush helmets; therefore, the LAFD Foundation is seeking donations to purchase these "brush helmets," which cost \$45 each.

(Continued, Page 4)

## (Officials, cont'd)

groups whose members work hard to make our community the vibrant place that it is.

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (Assembly District 46) spoke one-on-one with many guests.

Councilmember Paul Krekorian addressed the audience and spoke about the issues of production in the film industry, along with proposals to help keep this business activity in Los Angeles. Krekorian noted just how much of this industry is comprised of trade crafts that mean many jobs for the community and which are shrinking each day a production decides to leave Los Angeles for what have become much more business friendly locations.

At the last minute, the SCRA learned that Mayor Garcetti had accepted the SCRA's invitation to attend the event. His substantive remarks included his vision for Los Angeles in the coming years. Mayor Garcetti also stressed the urgency of keeping the film production industry in Los Angeles. He explained that over the years, Los Angeles has built a skilled work force for the film industry, and that once these jobs are lost, they will be lost forever. The Mayor appointed Councilmember Krekorian as chair of the all-important Budget Committee; all are invited to submit suggestions to the Committee regarding what items should be in the budget. When he was a member of the City Council, Mayor Garcetti frequently walked his district to get a first-hand view of the district's needs. The Mayor is now walking Los Angeles and has Studio City on his list of areas to walk in the near future.



*Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, Mayor Eric Garcetti, SCRA Junior Board Member Jason Goodman, City Councilmember Paul Krekorian, 46th District Field Representative Steven Butcher*



*SCRA Board member Beth Dymond; City Councilmember Paul Krekorian; Mayor Eric Garcetti; SCRA President Alan Dymond; SCRA Executive Vice President Bonnie Goodman*

## PRELIMINARY TALKS FOR THE BIKEWAY UPGRADE

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) met with Courtney Hamilton, Studio City field representative for City Council District 2 (CD2), and Melanie Winter of The River Project to discuss much-needed rehabilitation of the landscaping on the Los Angeles River bike path between Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Whitsett Avenue.

The SCRA will notify members to join the Mayor when the walk is scheduled. The Mayor also stressed that continuing improvements along the Los Angeles River is high on his list, which, of course, includes the river that runs the length of Studio City.

This half-mile length of the Los Angeles River bikeway was the very first section to be built. Upon completion of the bikeway, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks was charged with maintenance of this section; however, the Department faced a learning curve about native plants, the amount of water needed and what was needed to maintain the area. Over the years, there has been an influx of many invasive species from primrose, ivy and vines, to the giant pampas grasses that have seeded themselves. Also, there has been an intrusion of non-native trees whose leaves interfere with the cycle and growth patterns of the native plants and shrubs.



The River Project will prepare a report for CD2, outlining plans to remove non-natives and replant approved natives. The plan will also include an appropriate irrigation layout and schedule for new and existing natives. The SCRA and The River Project will continue to work with the City of Los Angeles to implement the rehabilitation. The idea is that these rehabilitation efforts will offer valuable training opportunities for local communities and for agencies and others in the City that are engaged in similar efforts.

## LAPD NORTH HOLLYWOOD DIVISION CAPTAIN TO ADDRESS MARCH SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING



The Los Angeles Police Department's North Hollywood Division has been led by Captain Stephen Michael Carmona for the last nine months. He brings a wide range of policing experience to the communities served by this station, which include North Hollywood, Studio City, Valley Village and Toluca Lake.

During the past 31 years, Carmona has worked assignments in both the Foothill Gang Enforcement and Foothill CLEAR units. He has worked Rampart, Van Nuys, Hollywood Patrol and Hollywood Vice, among other supervisory and command positions.

Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, Carmona is a staunch supporter of community policing and believes it is essential that the Police Department and the community work closely together to achieve the goal of reducing crime and the fear of crime.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Beverly Garland Hotel, 4222 Vineland Ave, in the Theatre Room. Join the SCRA for an opportunity to meet with community members and enjoy light refreshments immediately prior to the meeting.

# GREEN LIVING FAIR

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) and Save LA River Open Space supported and manned a booth at The Green Living Fair at the Richard Lillard Outdoor Class Room, overlooking the Los Angeles River at Valley Heart Drive. Many people stopped by the booth to sign the petition to keep Weddington Golf and Tennis as open space and to discuss the possibility of a park in that location. The event, which was presented by The Village Gardeners and the Studio City Neighborhood Council, featured more than 30 participants that focused on ways to keep the community green and



Alan Dymond, president, SCRA;  
John Walker, president, SCNC

contribute to sustainability. Los Angeles City Councilmembers Paul Kerkorian and Tom LaBonge attended, along with Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian and a representative from the Mayor's office.

# STUDIO CITY TO GET NEW SIDEWALKS

The Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan established a trust fund to collect assessed fees from developments within the Specific Plan Area. The purpose of the fees is to mitigate transportation-related impacts generated by developments. Fees collected can be used for sidewalk repair and installations. Pursuant to the provisions of the Specific Plan and years of hard work and tenacity by the Studio City Neighborhood Council's (SCNC) Land Use Chair Lisa Sarkin, Studio City will eventually have sidewalks from Lankershim Blvd. to Coldwater Canyon Avenue.

The Studio City Neighborhood Council passed a motion to access these funds to pay for sidewalk installation and repair. The motion was then sent it to the Specific Plan Review Board, which recommended using \$163,400 from the trust fund for installation of sidewalks on Ventura Boulevard in Studio City. Subsequently, by motion presented to the City Council by Councilmember Paul Kerkorian, the City Council approved the completion of missing segments of sidewalks in Studio City along Ventura Boulevard. Currently, the City of Los Angeles Planning Department and the Department of Transportation are preparing a report that identifies all potential pedestrian improvements along the Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan.

The areas identified for sidewalk installation are 11222, 11154, 11150, 11467, 11537, 11533, and 12700 to 12744 Ventura Blvd. Two areas not included in the list are the north side of Ventura Blvd., east of Colfax Avenue as a result of property owners' objections, and the area in front of the shops on the Coldwater Curve, since this installation will be undertaken by the owner.

# TO THE MARKET



The Studio City Farmers Market offers many wonderful fruits and vegetables every Sunday, including the variety of winter squash available at the Trevino Farms stand. From butternut to spaghetti, to the less common delicata and kabocha, the variety is always fresh and delicious. Great in soups and as a side dish or a main course, winter squash is low in fat and rich in antioxidants and phytonutrients. Squash is also one of the richest sources of plant-based anti-inflammatory nutrients such as omega 3s and beta-carotene, which are important for a strong immune system and help protect against colds and flu.

While there are a lot of choices when it comes to eating breakfast or lunch at the Market, many customers have realized that several of the prepared foods available make easy and convenient dinner options as well. Pupusas heat beautifully in a toaster oven or frying pan (no oil needed); pizza from Olive Wood Pizza and the paellas from La Espanolita Foods can be reheated easily. Add a salad with ingredients from any of the farmers, and dinner is ready.

The Market continues to sell gorgeous canvas bags, made in America, to be used at the Market or anywhere else where plastic bags are no longer available. The bags are only \$10 and are available every Sunday at the manager's table.

The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce. 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.

# ASK THE SCRA

*One of the functions of the SCRA is to empower its members, who are the eyes and ears of the community. The SCRA can assist by providing opportunities to make all of Studio City a better place to live. Please send questions to [scraboard@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org).*

**Q:** What is a city "right of way"? This is an SCRA member's request for an explanation of an agenda item at a recent Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) meeting, which read: "The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the Studio City Beautification Association's adoption of a city "right-of-way" at the corner of Laurel Canyon Blvd. and the entry to Wilacre Park."

**SCRA:** "Right-of-way" refers to streets and sidewalks on city property. The Studio City Beatification Association (SCBA)

(Continued, Page 4)

## (Ask SCRA, cont'd)

secures an "Adopt-a-Median" permit in order to beautify these city areas. The concept of a "right-of-way" was included in the SCNC motion to clearly define the request from the SCBA. For example, when the SCBA adopted the Oasis years ago (the area along Ventura Blvd. across from Marshall's), only about 16 feet from the curb was "right-of-way" that fell under the "Adopt-a-Median permit;" the rest of the property owned by the City required a "Right-of-Entry" permit.

**Q:** My neighbors and I are suffering because of the \$3 fee at the parking lot at Wilacre Park. Councilmember Krekorian's office assures me that the Conservancy will not even consider lowering the fee to mitigate the problems caused by hikers parking on residential streets. If there is a way to pressure the Conservancy into lowering that fee, that would be wonderful.

**SCRA:** The parking lot at Wilacre Park is managed by the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), the maintenance arm of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC). Funding for the SMMC/MRCA was cut in the last economic turndown, so it had to investigate alternate funding sources. At the time, the SCRA opposed charging any fees for parking at the park. The fee was initially \$6, but the SCRA was able to get that fee reduced to \$1. Since then it has inched up to \$3. The SCRA asked Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian's office about the possibility of restoring funding to the SMMC/MRCA as a possible solution to removing fees and received this response: "We can take another look at this issue. Last year, we did speak with the SMMC about either elimination or reduction of the parking fee. The organization claims it needs the revenue. We can a look at what may be possible."

## ASK THE SCRA follow-up:

### Studio City BID

In February, the SCRA posted a member's inquiry regarding beautifying the Business Improvement District (BID) of Ventura Blvd. Subsequently the SCRA received this response from Tony Richman, president of the Studio City Improvement Association, which manages the BID. "Thanks for your response in your newsletter to the comment regarding 'barren landscape unfriendly to pedestrians' in the Studio City BID. Your defense is appreciated, but the writer is not entirely wrong. I truly feel that there is a long way to go in making our little town much more attractive and pedestrian friendly, including planting and flowers, benches, more patio food options, improved night lighting, etc. This would be a win for everyone, the residents, the business and the tourists."

### Homeless Behind Ralphs at Vineland Avenue and Ventura Blvd.

The SCRA received the following after the February 2014 newsletter was published:

*"I am a three-year resident, living on Riverton Avenue. I appreciate all that the Association and the LAPD have done to try and clear/clean the area of transients that*

## (Fire fighters, cont'd)

Donations for brush helmets may be made to

LAFD Foundation  
1875 Century Park East, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Anyone making a donation should make a note in the memo section of the check that it is for brush helmets and add the station number of the fire department in their neighborhood.

*make the night walks scary for me, my wife and my two-year-old daughter. Two transients have returned and are quite scary and mean. They inhabit the area near Ralphs along the alleyway/walkway to Campo De Cahuenga."*

Lead officer Mike Lewis responded:

*"I went by there twice didn't see any transients. I asked the officers who work the basic car to check it at night. However, today I took a burglary report from the building right next door on Bluffside Drive. A male and a female, both Caucasian, in their 20s, entered the subterranean garage and took speakers, clothing items and a scooter. Both suspects were on bicycles, and both bicycles had white baskets in the front of them. Please keep your eyes and ears open for them. I have not seen them before in the area, but we are looking all over for them. I will forward this information to the officers working the basic car as well as the officers working our transient car. I am confident that soon the suspects will be permanently removed from the area."*

## PROTECTED TREES

The City of Los Angeles enacted an ordinance in 2006 to protect four native trees that may not be cut down without a permit even when the trees are on the owner's property. They include an Oak species (*Quercus* spp) native to Southern California, the Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica*), the Western or California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), and the California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*).

Permits to remove these four particular trees are very difficult to obtain since the City sees the benefits these native trees bring to the community. Penalties for removing or trimming any of these trees without a permit, even on the parkways, include fines of up to \$10,000 and/or jail time. In the last few months, two Studio City homeowners have been fined for removals without permits. One was a \$10,000 fine for removing three backyard oak trees, and the other was a \$2,700 fine for removing one front-yard Sycamore tree that was more 110 years old and six feet in diameter). For further information, visit

[http://cityplanning.lacity.org/Code\\_Studies/Other/ProtectedTreeOrd.pdf](http://cityplanning.lacity.org/Code_Studies/Other/ProtectedTreeOrd.pdf)

# FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) board approved a \$500 donation to the Rio Vista Elementary School PTA to support the school's dance classes, which provide students with extracurricular activities. The board also approved SCRA Board member Karen Younce as the Studio City Farmers Market Board president for 2014.

The Studio City Business Improvement District, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, the Studio City Neighborhood Council and the SCRA are in the process of meeting with representatives of the Department of Transportation to discuss the traffic conditions (speeding) along Ventura Boulevard and the dangerous crossing situation on the boulevard at Rhodes Avenue, the corner where Lemonade is.

The board approved the Studio City Farmers Market joint recommendation to grant the sum of \$5,000 to North Hollywood High School. (See the President's Report in this issue for more information.)

City Councilmember Paul Krekorian has appointed Courtney Hamilton as field representative for Studio City. The prior field representative, Geoff Yazetta, has been assigned to other duties in the Council member's office.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

"From Your SCRA Board" in the January 2014 SCRA newsletter misstated the name of the organization Communities United for Smart Growth.

"LAPD Group Hosts Public Speakers" in the February 2014 SCRA newsletter incorrectly stated the number of murders in Los Angeles. According to the North Hollywood division of the Los Angeles Police Department, the division, which includes Studio City, had two murders last year, the lowest number in the City of Los Angeles.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Alan Dymond*

*When you shop at the Studio City Farmers Market, you may have noticed a banner at the back of the manager's table that states the Market is jointly produced by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation. You may also have seen our A-frame signs in the Market that states, "When you support the Market, you support the community." In the IRS' definition of community, a non-profit has to benefit the public at large; it cannot be limited to a local geographic area. Over the years, the Studio City Farmers Market has followed this mandate by making grants to schools and local community programs. The Studio City Farmers Market board recently recommended a grant of \$5,000 to North Hollywood High School and referred the grant for approval to the board of the Studio City Residents Association and the board of the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Both boards gave their approval. Therefore, in addition to the benefits of great produce, other goodies and the kids section, monies you spend at the Market go right back into our communities. Please keep supporting our farmers market.*

*On February 19, 2013, Barry Johnson, chair of the SCRA Land Use Committee, addressed the board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) on a motion before the SCNC Board. The motion requested that City Councilmember Paul Krekorian bring before the Council a motion to establish a Design Overlay District and/or Qualified Classification Change of Zone for Multi-Residential and Commercial Properties that are within SCNC Boundaries. The SCRA supported the SCNC motion. A letter from the SCRA will be sent to the Councilmember requesting similar action.*

*The Overlay addresses such issues as open apartment balconies that look down into the back yards of adjacent single family residences, flat roof tops adjacent to single family residences, limitations on height, and placement of elevator shafts. For both multi-residential and commercial properties, the motion provides a way to incorporate design elements that act to soften the impact both on adjacent residences and the overall neighborhood look at street level. What is being asked involves a question of fairness. Should Studio City in its entirety enjoy the same design considerations that are in effect in multi-residential and commercial properties in certain areas of Studio City such as Tujunga Avenue?*

*In other news, the SCRA is joining the world of social media. Our Junior Board member, Jason Goodman, offered to set up, organize and oversee an SCRA Facebook page. This recommendation was welcomed by the board with open arms as a way to reach out not only to members who follow Facebook, but also to make contact with residents of Studio City who are not members (yet!). The SCRA's News and Notes will still be sent to our members. And stay tuned for an upgraded, simplified SCRA website, coming soon.*

*Alan Dymond*

# SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, Mar. 11, 2014

## AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Reception

7:30 p.m. Presentation by  
Captain Stephen  
Michael Carmona,  
LAPD North  
Hollywood Division

### 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



STUDIO CITY  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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



MARCH 2014

PRINTED WITH SOY-BASED INKS

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 772  
N. Hollywood, CA

### SCRA Committees

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

### Officers

Alan Dymond, President  
Bonnie Goodman, Exec. Vice President  
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President  
Connie Elliot, Secretary  
Bryan Abrams, Treasurer

### Board Members

Beth Dymond  
Martha Hanrahan  
Steve Hirsh  
Art Howard  
Barry Johnson

Robin Seidel  
Barry Weiss  
Karen Younce  
Jason Goodman, Junior member

### Immediate Past President

Art Howard

### Beautification Association

Bill Harmond, President  
Francesca Corra, Vice President  
Connie Elliot, Secretary  
Bryan Abrams, Treasurer

### Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

Co-Directors  
Laurie Cohn, Alan Dymond, Steve Hirsh,  
Art Howard, Patty Kirby, Chip Meehan,  
Aaron Mendelsohn, Barbara Robbin  
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

### School Liaisons

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman  
Rio Vista - Barbara Robbin  
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

### Studio City Farmers Market

(818) 655-7744  
www.studiocityfarmersmarket.com

### Newsletter

Editor: Bonnie Goodman  
Graphic Design: Kevin Lewis  
(818) 667-6647 kevin@kevw.com

(818) 509-0230 Fax: (818) 509-0260  
P.O. Box 1374, Studio City, CA 91614

scraboard@studiocityresidents.org  
www.studiocityresidents.org