



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Your Advocate for Studio City

June 2011

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## OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION: SERIOUS CHALLENGES AHEAD

According to Paul Edelman of the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), the authority that obtains and manages open spaces such as Wilacre Park, "the challenges to open space preservation in the next couple of years are daunting. There are very limited funds available."

Not only are there resource constraints, the acquisition costs are increasing. Some parcels of land have conservation easements on them because they are adjacent to parkland, for example. In the past, these easements – conditions attached to a property – were recognized as a matter of course; however, now they are challenged by developers before the Zoning Appeals Board. If the challenges are successful, the land becomes more valuable as the appraisals come in higher, leading to a higher cost of acquisition.

Ongoing maintenance is another expense that occurs after acquisition, including brush clearance, trail maintenance, etc. Edelman stresses it is important that entities and community groups that support and work with the MRCA in preservation of open space should plan for the maintenance costs during the acquisition process.

Funds for acquisition may become available from prior propositions. For example, Prop. K funds are distributed by competitive grants every other year. One of the categories on which Prop. K money can be spent is the acquisition of open space; however, the next competitive grant cycle will not start until June 2012. This time constraint delays activities by willing sellers and land preservationists.

Other sources for funds, such as private foundations, have been successful in efforts to protect open space. Approximately seven years ago, the Fond Land Preservation Foundation purchased just under 500 acres of open space in the Shadow Hills/La Tuna Canyon area. Recently, the Foundation purchased 37 acres of open space in the Lake View Terrace Area.

Given these conditions, Edelman is very concerned that a downward spiral is occurring in land preservation. He emphasizes the need for community and individual awareness and action, especially as open space is fast becoming a diminishing asset. The SCRA supported the MRCA in the recent acquisition of a lot at Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Mulholland Drive, as well as approximately 86 lots in the Beverly Glen area.

For more information visit <http://www.mrca.ca.gov>.



### SCRA TO HOLD SPECIAL COMMUNITY MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2011 RESULTS OF LA RIVER NATURAL PARK STUDIES

Councilmember Paul Krekorian will address the latest feasibility studies for the potential LA River Natural Park at Whitsett Ave. (site of the Weddington Golf and Tennis facility). State Senator Fran Pavley has accepted an invitation to attend. The presentation will be given by the consultants and engineers retained by Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS). The meeting will be held at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn at 4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

# THE FARMERS MARKET WITH A FRESH SET OF EYES

By Danny Smith

My wife and I visit the Studio City Farmers Market regularly, and it's hard to pick a favorite attraction. Sometimes it's a tasty snack (the smell of kettle corn popping is hard to resist), a bushel of fresh produce or just the pleasure and sense of community we feel being around so many neighbors on a Sunday morning. Of course, the food and flower merchants are only half the fun. One of the main draws of the market is the kids' entertainment. My wife and I are sadly too big to take a turn on the Batman moonbounce or the pony ride, and they won't let us inside the petting zoo fence. So, as a twosome, we've always felt we were missing out.

Flash forward nine months (or so). My wife and I now have a new companion to take wherever we go. And when our daughter reached seven weeks old, we thought it well past the time she should learn about buying local, sustainable agriculture and the joys of fresh kettle corn. After a quick check with the pediatrician, we plopped her in the stroller and headed down to Ventura Place. We couldn't wait for her to experience firsthand Mommy and Daddy's favorite Sunday pastime. What would catch her eye first? The ponies? The banjo player? The fat pigs waddling around in the petting zoo? Well, as it turns out, it was none of the above. As soon as the stroller started rolling, she fell fast asleep. Somewhere in our excitement, we had forgotten our baby sleeps most of the day, doesn't care about sustainable agriculture and would prefer it if we kept that sunshine out of her face, thank you very much.

So our first trip to the Studio City Farmers Market as a trio wasn't much different than before. We still haven't gained access to that exclusive petting zoo: maybe someday. But we left Ventura Place with a jar full of fresh honey, the beginnings of a new herb garden (you can't beat six plants for \$10) and a very well-rested infant.

## OPINION: MAKE STUDIO CITY ONE COMMUNITY OF INTEREST

By Brandon Huffman

In 2008, California voters passed Prop. 11, which created the California Redistricting Commission to assume the role of redrawing political boundaries every year, as opposed to state lawmakers drawing their own lines. Part of Prop. 11 instructs this 14-member commission to respect "communities of interest and neighborhoods" as well as to comprise two Assembly districts in each Senate District. While many Studio City and Sherman Oaks residents are urging the Redistricting Commission to place their communities—and other neighboring hillside communities—in a single Senate district, first let's make sure that the Redistricting Commission recognizes Studio City as a community of interest and includes

all of Studio City in single legislative districts as opposed to splitting us up. As it stands now, a handful of us on the north side of Studio City are represented by a state senator other than Fran Pavley. Our state senator resides in and represents much of the San Gabriel Valley. Since only a sliver of Studio City falls in our senator's district, we are not as high a priority as we are with Senator Pavley. Studio City, with a population of approximately 37,000 people, should fit easily into one Assembly district of about 470,000. Last time around, the political boundaries were drawn by lawmakers, who, in a bipartisan fashion, agreed to protect incumbents of both parties. Surely the current boundaries have met the incumbent protection goal as just one incumbent has lost his seat in the five election cycles since 2001. Unfortunately, dozens of communities like Studio City—along with small cities such as Oxnard and Simi Valley—were split among two and sometimes three districts. Here in Studio City, we have it pretty good. We enjoy several parks, a great library, high achieving schools and a sense of community often lacking throughout Los Angeles. We also have the pleasure of living in the shadows of the Santa Monica Mountains, an environmental treasure that is largely maintained and governed by state agencies. In order to maximize our influence, and to keep our state resources a priority for our current and future state legislators, we should be urging the Redistricting Commission to draw Studio City into one Assembly district nested entirely into a Senate district along with a neighboring Assembly district in its entirety. When communities are split among multiple districts, they more often than not lose clout and the attention of their legislators. Therefore, let's remember to call on the Redistricting Commission to include all of Studio City in individual Assembly and Senate districts as per the spirit of Prop. 11.

*Brendan Huffman is a Studio City resident and locally based public policy consultant. He is also co-host of "Off The Presses," a public affairs radio show that streams live every Thursday via LATalkRadio.com.*

## STUDIO CITY COUNTS: ANNUAL SCRA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The 2011-2012 annual SCRA membership renewals have been mailed. If 6/11 is on the address label on this newsletter, your SCRA membership renewal is due. Membership is still the same low price of \$25 per household. Seniors are \$10 per household. Contributions are also appreciated.

The SCRA has accomplished a great deal this past year. Advances have been made on the goal to establish LA River Natural Park through funding for SCRA sister organization, Save LA River Open Space. Beautification projects have been conceived, implemented and funded. The Studio City Farmers Market is growing and thriving, with all proceeds flowing back to benefit the community. The SCRA Board meets monthly to discuss pertinent issues and actions needed on behalf of SCRA members. For more information, contact [SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org).



## TO THE MARKET

### Homeboy Bakery Now at Studio City Farmers Market

Shoppers at the Studio City Farmers Market can now enjoy a recent addition to their Sunday mornings, bread from Homeboy Bakery. Yet,

customers of Homeboy products are doing much more than just enjoying fine baked goods. Homeboy Bakery, one of the four non-profit economic development businesses of Homeboy Industries ([www.homeboy-industries.org](http://www.homeboy-industries.org)) was started by Father Gregory Boyle in 1992 in response to the civil unrest during that period. But for years prior, Father Greg had been involved in addressing the escalating problems and unmet needs of gang-involved youth through job training and placement.

Homeboy Industries' mission statement says, "Homeboy Industries assists at-risk formerly gang-involved youth and the recently incarcerated to become contributing members of our community through a variety of services in response to their multiple needs." Programs include counseling, education, tattoo removal, job training and placement. The organization aspires to enable young men and women to redirect their lives and provide them with hope for their future.

Products available on Sunday mornings include fresh breads, muffins, a variety of cookies and crisps, cakes, pies and confections.

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.

## BEAUTIFYING STUDIO CITY

The Studio City Beautification Association recently improved a small traffic island on Maxwellton Ave. with landscaping and the addition of a small walking path. The improvement replaces the existing blacktop. Funding for the improvements was provided by the SCRA, the Studio City Farmers Market and the Studio City Neighborhood Council.



## CAMPO DE CAHUENGA NOW OPEN

The Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association is happy to report the historical grounds and building are now open to the public the first Saturday of each month from noon-4:00 p.m. The Campo is located across the street from Universal Studios at 3919 Lankershim Blvd. Enjoy a free fireside chat event on Saturday, June 11 from 3:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. with actor Ernest Borgnine, who will also be available to sign his book. Space is limited; reservations are suggested. To reserve space, email [CampoDeCahuenga1847@hotmail.com](mailto:CampoDeCahuenga1847@hotmail.com) or call (818) 762-3998. Free parking is available. For further information, visit [www.campodecahuenga.com](http://www.campodecahuenga.com).



## CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

### Those Who Care

Those Who Care ([www.thosewhocare.info](http://www.thosewhocare.info)) is a non-profit group located in Burbank whose mission is to provide fresh fruit to local food pantries, homeless shelters and various charitable organizations. The organization harvests the fruit from local homes and businesses and then delivers it wherever it is most needed. Please consider helping Those Who Care reach its goal of donating 100,000 pieces of fruit by offering fruit from your tree or a few hours of your time to harvest. To help out, please contact the SCRA office at (818) 509-0230.

### Holy Family Service Center

Since 1984, Holy Family Service Center has provided free food, clothing, toiletries, books, toys, furniture and other small household items to the underserved in the community. The Center helps those in an area bordered by Laurel Canyon, Oxnard Blvd., Hollywood Way and Mulholland Drive. A non-profit charitable organization affiliated with St. Charles Borromeo Church, the Center provides these services free of discrimination. Staffed and fully operated by volunteers, the Center serves approximately 1,200 people per month, 40 percent of whom are children. Those coming to the Center from outside the service area may be helped on a one-time emergency basis and are also referred to other food banks or service centers closer to their residence.

The Center is supported by contributions from St. Charles parish; organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, Rotary and the US Postal Workers Collection; local schools and other community friends of the Center. The only government support the Center receives is USDA low-cost and free food from the LA Regional Food Bank.

The center is located at 10825 Moorpark Street. Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 - 11:45 a.m. Donations from the community are gratefully accepted.

## ASK THE SCRA

In the April SCRA newsletter, the SCRA reported on the constant flow of muddy, dirty, slippery, mossy water flowing down Willowcrest Ave. The SCRA is pleased to report that Renee Weitzer, chief planning deputy for Councilmember Tom LaBonge, followed through on her promise to have a deputy visit the site and address the situation.

Andrew Morales, an intern for Councilmember LaBonge, contacted the City Engineering Department regarding the problem. The Department visited Willowcrest Avenue to inspect it and also determined that four years ago, there was no constant water flow.

The Department has submitted two requests for maintenance and repair to the Street Maintenance Department. The phone number for Street Maintenance is 800-996-2489, and the request number is 11038326.

**Q:** How long will it be before the Colfax Bridge is completed?

**SCRA:** As of this printing, the Colfax bridge is scheduled to be completed in July 2011. This date keeps moving, but the bridge will not be opened when Laurel Canyon is scheduled to be paved. However, the Laurel Canyon paving project may be delayed due to budget constraints.

**Q:** We have read about the Studio City BID. Who are they, and what do they do?"

**SCRA:** Owners of certain business properties in Studio City agreed to belong to and pay a special assessment for a Business Improvement District (BID). In return, they receive services such as extensive maintenance and beautification of the area, including tree planting on Ventura Boulevard, and capital improvements, including landscape medians. The BID also helps market all participating businesses with the goal of making Studio City a vibrant business community. The BID conducts activities within the defined district limits – Whittsett Ave. to Carpenter Ave., Ventura Place, parts of Laurel Canyon, Radford Ave. and Ventura Court. For more information, please contact Lorena Parker, Executive Director, at 818-655-5357.

**Q:** Our neighborhood, one that took me well over a million dollars to get into, has been utterly hijacked by leaf blowers. There is not a day that goes by when all we hear is leaf blowers. It is an epidemic. The noise is unbearable, not to mention the fumes of the gasoline. Is there any push to do something about this that I can join ?

**SCRA:** Contact Geoff Yazzetta, Councilmember Paul Krekorian's Studio City deputy, at 818-755-7676 or e-mail him at geoffrey.yazzetta@lacity.org. Ask Geoff where the city ordinance currently is on regulating leaf blowers. There is a decibel limit, and there may be a regulation for non-pollutant motors. Obtain a copy of the ordinance and find out which City department checks for compliance and enforcement of the ordinance.

## FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

### Sidewalk Repair

The SCRA is on top of the proposal to amend the ordinance governing sidewalk repair from damage done by tree roots. This proposal would shift the burden of sidewalk repair from tree damage to the property owner. The amendment is currently out of committee and is with the City Attorney to write a draft. The SCRA has appointed a special committee to follow the progress and report back to the SCRA Board.

### Holiday Celebration Planning

The Board formed a steering committee to explore a community holiday event. The board decided not to sponsor a parade, but instead to place its energy and funds into a community-wide holiday celebration for families.

### Redistricting

Prop. 11 has created a commission charged with drawing new districts for Federal, State and local representatives. The SCRA will send its recommendations to the commission.

### July 4th

The SCRA will be a sponsor of the Studio City Chamber of Commerce's Fourth of July fireworks celebration at CBS.

### SCRA Thanks Bill Harmond

Bill Harmond has tendered his resignation from the SCRA Board but remains the president of the Studio City Beautification Association. Bill has been a real asset to the SCRA; the Board will miss his sage advice on community matters and thanks him for his service.

## COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

### *By Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis*

People often ask, "When do I call 911, or when do I call the front desk at the station or the non-emergency 1-877-ASK-LAPD number, or when do I call Officer Lewis' cell phone?"

Here is the rule of thumb. If there is a crime in progress, or an emergency, call 911. If someone is breaking into a car or house or tagging a wall, call 911. If it's not an emergency, such as loud noise or a neighbor dispute or other disturbance, call the non-emergency number at 1-877-ASK-LAPD. If you do not need the police immediately or the same day, call Officer Lewis on his cell phone at 818-634-2593. Only call the front desk if you need to make a police report. They do not dispatch officers.

The LAPD community alert system, called "NIXEL," provides official alerts from the LAPD directly to one's phone or voice mail, including crime alerts, DUI checkpoints and more. To sign up, go to <http://lapdonline.org> and use the link to "Nixel" on the right hand side. Studio City residents should sign up for the alerts from the North Hollywood Division. If you work in Sherman Oaks, for example, and want to be aware of what is going on there, then sign up for the alerts from the Van Nuys Division.



# HILLSIDE FEDERATION UPDATE

At the May 4, 2011 Hillside Federation meeting, President Marian Dodge introduced Patti Negri, a spokesperson for Friends of La Rocha Trail. Ms. Negri informed the group of the threat to a beautiful stretch of natural green space located in the hills of the Hollywood Dell. She described a recent plan to develop 10 lots along the trail as a potential housing development. Rather than risk losing this precious open space, a grassroots group, The Friends of La Rocha Trail, was formed to try to save the trail and established a partnership with the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority.

The group contacted the current owner and negotiated a purchase price of \$299,000, with a \$75,000 deposit and an eight-month escrow. The deposit would be forfeited if the full purchase price was not paid by December 26, 2011.

Additionally, the buyer would pay all closing costs. The total, including expenses and legal fees came to approximately \$340,000.



In March 2011, through individual donations, the group raised enough to meet the required deposit. The group then contacted City Councilmember Tom LaBonge for assistance. LaBonge made a generous pledge of \$225,000 towards the purchase. This left a new balance of \$40,000, of which the group has received pledges and donations from supporters of nearly \$15,000. The group is very optimistic about its ability to raise the balance in time to complete the purchase. For more information and details on how to donate, please visit: [www.savelarocha.com](http://www.savelarocha.com).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

*This summer is proving to have a number of activities that require our members to decide how they would like to see things develop for the benefit of all. What we do and how we act today, or if we fail to take any action whatsoever, will impact life for us as we go forward in the coming years.*

*Number one on my list is the redistricting of the Senate and Assembly Districts. I strongly support having Senate District 23 encompass all of Studio City. Although Studio City may be seen as an enclave and a "pass through" by virtue of the canyons and freeways, it is directly impacted by activities outside our area. I would argue that the "community of interest" extends far beyond Studio City. It includes an area up to and past Mulholland, over into the west side and westward to our neighboring communities to include part of the coastal beaches.*

*The overriding principle for drawing the political lines must be as stated in the language of Prop. 11, i.e., the establishment of a community will come first, representation shall not be diluted and each community shall have its own political voice. I suggest one look up "California Redistricting Commission" online at <http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/>. It's a great website and includes information about how to respond, an excellent FAQ and a host of other information. You may post your comments to the site as well or you may contact the Commission's Executive Director, Daniel Claypool, at [Daniel.Claypool@CRC.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Claypool@CRC.ca.gov).*

*Another issue we are currently addressing is ACE. No, not the kind you hope to see in Vegas, but ACE as in Administrative Code Enforcement. This proposal gives the City Attorney an alternative method of enforcing violations of the Administrative Code, replacing the cumbersome, time consuming, ineffective system presently in effect. Violations of the code can be, for example, unpermitted structures or structural modifications, storage of vehicles on public streets, sign violations, etc. The SCRA Board supports the enactment of ACE. The Studio City Neighborhood Council and other neighborhood councils have also filed their support of the ACE Ordinance. For more information, look up Los Angeles Administrative Citation Enforcement. Let your councilmembers know how you feel about this. Remember the SCRA covers three council districts: CD2: Paul Krekorian, CD5: Paul Koretz (the author of the motion) and CD4: Tom La Bonge. Want an easy way to e-mail your city contact? Use "first name" with a period followed by "last name" @ lacity.org, e.g., [Paul.Koretz@lacity.org](mailto:Paul.Koretz@lacity.org).*

*Of note: Daniel Brumer, director of planning for Councilmember Paul Krekorian, has left his position with the Council office to return to his law practice. Karo Torassian has assumed planning duties for the councilmember.*

*This month we have also been addressing the responsibility for sidewalk repair. Councilmember Krekorian has responded to a query by SCRA Special Committee Chair Barry Weiss saying the Councilmember does not agree the City should charge property owners for sidewalk repairs.*

*Finally, please pass on this newsletter to your neighbors and encourage them to sign up with the SCRA and especially to sign up for the SCRA's "News and Notes" eblasts. "News and Notes" is a good way to get breaking news and information about the community in a timely manner. Visit [www.studiocityresidents.org](http://www.studiocityresidents.org) to sign up.*

*Alan Dymond*



**SPECIAL  
SCRA  
COMMUNITY  
MEETING**

**Thursday, June 9, 2011**

- 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments
- 7:30 p.m.** Presentation on feasibility studies for LA River Natural Park
  - Paul Kerkorian
  - Fran Pavley
  - Representatives from Community Conservation Solutions, LA City river revitalization committee & other elected officials

**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.



**SCRA Committees**

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

**Officers**

Alan Dymond, President  
Mark Batterman, Exec. Vice President  
Bonnie Goodman, Exec. Vice President  
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President  
Connie Elliot, Secretary  
Laura McKinzie, Treasurer

**Board Members**

Barry Johnson  
Beth Dymond

Martha Hanrahan  
Steve Hirsh  
Art Howard  
Todd Royal  
Robin Seidel

**Immediate Past President**

Art Howard

**Beautification Association**

Bill Harmond, Executive Director  
Francesca Corra, Director  
Michael Klausman, Director

**Park Advisory Board Liaison**

Mark Batterman

**Director of Animal Welfare**

Robin Seidel

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

Co-Directors  
Laurie Cohn, Alan Dymond, Steve Hirsh,  
Art Howard, Patty Kirby  
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

**School Liaisons**

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman  
Oakwood - Tammy Lundgren  
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

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