



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

February 2012

IN THIS ISSUE:

Studio City Noise/CVS Blight **Page 2**

Shop/Donate to Local Schools **Page 3**

Safe Tree Trimming Tips **Page 4**

WALKING ALONG THE EMERGING RIVER

Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS), sister organization of the Studio City Residents Association, along with Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR) hosted a river walk on Sunday, January 22, 2012. More than 30 visitors started at the pedestrian entrance to the river path at the back of the Studio City Parking Garage, where they found convenient parking. Karin Flores and Shelly Backlar of FOLAR, and Laurie Cohn, co-director of SLAROS, led the walking tour of the river path west to the Whitsett Ave. bridge and around the river entrance west of Whitsett Ave. Visitors explored the river and learned about LA River Natural Park, the SLAROS' vision for the last 16-acre parcel of open space along the Los Angeles River in Studio City, currently known as Weddington Golf and Tennis.



Enjoying a crisp winter morning, visitors heard how the proposed LA River Natural Park will provide links from Studio City to the Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan. While ensuring open space in Studio City, the park would also provide clean runoff water to the Los Angeles River, as required by state and federal guidelines, by collecting surface water runoff from more than 200 acres surrounding the park. This surface water runoff from surrounding neighborhoods, most built without adequate water drainage, floods streets every rainy season, allowing hundreds of gallons of polluted water to spill directly into the river and the ocean. The

proposed water collection and natural filtration systems, part of the LA River Natural Park, would actively store and clean polluted water runoff, which typically contains lawn chemical fertilizers.

The tour explored expanding public use of the riverside pathways for walking, biking and jogging trails. Under the plan, the Studio City Parking Garage would partially transform into a bike center serving the East Valley and connecting to the Los Angeles Bike Plan, which promotes biking and clean transportation and will bring new visitors to the retailers along Ventura Blvd. in Studio City. For more information about LA River Natural Park, visit saveopenspace@slaros.org. Learn more about the LA River by visiting www.folar.org.

MARCH AND MAY SCRA COMMUNITY MEETINGS CONTINUE MAYORAL CANDIDATE SPEAKER SERIES



Austin Beutner, the former deputy mayor recruited by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to oversee 13 city departments, will address the March 13, 2012 SCRA Community Meeting as part of the SCRA's ongoing mayoral candidate speakers' series. Beutner was a partner at The Blackstone Group and a co-founder of Evercore Partners. He worked in the State Department under President Clinton during the 1990s. The meeting will be at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn, 4222 Vineland Avenue in Studio City. Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

While there is no SCRA Community Meeting in April, the May Community Meeting will feature mayoral candidate Eric Garcetti who is the council member for the 13th council district. Garcetti was elected in 2001 and reelected in 2005 and 2009. He succeeded Alex Padilla as president of the City Council on January 1, 2006 and was re-elected as president at the beginning of the council's subsequent terms in 2007 and 2009.



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: I am a resident of Studio City. I live, work and send my children to school in Studio City. Recently, I have noticed a huge influx of billboards containing adult content, including strip clubs and advertising for Manhunt.com. These advertisements are appearing in vast numbers in Studio City. There are three billboards with these images alone on the corner of Tujunga Ave. and Ventura Blvd. There is another enormous billboard heading east on Ventura Blvd. prior to Vineland Ave. (south side of the street) and another heading west on Ventura Blvd. before Coldwater Canyon (south side of the street). What can we do about these?

SCRA: The city does not have the ability to control the content of these billboards, and there is no restriction in place for how close billboards of specific content (e.g., adult businesses, dating services) can be located in relation to schools. Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office has contacted the billboard company with a request that it change the content to a different advertisement. Ultimately, the final decision lies with the billboard company, but City Council District 2 will make every effort to have the content changed. SCRA members can also call the billboard company, whose name is on the frame of the billboard, and lodge a complaint.

Q: Trucks and campers have been parking on Tujunga Ave. between Sarah St. and the 101 Freeway entrance for the last four-to-five months. To top it off, several prostitutes have been seen visiting the truckers and campers parked there.

SCRA: The SCRA asked Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis to provide an update on the situation on Tujunga Ave. In December, Officer Lewis submitted a letter to the Department of Transportation (DOT) requesting DOT authorize and install "No Parking" sign restrictions on Tujunga Ave. between Sarah St. and Riverside Dr. Officer Lewis goes by the location and marks the vehicles for 72 hours, but they are moved on a regular basis. The SCRA does not know when the signs will be installed, but Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office has informed Officer Lewis that they have been contacted by DOT regarding the request.

Here is an excerpt from the letter to DOT signed by Chief of Police Charlie Beck: "Section 80.69 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code authorizes the Department of Transportation to prohibit the stopping or parking of vehicles when the unrestricted parking of vehicles would create a hazard or detrimentally affect the public welfare. Please accept this letter as a validation of such a condition."

Q: Our neighborhood has become almost unlivable over the last five years due to the exponential increase in the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. We estimate we hear and smell them

from three-to-six hours a day, six days a week. We are unable to use our patio anymore and keep the windows and doors shut most days now. Many cities in California have banned gas-powered leaf blowers. Why hasn't Studio City?

AND

Q: Please advise me on how to pursue a noise complaint against the management for the Landmark Building on Coldwater Canyon & Moorpark. On Sunday, October 20, 2011, beginning at 7:30 a.m., they had a crew doing tree-trimming along Moorpark Ave., which was extremely noisy and continued for hours.

SCRA: The City of Los Angeles has a leaf blower ordinance that includes Studio City, and there are regulations about certain kinds of noise on Sundays. The City of Los Angeles has different departments that respond to and enforce noise complaints. The Police Department is responsible for the enforcement of noise ordinance violations involving people-generated or controlled noises—which are considered disturbances of the peace. To view the the noise laws and learn which department can help you, log onto www.lapdonline.org.

Q: I've noticed that traffic is worse than ever at the corner of Ventura Blvd. and Radford Ave. A clear left turn signal into Trader Joe's for westbound traffic was probably supposed to help, but has backed traffic up well beyond Carpenter Ave. on most afternoons. The same thing seems to have happened near Ralph's at the complex intersection of Ventura Blvd. and Hazeltine Ave. in Sherman Oaks as well. I wonder if the city is aware of this problem and planning to help ameliorate the mess they have created.

SCRA: The SCRA can speak only to what we know about the Radford Ave. signal. If you have ever tried to make a left turn on Radford Ave. going east on Ventura Blvd., the new turn signal is a true blessing. The slight curve in the road makes it impossible to see oncoming traffic. The SCRA has received several complaints about the backed up traffic on Ventura Blvd. going west and has passed them on to the council office and the Department of Transportation.

Q: I have noticed that the CVS Drug Store (on the corner of Laurel Canyon and Ventura Blvds.) has created a blight on this corner of Studio City. It needs paint on the outside and some greenery in boxes like the company said it would do when CVS moved in. Do you know what their plans are for this store? Can you put pressure on them to fix up this store and take pride in being in Studio City?

SCRA: Lisa Sarkin, land use chair of the Studio City Neighborhood Council, has been following this problem and responded to the SCRA's request for an update as follows: "Currently CVS is applying for the permits to update and improve the façade of the store at Laurel Canyon and Ventura Blvds. I hope the work will be able to begin soon." Also, the SCRA was told the planter boxes were removed because they attract rats. The SCRA will monitor the improvements and keep our members informed.

FROM THE STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION

The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) is in its final stages of completing improvements along two blocks of Radford Ave. from the Los Angeles River north to the end of the cul-de-sac. Art sculptures created by Karl Johnson are installed, and the project will be completed by the end of February. There will be two blocks of walking path with access to the sculptures and a small sitting area. The SCBA anticipates that the art walk will become a Studio City tourist destination. The project will open up a walking corridor from Moorpark Ave. to Ventura Blvd.

The City of Los Angeles required the SCBA install two handicap ramps on both sides of a DWP scrubber that is in the city right of way. The cost of these two ramps is \$6,500. The SCBA reached out to community organizations, and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation responded by donating \$2000 towards the cost of the ramps. The SCBA extends a very big thank you to the Chamber for its generosity.

The SCBA board would also like to thank all of the SCRA members who responded to our annual year-end fundraiser. The warm response by this community in supporting efforts to improve the quality of life in Studio City is very much appreciated. 2011 was filled with a lot of the preliminary work on capital projects, and the first part of 2012 will bring actual completion of the Radford Art Walk, Anita's Triangle and the

Obelisk on Ventura Place. The SCBA thanks the Business Improvement District, which contributed \$1000 to the work on Ventura Place.

EASY WAY TO DONATE TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Studio City Improvement Association (BID), whose mission it is to improve the Studio City Business area from Carpenter Ave to Whitsett Ave., sponsors a "School Marketing Program." The BID encourages all members of the community to participate.

When shopping locally in the BID district, save the sales receipts and turn them in to:

- Colfax Elementary School - Pat Ketchum, 818-655-2517
- Carpenter Charter School - Elizabeth Gindroz, 818-985-6090
- Walter Reed Middle School - Gohar Oharian, 818-915-2928
- Studio City Co-Op Pre-school - Staci Brooks 310-722-7869

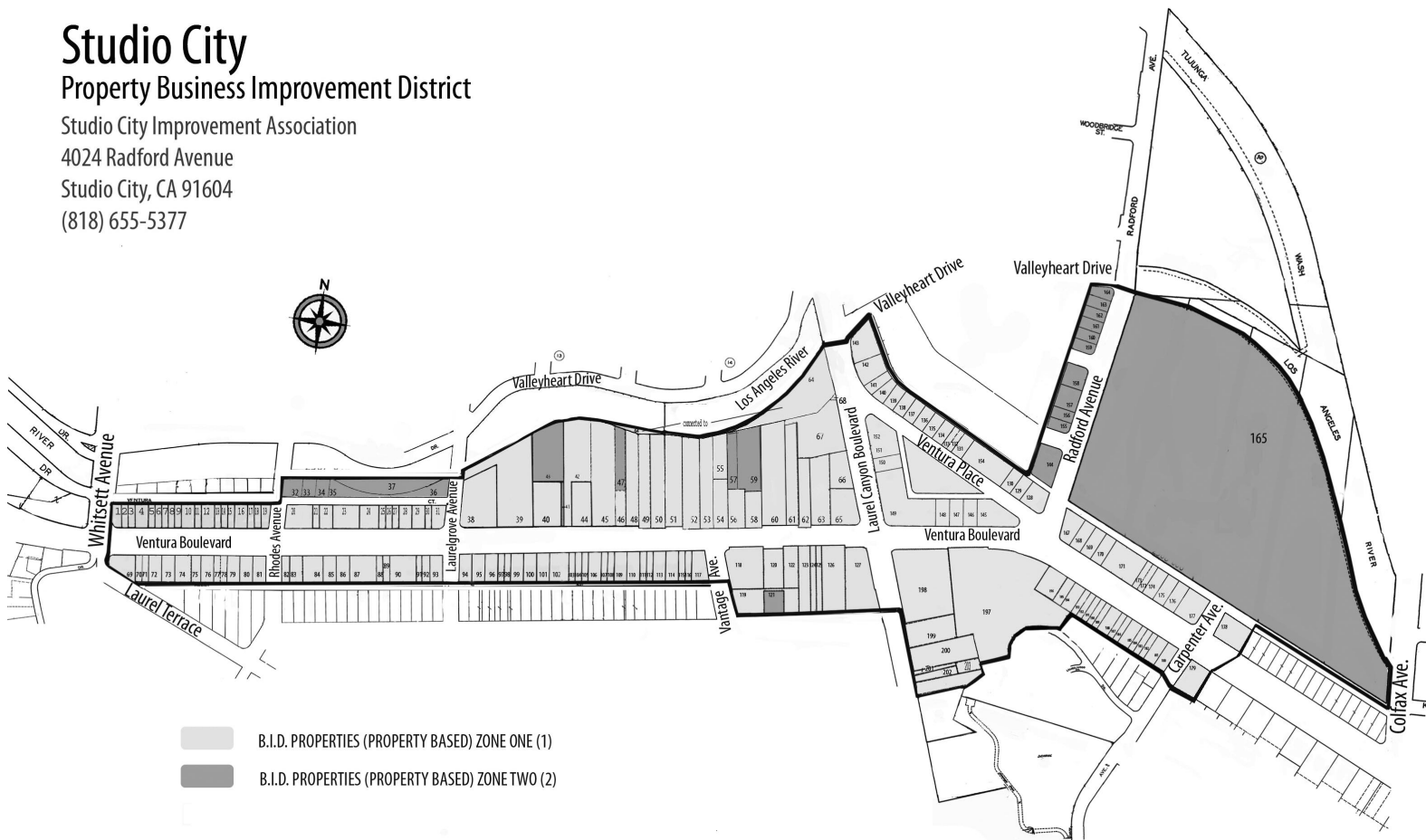
Visit www.studiocitybid.com for more information about the BID and see the map below to review the retail area the BID covers.

The Studio City Improvement Association will pay the school 10 percent of the receipt up to a maximum of \$8,500 each to Colfax, Carpenter and Walter Reed and a maximum of \$1,000 to Studio City Co-Op Pre-school.

This program has been very successful in past years and has helped these schools purchase much-needed equipment, books and supplies.

Studio City Property Business Improvement District

Studio City Improvement Association
4024 Radford Avenue
Studio City, CA 91604
(818) 655-5377



SAFE TREE TRIMMING

The California Wildlife Center, a not-for-profit tax deductible organization, offers the following suggestions to protect wild birds and squirrels that inhabit Studio City.



Tree trimming occurs mainly in the spring; however, residents should protect wildlife before undertaking trimming trees and bushes at any time. Young birds and squirrels may be injured, orphaned or killed when their nests are unintentionally destroyed by tree and shrub trimming during the nesting season (early February to August depending on the species). Hummingbird nest and are active by February. Squirrels nest twice, primarily in March and September. Other bird species begin nesting in March and continue until late August.

- Look before any trimming is done, especially during the spring and summer. Hire arborists and tree trimmers who are "wildlife-friendly" - concerned with the health of both the trees and the birds that nest in them.
- The safest time to prune and trim is October through early January when trees are dormant; this helps avoid the disruption of active nests. Protect nesting birds. Hawk, owl and crow nests are larger and more visible; however, the majority of songbird nests are small and well camouflaged. Nests may not be seen until it is too late. Loud tree trimming can also disturb birds in surrounding trees.
- If you see a new or occupied nest, simply postpone pruning until the young are grown. Remember to check for nests in wooded debris or in dead trees as these are prime nesting spots.
- If you disturb a nest, place it securely back in the tree or shrub from which it came. If the nest is too damaged to return, but the eggs are intact or the young are alive, place the nest in a small box or margarine tub with holes for drainage. Secure the container to the tree as close to the original location as possible. Then, watch from a distance to see if the parents return. This could take several hours - be patient. If the parents do not return, and the nest has young, keep them warm, dark and quiet and contact California Wildlife Center's Animal Care Hospital at (818) 591-9453.

For additional emergency guidelines and information, visit www.cawildlife.org.



SCRA/SCBA GIVE THANKS FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Bill Harmond, the outgoing president of Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), has donated a laptop computer to the SCBA. The SCRA and the SCBA thank Bill for his generous donation. The SCRA also thanks SCRA member, Richard Lees, who some years ago donated a laser printer to the SCRA. Richard has now donated a Xerox color laser printer to the SCBA.

FROM THE SCRA BOARD

SCBA: The SCRA Board of Directors, as the sole member of the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), voted to appoint the following to the SCBA Board: Beth Dymond, Connie Elliot, Alan Dymond, Barry Johnson, Bryan Abrams, Francesca Cora, Michael Klausman, Lorena Parker and Barry Weiss.

Sidewalk Repairs: Barry Weiss and Alan Dymond are meeting with Congressmen Howard Berman and Brad Sherman as well as Senator Diane Feinstein to explore funding for much-needed sidewalk repairs in Los Angeles.

Membership: The SCRA is reactivating its membership committee to plan membership development. Martha Hanrahan will chair the committee. Barry Weiss, Bryan Abrams and Beth Dymond have volunteered to serve on the team. The SCRA welcomes any members who would like to work with this committee. Contact Martha Hanrahan at 818-509-0230 or Martha.Hanrahan@StudioCityResidents.org

Newsletter: The SCRA Board voted to go a little greener this year, printing the SCRA newsletter with soy ink, starting with this issue.

Winter Family Festival: The board approved moving forward with this highly successful event for this year and set December 9, 2012 as the date.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE ON ALL THINGS STUDIO CITY: SCRA'S NEWS & NOTES

One of the major benefits of being a member of the SCRA is keeping abreast of fast-moving events with the help of the SCRA's E-News & Notes. Sixty percent of our members have supplied their email address in order to receive these notices.

The SCRA jealously guards its e-mail list and uses it only for topics that are of importance to the community and approved by the SCRA board. The SCRA uses News & Notes sparingly so that SCRA members know that what is being sent is important and relevant to them.

If you would like to receive the SCRA's News & Notes, please email SCRABoard@StudioCityResidents.org, or call the office at 818-509-0230 with your name, phone number and e-mail address.

STUDIO CITY ON NOTICE

Notice of Fraudulent Use of SCRA Letterhead

A Studio City resident recently forwarded a disparaging letter sent to him on SCRA letterhead. The letter was typed on copied letterhead and signed by a person who is not in the SCRA membership database. Please know that the SCRA board carefully guards its letterhead stock, which is used only by a board member or authorized by a board member for use. The board thanks the recipient of the letter for letting us know about it. This gave us the opportunity to send a denial to the persons copied in the letter. If any of our members receive a dubious letter on SCRA letterhead, please notify the office.

Appeal from Conditional Use Permit: 11915 Ventura Blvd.

The Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) had concerns about the issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for 11915

Ventura Blvd. The concerns were not about the establishment itself but certain aspects such as the late closing hours on weekdays and safety considerations. After a hearing before the associate zoning administrator, the permit was approved contrary to the SCNC's recommendations. Operating under the city charter, the SCNC is not permitted to appeal a zoning administrator's decision. The SCRA will lead the effort.

CORRECTION

Bryan Abrams, the SCRA's new treasurer, was incorrectly identified in the last SCRA newsletter as Bryan Adams. Despite the error, many SCRA members recognized Bryan through his volunteer work as treasurer for Carpenter Community Charter School and Oakwood School. Bryan is well known in Studio City as a real estate agent with John Aaroe Realtors. The SCRA apologizes to Bryan for the incorrect spelling of his last name.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

January's news was that the development at the MTA Red Line Station at Universal City is not going forward. The SCRA has learned the right to develop the site is presently held by NBC Universal. The site will no doubt be subject to other proposals; however, the SCRA will be following any such proposals closely.

The SCRA and the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) have worked together to submit proposed boundaries to the Redistricting Commission with regard to realigning the boundaries of council districts. One major change is to eliminate the sliver that connects Studio City to Sunland Tujunga. The SCRA is working to have Studio City's boundaries more reflective of our community's interests and allow the community to be more representative geographically.

The River Improvement Overlay, the next step in the revitalization of the Los Angeles River, will be an important area of focus for the SCRA this year. Suggestions put forward by the SCRA have been incorporated into the City Planning Department staff report, which will now go to the City Planning Commission. Because the Los Angeles River and the Tujunga Wash go right through Studio City, the SCRA wants to be very involved in what is finally decided about any improvements for these waterways and the immediate environments. The SCRA will appear at all hearings and provide additional input.

Efforts are ongoing to create LA River Natural Park on Whitsett Ave. The volunteers of Save Los Angeles River Open Space (SLAROS), government agencies and other organizations are exploring many avenues in order to gather sufficient funds to purchase the property should the opportunity arise.

It is always tempting to draw analogies when talking about the civic organizations that work to keep Studio City what it is today. So thinking in terms of a "troika," the three-horse sleigh usually associated with the Russian Steppes, the troika in our community consists of the SCRA, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) and the Studio City Improvement Association (BID).

Our troika enjoys flexibility of action because two members are not subject to governmental procedural rules. The BID has city constraints over its budgeting and spending process, but otherwise can act with limited discretion. With this freedom of operation, we can change course rapidly as circumstances dictate and address problems quickly as they arise, e.g., repairs for curbs and gutters and the installation of an art obelisk on Ventura Place.

The SCNC cannot be part of the troika since the SCNC is part of the city process. As an elected body, it is governed by the city charter. But it can do things that the troika cannot do and take actions that are of paramount importance. For example, it can file community impact statements prior to any action by a city committee; it can draft proposed ordinances; and it can open files with the city. In other words, it is part and parcel of the processes that govern the functioning of our city. All of the above organizations place Studio City in a position of having meaningful input not only about local concerns for Studio City, but also about city-wide decisions.

Finally, business owners who live in Studio City qualify as residents for purposes of joining the SCRA. As SCRA is a "residents" association for all who live here, we extend a cordial invitation to Studio City business owners to join the SCRA, if they have not done so already: you are most welcome.

Alan Dymond



SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

March 13, 2012

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m. Refreshments**
- 7:30 p.m. Presentation by Austin Beutner, former deputy mayor and now candidate for mayor of Los Angeles**

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

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

Immediate Past President

Art Howard

Beautification Association

Francesca Corra, Director
Michael Klausman, Director
Lorena Parker

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

Studio City Farmers Market

Manager: Melody Dosch (818) 655-7744
studiocityfarmersmarket@yahoo.com

Newsletter

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