



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

July 2018

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## JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: HOMELESS REPORT

Surveys taken over time and conclusions that can be drawn from the 2018 count conducted with the assistance of 8,500 give the facts that are contrary to the misunderstandings held by many, and the homeless issue as it affects the Valley.

**Myths and Facts dispelled by the county-wide survey:** The most common misleading generalization that homeless people are all "mentally ill criminals," "drug addicts," "people who moved to the area from out of state and are taking advantage of LA's homeless services". This year's Homeless Count confirms that these statements are far from the truth:

- Three out of four homeless people lived in Los Angeles before becoming homeless. Sixty-five percent had been in LA for more than 20 years and only 10 percent had been here less than a year
- Homeless children attend local children's schools,
- Homeless mothers and fathers work and live in our communities.
- Nearly half of those counted say they became homeless due to financial reasons, for example loss of a job.
- Less than 27 percent of the homeless population suffers from some type of mental illness and only 15 percent are plagued by substance abuse. Los Angeles County is the government entity responsible for providing services to assist with those issues, which are being addressed with funding from Measure H, a voter mandate.
- A significant percentage of homeless people have been victims of domestic violence.
- Twenty-five percent of the homeless population is white, thirty-five percent is Latino and another thirty-five percent is African American.
- The homeless population is aging. There was a 22 percent increase in homeless individuals age 62 and older.

**Scope and Findings:** The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count each year that gives a snapshot of where homeless people are on a given night. The data gathered is sent to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Here are the findings.

- For the first time in four years, there is a decrease in homelessness in LA County, with a five percent decline in the city of Los Angeles. Yet there are still 31,516 Angelinos without a home.
- The drop indicates the new resources approved by voters are already having an impact. More than 16,500 people were housed last year, a 28 percent increase over the prior year. Housing for youth is up to 53

(Continued, Page 2)

## GREENWAY CLEANUP (WHITSETT TO COLDWATER)

Zev Yaroslavsky Greenway on the north bank of the Los Angeles River from Whitsett to Coldwater is being maintained by Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority, the maintenance branch of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, who are removing weeds and non-native plants. They started at the Coldwater end and are working their way towards Whitsett. They have cleaned along the entire fence from Coldwater to Whitsett and dug out and removed eleven full tarps of weed. Both sides of path up to the 2 benches in shade area were weeded. Next big push will be continuing from there to Whitsett.



## (Homeless, cont'd)

percent, more homeless youth are sheltered than are not.

- There were double-digit drops among two high-priority populations: the chronically homeless and homeless veterans. Chronically homeless are those who have a disabling condition and have experienced homelessness for at least a year. That group decreased by 16 percent. Homeless veterans was reduced by 18 percent.
- The decreases are primarily due to the focus on getting people into the coordinated entry system. It streamlines the process to find housing for the most vulnerable, and the construction of supportive housing funded by Measure HHH that led to more than 2,000 housing units in the pipeline.
- But 75 percent of homeless Angelinos still lack shelter nightly, showing the dramatic need to provide more immediate housing. However, the above analysis is encouraging: the overall efforts to bring people off the streets are beginning to work:

**Homelessness in the Valley:** The 2018 Homeless Count indicates even though homelessness dipped overall, it increased across the San Fernando Valley and that includes Council District 2. Ninety Eight percent are living in tents and encampments. Because there is not enough housing to accommodate them it strains the communities and the most vulnerable residents. Placing people in secure and monitored housing, where they get a bed, along with health, mental health, substance abuse and job training services is the best way to begin turning things around.

If there are any questions or comments, Council member Paul Krekorian in his Newsletter stated that he wants to hear from you at [Paul.Krekorian@lacity.org](mailto:Paul.Krekorian@lacity.org) or (818) 755-7676.

## DOES YOUR STREET NEED SPEED HUMPS?

The City Council restarted the Speed Hump Program after an eight-year pause. The Speed Hump Application period opens twice a year. Applications can be filed online starting 8AM September 12, 2018. Get your information ready now so you can file in the first few minutes. Only 30 applications will be allowed per council district. Of those 2 will be chosen and completed in about a year. For complete instructions on how to request Speed Humps go to [ladot.lacity.org/how-do-i/request-speed-humps](http://ladot.lacity.org/how-do-i/request-speed-humps). It is a 3 step process. The first two steps will be required at the time of the application.

## THE LAUREL CANYON AND ITS WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Laurel Canyon and its surrounding trails are for hikers, dog walkers and cyclists; canyons and open spaces for the wild life



of deer, opossums, bobcats and include over fifteen species of birds and others such as salamanders and a fox sighted very late one night. They all live and survive despite

overwhelming odds in the untamed canyons and open spaces. What now awaits is the responsible and noble task to ensure next and future generations will enjoy what is presently there. That will depend on continuing to establish wildlife corridors so that wildlife will have an increased chance of healthy survival of their specie.

The community's commitment to these corridors started in the late 80s when the late, Barbara Fine of the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Association battled unremittingly to establish the concept of wildlife corridors that would interconnect specific areas of animal habitat essential for future healthy generations of wildlife. For the first time, land along the Mulholland Corridor went from private hands into a non-profit, the Mountains Recreation Conversation Authority (MRCA) for perpetual preservation of land for people and wildlife of the area. Fine and a handful of local activists understood the importance of establishing "wildlife corridors". Her strategy to achieve this was to invoke the city's cultural heritage law to declare the 31-acre parcel of Fryman Canyon a "monument", which stopped commercial development.

For more than 10 years, Tony Tucci and Alison (Ali) Simard co-directors and founders of Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) continued this work. They are a prime example of community workers leading the efforts to preserve wildlife corridors that are an integral and necessary element for the overall health of wildlife in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The challenge to preserve local wildlife corridors was later taken up in the 90s by Paul Edelman, Mountains Recreation Conversation Authority (MRCA), Chief of Natural Resources and Planning, and his assistant Diane Sacks. That's when the community chipped in with its councilmen, and fund-raised to pay \$6 million dollars for the 6 acres at the southwest corner of Mulholland and Laurel Canyon under the "Let's Buy a Mountain" campaign. The latest efforts by Tony Tucci and Ali Simard has culminated in the purchase of 17 acres in Stanley Hills for \$1.6M. There is now a new campaign to raise money for an adjacent 7 acres. The latest photo of "our" mountain lion was captured by CLAW's motion detection camera on the 17 acres.

So who will be next to join in CLAW's efforts and help ensure continuity in working to establish and keep the corridors for the wildlife? Contact Tony and Ali through the CLAW's

**(Continued, Page 3)**

## (Wildlife, cont'd)

website, [clawonline.org](http://clawonline.org). Click on "Support Us," there is a dropdown menu to volunteer.

For those who are acquiring or have already acquired hillside property why not consider setting aside a very small part of your property for a corridor. Fence the property for security and other considerations however one small section can become part of an interconnecting network of wildlife corridors. Paul Edelman of MRCA works with owners to consider not fencing their total property but judiciously allow one narrow strip at the perimeter for the pass through for the animals. This "Pass through" will not compromise the owners use and enjoyment of the property. Several owners in the past have agreed to this accommodation for the wildlife. Benefits reported are spotting a deer with a rack, then the elusive bobcat and maybe in the evening an opossum family wandering through. Paul of MRCA can be reached at [edelman@smmc.ca.gov](mailto:edelman@smmc.ca.gov)

## SCRA WELCOMES STEPHEN SASS TO THE BOARD



The SCRA is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Sass to the board of the Studio City Residents Association. Stephen has been a resident of Studio City for over 30 years and has been active as a volunteer in civic and community affairs for many years.

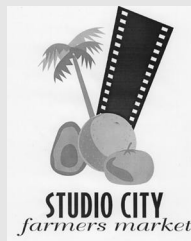
Stephen is the chair of the Los Angeles County Historical Landmarks and Records Commission and recipient of KCET's "Local Heroes" award for his contributions to the Jewish community and Los Angeles as a whole.

## JULY 10TH SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING: LEARN ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S EARTHQUAKE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE THROUGH CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE AUTHORITY (CEA)



Knowledge is power. Learn how to protect your home both structurally and financially. Tuesday night's speaker will be Mark Toohey from the California Earthquake Authority. He will be speaking on how to prepare and protect your home in the event of a major earthquake. You will be able to learn how to participate in California's \$3000 rebate "Brace and Bolt" program and valuable information on all the programs offered to California's through the State's California Earthquake Authority.

Among other positions, Mark served as Chief of staff for Farmers CEO, who he accompanied to Santiago, Chile in 2010 on a humanitarian mission in the aftermath of that country's 8.8 earthquake. Prior to 2010 Mark was a journalist covering



## SCRA AND STUDIO CITY CHAMBER FOUNDATION MAKE THE FARMERS MARKET HAPPEN

It's the season - the fruits of summer have arrived! Peaches, nectarines, plums, apricots, cherries, and every combination there of - apricums, pluots and everything that makes the Farmers Market a must stop every Sunday.

In July the Market welcomes Oak Smoke BBO. Featuring a slow-smoked brisket, ribs and pulled pork complimented by their signature cornbread, baked beans and five cheese mac and cheese. Then there's the BBO pork bundts, mini cornbread bundt cakes with pulled pork baked into them. Whether lunch at the Market, or Sunday night dinner, this is a great new addition. Find them in the center of the Market on the north side of the street and stop by for a sample.

The Farmers Market recently made donations to Colfax Charter Elementary School, Friends of the Studio City Library, Sherman Oaks Nursery School and the Valley College Steinway Campaign.

hurricanes, tornadoes and other disasters, including the Space Shuttle challenger explosion.

## KEEP LOS ANGELES BEAUTIFUL (AND STUDIO CITY TOO)

On May 31st the City of LA held the first ever Keep Los Angeles Beautiful Beautification Summit: Studio City Beautification was there to represent Studio City. The goal of the event was to provide opportunities to other like-minded local, regional and national organizations to come together and address current industry issues and encourage overall networking. Board of Public Works Commissioner, Aura Garcia, provided a warm welcome to all followed by several speakers presenting on community beautification topics, current projects, and funding opportunities. Keep Los Angeles Beautiful, established in 2007, is the local citywide volunteer-based campaign that is affiliated with the national organization, Keep America Beautiful that was formed in 1953. Some may remember the anti-pollution commercial featuring Iron Eyes Cody with a tear rolling down his cheek: that was part of the Keep America Beautiful campaign.

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## (SCBA, cont'd)

During this summit, we heard from and about City Plants, Zero Waste Guy, City of LA 311 app, Rain Barrels from Coca-Cola, Kids Ocean Day and Sylmar Agriculture. Be sure to stay tuned to our Studio City Beautification Association Facebook and Instagram accounts for more information about what we learned and who we met. Should you like to help keep Studio City beautiful, why not consider volunteering with Studio City Beautification Association? For more information, go to [StudioCityBeautification.org](http://StudioCityBeautification.org) **See something, report it!**



The MyLA311 app is not only a handy tool to quickly and easily report problems, it also links you with the services and information you need to enjoy our city, beautify our community and stay connected with our local government. The 'Submit Service Request' feature allows you to quickly and easily request the City's most popular services:

- Homeless encampments / illegal dumping
- Report graffiti or issues with streetlights
- Schedule a Bulky Item Pickup or incomplete trash service
- Street problem/repair (ex. flooding, pothole, curb repair)
- Dead animal removal

For a complete list of services, download MyLA311 app or for more information go to the website, [myla311.lacity.org](http://myla311.lacity.org).

## HILLSIDE FEDERATION

*The Hillside Federation is a coalition of homeowner groups of which the SCRA is a member. The coalition watches over hillside communities and is a powerful voice in protecting the hills of Los Angeles. Below are measures that the Federation addressed at its board meeting on June 6th.*

### **Purchase of surplus city property for wild life corridors**

Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC): There are some funds left from the Benefit Assessment District and \$30 million has become available from Prop 68 funds now available to purchase City of Los Angeles surplus property: SMMC has the first right of refusal and continually monitors these city properties for possible purchase to enhance the wildlife corridors through the mountains.

### **Tour Buses Mulholland**

Walt Young, Head Ranger, Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA):

Starting July 1, 2018, tour vans operating in the MRCA overlooks on Mulholland must obtain a "no fee permit" through the MRCA. Twenty-five van operators have already been contacted by MRCA to apply for the permit. Presently fifteen to twenty percent of the tour vans are not licensed or insured.

The Jerry Daniels overlook above the Hollywood bowl is an

exception to the "no fee permit". This overlook had 100 to 130 van visits a day in March. There will be a \$10 per visit permit fee. Fees collected will be used to maintain the overlook, add portable toilets and to add extra patrols. MRCA is requesting the city improve the no parking signage and have traffic officer issue tickets to violators. For safety reasons, there will be no left turn into or out of the overlook.

### **Fees for Non Profits**

Fees for appeals to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings for nonprofits will be increased to \$500. Currently the cost to appeal is \$75 to \$100. The Federation passed a motion objecting to the increase. SCRA joined the Federation in opposing the increase.

## DID YOU KNOW?

THAT most types of birds in Southern California nest between February and August 31st. Hence, trimming trees should be done outside of nesting season. California Fish and Game Code 3503 states, "It is unlawful to take, possess or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird...". Also other Municipal Codes, State Codes and Federal Codes were enacted to protect our bird population.

It's worth mentioning that trees support a variety of nesting creatures in addition to birds. Trimming trees and other greenery in spring and summer could not only destroy nests and valuable nest sites, but it could lead to the intrusion of pests which is detrimental to the health of trees. The best time to prune conifers is in the fall. The best time to prune deciduous trees is late winter, before the leaves appear.

THAT St. Matthews Lutheran Church on Lankershim north of the 101 Fwy. is having a big impact on North Hollywood's homeless population. St. Matthews has a small congregation and a limited budget. Yet, in the past two years, St. Matthews has developed a program that has touched nearly 50% of North Hollywood's 1,200+ homeless population (of which 35 to date have / will soon receive housing).

The most innovative part - St. Matthews works with LA Family Housing every-other-Wednesday to offer medical care through an onsite doctor/nurse team. On top of the medical care, St. Matthews brings in substance abuse workers, mental health clinicians, housing case managers, and several other providers that help get homeless people into housing as soon as a bed is available.

Despite serving a substantial number of people each year, the impact on the neighborhood surrounding St. Matthews has been minimal because the church proactively tackles littering/encampments before they become a blight. St. Matthews accomplishes all this for only \$40k per year. Even better, St. Matthew's model is easily replicable for any secular or non-secular organization.

## SCRA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

At the end of May, members received their June annual renewal notice and SCRA is delighted that members are going to the SCRA website to renew. Not only does this save the SCRA postage it gives members a chance to peruse the site to see what SCRA is doing for the community.

There are two ways to renew. Complete and mail the 2018-2019 membership form, or renew online at [www.studiocityresidents.org](http://www.studiocityresidents.org). You can easily check your membership status by looking at the address printed on this newsletter. If the date above your name is 6/18 your

membership has expired and you need to renew. The SCRA membership year is from June 2018 to June 2019 if the date above your name is 6/19 you are renewed through June 2019. (Note: if you mailed in your renewal after June 20th, the date may still read 6/18. Please check the label on your next newsletter.).

Members who would like to receive periodic updates please give us your email address. **Our database system is capable of taking two email addresses per household.**

Thank you for your continued support of our all volunteer organization.

SCRA Board of Directors

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

*In conversations with Harvard Westlake on the Weddington Golf and Tennis Site:*

*Status quo: the facility will stay open to the public. Any issues by the public over access should be directed to Ari Engelberg at Harvard Westlake. No decision yet by Harvard Westlake: its board of Trustees will continue working during the coming months. Harvard Westlake would like to continue to receive input from our members and others. SCRA will be involved and consulted in an ongoing planning process with Harvard Westlake well in advance of any public meeting. Harvard Westlake will have public meetings on their proposal but any public meeting for now would be premature. SCRA opposes Valley Spring Lane being used as a connecting road between Whitsett Ave. and Bellaire. Possible alternate uses for this "paper street" are unknown at this time. Parking structure built below grade does not mean the SCRA will agree to a similar size structure such as a regulation gym being built above grade. Due to the water table the parking structure is limited to one level below grade: Harvard Westlake is aware of this condition. SCRA opposed any large structure on the site.*

*Digital Billboards on Freeways: Letter to the Sacramento Transportation Committee Chair with copies to our State Senator Bob Herzberg and Assembly Member Nazarian opposing this legislation. Caltrans relied on a Federal Highway Association study in support of the bill however this study was done before on board touch screens, direction finders and cell phones became the norm. In Alabama and Florida, there is a 25% 29% higher crash rate in the vicinity of such electronic bill boards. Be sure to let your State Senator Bob Herzberg (818) 901-5588 and your State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (818) 376-4246 know your thoughts on this.*

*Two possible homeless sites in Studio City: Comment letter to Councilmember Paul Krekorian on the two City properties in Studio City as possible sites for the homeless. SCRA board joined by the SCBA board sent a letter opposing the use of 11220 Ventura Blvd. as a possible site for homeless. (Opposite Marshall's). 1/3rd of this property is now a mini park and pedestrian walkway constructed by the Studio City Beautification Association: the other 2/3rd has a very steep slope. The word from Council Office CD2 is that it is aware of the limitations of this property. Properties are identified only as possibilities. No formal proposals have been developed pending review of the sites: public input and comment will be had before any action is taken.*

*Support for City Council Motion (Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program Guidelines) Motion to the Planning and Land Use Committee (PLUM) by Council Members Wesson and Ryu for the Department of City Planning. In consultation with the City Attorney to prepare a report for options to provide notice to all properties that either abut or whose homes are within 100 feet radius of the development project site. SCRA requested PLUM amend the motion to read 'within a 500 ft. radius.' These developments along the "Transit Corridors" e, g, and a development on Ventura Blvd could impact local residential areas without notice being given.*

*Finally: In "South Pacific" Nellie sang she was a "Cock eyed Optimist". In the children's book ""Pollyanna", the young girl finds something positive or the best in trying situations. That's not who the SCRA is. We are pragmatists to a fault as we work with opportunities by and through our elected officials, business and other organizations keeping in mind that SCRA is the advocate for Studio City to keep Studio City and Los Angeles a good place to work and live.*

*A reminder: Events as they occur or requested action items will be sent to our members by News and Notes (the Newsletter is bi monthly). When you renew your membership Don't forget to include your email address on your membership application.*

*Alan Dymond*

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**Studio City Farmers Market**

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**Newsletter**

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**STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

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**2,000 Members strong and growing!**

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**SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING**

**Tuesday, July 10, 2018**

**AGENDA**

- 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments/meet your neighbors.
- 7:30 p.m.** Speaker: Mark Toohey, California Earthquake Authority

**NEW MEETING LOCATION:**

**Bridges Academy  
Community Room  
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd,  
Studio City, CA 91604**

*One block south of Ventura at Laurel Canyon and Maxwelton. Parking is off of Maxwelton.*

Free parking is available in the school parking lot. Enter from Maxwelton. Security will assist.

