



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Your Advocate for Studio City*

**July 2023**

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## SCRA MEMBERS: WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

**F**riends, sharpen your pencils - it's survey time!

We're excited to roll out SCRA's first-ever membership survey and hear what's on your mind!

The survey consists of several questions about daily life in Studio City. We've provided plenty of space to share your perspective and invite you to write as much or as little as you like.



### Why take the survey?

SCRA is the leading advocate for Studio City residents. Representing thousands of homeowners and renters, we make sure elected officials pay attention to this community and its specific needs. To continue being an effective voice for our members, we need to hear from you. We want to make sure we are reflecting your opinions and taking action on the issues that matter most to you.

Put together, your responses will form an honest picture of the current state of our community and help shape SCRA's agenda in the coming years.

The survey is open to SCRA members only and will be available on our website through July 26th. visit [www.studiocityresidents.org](http://www.studiocityresidents.org) or scan the QR code to get started.

### Want to know what's on your neighbors' minds?

Survey highlights will be shared in our September newsletter. We would like to emphasize that responses will remain strictly confidential, and any results shared will be presented anonymously.

As your advocate for Studio City, we will also be sure to share key takeaways with our elected officials and urge them to make decisions that align with the priorities of their Studio City constituents. And that's another good reason to take the survey.

So come, sit down with a nice cup of coffee, and get ready to spill the beans! We look forward to hearing from you.

### And while we have you

Kindly remember to renew your membership for 2023, and this year, ask a friend to join! Our list of to-dos only grows from year to year. It's incumbent upon us to keep growing to meet the many challenges facing our community.

We have no better ambassadors than our members, so please help us engage and enlist newcomers. For \$25 a year, we can continue doing the work of keeping Studio City informed, connected - and heard.

**Thank you for being an active member!**

## COMMUNITY MEETING JULY 11, 2023

**Guest speaker: Kathryn Barger**

Supervisor Kathryn Barger serves the residents of Los Angeles County's 5th Supervisorial District - the county's largest in area, spanning 2,785 square miles, including 20 cities and 83 unincorporated communities in the San Gabriel, San Fernando, Crescenta, Santa Clarita, and Antelope Valleys.

(Continued, Page 2)



**(Meeting, cont'd)**



Studio City is split between two County Supervisors. Supervisor Barger and SCRA's May speaker, Supervisor Horvath. Supervisor Barger's district extends from Laurel Canyon Boulevard east and incorporates the Park & Ride at Ventura Blvd west of Lankershim as well as

county land along the LA River where several major developments are planned. Some members are concerned that trees may be destroyed in the process.

Come and hear what the county is doing on public safety, service gaps in mental health and substance abuse, homelessness, and economic development.

Q & A to follow,

**BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE**

**Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President**

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome sums up our beautification report to you.

Our first Welcome is to give you an update on our "Studio City Welcomes You" sign on the Vineland median at Whipple. To celebrate the donors and supporters who made the installation of this sign, and the beautification of this median possible, SCBA hosted a group photo shoot. Everyone was given online access to all the photos to download the files and use them to promote their community involvement with Studio City Beautification Association.

We thought you would enjoy seeing this photo of the group taken by photographer Sonia Keshishian.



From left to right: CD2 Studio City Field Deputy Denise Schall, CD2 Director of Community Improvement Jackie Keene, Assistant Director Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification Gerry Valido, WildFlora Owner

Principal Landscape Designer Mike Scholtz, SCRA President Emeritus Alan Dymond, SCBA Vice President Beth Dymond, Welcome Sign Designer Richard Walsh, CD2 Councilmember Paul Krekorian, SCBA Board Member Barry Johnson, NBCUniversal Global Real Estate Planning & Development Vice President Joy Forbes, NBCUniversal Real Estate Planning & Community Relations Director Darnell Tyler, The Garland General Manager Scott Mills, and SCNC President Scott Mandell.



Our second Welcome is a welcome back to our "Studio City Welcomes You" sign on the Laurel Canyon median across from Campbell Hall. You may recall last year our beautiful sign was destroyed by a single vehicle driving over the median. Your outpouring of outrage and heartbreak

came quickly and when Radford Studio Center heard about this vehicle's vandalism they quickly offered to pay for a new sign. Here is a picture of our new sign with thanks and gratitude to our new neighbor.

And get ready to Welcome our newest "Studio City Welcomes You" sign on the south side of Ventura at Longridge. SCBA is applying to the city under the adopt-a-median program for approval and permits. This slow process can take anywhere from 3 months to a year or more. So, stay tuned. We'll keep you posted.

Stay safe and see you in the neighborhood.

**UPDATE FROM SLAROS**



All must attend the upcoming Public Hearing on the Weddington Golf and Tennis property.

The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) prepared by Harvard-Westlake is now published and filed with the Planning Department. Our attorneys are preparing responses to the FEIR and will file the SCRA /SLAROS response with the Planning Department.

Of utmost importance is the July 12, 2023, Dept. of City Planning PUBLIC HEARING. This hearing is the crucial step before a hearing officer who will be making recommendations known as "Findings." These "Findings" will form the basis and be incorporated into the staff report that is sent to the City Planning Commission hearing officers.

All concerned must log in on July 12th and make your statement of opposition. Go to [www.StudioCityResidents.org](http://www.StudioCityResidents.org) for a link to the hearing notice. We will keep you informed if the notice is updated for a hybrid (virtual/in-person) hearing. We need your help, please, call your council members, Nithya Raman (213) 473-7004 and Paul Krekorian (213) 473-7002, and be sure to give your zip code and express your preference for an in-person hearing on July 12th.

If you are unable to attend, please submit a written public comment before July 12th, it will be reviewed by the decision-makers.

**Case # CPC-2020-1511-VUC-SPR  
ENV-2020-1512 EIR  
Kimberly Henry, City Planner  
Kimberly.henry@LACity.org  
213-847-3688  
221 N Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90012**

The next step after the City Planning Hearing is that the decision-making goes to the City Planning Commission. That hearing will be on August 24, 2023, in Van Nuys, and will be an in-person hearing. It is critical that everybody attends this meeting (Wear Green) and again voice your opposition.

Please share this info with family, friends, and everyone you know!

Follow @saveWeddington on social media to stay up to date. We will advise by email and text of the final arrangements.

*Alan Dymond, President SLAROS*

## SCRA ACCEPTING JR. MEMBER'S SUBMISSIONS

Membership in the SCRA is for the entire household. The SCRA newsletter has a new section that will feature articles from our Jr. Members. Is there a Jr. member in your household who would like to be published in the SCRA newsletter? If so, please email SCRABoard@StudioCityResidents.org for further details.

## AN ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER IN THE MAKING, HARVARD-WESTLAKE'S SPORTS COMPLEX

**According to the Harvard-Westlake PR campaign to install Artificial Turf, "Based on the current regulatory standards for PFAS in Massachusetts, there are no significant risks associated with the discharge of PFAS from the synthetic turf field into groundwater. Therefore, there are no significant risks associated with the discharge of PFAS or other toxic chemicals from microplastics in an amount that would be harmful to groundwater or any receiving waters, such as the Los Angeles River."**

**WE DISAGREE. The EPA has said that there are no safe levels of PFAS (forever chemicals) anywhere. And there is Assembly Bill 1423 moving through the CA Assembly and Senate that will ban the future installation of artificial turf due to PFAS/PFOS and other forever chemicals in Artificial Turf.**

Based on questionable studies, Harvard-Westlake states, "...health risk impacts related to exposure to *Staphylococcus aureus* on artificial turf would be less than significant."

**Credible studies indicate *Staphylococcus aureus* (a group of bacteria) is a risk, and 80% of the NFL is removing artificial turf for grass turf to be reinstalled due to an increase in injury on artificial turf.**

Harvard-Westlake says, "Project health risk impacts related to heat effects from artificial turf would be preventable."

**How so?** Not supported by any credible authority. The current bill, Assembly Bill 499 before the California Senate addresses the dangers of impervious surfaces, including that artificial turf is dangerous to children and animals.

**None of the design modifications in the Final Environmental Impact Report directly or indirectly involve the analyses of artificial turf and its effects on health or localized heat effects.**

## UPDATE ON THE LA RIVER, WHITSETT TO LAUREL CANYON



This stretch of the bike path has enormous potential to allow access to the river from Ventura Blvd and at the same time bring tourists into the Studio City commercial district. Access gates are already in place from the Vons parking, Time Square parking lot, and the Studio City Parking structure. All these access points have stairs or ramps that lead to the bike path, and all are locked up tight and never used.



## TO THE MARKET

The Farmers Market is happy to welcome Chocapothecary, makers of functional chocolate medicines with mushrooms and adaptogens. Products include Happy + Lion's Mane + Double Chocolate Nut

Butter Spread, Energy + Ashwagandha + Maple Pecan Chocolate Nut Butter Spread, Sleep + Reishi Magic Chocolate Cups, Digest + Lion's Mane + Fennel + Ginger Almond Butter Cups, and many more unique and flavorful items. They have products to help with sleep, anxiety, cycle and reproductive wellness, brain and gut issues, stress, and energy. They are located in the small lot off the center of the Market.

Now that summer is here it's time to enjoy some ice cream. We love McConnell's on Ventura Place. They have wonderful delicious flavors and are open at noon on Sundays. In the Market is also Vegano, near the children's section.

Vegano sells dairy-free, gluten-free, vegan ice cream made with organic ingredients, such as organic rice milk and organic vegan butter. Flavors include coconut dream, mango chili, cafe choco chip, strawberry lemon, matcha chocolate, rocky road, and peanut butter chocolate. For the more adventurous, there is a mojito flavor that is infused with white rum. It's always a difficult decision - choosing which flavors to get.

Mehmet Berker, Senior Deputy, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Public Space for Council District 4 is spearheading an effort to revitalize the LA River bike path (southside) from Laurel Canyon to Whitsett Ave.



In recent discussions with Recreation and Parks, SCRA, SCNC, BID, The River Project, and LA Parks Foundation it was agreed that the first phase of the project is for the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to initiate clearing all non-native plants and trees. Funding must be found and locked in before this first phase can begin.

This is an opportunity to make this stretch of the river the best that it can be. A Band-Aid approach will not work. The city needs to do it right this time.



Together with CD4 and the Studio City Community, we can make this area into a beautifully accessible parkway along the river.

## SAVE THE DATE

**September 12, 2023**

**Presentation of Proposed development at Radford Studio**

The SCRA's September 12th Community Meeting will be held on the Radford Studio lot. Radford Studio will be presenting its plans for development on the lot. Stay tuned for more information as details become finalized.



NEIGHBOR



TO

NEIGHBOR

"I believe everyone who is able should try and give back to the community in some capacity. As a landscape design professional, I have skills that will benefit the community--from knowledge of plants and trees, to understanding urban design, experience with installation and project management, I can help make Studio City a more attractive and healthy place to live."

*Douglas Short*



### 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:** I was wondering if the SCRA could help me get the city to remove a diseased sycamore tree on the parkway. I've already had it tagged by a consulting arborist.

**SCRA:** The most efficient way to request service is to contact the Bureau of Street Service's Urban Forestry Service Request Section at (800) 996-2489. Alternatively, the City's call center may be contacted by dialing 3-1-1. In most cases, the location will be inspected within 2 to 4 weeks depending on available staff and workload. However, if your request involves an

emergency such as a tree or limb down or a partially uprooted tree, a crew will respond within 24 hours.

**Q:** Below are two signs that have been erected at 4215 Beck Avenue (at the corner of Beck and Acama Street). I have never seen one of these blue Public Works Improvement signs on a "Local Street" classification before. Beck isn't even a collector street. There are some things that just shouldn't be placed in residential neighborhoods. The residents, and in particular this homeowner, should not have to look out their window (or come and go from their home) and see this intrusive blue sign for the next year. The orange sign is all that should be erected at this location. This sewer project goes all the way to Colfax Avenue. As an "Avenue III" (Secondary Highway) classification, Colfax would be much more appropriate for this blue sign. What action can be taken to get this blue sign moved?



**SCRA** received this response from Council District 2. Thank you for bringing this to our attention. It should/will be removed and placed on Colfax.

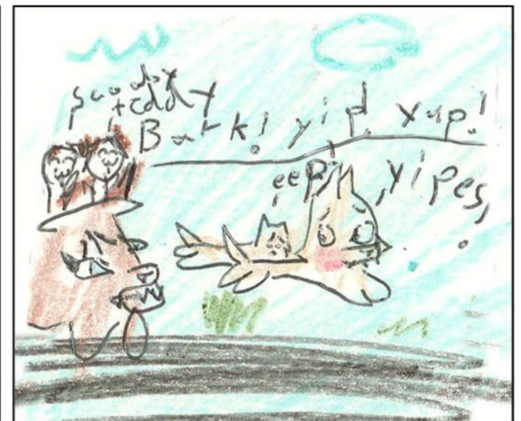
**Q:** I'm writing to make you aware of a parking issue we have in the surrounding streets of The Shops at Sportsmans development. It is my understanding that the permits issued by the city were conditional permits, and one of the conditions, which I knew at the time was virtually unenforceable, was that employees of the businesses there were supposed to park on the premises of the development, and not in the surrounding streets. However, that is clearly not the case now as we see

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# FROM OUR JUNIOR MEMBER

By Morgan Emslie – 3rd Grade

## ★ COYOTE PATROL ★



# KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR MAILBOX

**Our membership drive for 2023-2024 is in full swing. Don't wait, renew your membership now and you will receive your new SCRA Member Discount Card to support our local businesses. New businesses are joining all the time, three of our newest businesses are Rouge Restaurant, Floaty Swim School, and Belle Bakery Café. Visit our website for more information on them and our other Participating Businesses.**

Visit [www.StudioCityResidents.org](http://www.StudioCityResidents.org)

## (Ask SCRA cont'd)

cars daily that are parked on city streets for approximately eight-hour time spans. We have had this occurrence only since the stores have been open there. So, it's obviously staff members from the businesses. I do plan on reaching out to the city about placing parking restrictions on our street. However, I wanted you to be aware of this because as I understand, Sportsmans Lodge has additional development plans for future redevelopment of the hotel.

**SCRA:** Barry Johnson, Chair of the SCNC Transportation Committee has devoted an entire meeting to this issue. Discussion and possible motion concerning Parking and Traffic Issues, as well as the current Conditional Use Permit requirements, all concerning the entirety of the "Sportsmen's" complex in Studio City. The full report from the Transportation Committee was heard on June 21st. For information on this motion contact the SCNC at [StudioCitync.org](http://StudioCitync.org) or (818) 655-5400.

## FROM YOUR BOARD

### Alan Dymond steps down as SCRA President

*Faced with many upcoming and diverse developments, SCRA has found it necessary to restructure the management of our Executive Board and Board. This restructuring will allow us to vigorously address these many developments as they are of serious concern to members, neighbors, and renters in Studio City. It is not only the attempted steal of the Golf and Tennis facility on Whitsett but also the attacks to override, reverse, or water down our Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan. The city enacted the Specific Plan to protect our neighborhoods from overdevelopment next to the hillsides and along the Ventura Blvd corridor.*

*In accordance with the SCRA bylaws, the Board adopted the following restructuring with Alan Dymond stepping down as President of SCRA, and Barry Johnson becoming Acting President of SCRA. Barry, who is our land use expert, was previously the Vice President of SCRA and he will represent the SCRA at public hearings and in other matters.*

*Meanwhile, Alan will keep his position on the SCRA Board and continue to be involved as before. Alan's new title is SCRA President Emeritus. Alan retains his position as President of Save LA River Open Space coordinating efforts with Barry Johnson.*

*SCRA Board, in a letter to the Studio City Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee, supported the preservation of three mature native trees along the LA River on the property of the proposed site of the Eldercare Facility proposed at Ventura Blvd and Colfax Ave.*

## WHO WE ARE

### SCRA OFFICERS

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

### BOARD MEMBERS

Alan Dymond, President Emeritus  
Joanne Brenner  
Beth Dymond  
Martha Hanrahan  
John Hartich  
Bonnie Kalaf  
Stephen Sass  
Lana Shackelford  
Karen Younce

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Beth Dymond, Vice President  
Connie Elliot, Secretary  
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

### BOARD MEMBERS

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Lynette Berg Robe  
Doug Short  
Karen Younce  
[StudioCityBeautificationAssoc@gmail.com](mailto:StudioCityBeautificationAssoc@gmail.com)

### SAVE LA RIVER OPEN SPACE OFFICERS

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Beth Dymond, Secretary  
Sharon Udkoff, Treasurer

### BOARD MEMBERS

Dale Fernandez  
Barry Johnson  
Holly Noelle-Levy  
Kelsey McCallister  
[SaveOpenSpace@SLAROS.org](mailto:SaveOpenSpace@SLAROS.org)

### STUDIO CITY FARMERS MARKET

(818) 655-7744  
[StudioCityFarmersMarket.com](http://StudioCityFarmersMarket.com)

### NEWSLETTER

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(818) 667-6647 [Kevin@KevLew.com](mailto:Kevin@KevLew.com)

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[SCRABOARD@STUDIOCITYRESIDENTS.ORG](mailto:SCRABOARD@STUDIOCITYRESIDENTS.ORG)

# *Hello Again.*

The SCRA Member Discount Card is back for our 5th year! Join us as we continue celebrating our 60+ years advocating for you. When you renew your membership, you will receive your new Member Discount Card that is welcomed at these local businesses: (New cards available on or after July 1st)

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anna Cheselka Dance        | Floaty Swim School         |
| April Davis Investigations | Gisele Tune                |
| Arnold's Copy & Print      | Gramercy Boutique          |
| Auto Plaza                 | Habit                      |
| Back to Wellness           | James Thomas Stained Glass |
| Belle Bakery Cafe          | La Knitterie Parisienne    |
| BLVD Hotel & Spa           | Matthew's Jewelry Store    |
| Charlies' Shoe Repair      | Mister O's                 |
| Chateau de Luce            | Panache Boutique           |
| Classic Toys               | Pepe's Pizza               |
| Cocoa and Candy            | Prosecco Trattoria         |
| Creation Station Studio    | Rain Bar & Lounge          |
| City                       | Rouge                      |
| Dana Kathryn Jewelry       | SALT. Optics               |
| Daniell Menswear           | topdrawer                  |
| Diana's Boutique           | The Village                |
| Eye Candy Optometry        | Vitello's Restaurant       |
| Eyedentity Eyewear         | Wild Flora                 |
| Flair Cleaners             |                            |



Scan this  To see more info on the businesses and their discounts.



## STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



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



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## SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

### AGENDA

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

● Guest Speaker:  
Supervisor, Kathryn Barger

### MEETING LOCATION

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

Free parking in school lot.  
Enter on Maxwellton.



SCRABoar d@studiocityresidents.org  
www.studiocityresidents.org

