



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Your Advocate for Studio City

January 2015

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## IT SNOWED AGAIN IN STUDIO CITY AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL WINTER FAMILY FESTIVAL

More than 5,000 people attended this year's Studio City Winter Family Festival, presented by the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) and Studio City Recreation Center. The free event, the largest to-date, featured a wide range of activities for children and their families, and some new additions this year that made for a spirited holiday experience for all. At the center of the excitement was more than 70 tons of snow that turned "Beeman Park" into a winter wonderland. Kids and adults alike enjoyed sledding down two slides as well as playing in a snow field where they made snowballs and snowmen. In addition, guests were treated to live music by local schools, community groups and professional bands, including Evergreen Academy, the Campbell Hall World Drumming Ensemble, Walter Reed Jazz Band "A", the Arc Bell Choir, the Studio City Recreation Center Guitar students, Schoolcraft and Murray and a special appearance by SpongeBob and the High Seas (with lead vocals by Tom Kenny, the voice of SpongeBob). The Festival also featured photos with Santa shot by professional photographer Nancy Kaye, face painting, craft-making and gingerbread-house making, and the opportunity to take a photo against a green screen with a special surprise, courtesy of NBCUniversal.

A highlight of the Winter Family Festival, the on-site Festival of Giving provided festival-goers the opportunity to give back to the community by donating food, toys, books, pet toys/items, as well as clothing and blankets to benefit the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry, St. Charles Service Center, the LAPD North Hollywood Division Gift and Food Drive, Pet Orphans, Aviva Family & Children's Services, and Iris Blossom Charities. In addition, guests were treated to samples by local restaurants, including Lemonade, Local Ice, Tuning Fork and Pizza Rev, along with samples from Nescafe Cafe Gusto, Blue Can Water, The Grain & The Greens and Mac-o-licious

This year, the SCRA maximized social media channels, including Facebook and Instagram (#winterfamilyfest), encouraging the community and festival-goers to share their memories of the event.

(Continued, Page 2)



(Festival, cont'd)



The SCRA and the Studio City Recreation Center thank all of the sponsors and the many volunteers, including the LAPD North Hollywood Division Cadets, without whom this event would

not happen. Major supporters included CBS Studio Center, NBCUniversal and BLVD Hotels. Presenting sponsors included the Studio City Neighborhood Council and the Studio City Improvement Association. Event sponsors included the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, the Studio City Farmers Market, Star Parking, Lifestyle Magazine, Blue Shield of California, Shaolin American Self-Defense Academy, Bryan Abrams/Your Source for Studio City Realty, Nancy Kaye Photography, Weintraub Real Estate Group and Alan Taylor Real Estate. For more information, visit [StudioCityResidents.org](http://StudioCityResidents.org).

## SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STUDIO CITY CARES AWARDS

Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members, guests and neighbors are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Studio City Residents Association on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, starting at 7:30 p.m., during which the SCRA officers for 2015 will be installed. The SCRA and Studio City Beautification will review upcoming activities by both organizations, while Save Los Angeles River Open Space (SLAROS) will provide an update on the status of efforts to preserve the Weddington Golf and Tennis facility as open space.



The evening's program will also include the presentation of the SCRA's Studio City CARES Awards to Rick Rabins of Village Gardeners for Excellence in Community Service and Carpenter



Community Charter Music Teacher Kimberly Taweel for Excellence in Service to Developing Youth. The SCRA will also present the Fran Quigley Award, its highest honor, to Marian Dodge of the Hillside Federation.

The SCRA will present a donation to the Studio City Recreation Center from funds raised as part of the SCRA's Fourth Annual Winter Family Festival.

The meeting will be held at The Garland, formerly known as the Beverly Garland, located at 4222, Vineland Avenue, Studio City. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments.

## INVITATION TO TOUR THE L.A. RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL PROJECT

Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members and neighbors are invited to meet with Community Conservation Solutions (CCS) for a tour of the Greenway walking path along the Los Angeles River from Whitsett Avenue to Coldwater Canyon Avenue. The plans for this section of the Greenway include native habitat restoration, replacement of some non-native trees, other landscaping features, hard-scape features (benches), and soft-scape (trees and plants). The tour takes place on January 10, 2015 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Interested participants should meet at the 36th Church of Christ Scientist, 40323 Whitsett Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604. Parking is available in the church lot and on adjacent streets.

The tour includes a review of non-native trees that will be replaced with new native trees, shrubs and other vegetation. Guests will have an opportunity to discuss the project with the CCS team. Walking shoes are suggested.

The SCRA helped sponsor this important Los Angeles River improvement as part of its ongoing program to improve, beautify and open up the banks of the River in Studio City to the public. This project will also link with the upstream walkway west of Coldwater Canyon Avenue that was built by Village Gardeners.

CCS will plant more than 4,000 native trees, shrubs, and plants in order to restore a natural complex of plant communities that will support a diversity of native birds, butterflies, reptiles (lizards) and invertebrates along the banks and in the River.

RSVP before January 10, 2014 to [jlaskin@conservationsolutions.org](mailto:jlaskin@conservationsolutions.org) or (310) 398-8584 ext. 4 For more information about the L.A. River Greenway Trail Project: [www.conservationsolutions.org/largwt.html](http://www.conservationsolutions.org/largwt.html)

Like the Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/L.A.RiverGreenwayTrail](http://www.facebook.com/L.A.RiverGreenwayTrail)

## THE RIDDLE OF COLFAX MEADOWS

The area that runs from Moorpark Street on the north to the Los Angeles riverbank on the south and from Tujunga Avenue on the east to Colfax Avenue on the west was named for President Ulysses Grant's first term Vice President Schulyer Colfax (1868).



Colfax was, at the time, one of only two Speakers of the US House of Representatives to rise to the vice presidency. In fact, Colfax's signature appears on the resolution sent to President Lincoln seeking approval of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery (December 13, 1865). During the contentious vote, Colfax broke protocol. Although seated as the Speaker of the House, he requested his vote be

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### (Colfax, cont'd)

recorded in favor of the proposed amendment.

Although he began his political career as a member of the Whig party, Colfax was an ardent abolitionist. He transitioned to the Republican Party and was known for his ability to work with both sides of the aisle.

In the 1850s, Colfax was a leading advocate for "homestead exemptions." The Indiana campaign framed the issue as, "when the Home shall be secure – when the cabin of the poor man shall be really his castle." The concept spread like wildfire through other states.

On the fateful day of April 15, 1865, before going to the theatre, President Lincoln dispatched Colfax to travel west on an extended speaking engagement where he had to endure California's rough roads. He subsequently became an ardent supporter of the vision for a transcontinental railroad. His speeches were reported to be received by "one continuous ovation."

However, in 1892, Colfax was removed from the Presidential re-election ticket as a result of allegations that he had accepted stock in Crédit Mobilier, which was the financier for the Transcontinental Railroad.

(Editor's Note: This article was written by Joann Deutch, author of [Studio City - A Mile of Style: What's History, What's Gossip](#)).

## FREE PARKING AT NBCUNIVERSAL

NBCUniversal is inviting Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members to apply for complimentary parking at NBCUniversal. The Universal Studios 2015 Globe Partner Pass program is specifically designed for the property's closest neighbors to access and enjoy Universal City. Residents of Studio City who are within the NBCUniversal designated area are eligible for a parking card that provides 12 complimentary self-parking passes. This offer by Universal is nontransferable and is limited to one request per household per year.

SCRA members should send their request to Universal Studios, Community Parking Pass Program, 100 Universal City Plaza, 1280-3, Universal City, CA 91608-1002 or go to [communityline.nbcuni.com/neighborhood/globe-partner-pass](http://communityline.nbcuni.com/neighborhood/globe-partner-pass) to apply.

## FROM THE SCRA BOARD

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) board appoints all nine members of the Studio City Beautification Association Board (SCBA). The SCRA board passed an amendment to its bylaws to clarify a possible ambiguity in these appointments. Allocation of the nine seats on the SCBA board includes five



## TO THE MARKET

Deep into winter the Studio City Farmers Market is full of the season's best. From the pomelo and its cousin, the grapefruit, to clementines and mandarins, the farmers' stands are always brimming with a hearty mix. California's temperate climate provides the right environment for many few fruits and vegetables, so it is sometimes easy to forget that certain specialties are only available for a few months out of the year.

The Market is pleased to welcome Mama Musubi. Selling stuffed Japanese rice balls, a street food found on nearly every corner in Japan, Mama Musubi has had a line at its booth since the company's first day at the Market. Their Twitter followers were all too happy to venture to the Market to get their fill of these delicacies, and Market regulars were not far behind. Stuffed with a variety of toppings, such as kelp, chicken, beef, salmon, and even Spam, the rice balls are a favorite with children and adults alike.

As a reminder, the Studio City Farmers Market provides free booth space to non-profit organizations wishing to promote an event or a cause. Space is provided on a first come, first served basis, and is reserved several weeks in advance. Any organization interested in having a booth at the Market should email the market manager at [manager@studiocityfarmersmarket.com](mailto:manager@studiocityfarmersmarket.com). Given high demand, booth space is limited to twice a year per organization.

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. Stop by and visit! The Market is open on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

seats held by SCRA board members with four seats held by "at large" SCRA members. The SCBA board will continue to elect its officers.

No outside nominations were received by the SCRA board for the SCRA officers; therefore, nominations of the Nominating Committee stand, and those nominated will be appointed at the SCRA Annual General Meeting on January 13, 2015.

Many members who attended the panel discussion by the presidents of Studio City organizations, hosted by the SCRA at its November Community Meeting, have asked that the SCRA consider scheduling a similar panel discussion as an annual event.

Although the proposal for cell phone antennas at Studio City Recreation Center (aka "Beeman Park") has been withdrawn, the SCRA board maintains its opposition to any commercialization of public parks.

## 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:** Can you please let me know who to e-mail to protest the proposed expansion of Harvard Westlake on Coldwater Canyon Avenue. I would also like to know where I can get a sign.

**SCRA:** Contact the organization called Save Coldwater Canyon. Log onto their website, [savecoldwatercanyon.com](http://savecoldwatercanyon.com), which will direct you to the information about letter writing, e-mails, etc. and where you can pick up a lawn sign.

**Q:** Two new big red cranes have been installed in Universal City on top of two existing cranes. Can you bring us up-to-speed on what exactly is being constructed and where it sits on the Universal City property?

**SCRA:** There are two new cranes located on the Cahuenga Pass area of the property that are working on the new parking garage. Cranes will be relocated on the property based on project needs. This work includes preparing for the launch of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, which will include additional parking and a right-turn-only lane that will be carved out of the property alongside Barham Blvd. Community members can pose questions directly by going to NBCUniversal's new Community Line at [communityline.nbcuni.com](http://communityline.nbcuni.com). This site will provide ongoing updates on the construction and other Universal City information.

**Q:** It seems that the SCRA is only interested in promoting and improving west Studio City; what have you done for the east end?

**SCRA:** For many years, SCRA has worked on or funded improvements to the east end of Studio City. For example, SCRA has planted and trims street trees on Ventura Blvd. from Lankershim Blvd. to Carpenter Avenue. The SCRA joined Toluca Lake, Hollywood Hills, Cahuenga Pass and surrounding associations to form "Communities United for Smart Growth" for the purpose of creating a united voice on the proposed development at the Metro station and the expansion of NBCUniversal. Among other activities, the SCRA built a "Studio City Welcomes You" monument at Campo de Cahuenga Way and Ventura Blvd.; changed the Redline signs from Universal City to Universal City/Studio City; and planted and now maintains the median on Vineland Avenue, the pocket park across from Marshalls, and the median on Ventura Blvd west of Lankershim Blvd. In addition, the SCRA worked with NBCUniversal to create a reading garden at Rio Vista Elementary, donated funds to programs at Rio Vista Elementary and helped fund improvements at Campo de Cahuenga.

**Q:** I just came across several photos. Would you be interested for the archives?

**SCRA:** The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) now partners with The Museum of San Fernando Valley for that purpose. Oral histories, photographs, documents and artifacts obtained by the SCRA are provide to the museum to catalogue and preserve. The SCRA's agreement with the museum is that any Studio City artifacts the SCRA has provided to the museum will be loaned back to the SCRA upon request. The museum is moving forward on a facility to permanently house its collection. For more information, visit [StudioCityResidents.org](http://StudioCityResidents.org). Click on "Our Community" and "Educating our Children."

## WILACRE PARKING LOT FEES WAIVED

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and the County of Los Angeles have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that states that the parking fees at Wilacre Park are no longer being charged or collected.

The County of Los Angeles will provide MRCA with \$930,000 per year for many uses, that include the replacement of fees lost at the Wilacre parking lot. In the past, MRCA received funding from Proposition A funds, which are expiring. The money from the County helps fill the gap left by Proposition A. The balance of the funds will be used by MRCA in other areas on its lands that are in the third Supervisorial District, which includes Studio City.

As a condition of the MOU, MRCA must ensure that all amenities currently provided at Wilacre Park will continue to be provided free of charge to the general public, including all parking lots serving the park. A final agreement that will formalize the MOU is expected soon.

## STUDIO CITY LEADERS ADDRESS THE SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) hosted the leadership of the major Studio City volunteer community organizations in a panel discussion at the SCRA's November 2014 Community Meeting. The group, which included John Walker of the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC), Karen Younce of the Studio City Farmers Market, Tony Richman of the Studio City Business Improvement Association (BID), Jim Kaplan of the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, Bill Harmond of the Studio City Beautification Association, Chip Meehan of Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) and Alan Dymond of the SCRA, discussed their group's areas of emphasis, their accomplishments, and their hopes for the future of the community.

Board members are voted on by the community. The SCNC serves as an advisor to the City Council on local issues. The BID works to enhance the business district along Ventura Blvd.

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## (Meeting, cont'd)

from Coldwater Canyon Avenue to Carpenter Avenue. The Studio City Chamber of Commerce works with its members to enhance the retail environment; it also provides funding support for local non-profits, presents the annual Fourth of July event in Studio City, and this year is spearheading efforts in Studio City to support the Special Olympics. SLAROS, a subsidiary of SCRA, works to preserve Weddington Golf and Tennis as open space for public recreational use. The Studio City Farmers Market is owned and operated by the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Studio City Residents Association as a community meeting place and a venue where the community can purchase fresh locally grown produce. Revenue from the Market is donated to organizations, schools and charities for the betterment of the community. The SCBA, also an SCRA subsidiary, focuses on improving city properties that are outside the BID area and is responsible for the "Studio City Welcomes You" monument signs that are located around the community. The SCBA also develops and maintains pocket parks and street trees in the neighborhood. In some instances, members of these organizations have come together to work on important

issues, including getting the exterior of CVS on the corner of Ventura and Laurel Canyon Blvds. repainted, getting pay stations removed from Ventura Blvd., stopping a proposal to have parking fees imposed on Sundays in the community, and working for a safer crosswalk at the intersection of Rhodes Avenue and Ventura Blvd.

In response to a prompt by a member of the audience, the panel discussed their respective 2015 wish lists. Topping the list was the wish for more involvement in Studio City by community members. In addition, the SCNC wished that Studio City would be able to maintain the quality of life. The BID hoped for a shuttle to traverse Studio City from Universal City to Coldwater Canyon Ave. The Chamber was eager for excitement around the Special Olympics and the opportunity to increase donations to the community. SLAROS hoped to find the money to buy Weddington Golf and Tennis so that the venue could remain as open space. The Farmers Market hoped to continue to present a wide variety of produce, and the SCBA hoped to complete its planned projects and to continue to improve run-down city-owned properties.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** by Alan Dymond

*Several years ago I mentioned in the introduction to my monthly President's Message that the month of January was named after the two-faced Roman god Janus with one face looking back in time and one looking forward. This year there is no need to look back at where we have been since it has been well reported, we have certainly had many ups and downs. Nevertheless, let's look forward to what may be in store for us.*

*We can expect the route of the bike path along the bank of the Los Angeles River in Studio City from Coldwater Canyon Avenue to Colfax Avenue to be finalized. The Whitsett Avenue to Coldwater Canyon Avenue Greenway on the north bank will be developed. Community Conservation Solutions will report on the progress on a regular basis so our members are informed as the project progresses. The Studio City Business Improvement District is investigating having a shuttle along Ventura Blvd. with the end limits under discussion and the feasibility under consideration. Meanwhile, NBCUniversal will be obligated to fund and run a shuttle as part of the development at the studio lot. Depending on City finances and scheduling, Ventura Blvd. at Rhodes Avenue may finally see an upgraded pedestrian crossing, and a CicLAvia event will be held in March along Ventura Blvd.*

*More than 50 people who visited the Save LA River Open Space booth at the Winter Family Festival last month signed postcards to encourage our councilmember to remain committed to keeping Weddington Golf and Tennis as open space. The status of this effort presents the conundrum: how do we all keep involved and committed when nothing appears to be happening? Well, first, it is up to the developer to answer the challenges that have been filed against the project. And until the developer files answers with the Los Angeles Department of City Planning, there is very little for us to do. When that happens, things will get fired up again. For example, more than 400 people who attended the Studio City Neighborhood Council meeting about the proposed project were opposed to the development. Just imagine how positive an effect it would have if 2,300 people who had signed a postcard to keep the facility as open space showed up at the next public hearing? That hearing will be before a city administrative officer who advises the Planning Department on a staff report that will be sent to the Planning Commission. That advice is forwarded to the Planning and Land Use Committee (three councilmembers), which then recommends final action to the full City Council. The volunteers of our three organizations very much appreciate the support and encouragement they receive from our members and others in our community. We would like to extend a personal thank you on behalf of SLAROS to many of you who were able to step up with a generous contribution to help with the challenge to prevent a condominium project replacing the tennis courts.*

*I would like to extend congratulations to those who worked diligently to produce an amazing Studio City Winter Family Festival, one of our most successful ever. That event is but one of the many projects we embrace as part of the Studio City Residents Association's effort to advocate on behalf of all who live in Studio City and to ensure the quality of life in our fine community.*

*Alan Dymond*

### SCRA Committees

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

### Officers

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

### Board Members

Beth Dymond  
Martha Hanrahan  
Steve Hirsh  
Art Howard  
Barry Johnson

Robin Seidel  
Barry Weiss  
Karen Younce  
Jason Goodman, junior member

### Immediate Past President

Art Howard

### Beautification Association

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

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

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

### School Liaisons

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman  
Rio Vista - Barry Weiss

### Studio City Farmers Market

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# SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015

### AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Reception  
7:30 p.m. Annual General Meeting and presentation of Studio City CARES Awards

### Meeting Location

**The Beverly Garland 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 The Beverly Garland Theatre for continued support of the monthly SCRA Community Meetings*

