



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Your Advocate for Studio City*

**September 2021**

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## COMMUNITY MEETING CANCELLED

Regrettably, our September Community Meeting, which we planned as an in-person meeting to 'welcome back' members, has been cancelled due to ongoing Covid concerns. We look forward to hosting our next community meeting on November 9th, which hopefully, will be in-person, but if not, we are considering the alternative of a Zoom meeting.

The board's previous Zoom meeting organizer has moved out of the state, so we are looking for a volunteer who can set up and host the Zoom meeting in November if needed. If you are interested in volunteering as a Zoom host organizer, please contact Beth Dymond at: [SCRAboard@StudioCityResidents.org](mailto:SCRAboard@StudioCityResidents.org).

## REDISTRICTING 2021

What it means to you, why should you care, and how the SCRA is fighting for common-sense representation.

All fifteen (15) City Council districts and all five (5) County Supervisor districts will be adjusted in accordance with the new 2020 Census count, with all the districts needing to be finalized by the end of October.

### Los Angeles City Council Redistricting

SCRA has been participating in the process and asking for a "Southeast Corner of the Valley" City Council District. Ten years ago, we were successful in getting Studio City into a single council district, instead of the three districts we were in from 2001 to 2011. The redistricting process allows all members of the public to participate, and we believe that now is the time to include all the Southeast Corner of the Valley into one city council district. To that end, SCRA will be submitting a proposed map that reflects this concept, which will also avoid a district that, by way of the thinnest of land threads going over the Santa Monica mountains, is both in the Valley and the Metro LA areas.

### Los Angeles County Supervisor Redistricting

SCRA feels Studio City has been like the "forgotten child" of our district which currently spans the Santa Monica Mountains and goes all the way to Santa Monica and the Westside. SCRA has been participating in the process and asking for an "All-Valley Supervisor District." Each district is comprised of two million people and the Valley has now crossed that threshold if we also include Burbank, Glendale, the City of San Fernando, Calabasas, and Hidden Hills. We believe our area will be better served with a supervisor serving one concise geographic area, surrounded by the Rim of the Valley. SCRA will be submitting a proposed map that includes the entire Valley under one Supervisor District. At the county redistricting meetings to date, this one district for the Valley concept has been echoed throughout every corner of the Valley.

## PREVIEW OF THE SHOPS AT SPORTSMEN'S LODGE



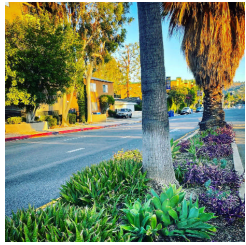
In August, members of the SCRA were invited to a special "sneak peek" of The Shops at Sportsmen's Lodge. Members, outfitted with safety vests and hardhats, were escorted through the construction site to get a preview look before the opening of the complex, currently planned for around the middle of September. The response to the invitation by our members was so overwhelming it led to Sportsmen's adding a second preview night to accommodate all our interested members. SCRA wants to thank The Shops at Sportsmen's Lodge for the opportunity.



# BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

**Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President**

The Laurel Canyon median (south of the 101 Freeway) got an early summer facelift courtesy of the Studio City Beautification Association and thanks to a generous contribution from Campbell Hall School. Located right across from Campbell Hall, SCBA added nearly 100 plants on the median to complement



the existing landscape look of the school. This newest beautification (see photo) features Red Kangaroo Paw plants and Blue Chalk Sedum to supplement the ground cover already planted in the median. The plants are small now but by next spring the median will showcase a lush colorful, fresh new look.

And just down the road from the Laurel Canyon median, on Ventura Boulevard between Tujunga and Vineland, another beautification location got a beauty treatment. The Oasis Pocket Park (across the street from Marshalls) became the new



home for 12 Agave Attenuata also known as Agave Foxtail. When they were baby plants, we pruned them from another SCBA site and grew them in containers until they were mature enough to be transplanted to their new home at The Oasis. It is with parental pride we share with you this picture of these beautiful plants.

Recently, SCBA teamed up with City Plants to spread the word about Free Trees. Sharing a booth at the Studio City Farmers Market, City Plants Tree Planting Project Coordinator Amy Schulenberg and SCBA Board Member Chip Meehan spent the day interacting with residents, describing the city's free tree program, and discussing how trees beautify the neighborhood and benefit the environment. You can get up to seven free trees from the city and two can be fruit trees. All you have to do to receive your free tree(s) is to promise to give the tree enough care and water to get established for a year or two. Check out [cityplants.org](http://cityplants.org) to find out more about this innovative program.



We close our report with a thank you for being on the SCBA team and reporting things that need attention by calling the office (818) 509-0230 or emailing [scaemergency@gmail.com](mailto:scaemergency@gmail.com)

It's the pride we take in our community and our teamwork that keeps Studio City looking beautiful.

Stay safe and see you in the neighborhood.

## BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT AT FAIRWAY AND VENTURA

Have you noticed our new garden space at Fairway and Ventura? The formerly weed-infested space is now beautifully



landscaped with blue agave, ceanothus yankee point, and pink grass.

These plants will bloom with colors in the fall and be a wonderful addition to the Studio City landscape for years to come. This garden was funded by the Studio City Beautification Association, the Studio City Business Improvement District, and Harvard-Westlake. There will be a community "ribbon cutting" planned this fall.

## CULTIVATING COMMUNITY FOR 59 YEARS AND COUNTING...



### BENEFITS OF YOUR SCRA MEMBERSHIP

- **SCRA Member Discount Card** will be mailed upon membership renewal or upon joining. We have over 30 businesses participating in this program, don't miss out on all that Studio City has to offer.
- **SCRA's bi-monthly Community Meeting** will return when Covid restrictions ease and it is safe to once again meet in person. We look forward to that day. The community meeting is your opportunity to greet your neighbors and voice your interests and concerns to our elected politicians, business leaders, school officials, and a variety of government departments or agencies. See you soon.

### GET TO KNOW OUR WEBSITE

In this issue, we are spotlighting: **YOUR BOARD IN ACTION.**

[studiocityresidents.org/our-community/your-board-in-action](http://studiocityresidents.org/our-community/your-board-in-action)  
The SCRA Board fights for you, our members. Here is where we post the letters we have sent on behalf of our membership to our political leaders. More can be found under YOUR BOARD IN ACTION on our website, [StudioCityResidents.org](http://StudioCityResidents.org).

## PARK & RIDE OFF LIMITS

The SCRA, the SCNC, the Business Improvement District, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, and Cahuenga Pass HOA have all worked together for months to press Supervisor Sheila Kuehl to acknowledge the county's responsibility to Studio City and surrounding neighborhoods regarding the Park & Ride encampment at 10801 Ventura Blvd.

These organizations have been telling Supervisor Kuehl for months that the situation at this encampment is untenable. LA City tried to make this into a safe parking area but the county, who has jurisdiction over the property, informed the city not to continue with its proposal.

This lot continues to pose a significant problem, putting at risk  
**(Continued, Page 3)**



## IT'S NOT TOO LATE, YET...

If you don't renew your membership by Sept. 30th:

- this will be your LAST Newsletter
- you will MISS OUT on all the discounts available with the SCRA Member Discount Card
- we will STOP emailing you our informative and newsworthy eBlasts

Stay informed, stay connected, strengthen our special Studio City community, renew NOW.

It's easy, you can renew online at [www.StudioCityResidents.org](http://www.StudioCityResidents.org)

**OR** you can call the SCRA office at 818-509-0230.

SCRA values your membership and we don't want to lose you.

**Please, don't wait any longer, RENEW NOW.**

### (Park & Ride, cont'd)

both those who reside in the parking lot and those who live in the surrounding area. This was demonstrated by a significant fire that enveloped vehicles and other refuse with the risk of wind-born embers that could have sparked additional fires well beyond the Park & Ride lot.

In the middle of August, there was a minor fender bender between cars in the lot which quickly escalated to an individual driving around the lot trying to run people over. One person was reported to be in critical condition and there were a handful of other injuries.

The encampment is growing, as is the criminal element, and, as a community, allowing this lawlessness to continue is a grave disservice to the community and to the most vulnerable individuals who find themselves living in that lot. SCRA has been told that LAPD cannot respond to calls about criminal activity on the lot and was informed that when stakeholders need assistance for disturbances on this county property, they must call:  
**LA County Services Dispatch, (800) 834-0064.**

Presently the lot has been abandoned as a Park & Ride for both Metro and the Hollywood Bowl shuttle. Frustration is growing in the neighborhood. SCRA received the following letter reflecting the mood of the neighborhood and others.

*"I HAVE HAD IT! Today, as I drove by the Hollywood Bowl Parking lot on Ventura Blvd. I was stopped to observe the Paramedics load a filthy, naked transient into the ambulance! In addition to the horror manifest there, it is a breeding ground for diseases such as Typhus and human suffering." Emphasis by the writer.*



## TO THE MARKET

As summer winds down, many of the season's favorites will be gone by the end of September, so now is the time to make a trip to the Studio City Farmers Market and stock up. By the end of the month, it's unlikely there will be any peaches left, as well as

nectarines, plums, and pears. Sweet corn on the cob, another summer staple, will be gone in a couple of weeks. Same for those delectable cherry tomatoes, the ones that sometimes don't make it home because they're devoured in the car.

Looking for an easy lunch on the go? Check out the frozen tamales from Tamales Treats and More. From carnitas to chicken, to the vegetarian goat cheese and sun-dried tomato, or the vegan artichoke tamale, they have something for everyone.

As a reminder, dogs that are not service dogs are not allowed at the Farmers Market.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the Service Animal is defined as **a dog that is specifically trained to perform a task (or tasks) for an individual with a disability.** With this definition in mind, a Service Dog is not an ordinary pet or even one that is being used for emotional support (ESA).

Our elected official and the Board of Supervisors are slow in proposing any solution to cure the inhuman conditions on the lot.

Send your comments and concerns to:  
*Supervisor Kuehl's Office, attention Brenda Yanez*  
[BYanez@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:BYanez@bos.lacounty.gov)  
*Subject line: 10801 Ventura Blvd - County Park and Ride*

## SUNSWEPT PLACE - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT 12544 - 12548 VENTURA BLVD

The large development proposes about 14,000 square feet of restaurant space, 3,000 square feet of retail space, and 27 condominiums on the steep hillside that extends from Ventura Blvd up to Sunswep Drive. (Located across from Bed Bath and Beyond.)

The planned development proposal indicates a height of 56 feet however the Ventura-Cahuenga Specific Plan states: "From the intersection of Whitsett Avenue and Ventura Boulevard to the intersection of Fulton Avenue and Boulevard: On both sides of Ventura Boulevard - 30 feet." The exception is given under Senate Bill B1818, if applied for, would only increase the permitted height by 11 feet which would limit the development to 41 feet high.

This project will first be heard by the Studio City Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee, with the committee decision then forwarded to the Studio City

**(Continued, Page 4)**

## (Development, cont'd)

Neighborhood Council for final action. Check [www.studiocitync.org](http://www.studiocitync.org) for dates and times for the Land Use Committee and the Neighborhood Council public hearings.

Members have raised concerns that there are 112 protected trees on the site, 55 California Black Walnut, 53 Toyon, and 4 Coast live Oaks. The California black walnut is a rare species under CEQA with a global ranking of "nearly threatened." This site is a habitat for a rare species. Destruction of such a habitat is supposed to be avoided.

## 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 have been experiencing an inordinate amount of graffiti at Auto Plaza on Radford across from CBS. There have been numerous graffiti tags in the last month. Can LAPD provide added patrol?

**SCRA** instructed the owner to first download and use MyLA311 App. Follow the instructions for reporting the graffiti, take a picture and send. (the city came and removed the tags SCRA sent pictures to Lead office Shawn Smith with the hope of identifying the tagger. And requested additional patrol which was offered if the tagging continued.

**Q:** This morning, I came to Woodbridge park to find someone exterminating a hive of bees. I inquired about the reason—why would they exterminate instead of relocating, when that can be done so easily. I was told that he was hired by the city, and his response to the reason was "some people have bee allergies". I'm wondering if there is any action that can be taken to request the city change its protocol or a way to investigate why the city made that choice. Bees are so important to our ecosystem, and humanely relocating them is so easy. It was so horrible to see so many bees wriggling on the ground after ingesting the poison sprayed by the city. The

children that attend the school next to the park are also very upset to know they are being killed. Thank you for any additional information or support you can provide.

**SCRA** wrote to the Council Office to inquire about the City policy of extermination of bees. It was too late to stop the city employee, but the request was to find out from Recreation and Parks about changing this practice. Killing bees is not acceptable. It is an easy process to relocate the bees, a SCRA board member relocated bees from their own home.

**Q:** To whom it might concern: Could you tell me what is going on at the top of Mulholland and Laurel Canyon on the southwest corner. It was an empty lot forever and now large tanks are sitting on the property along with other construction-like features. Thank you for shedding some light on this ongoing rather involved-looking project!

**SCRA:** The tanks at Mulholland Dr. & Laurel Canyon Blvd are vertical "Baker" tanks and hold water. They are to be used in a hydro test and are part of So Cal Gas ongoing work. After the hydro test, the tanks should come down soon thereafter.

**Q:** 4295 Tujunga Ave. Years ago, the SCRA successfully led the effort to downzone parts of Tujunga Ave. to RD1.5. The zoning change was approved with numerous "O" conditions applied. In March, Construction at 4295 Tujunga Ave. appears to exceed the 28' height limit at this location. I was assured that the inspector would ensure the height and other "O" conditions would be met. Construction has continued but there appears to be no change. My neighbors and I are concerned that the SCRA's hard work so many years ago is for naught. Can the SCRA help to validate the height and "O" conditions as we have reached a dead-end? Numerous calls to the inspector have been unsuccessful.

**SCRA** reached out to Karo Torossian, Chief of Staff to Councilmember Paul Krekorian, and received this response. "I have requested that a height survey be done on the site to verify, but the Q condition limits the site to 28' it does not restrict it to only 2 stories. If they do slab-on-grade and 8-foot ceilings, they can get 3 stories. Sorry that the height survey has taken longer than we would like."

(Continued, Page 5)

## WHO WE ARE

### SCRA OFFICERS

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Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President  
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[StudioCityFarmersMarket.com](http://StudioCityFarmersMarket.com)

### NEWSLETTER

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(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

**Q:** I don't know if you are aware of this situation already or not. The city STUDIO CITY sign on Moorpark Street at Ethel Avenue was knocked down many months ago, and the city has not replaced it. Some barricades are up where it was, which led me to think they would be putting up the new sign in short order, but that has not been the case. Can you find out from public works when it will be replaced?

**SCRA:** Yes, we knew the sign was knocked down and have attempted to get the City to replace it. However, it now appears there is a mini-cell tower being built in its place. We are now going to attempt to get a new pole and sign placed in front of the cell tower (so the new tower doesn't block the new "Studio City" sign).

## FROM YOUR BOARD

### Your Board in Action

The SCRA Board has voted on a variety of issues that directly affect Studio City with motions or letters being sent to the appropriate political leaders.

### Opposition to Homeless Encampment Clean-up coming from Rec and Parks funding

The Board of the Studio City Residents Association opposes Council File 21-0710 to finance a program for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to purchase equipment for the Bulky Item Illegal Dumping (BIID) and Homeless Encampment Clean-up crews because this funding should come from the City's General Fund.

### City Council Resolution supporting Assembly Bill 43 (AB 43) to bring down speeds on streets

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) supports Council File 21-0002-S134, a City Council Resolution supporting Assembly Bill 43 (AB 43) to bring down speeds on streets where there are a high number of serious and fatal crashes. California's process for setting speed limits has proven to unintentionally increase speeds over time and often results in the City being mandated to raise speed limits on streets with an already high incidence of death and serious injury, which is inconsistent with the City's Vision Zero goals to eliminate traffic deaths.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Alan Dymond*

*Weddington Golf and Tennis has been proposed as a Historic-Cultural Monument by qualifying in at least two categories of the criteria necessary for a Historic-Cultural Monument Designation. SCRA and SLAROS supported the application.*

*Over the past months, the application was heard twice before the Cultural Historic Commissioners, culminating with a site visit by the Commissioners. On April 15, 2021, findings were made in which the Commissioners voted to recommend the name of the Historic-Cultural Monument be "Studio City Golf and Tennis Club" as it would reflect the original name with which the property has been associated for over 50 years. They also determined that the golf features were not "character-defining features" but rather, it was "the recreational open space nature of property that was determined to be Character-Defining".*

*SCRA and SLAROS agree with the Commissioners. The recreational open space nature of the property has always been a character-defining feature of this property, but we would also suggest that the cultural interplay and accessibility by people of all classes from the very beginning of its existence 50 years ago, was very much part of the changing cultural and economic development post-WWII Studio City and could also be determined as "Character-Defining".*

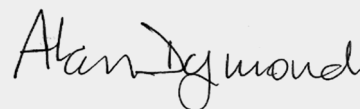
*The next step for a Historic-Cultural Monument Designation is, for the Commissioner's recommendations to be forwarded to a Planning and Land Use Committee PLUM hearing, which is tentatively scheduled for September 14, 2021. The Committee will make its recommendations to the Los Angeles City Council for a decision on the designation and whether to place the property on the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.*

*The PLUM committee needs to hear from all of us. Go to [www.SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org](http://www.SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org) where you will find a sample letter and instructions on how to file your comments with PLUM. Be sure to copy Councilmember Paul Krekorian.*

*A historic designation by the City will not totally protect the property; however, any demolition or improvement may not impact or eliminate the "Character-Defining" features of the Monument i.e., "the recreational open space nature of the property".*

*Whether or not the application is approved, it is not the end. The proposed project is subject to an environmental review, by way of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Twenty-one elements must be addressed in the DEIR, e.g., Recreation, Cultural resources, Noise, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology, and Water Quality.*

*The DEIR will be made available for public review with a period for public comment for which SCRA and SLAROS will comment, as will other organizations and stakeholders.*



**SCRA  
IN-PERSON  
COMMUNITY MEETING**

**Tuesday, Sept 21, 2021**

**AGENDA**

- 7:00 p.m. ... and Greet with your neighbors
- 7:30 p.m. Amy Schwenberg, Tree Planting Project Coordinator, City of Los Angeles
- Police report from Lead Officer, Shawn Smith
- Board members will update on Redistricting, Q&A

**MEETING LOCATION**  
 Bridge Academy - GYM  
 3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd  
 Studio City, CA 91604  
 Free parking in school

SCRABear d@studiocityresidents.org  
 www.studiocityresidents.org



*Hello Again.*

The SCRA Member Discount Card is back! This year, **more than ever**, we are proud to come together as a community to support our local businesses. When you renew your membership, you will receive your new Member Discount Card that is welcomed at these local businesses:

April Davis Investigations	James Thomas Stained Glass
Arnold's Copy & Print	Kit Kraft
Auto Plaza	La Knitterie Parisienne
BLVD Hotel & Spa	Matthew's Jewelry Store
Ceremony	Mister O's
Charles' Shoe Repair	Panache Boutique
Classic Toys	Rain Bar & Lounge
Creation Station Studio	Sportsmen's Lodge
City	The Village
Eye Candy Optometry	Vitello's Restaurant
Gangadin	Wild Flora
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**STUDIO CITY  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

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