



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

May 2013

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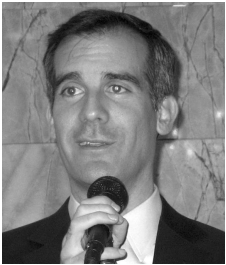
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MAYORAL CANDIDATES PRESENT THEIR CREDENTIALS AT SCRA & STUDIO CITY CHAMBER-SPONSORED LUNCHEONS

More than 100 community members attended recent mayoral candidate lunch events co-sponsored by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce. Held separately for each candidate at the Sportsmen's

Lodge on March 28 and April 18, the events featured presentations on the issues by Wendy Greuel and Eric Garcetti and an open forum for follow-up questions. The events were purposefully designed as informational sessions and not fundraisers; as a result, attendees purchased their own lunch. Each candidate handled questions differently. Greuel answered questions one at a time, while Garcetti pulled out a note pad, went around the room taking notes about the subject matter and then addressed each question. Guests reported the events were valuable in their efforts to get to know the candidates.



FAREWELL TO PAY STATIONS ON VENTURA BLVD.



The City's Department of Transportation (DOT) has informed the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) that the existing pay stations on Ventura Blvd. are being removed and replaced with new meters. The SCRA joined other organizations in a recent meeting with the DOT to discuss the ongoing complaints from both residents and business owners over the pay stations located on Ventura Blvd. between Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Whitsett Avenue. (See the April 2013 SCRA newsletter for a full report on the meeting.)

The new meters are similar to those located on many side streets in Studio City, but feature a larger, easy-to-read display. The existing pay stations, signage and space numbers will be removed, and new parking meter poles installed. New bike racks will replace those currently installed on meter posts during the month of May.

Following consultation and recommendations from the SCRA, the Studio City Business Improvement District, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce and the Studio City Neighborhood Council, the DOT will determine whether these new meters will be permanent or retrofitted with the standard card and coin meters.

Once installation is complete and the new meters are operating, the SCRA would like to hear your comments so they can be shared with the DOT. Please send comments to: SCRABoard@StudioCityResidents.org.

STUDIO CITY GETS GREENER

The Studio City Business Improvement District (BID) has partnered with the City of Los Angeles to plant 38 new trees in Studio City. A grant-funded program allowed for a cost-effective leverage of resources to improve and beautify the main streets by adding extra trees in Studio City on Ventura Blvd., Ventura Place and Laurel Canyon Blvd. The City of Los Angeles provided the trees through the Million Trees LA program and a Bureau of Sanitation grant for the labor to plant them. The City also hired the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which provides job training to local youth, to create 36 new tree wells in place of solid concrete sidewalks.

Chinese Pistache trees will fill in the barren gaps along the retail areas of Studio City. These trees have fire red

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(Greener, cont'd)

and gold leaves in the autumn and provide shade during the summer months for foot traffic. They will also cool streets and businesses, helping to lower energy demand, improving air quality, and provide a cohesive sense of community. The BID will water and maintain the trees, along with other trees in its area. The BID provides other services for Studio City such as tree trimming, median maintenance, daily sweeping, pressure washing, weed removal, graffiti removal and trash removal.

Please join the SCRA in thanking the volunteer BID board for the extra efforts to better Studio City. For more information regarding the Studio City BID, contact the board's executive director, Lorena Parker, at 818-655-5377, or Lorena@studiocitybid.com.

The City of Los Angeles supported this urban greening at no cost to Studio City or its residents. For more information or questions about the new street trees, contact Amy Schulenberg, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation, Environmental Services Group, at 213-485-0527, or Amy.Schulenberg@lacity.org.

MAY COMMUNITY MEETING TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES RIVER GREENWAY

The May 14, 2013 Studio City Residents Association Community Meeting will feature an important presentation by Community Conservation Solutions (CCS) on the proposed design of the habitat restoration for the north bank of the Los Angeles River between Whitsett Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Blvd.

As reported earlier, CCS was successful in obtaining a grant to rehabilitate this section of the river bank. This is the first step for its becoming a significant part of the connecting links that will help revitalize the Los Angeles River and complete the connections in Studio City.

The meeting will be held at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre Room at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments and an opportunity to meet community members and neighbors begin at 7:00 p.m.

SIGN UP NOW AND DON'T BE LEFT OUT: SCRA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

June 1, 2013 marks the annual renewal date for SCRA members. As always, the SCRA wants to continually increase its numbers. Please encourage your neighbors to join. If you know of someone who would like to do so, ask them to visit StudioCityResidents.org. Also, feel free to share this newsletter so prospective members can get an idea of the many issues and challenges the SCRA tackles on behalf of residents in the community. All current members will receive a renewal reminder in the mail.

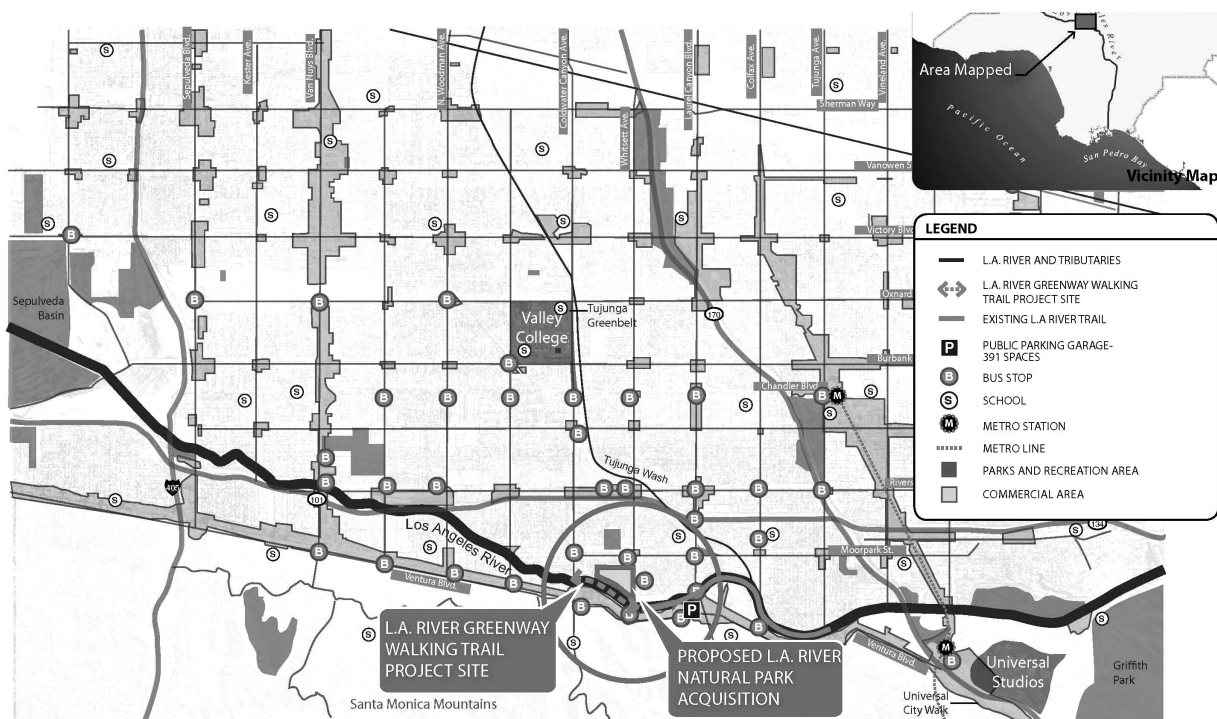
SCRA members who provide the SCRA with their e-mail address receive updates throughout the month on important breaking issues in Studio City. The SCRA staff strives to keep email messages short and to the point without attachments. (In fact, the SCRA recently had 917 members open an e-mail on the "tow away alert" illegal parking in the Von's parking lot while shopping at the Studio City Farmers Market).

Feel free to call SCRA volunteers at 818-509-0230 regarding any questions about the organization. The office is open Monday-Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If there is no answer, please leave a message; your call will be returned.

FREE STREET TREES FROM THE CITY

If you are interested in having the City of Los Angeles plant street trees in front of your residence, please contact the Bureau of Sanitation, Environmental Services Group, at 213-485-0527 or Amy.Schulenberg@lacity.org. The City can

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(Trees, cont'd)

plant street trees between the sidewalk and curb. You can locate an online permission form at EnvironmentLA.org. Click on the upper right corner –“Sign up for a tree” – or call 213-485-0527 to request a form to be mailed to your residence or business.

OP-ED: STATE vs. LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

by Alan Dymond, president, Studio City Residents Association

Last month, as president of the Studio City Residents Association, I reported on a Senate Bill (SB635) that proposed alcohol could be served up to 4:00 a.m. and that this change in hours should be decided at the local level (Senator Mark Leno D-San Francisco). The rationale evidently was that local authorities were in a better position to make such a decision since they could gauge the effects of extended hours on local communities. This realignment would do away with the state mandate that alcohol could only be served up to 2:00 a.m.; however, the bill failed in committee, and the deadline has passed to try again this year.

Now there is a Senate Bill (SB31) offered by Senator Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima) proposing that electronic billboards be permitted in select venues (e.g., sports arenas) and that the content be decided at the state level and not at the local level. Where is the logic and consistency? If alcohol sales should be controlled at the local level, why not electronic billboards? Both impact the quality of daily life in our neighborhoods. How does one reconcile that local authorities are best suited to decide alcohol sales but are less suited to decide if we should have electronic billboards? Do the state senators out in the farmland, coastal areas and elsewhere have firsthand knowledge of the impact of electronic billboard blight here in Los Angeles? What could be worse for our neighboring cities that do not suffer from electronic billboard blight than to have Sacramento dictate that they should now allow electronic billboards? Sacramento should inject itself into local affairs where there is overriding state interest, e.g., controlling alcohol sales statewide.

With the decision made by the Los Angeles Superior Court and confirmed by the appellate court, electronic billboards in Los Angeles were ordered to be turned off, and they were. They should remain so until Los Angeles can determine what to do without interference or pressure from Sacramento on how to proceed.

ASK THE SCRA

One of the functions of the SCRA is to empower its members, who are the eyes and ears of the community. The SCRA can assist by providing opportunities to make all of Studio City a better place to live. Please send questions to scraboard@studiocityresidents.org.

Q: How can I get the street light fixed at 12129 Maxwellton Road? It has been out for a month.

TO THE MARKET



The Studio City Farmers Market continues to expand by bringing more and unique vendors to Studio City. Pupusas Salvadorenas joined the market a few weeks ago to rave reviews. Made with fresh corn masa, these Salvadorean treats are

stuffed with a variety of fillings from beans and cheese to grilled vegetables, shrimp, chicken, beef and pork. All pupusas are gluten free and are also available with Daiya cheese for the lactose intolerant or those who prefer vegan options. The market also recently welcomed Fruigees. With an almost pudding consistency, Fruigees are made with organic vegetables and fruit and no added sugars. They are dairy, gluten, soy and nut free and delicious! They come in two sizes and make great treats in a child's lunch or a perfect snack for everyone in the family. Flavors include carrot and orange, kale and grape juice, and beet and cherry. Both the pupusas and Fruigees can be sampled at the market before purchasing.

Now that it's May, stone fruits are around the corner, and soon peaches, plums, apricots, pluots, cherries and all the wonderful fruits of summer will be overflowing at several of the farmers' stands.

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.

SCRA: You can report a street light outage by calling "311." You may have to stay on the line for a few minutes, but, once an operator answers, just tell him or her you are reporting a street light that is out and provide the street address.

Q: The condo building on the corner of Beck Avenue and Moorpark Street has a couple of street stumps in the median between the sidewalk and the street on the west side of the building facing Beck. Is tree stump removal something the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) provides, or should I call the city? Please let me know.

SCRA: The SCBA reports tree stumps to the city. The local Council District office just had 15 tree stumps removed. Immediately afterwards, two new ones appeared on Ventura Blvd. at Campo de Cahuenga Way; however, the city will not come back until there are more. The ones you have reported are now on the list.

Q: I am distressed about recent tree trimming undertaken by the city on the 4400 and 4500 block of Wortser Avenue in Studio City. I was one of the residents responsible for the planting of those trees, which involved a partnership with the City and TreePeople. The trimming has ruined the trees

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(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

because they have been topped and butchered and not properly trimmed under the supervision of an arborist. It is very sad to look at the once beautiful trees in their current condition. Someone should look into who exactly is doing the work.

SCRA: Here is the response from Urban Forestry: This trimming was

done on a Saturday and by city crews under City Council request. The trees will grow back with a good shape and the crowns will fill in. According to the supervisor, these trees had never been pruned since they were planted, with some growing all the way to the ground and others ready to break due the weight from not pruning. One of our supervisors is a certified arborist who is working on the trees in this grid. The trees are very resilient and will fill in soon.

Q: I am seeking your help today on behalf of my community on Aqua Vista Street between Vineland and Fair Avenues. We have specific concerns regarding the Landmark and UWS rubbish collection companies, including the arrival of the rubbish collection trucks before 6:00 a.m. and safety issues with the roll-off vehicles entering the properties. I appreciate the work of the SCRA and our elected officials. I am hoping you can help restore the peace to our once-quiet community.

SCRA: The SCRA contacted the rubbish collection companies and the property managers at the two locations. The SCRA is pleased to report the companies have addressed the issue of safety and have changed their arrival time to after 7:00 a.m.

Q: I cannot believe anyone would allow a pink van on Moorpark Road and Laurel Canyon Blvd. to advertise topless maids near a school. I'm offended by this. It needs to be taken care of ASAP!

SCRA: A recent law now bans advertising on parked vans and trucks.

Q: Who do I speak with to get pavement markings at the intersection of Valleyheart Drive and Coldwater Canyon Blvd? For the past two years, I, along with several others, get caught in a traffic standstill because the area is not marked as "Keep Clear." It is extremely dangerous. I have almost been hit on multiple occasions, or have had to wait five to 10 minutes for people to allow me to get onto the canyon. How can I help the City to paint "Keep Clear" at this extremely busy intersection? I would be more than happy to show you what I mean - please let me know. I am also happy to paint it!

SCRA: The timing of painting this intersection is the issue. The DWP is laying pipe on Coldwater Canyon Blvd. south of Ventura Blvd.. and the next phase includes work north along Coldwater Canyon Blvd. to Moorpark Road. In the next couple of months, the DWP will be painting temporary striping in the work area, and Councilmember Paul Krekorian's office (Council District 2) will be discussing the restriping with the DWP. The SCRA has shared this problem with the councilmember's staff, who will discuss it with the DWP.

(Editor's note: In the April 2013 "Ask The SCRA" column, the answer to the first question should read: "going west on Ventura Blvd.")

MORE GARDENS AT RIO VISTA ELEMENTARY

The Studio City Farmers Market, along with other local organizations, provided the funding for the new Rio Vista Elementary Lorax Garden. This garden has been completed and is growing in nicely.

At the time the Lorax Garden project was being planned, the entry garden to the school was in need of a major facelift. Funds remaining from the Lorax Garden project were used to plant a new entry garden for the enjoyment of students, teachers, administrators and visitors. Thanks to the stewardship of NBCUniversal, Rio Vista Elementary continues to look beautiful.



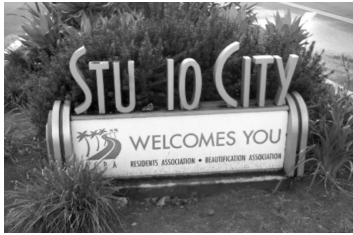
New Metro Sign Readies to Welcome Studio City Arrivals

BEAUTIFUL STUDIO CITY

The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) has launched its own website: studiocitybeautification.org. The SCBA will be augmenting the site to include a narrative on the Radford Art Walk and more complete descriptions of SCBA projects. The community can now contact SCBA directly at SCBA@StudioCityBeautification.org.

The SCBA has just received the permit to proceed with its newest project: "The Eastside Median." This is the median on Ventura Blvd., at the entrance to the "Park & Ride" lot between Lankershim and Vineland Avenues. Work will begin this summer with the demolition of the asphalt and the installation of a water meter. Planting will begin in the fall.

Many residents had noticed the "D" missing on the monument on Laurel Canyon Blvd. and the 101 Freeway. SCBA ordered fabrication and installation of a replacement letter which is now complete.



Each year, CBS Studio Center hosts an "Eye on the Environment" event for companies and individuals in the media. The event introduces attendees to environmentally friendly products. The SCBA has again been invited to have a booth at this event, and is delighted to share its experiences in planting public gardens.

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

Rio Vista Elementary School The SCRA Board is pleased to announce a grant of \$500 to help Rio Vista Elementary School fund a fifth grade science field trip. The board also has a new liaison to the school, Barbara Robbin, who has volunteered to work with the school principal and the PTA on matters relating to the school and the SCRA.

SCRA Membership Drive This year's SCRA membership drive is in full swing. Renewals will be mailed this month, and the board is working diligently to increase SCRA's membership. The SCRA is encouraging all current members to recruit one new household member. Stop by and visit with the SCRA at the Studio City Farmers Market on May 12, 2013 and May 26, 2013.

Save LA River Open Space The SCRA's sister organization, Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS), is now active in the social media space. Follow SLAROS on Facebook and Twitter (@SLAROS).

Community Outreach The SCRA recently participated in the 4Good Event at Bridges Academy. The event was a great success for this nonprofit and for the children learning to give back to the community.

Big Sunday, May 5th SCRA Junior Board member Ben Lazebnik is working with The River Project and Campbell Hall to paint the "Toad Gate," and the fence along the Los Angeles River at Laurel Canyon Blvd. Work will include painting over the graffiti on the "snake sculpture."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Alan Dymond*

So what is SCRA going to look for and work on now that the election is nearly over?

Recently, Art Howard, SCRA land use chair, and I got involved with a proposed condominium project at 4200 Coldwater Canyon Blvd. This project is being developed in accordance with Senate Bill (SB 1818), which has been incorporated as part of a Los Angeles City Ordinance. The premise behind the bill was to increase the amount of affordable housing by allowing developers "bonuses," e.g., exceeding height limits, floor area ratios, less on-site parking and other limitations by overriding and modifying the existing zoning laws of Los Angeles, provided there is a set-aside for some low cost units. But somehow the intent of the bill is lost in the present situation: here the developer can tear down an apartment building that has 16 rent-controlled units and replace it with 32 condominiums by allocating three very low-income restricted affordable units. Should the project go through, it will lead to a net loss of 13 affordable units. This is the present situation according to documents on file with the City for the project.

On the horizon, there is much activity in making the Los Angeles River a viable asset with city, county, state and federal interests at work. Our own sister organization, Save LA River Open Space, is watching closely to see how it can fit into this grand, far-reaching scheme and bring about the Los Angeles River Natural Park on Whitsett Avenue. The hope is that present-day elected officials at all levels of government will not find themselves saying at some time in the future they wish they had helped more to find funding to buy that open space when it was available. (I have heard reports of similar regrets expressed about not pushing for a Redline stop-over station at the Hollywood Bowl.)

While these are the big items, the SCRA will still be focused on "sweating the little stuff," including trees, traffic, road repairs, development and whatever comes down that can impact our Studio City. Many thanks to those SCRA members who have renewed their membership. Hopefully they are encouraging their friends and neighbors to come aboard. As they say, there is strength in numbers.

Alan Dymond



SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Refreshments

7:30 p.m. Presentation by
Community Conservation
Solutions on habitat
restoration on the Los
Angeles River

Meeting Location

Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre
4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City

When entering the hotel driveway, turn left and go through the parking turnstile. Drive to the end and turn right. Go to the large back lot. The handicap entrance is from this lot. Walk to the southwest corner of the lot, and signs will direct you to the Beverly Garland Theatre. PARKING WILL BE VALIDATED at the sign-in-table.

The SCRA thanks Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn for continued support of the monthly SCRA Community Meetings



SCRA Committees

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

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Bonnie Goodman, Exec. Vice President
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Connie Elliot, Secretary
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Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

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Art Howard, Patty Kirby, Barbara Robbin
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

School Liaisons

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman
Oakwood - Tammy Lundgren
Rio Vista - Barbara Robbin
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

Studio City Farmers Market

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