



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

May 2019

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## LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY MIKE FEUER TO ADDRESS MAY SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING MAY 14



As Los Angeles City Attorney from July 2013, in addition as counsel to the City of Los Angeles, Feuer has brought an innovative, problem-solving focus to the office that combines tough and effective prosecution with creative initiatives to improve public safety and quality-of-life throughout the city. Feuer has nearly tripled the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, won a settlement against Wells Fargo, fought elder abuse, cracked down on patient dumping, combated wage theft, tackled substandard housing and instituted a program to protect immigrants from fraud. He has been the first in the state of California to enforce new legislation designed to ensure women have full information about their reproductive choices when they go to so-called pregnancy crisis centers. Presently his office is engaged with the Federal Aviation Agency on the noise generated by jet flights from Burbank Airport plus the status of the homeless problem and other local pertinent issues.

## SIGN UP NOW AND STAY WITH US

### SCRA Annual Membership Drive

June 1, 2019 marks the annual renewal date for Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members. The SCRA is a major advocate for the community, and our power is in our numbers. The more members who belong to the SCRA, the more influence the SCRA has. Renewing online helps us save on postage costs. Please go to [studiocityresidents.org](http://studiocityresidents.org) and renew now.

*NOTE: You do not need to be a PayPal subscriber to pay online. The "Pay Now" button takes you to PayPal, where you have a choice to either pay from your PayPal account or pay by credit card. (Just click "New to PayPal" where you can pay by credit card as a guest.)*

**Something new is coming!** The SCRA is partnering with a number of Studio City retailers and restaurants to provide discounts and other special deals only available to our membership. Once you renew your SCRA membership, we will send you the new SCRA Member

Card which you can present to our participating merchants to enjoy the discount or special deal. A complete list of participating merchants and their offers will be available on the SCRA website. The card is good for 1 year (July 1st to June 30th)

Be sure to provide your email to receive news and updates of important breaking events and issues as they occur and impact Studio City. Your email address is not shared with any other entity or person.

Call SCRA volunteers at 818-509-0230 with any questions. If there is no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Current members with a 6/19 date in the address section of this newsletter will be receiving a renewal reminder in the mail. (If the date is 6/20 that means you are paid up to June 2020.)





## GOOD NEWS FOR LOST TREE AT MOORPARK AND TUJUNGA

Studio City Beautification Association Board Member Andy Epstein worked diligently with City Council District 2's office to remove

and replace a downed tree on the corner of Tujunga and Moorpark. Andy spoke with the owner of the 76 gas station who readily agreed to water and maintain a replacement tree. The outcome of Andy's work is that the city will plant a new tree after Roda at the 76 gas station submits an adoption form to the City. Thank you, Roda!

## BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

**Meg Seltzer, SCBA President**

*The Oasis Pocket Park on Ventura Blvd (across the street from Marshalls) has had a beauty treatment. If you've walked through the Oasis in the last few months, you're familiar with the east end of the dirt path that drops down next to the sidewalk, and even though you know the drop is there, it's always a surprise. Well, no more surprise. The drop is gone and the path is filled in and lifted to be flush with the sidewalk. Thank you SK Landscape Design for doing such a beautiful job of beautifying the Oasis.*

*And, the green Mitt Box (poop bag container) at the east end of the Oasis is once again clean and free of graffiti. We tip our hat to New Directions for Youth for doing the work and say thank you to Gerry Valido with Office of Community Beautification for sending out the crew.*

*We also have an update on SCBA's beautification proposals to put a "Studio City Welcomes You" sign on the Vineland median at Whipple and install three of the late Karl Johnson's sculptures on the Vineland median south of The Garland. As you may recall, in our last report to you, we had submitted our plans to the City and our proposals were going through the review process. Now, we have heard back from the City. SCBA is almost cleared to move forward on installing the Welcome Sign. We're still getting clarification on some issues.*



*As for our proposal to install metal sculptures on the other median, the answer is No. And the reason for the turn down is actually a compliment to Karl Johnson's talent. The City said the sculptures would attract people to walk on the median to get a closer look. This would create a safety hazard. Unlike boots, medians are*

*not meant for walking. However, this false start is truly only a pause as we develop a new proposal. In the meantime, we're pleased to report that WildFlora is doing new designs pro bono for the other two Vineland medians.*

*At this time of the year, there's so much beauty in bloom at our beautification sites and each median, pocket park and parkway has an assortment of indigenous plants. If you're thinking of adding new flora to your garden, now is the time to visit our beautification sites to see how native plants look in the spring. To find all the locations, visit [StudioCityBeautification.org](http://StudioCityBeautification.org) or call the office 818-509-0230 and we'll send you written directions to each site. Studio City is the pride of all of us. This is our community. This is where we live and as residents we are all members of the Studio City Beautification Association. And while we play different positions, it's our team work that keeps our community looking beautiful. Thank you for your support! If you'd like to make a tax deductible contribution to SCBA, a donation form is inserted in this newsletter.*

## 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:** The Radford/Valleheart and Laurel Canyon bridges have large spaces on the end of the bridges as well as the slates across the bridge. The sidewalk on the Radford bridge is very uneven and has large gaps. Parents who walk their kids to school have raised their concern to me and I want to see how we can get this safer for our children in the community. (I was going to start with pulling the permits from the bridges and the codes they are possibly in violation of.

Also, do you know the proper channels to talk to about getting the footbridge at Colfax fixed? A bunch of Carpenter parents have told me it's horrid to walk over.

**SCRA:** Colfax Bridge was completed in 2010. It is up to current standards.

The other two bridges have not been replaced, as we know, since about 1949 when the LA River channel and Tujunga Wash bridges were built. Lisa Sarkin has volunteered to work with our member. Permits will be checked out and if nothing was done to a permitted Bridge from its building to now, it will be considered non-conforming but it may be difficult to have it bought up to current standards.

**Q:** A house at 4257 Beeman In Studio City just recently sold to a developer.

**(Continued, Page 3)**

**(Ask SCRA, cont'd)**

Any chance of saving the majestic old oak tree in the front yard? I believe oak trees are protected.

**SCRA:** Vice President Barry Johnson did drive by and observed: I do believe this is the species of Oak that is protected. If the house is torn down, the garage and driveway will go on the south side of the property. Whether or not the driveway would reach as far as the tree is still unknown. But an actual new structure would still have to have about the same setback from the street, so a new house could not be an excuse to cut the protected tree down. Please keep me up to date if you see any pre-tear down/construction activity on the property.

**City of Los Angeles Protected Trees**

Any of the following Southern California native tree species, which measures four inches or more in cumulative diameter, four and one-half feet above the ground level at the base of the tree:

- (a) Oak tree including Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) and California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), or any other tree of the oak genus indigenous to California but excluding the Scrub Oak (*Quercus dumosa*);
- (b) Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*);
- (c) Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*);
- (d) California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*).

**Q:** Several mature eucalyptus trees have fallen along the LA River and onto the chain link fence bordering the wash (between Tujung and Colfax near the pedestrian bridge). City and County were notified through a series of emails requesting both a clean-up and a repair job on the fence. It is not just an issue of debris... but of safety. The concrete river bed is wide open to anyone and anything. Is this the responsibility of the City or the County (there's yellow County caution tape across the path). But this needs to be taken care of sooner rather than later.

**SCRA:** Jessica Fugate, Deputy to Councilmember Paul Krekorian, requested a survey of the area to determine jurisdiction and once established had the fallen tree removed and the fence repaired.



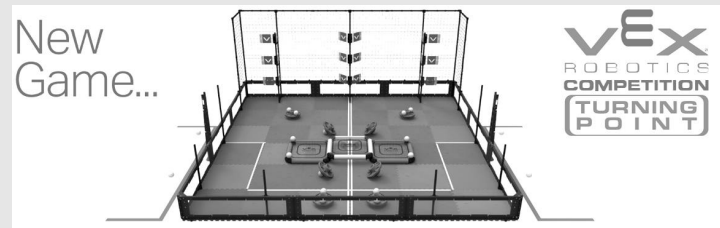
## TO THE MARKET

### Delicious New booth at the Market

The Studio City Farmers Market is thrilled to welcome French Kiss, makers of delicious crepes and fillings. The mastermind of a French and Thai couple, the fillings rival some of the best food from both countries. The chicken and mushroom in a creamy filling is mouthwatering and the Nutella and coconut, made with fresh coconut meat, is equally delicious. French Kiss boasts a big menu of sweet and savory, and are located on the north side of the street near the Laurel Canyon end. Stop by and try a crepe!

### Your dollars spent at the Studio City Farmers Market help fund these Charities

The Market donates its proceeds after expenses back to the community and most recently made donations to the North Hollywood Science Academy Robotics team to help them get to the world championship, to the Amerman Family Foundation, which trains and provides therapy dogs for children receiving treatment at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and to the East Valley YMCA to provide scholarships for their children's summer camp.



## REMINDER FROM OUR FRIENDLY BIRDS

Most species of birds in Southern California nest between February and August 31st. This year with the spectacular rains that leads to blossoming and food sources we can expect widespread activity from the birds. Therefore any trimming of trees as always should be done outside of nesting season. It is recognized and mandated here in California under California Fish and Game Code 3503 which states, "It is unlawful to take, possess or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird..." Also other Municipal Codes, State Codes and Federal Codes were enacted to protect our bird population.

It's worth mentioning that trees support a variety of nesting creatures in addition to birds. Trimming trees and other greenery in spring and summer not only destroy nests and valuable nesting sites but it could lead to intrusion of pests

**(Continued, Page 4)**

## (Pruning, cont'd)

which is detrimental to the health of trees. The best time to prune conifers is in the fall. The best time to prune deciduous trees is late winter, before the leaves appear. We are well into spring but a cautionary approach to any trimming would be welcome by our friends.



## A SURPRISE VISIT FROM LAPD DEPUTY CHIEF PITCHER

The SCRA had a surprise visit from the LAPD Deputy Chief Pitcher, Operations-Valley Bureau at its community meeting in Bridges Academy on March 12.

Chief Pitcher went over the crime statistics for Studio City and efforts being made to keep the crime incidents low. And one of these efforts is a volunteer driven program established by the LAPD that have led to volunteers assisting one on one with LAPD officers resulting in over 25 arrests.

The program is called Community Empowerment and Safety Enterprise (CEASE). It is basically a citizen surveillance team where a team will go out on operations typically once or twice a week. LAPD Officer John Antonioli provides the team with



an operation plan and the geographical area to focus on depending upon the crime trends. The team's personal vehicles (typically two to four per car) are used with each car assigned to a LAPD patrol car rover. The operation is on a tactical radio frequency meaning only one operation will be using

that frequency. Volunteers will go out and call in what is being observed to Officer Antonioli and his partner (in what is called the chase car). The volunteers will provide the officers with information that give probable cause for officers to make a detention.

The first operation began at the end of November 2017. To date there have been 44 operations, resulting in over 25 arrests. Arrests range from arson suspects, burglary suspects to felony vandalism suspects, etc. In 2019 there have already been 3 grand theft auto arrests. Volunteers have logged over 1,100 hours of service to North Hollywood Division and the community.

Any volunteers interested in CEASE should contact:

John Antonioli #36968  
Police Officer III  
North Hollywood Area  
818-754-8470 (community relations office)  
Officer in Charge CEASE  
[www.facebook.com/john.antonioli.92](https://www.facebook.com/john.antonioli.92)  
Instagram: Officer Antonioli

**Kevin James, President Board of Public Works**, was the scheduled keynote speaker. The Board of Public Works oversees 6000 plus employees in five different city bureaus and the bureau's underlying departments, all of which manage almost all of our city services.

Mr. James spoke about new programs being introduced one of which is a new GPS street sweeper program. The first phase has been implemented where sweepers on regularly assigned routes are able to electronically calculate how much trash is being picked up on each route. If the metrics indicate that regular periodic street sweeping is underutilized then that sweeper will be reassigned to other underserved streets on other routes.

The other innovation being rolled out is an APP that is intended to free up parking on posted streets once the sweeper has passed by. When this program is implemented the APP will indicate to the user that the sweeper has passed and if so, parking will be permitted without being ticketed. The SCRA will inform members when this program is up and running.

## CLEANUP AT BERRY AND VENTURA

Under the steady hand of Jessica Fugate, Council District 2, Deputy to Studio City there was a major cleanup of weeds and debris along Ventura Blvd at Berry. The SCRA wishes to thank Jessica for taking care of this eyesore.



## SAVING LA'S TREES MAY MEAN SAVE ITS YARD SPACE

According to Tree Ology, efforts to expand LA City's tree canopy have focused on planting street trees yet the majority of trees in Los Angeles are found on private properties such as residences, apartments and other buildings.

There are 700,000 street trees and between 50,000 to 300,000 in the parks. Trees on private property representing 80% of the city's trees number 5 million trees. These figures are reported at [www.TreeOlogy.info](http://www.TreeOlogy.info) website and are one of the key findings from a recent report commissioned by City Plants, a nonprofit

(Cont'd, Page 5)

## (Trees, cont'd)

that works with city departments to plant public trees.

TreeOlogy.info references a study by USC that most of the losses of the tree canopy and greenery occurred on single family lots in areas due to the city wide increase in the size of single family residences i.e. larger footprints. From 2000 to 2009, up to 55 percent of the green cover was lost. This study confirms the experience here in Studio City and elsewhere where developers in building to maximize the size of a family residence fail to incorporate and work around an existing tree(s) on a site. When trees are in the way, market prices induce developers to max out coverage on a lot by removing all the trees. (There is little relief presently to be found in the city tree ordinances but work is in process by our council member and other council members to have more species of trees protected.)

Why not consider planting a tree; fruit, shade or otherwise, to help mitigate the losses if you have a space on you property?

A source for free trees is the LA Urban Forestry program. (Select species). In purchasing a tree, an excellent guide on what to plant, where to plant and what the tree will look like can be found at:

[bss.lacity.org/urbanforestry/StreetTreeSelectionGuide.htm](http://bss.lacity.org/urbanforestry/StreetTreeSelectionGuide.htm).

The guide lists the botanical and common name, Height, Crown Spread, Spacing, and much more. Click on the photo icon to see the mature tree.

Many park trees are in poor shape. They are beset by drought, air pollution, pests and climate change. Some 14,000 trees have been lost. Street trees also suffer under similar conditions and are lost. Check "The Replacement Tree Myth" on the website TreeOlogy.info which is a good place to dig into the scope of the problem, a source of information and why measures presently underway are deficient in addressing the problem. Plant a tree. Private trees can help fill the gaps from losses of park trees and street trees.

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

*If you missed it, check the "Sign up and Stay with us" article in this edition to see what additional benefits will come as part of renewing your membership and for those new members who will be joining us.*

**Burbank Airport departing jets noise and flight paths:** *Responses to the City's letter to the Federal Aviation Authority are still due or have been received and updates sent to our member by the SCRA News and Notes emails. Developments on hot topics, action notices, and alerts will be sent by email to our members so please make sure to let us have your email address. This email information is kept confidential.*

**Congestion Pricing:** *The Studio City Neighborhood Council considered a motion by its Transportation Committee Chair Barry Johnson who is the Vice President of the SCRA. The motion was that Councilmember Paul Krekorian oppose any type of "Congestion Pricing" and consider alternative solutions that are not "fee" based. SCRA was in support of SCNC motion that passed. SCRA will continue to review the proposed Congestion Pricing proposal. .*

**Supervisors Districts:** *Most California county supervisors have the power to draw their own districts which can give one party an advantage. To remedy this situation, the California legislature is currently considering Senate Bill 139 that would mandate California counties to adopt an independent redistricting commission. Recently, congressional districts in California were redrawn through an independent redistricting commission that had a successful outcome. This statewide independent redistricting commission has been hailed as the gold standard of redistricting and has been adopted in several other states. Should such a model be adopted, establishing supervisorial districts, transparency and public engagement requirements would be in place. SB 139 will be reviewed by the SCRA board before taking formal action. The bill can be reviewed on line. California Senate Bill 139*

**Bike Path Whitsett to Coldwater Bike Path, South side of the River:** *On March 11 the LA Department of Recreation and Parks reported the first course of the Gabion Walls at the Coldwater end of the bike path were in place. These Gabion Walls, basically river rocks in wire cages, are similar to those installed by the SCBA at the Fryman Place and Laurel Canyon landscaping. Latest report, March 29, is the gabion walls are now complete. Preparations are underway to proceed with paving followed by lighting.*

### **Landscape at Ventura Blvd. and Fairway** (opposite Sportsmen's Landing)

*The retaining wall and sidewalk, south side of Ventura Blvd., are complete. Plans to plant the slope above the wall and the parkway from Fairway to Goodland are underway with SCBA working closely with the Business Improvement District (BID) to beautify this area. The local landscaper Wildflora at [www.wildfloradesign.com](http://www.wildfloradesign.com) donated their time and expertise to create a design and irrigation plan needed to obtain the permit. The City permit process is being handled by the BID and can take up to 6 months. Planting will begin as soon as the permit is issued. Funding for the project was made possible by a donation by Harvard Westlake for the hillside slope. The City of Los Angeles provided funding for the retaining walls and one half of the side walk parkway.*

*Alan Dymond*

**SCRA Officers**

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Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President  
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**Studio City Farmers Market**

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MAY 2019

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**SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING**

**Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

**MEETING LOCATION:**

Bridges Academy LIBRARY  
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd  
Studio City, CA 91604

**AGENDA**

- 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments/meet your neighbors.
- 7:30 p.m.** Announcements; Shawn Smith, LAPD Senior Lead Officer; Speaker: City Attorney Mike Feuer
- One block south of Ventura Bl, at Laurel Canyon Bl. and Maxwellton Rd. Parking off of Maxwellton Rd. Free parking is available in the school parking lot. Enter from Maxwellton Rd. Security will assist.*

