



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City



July 2009

WORKING FOR THE PUBLIC: LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AIMS FOR RESULTS



Presenting to the June Community Meeting of the Studio City Residents Association, Los Angeles Department of Public Works Commissioner Ernesto Cardenas explained how the Department impacts the day-to-day life of the citizens of Los Angeles. The Department's five bureaus address safety and quality of life issues. Those bureaus include Contract Administration, Engineering, Sanitation, Street Lighting and Street Services.

On sanitation: With water issues top of mind for many in attendance, Commissioner Cardenas explained the city owns a farm outside of Bakersfield where treated solids are recycled and used on fields that produce cattle feed or converted into energy. The objective is to achieve zero waste discharge. Commissioner Cardenas suggested the practice of flushing unused medications down the toilet is not advisable, since chemicals can harm reclaimed water used for industrial purposes. Cardenas advised residents to put expired or leftover medications in a plastic bag and place them in the black trash bin.

On street lighting: When the city was first developed, funds for repair and maintenance were tied into assessments. These assessments do not translate into today's dollars. However, the Clinton Foundation to convert two-thirds of lighting in the City of Los Angeles to "LED" lighting. The use of these energy efficient lamps will result in significant cost savings so present funds can be used for upkeep and maintenance.

On street repairs: Since Commissioner Cardenas is the direct liaison for Street Services, he spoke at length about street repair and street analysis for grading streets on an A-F basis. There are programs for recycling stones and asphalt when streets are broken up for repairs. He explained how streets are continually surveyed and monitored to allocate available dollars to the best use. Information on when a street is scheduled for repair is provided to the Studio City Neighborhood Council and is available to the public. The Street Services bureau is also responsible for street trees and urban forest. Trimming of trees requires a cost-free permit. (Since some trees are protected, the SCRA suggests anyone interested in tree trimming check with the Bureau before taking any actions.)

Those interested in receiving a booklet with FAQs from the Department of Public Works should call the SCRA office for a copy.

JANE USHER TO ADDRESS JULY SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING



Jane Usher, former president of the City Planning Commission and newly named Special Assistant City Attorney in charge of land use and billboards (joining newly elected City Attorney Carmen Trutanich), will speak to SCRA members and guests at the July 14, 2009 monthly community meeting.

Usher, who was appointed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, resigned last December. As reported in [LA Weekly](#), Usher sees the affordable housing act as a masquerade for a densification act that facilitates sprawl, saying, "We have done nothing to turn off the spigot of growth in inappropriate locations." She has also taken the position the City Charter intends all land use changes be considered by the Planning Commission. Apparently this was not being done despite Usher's requests.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at Beverly Garland Holiday Inn, 4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City. Members and guests are invited for light refreshments at 7:00 p.m., with the meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m.

BREAKING NEWS

Parking for NBC Universal's "Tonight Show"

When NBC Universal started its test tapings for the "Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien," Studio City residents were concerned about the impact audience parking might have on neighborhoods. This was a special concern because the developer of the proposed Metro Universal project across the street in Studio City included an audience participation studio in its plans.

Audiences at the early tapings were observed blocking the sidewalk instead of forming an orderly line. A complaint about this situation has resulted in most of the line being put inside the studio walls. Universal is not yet providing free parking for its audience members. Some were seen parking in spaces at the MTA parking lot reserved for MTA riders. Messages on the Conan O'Brien web site have tried to encourage audiences members to ride the Red Line. However, the Red Line does not go very many places and is not a viable option for many. The site also warned visitors not to park in permit parking areas. So far, the problem has not been too sizable; however, the parking habits of the audience members are being monitored in an effort to prevent illegal parking (in an effort to avoid the \$10 charge on the lot) from getting out of hand.

Update on Colfax Bridge Construction



The SCRA has received a copy of a letter sent by the City Engineer to Council member Wendy Greuel that specifies the conditions and restrictions under which the contractor will be working in the demolition and construction of the bridge at Colfax Avenue. SCRA members can request an e-mail copy of the letter

by emailing SCRABoard@StudioCityResidents.org. The City addresses such issues as plans for monitoring noise and vibration levels during the construction; timing for installation of a new pedestrian bridge, which will be built prior to the demolition of the bridge; plans to keep the CBS lot driveway south of the bridge open during construction; and overall timing.

OVERLAY PLANNING EVENT ON JULY 8

The Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Neighborhood Council are sponsoring a presentation by the Los Angeles Planning Department to explain a proposed overlay as an additional restriction to that imposed by the Baseline Mansionization ordinance. The area affected is south of the 101 down to Ventura Blvd, from Fulton across to Lankershim.

The meeting will be held on July 8 at 7:00 p.m. at CBS Studios, 4024 Radford Ave., Studio City. Check in at the gate and ask for directions to Building 8 MP3. This meeting is a another step in the process subsequent to the May 2008 SCRA Town Hall meeting held at Walter Reed.

IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY AND LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles Conservancy Sunset Walking Tours

Join the Los Angeles Conservancy for its popular "Downtown at Sunset" walking tours. Tours start July 22 on Wednesday evenings through August, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and lasting about 1 3/4 hours. This special series will include Little Tokyo and City Hall tours, which are no longer on the regular schedule. Tours are \$5 for Conservancy members and children 12 and under, and \$10 for the general public. For details and reservations, visit <http://www.laconservancy.org> or call 213-623-2489.

TreePeople's Once Upon a Canyon Night Performances

Presentations by Tree People and Actors Conservancy Ensemble take place in the beautiful S. Mark Taper Foundation Amphitheatre in Coldwater Canyon Park, 12601 Mulholland Dr., Beverly Hills, CA, 90210. For all reservations, please call (818) 623-4877 or email shows@treepeople.org.

Tree People Full Moon Hikes

Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at 8:35 p.m. and Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 8:10 p.m. Please contact fullmoon@treepeople.org for more information or to RSVP.

Studio City Branch Library

Friends of the Studio City Library: "An Evening with Don Scribner" (live theater) on Monday, July 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Scribner will perform his one-man show "Two Rooms In the Valley," which he has performed in several theaters and plans to tour around the country. The star of dozens of movies, including "The Cooler" opposite Alec Baldwin and the cult sci-fi fantasy, "Slave Girls from Beyond Infinity," takes a humorous, sometimes savage look at his life as a Studio City actor. Free event-DVDs and CDs available for purchase courtesy of the author.

Book Sale: Saturday, July 25, 2009, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please bring bags or boxes for purchases.

Book Donations: Every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Young Adult Programs: Wednesdays, July 8, 25, 22 and 29, 2009 from 3:00 - 4:15 p.m. Music programs provided by the L.A. Music Network with special appeal to teens. The July 29 performance will have an "American Idol-like" finale with those present voting for the best performer.

ATTENTION: NO COMMUNITY MEETING IN AUGUST

The SCRA will be on holiday in August 2009 with no community meeting. The SCRA Community Meetings will resume on September 9, 2009 with a presentation by Greg Bartz, neighborhood outreach representative for the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power. Mr. Bartz will present SCRA members and guests with an overview of the impact of the current water use restrictions, including an update on where the City saw the most savings during the summer months and predictions for the future of water usage in Los Angeles.

SCRA "ROUNDS UP" THE COMMUNITY

More than 500 people attended the First Annual Studio City Community Barbecue and Roundup on the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend to support the activities of Save LA River Open Space (formerly Save Studio City Golf and Tennis) and the Studio City Beautification Association. Sponsored by the SCRA, the event was held on the five acre, oak tree-shaded Hirsh Ranch located on Laurel Canyon opposite Fryman Canyon trail head. In addition to great music from four live bands, including Renee & Jeremy,

1ST ANNUAL STUDIO CITY COMMUNITY BBQ & ROUNDUP

The Bionics, Greg Smith & Pals and The Reminders, the Roundup featured three-legged, sack and egg and spoon races, bouncies for the kids, face painting, line dancing and food from the award-winning Captain BBQ.



Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky; Paul Koretz, then projected to be, and now named, the new Councilmember for District 5; Aron Miller, field representative for State Senator Fran Pavley; Evan Roosevelt, field representative for Councilmember Wendy Greuel; Joan Pellico, field representative for Councilmember Jack Weiss; and LAUSD Board Member, Tamar Galatzan, joined in on the fun. Evan Roosevelt presented SCRA



President Alan Dymond with a certificate of recognition for the event. The SCRA gives special thanks to Patty Kirby and Bill Harmond for taking the lead on coordinating the overall event and to all the hard working volunteers who gave so much of their free time to make this event a major success.



The SCRA also thanks Councilmember Greuel and Evan Roosevelt for supplying the tables and chairs for the event and the Hirsh family for providing such a beautiful setting.



COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

By Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis

Mock Drill

On Saturday July 11, 2009, at approximately 1:00 p.m. for about two-to-three hours, the Los Angeles Fire Department along with the LAPD are going to be participating in a mock brush fire exercise. This mock brush fire will start as an imaginary house fire on the 3800 block of Rhodes Avenue.

TO THE MARKET



Summer is wonderful at the Studio City Farmers Market. The fruit is at its best with lots of variety to choose from, including nectarines, peaches, apriums and pluots picked ripe from

the tree. Tenerelli Farms, a customer favorite, is back. If you are looking for a great recipe for easy peach cobbler, be sure to visit the Studio City Farmers Market web site at www.studiocityfarmersmarket.com Stop by the Popshop for gourmet popsicles with ingredients from the Studio City Farmers market and flavors such as ginger lemon and watermelon. The Market also features delicious fresh fish from Oscar's every week.

The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce. Free parking is available at the CBS lot on Radford.

Fire trucks will respond and quickly determine the fire is threatening dense brush behind the structure and into the canyon. The Los Angeles Fire Department will call for additional resources, set up a communications post and request the assistance of LAPD for evacuations. Upon arrival of the LAPD to the command post, the incident commanders will instruct police to evacuate four areas, including:

- Fryman Canyon
- Goodland Avenue and Goodland Drive
- Coldwater Canyon
- Longridge Canyon (in the Van Nuys Division)

Both fire and police personnel will respond to the above areas with their lights and sirens on. LAFD and LAPD helicopters will circle the area and assist in the exercise.

Residents should understand this is a mock exercise. It is not real. It is only a drill. It is designed to test safety officials' ability to mobilize forces from multiple agencies into one central command, test how quickly needed resources can get into the field and how fast mock evacuations can take place. **No one will be asked to evacuate his or her home, and no traffic will be diverted.** Residents are encouraged to share information about this drill with neighbors so they will not be alarmed.

Crime Update

Crime numbers in Studio City are slightly on the rise with an increase of activity at supermarkets along Ventura Blvd. Victims have had their wallets taken from their purses while shopping inside the market. One victim believes one suspect may have intentionally bumped her as a distraction as a second suspect grabbed a wallet out of the victim's purse. As she was standing in the checkout line, she received a call from her credit card company saying they were monitoring some suspicious activity on her credit card. The suspects were just down the street at a Ralph's store in Sherman Oaks, attempting to buy some merchandise. Residents are urged to be aware and be careful.

STOP THE TREE BUTCHERS

Community members have asked for more information about the trees being butchered in Studio City as reported in last month's SCRA newsletter. Included here are two photos, one of cropped trees and the other showing the proper way to trim a tree. Photo "A" shows the results of illegal and incompetent tree trimming. This tree is in the process of trying to



recover; it will never reach its potential but will remain stubby and unattractive with a severed stub that will never grow leaves again. Photo "B" shows a tree recently cut and so badly damaged that it is doubtful it will ever recover. Photo "C" shows a tree pruned professionally. It is due for a further light trim to encourage the canopy to grown higher and increase visibility for the venue behind it.

The cost of each tree is approximately \$200 plus labor for planting, irrigating and pruning as required. These costs are met by donations to the Studio City Beautification Association and contributions from the merchants under the Business Improvement District program.



Residents who have questions or would like information about a particular tree are encouraged to call the SCRA office. The community can help strike a fair balance with proper care of the trees and the merchants' desire to draw attention to their businesses. Trained professionals can help at no cost.

STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Work is currently underway in earnest to beautify and permanently maintain the seven city-owned lots along Ventura Boulevard opposite Marshalls, dubbed the Oasis project.



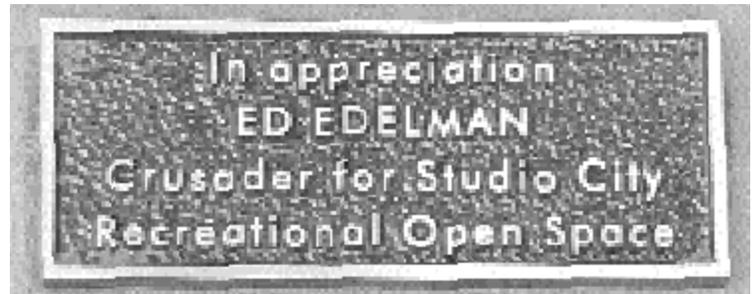
Long overgrown and neglected, the lots now will feature a decomposed granite path and will be extensively landscaped by Studio City Beautification Association, an affiliate of the SCRA. The lot has been cleared, the trees trimmed, weeds and ivy removed and a vinyl coated fence is in place. The plan is to grow Bougainvillea over the fence with more plants and trees added during the cooler months. Thanks to two SCRA

members, Brent and Meg Seltzer, the area will be monitored for dogs and doggie waste bags supplied on behalf of the SCBA.

The SCBA gives special thanks to regular individual donors to SCBA; to the SCRA; the Studio City Neighborhood Council; and the Los Angeles Office of Community Beautification for support in this ambitious project.

SAVE LOS ANGELES RIVER-OPEN SPACE SALUTES ED EDELMAN

Former Los Angeles County Supervisor Ed Edelman, also a member of the board of the United States Tennis Association Southern California, recently was instrumental in obtaining a large grant from the Association so Save Los Angeles River-Open Space (SLAROS) can continue its efforts, both politically and legally, to preserve Weddington Golf & Tennis as open space for recreational uses. In order to show its appreciation for Mr. Edelman, members of the SLAROS board, including Alan Dymond, Laurie Cohn, Art Howard and Kathy Hassett, installed a plaque at the Studio City Fire Station, which reads:



For many years, Ed Edelman has been and remains a strong supporter in efforts to retain this open space. SLAROS regards Ed as one of its many friends and truly appreciates all he has done.

SAVE THE DATE

The Studio City Residents Association is pleased to announce its lead role in producing a bigger, better and even more exciting Studio City Holiday Parade.

Be sure to mark December 6, 2009 on your calendar for a fun event for all ages.

YOUR SCRA MEMBERSHIP MAKES OUR COMMUNITY STRONG

The SCRA is pleased to announce SCRA membership renewals have been coming in fast and furious. We appreciate all the contributions above and beyond the membership fee; these contributions will be used wisely for the betterment of Studio City.

If the date above your name on this newsletter still says 6/09, you have not yet renewed your membership. If you need a replacement renewal form, please call 818-509-0230. You can also renew online at www.studiocityresidents.org. As a member of the SCRA, you help bring Studio City:

- Studio City Farmers Market
- Boulevard trees - planting and maintenance
- Welcome signs and medians at Coldwater Canyon Blvd., Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Vineland Avenue
- Landscaping for the Studio City library
- Two major beautification projects in 2009, led by the

Studio City Beautification Association, an affiliate of the SCRA

- Open space at Weddington Golf and Tennis
- Annual Studio City Community Barbecue & Roundup
- Holiday Parade

Please ask your neighbors to join.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

Ever heard the phrase "helicopter parents?" It's usually used when parents "hover" over their kids unnecessarily. It is not exactly a term used in a kind way since "helicopter parents" are considered overly protective. But why, you may ask, are you talking about this in the SCRA Newsletter when it may be better suited to an "Oprah" or "Dr. Phil" talk show. The answer is in the SCRA sponsored "First Annual Studio City Community Barbecue & Roundup" held on the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend at the Hirsh Ranch, courtesy of Anita Hirsh. There were no helicopter parents there that afternoon. Everyone had a great time, especially the kids who ran all over the place as they participated in the three legged, egg and spoon and sack races, joining in with great enthusiasm. I did hear parents became unwitting targets with balloons that had not been used during the water balloon toss. Did anyone see how the kids organized themselves into impromptu relay races?

The Roundup was the first event of its kind organized by the SCRA: all the heavy lifting was done by committee members and volunteers from the SCRA, Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) and Save Los Angeles River Open Space (formerly known as Save Studio City Golf and Tennis). Volunteers from SCBA and SLAROS are also members of SCRA so it was truly a joint effort by a multitalented group of people. We learned a lot from the event and appreciate feedback from our members as we review our results.

Any profits from the event are slated to support the SCBA and SLAROS to help them continue their respective missions, that includes SLAROS' work to keep the Weddington Golf & Tennis space open for the benefit of all and SCBA maintaining the trees and medians it has planted and funding future improvements around our neighborhoods.

You will find other good news elsewhere in this newsletter. Our renewal membership drive is underway with encouraging responses to date, including generous donations over and above the minimum membership. The recruitment drive for new members has just begun. Thank you again to our members for supporting the "Roundup" and for renewing their memberships. And welcome to our new members.

And a big P.S. Take a look at the article and photographs on the trees in our community. Butchered trees bring our neighborhood down: it is akin to Police Chief Bratton's statement about the effect of broken windows not being repaired. Butchered trees with their stubby branches give the impression Studio City really does not care for the appearance of the neighborhood. We all know this is a mistaken perception. Who would not rather stroll under a tree canopy that gives shade in the summer months and softens the urban landscape both for pedestrians and those who drive through. Tree trimming without a permit is illegal, and certain penalties may be applied.

Alan Dymond



MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Meeting Starts at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda

7:00 p.m. Light refreshments

7:30 p.m. Jane Usher, former president, Los Angeles City Planning Commission; and newly named Special City Attorney, Land/Use Billboards, will speak about planning/development challenges facing the community.

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.*



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Crime and Safety
Membership
Overlay
Planning and Land Use
Studio City History Project

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Kathy Hassett, Steve Hirsh, Art Howard
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