



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Your Advocate for Studio City*

**January 2009**

## **GET INVOLVED: MAKE 2009 THE YEAR OF STUDIO CITY**

Many have resolved to give back even more in 2009. As Studio City kicks off the year, the SCRA has identified the issues that will be top of the agenda in the community and which can benefit from involvement and support from Studio City residents. Here's a snapshot:

**Mansionization:** Extend the mansionization ordinance by means of an "overlay" to place reasonable limits on height and density in the residential areas. The objective is to get work on this plan done as quickly as possible to give Councilmember Wendy Greuel the opportunity to get the ordinance before City Council for action before March. To get involved: send an email to [scraboard@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org) and note "mansionization" in the subject line.

**Save LA River-Studio City Open Space:** Preservation of this open space as park land, riparian habitat, tennis courts and a driving range. The group will be organizing an event for families in the Spring as a fun means to raise money to pay for much-needed ongoing work by consultants. Volunteers are welcomed and writers are needed to prepare applications for grants. To get involved, email [scraboard@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org) and note "Save LA River" in the subject line.

**Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA):** Two projects in the planning stage include the "Oasis" opposite Marshalls and the medians opposite the park on Moorpark. The Moorpark project may become a "green" initial filtration of storm water before the water enters the Los Angeles River. As well, the SCBA may establish a volunteer group to assist the elderly living in single family residences clean up their property on a one-time basis. To get involved, email [scraboard@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org) and note "SCBA" in the subject line.

**Development at MTA/Universal:** Communities United for Smart Growth is a coalition of residents groups and businesses, including SCRA, which surround the proposed development on the MTA site at Lankershim. The group needs people to volunteer to contact groups throughout the Valley to inform and energize residents. The suburban environment Studio City residents now enjoy will be gone forever with nightmare traffic, digital sign light pollution and very limited access to the subway system. To get involved, email [scraboard@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org) and note "MTA/Universal" in the subject line.

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## **CITY CONTROLLER LAURA CHICK TO SHARE "WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN CITY HALL" AT SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



The SCRA January meeting kicks off the New Year with an Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers. In addition to voting in the officer slate, SCRA members will get real insights into City Hall as City Controller Laura Chick reveals what's really happening downtown.

Laura Chick is the first and only woman elected to citywide office in the history of Los Angeles. As Controller, Chick serves as the chief auditor, accountant and watchdog for the City of Los Angeles, working to ensure its fiscal health.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre, 4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City. Members and guests are invited for refreshments at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

## (Get Involved, cont'd)

**Improve the Los Angeles River:** The Village Gardeners is dedicated to improving the Los Angeles River with current efforts concentrated between Whitsett and Coldwater. Volunteers organize children's planting workshops and lectures in a small amphitheater on the river. Volunteers are working closely with the City and County to plant and improve the banks of the River before the eminent demise of the oleander due to an unstoppable disease. Volunteer opportunities range from lecturing to organizing to planting. To get involved, email [delrico@roadrunner.com](mailto:delrico@roadrunner.com).

**Studio Oaks (Greenleaf):** With the aid of \$375,000 provided by Councilmember Jack Weiss, this park, west of Coldwater Canyon on Ventura Blvd., will become a reality in 2009. This major improvement as a gateway to Studio City affords many volunteer opportunities to help create an aesthetic park environment and "traffic calming" five block mini park. To get involved, email [greenleafwatch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:greenleafwatch@sbcglobal.net).

**Start a Neighborhood Watch:** Neighborhood Watch is an essential part of the LAPD's crime prevention strategy. It reduces crime by educating residents about their roles and responsibilities in the prevention of crime. It helps the police organize a community to work together towards a common goal of a safer neighborhood and provides an open line of communication between law enforcement and residents. A Neighborhood Watch group can be formed around the geographical area that works best for the neighborhood: a block, a neighborhood, a condominium complex or an apartment building. To learn more about starting a Neighborhood Watch, visit the LAPD's website or call Studio City's Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis at 818-634-2593.

**Help Stop Graffiti:** The best way to fight graffiti is to get it cleaned up promptly. Be part of the solution by reporting graffiti:

For graffiti on sidewalks, signs, benches, overpasses, etc: 3-1-1

For graffiti on the LA River basin: 800-675-4357

For graffiti on billboards, contact the billboard companies with the sign number:

Clear Channel 310-755-7200

CBS Outdoor 323-276-7309

Van Wagner 818-508-8880

To be more involved with the removal and identification of graffiti culprits, contact the Community Tagger Task Force at 818-756-4000.

## Learn to Help Others in Time of Emergency

The Los Angeles Fire Department trains residents for its Community Emergency Response Team, otherwise known as CERT, across the city. Learn how to be prepared for an earthquake or fire, basic first aid, light search and rescue, and how to organize people in the wake of a disaster by completing the seventeen-hour free course. A class schedule can be found at [www.cert-la.com](http://www.cert-la.com).

## Help the Homeless

Instead of providing hand outs to the local homeless, consider donating money or other items to organizations that provide real assistance through shelters, transitional housing, hot meals, job training, and mental health care. Here are some organizations to consider:

- Valley Interfaith Council: Offers and sponsors a variety of programs for the underprivileged and homeless throughout the Valley (818-718-6460)
- Catholic Charities: One of the largest providers of case management services to the homeless in the greater Los Angeles area (818-997-0943)
- People Assisting The Homeless (PATH): Gives the homeless a "Hand Up, Not a Hand Out" by helping them find work, save money, secure housing and empower their lives (323-644-2200)

Volunteer to work with the homeless throughout the area. Here are a few agencies to explore:

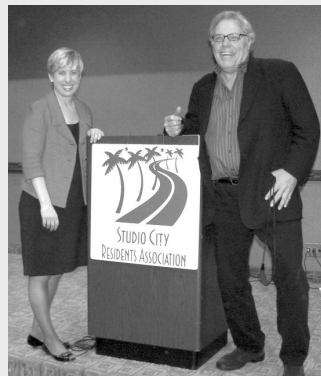
- The Volunteer Center (818-908-5066)
- Women's Care Cottage (818-753-0606)
- VolunteerMatch.org - search for specific volunteer activities in your area.

Keep your national and local representatives informed of the issues of homelessness in our community as some of the root causes of homelessness involve government policy. Write letters to your political representatives and participate in advocacy groups.

- Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness (213-251-0041)

## Getting Children Involved

To help get young children interested in giving and working for a cause, visit [www.acmesharing.com](http://www.acmesharing.com), a blog by a local mom who provides tips on activities and books to inspire young philanthropists.



*SCRA's Studio City Cares award winners, City Council member Wendy Greuel, and Studio City Lifestyle publisher Barry Wise.*

*SCRA Board Member Tiffany Petroc congratulates SCRA Studio City Cares award winner, Studio City Lead Officer Mike Lewis*



# ASK THE SCRA

**Question:** Why is the construction of the Moorpark bridge taking so long?

**SCRA:** CALTRANS discovered a major power pole that supplies CBS and the local neighborhood needed to be moved to accommodate the configuration of the new bridge. There was discussion as to who is responsible for the expense of moving the pole and reconnecting the power lines. The power pole is now moved, and Studio City will soon have a new Moorpark bridge that meets Federal standards.

## MASSIVE HOME PERMITTED FOR CORNER OF COLFAX AND CHIQUITA

An enormous steel framed house, the largest house ever permitted in Studio City, is currently under construction at the entrance to Colfax Meadows at the corner of Colfax Avenue and Chiquita. Neighbors have expressed dismay, frustration and disgust that such a project could be permitted in a single family neighborhood. During a meeting with the Department of Building and Safety (DBS) that issued the permit, Art Howard, SCRA Land Use Chair, and Lisa Sarkin, SCNC Land Use Chair, learned the house, including two 2-car garages, will be more than 14,000 square feet. It is three stories with six bedrooms and a very large open rotunda-type foyer. The maximum height allowed on this lot (R-1) is 33 feet. This house is a little more than 32 feet in height. The DBS has required a survey take place during construction to ensure all setbacks are correct. As well, before the DBS issues the Certificate of Occupancy, there will be a height survey.



Unfortunately for those who live in Colfax Meadows, and for those who drive or walk in the area, nothing can be done to reduce the size of this development. At the time permits were applied for in June, 2008, the development fell within the allowable limits for a 15,000 square foot lot. There was a mansionization ordinance in the works at the

time; however, at the time the ordinance was passed by the City Council, there was no emergency clause which would have provided that. If the mayor did not sign the ordinance within a thirty day time frame, it automatically became the law. As it was, the mayor did not sign the ordinance until five weeks later. The end result is that all of the setbacks and height for this development are within the allowable limits.

Urban Forestry of the Street Division has been notified the SCRA does not want the large established tree on the property removed, near what will be one of the two 2-car garages. However, that may pose a battle. As well, as this article is published, there is only one permit for a driveway, curbs and sidewalks.

## BREAKING NEWS

### Laurel & Mulholland Acquisition Update

Paul Edelman from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy reports the \$25,000 needed to extend the option to purchase and preserve the property at Mulholland and Laurel Canyon has been raised. A big thank you to all who contributed.

### Park & Pay Stations Are Here on the Boulevard

SCRA members may have already encountered the new Park & Pay Stations along the Boulevard between Laurel Canyon and Whitsett. The SCRA did not have advance notice of the proposal to install these different type of meters; however, SCRA has been able to determine these meters can take both cash and credit cards and have the ability to set up accounts by cell phone.

### New SMART crosswalk at Tujunga

For years, neighbors have been requesting the City of Los Angeles install a SMART crosswalk at an extremely dangerous crossing on Tujunga south of Moorpark. Finally, within three months of an accident involving serious injury to a mother and her daughter, a SMART crosswalk was installed on Friday, December 5, 2008. The crosswalk was spearheaded by Councilmember Wendy Greuel, SCNC Board member Gail Steinberg and the Studio City Neighborhood Council's Land Use Committee. All were present to see Wendy push the button and become the first to cross, accompanied by Annabelle Ward, the woman hit in the crosswalk back in August. Annabelle's daughter is almost fully recovered, while Annabelle may still have more surgeries to go.

### Sportsmen's Lodge Update

By the time of this publication, the Sportsmen's Lodge restaurant, the Muddy Moose, will have closed. The closing was scheduled for the end of the 2008, the termination date of the tenant's lease. A banquet room will be moved

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over to the hotel while the existing banquet room is renovated. Upon completion of the renovation, the banquet room will move back. Overall, the site is being refreshed with no full-scale development currently contemplated.

## APPOINTMENT OF SCRA OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2009

As there were no alternate candidates proposed for the open positions of officers for the SCRA, the following slate will be presented to SCRA members for affirmation at the Annual General Meeting, January 13, 2009, at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn, 4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City.

- Alan Dymond, President
- Bonnie Goodman, Executive Vice President
- Mark Batterman, Executive Vice President
- Claudia Freedle, Administrative Vice President
- Laura McKinzie, Treasurer
- Connie Elliot, Secretary

## IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

### Studio City Branch Library

**Suspenseful Saturday Cinema:** January 17, 2009, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. "Battleship Potemkin," a silent film (1925) (teens and older)

**Friends of the Studio City Branch Library Present Denise Hamilton,** Monday, January 26, 2009, 7:00 p.m.  
Former Los Angeles Times journalist and Fulbright Scholar Denise Hamilton is known for high-octane crime novels with romantic suspense set in contemporary, multicultural Los Angeles. Event is free, seating is limited.

**Book Sale:** January 31, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

### Studio City Green House Tour

Saturdays and Sundays in January 2009 (except January 31), 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Visit the first green home in the San Fernando Valley. More than 60 sponsors were involved in construction of the home. The tours will showcase the latest in green products. Visit [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) for tickets and location information (type in search box "Studio City Green House").

Tickets: \$15.00 + \$1.37 service charge  
All proceeds benefit Carpenter Avenue Elementary School  
Contact: 818.731.7050 or [marty-vision@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marty-vision@sbcglobal.net)

## IN DEVELOPMENT

by Art Howard, Planning & Land Use Chair

**11300 Sunshine Terrace** – Preliminary parcel map to divide one lot into two lots. Applicant/contact: Jack Little at 818-342-3277.

**11938 Ventura** – Deemed to be approved Conditional Use Permit to allow addition of 16 seats in front patio of existing restaurant/bar with on-site sales of alcohol and hours of operation of 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 a.m. daily. Applicant/contact: Patrick Panzarello at 818-351-0059

**12401 Ventura** – Want to establish a restaurant with inadequate parking by paying Department of Transportation for eight parking spaces. Applicant/contact: David Carlat at 310-497-7557

**11755 Laurelwood** – Want a reduced sideyard for an existing single family dwelling on a hillside lot. Applicant/contact: David Silverman at 818-222-3700

**10911 Ventura** – Want to demolish drive-thru canopy at northwest corner and add 10 standard parking stalls in former drive thru canopy location. Applicant/contact: Darryl Perrault at 310-826-2100

### Re-Enactment of the Signing Of the Articles of Capitulation" At Campo De Cahuenga

January 11, 2009, 1:00 p.m.

A series of events will mark the celebration at the site of the original Campo de Cahuenga, 3919 Lankershim Blvd., Universal City

Contact: Diane McCreary at 818-762-3998

### Open House at the New Studio City Fire Station

January 18, 2009 from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Fire Station #78 located at 4041 Whitsett (just north of the boulevard and south of Weddington Golf and Tennis) is fully operational. SCRA members are invited to the open house, featuring fire department demonstrations and the opportunity to meet Fire Chief Douglas Berry and our firefighters.

### SCRA Committee Meetings

#### **Studio City Beautification Association**

**Monthly meeting:** Saturday, January 10, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Campbell Hall, room 45

Agenda includes a discussion of the Moorpark Parkway and Big Sunday.

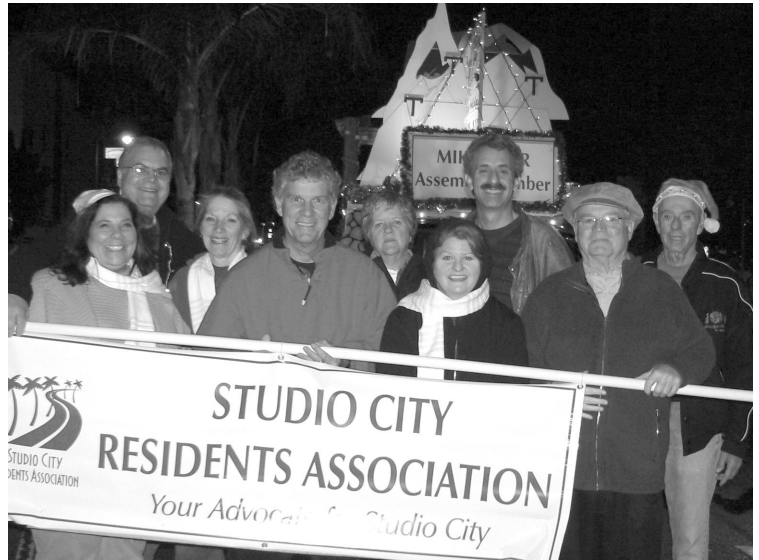
Contact Bill Harmond at [elhombre@delosangeles.com](mailto:elhombre@delosangeles.com) for more information.

# SCRA HOLIDAY FLOAT

On the Saturday before the Studio City Holiday Parade, SCRA volunteers labored for seven hours decorating the SCRA float. The SCRA thanks Michael Klausman, CBS Studios, for graciously supplying the use of a truck and a soundstage (warm and dry) to SCRA.



*The SCRA thanks Janice Kueppers for bringing the Walter Reed Barbershop Chorus to perform at the SCRA December Community Meeting and Eric Gallager for allowing the Walter Reed Cadet Corps to help at the holiday parade.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Alan Dymond*

"Love of money is the root of all evil." The opposite of that particular phrase is that love of family, friends and community is the basis of all good. Our SCRA members, by their acts and deeds, have expressed in concrete form love, not only for their families and friends, but also a love of their community here in Studio City. Yes, sometimes there may be limited attendance at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn for our Community Meetings, especially for those with young families, and, at times, the work seems overwhelming and outside our limited powers and influence. Nevertheless when asked to act, all our members come forward in one sense or another to be heard and give their support. For that reason and more, it is a pleasure to serve on the SCRA Board and SCRA Committees to do what we can. In this New Year, the SCRA will be building up our "workforce": a company of the willing. (I didn't know until recently that the word "volunteer" came from the Latin "willing.") To that end, expect to see information in this newsletter on an ongoing basis when help is needed.

In the coming year, the focus once again will be on development; it is a never ending battle. MTA/Universal is definitely on the radar. In this regard, Communities United for Smart Growth has developed an "alternate vision;" we will be asking them to present this vision to our membership for input. Save LA River-Studio City Open Space is still challenging the proposal to build condominiums on the last remaining open space along the river front. In addition, the overlay zoning to limit mansionization is slowly winding its way through the City's Planning Department. And there are other areas where SCRA is paying attention, including transportation and issues at Burbank airport. The list goes on. If any one area of concern touches a chord with you, please let us know.

On a related note, SCRA board members Tiffany Petroc and Bonnie Goodman have been holding focus group meetings to get input about the community's interests and to address how SCRA can continue to be responsive to your needs. In January, they will be making their recommendations to the board. One of the topics is the nature and format of our monthly Community Meetings. SCRA members are invited to give us feedback on this subject by emailing [scraboard@studiocityresidents.org](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org)

*Alan Dymond*



STUDIO CITY  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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**ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING  
& ELECTION  
OF OFFICERS  
Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009**

**Meeting Starts at 7:30 p.m.**

**Agenda**

**7:00 p.m.** Light refreshments

**7:30 p.m.** City Controller Laura Chick  
on "What is Really Going  
on in City Hall"

**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 on and turn right and go to the large back lot. Exit at the southwest corner of the lot and signs will direct you to the Beverly Garland Theatre. Your parking will be validated at the sign-in table.*



**SCRA Committees**

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

**Officers**

Alan Dymond, President  
Tiffany Petroc, Exec. Vice President  
Bonnie Goodman, Exec. Vice President  
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President  
Connie Elliot, Secretary  
Laura McKinzie, Treasurer

**Board Members**

Mark Batterman  
Beth Dymond

Bill Harmond  
Steve Hirsh  
Bonnie Kalaf  
Andrea Neumann  
Robin Seidel

**Immediate Past President**

Art Howard

**Beautification Association**

Bill Harmond, Executive Director  
Francesca Corra, Director  
Rick Rabins, Director

**Park Advisory Board Liaison**

Mark Batterman

**Director of Animal Welfare**

Robin Seidel

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

Co-Chairs  
David Burg, Laurie Cohn, Alan  
Dymond, Kathy Hassett, Art Howard  
SaveLARiverOpenSpace@studiocityresidents.org

**School Liaisons**

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman  
Oakwood - Tammy Lundgren  
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

**Studio City Farmer's Market**

Manager: Carol Gallegos (818) 655-8270  
studiocityfarmersmarket@yahoo.com

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