



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

July 2015

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BREAKING GROUND: STUDIO CITY ADDS ANOTHER LINK TO THE BIKE PATH

lected officials joined members of the community on June 2, 2015 for a formal ground breaking ceremony for the bike path that will run from Coldwater Canyon Avenue to Whittsett Avenue on the south bank of the Los Angeles River. Attendees, including Councilmember Paul Krekorian, who rode over on his bicycle, and Carol Armstrong, director of LARiverWorks in the Office of LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, joined Studio City Residents Association representatives, who walked to the event from the City parking structure on Ventura Blvd. A number of City departments participated, including the Bureau of Engineering and Public Works and Department of Recreation



and Parks, which officiated at the event. Local organizations are eager to see the project finally moving forward as yet another link in the Los Angeles River bike path. The bike path will exit at the west end by Sportmen's Landing with a ramp leading directly up to Coldwater Canyon Avenue. The walking path is located directly opposite the bike path on the north bank of the river. Planting is scheduled for fall 2015.



The bike path along the Los Angeles River is being installed in sections as funds become available with the goal of having a fully connected 50-mile stretch from the Valley to the ocean at Long Beach.

OP-ED: WATER FOR THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY: DROUGHT OR THE NEW NORMAL?

By Conner Everts, executive director, Southern California Watershed Alliance

As we enter the hot summer months during the fourth year of unprecedented drought, the San Fernando Valley is the prime area in Los Angeles for the impact of climate change. Therefore, the Valley is the first place for change and transformation.

What makes this time unique is that this is a "perfect" drought with all three sources of imported water being impacted by extended drought and climate change at the same time. The Colorado River system has been in a drought for 16 years with a couple of wet winters and a recent bump in May with monsoonal rains. Nevertheless, the system is at an all-time low with Lake Mead, behind Boulder Dam near Las Vegas, being at the lowest level since it first filled. Both sides of the Sierra Mountains have been at record low snow pack, and some smaller farmers and communities are going without water. All three systems rely on moving water hundreds of miles to Los Angeles.

The fourth source of water for the San Fernando Valley and the most valuable and reliable is our untapped local water. The San Fernando Valley sits on top of a huge aquifer or underground reservoir. It needs to be cleaned up, but is a great asset. We also have the Tillman Treatment Plant, which treats sewage multiple times to the level that could be filtered through the ground and treated again, as Orange County has been doing for many years. The water is currently being released to the Los Angeles River but is also used for Lake Balboa and the Sepulveda Wildlife refuge. Combine that with our potential to

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JULY SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING TO ADDRESS THE DROUGHT



Penny Falcon, P.E., water conservation policy and legislation and grants manager for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), will address Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members and guests at the July SCRA

Community Meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Garland in Studio City.

Falcon will address water sources present and future and the effect of the drought and corrective measures, including desalination. The DWP is one of the largest municipal water systems in the world, delivering more than 500 million gallons of water a day to four million people from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro. Its annual operating budget is more than \$1 billion.

The Garland, formally known as Beverly Garland, is located at 4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments.

BE PART OF THE URBAN FOREST

Want to plant a tree and be part of the urban forest of Los Angeles both on city parkways and on private property?

Trees that are planted in the public right of way, such as at the curb, are identified as street trees and must have prior approval of the City and the property owner. For a permit to plant trees in parkways and other public right of way, visit bsspermits.lacity.org.

A Street Tree Selection Guide is available at: bss.lacity.org/UrbanForestry/StreetTreeSelectionGuide.htm. This guide lists more than 150 species of street trees that would be appropriate for a given location and physical limitations that may affect the choice of tree. In addition, many areas of Los Angeles feature micro climates, including the Valley floor (hot) and areas adjacent to the Santa Monica Mountains and canyon environments (ocean breezes and down flow of cooler air to the Valley floor). As a result, tree planting may require additional considerations.

The Street Tree Selection Guide is also an excellent source for anyone thinking of planting trees on private property, such as the back or front yard of a house. The Guide provides information about height, drought tolerance, crown spread, spacing, deciduous/evergreen etc. The botanical name and the common names of trees are listed along with color photographs for some listings.

During the last drought, the City advised homeowners that watering existing trees should have priority. Grass, flowers, shrubs and bushes can be re-established readily when things improve, but trees involve a longer time period to get established, grow and produce tangible benefits. Protecting trees on private property can be achieved by delivering water to where it is needed, such as at the drip line, or by using readily available commercial devices that deliver water by a perforated tube down to where it is most needed.

In terms of street trees and other city-owned trees, the City Council has begun development of a management plan with

strategies to protect and enhance the urban forest, to reduce the heat-island effect and to address new pests and diseases. The Council passed a motion about this effort, which was introduced by Councilmember Koretz, and which is presently before the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee. The entire motion and preamble can be found on line at: clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2015/15-0467_misc_04-17-2015.pdf. Search Los Angeles City Council file number 15-0467 to track progress on this issue.

FOCUS ON SCBA: KEEPING STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFUL

The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) joined Councilmember Paul Krekorian along with other community leaders in honoring Karl Johnson for his contributions to the work of the SCBA. Johnson, a sculptor, created and donated sculptures for the Radford Art Walk on Radford Avenue alongside CBS Studio Center. He designed and built the SCBA's latest project, which is a seating area at Wilacre Park. Johnson has also created unique sculptures for other SCBA installations around Studio City. The SCBA thanks him for his generous and beautiful contributions.

Spring is the perfect time to get out and visit the SCBA's project sites. To find these locations, visit StudioCityBeautification.org for an interactive map with all of the details.

The Oasis, across from Marshall's on Ventura Blvd., is the SCBA's largest installation. Visitors to the Oasis can stroll through a variety of native and drought tolerant plantings that were carefully selected for this location. One of the SCBA's favorites, the Romneya, belongs to the native poppy family known as Matilija poppies. Look for the plant with flowers that look like fried eggs.



The SCBA's newest project, the Wilacre Park seating area (near Fryman Canyon and Laurel Canyon Blvd.), was built to replace a rickety old bus bench to provide bus riders a safe, comfortable place to chat while waiting for the bus. It is shaded by old oaks and set back from the street. The "furniture" is actually a collection of custom-made sculptures by Karl Johnson, who fashioned it from reclaimed metal and real hardwood. This is the SCBA's first project with no irrigation. There is even a "pad" for the furniture to allow for rainwater to seep down and water the old oaks that are adjacent to the bench.

As the drought continues, the SCBA has been planning new installations that require little to no water, but yet will have vegetation. The SCBA is committed to sustainability and plants gardens with water-saving drip systems that are carefully controlled to use a minimum amount of water. This summer, plants at some of the SCBA gardens will appear to be on their deathbeds; however, this is a natural state for California natives during the hot summer months. They will come back in the fall and grow back in the spring.

Please "like" us on Facebook (search for Studio City Beautification), and from time to time you'll see articles and postings about tips for residential gardens as well as information about the SCBA's ongoing activities.

SCRA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: RENEW OR SIGN UP TODAY!

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) annual membership drive is well on its way. In June, members received a renewal notice, which can be mailed back to the SCRA. Members have the option to renew online at StudioCityResidents.org. Check your membership status by looking at the address printed on this newsletter. If the date above your name is 6/15, your membership has expired. The SCRA membership year is from June 2015 to June 2016.

The SCRA thanks you for your continued support of this all-volunteer organization.

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: The intersection of Coldwater Canyon Avenue and Riverside Drive is in deplorable condition. In addition to the potholes and general disrepair of the streets, the crosswalks and traffic lines are completely worn away. This is an unsafe situation and an accident waiting to happen. Should I contact someone, or what should we do?

SCRA: This is actually just outside of Studio City, but it is basically in our community. This intersection is in Council District 4 (CD4), which has been overseen by Councilmember Tom LaBonge. The SCRA called and wrote to CD4 and asked if the conditions at this intersection are being addressed by the City and, if so, what timeline is in place for making the much-needed repairs. The SCRA has not received a response. The newly elected councilmember to replace Tom LaBonge is David Ryu. Councilmember Ryu was sworn in to office on June 28, 2015.

Q for NBCUniversal: I have noticed the 101 on-ramp widening adjacent to In-N-Out Burger and Universal City Nissan has begun. It is with great sadness (but unavoidable, I suppose) that I see all the mature (looks like more than 20+) Eucalyptus trees have been cut down. These trees were a wonderful sound and sight buffer, not only to the adjacent businesses, but to the homes in the hills south of the boulevard.

Do the plans call for some sort of replacement buffer? Trees? Large growing shrubs? It would be a shame to lose this buffer between the freeway and the community forever. I also noticed that there may be trees that will need to be cut down on the south side of the 101 Freeway between Universal Center Drive and Barham Boulevard, which includes the 101 border with El Paseo De Cahuenga Park at 3300 Cahuenga Boulevard West. This park has quite dense foliage separating the park and the 101 at present, the way it should be.

NBCUniversal: There are landscaping and trees going back into the Lankershim Blvd. and Barham Blvd. ramp areas and the freeway shoulder between the two ramps. We will plant as many trees as we have room for. Nothing will be as tall as the existing mature Eucalyptus trees, but they will be fast growing. We are also adding landscaping and a sound wall to the El Paseo de Cahuenga Park.



TO THE MARKET

The Studio City Farmers' Market has so many wonderful stone fruits right now. Local farmers are freshly picking peaches, plums, pluots, cherries, apricots and nectarines, and their stands at the Market are overflowing. Bell peppers are back too, along with cherry tomatoes so sweet they can be considered dessert. Tenerelli Orchards, a seasonal farmer, is also back for a limited time with gourmet peaches

Beginning in July, the Market welcomes Jerry's Almost Pickles. All natural, with no preservatives and fat free, Jerry's Almost Pickles come in three tantalizing flavors - spicy garlic, zesty red pepper and sweet habaÑero, each one better than the next. As if delicious pickles aren't enough, Jerry's gives back 10 percent of the proceeds from every jar of pickles to World Vision, helping to bring a better life to children and their communities around the world.

Looking for a healthy dinner without having to cook on a Sunday night? Pick up some pupusas from Pupusas SalvadoreÑas. Made with a thick, handmade corn tortillas, pupusas are stuffed with a variety of meats and vegetables. Choose from chicken, beef, pork and shrimp, as well as black beans and cheese, and vegetables. All pupusas are gluten free and are also available with vegan cheese. Add the chopped salad and avocado that come with every order, throw in some fried plantains, and "voila," the Studio City Farmers' Market is now a source for a perfect Sunday night dinner.

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.

Q: I was wondering if you have any idea how I can get the City to remove dead trees, mostly Russian Elms, from my neighborhood. I have been trying since 2007. The trees were reported in 2007, and we've had multiple promises from the Department of Urban Forestry to remove them. I've noticed that some other neighborhoods have very few dead trees and yet the Silver Triangle is awash with them! Can the Studio City Beautification Association help?

SCRA: A couple of years ago, a neighbor who lives down the street from one of our board members also had a couple of dead trees on his property. What he did then was call the nearest fire station (the actual local phone number inside the station) and told the fire captain there were two dead trees at a particular address that were a real fire danger. Within a few days, the fire department came out in the fire truck and knocked on the front door of the property owner where the dead trees were located. Within a week the dead trees were gone. Given that the address you are reporting is in the hillside, it makes matters even worse. The SCRA suggests you try the same thing with the Whitsett Fire Station at 4041 Whitsett Avenue in Studio City, which you can reach by calling 818-756-8678.

(Continued, Page 4)

(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

Q: The property owner of 4318 Gentry Avenue, Studio City does not live on the property and has neglected to properly maintain it. The house and yard have fallen into disrepair. It is an eyesore and a potential fire hazard and infestation vector. Vector control has already been out twice to treat the pool for mosquitos. With the rodent problem we have in Studio City, we are concerned about what is happening inside this house as well. The owner plans to develop this property into condos; in the meantime, he is not making any friends in this neighborhood!



SCRA: The SCRA wrote to Courtney Hamilton, deputy to Councilmember Paul Krekorian, asking which City department to call for an inspection of this property for possible violations. Courtney's response - "Thanks for reaching out to me about this. It looks like someone already did part of what I would do, and reported the property for being unsecured and abandoned. I will also report the overgrown vegetation. I will follow up with the inspector in a few weeks (it takes them awhile to investigate these things) and see what he has to say about what is going on and what can be done."

WANTED: SCRA JUNIOR BOARD MEMBER

The Board of the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) is interviewing high school juniors or seniors to serve on the SCRA Board as a junior board member for 2015-2016. The term of service is from September 2015 to the end of the school year. The board meets locally every third Tuesday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Students interested in civic affairs may apply by emailing a resume and cover letter expressing interest to the SCRA Board at SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org.

THANK YOU JASON GOODMAN, SCRA OUTGOING JUNIOR BOARD MEMBER

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) thanks Jason Goodman, who has recently completed two years as the SCRA junior board member. Goodman's contribution in advancing the SCRA into the 21st century is immeasurable. As a result of his work, the SCRA is now on Facebook and Instagram. He contributed greatly to board discussions, nominated one of the SCRA's 2014 Studio City Cares Award recipients and created a water educational element at the 2014 Winter Family Festival. Goodman is a great asset to Studio City.

Goodman served as the SCRA junior board member during his junior and senior years at Cleveland Humanities Magnet High School. He is also an intern for Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, working with the Assemblymember's office on water issues in California. Goodman graduated from high school this past June and will be attending UC Berkeley this fall. The SCRA board offers Goodman its best wishes for success in all that he does.



(Water, cont'd)

capture stormwater and recharge it back into the ground, and we are on our way to the Mayor's goal of 50 percent independence from imported water by 2025. With rainwater capture through cisterns with serious levels of conservation, we can achieve the Governor's goal of a 25 percent reduction in urban water use statewide by the end of February 2016.

While hopes of floods of El Nino ending the drought, or the fantasy of ocean desalination providing water at a reasonable cost and without environmental damage persist, the reality is water is a finite resource. Large centralized engineering solutions, like new dams and canals, no longer work, and we need to invest that money locally now. Climate change with the extremes of both drought and floods means we have to be more resilient and efficient with our water use. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power offers a \$3.75 per square foot rebate to replace water wasting lawns with appropriate landscaping that does not have to be mowed, fertilized or watered more than twice a month when established. This should be done right, and there are many examples, like Water LA and Ocean Friendly Gardens. It is now legal to disconnect your downspout and redirect that water onto your property, retaining the water and preventing pollution. Another untapped source of local water is using "greywater," for everything except for your kitchen sink and toilet water, to keep trees and shrubs alive.

Change is coming to our water world. When the Metropolitan Water District had to backfill the conservation rebate fund to the tune of \$350 million as a result of unprecedented demand recently, the organization was unprepared for how quickly that money would be requested. Change has come. Driving across the Valley, I can see two outcomes: one is lawns left to die. The other option is conversions to beautiful flowering plants, rainwater barrels and cisterns, greywater systems and a new water ethic for the Valley, prepared for the rains and floods that will inevitably come.

Visit h2ouse.org for a virtual tour and other information on water saving techniques for the house and garden.

STUDIO CITY SCULPTOR RECOGNIZED



Karl Johnson, the sculptor who designed, made and installed the sculptures in many locations in Studio City, and who received the Studio City Cares Award for Excellence in Community Service in 2013, was again honored on June 15, 2015 at

CBS Studio City Center. Michael Klausman, president of CBS Studio City Center, hosted the ceremony and was joined by Councilmember Paul Krekorian, a representative from Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian's office and community leaders of Studio City. Many of Johnson's friends and family members were in attendance.

Johnson donated his sculptures to the community. All are located on city property, except for the Radford Art Walk, which is installed on CBS Studio City Center property. The Studio City Beautification Association was the lead in obtaining permits and easements from the City for those on city properties. All sculptures are readily viewed from the sidewalk. Francesca Corra of Dirt Diva Designs designed and donated the landscaping.

The largest installation is the Art Walk on Radford that runs one quarter mile on the south side of Moorpark (Tujunga Wash) south to Valley Heart Drive at the CBS parking structure. For a virtual tour, visit StudioCityResidentsAssociation.org. At the opening screen, on the left side, click on the Studio City Beautification logo. Go to "Projects" and roll over the center photo; clicking that will take you to "Website." Go to "Structures" at the top. Each photo will have an accompanying commentary by the artist about that particular piece.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Alan Dymond*

It is said that when early humans left the protection of the forest to colonize the grasslands, they took with them a relationship to trees that is still with us: a passion to protect the trees. So what do we do to help our trees survive the drought? And what measures are being embraced in our community to address the drought? Read on for more information.

The Department of Water and Power held its final hearing on a Stormwater Capture Master Plan. This plan would capture rain rather than have it drain directly to the ocean via the Los Angeles River, not only by installing large facilities, but by many lesser means and methods such as curb cuts to divert street run off to gardens. There is, however, a proven engineering study vetted by the Bureau of Sanitation that would capture more than 200 acres of rain run-off and what is called dry run off during "no rain days." Studio City is the location for such a project. The end goal can be achieved by using a portion of the Weddington Golf and Tennis facility and employing reverse engineering to existing street catch basins at the periphery of the facility. The total run off from the surrounding 200 acres can be cleaned before being infiltrated into the aquifer and not just dumped into the Los Angeles River. The proposal for this effort, which has been put forth by SCRA sister organization, Save LA River Open Space, provides that recreational activities will continue on this 16 acre parcel as an ongoing recreation center for the entire San Fernando Valley, with tennis courts, a driving range and a putting green. Read more about this proposal at savelariveropenspace.org.

Now back to trees and making sure our trees survive the drought. Be sure to read "Be Part of the Urban Forest" in this edition and click on the link included in the article. At the end of the website are suggestions for plants that can be used not only for parkways, but also for other areas in the garden to achieve the much-loved "green" look. Please consider reducing water demand for lawns: take good care of the trees, let them have the "first drink" of water.

Why not just move to desalination to solve the water shortage? On May 9, 2015, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian hosted a forum at Los Angeles Valley College to discuss the viability of desalination and alternate options to reduce Los Angeles' dependency on imported water and the huge energy costs associated with it. The desalination plant at Carlsbad was discussed in detail as were concerns arising from the byproducts of desalination and the financial implications. The meeting also addressed other approaches presently being implemented that conserve and better manage regional water sources and that help reduce dependency on water from outside sources and the amount of energy to do so. The Department of Water and Power's Penny Falcon, P.E., water conservation policy and legislation, and grants manager will speak about this and other matters at the July 14, 2015 SCRA Community Meeting.

We hear a great deal about sidewalk conditions in our community. At long last, the City Council is finally addressing a repair ordinance. The SCRA has been monitoring this issue for several years and will continue to do so. However, the public can now provide comment at a public hearing on July 30, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Van Nuys City Hall, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 91401. Councilmember Paul Kerkorian will be there and wants to hear from the community. The SCRA stresses that this is a complex issue involving many aspects, including financial liabilities, future maintenance, etc. The community needs to raise the issues and ask for answers prior to a draft ordinance being presented to the City Council later this year. If you cannot make the hearing, email Councilmember Krekorian at: PaulKrekorian@lacity.org

A final word on trees. In recent incidents in Studio City, the removal of mature trees could have been avoided by a little forethought, such as a site inspection of the neighborhood by the developer or the architect prior to drawing plans. Cutting down a tree for the sole purpose of obtaining access to a garage when another viable alternative is possible is certainly not acceptable nor tolerated. Trees make a neighborhood aesthetically pleasant; they are good for property values and provide many other benefits to all.

Alan Dymond

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Los Angeles River Committee
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Studio City Farmers Market

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m. Reception
- 7:30 p.m. Penny Falcon, P.E.
water conservation
policy and
legislation/grants
manager
Los Angeles Dept.
of Water & Power
on the drought

Meeting Location

The Garland
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 to the Cabrillo Room. PARKING WILL BE VALIDATED at the sign-in-table.

The SCRA thanks The Garland for continued support of the monthly SCRA Community Meetings

