



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

February 2013

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SEPULVEDA BASIN "CLEAR CUT" BY THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

State Senator Fran Pavley's recent Valley Advisory Committee meeting focused on the "clear cut" performed in December 2012 by the Army Corps of Engineers in the Sepulveda Basin. These committee meetings, held every quarter, bring together a number of local community groups, neighborhood councils and chambers of commerce to address issues of significance to the communities they serve.

Consensus at the meeting was that the Army Corp of Engineers handled the "clear cutting" very poorly prior to and on the day the work was done, especially given the number of groups cooperating to address the area, as well as the financial contributions and efforts to establish a habitat in the basin.

The Army Corps of Engineers was represented by the chief of planning for the region. She was not able to respond to several questions since the responsibility for the "clear cutting" lies with the Corps' Operations and Maintenance Department.

A representative of the Audubon Society criticized the Corps' disregard of previously agreed-upon arrangements to remove the non-native plants and trees and to establish the buffer zone for nesting birds. He said there was no notice for the "clear cut" and a total disregard of advice provided by local community members who are experts in their fields.

Members of the committee also expressed displeasure at the unfortunate choice of words used by some that suggested the land belonged to the Corps. In fact, this land is public: it is not "owned" by the Corps. (The Corps has jurisdiction over what may be permitted on the land given its mandate, but the land is subject to other restrictions and considerations, some of which allegedly were not followed.)

One attendee said the public should know who is accountable. Others suggested the committee re-establish the exchange of information between the Corps and all local entities when creating the habitat. Some offered there is an absolute lack of trust in the Corps and that the Corps will have to work very hard to restore local confidence.

The Committee also discussed necessary steps to prevent such an occurrence from happening again. The planning director offered to add the attendees' e-mail addresses to the Corps' database list so they can track Corps' activities for this area.

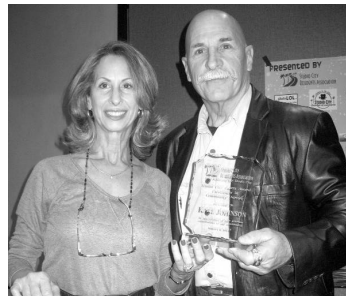
Later in the month, Colonel Mark Toy of the Army Corps of Engineers addressed the Los Angeles City Ad Hoc River Committee. He reported that, starting in February, he would be meeting with major interest groups (Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Encino Neighborhood Council, etc.) to discuss how the Corps planned to proceed in its demolition and abatement activities. Those in attendance included a representative from Congressman Brad Sherman's office, the Encino Neighborhood Council, the Los Angeles Sanitation Department, many organizations from the city and private nonprofit groups, all of which have an interest in what will happen to the wildlife habitat in the Sepulveda Basin.

For further information, visit www.sfvaudubon.org.



THE SCRA PROVES "STUDIO CITY CARES"

The Studio City Residents Association presented its annual Studio City Cares Awards to five outstanding community leaders at the organization's January 2013 Annual General Meeting. Presentations were made to each honoree, each of



L-R: Francesca Corra presents award to Karl Johnson

whom has made significant contributions to the community.

Awards were presented to:

Karl Johnson for Excellence in Community Service

A highly dedicated and hard-working volunteer with the Studio City Beautification Association, Karl Johnson has

donated both time and creative talents to help beautify Studio City. Johnson's sculptures can be seen gracing the community

both on the Radford Art Walk adjacent to CBS Studio Center, on the corner of Ventura Place and Laurel Canyon Blvd., and at the Oakdell Sanctuary on Laurel Canyon Blvd.

Art Ginsburg for Excellence in Business Leadership

A long-time champion of Studio City and founder of Art's Deli on Ventura Blvd., Art Ginsburg sits or has sat on many community boards, including the Studio City Neighborhood Council, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce and the Studio City Improvement Association. He is also a longtime supporter of Los Angeles Valley College.

Lisa Sarkin for Excellence in Government Leadership

Lisa Sarkin's energy and expertise are legendary in the community. As vice president of the Studio City Neighborhood Council and chair of its Land Use Committee, Sarkin's stewardship of development in Studio City has helped maintain a much-admired village atmosphere.

Casey Banks for Service to Developing Youth

Casey Banks gives his time and energy to youth programs at the YMCA, helping guide and mentor many young men and



L-R: Steve Hirsh presents award to Art Ginsburg

women who live in and around the east valley. He is known for his role in coaching the YMCA's Youth and Government Program.

The Fran Quigley Award to Sandra Reed-Funnell

The SCRA presented its highest award, The Fran Quigley Award for Overall Community

Commitment and Civic Dedication, to Sandra Reed-Funnell. Named after one of Studio City's biggest supporters, Fran Quigley - who raised awareness and support for local schools and charities in Studio City - this award was originally given by the Studio City Civic Committee, which Quigley founded. When the Committee was disbanded, the SCRA assumed its functions. The award is not presented every year, but is used to acknowledge a community member who has made sizable contributions.

Reed-Funnell is a guiding force for what needs to be done and what can be done to make Studio City the very best it can be. A transplant to the community from England, Reed-Funnell has been involved with virtually every local civic and community organization and has supported many initiatives with her advice, wisdom, dedication and time, including the community's annual July 4th celebration, beautification projects, the Studio City Winter Family Festival and many other projects.



L-R: Alan Dymond presents award to Sandra Reed-Funnell

ASK THE SCRA

Q: : It looks like the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) paid a lot of money to install the Oakdell Sanctuary. What did it cost?

SCRA: The SCBA has a number of highly dedicated volunteers who are willing to give their time and expertise to Studio City projects. The Oakdell Sanctuary was actually \$10,000 under the \$56,000 budgeted amount by the SCBA for this project. This is approximately one-third the amount quoted by outside contractors. The SCBA's expenses included installation of a water meter, wall materials and related labor costs, installation of irrigation equipment, as well as planting materials and related labor costs. Planning and supervision were donated by volunteers.

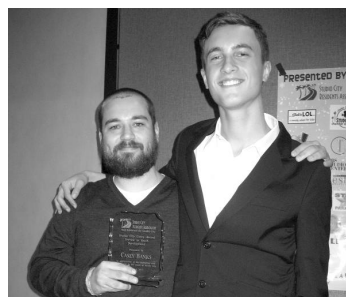
Q: Why has the straw been laid down at the Oakdell Sanctuary?

SCRA: The donated straw and labor to transport and install it was put down as a guide to persons walking through the sanctuary. This will help keep the newly planted areas from being trampled, and is a temporary solution until the plants are established. In the Spring, the birds can use the straw to build their nests.



L-R: Bill Harmond presents award to Lisa Sarkin

As vice president of the Studio City Neighborhood Council and chair of its Land Use Committee,



L-R: Casey Banks receives award from Ben Lazebnik.

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(Ask the SCRA, cont'd)

Q: What can be done about the downed fence and graffiti at 11222 Ventura Blvd. (next to the Oasis minipark)?

SCRA: The SCRA spoke with Lisa Sarkin, chair of the Studio City Neighborhood Council's Land Use Committee, about this location. Sarkin had already reported the problem to the owner, who has put up a temporary wooden fence. The good news is that, according to the real estate agent, this property is in escrow. The SCRA hopes the new owner plans to improve this property and will continue to monitor the location.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Note: Periodically, this newsletter will provide an update of activities undertaken by the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) and its sister organizations, the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) and Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS).

Platinum Live at 11343-11345 Ventura Blvd.

This location is once again being proposed as a restaurant with live entertainment. The SCRA and the SCNC Land Use Committee chair met with the owner/applicant to review a copy of the application; the owner also provided a "Tentative Proposed Operation" schedule during the meeting. The application requests removal of eight conditions and modification of three conditions presently in effect. The SCRA wants to ensure that any contract entered into with promoters includes the eleven presently agreed-upon conditions. A public hearing is set for 9:00 a.m. on March 1, 2013 at 6262 Van Nuys Blvd. #1B.

Radford Art Walk

The Department of Transportation has moved work on a design to extend the bike path from the Los Angeles River, north along Radford to the Tujunga wash, to its list of "active" projects. This tentative draft will be shared with the City Council office, which will hold a meeting with all residents to review the design elements prior to scheduling installation.

Los Angeles River Bank from Whitsett to Coldwater

Preliminary work has started on a design for landscaping, a walking path and other river-related features along the Los Angeles River from Whitsett Avenue to Coldwater Canyon Blvd. The SCRA and Save Los Angeles River Open Space are supporting Community Conservation Solutions, which was successful in obtaining grants totaling \$1.09 million to carry out the design and installation. When finished, this segment of the riverbank will provide a link in the overall scheme to improve the Los Angeles River.

Baseball Diamond in South Weddington Park

At a recent meeting of the Studio City Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee, the committee considered a proposal to install a baseball diamond in South Weddington Park. After consideration, the committee passed the following motion for submittal to the SCNC board for action at its next meeting:



TO THE MARKET

The Studio City Farmers Market is in full swing for 2013. Despite record-breaking cold temperatures, both vendors and shoppers have been out in full force, supporting local farmers and the community. New to the market is Nary Dairy, makers of a cashew "cheese," which is dairy free, soy free, vegan and delicious. As they

ramp up, they will be at the market every other week. Springhill Creamery will join the market on February 17. A dairy farm based in Petaluma, Springhill Creamery raises grass-fed Jersey cows, happy cows that get to roam free. They will be selling organic cheese, curds, quark and butter. Shoppers may never buy butter at the supermarket again! Also, look for some location changes as certain vendors move so as to better delineate between the market's certified and non-certified farmers.

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. to 2:00 p.m.

"MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes the proposed new baseball diamond requested by Toluca Baseball based on the diminished use it would create for the Island Neighborhood and the negative impact on public access."

Subsequent to the motion, the chair was approached by those in support of the diamond not to forward the motion to the SCNA board for action at this time.

Sidewalk Repairs Reintroduced in the State Assembly

Assembly member Bob Blumenfeld has introduced Assembly Bill 22, which would require a city or county to seek local voter approval before repealing an ordinance that requires it to repair sidewalks damaged as a result of tree root growth. The City of Los Angeles has such an ordinance. The bill is meant to keep a city or county from passing on the cost and liability of sidewalk repairs to individual homeowners without voter approval.

HILLSIDE FEDERATION REPORT

Congressman Adam Schiff recently addressed the Hillside Federation regarding legislation pending before Congress that will help control helicopter noise in the Los Angeles area. Both Congressman Schiff and U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein are currently working on the wording of this legislation: the bill will come before the legislature in February. The Congressman heard testimony that the worst offenders are news helicopters and helicopter tours.

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(Hillside, cont'd)

Eric Bruins of the Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition reported on efforts to create more bicycle lanes in the Los Angeles area, especially north/south bicycle lanes from the North Hollywood Red Line Station via Lankershim Blvd., Cahuenga Pass and Barham Blvd. Several members commented on the safety aspect of bicycle lanes on Cahuenga Pass and Barham Blvd., suggesting the narrow roads could not be widened to accommodate a bike lane given the geology of the Cahuenga Pass. Representatives from the Department of Transportation reported they have plans to create 200 miles of bicycle lanes in the Los Angeles area in cooperation with the Bicycle Coalition. Forty miles of bicycle lanes have already been added.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY INTRODUCES ADVANCED METERS



Representatives from Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) addressed the January SCRA meeting about the company's plans to replace existing natural gas meters with new technology. The company's

advanced meter device would electronically read gas meter usage at residential and business locations and then transmit the reading to the company's customer billing and service center.

According to SoCalGas, installation of the advanced metering device offers a number of benefits: meter readers would no longer have to visit a property, which also allows the company to remove many vehicles from the road. In fact, SoCalGas estimates it will take 1,000 vehicles traveling 6.3 million miles/year off the road with this program, saving approximately 140,000 tons of greenhouse gases per year. Any operational savings will be passed on to consumers. The device also allows users to better monitor their natural gas usage, which can help them save costs.

The device attached to the meter is powered by a battery; it turns on for a fraction of a second per day for a total of less than two minutes a year. (A diagram in the company's materials indicates the device reads hourly and transmits four times a day.)

Meeting attendees raised concerns about the planned installation of the new meters, including the safety of having an electronic device close to a gas source, the negative impact of electronic transmissions as well as privacy rights. SoCalGas reported the devices do not "talk" to other meters or appliances in the home and they cannot turn gas on or off. Residential customers can opt out of the program; however, SoCalGas suggested there will be a charge if one decides to do so. For questions or to decline an installation, call 800-427-2200. For more information, visit www.socalgas.com (search "Advanced").

BEAUTIFUL STUDIO CITY

Lorax Garden at Rio Vista Elementary

Volunteers from the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), NBCUniversal, the Universal City Rotary Club and Rio Vista Elementary School completed the planting of the Lorax Reading Garden next to the library at Rio Vista Elementary School. Because of the generous volunteer labor and community donations, there are enough funds remaining to give a much-needed facelift to the school's entry garden. Funding was provided by the Studio City Farmers Market, NBCUniversal, the Universal Rotary Club, Rio Vista Parent Teacher Association and Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council.



Street Trees

When the Department of Water and Power cuts down a tree that interferes with the power lines, it leaves a stump, which stands about three feet high. The SCBA has been working with the City Council office to have these stumps ground down and has identified 15 tree stumps from Lankershim Blvd. to Fulton Avenue along Ventura Blvd. and on several side streets. The City Council office has notified the SCBA that the stumps have been ground down. The SCBA will work with LA City Million Trees to replant the tree wells with appropriate replacement trees.

Curb Repairs at Coldwater Canyon Blvd. and the 101 Freeway

The SCBA is currently obtaining quotes to repair the broken curb at Coldwater Canyon Blvd. and the 101 Freeway. There are issues to be ironed out with the City of Los Angeles, but the SCBA reports these much-needed repairs will happen soon.

UNITING TO PROTECT LOCAL PARKLANDS

Over the years, the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy (SMMC), established by the state legislature in 1980, has helped preserve more than 69,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings. These lands are protected from future development, remain open to the public and form an interlinking system of urban, rural and river parks, open space, trails and wildlife habitats.

SMMC activities involve many aspects of the quality of life here in Studio City. The group has worked closely with the SCRA and its sister organization, Save Los Angeles River Open Space (SLAROS). For example, SMMC is responsible for the hiking trail starting at Fryman Canyon and the extension at the top of the hill, just past Tree People, which, after crossing Iredell, continues up to Mulholland Blvd. Also, SMMC has supported studies for the proposal to establish a Los Angeles River

(Continued, Page 5)

(Parklands, cont'd)

Natural Park at Whitsett Avenue and Ventura Blvd. under the auspices of SLAROS. In turn, the SCRA has supported SMMC's efforts to obtain public funding for parcels that SMMC see as critical, e.g., parcels that become part of the chain that links discrete areas of wildlife habitat as well as additions of land to existing parkland facilities.

For more information on the SMMC mandate, its structure, background and the recent election of the SMMC board, visit www.smmc.ca.gov, or contact Dash Stolarz, SMMC's director of public affairs at 323-221-9944, x.198. The next regular meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will be held on February 25, 2013.

STUDIO CITY SIGNAGE TO WELCOME RED LINE RIDERS

The MTA board approved renaming the Universal red line station on Lankershim Blvd. as "Universal/Studio City Station" for its official designation. SCRA Board Member Barry Johnson and Studio City Neighborhood Council Board Member Lisa Sarkin worked diligently during more than two years to bring about this change. The Studio City Chamber of Commerce and the Studio City Business Improvement District filed letters of support.

"Studio City Station" was added in a marker more than two years ago as a result of Johnson's work. This station name change was an evolution of that original work.

On-board announcements will reflect the new name, and track side and map case changes will be made. Updates to system wide printed material, such as maps and brochures, will be made when space allows and such materials are reprinted.

DOUBLES ANYONE?

Tennis players can take advantage of doubles tennis for men and women age 50+ every Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at Studio City Recreation Center aka Beeman Park. Interested players should bring a racquet. Tennis partners and tennis balls will be provided. The program is sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. There is a \$16/month fee. The park is located at 12621 Rye Street in Studio City. For further information, contact Sharon Crigler at (818) 985-6236 or sharoncrigler@sbcglobal.net.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

Tip O'Neill, once Speaker of the House, said, "All politics are local." And here we are with some local politics to talk about, including the upcoming mayoral election on March 5, 2013. Although the SCRA board or officers cannot endorse any candidate, either directly or by implication, the following observations are permitted since the comments address all candidates. In the mayoral debates, the candidates, especially those with name recognition, follow a format: never give a direct answer. At the recent mayoral debate at Forest Lawn, Val Zahala commented [almost as an aside and in frustration] that so far no one had answered the question, "What city departments would you cut from?" So given that this is the model being used by the candidates in debates, how do we determine who deserves our vote?

A starting point might be to acknowledge that Los Angeles is a world class city that attracts visitors from all over the world and is an important part of California's economy. So who would be the best face to put forward as our mayor, both nationally and internationally? It's not an easy decision on this point, but as "all politics are local," then "local" activities might be the prime consideration to govern our decision. Starting with the local economy, does Studio City have attractions that will encourage out-of-town visitors to come and stay awhile in our part of the valley? We have "Universal/Studio City Station" on the east end, as well as walking and bike paths stretching west into the valley to a (hopefully) Los Angeles River Natural Park in Studio City and its adjacent attractions, including excellent restaurants and shops on Ventura Blvd., night life, the Studio City Farmers Market, art walks, biking along the Los Angeles River Greenway and even kayaking. But back to "Whose face would be best to represent Los Angeles?"

"What's past is prologue...." Three candidates have years of experience on the Los Angeles City Council, and those years may give us guidance about how they will perform in the future. In other words, what have these three candidates accomplished in the past (the prologue) when they had the capability and power to act on the City Council? For these three candidates, we will have to rely on their Council record as this may indicate how they will perform as mayor. This is one approach among many in deciding for whom to vote. And, voting is a must. Failure to vote increases the value of the vote of those who do vote, and there is always the chance the winner may not be the one for you.

Pauline Louie of Urban Waters Federal Partnership was one of the guest speakers at the Valley Advisory Committee recently hosted by State Senator Fran Pavley. At that meeting, we were able to bring Louie up to date on the grant to improve the north bank of the Los Angeles River between Whitsett Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Blvd. (Louie had been given a tour last December.) During the meeting, we also discussed possible scenarios to drive the creation of Los Angeles River Natural Park on what is presently Weddington Golf and Tennis.

Alan Dymond



NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

There is no community meeting in February. Join the SCRA for the March 12, 2013 Community Meeting with a presentation by LAUSD Board Member/Los Angeles Deputy City Attorney Tamar Galatzan.

Meeting Location

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

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

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



SCRA Committees

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

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