



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

January 2012

IN THIS ISSUE:

LA River Overlay Page 2

Studio City CARES Awards ... Page 3

New SCRA Board Members .. Page 3



SCRA CREATES THE ULTIMATE WINTER WONDERLAND WITH WINTER FAMILY FESTIVAL

More than 2,000 people attended the SCRA's first Winter Family Festival at Beeman Park on Sunday, December 4, 2011. Guests were treated to a rich holiday celebration and an opportunity to give back to the community. In addition to 50 tons of snow, the festival featured music from local schools and community groups; crafts for kids; A Taste of the Holidays, with sampling by Loteria Grill, Casa Vega, Bistro Garden and the Daily Grill; free photos with Santa shot by a professional photographer; classic cars; food trucks; face painting; Radio Disney's Road Crew; and more. Working with the Studio City Recreation Center, the SCRA partnered with Radio Disney to include Radio Disney AM 1110's Festival of Giving, where guests could donate items for those in need, including food, toys, clothing, children's books and pet items. Here are just a few of the hundreds of positive responses to the event:

"A huge truck brought an iceberg with snow to the park! We had snowball fights with Papa, lots of other kids and even TEENAGERS! It was so much fun!" Six-year-old Jaxson Dreyer

"I hear that your festival was a huge raging success and that the cadets had a blast in assisting with the snow. When I came to work and saw all the presents and food that you had supplied us with, I was deeply

(Continued, Page 4)



Photos: Michaelyn Straub and Natalie Eig

OP-ED: LET'S MAKE THE RIVER IMPROVEMENT OVERLAY EFFECTIVE

By Barry Johnson, Board Member,
Studio City Residents Association

The city is proposing an "overlay" for the Los Angeles River (RIO); an "overlay" is placed on top of existing zoning and sets out planning requirements for a specific area the overlay governs. The river "area" to be governed by the RIO extends from 2,500 to 3,000 feet back from the bank of the Los Angeles River for its total length within the city of Los Angeles. The RIO will establish the scope of improvements proposed along the river.

The SCRA has been heavily involved over the years observing and making pertinent comments and suggestions to the City's planning staff. Following is a brief synopsis of a letter filed by the SCRA at the latest RIO planning hearing. The complete text of the letter is posted on the SCRA website at studiocityresidents.org.

- The RIO is being addressed as "urban design." This term is used throughout the RIO and is of great concern to SCRA; there are many areas along the river that are "suburban" or even "rural." Therefore, the design parameters should be tailored to the physical location through which the river passes. The SCRA has suggested that what may work for the river as it winds its way through the city may not work for other areas.
- There should be no "Sign Districts" along the river that would allow advertising. Commercial messages along the river have no place on a river walk and, in fact, detract from the ambience. (There is the possibility that sign districts may be grandfathered in: SCRA will be paying close attention to this possibility).
- Lighting wattage is addressed on private property adjoining the river but not for pedestrian and bicycle paths along on the river's right-of-way. Adjoining residential areas could be negatively impacted.
- The RIO encourages "Riverfront Dining," but provisions must be included to protect the neighborhoods on the opposite bank from excessive noise from such dining establishments.
- New multi-residential developments include "access" to the river but do not include the words "public" or "private" access. The RIO must include provisions for access by all.
- The RIO encourages "shared parking." Valet companies have been known to sell the same parking spaces to more than one business; therefore, each community must be able to have parking arrangements that meet the needs of that community.

The SCRA will continue to monitor progress and attend committee and City Council hearings as appropriate. We need a RIO that works to enliven the Los Angeles River in the best possible way.

UP-TO-DATE ON STUDIO CITY AT THE NOVEMBER SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

A number of elected officials, including Assembly member Mike Feuer, Los Angeles Neighborhood Prosecutor Tamar Galatzan and Congressman Howard Berman, spoke at the November 2011 SCRA Community Meeting.

Assembly member Feuer stressed the need for the passage of Assembly Bill 52, which is intended to bring control to the skyrocketing price of health insurance premiums. The bill will provide oversight of premium increases, which is already in place for other insurance policies. A few key senators are holding out on voting in favor of this bill. For more information, call Assembly member Feuer's office at 310-367-9558.

Tamar Galatzan reported transients are one of Studio City's biggest challenges. There are two LAPD officers assigned to transient duty. Foreclosed properties are becoming a major problem, with banks not taking responsibility and squatters moving in. Galatzan also said the regulation of marijuana shops is a moving target as the legality of regulating the outlets moves through the courts.

Congressman Howard Berman was joined by SCRA Airport Committee Chair Chris Barnes to discuss the status of helicopter noise and flight agreements at Bob Hope Airport. Berman gave an update on the bill he introduced to Congress in July called "Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011," which would reduce helicopter noise over residential neighborhoods in Los Angeles by regulating flight paths. The Federal Aviation Administration has refused to regulate helicopter flights above Los Angeles. and currently there are no federal regulations for helicopter traffic. Berman is working with the FAA and the Helicopter Association at the local and national levels to create a livable agreement. The challenges, including privacy and noise pollution, are exacerbated by tour helicopters that hover over celebrities' homes as well as airport commuter and private helicopters. This bill is crafted narrowly for the County of Los Angeles and is similar to the one that Senator Shuman introduced for Long Island, New York.

Berman and Chris Barnes addressed the present voluntary curfew at Bob Hope Airport and the attempt to have commercial airlines enter into a contractual agreement to limit flights between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Barnes added he had met with Senator Boxer's office on this proposal, and that he and Alan Dymond, SCRA president, would be meeting with Senator Feinstein's office regarding the issue.



TO THE MARKET

With the holidays behind us, it is time to get back to a normal routine. Or is it? Perhaps this is the perfect opportunity to change that routine;

time to take more seriously that New Year's resolution to get more exercise and eat healthier. What better way to accomplish that than by making a trip to the Studio City Farmers Market part of a weekly routine? You will not only get delicious and healthy produce, you will get fresh air and exercise as you wander the market looking for the perfect grapefruit or the just right bunch of kale. Citrus is at its prime right now with many interesting varieties available. Pomellos (grapefruits that have as much skin as they do flesh), tangelos (a cross between a tangerine and a grapefruit) and Satsuma tangerines are delicious. Winter squash, one of the most beautiful of all vegetables, is still plentiful, as are cool weather greens, such as kale and rainbow chard. For recipes, visit studiocityfarmersmarket.com or come by the market manager's table.

JOIN THE ANNUAL CAMPO CELEBRATION

Each year, the Campo de Cahuenga re-enacts the signing of the Articles of Capitulation with a realistic ceremony featuring authentic uniform dress at the historic site. The community is invited to attend the free event on Sunday, January 15, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. This year, the event is also part of the city-wide celebration of the 230th anniversary of the founding of Los Angeles. Attendees will enjoy fiesta dancers, the firing of the Howitzer Cannon, self-tours of the archeological dig, a gift shop, complimentary refreshments and a \$2.00 taco bar. For additional information, visit www.campodecahuenga.com or email campodecahuenga1847@hotmail.com. Campo de Campo is located at 3919 Lankershim Blvd. next to the MTA Universal Red Line station. Parking is free.

JANUARY SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HONORS STUDIO CITY CARES AWARDEES

Be sure to join the SCRA for the January 2012 Annual General Meeting where the SCRA will honor a number of dedicated community supporters with its annual Studio City Cares Awards. This year's winners are: William Harmond, the Fran Quigley Award in recognition of exceptional service; Barbara Monahan for Excellence in Community Service; Elizabeth Gulick for Excellence in Business Leadership; and Karo Torossian for Excellence in Government Leadership. Wendy Greuel will address the meeting in her capacity as mayoral candidate. In addition, new SCRA officers will be appointed and take their positions at this meeting.

SCRA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, Bryan Adams, his wife Gayle and their two children, A.J., 16, and Phoebe, 12, have made Studio City home for more than 16 years. Adams entered the banking industry with a BA in economics from USCB and a MBA from Pepperdine before changing careers after 14 years to real estate. For the past 12 years, he has represented buyers and sellers. An avid hiker and runner, Adams can be seen on many a day in Wilacre Park. Other interests include being actively involved with Carpenter Community Charter, supporting its fundraising activities. He was named as the school's 2011 Community Honoree for his efforts.



Barry Weiss moved to Los Angeles in 1989 from Munich, Germany, where he completed his international MBA degree. In 1997, Barry moved to Studio City, and, after a successful career in banking, became self-employed as a realtor, specializing in single- and multi-family homes in Studio City and nearby communities. Presently, Weiss is studying technology at UCLA. He works with non-profit organizations whose focus is on developing individual and community empowerment. He serves both as an advocate and fundraiser, monitoring government and public policies on quality-of-life issues.

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: Can maintenance for our parks remove the unsightly signage board at the north end of Moorpark Park? This board once featured information but has deteriorated over the years.

SCRA: The park staff were contacted by the SCRA and have put in a "life & safety" work order to get the sign removed.

Q: The City trimmed dead branches from a tree in front of our house and has not cleaned up the mess. Crews left two folding barricades to warn traffic. One was stolen a week ago, and the other was tagged. The material is drying out, and we are concerned about someone setting it on fire. It is camphor wood which is toxic to burn. We are also concerned about people taking it as firewood since several have tried. Any ideas? We have contacted the Bureau of Street Services several times by phone and email. We have also contacted Paul Krekorian's office, and they are also trying to help.

SCRA: You did everything right and got results. About two hours after sending this e-mail, the City removed the dangerous material.

(Continued, Page 4)

(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

Q: Is there an update yet on the Studio City RFA? There was a request that the City Council hearing be scheduled for 30 days from 9/13/11, which would have been a month ago, but I may have missed it. Every day I drive by the behemoths under construction on Hillslope St. I wonder if the RFA will prevent this from happening again. Thanks for everything you do.

SCRA: The RFA was passed by the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee in September. They then sent it to the City Attorney's office to ensure all the wording is legally correct. As soon as the City Attorney's Office is done with this process, they will pass it back to committee for action and submission to the City Council. SCRA News & Notes will announce when the City Council finally passes the RFA ordinance.

In the meantime, let us know if you suspect any of the behemoths on Hillslope are being built beyond the (currently legal) size of 60 percent of the lot size. We have caught several builders in Studio City attempting to break the current law by exceeding the parameters.

Q: There is serious mosquito-infested stagnant water due to non-drainage on the north side of Moorpark Street between Tujung and Bakman Avenues.

SCRA: The SCRA contacted Councilmember's Paul Krekorian's staff, who are checking if the Bureau of Street Services can perform a temporary fix with some asphalt at this location. The street needs to be regraded, which won't take place until the street is resurfaced. Also, the DWP sent an inspector out to notify the adjacent property owners about over-watering, which has helped.

Q: What time are gardeners allowed to begin making noise with their leaf blowers in the morning? On our street, I usually hear them around 7:00 a.m. on weekdays. What city agency could one contact if this is a violation?

SCRA: The Los Angeles City Municipal Code states in part that "Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. of the following day, no person shall operate any lawn mower, backpack blower, lawn edger, riding tractor, or any other machinery, equipment, or other mechanical or electrical device, or any hand tool which creates a loud, raucous or impulsive sound, within ANY RESIDENTIAL ZONE or within 500 feet of a residence."

If you wish to report a violation, call 311, and a live operator will direct your call to the proper agency. Be sure to ask the 311 operator for the phone number to which he/she is connecting you.

ADOPT A SENIOR PROGRAM

The Studio City Chamber of Commerce asked the SCRA to send out a News & Notes about the Chamber's "Adopt a Senior Program" for the Holidays. The Chamber thanks the SCRA members for their overwhelming response.

(Winterland, cont'd)

touched and appreciative...it was like Santa had visited me over the weekend." Officer Robert Munoz, North Hollywood LAPD

"My favorite part of the Winter Family Festival was seeing my friends and dancing with Radio Disney!"
Six-year-old Lauren Peirson

"I was standing talking to the shuttle supervisor toward the end of the day when a family came by with kids, stroller etc. obviously tired. They explained they were not going back to the CBS parking structure but were parked several blocks away and asked if they could have a ride. The immediate response was, 'sure.' As they climbed into the van, the little one spoke up and said, 'This is awesome.'" SCRA Event Volunteer

The SCRA thanks all of the volunteers who worked countless hours to put on this amazing festival. Thank you as well to all of the sponsors, including CBS Studio Center, Michaelyn Straub Photography, Monza Car, Rock Nation, Shaolin American Self Defense Academy, Studio City Chamber of Commerce, Studio City Farmers Market, Studio City Improvement Association, Studio City Lifestyle Magazine, Studio City Neighborhood Council, Times Square Ventures, Tina's Trees and Total Women Gym & Day Spa. Special thanks to the core event team of Ann Husvar, Beth Dymond, Bonnie Goodman and Justin Walker. The SCRA is already talking about how next year's Winter Family Festival will be even bigger! Save the date! The event is scheduled for December 9, 2012.

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

Board Resignation

Laura McKenzie will not seek election for the position of treasurer for 2012, which ends her service in that role. McKenzie has served in this capacity for the SCRA, Studio City Beautification Association and Save Los Angeles River Open Space for many years. Over the past few months, McKenzie has worked closely with the incoming treasurer to ensure an orderly transfer of duties. The Board expressed its sincere thanks to McKenzie for all her work and excellent advice and welcomed her offer to stay on as board member.

New Board Member

Barry Weiss was invited to join the board as a member. Over the past few months, Weiss has been attending city committee meetings, reporting to the SCRA on sidewalk repair progress and checking other city actions that are in committee and could affect our members.

New Treasurer

Bryan Abrams was elected treasurer for the SCRA. In accordance with the SCRA bylaws, Abrams will also act as

(Continued, Page 5)

(SCRA Board, cont'd)

treasurer for the Studio City Beautification Association and Save Los Angeles River Open Space. Abrams is known to many members given his involvement with Carpenter Community Charter.

Administrative President

The board asked Claudia Freedle to continue on the board as administrative vice president. Among Freedle's duties are the arrangements for the SCRA's community meetings and support for the SCRA newsletter. The board thanked Claudia for her ongoing support.

SCRA Community Meetings

Meetings will be held every other month on the second Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Should the board find it necessary to call a community meeting at another time, advance notice will be sent to SCRA members.

STRIP MINING IN THE VALLEY

Ellie Brooks, representative of Citizens Against Strip Mining (CASM) in the San Fernando Valley, spoke at the last Hillside

Federation meeting regarding plans by Sakaida and Sons for a strip mine and processing facility in Sylmar. The company plans to take aggregate material (sand and gravel) out of the mountain on a 73-acre site. The land in question sits just below Pacoima Dam, west of the Lopez Canyon Open Space and east of Pacoima Wash. It is surrounded by privately owned lands as well as the dam area controlled by the County Departments of Public Works and Flood Control and Army Corps of Engineers. The land is also part of the Angeles National Forest.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy said the project would cut through the proposed Rim of the Valley Trail (Pacoima Canyon Trail), destroy a ridgeline and impact the wash ecosystem, which currently supports a full range of wildlife. Three million cubic yards of material will be removed from the mountainside, with 230 dump truck trips/day from Pacoima Dam to the 210 on Maclay & Hubbard. They would operate from 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, for at least seven years to complete the project.

The Hillside Federation moved to support CASM's efforts to oppose the strip mining project. For more information, visit www.casm-sfv.org or call 818-833-6860.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

How does an elected official respond to e-mails? Following is what an SCRA member received.

"Thank you for your e-mail. As you might imagine, I receive several hundred e-mails every day, and though I try to respond individually to each, this is not always feasible. Please know that every effort will be made to consider your concerns and respond in a timely manner. Unfortunately, due to this large volume of emails, I am only able to respond to my constituents, so please indicate your full name as listed on your voter registration and your full address if you are a resident of ..." (state the appropriate political division, e.g., assembly district)."

We can learn two things from this reply. First, note the reference to "your voter registration and address." A comment or opinion by a constituent who is registered and probably votes may carry more weight. Secondly, although you may not get a personal reply if you are not a constituent, your concerns will be considered. So keep sending those comments. Let them know your opinion and where you stand. And in case you have a burning issue you want your council member to know about (SCRA members are in three council districts), such as advertising in parks and the zoo by creating special sign districts with massive billboards and digital intrusions into neighborhoods, to name a few, here are the numbers: Councilmember Koretz: 818-971-3088; Councilmember Krekorian: 818-755-7676; and Councilmember Tom LaBonge: 818-755-7730. Remember to ask to speak to the staff member who is handling your particular issue, and don't forget to follow up.

This brings me to a related subject: the First Amendment ensures free expressions of opinions on any matter, but is there not a concomitant right to free speech? The other side of the coin as it were: the obligation to listen? What value does "free speech" have when you are not being listened to? This brings me back to the point being made here. I want to be listened to and so do the SCRA members who take the trouble to vote and attend public hearings. I would like to know why elected officials take the actions they do without telling me why they do what they are doing. Tell us: we'll listen.

And so we go into 2012 with best wishes to all who are working to improve our neighborhoods and city.

Alan Dymond



SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

January 10, 2012

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m. Refreshments**
- 7:30 p.m. Election of SCRA officers
Studio City CARES Awards
Wendy Greuel, candidate
for mayor**

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
Overlay
Planning and Land Use

Officers

Alan Dymond, President
Bonnie Goodman, Exec. Vice President
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Bryan Adams, Treasurer

Board Members

Barry Johnson
Barry Weiss

Beth Dymond
Martha Hanrahan
Steve Hirsh
Art Howard
Todd Royal
Robin Seidel

Immediate Past President

Art Howard

Beautification Association

Francesca Corra, Director
Michael Klausman, Director

Park Advisory Board Liaison

Mark Batterman

Director of Animal Welfare

Robin Seidel

Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

Co-Directors
Laurie Cohn, Alan Dymond, Steve Hirsh,
Art Howard, Patty Kirby
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

School Liaisons

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

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