



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

January 2016

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WOW... DID IT EVER SNOW IN STUDIO CITY

With more than 7,000 people and 80 tons of snow, the fifth annual Winter Family Festival was a major success and received rave reviews. Presented by the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) and the Studio City Recreation Center, the free event – the largest to-date – featured a wide range of activities for children and their families, with more snow, slides, restaurants sampling food, charities collecting donations, and attendees than ever before. At the center of the excitement was the snow that turned "Beeman Park" into a winter wonderland. Kids and adults alike enjoyed sledding down four slides as well as playing in a snow field. Guests were treated to live music by local schools, community groups and professional bands, including the Campbell Hall World Drumming Ensemble, CHAMPS Charter High School for the Arts Level 3/4 Choir, Carpenter Cougar Chorus, Schoolcraft & Murray, the Studio City Recreation Center's Hip Hop Classes, Harvard Westlake's A Capella Group, the Studio City Recreation Center's Guitar Band, and Tom Kenny and the Hi-Seas (Kenny is the voice of SpongeBob SquarePants), The Winter Family Festival stage was hosted by David Burke, star of "Hey Wordy" from PBS Kids, with music and fun for the kids in between performances provided by DJ Mad Hatter.

The festival also featured photos with Santa shot by professional photographer Nancy Kaye; gingerbread-house making, courtesy of Bryan Abrams Real Estate; face painting, courtesy of Alan Taylor Real Estate; craft-making; holiday card making for the troops; and the opportunity to take a photo against a green screen with a special surprise, courtesy of NBCUniversal.

As highlight of the Winter Family Festival, the on-site "Festival of Giving" provided festival-goers the opportunity to give back to the community by donating food, toys, books, pet toys/items, baby items, clothing and blankets to benefit the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry; St. Charles Service Center; the LAPD North Hollywood Division Gift and Food Drive; Pet Orphans; Aviva Family & Children's Services; Milk + Bookies, and Iris Blossom Charities. The food pantries reported receiving more than 1,000 pounds of food.

In addition, guests were treated to samples from local restaurants participating in the on-site "A Taste of the Holidays," including Mendocino Farms, Local Ice, Pizza Rev, The Village, Chin Chin, Gangadin, The Front Yard, Lemonade, Chantel and Bella, Blue Can Water and Tuning Fork.

This year, the SCRA maximized social media channels, including Facebook and Instagram (#winterfamilyfest),

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Like us on



Studio City Residents Association

Follow us on Instagram

(Festival, cont'd)

encouraging the community and festival-goers to share their memories of the event. Thousands saw information about the event in advance.

The SCRA and the Studio City Recreation Center thank all of the sponsors and the many volunteers, including the Los Angeles Police Department North Hollywood Division Cadets and Los Angeles Fire Department Cadets, without whom this event would not happen. This year, Major Supporters included CBS Studio Center, NBCUniversal and BLVD Hotels. Presenting sponsors included the Studio City Improvement Association, Harvard-Westlake School, Anita Hirsh and Oakwood School. Event sponsors included the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, the Studio City Farmers Market, Star Parking, Studio City Lifestyle Magazine, the Studio City Neighborhood Council, Shaolin American Self-Defense Academy, Bryan Abrams/Your Source for Studio City Realty, Nancy Kaye Photography, Bridges Academy, Alan Taylor Real Estate, Sportsmen's Lodge, and Campbell Hall. All funds raised are used for event production and any proceeds are donated to support the Studio City Recreation Center. For more information, visit StudioCityResidents.org

KEEPING STUDIO CITY BEAUTIFUL

El Niño is imminent, and the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) has been busy preparing for it. In order to take advantage of the winter rains, which have not been seen to a great extent for years, the SCBA has seeded many of its sites with specially selected wildflowers from the Theodore Payne Foundation. The seeds are now germinating so that during the rains they will mature and hold soil in place. After the rains, they will start to periodically bloom at different times throughout the year, adding an interesting color collage.

With the SCBA's fall prune-and-groom now completed, the California Native plants planted at the SCBA's newer locations are now in the best condition to grow and bloom in the spring. Through this process, the SCBA has learned the needs of these plants and how they do in domestic public settings. While they are hardy in the wilderness and natural environments, some just cannot thrive in locations foreign to their species. By carefully documenting which plants have survived and those that did not, the SCBA has been able to establish a portfolio of California Native plants for use in the SCBA's gardens.

The SCBA will take advantage of the early winter planting season to refurbish and update the SCBA sites. Given this short window of planting time, the SCBA will be actively filling in some of the blank spaces with new plants to orchestrate them together with the established plants to give a fresh appearance.

Looking ahead to the new year, the SCBA anticipates breaking ground at the two medians on Ventura



Blvd. at Eureka Drive. These medians are currently cement islands with weeds growing out of the cracks. The SCBA plans to break through the layers of concrete and asphalt to get to the dirt and will fill it with plants that require very little water. This location is the SCBA's first-ever "non-irrigation" installation, where the plant materials will grow, requiring only water that nature can provide, however much or little that may be. The SCBA is once again partnering with the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) for this project; the SCNC has partnered with the SCBA many times to bring beauty to Studio City.

As an all-volunteer organization, SCBA wants to offer special thanks to the dedicated folks who give their time and energy to do the day-to-day work of the organization. The SCBA is always scouting for new talent to work in a variety of ways, such as "ambassador" of a site, a project manager for upcoming installations, an administrative or office worker, a special projects coordinator, a fundraiser, or a board member. Please email StudioCityBeautificationAssn@gmail.com with your interest.

The SCBA also wants to thank the many individual contributors who give generously year after year to ensure that the beauty continues in Studio City. Anyone interested in supporting the SCBA's work is encouraged to complete the contribution package that will soon show up in the mail. Those who shop at Ralph's and Amazon can designate the SCBA to receive a portion of purchase amounts. The SCBA also appreciates employer matching contributions and encourages community members to check with their employers about that possibility. All contributions are tax-deductible. Visit StudioCityBeautification.org to contribute online.

Thanks as well to the SCBA's institutional and corporate sponsors that have played a major role in making Studio City beautiful, including NBCUniversal, CBS Studio Center, Warner Bros., BLVD Hotels, the many members of the Studio City Improvement Association, Studio City Lifestyle Magazine, FormLA, Harvard-Westlake School, Campbell Hall, and the Studio City Residents Association.

SCRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND STUDIO CITY CARES AWARDS/NEW LOCATION

Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) members, guests and neighbors are invited to the SCRA Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, starting at 7:30 p.m., during which the SCRA officers for 2016 will be installed. Please note the NEW LOCATION for this meeting at the Sportmen's Lodge Events Center, 12833 Ventura Blvd. Studio City, CA 91604. Light refreshments and an opportunity to meet members of the community begin at 7:00 p.m.



The evening's program will also include the presentation of the SCRA's Studio City CARES Awards to Esther Walker, executive director of the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, for Excellence in Community Service Award; Corinne Verdery, chief real estate development officer at NBCUniversal, Inc., for Excellence in Business Leadership; Hector Banuelos of the Department of



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(Meeting, cont'd)



Urban Forestry for Excellence in Government Leadership; and Laurie Shiers for Service to Youth Development. The SCRA's highest award, the Fran Quigley Award, will be presented to Renee Weitzer for her years of service to the community and greater Los Angeles.



The SCRA will present a donation to the Studio City Recreation Center from funds raised as part of the SCRA's fifth annual Winter Family Festival.

BURBANK BOB HOPE AIRPORT UPDATE: MANDATORY CURFEW AND POSSIBLE HIGH SPEED RAIL



The 85-year-old terminal at Burbank Bob Hope Airport will be replaced and built at a location further from the runways according to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements and in conformance with current earthquake standards.

The Studio City Residents Association's involvement with the airport over the years has been focused on having a mandatory curfew imposed to restrict late night and early morning flights (with an exception for police, fire, safety, etc.) At present, the curfew is voluntary; however, Congressman Adam Schiff; airport authority commissioners; Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena officials; and the FAA will discuss a mandatory curfew.

Other ongoing issues include a proposal for a high-speed rail station either near or underneath the airport. For an in-depth review and information about next steps, visit burreplacementterminal.com. Click on the top right to submit an email to receive updates. This new website also provides live flight status, fees and other airport developments including airline service news.

WORK ON THE GREENWAY IS WELL UNDERWAY

After four years of planning, design and community meetings by Community Conservation Solutions (CCS) for a greenway on the north bank of the Los Angeles River between Whittsett and Coldwater Canyon Avenue, North East Trees, the project managers, began work on the project this past September.

Workers removed deposited sediments spanning many decades to prepare the site for the walking trail. To date, 300 cubic yards of soil have been removed, and storm water pollution controls have been installed to prevent sediment and runoff from entering the river. A bioswale will naturally capture and clean polluted runoff and remove excess sediment, while the slope will be stabilized by planting 4,000 trees and plants. The drainage conveyance system, along with fencing and filter screens, will control erosion along the river.



TO THE MARKET

The new year brings a new vendor to the Studio City Farmers Market - Wicked Maine Lobster. Started by

brothers Alex and Eric Howard, Maine natives who grew up in the seafood business, Wicked Maine Lobster sells lobster rolls, lobster mac and cheese, and lobster bisque made with fresh lobster flown in every week from the coast of Maine. Lobster rolls are made with the traditional bread (also flown in from Maine) and served hot with butter or cold with mayonnaise. Have a recipe that calls for fresh lobster? The brothers also sell lobster meat by the pound. They are located in the center of the market on the north side of the street.

The end of the year saw more donations to charity on behalf of the Studio City Farmers Market. Donations were made to ARC, Cancer Control Society, CASA of Los Angeles, Chime Institute, East Valley High School Football, LA Family Housing, Scarlett Foundation for iLead Charter School, Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center and Tierra del Sol. Non-profits in the area are encouraged to apply for a grant from the Studio City Farmers Market. For more information, email manager@studiocityfarmersmarket.com.

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.

In preparation for potential El Niño storms, sand bags, straw waddles and other measures are in place to absorb and divert runoff. Construction of the water quality bioswale has begun, and a permanent water meter will ensure water to the site. The team will begin native habitat restoration and community planting days in early 2016.

CITY ATTORNEY MIKE FEUER'S EFFORTS TO MAKE LA A BETTER PLACE



City Attorney Mike Feuer was the guest speaker at the November 2015 Studio City Residents Association Community Meeting. Feuer described many of the programs administered by his office, including the Community Justice Initiative, which seeks the

root causes of criminal behavior and aims to achieve incarceration reduction with alternatives for appropriate offenders. Neighborhood prosecutors serve as local problem solvers to combat the most destructive community crimes, such as drug sales, prostitution, illegal dumping, graffiti and street racing. By addressing such criminal activity early before it mushrooms into more serious offenses, this program helps make the city safer and improves quality of life for the community. Neighborhood

(Continued, Page 4)

(Feuer, cont'd)

prosecutors are a big part of the communities they serve; they work from each of the 21 LAPD stations across the city. By being outside of City Hall and working side-by-side with residents, neighborhood prosecutors are highly aware of the unique challenges and frustrations of the communities and are accessible, responsive and ready to assist.

Feuer wants to train volunteers for the Neighborhood Justice Program, which allows some first-time, non-violent offenders to take responsibility for their actions instead of going to court. The offender appears before a panel of community volunteers to discuss the crime, its harm to the victims and community, and to determine an appropriate punishment. Individuals can sign up to volunteer and train to become part of this program at lacityattorney.org.

The city attorney's office also implements the Administrative Citation Enforcement program. This program combines the efforts of the Los Angeles Police Department and the Department of Animal Services to enforce criminal claims of nuisance abatement and 40 quality of life offenses by use of civil fines, instead of arrest, incarceration and criminal records for persons who violate the provisions of the City's Municipal Code.

The city attorney's Gang Alternative Sentencing Program provides an alternative to jail time to young adult offenders who exhibit risk factors predictive of gang membership and/or who commit misdemeanor gang crimes. Offenders eligible for a sentence are identified and provided the opportunity to participate in supervised programs after they enter a no contest/guilty plea and as an alternative to sentencing and jail time. Successful participants may earn the reduction or dismissal of their criminal case and, in applicable cases, are removed from enforcement of the city's gang injunctions.

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: Until recently, we had three westbound lanes on Moorpark Street at Vineland Avenue. The far left lane was left-turn-only; the center lane was for traffic traveling straight ahead through the intersection; and the far right lane was right-turn-only. Now, the center lane is designated as either a left turn or straight ahead; there is no lane allocated solely to continuing west on Moorpark Street. In addition, there is a conflict in the signage, which indicates that the center lane allows both left turns and traffic traveling straight. Overhead signage above the traffic lights indicates the far left lane as left-turn-only from the left and center lanes. There is no indication that straight ahead is allowed in the center lane. As a result, there are substantial backups in traffic past Ensign Avenue towards Bellflower Avenue, as cars in the center lane who want to turn left wait for an opening. What is the theory\purpose behind this?

SCRA: This intersection is in Council District 4, which is Councilmember Ryu's district. His Senior Deputy Alice Roth responded to this question by suggesting you ask your councilmember to submit a request to the Department of

Transportation customer service. First, send an online request at myladot.lacity.org where you can secure a service request number. Then send the service request to Roth, and she will follow up.

Subsequent to the SCRA's suggestion to the member who asked about this situation, the sign over the traffic light has been changed. The sign now shows that cars can travel straight across the intersection from the center lane; however, there is still a problem with left turns from the center lane.

Q: Has anyone other than me noticed that you wait longer at the intersection of Vineland Avenue and Moorpark Street since the city installed left-turn arrows, and how the traffic backs up there at rush hour? There also seems to be an increase in cut-through traffic on residential streets between Lankershim Blvd., Vineland Avenue and Aqua Vista Drive. Please advise.

SCRA: There are now two car lanes southbound and two car lanes northbound on Vineland Avenue from Ventura Blvd. to Chandler Blvd., where before there were three in each direction. This is because the bicycle lanes have been added.

Q: I noted that there is a new traffic signal in the Tujunga Village section of Studio City at Woodbridge Street and Tujunga Ave. Great! This is a very busy intersection with a lot of pedestrian traffic crossing there, as I am sure you know. So, how do we go about doing something similar at Ventura Blvd. and Rhodes Avenue east of Whitsett Avenue? With the advent of Lemonade, Granville, and other shops and eateries (and another about to open), there has been a big increase in pedestrian traffic. Crossing the street there has become challenging and dangerous. The new-ish signage and street paint/striping really is not doing much. Is this done by petition?

SCRA: The SCRA, the Studio City Neighborhood Council, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce, the Studio City Business Improvement District and City Council District 2 (CD2) met with the Department of Transportation (DOT) in the spring of 2014 regarding pedestrian safety at this intersection. The result was that in March 2014, the DOT installed temporary "stop gap" yellow signage on each side of the road at the crosswalk. pending DOT 's request for funding in the 2015 budget to install a "hawk rapid flashing beacon" at this location. CD2 reports that the installation was funded through outside grants, and the council office is waiting for an installation date.

Q: The SCRA sent a News and Notes eblast asking our members to urge the United States Army Corps of Engineers to recommend a 50/50 split of the costs to build out the "Alternative 20 on the LA River." In response, the SCRA received the following: "The Army Corps destroyed the Everglades.... Are you sure you want to be in bed with them?"

SCRA: We appreciate your thoughts, but in these circumstances, the Army Corps of Engineers' recommendation is critical for a 50-50 split of the funding with 50 percent coming from the federal government and 50 percent from a combination of state and local funds.

Q: Regarding SCRA membership, I received a copy of my transaction with a little post-it saying "thank you." By IRS regulations, a gift acknowledgement must include the statement that "no gifts or services were received in consideration for this donation" or something like that. You MUST include such a statement with your gift acknowledgements if memberships are to be considered a tax deductible gifts to a 501(c)3.

(Continued, Page 5)

(Ask SCRA, cont'd)

SCRA: Your statements are correct when the recipient of a donation is a 501(c)3; however, the SCRA is qualified as a 501(c)4. The "thank you" note you received is for joining our organization and paying the membership fee: it is not a donation. The reason the SCRA chose to qualify as a 501(c)4 is that it could properly represent its members on legislation and take positions where necessary without being concerned about tax issues; however, it may not and will not endorse or support any political candidate. Our sister organizations, Studio City Beautification Association and Save LA River Open Space, are both 501(c)3 nonprofits. so donations to these two organizations are tax deductible and comply with the IRS regulations.

Q: I am a Studio City resident and have been working with a landscaper for several months. At this point, the project is not complete, and there have been many delays with deliveries and installation. I wonder if you have some advice or the name of an agency I can contact. I would appreciate any help you can offer.

SCRA: The best place to start would be with the State Contractors License Board. Visit their web site at cslb.ca.gov to learn how to go about filing a complaint against a contractor.

Q: Can the homeowner hire a company to trim a parkway tree in front of his or her home?

SCRA: Homeowners can request a city no-fee tree pruning permit through Service Request (800) 996-2489 or contact bss.boss@lacity.org. Visit bsspermits.lacity.org/treeprune for more information.

Q: We need to make the Studio City public parking structure more visible. I surveyed 1,000 of my clients and only five percent who live and work in Studio City know it exists. The signage is dim, and the paint is unnoticeable.

SCRA: This is a City of Los Angeles garage, but is within the Studio City Business Improvement District. Contact them about this issue at Danielle@studiocitybusinessdistrict.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

Out with the old and in with the new! As 2016 gets started, the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) has some changes to report, including a new venue for the SCRA Community Meetings and a Burbank Bob Hope airport curfew. Plus, will there be more parks county and city wide?

Since The Garland on Vineland changed its pricing structure, the SCRA will no longer be holding our community meetings at this location. The SCRA thanks The Garland for its generous courtesies over the past years. Please note that the SCRA Annual General Meeting on January 12, 2016 will be held at Sportmen's Lodge. This is a onetime arrangement; we are exploring options for a new meeting place in Studio City for March and successive bimonthly SCRA Community Meetings.

While we put much time and effort into this newsletter, we are limited by space to delve deeply into any one topic. However, whenever possible, we include links for those looking for more information. For years, the SCRA has focused its attention on securing a mandatory curfew at the Burbank Bob Hope Airport, and finally there are discussions pending on this matter. There are also reports of a bullet train connection at the airport, actions undertaken so the Environmental Report Impact process can be started, and discussions on upcoming developments. Be sure to check out the article in this newsletter and the airport's new website for more information.

The Los Angeles River Corporation issued a newsletter that included this link: lacountyparkneeds.org. According to this link, Los Angeles County is interested in hearing public recommendations and getting input on how to increase the number of parks through a joint effort by the County and City of Los Angeles. This group will issue a report to the County Supervisors with suggested courses of action to achieve this increase. SCRA members who have a passion for getting more parks for our kids may want to provide input. The SCRA will be closely following the progress as Weddington Golf and Tennis facility might be a possible candidate for park space.

The SCRA will install its officers for the 2016 term at the SCRA's January 12, 2016 Annual General meeting. No other nominations were received by the SCRA office, other than the candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee; therefore, in accordance with the SCRA's bylaws, these candidates will be seated without a vote.

The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), a sister organization to SCRA, has openings for board members for 2016. Board members will be active in all aspects and decisions and at times may act as project managers for discrete tasks. Interested parties should contact SCBA President Barry Weiss at BarryWeiss@gmail.com

A hearty congratulations to our core committee and all of the volunteers and community supporters for their hard work and dedication to our annual Winter Family Festival, which was our biggest ever!

Happy New Year to all of our members and neighbors in Studio City. Let's make it a great one.

Alan Dymond

SCRA Committees

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

Officers

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

Board Members

Beth Dymond
Martha Hanrahan
Steve Hirsh
Art Howard

Robin Seidel
Barry Weiss
Karen Younce
Noah Bogner, junior member

Immediate Past President

Art Howard

Beautification Association

Barry Weiss, President
Karen Younce, Admin. Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Bryan Abrams, Treasurer
Diana Zogran

Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

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

School Liaisons

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman
Rio Vista - Barry Weiss

Studio City Farmers Market

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**SCRA
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

NEW LOCATION

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016

**Sportmen's Lodge Events Center
12833 Ventura Blvd.
Studio City, CA 91604**

**7:00 p.m. Meet-and-greet and
refreshments**

**7:30 p.m. Installation of officers,
and presentation of
Studio City CARES Awards**

**DO NOT GO TO THE
GARLAND ON VINELAND**

The Sportsmen's Lodge Events Center is located at the west end of the property just past the hotel entrance and closer to Coldwater Canyon Avenue. Enter from Coldwater Canyon Avenue. Self-parking is free. The meeting is held in the Redwood Room.

