



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Your Advocate for Studio City

**October 2013**

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## STUDIO CITY LEADERSHIP TACKLES TOUGH ISSUES AT SEPTEMBER SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

**S** CRA members attending the September SCRA Community Meeting were updated about many local issues, including crime, unemployment and the proposed Harvard-Westlake expansion.

Studio City Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis reported he has serious concerns about equipment being stolen from the back of gardeners' pickup trucks. Most incidents go unreported, but Officer Lewis is seeing a pattern of stolen equipment being sold to other gardeners. SCRA members were asked to advise their gardeners to lock up their equipment. Also, Studio City still has the highest rate of burglaries from motor vehicles in Los Angeles. Members were cautioned not to leave any items visible inside their cars.



SCRA President Alan Dymond spoke to attendees about support for open space and asked Max Reyes, deputy to Mayor Garcetti, to relay to the mayor SCRA's ongoing efforts to acquire the Weddington Golf and Tennis site. Councilmember Paul Krekorian responded in his opening remarks that he and the mayor would be traveling to Washington, D.C., at the end of October to inquire about federal involvement in the Los Angeles River Revitalization Project, which could include funding to support the acquisition of Weddington Golf and Tennis. Councilmember Krekorian reiterated his support and said his top priority for Studio City is to save the property as open space.

As of July 1, 2013, City Hall saw many changes with a new mayor, city controller, city attorney as well as in some City Council

**(Continued, Page 2)**

SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 8, 2013

## STUDIO CITY WINTER FAMILY FESTIVAL PLUS FESTIVAL OF GIVING

*It will snow again this year in Studio City! That's because the third annual Studio City Winter Family Festival with Radio Disney's Festival of Giving, one of our community's largest and most successful family-friendly events, will be at Studio City Recreation Center on December 8, 2013. If you or your business is interested in becoming a sponsor, or if you would like to join the team of volunteers for this event, please contact Ann Husvar at [annhusvar@keynoteeventsinc.com](mailto:annhusvar@keynoteeventsinc.com) or 310-592-1044.*



## (Leadership, cont'd)

seats. Councilmember Krekorian remains on the Budget and Finance Committee and has been appointed to the Transportation Committee and Economic Development Committee (jobs creation). He has also been appointed to the MTA Board and the Board of Metro Link.

On other matters, Councilmember Krekorian said that Studio City's unemployment is mostly in the entertainment industry and supporting businesses. The reduced size of Los Angeles' work force has caused delays in services; however, the City of Los Angeles' deficit has shrunk from \$4 billion dollars down to \$100 million, with a reserve fund being built up.

Members and neighbors who oppose the expansion of Harvard Westlake School to the west side of Coldwater Canyon Avenue attended the meeting and voiced their opposition and concerns. Councilmember Krekorian has required that Harvard Westlake conduct a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) rather than rely on the less restrictive Mitigated Negative Declaration process. Once the Draft Environmental Report (DEIR) is issued, he has requested a 60-day time period for the public to respond to the DEIR.

## STATE SENATOR ALEX PADILLA TO ADDRESS NOVEMBER SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING



Please join the SCRA at the next Community Meeting on November 12, 2013 to hear from State Senator Alex Padilla. Senator Padilla was first elected to serve in the California Senate in 2006. On December 6, 2010, Senator Padilla was sworn in to serve a second four-year term representing the

20th Senate District. As a senator, he has led a broad range of issues, such as improving fire safety and preparedness in mobile home parks, prohibiting violent felons from possessing body armor, eliminating illegal cell phones from California prisons and reducing music and movie piracy. He has also worked on legislation in areas such as health, education, green technology, water, clean air, consumer protection and protecting Californians by prohibiting discrimination based on genetic information. Senator Padilla authored Senate Bill 135, which requires the Office of Emergency Services to develop a comprehensive statewide earthquake early warning system to alert Californians in advance of dangerous shaking. The bill was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown.

Born to immigrant parents from Mexico, Senator Padilla was raised in Pacoima, went to local schools and attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering. He lives with his wife, Angela, and their two sons in the San Fernando Valley.

The meeting will be held at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre Room at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments and an opportunity to meet community members and neighbors begin at 7:00 p.m.

## BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE COMMUNITY

### Extension of the BID

What keeps Ventura Blvd. looking so nice are the business property owners who have banded together to create the Studio City Business Improvement District (BID). At present, this district extends from Carpenter Avenue to Whitsett Avenue. Discussions are underway regarding the possibility of extending the BID all the way to Coldwater Canyon Avenue. The Village Gardeners' Rick Rabins has been working with Lorena Parker, executive director of the BID, to make this happen. The SCRA supports their efforts and this plan.

### Studio City Shuttle

Businesses along Ventura Blvd. are in early discussions about creating a Studio City shuttle that will take shoppers from the Studio City Parking Garage across the street from Art's Deli to shopping and restaurant locations and potentially to clubs along the boulevard.

### More Trees

The Studio City area known as the "Silver Triangle," located south of Ventura Blvd. and west of Laurel Canyon Blvd., may be looking better in the future with the help of local volunteers and the City of Los Angeles' "Million Trees" program. Some of the parkways in this area have become run down. Amy Schulenberg of the Bureau of Sanitation's Planting Program will be working with local volunteers to find property owners who are willing to accept a free tree and planting under the "Million Trees" plans, in exchange for providing five years of watering and maintenance. For more information, contact Amy at Amy.Schulenberg@lacity.org

### Keeping SCRA Members In-the Know

More than 70 people attended the September SCRA Community meeting, despite the draw of the Dodger game. The SCRA board puts a lot of effort into keeping SCRA members up-to-date on issues, and these meetings are part of that initiative. State Senator Alex Padilla will address the community at the November 12 SCRA Community Meeting and provide updates from Sacramento.

## LOS ANGELES RIVER CLEAN UP

The recent Los Angeles River cleanup was a beautiful sight to behold. Youth members from the LA Conservation Corps' Clean and Green were out in full force and gave Studio City four hours of its crew's time to clean up the south river bank between Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Whitsett Avenue.

Melanie Winter of "The River Project," SCRA Board Member



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Beth Dymond and the Clean and Green supervisor were discussing what could be accomplished in four hours. At that moment, a Blue Heron soared above their heads and a White Egret flew by. The birds made it all worthwhile.

Last month's SCRA newsletter addressed the question of cleaning up this part of the Los Angeles Riverbank.

The three phases of cleanup are:

1. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) gives notice to the homeless to remove their goods;
2. Debris and trash are cleared; and
3. The area will be weeded, and both plants and a watering system restored.

The LAPD has completed phase one, with notice given to all transients. As of Friday September 20, 2013, there were still two persons camping at the Laurel Canyon Blvd. ramp. The SCRA contacted Officer Mike Lewis and was told that LAPD North Hollywood officers, who work the transient (homeless) car, have tried countless times to solve the problem. Officer Lewis said that he and the transient officer will visit the river to see if there is a solution.

Phase two was completed by Clean and Green. Geoff Yazzetta, field deputy for Studio City Councilmember Paul Krekorian, made the arrangements. The Clean and Green crew collected trash and debris and did light weeding.

Phase three still needs to be completed. The SCRA will work with "The River Project," the Council office and Department of Parks and Recreation to develop a plan for removing invasive plants and weeds and replanting damaged areas, as well as create a schedule for ongoing maintenance. If you wish to volunteer for the committee to shepherd this plan through and monitor its results, please contact Beth Dymond at [Beth.Dymond@StudioCityResidents.org](mailto:Beth.Dymond@StudioCityResidents.org)

## CVS STORE UPDATE

The SCRA, in partnership with the Studio City Business Improvement District (BID) and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber), have once again joined forces to seek a cleanup of the outside of the CVS Store located on the southwest corner of Laurel Canyon and Ventura Blvds. The idea to join forces came as an outgrowth of the past success enjoyed by this group, which sought action from the city to remove the pay stations along Ventura Blvd. The Studio City Neighborhood Council had also joined the group on this prior issue. The pay stations were eventually removed

## TO THE MARKET



*Apples are slowly but surely making their way back to the Studio City Farmers Market. Within the next few weeks, all the wonderful varieties shoppers are used to will be back, just in time for fall pies.*

*The Market also has a new coffee vendor. Forge Coffee is up and running near the children's section. The coffee is smooth and delicious and is available iced and hot, in cappuccinos, lattes, mochas, drip and ready to pour. Forge will be selling coffee beans as well for the same great taste at home. And, for the non-coffee drinker, Forge has a special hot chocolate blend.*

*In other news, My Sister's Caramel Crunch, makers of a delectable snack that is hard to resist, was recently featured in a spot on CBS News. The company was started by sisters honoring their late sister and her special recipe. Each bag of their caramel crunch contains a combination of rice cereal, pretzels and pecans and is topped off with their special caramelizing recipe before being oven baked to perfection. My Sister's Caramel Crunch is on the north side of the market near the children's section.*

*The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce. 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.*



and replaced with upgraded individual meters.

The SCRA has learned that CVS wants to carry out some interior

upgrades, but the process is on hold given additional requirements being imposed by the city. The SCRA, the BID and the Chamber insist that cleaning up the outside with some patching and repainting can take place without waiting for the matter with the city to be resolved. To that end, the presidents of each organization signed a joint letter, which was sent to the CEO at CVS corporate headquarters, requesting such remedial action be taken.



# BEAUTIFUL STUDIO CITY

## Monument Damaged

The "Studio City Welcomes You" monument at Laurel Canyon Blvd. and the 101 Freeway that was installed in the '90s was recently knocked completely off its base and badly damaged by a hit-and-run motorist. The Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) will have the monument repaired or

replaced, which will take some time. The cost will be \$8,000 - \$15,000, depending on what parts can be salvaged. This is a hefty fee but part of the commitment the SCBA has made to the community.



## SCBA Fundraising Success

Thank you to everyone who responded to the SCBA's fundraising campaign, which was promoted in last month's SCRA newsletter. Because the SCBA is an all-volunteer organization, every dollar contributed supports the organization's work to create and professionally maintain Studio City beautification sites. The SCBA is the #1 organization of its kind in Los Angeles. If you have not yet sent in your tax-deductible contribution of any amount, please do so. Monies are especially needed soon given the surprise expense to replace the Laurel Canyon welcome monument.

## FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

The SCRA board recently passed three motions for charitable contributions. Campo de Cahuenga needed a web site overhaul, which would cost the Campo \$1500. The board acknowledged the importance of maintaining and preserving the Campo, which is located in Studio City, since it is the birthplace of California. For more information about the Campo, visit <http://www.campodecahuenga.com>. The SCRA board voted unanimously to donate \$1500 to help update the Campo web site.

Each year, Studio City Recreation Center (aka Beeman Park) puts on a Halloween party attended by children from Studio City, Valley Village, Sherman Oaks and North Hollywood. The event is considered by many families as a safe alternative to trick or treating along the streets and is a lot of fun for children. The SCRA board voted to contribute \$1000 to this event and offers its best wishes for a great time for all.

The East Valley Police Activity League Supporters (PALS) is holding its 45th annual Police Community Partnership Luncheon on Thursday, November 7, 2013. This luncheon honors police officers, civilian employees, LAPD volunteers and citizen heroes from the local community for their extraordinary effort throughout the year. The SCRA has been a longtime supporter of PALS, with board member Connie Elliot serving as

the SCRA liaison at the PALS monthly meetings. The SCRA board supported the purchase of a half-page ad in the program and is purchasing four tickets to the luncheon. Proceeds from the luncheon help fund PALS activities. The luncheon is being held at Sportsmen's Lodge. If you wish to attend, contact [JeanSinatra@earthlink.net](mailto:JeanSinatra@earthlink.net) - 818-982-1133.

Starting in 2012, at the suggestion of one of our youth volunteers, the SCRA board added a youth position to the board with a term that runs from September through August. The board thanks Ben Labeznik from Campbell Hall for his service in the 2012-2013 year. The SCRA board was pleased to have Ben's recommendation for the Studio City Cares Award for Leadership in Developing Youth and awarded his nominee, Casey Banks, that recognition in January 2013.

The SCRA board took nominations for 2013-14 and a committee, headed by board member Martha Hanrahan, selected Jason Goodman as the next youth board member. Jason's interest in politics and his internship with Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian will make Jason an asset to the SCRA board.

The Winter Family Festival Committee is moving forward on fundraising efforts to support the December 8, 2013 event at Beeman Park. The SCRA puts on this event free of charge, and the committee is in the process of signing up sponsors to help defray the cost of snow, parking, decorations, rentals, prizes, face painting supplies, etc. Past years' festivals have been a great success, attracting more than 4,000 visitors. If you would like to become a sponsor, or if you know an individual or business that would be interested, please contact Beth Dymond at [Beth.Dymond@StudioCityResidents.org](mailto:Beth.Dymond@StudioCityResidents.org)

## 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](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org).*

**Q:** What can be done about the offensive billboard at Tujunga Avenue & Moorpark Street above the Cactus Taqueria?

**SCRA:** Here is City Council District 2's response to the SCRA: "This issue comes up every now and then around the district. Unfortunately, billboards (regardless of proximity to residential areas) are protected under the first amendment. We can ask the billboard company to switch the advertisements, although we cannot mandate them to do so." The SCRA recommends that members get the name of the billboard company, which is shown on the billboard frame, contact the owner and ask him or her to replace it with something more appropriate for our community. This approach has been effective in the past.

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**Q:** Regarding the SCRA membership online renewal, the website auto e-mail reply makes it sound like I am a new member. I've been a member for years. I received an email instructing me to click on the website to register my email address. All of that should be on file. The auto message is: "Your application has been approved by our administration team. Your account with the following details has been activated. We welcome you to our community."

**SCRA:** You are correct; the auto message that goes out from the membership online sign up does not have any way of telling if you are a renewing long-time member or a recent sign-up. The next time the SCRA revamps its website, we will look into more appropriate wording. Also the SCRA appreciates members verifying their e-mail address so they can be sure to continue receiving the SCRA News & Notes eblast, which features timely information that is important to the community.

**Q:** I was told by a DWP worker that the house on the southwest corner of Tujunga and Kraft Avenues and the house next door to it were scheduled for demolition in a few weeks to make room for condos. My first thought was how come there's been no mention of this from the SCRA?

**SCRA:** The Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) Land Use Committee had a hearing regarding this project a few years ago, so the SCRA asked Lisa Sarkin, SCNC Land Use Committee chair, to respond to this question. Here is her response: "I believe you were given the wrong location for the condos. The two lots are on Tujunga Avenue, south of Landale Street, at 4461 and 4453 Tujunga Avenue. The Kraft Street property is zoned R-1-RFA, not multi-residential. Eleven apartment units will be built on Tujunga Avenue. The size of the property could have allowed 14 units. There will be one affordable unit. The three-story building will have one level of underground parking."

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** by Alan Dymond

*At the SCRA September Community Meeting, Councilmember Paul Krekorian said his priority for Studio City is to keep the Weddington Golf and Tennis as open space. (See the report about the meeting in this issue.) Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) and the SCRA are very encouraged by his statement, since they have been trying to accomplish this goal for many years.*

*In another development, a masters candidate at USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism recently offered SLAROS organizational change management consulting to help the group identify whether the organization's present operations were suited to its mission and goals, and to provide recommendations for management changes, if appropriate. An analysis, survey and report were presented at the SLAROS August 28 board, which the board accepted in full and is now in the process of implementing.*

*The report analyzed SLAROS' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and identified areas of political, economic, social and technological concerns for action by SLAROS going forward. SLAROS is now establishing steering committees to address the opportunities outlined in this report. If anyone is interested in being a part of this effort, please call the SCRA office at 818-509-0230 or email SCRABoard@StudioCityResidentsAssociation.org.*

*Urban Forestry, a division of the City Department of Public Works, has distributed an information sheet on street trees and parkways. Urban Forestry advises that although ivy and other vine-like plants can serve useful aesthetic and soil erosion purposes, these plants create two serious problems when uncontrolled: 1) They tend to matt, resulting in unsafe walking conditions, and 2) If left unchecked, the vines will grow up into the street trees and may eventually suffocate and kill them. For these reasons, Urban Forestry discourages the use of ivy and similar plants in the public right-of-way; however, when an owner plants ivy and vines, it is the owner's responsibility to ensure the plants do not hinder the public's ingress and egress and to stop the vines from growing up into the trees. In addition, the planting cannot create unsafe walking conditions through the parkway. For more information, contact the Urban Forestry division at 213-473-6600. The information sheets can be found at [www.lacity.org?BOSS/index.htm](http://www.lacity.org?BOSS/index.htm)*

*Finally: Oversized vehicles parking on designated city streets. The city attorney's office has been asked to draft an ordinance providing a procedure by which a councilmember may establish restricted areas or streets for oversized vehicles. The SCRA will follow the discussions and will update our members as developments occur.*

*Alan Dymond*

**NO  
COMMUNITY  
MEETING  
IN OCTOBER**

**November Community  
Meeting will feature  
State Senator Alex Padilla.  
Mark your calendar for  
Tuesday, November 12, 2013.**

**STUDIO CITY WINTER FAMILY  
FESTIVAL RETURNS ON  
DECEMBER 8, 2013**

*Start saving your canned/packaged food, toys and books for this year's Winter Family Festival, which features the Radio Disney Festival of Giving. Each year, this fun family-friendly event collects these items and more for such beneficiaries as the LAPD North Hollywood Gift and Food Drive, the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry, St Charles Borromeo Church Food Pantry, Bookends, and PetOrphans; among others. The Festival features more than 60 tons of snow, entertainment by local schools and community groups, sampling at "A Taste of the Holidays," free photos with Santa shot by a professional photographer, crafts and much more. See you there!*



**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  
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Connie Elliot, Secretary  
Bryan Abrams, Treasurer

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Martha Hanrahan  
Steve Hirsh  
Art Howard  
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**Immediate Past President**  
Art Howard

**Beautification Association**

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Bryan Abrams, Treasurer

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

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

**School Liaisons**

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman  
Rio Vista - Barbara Robbin  
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

**Studio City Farmers Market**

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