



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Your Advocate for Studio City*

**July 2019**

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## SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING ON JULY 9 FEATURED SPEAKERS: LOS ANGELES CITY CONTROLLER RON GALPERIN AND SPORTSMEN'S LODGE SR. VICE PRESIDENT BEN BESLEY

### Keynote Speaker Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin



Los Angeles Controller Ron Galperin is the taxpayers' watchdog at City Hall, making sure public dollars are spent efficiently and effectively. He is also the elected paymaster, auditor and chief accounting officer for the City of Los Angeles.

Galperin oversees a team that conducts independent audits, manages City payroll and spending, prepares financial reports, pursues fraud and waste, and works to create a more transparent and accountable city for everyone. His reports are improving street maintenance, arts funding, management of special funds, L.A.'s trees, emergency services and many other City functions.

### Sportsmen's Lodge

Ben Besley, Senior Vice President with Midwood Investment & Development, will discuss the status of operations at the Sportsmen's Lodge since the recent fire, as well as timing of demolition and plans for construction of the new retail shopping center.



## RENEW AND RECEIVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT CARD

**Use your new card now. Discounts effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020**

Visit the SCRA website [studiocityresidents.org](http://studiocityresidents.org) to find participating merchants who are offering a discount to SCRA members. At the same time you can renew on line and save us the cost of postage. Please invite your neighbors to join as well.

*NOTE: You do not need to be a PayPal subscriber to pay online. The "Pay Now" button takes you to PayPal, where you have a choice to either pay from your PayPal account or pay by credit card. (Just click "New to PayPal" where you can pay by credit card as a guest.)*

If you provide the SCRA with your e-mail address you will receive short and to-the-point updates throughout the month on important breaking issues in Studio City.

Feel free to call SCRA volunteers at 818-509-0230 regarding any questions about the SCRA or Studio City. The office is open Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. - noon. If there is no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned.



# BILLBOARD BLIGHT - ORDINANCE MOVING THROUGH CITY HALL

The organization Ban Billboard Blight reported that Planning and Landuse Management committee (PLUM) had a hearing on proposed sign ordinance for Los Angeles.

First, a refresher on the two draft versions of the sign ordinance that are in the file

The Planning Commission Version, known as B Plus, has a high takedown ratio, requiring the removal of 10 static signs in exchange for erection of one digital billboard. Those digital signs would be limited to high-density Regional Commercial Sign Districts such as Sunset Blvd. and L.A. Live..

The second version was commissioned by PLUM itself in late 2017. The PLUM Version basically caves in to the sign companies, allowing new digital signs on most commercial lots, in exchange for more lenient takedowns.

PLUM Committee is now investigating how to move away from adopting its own PLUM Version. However Version B Plus also seems to have some opposition. There are parts of the city where there are many billboards, chiefly low-income areas, that don't qualify to be sign districts and thus would not qualify for the takedowns that would be required in order to erect new digital signs.

The Committee Chair, Council Member Marqueece Harris-Dawson, made several requests of Planning Dept. staff. One was to define Billboard Blight. Another was to envision a middle ground between the two versions, which would allow digital signs in more areas than Version B Plus allows and fewer areas than the PLUM Version allows. This middle version could cause spreading of digital signs.

The Planning Dept. staff is to report back at the August 13 PLUM Committee meeting.

## BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President

*Since our last report, your Studio City Beautification Association has been out and about actively beautifying our community and I have some updates, insights and a story to share with you.*

*Both the Laurel Canyon and Coldwater Canyon medians received a beauty treatment. New mulch was added which not only improves the look of the medians but will help conserve water and fight weeds.*

*We have completed the paperwork and submitted our landscaping plan and irrigation proposal for review and approval to the city for two more Vineland medians: the median at Bluffside Drive and the median in front of the Garland Hotel. We'll keep you posted on our progress.*



*Continuing our middle of the road median beautification update tour, the Eastside median (west of Lankershim opposite the Blvd Hotel) has become a shadow of itself after six years of drought and rains. The trees are still alive but most of the original plantings are gone and the soil is depleted. We're happy to report that SCBA board member Andy Epstein and SK Landscaping have come up with a plan to return the median to its original beauty. More details to come.*

*We had a water leak at the Oakdell Sanctuary (Laurel Canyon & Oakdell Road) and the office received many reports of running water. We fixed the leak but it took a couple of days because the break in the drip line happened on a weekend when the office was closed. However, because of your due diligence, we had an insightful realization that emergencies don't always happen during business hours. So SCBA has established a special email for emergencies [scaemergency@gmail.com](mailto:scaemergency@gmail.com) that is monitored seven days a week.*

*The Studio City Beautification welcome sign at the Oasis (across the street from Marshalls) and the green Mitt Box got tagged again. SCBA filed a graffiti removal request with 311 and through the Office of Community Beautification the graffiti was quickly removed. Grateful for the quick turnaround, I called 311 to thank the city for helping us keep Studio City beautiful. The operator expressed genuine gratitude and said, "It's not very often but always nice when we receive a compliment, it's going to make everyone feel so good." Then, she thanked me for taking the time to call. I share this story with you because SCBA is your representative and she was really thanking you.*

*See you in the neighborhood.*

## 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:** There is a homeless young man who camps out by the wall on Vantage Ave near Ventura Blvd. He has been there for a long time and has never been much of a

(Continued, Page 3)

**(Ask SCRA, cont'd)**

problem. However, lately his mental status seems to have deteriorated and he now hallucinates and walks around yelling to himself. He clearly needs help and needs to be gotten off the street, for his own good and also for the benefit of this neighborhood in the Silver Triangle. Can SCRA help us with this?

**SCRA:** Here is a Mental Health Hotline. 800 854-7771. We do not know which facility will transport but have been told that if the homeless person is a veteran then the veterans will pick up and transport.

Members: There is a link to the East Valley Resources handout on the SCRA Website. You can find it on the home page postings February 15 Valley Homeless Resources [www.studiocityresidents.org](http://www.studiocityresidents.org) or write to the SCRA at [SCRAboard@studocityresidents.org](mailto:SCRAboard@studocityresidents.org) and we will forward the link digitally for easy download.

**Q:** I have recently been made aware of the leaf blower ordinance detailed below:

*Los Angeles Municipal (LAMC) Section 112. 04 (c) bans the use of the gas powered leaf blower device to minimize the nuisance and health related problems attributed to this type of equipment. 112.04(c) LAMC The following ordinance became effective on February 13, 1998: "No gas powered blower shall be used within 500 feet of a residence at anytime. Both the user of such a blower as well as the individual who contracted for the services of the user if any, shall be subject to the requirements of and penalty provisions for this ordinance. Violation of the provisions of this subsection shall be punishable as an infraction in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Dollars(\$100)." This section does not preclude anyone from using other devices such as a gas powered vacuum device or electric leaf blower.*

I started doing research for a product our gardener could use as a practical alternative. Unfortunately I could not find a reliable tool that would be a good substitute for the gas powered blowers. Most battery types run about 30 minutes on a charge and can take 3 hours or more to recharge. Is there anyone who recommends a commercial product gardeners could use?

**SCRA:** SCRA contacted Diana Zogran, garden ecologist: You can get up to 13 hours of battery life from quality backpack batteries from brands like Stihl which can be re-charged overnight. If used properly, even smaller batteries can get a landscape maintenance crew through the day. And they can always bring a 2nd battery similar to what contractors do with their battery powered tools.

The return on investment (ROI) for the electric equipment is



## TO THE MARKET

Summer has arrived and so have the stone fruits. The Market is brimming with delicious peaches, plums, apricots, pluots, nectarines and cherries. No matter how many pounds of cherries the farmers bring every Sunday, they are usually sold out by early morning - they're that good. Cherry tomatoes, many tasting like candy, are also in season, and can be found in more than a dozen varieties throughout the Market.

The Market donates its proceeds after expenses back to the community and most recently made donations to the North Hollywood High School Music Department for the purchase of a new bass clarinet, to St. Baldrick's Foundation, which raises funds to help find cures for children with cancer, and to the Ed Asner Family Center, whose mission is to promote self confidence in differently-abled individuals.

about a year because electric does not need gas, oil, spark plugs, or filters. Electric equipment is almost always lighter than gas because commercial electric tools have far fewer parts.

Rebate program: SCAQMD Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive & Exchange Program.

## FARMERS MARKET GRANT TO CHILDRENS HOSPITAL DOG THERAPY PROGRAM

Studio City Farmer's market, a non-profit owned and managed by the SCRA and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce Foundation, is able to make grants to other local non-profits from proceeds of the market. Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), Dog Therapy Program has been a recipient of the grant.

Recently, local CHLA volunteers invited two SCRA board members to a rare glimpse into the process for evaluating therapy dogs. The invite included participation in playing a role; a role that mimics a situation the dogs could encounter



during a visit to the wards. The role started with our two members at one end of the room, arguing and walking forward, stop arguing

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## (Dogs, cont'd)

after a few steps, look at the dog then move forward, address the presence of the dog, pet the dog. The idea is that the dog will ignore the argument and continue with whatever he and the handler were doing.

Penelope, a qualified therapy dog played her part which was to be a distraction. Would the candidate dog ignore Penelope, and concentrate solely on what was she was being directed to do by her handler? Interesting toys were placed at points on the walk-about to see if the dog would ignore them.

A Saturday afternoon well spent with both dogs accepted into the Program. Follow up assessments are made every two years for all dogs in order for them to maintain their places in the Program.

## WHAT IS LOS ANGELES DOING TO CURB NOISE FROM THE BURBANK AIRPORT?



If you were unable to attend the SCRA May community meeting you missed City Attorney Mike Feuer's update on the progress being made to curb the excessive noise from planes taking off from the Burbank Airport and traveling very low over Studio City. Prior to the meeting Feuer had met with representatives from UpRoarLA, Studio City for Quiet Skies and SCRA at Carpenter School.

He had also stopped at several other major points of excessive noise to further understanding the extent of the problem. Feuer's stated position on many occasions is to spread the noise that reflects the position taken by the SCRA. The timeline to obtain any relief is uncertain but the hope is that negotiations with the FAA will result in a favorable solution.

Demands were made to file a lawsuit but Feuer repeatedly told the attendees that the time is not yet. Administrative remedies have to be exhausted first as this is a prerequisite that has to be complied with before any lawsuit is filed.

For the latest legal activity, visit [studiocityresidents.org](http://studiocityresidents.org), where the City Attorney News Release is posted.

## LAND USE ISSUES

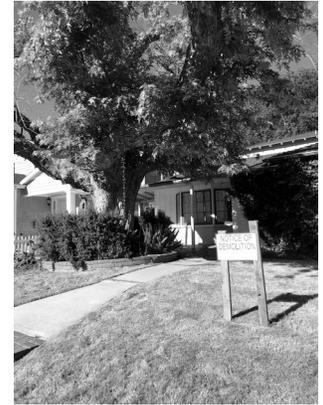
### 4299 Elmer Avenue - Building Permit

SCRA Vice President Barry Johnson was contacted by neighbors surrounding 4299 Elmer Avenue because they did not see a garage anywhere at this single-family building site. Barry wrote to Jeffrey Pard, LA Department of Building and

Safety with an inquiry. LADBS responded that the garage was in the back. Subsequently Barry checked out the site and informed LADBS that he could not see a garage. SCRA is continuing to monitor this.

### 3765 Moundview

The house at 3765 MoundView has a notice of demolition posted. Neighbors inquired about what if any "rules" apply to the big tree in front? They did not know what kind of tree this is or the overall health of the tree.



Following is information that SCRA gave to empower the neighbors. SCRA was unable to find a contact for the developer, but contact information can be obtained from the City Building Inspector. Raymond Kehoe (818) 374-1165. Office hours are early from 7:00 to 8:00 Monday - Friday. Contact the developer and ask about the plans for the tree. Only the following trees are protected.

### Protected Trees

Any of the following Southern California native tree species, which measures four inches or more in cumulative diameter, four and one-half feet above the ground level at the base of the tree:

- (a) Oak tree including Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) and California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), or any other tree of the oak genus indigenous to California but excluding the Scrub Oak (*Quercus dumosa*).**
- (b) Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*)**
- (c) Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)**
- (d) California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*)**

If the tree is not a protected tree the developer can remove it. As of the end of June, no demo had begun and the tree was still standing.

### Street not paved St. Clair to Laurel Canyon

**(It takes all of us working together to make a difference)**  
Thank you to a proactive member who saw a problem and investigated the reason. The problem was with the repaving that was not finished on Moorpark between Whitsett and Laurel Canyon. The paving was finished from Whitsett to St. Clair but was not finished from St. Clair to Laurel Canyon. The road was left in a dangerous condition. Work had stopped.

Our member tracked down the contractor and found that Asphalt plant 2 in North Hollywood was doing the work. Calling them, they told her that they had to stop the re-paving

(Cont'd, Page 5)

## (Land, cont'd)

due to private construction on an apartment building on Moorpark.. Our member informed Asphalt Plant 2 that remedial repairs needed to be made prior to the resurfacing due to the dangerous condition of the road. A crew came out and fixed the drainage dip at Vantage, however missed the pothole and after another call the superintendent at Asphalt Plant 2 sent the crew back out.

The good thing is that the apartment under construction would have required tearing up a brand new street. So better to wait until the street tearing up is done before the new pavement is laid down. This was a good catch by the City.

### **4557 Tujunga - Sidewalk Width**

Under construction, the subject site was preparing to install a new full width sidewalk. SCRA vice President Barry Johnson along with neighbors worked with the city to try to keep the sidewalk width consistent with the other homes on the block. SCRA earlier had preserved, at a different location, the sidewalk and parkway widths to match adjacent frontage.

The response from the City was that the property owner may keep the grass parkway if they wish, however, the Bureau of Engineering cannot force them to do so. SCRA spoke to the

owner of the property at 4557 Tujunga but he refused to reduce the size of the sidewalk to keep the look of the neighborhood. There is now a 12' sidewalk being installed.

Both the Studio City Neighborhood Council and the Studio City Residents Association continue to fight for our neighborhood's character to preserve our residential street and sidewalk widths. The City is also promoting its "Green New Deal" program to plant 90,000 new trees across Los Angeles by 2021 in heat impacted areas, like across the street from the 101 Freeway where this property lies. Our parkways simply need to be preserved.

## **GOOD NEWS FOR LOS ANGELES WILDLIFE**

The Los Angeles City Council has voted to include the Planning Department's Wildlife Pilot Study into the city budget beginning fiscal year 2019. With this funding in place, LA is one step closer to an ordinance that will require hillside home development to accommodate the surrounding wildlife habitat connections. This funding includes the hiring of four new planners, and a staff biologist within the Planning Department.

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

**Good news and congratulations** to the Studio City Business Improvement District (BID). Every five years the Studio City BID must reapply for its BID status. The business property owners in the District vote to assess themselves to provide additional services on Ventura Blvd from Carpenter to Coldwater Canyon. Services such as security, (bike patrols), street scape enhancements, i.e. landscaping street medians and tree planting, maintenance, power washing the sidewalks, trash bins placement and maintenance. Future renewal of the pedestrian crosswalks at Laurel Cyn and Ventura Blvd., fire hydrants to be painted, sidewalk repair and more. Thanks to the combined efforts of BID President Tony Richman and Executive Director, Vicki Nussbaum and the BID Board the Studio City business district is thriving.

**The recently elected board** for the Studio City Neighborhood Council board was sworn in at CBS studio Center on June 19th. Congratulations and thank you to all who are volunteering their time.

Neighborhood Councils can submit a Community Impact Statement which becomes part of the council file record. However as reported to you via News & Notes, the City Clerk has launched a public online portal through which members can have their comments posted to the city file on any matter the city council is considering. This form is a Public Comment Form and can be accessed at [LACouncilcomment.com](http://LACouncilcomment.com).

**Reminder Membership Renewal:** Please make sure to include your email address when you renew. From time to time we send our members the SCRA electronic News & Notes on immediate breaking news, alerts and action notices such as latest developments concerning the proposed Harvard- Westlake Athletic Center located at the Weddington Golf and Tennis site.

**Very good news.** LA River's south bank from Laurel Canyon to Whitsett has fallen into disrepair, with non-native evasive and overgrown plants and graffiti and homeless encampments. Over the last several years Board members have been looking to find funding to give this section of the river its needed makeover. The SCRA was instrumental in obtaining \$400,000 from the State, and the City. L.A. City Recreation and Parks will be performing the work which should start next year. SCRA would like to see the garage opened to the river along with access to the local businesses.

*Alan Dymond*

### SCRA Officers

Alan Dymond, President  
Barry Johnson, Vice President  
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President  
Connie Elliot, Secretary  
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

### Board Members

Beth Dymond  
Martha Hanrahan  
Stephen Sass  
Robin Seidel  
Karen Younce

### Beautification Association

Meg McDonald Seltzer, President  
Beth Dymond, Vice President

Connie Elliot, Secretary  
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

### Board Members

Andy Epstein  
Barry Johnson  
Karen Younce  
StudioCityBeautificationAssoc@gmail.com

### Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space Officers

Alan Dymond, President  
Laurie Cohn, Vice President  
Chip Meehan, Vice President  
Beth Dymond, Secretary  
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

### Board Members

Patty Kirby  
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

### Studio City Farmers Market

(818) 655-7744  
studiocityfarmersmarket.com

### Newsletter

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# SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

## Tuesday, July 9, 2019

### MEETING LOCATION:

Bridges Academy  
LIBRARY  
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd  
Studio City, CA 91604

### AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments/meet your neighbors.
- 7:30 p.m.** Update on demolition and renovation of Sportsmen's Lodge; LA City Controller Ron Galperin.
- One block south of Ventura Bl, at Laurel Canyon Bl. and Maxwelton Rd. Parking off of Maxwelton Rd. Free parking is available in the school parking lot. Enter from Maxwelton Rd. Security will assist.*

