

The Studio City ★ Sherman Oaks ★ Encino NEWS

& the Neighboring Communities of N. Hollywood, Valley Village & Tarzana

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Guide to Local Events

Tuesday January 10

Shakespeare Monologues Acting Workshop: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Dip your acting toe into a bit of the Bard at the Studio City Library in this free acting workshop! Lauren Lovett, Classical texts instructor, will guide you in your first (or second) communion with Shakespeare's text. Ideally, participants will commit to all three sessions. 18 and over and Registration Required. 12511 Moorpark Street, Studio City, CA 91604. 818-755-7873.

Studio City Residents Association Annual General Meeting and Studio City Cares Awards. 7:00 p.m. Social w/ Coffee and refreshments

7:30 p.m. Program Begins. Each year the Studio City Residents Association Board recognizes outstanding service to the community at the Annual General Meeting with the presentation of the Studio City Cares Awards. This year the awards presentation will be MC'd by former SCSOE News columnist Phil Shuman, a noted reporter and television anchor in SoCal for almost 30 years.

Waze and similar services have created major traffic problems in the hillsides of Sherman Oaks.

The City will hold a Public Hearing to discuss a traffic mitigation plan for the area bounded by Scadlock Lane, Valley Vista Boulevard, Stone Canyon Avenue and Mullholland Drive. The plan, if

Cont. pg. 16

What's Inside

Scoops.....	12
Paul Krekorian.....	5
Paul Koretz.....	6
David Ryu.....	6
Gerald Silver.....	5
Bentley's Beat.....	12
Taste.....	8
Talk DVD.....	15
Real Estate Corner.....	16
Education.....	14
New Start.....	13
Spirited Encounters.....	9
Running on Ventura.....	16

LOCAL BUILDER IS THE MOLD TERMINATOR

By Marci Marks

Growing up in the Studio City and North Hollywood area, at the age of 5, Scott Harris built Lego like contraptions in an inventor's search for new ways to generate electricity. Years later he would co found a company called Building Construction Group, with influential designer William Hefner, that is at the forefront of technological advances in sustainable living.

Harris is the general contractor/builder for Ed Begley Jr's Studio City home, certified LEED Platinum. A mutual business acquaintance brought the two together, but Harris thought maybe he wasn't green enough for the noted actor/environmentalist. "I told him sometimes I don't put my recyclables in the correct bin and I don't care," he said.

Begley found that upfront honesty was refreshing and hired him. The 1920s house had too much damage to be renovated, the directive for the new home was to be sustaining and off the grid as well as to recreate the charm of the old house. Recycled Spanish tiles were used for the roof, sight lines hide 8 gigawatts watts of solar panels, twelve inch walls with seven layers of thermal break reduce provide insulation to what is one of the "greenest home in America," according to the United States Green Building Council.

As a child who grew up with asthma and allergies, Harris is a human mold detector, which led to

his doing research on building healthy homes, and he wants to change the foundations of construction to give people healthier and happier lives. He pointed out that, unlike other technologies, home construction has not advanced much since the 1920s. "Imagine if all the other industries were stuck back then."

he points out.

Mold is a major health destroyer in many of the homes in the valley, he has found, and he says a major culprit is drywall with paper backing. Building Construction Group uses a drywall with a fiberglass backing, which resists mold growth.

Many people may be surprised to learn that all kinds of paper sitting around in dark or damp places, including holiday wrapping paper, newspapers and even paper in filing cabinets develops mold, which feasts off decaying cellulose.

"There's a mold orgy going on in that paper," said Harris. He found that out the hard way when his wife stored old wrapping paper under the bed and he was having allergy attacks on getting into bed. He said, "It is also important to ventilate, open the windows once a day, and mold cannot live in sunlight so open curtains and blinds, and move sprinklers away from the house."



Harris with Begley and wife Rachelle filming the project for Evox Network

Harris learned his trade by experience on projects for clients such as Kevin Costner, Microsoft's Paul Allen and the Playboy Mansion. He has been featured on numerous tv shows for his celebrity work, but he says building green does not have to be prohibitively more expensive.

Scott Harris returned to the valley after a brief flirtation with the west side and now lives in Encino, where he lovingly restored a 1949 house one room at a time, taking his time to perfect new technology and design in home construction.

Harris is also a foodie who loves cooking for his family when he is relaxing at home, and gave one of his recipes, published this month the food section.

A home builder who wants to change and improve our environment through research and example, Harris has come a long way from Legos.

By Marla Schulman

DEFENDING THE SO'S HISTORIC CHASE KNOLLS

If you haven't driven down Riverside Drive past Sherman Oaks' historic Chase Knolls Garden Apartment complex lately be prepared for a shock. The once beautiful main entrance that welcomed you with a grove of graceful eucalyptus trees, is now closed, barren and surrounded by chain-link fencing and bright orange danger signs. Beyond the fence, the area has become a bona-fide construction zone, overrun with hard-hats, mountain-sized mounds of mud and deep trenches, piles of wooden wreckage, and tools of this mass destruction - bulldozers, skip loaders,



jackhammers, concrete cutters and more. But in spite of appearances, Neighbors of Chase Knolls (NOCK), one of the opposition groups fighting the expansion

of this iconic garden apartment community, wants to assure tenants and local area residents the fight is far from over. Over the past year, NOCK has been investigating a slew of irregularities and have retained land use attorney, Mitch Tsai, who has working to challenge a variety of issues in regards to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and CEQA to the proper city officials.

To understand the complexities, here are the definitions one needs to know. A Tenant Habitability Plan (THP) covers any "Primary Renovation" work to be done on the property and is the document covering the current plumbing and electric utility upgrades. An EIR

Cont. pg. 18