

## SANTA MONICA CANYON NEWS - FEB. 2017

### FIGHTING AIRCRAFT NOISE

On January 25, the FAA held an Open House at Palisades High to explain the impacts of new flight control procedures on the Pacific Palisades and Santa Monica Canyon areas. These new procedures are expected to be rolled out over the next several months. (See photo on page 4)

FAA representatives explained that a major reason we have been hearing an increased amount of aircraft noise is because about a year and a half ago, LAX began doing construction on the runways. This resulted in more aircraft arrivals using the LAX North Arrival approach, which is over the Pacific Ocean adjacent to our neighborhoods. FAA representatives said that due to the runway construction/closure, there are too many planes coming in at the same time, and the planes must be slowed down and spread out as they approach LAX. This fact, combined with the Air Traffic Controllers allowing certain pilots to "cut the corner" by flying over the Canyon (instead of staying out over the ocean), an increase in the number of flights, and the larger planes used by the airlines, has resulted in more noise above the Canyon.

The FAA representatives also stated that, when the NextGen procedures go into effect in the next few months, the planes should be flying higher, staying over the ocean, and gliding in, which the FAA feels will result in less noise. We shall see...

SMCCA, along with several cities and community groups, has legally challenged the FAA's Finding that the Metroplex procedures result in No Significant Impact. This matter is now in the United States District Court, and has been placed into the Court's mediation program. Our goal is to have the FAA move some of the "way points" so that the pilots fly further out over the ocean, and to place limits on FAA controllers permitting pilots to cut the corner over the Canyon. If successful, we expect these measures will reduce the amount of aircraft noise we hear.

Kudos to SMCCA's team fighting the noise issue with the Federal Government, no simple task. Our General in this fight is board member Debbie Warfel, with assistance by Wes Hough. These leaders have put their money where their mouth is. As have countless neighbors who have chipped in to fund our legal team. Contact [debwarfel@gmail.com](mailto:debwarfel@gmail.com) to help.

### PROGRESS ON HOMELESS ISSUES

SMCCA has supported the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (PPTFH) since it was formed in 2015. Our point person Sharon Kilbride works closely with LAPD Officers Rusty Redican and Jim Soliman (pictured below with Sharon). She also works with outreach workers to encourage homeless persons to accept services and transition "off of the streets." Sharon was honored as 2015 Pacific Palisades Citizen of the year for her dedicated efforts in keeping our beach areas clean and safe. In the first twelve months, the outreach moved 32 individuals off the streets. This represents roughly 33% of those engaged by the outreach team. Progress is continuing although the challenges are great.

Last year PPTFH became a 501(c)(3), and donations now are fully tax deductible. The money raised supports the full-time outreach workers as well as other efforts such as helping with moving expenses, reuniting the homeless with their families, and other services essential to the success of eradicating the homeless problem. These additional services are still being identified. Your input is welcome. Please send your donations to: PPTFH, P.O. Box 331, Pacific Palisades CA. 90272.



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## Homeless, continued

Each month six homeless individuals are selectively prioritized for intervention. A plan of action for LAPD and the outreach team is developed. Of course, some individuals decline services and housing. In those cases, a quick solution is not possible and “baby steps” are employed to achieve our goal. This requires a great deal of time, patience, and persistence on the part of both the Beach Patrol and caseworkers.

Officers Rusty Redican and Jim Soliman, working our Beach Patrol since June 2016, have been approved by the Captain for indefinite assignment in our area. Patrick Hart, enforcement volunteer, has created a Google mapping system of all encampment areas in the 90402 and 90272 areas. The maps are used by LAPD, OPCC, LAFD, PPTFH and Recreation and Parks. Using these maps, volunteer teams visit current hot spots and continually monitor encampment areas to keep our hillsides and parklands free of fire dangers. We have five enforcement volunteers monitoring assigned locations in order to identify problems or people in need of outreach or enforcement action. The teams have made great progress in helping people succeed in getting off the streets and into shelter and housing. Check us out at [pptfh.org](http://pptfh.org)

To report a person in need of services, call 310.460.2630.

## THE NEW ENTRADA SIDEWALK

Yes, Virginia there is a NEW SIDEWALK in the canyon! After almost a decade in grant process and planning, and a spirited neighborhood discussion about the changes that might come, a new sidewalk FINALLY is nearing completion on the South side of Entrada Drive. Safe passage for Canyon residents, children and dogs, between the beach and Adelaide is now possible. The new sidewalk replaces a dilapidated, overgrown, two foot wide “footpath” that could only be navigated single file, that was too narrow to accommodate a baby stroller, let alone a wheelchair, families were forced to walk in the gutter. Now with a new five-foot wide sidewalk and retaining wall, residents can stroll arm in arm enjoying the beauty of the canyon.

It took the tireless hard work of many local residents, SMCCA, the initiative of the Street Services Bureau, and the invaluable help of Councilman Bonin’s staff to get this much-needed improvement. Local residents are relieved that the disruption and inconvenience of construction has been surprisingly minimal. Traffic flow has been relatively unaffected, as promised by LADOT, and the construction sites have remained remarkably clean. Also, a bus bench was added about halfway up the hill at Stassi Lane. Very convenient for those riding the bus after a hard day’s work or just to take a break walking up the hill and enjoy the beautiful ocean view.

The new sidewalk helps to remind us that Entrada Drive is still a residential street, and not a freeway onramp to PCH. Already school children are using the new sidewalk to walk

## RUSTIC CANYON PARK UPDATE

**Eucalyptus Grove** - The city and state landmarked grove of Eucalyptus and other exotic (non-native) trees and shrubs is doing well with the series of rain storms this winter. The irrigation system has been on vacation for several weeks.

Most of the trees and shrubs planted a few years ago have grown and thrived.

- The few lost Eucalyptus trees will be replenished this winter/spring.
- All but two of the cycads have grown new leaves since planting (though two didn’t survive). The palm-like Dioon spinulosum (cycad trees) have recovered beautifully since the Grove’s restoration and look well for their very long years.
- The two Agathis robusta / Queensland Kauri trees have both shown robust new growth the last few years. New leaves are tan colored. You can see a robusta tree over 80-feet tall at the Huntington Gardens.

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or ride their scooters safely to school. Canyon Elementary student Leila Landay, pictured above, recently said, “I really enjoy the new sidewalk because, I can ride my scooter to school every day. It’s great!” There is eager anticipation of the lemonade stands that surely will populate the new sidewalk this summer and the tug of debate of strolling to the fine restaurants in the Canyon or the choices on Montana Avenue

As many are aware, it seems that with a fifty-year wait to get a simple sidewalk crack fixed, getting a brand new sidewalk installed, is close to a miracle. In fact, it is doubtful one would see a new sidewalk installed in a lifetime.

A huge THANK YOU to all who worked so hard to make it happen. [ article submitted by Mark Landay ]



## Park Update, continued

- The experiment with the very colorfully barked Eucalyptus deglupta / Rainbow Gum trees has not succeeded. Only one is left and it's struggling. It won't be replaced. But you can see them on the UCLA campus outside the Melnitz Theatre (near Parking Lot 3) and in the Mathias Botanical Garden.

The Grove, like any garden, is always a work in progress, somewhat Darwinian, and always changing in sometimes subtle and sometimes dramatic ways. Watch for the Monarch butterflies.

A dedicated crew of hardy volunteers rotate weekly care of the grove: watering, weeding and feeding. Hats off to volunteers Tina Beebe, David Card, Lynne Irvine and George Wolfberg who have been assisted since May 2014 by Randy Young.

**Park News.** Park Director Paige Barnes reports that the Recreation Center offers classes in over 20 activities for youth and adults. These include arts & crafts, bridge (seniors), ceramics, children's cooking, dance, seasonal day camps, jewelry making (adult), life drawing, piano, preschool, sculpting, senior fitness, and Tai Chi. Other options include tennis, basketball and badminton. The Park is open six days a week and on Sundays by (picnic) permit. Go to [www.laparks.org/reccenter/rustic-canyon](http://www.laparks.org/reccenter/rustic-canyon) to learn more and to download a brochure, or call the park at 310.454.5734.

**Rustic Night Party is September 23, 2017.** Save the date! This is when we have our *not to be missed* glorious annual Rustic Night Party. Park Advisory Board Chair and party planner extraordinaire, Veslemoey Zwart, promises another fabulous event. Be sure SMCCA has your email address so you will be notified of the exciting details. Previous parties have raised well over \$100,000 which has enabled the rehabilitation of the tennis courts, refinishing of the gym floor in the historic clubhouse, enhancement of the Dodo Chaney tennis lounge as well as replacement of doors and relandscaping of the courtyard partly shown in the picture below. Join your neighbors and enjoy a truly memorable occasion in support of the PAB's plans to continue rehabilitation and restore the historic Uplifters Clubhouse by its Centennial anniversary in 2023.



## UPPER SM CANYON ASSOC. NEWS

Allied on most issues with SMCCA, the Upper Santa Monica Canyon Neighborhood Association [USMCNA] aims to serve the 220 households on San Lorenzo, Kingman, Alisal, Attila, East Channel and Dryad Roads. Volunteers come together for specific neighborhood issues such as crime and security, infrastructure, social functions and welcoming new residents. To receive USMCNA news bulletins, send your name, canyon address and email address to [info@usmcna.org](mailto:info@usmcna.org).

Recent actions:

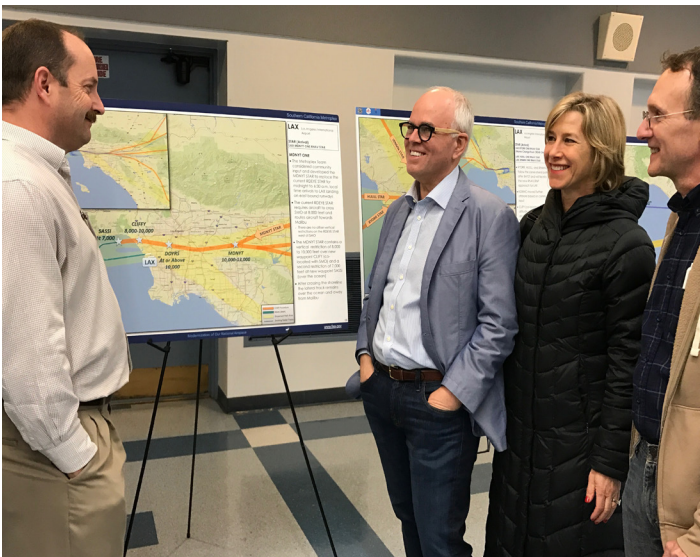
Volunteers met on January 19th to develop a response to the recent spate of break-ins. Participants agreed to explore added crime prevention strategies involving better supervision of the yellow dedicated ACS patrol car service, increasing neighborhood financial support and investigating other alternatives including other security firms and new technologies. If we can increase the number of paying households we can increase patrol hours. We need your input; send to [info@usmcna.org](mailto:info@usmcna.org).

USMCNA leaders are also lobbying City of L.A. officials to complete the long-delayed work of repaving San Lorenzo Street, where pavement in the most heavily traveled block [600] of the upper canyon's most heavily traveled residential street, is in sad shape. Several other, less trafficked streets in the immediate neighborhood sport handsome new tarmac from end to end, done in 2015. Engineers say underground utility improvements must be completed first. We say hurry up.

USMCNA, by a significant majority, had lobbied SMCCA and city officials for a more careful cost-benefit analysis of the city's proposed Entrada sidewalk (now under construction), distinguishing between the handful of families on the south side of the curve who will use the new sidewalk and the 220 families on the north side of the curve who can't. Of special concern is the narrower roadway space for uphill traffic to pass around cars turning left into the San Lorenzo and Kingman bottlenecks, backing up traffic. We hope other Canyon residents who endorsed the sidewalk will be patient with Upper Canyon residents as we turn left at the narrows.

Val Van Galder and Stephen Garrett hosted a spectacular December holiday brunch for all Upper SM Canyon residents at their East Channel home. Plans are afoot for a spring barbeque at another special home that just completed a major landscaping project.

For info on other social events, including the neighborhood's annual Fourth of July celebration, or to volunteer, look for the next USMCNA news bulletin or email [info@usmcna.com](mailto:info@usmcna.com).



*SMCCA representatives (from right), Wes Hough and Debbie Warfel along with John Warfel, press FAA representative for details of new flight control plan.*

**Board Members—**

- |                   |                  |
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| Lisa Bittan       | Henry Lichstein  |
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| Amy Hopper        | Lori Todd        |
| Wesley Hough      | Debbie Warfel    |
| Sharon Kilbride   | Marilyn Wexler   |
| Mark Landay       | Cynthia Winter   |
| Emile Levisetti   | George Wolfberg  |

**Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association**

Founded 1947  
 P.O. Box 3441 Santa Monica, CA 90408-3441  
 info@smcca.org - www.smcca.org

**2017 Dues Now Payable**

SMCCA has served our community for over 70 years and is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization. Your dues and contributions help keep your association strong. Yearly membership remains only \$10 per person, a modest price for supporting your community. Please send payment to SMCCA at PO Box 3441, Santa Monica, CA 90408-3441, or pay through our web site [www.smcca.org](http://www.smcca.org). Additional contributions for maintenance of our historic eucalyptus grove, upkeep of the beach tunnels, or for general purposes are welcome and greatly appreciated.

If you would like to participate on the board or in any other capacity or have areas of interest, please let us know in your reply. Please include your email address to receive important notices. Let us know if you are **not** receiving weekly LAPD crime alerts so we can add you to our email list.

We invite you to attend a Board meeting. They are held on the second Tuesday of most months. We post agendas at [www.smcca.org](http://www.smcca.org). Our annual meeting is May 9 at 7 PM. Please save the date.

We do not share or sell our email or mailing lists.

**Important Phone Numbers---**

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|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Graffiti Report            | 3-1-1              |
| Illegal Leaf Blower in use | 1.877.ASK.LAPD     |
| Illegally Parked Vehicles  | 1.213.485.4184     |
| Pothole Repair             | 1.800.996.2489 x-1 |
| West LA Police Station     | 1.310.444.0702     |

**Or, download the MyLA311 App to your phone.**

**Newsletter Staff--**

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