



# SANTA MONICA CANYON NEWS - FEB. 2019

## SCOUTS SPRUCE UP PARK

Last fall, two local Scouts made great contributions to the Rustic Canyon Rec Center grove, courtyard and pool area landscaping. Ben Volokh of Palisades Troop 223 and Declan Askew of Palisades Troop 23 completed Eagle Scout badge projects by greatly improving and cleaning up those areas. With the help of fellow scouts and friends, as well as neighborhood volunteers and Pali High Ambassador volunteers, Ben and Declan filled up a huge trash bin with weeds, piles of grasses, leaves and branches. They shared the cost of expensive trash bin rental. Each of the scouts paid for plants and other materials detailed. These high schoolers demonstrated great leadership in organizing and carrying out these projects.

Ben's team worked several days adding decomposed granite (DG) to the grove paths, pulled and removed weeds and tree litter, staked trees, and spread a big bag of native California Poppy seeds. Ben also lashed the trellises for the two Banks Rose climbers in the interior courtyard. He planted a Canary Island Date Palm in the exterior courtyard, where a very tall Canary Island Date Palm had once stood (we know this from an historic photo). He selected and delivered a large boulder for future placement.



Over several days, Declan's team cleaned up fallen leaves and branches around the pool area, uncovering benches buried in leaf litter. Declan planted four dozen Amaryllis belladonna / Naked Lady bulbs in drifts in the grove, a Pigmy Date Palm in the courtyard, two Creeping Fig vines around the fountain, and transplanted potted Birds of Paradise into the grove.

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## IS YOUR PROPERTY FIRESAFE?

With the awful fire season we all just survived, it's worth reviewing what you can do to help prevent and protect your property from fire. While our canyon does for the most part enjoy lots of moisture, ocean air and natural springs, we also are in what is considered by the City of LA to be a Very High Fire Hazard Zone. So, what can you do? First of all, visit the Los Angeles Fire Department website at [www.lafd.org/](http://www.lafd.org/). It is well organized and very easy to search and read.

Know ahead of time your escape route. How will you get out of the house? What items will you want to bring? Can you grab those quickly, without slowing you down? How will you get any pets in the car? Next you should have thought out several possible routes of escape out of the canyon. Our canyon does have limited ways in and out, but there are smaller back streets that connect to Mesa, Amalfi, Entrada, West Channel or Sunset. Do you know what they are?

All of Pacific Palisades, including Santa Monica Canyon, is located in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) per LAFD and is subject to stringent brush clearance regulations. Here are a few excerpts from the Fire Code:

- Remove all dead trees and shrubs.
- Maintain 5 feet of vertical clearance between roof surfaces and portions of overhanging trees and shrubs (i.e., any overhanging foliage must be at least 5 feet above the roof).
- Remove any portion of a tree or shrub within 10-foot radius of a chimney outlet.
- Maintain the roofs of all structures free of leaves, needles, twigs and other combustible matter.
- Remove all dead/dry undergrowth and material within trees and shrubs to include all dead or dry palm fronds/branches.
- Remove and safely dispose of all cut or bagged vegetation, all dead trees and all debris. This includes all combustible junk, trash or debris that may be on your property, regardless of how it got there.
- For a complete list of brush clearance requirements, visit LAFD.org/Brush
- Only nonsparking cutting blades may be used for grass or brush clearance.
- No brush clearance on Red Flag Days

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## Firesafe Your Property, continued

- An approved fire extinguisher or pressurized garden hose with attached nozzle must be within 10 feet of any brush clearance operation.
- A operable cell phone capable of dialing 911 shall be readily accessible.

This is not a complete list of regulations. For complete details, please visit [www.LAFD/Brush.org](http://www.LAFD/Brush.org). Violators could face hefty fines. Our Annual Meeting on May 14 at Rustic Canyon Rec. Center will feature a discussion on fire safety in our canyon led by West Los Angeles Fire Deputy Chief Armando Hogan.

## NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE!!

The next disaster may be a fire, an earthquake, explosion or something else. You have heard that after a disaster, we may be on our own for several days. How can you prepare? One tested program is called Map Your Neighborhood; it helps you and your neighbors plan ahead in an organized way. Do you know who on your block will need special assistance, who has special expertise? Learn the first 9 Steps to Take Immediately Following a Disaster to secure your home and protect your neighborhood. It is hard to think clearly following disaster. These steps will help you to quickly and safely take actions that can minimize damage and protect lives.

Identify the Skills and Equipment Inventory each neighbor has that are useful in an effective disaster response. Knowing which neighbors have supplies and skills ensures a timely response to a disaster and allows everyone to contribute to the response in a meaningful way.



It is time to learn about the Map Your Neighborhood emergency response program. The MYN program is complimentary to Neighborhood Watches and CERT training. Create a Neighborhood Contact List that identifies those with specific needs such as the elderly, those with a disability, or homes where children may be alone during certain hours of the day. Work together as a team to evaluate your neighborhood after a disaster and take the necessary actions. For information contact the Santa Monica Red Cross, [Julie.thomas@redcross.org](mailto:Julie.thomas@redcross.org), or community leader Cathi Ruddy at [cbsruddy@aol.com](mailto:cbsruddy@aol.com). Get their training CD and Map Your neighborhood!! Be prepared!

## Aircraft Noise Continues

Our Aircraft Noise mavens, Debbie Warfel and Wes Hough, are keeping to pressure on our elected government officials to let them know that aircraft noise continues unabated over our canyon. We need more voices telling our local representatives to instill a culture shift in the FAA. The FAA's laissez faire attitude permits pilots to shortcut over our canyon. This will not change until the FAA hears our message loud and clear. Be part of the solution by contacting your elected representatives. For details on who and how to contact, please visit [www.smcca.org](http://www.smcca.org) and navigate to Documents and Pages and follow the information on how you can HELP END AIRCRAFT NOISE OVER OUR CANYON. It only takes a minute to file a complaint and do a good deed toward creating a quieter canyon! Your comments to these representatives as well as your contributions help us fight the scourge of loud, low-flying commercial aircraft. Thank you.

## Marquez Cemetery Rededicated

On June 23rd, 2018 under clear blue Canyon skies, members of the Santa Monica Canyon Marquez and Reyes original Rancho Boca de Santa Monica land grant families, gathered with neighbors and friends at the Marquez family Cemetery at 637 San Lorenzo Street. The families honored their ancestors in a very special way when a monument to the deceased was unveiled. The tiled monument was created and designed by Diana Mausser of Native tile and she received help from family historian Ernest Marquez. The Monument lists all of the deceased that are buried in the little Canyon Cemetery including the dog that



belonged to Sam Carson who lived in the Canyon. With 120 in attendance members of the family told stories about the family and the Rancho Boca de Santa Monica land grant. Randy Young, our local canyon historian, spoke of the history of the cemetery. After the ceremony, the guests enjoyed live Mariachi band and folklore dancers. It was a wonderful day of history in Santa Monica Canyon honoring all those historic settlers.



## Park Update, continued

Thank you and congratulations, Declan and Ben!

Our neighborhood volunteer cadre continues to monitor the health of the historic grove. Alternating weeks, they check that plants are watered, fallen limbs removed and new planting is healthy and fed. They also monitor the landscaping in the historic courtyard. Say hello when you see them and lend a hand if you can. David Card is team leader and the members include Tina Beebe, Chris



Casady, Len Guida and Scott Pregerson. Randy Young and George Wolfberg lend an occasional hand. Your donations help the team purchase replacement materials, and assure that water system repairs may be timely made. Recreation and Parks has been our willing partner since the grove restoration started. As you can see, above, the recent rains have been well received! A large thanks to all for your grove donations.

The annual Gala Rustic Night Party is September 21, 2019. Save the date for this glorious event. Park Advisory Board (PAB) Chair and party planner extraordinaire, Veslemoey Zwart, promises another fabulous party. Be sure SMCCA has your email address so you are notified of the details. Last year's Rockabilly-themed event raised \$80,000 that was graciously matched by LA Parks Foundation. With the painters and other City of LA Recreation and Parks workers, the following has now been completed: refreshed window grills, new iron address numbers, new ceramics kiln, all new windows, a re-framed "Echo of the Jinx" fresco repair in the Courtyard, plus a repainting of the exterior, interior, doors and windows, in colors from the Uplifters' days. After peeling back the colors of the windows, the original beautiful green hue was found and matched. A great year for our Rustic Community Center, quite the "facelift"! 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. The PAB team is moving ahead with plans to replace the stage curtain as soon as funds are available. The Clubhouse will be 100 years old on May 23, 2023...the PAB is working toward a wonderful celebration!

For information on classes and/or to be involved with the PAB, please contact the park director: [paige.barnes@lacity.org](mailto:paige.barnes@lacity.org).

## Classroom Replacement Project for Canyon Charter School

In May 2018, LAUSD presented a series of plans during an informal community meeting held at the school. Temporary structures will be replaced on a multi-year program which is nearing completion with Canyon Charter School up next. The Canyon campus is not compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and contains temporary structures which are not approved by the California State Architect.

The Approved Project Definition includes two phases of work. Phase I is scheduled to commence construction Summer 2019 and will involve removal and replacement of two classrooms into one relocatable building. This work is scheduled to be completed during the summer session when school is out. Phase II is scheduled to start one year later and will include removal and replacement of nine new classrooms in a new 2-story building. This work is expected to last two years. Many questions were raised about the project including inadequate public notice to the neighbors and how parking will be accommodated for project workers and faculty/staff going forward.

This Spring, LAUSD has promised a second meeting to present expanded designs for the project. LAUSD will provide a 7-10 day advance notice of the meeting via flyers. SMCCA will also circulate notice of the meeting via emails we have on file. Stand by!



## News in Brief

- Last month, the annual count of homeless persons in Los Angeles took place. Official final counts were not available at press time. We understand the numbers in our canyon area are down. There are no known encampments on our hillsides and many people now are living in their cars.
- At SMCCA's request, LADWP increased safety by raising the lumens of the utility light adjacent to the Stassi Lane bus stop. Some residents have advocated for a marked cross walk at that location. In order to create the legally required ADA accessible path across the street, guardrails must be reconfigured and utility poles moved along with sidewalk changes, raising the total cost of this project to around \$3 million with no funding in sight.
- Speed limits on city streets are set after engineering studies. These studies expired and so did enforcement. Newly completed studies will result in higher, but enforceable, limits on local streets including Entrada and West Channel Rd. which increase to 30 mph and Chautauqua to 35 mph. Once new speed limit signs are installed, expect enforcement.

## News in Brief (continued)

- Recently, Palisades High School was named US News & World Report's Best Charter School.
- We have a new WLA Police Commander. We welcome Capt. III Vic Davalos, who has promised to retain our highly effective Beach Patrol.
- LA County next year will extend the Beach Walk Path from Santa Monica to Temescal Canyon Parking Lot to separate bicyclists from strollers and walkers.
- As part of the SMCCA's ongoing advocacy for protection of pedestrians along the Coast Highway, Caltrans has erected several tunnel-specific directional signs to direct pedestrians.
- Construction of a new 46 acre park and trails in neighboring Potrero canyon is under way and strong advocacy for a ped bridge across PCH has begun. To weigh in on this lifesaving project, contact: [councilmember.bonin@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.bonin@lacity.org).

### BOARD MEMBERS

Lisa Bittan	Henry Lichstein
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Sharon Kilbride	George Wolfberg
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## Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association

Founded 1947

P.O. Box 3441 Santa Monica, CA 90408-3441

[info@smcca.org](mailto:info@smcca.org)

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[smcca.org](http://smcca.org)

## 2019 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, fighting aircraft noise 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.

Your board meets on the second Tuesday of most months at 601 Latimer Rd. We post agendas at [www.smcca.org](http://www.smcca.org). Our annual meeting is May 14 at 7 pm. WLA Fire Deputy Chief Armando R. Hogan will be our featured speaker on fire safety in our canyon. Please save the date.

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

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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, x1
West LA Police Station	1.310.444.0702
<b>Or, download the MyLA311 App to your phone.</b>	

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

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