

# SANTA MONICA CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

My name is Marilyn Wexler and I am the president of the Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association, or SMCCA. SMCCA is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit community based organization. Our nominal boundaries overlap with PPCC Area 7 plus small portions of adjacent areas 6 & 8. We have a few members far and wide across the country who have moved but remain local property owners. Paid/voting membership currently is 379 persons, including several local businesses. We mail our newsletter to **all** residents and businesses within our boundaries. We maintain an email list of over 900 names and send out periodic messages of interest to our community.

SMCCA incorporated in 1947 and are one of the oldest community organizations in the state. We are governed by a Board of Directors elected to overlapping two-year terms at our annual meetings held each year in May.

The board holds **public** meetings monthly at Rustic Canyon Recreation Center in the historic Clubhouse and all are invited to attend. We have a website, [www.smcca.org](http://www.smcca.org), and receive thousands of hits each year. We have representation at the PCH Task Force and attend C-PAB meetings as needed to advocate for local issues.

SMCCA brokered the donation of Rustic Canyon park from Mabelle Machris in 1953. A year later in 1954, SMCCA contributed to the City one-third of the purchase price of the historic eucalyptus grove site. This double-landmarked parcel was part of the first US Forestry Station. We recently made substantial improvements to the grove including new paths, stunning trellises, irrigation and landscape work.

This week we have supported the planting of new landscaping in the Clubhouse Courtyard which also has been painted and equipped with new historically accurate doors from funds raised at the annual Rustic Night gala fundraiser. Please attend this Saturday. Tickets are available at [www.laparksfoundation.org](http://www.laparksfoundation.org)

Through the years, the association has been involved in many battles to protect our community including

- Currently leading the fight to reverse actions of FAA rogue controllers who allow large passenger jets to short-cut over the Palisades and our canyon instead of continuing over the ocean, and also in past years:
- Helping to wring concessions from Santa Monica to reduce the impact of the California Incline closure.
- supporting Proposition 20, the Coastal Act;
- fighting a proposal to construct a causeway in the ocean from Santa Monica to Malibu as well as, a proposal to construct numerous condos each with a woodburning fireplace at the canyon mouth,
- supporting and participating actively in the No Oil fight and the fight against polluting leafblowers,,
- monitoring efforts to clean up our ocean, and we are continuing to
- advocate for improvements in bicycle and pedestrian facilities at the beach, as well as
- to provide safe routes for children attending our local Canyon Charter elementary school.
- We also are vigilant when it comes to out of scale development and have met with the Coastal Commission to support neighbors impacted by view-blocking rooftop party decks.
- AND, Clean and safe beach tunnels are a priority as is the need for better signage to direct highway jaywalking pedestrians toward the tunnels.

As you can see many of our issues are YOUR issues too.

Finally, homelessness is a major concern and we financially support the Task Force on Homelessness' outreach efforts to divert homeless to appropriate and necessary services. I must commend Sharon Kilbride, one of two former Citizens of the Year on our board, for her heroic efforts regarding the tunnels and homelessness.

I have as handouts for you: a few of our newsletters and a map of the iconic stairways and pedestrian walkways that distinguish our canyon.