



Dear Neighbors,

Going out for the paper early this morning I was greeted with sweet smells in the chilly air. It was the scent of orange blossoms, freesias and jasmine blooming in someone's yard nearby. I don't have to look at a calendar to know that Spring is arriving in Nichols Canyon.

While winter is usually the time to burrow in and go fallow, we've been very busy here in the Canyon. Our Neighborhood Association has added many new neighbors. There was the birth of several little babies and the addition of many new fur friends as well. Welcome! Welcome to all of you!!!

Far from being "fallow", the Winter months were very active. An outgrowth of our Autumn Street Party was the start-up of a Nichols Canyon Book Club at Susan Proffitt-Wattles home, a meditation class every other Monday evening at Robert Conrad's, and a few fun neighborhood "tours" given by long-time resident Sandy Martin—the "Mayor of Mulholland". With the discovery of all the kids in the Canyon, parents are organizing playgroups and hopefully will have a toddlers' "home school" pulled together for the Fall.

In addition, our CPR training class, held right here in a neighbor's living room, certified 28 residents in CPR for infants, children, and adults as well as in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and skills in choking situations. Due to demand, another training session will be held the end of April. Look for more details soon.

Your generous response to our Neighborhood Holiday Clothing Drive was nothing less than overwhelming. You literally filled the garage of Stacy Sillins and Elio Lupi with so much wonderful clothing, shoes, towels and blankets! The staff of Hollywood's PATH (People Helping the Homeless) were blown-away (no exaggeration!) as they made five trips up here and filled their large van to the top.

We also joined with some other hillside and valley neighbors to do a "Food for Change" drive over the MLK/Call to Service weekend. Between what was collected in our neighborhood and at 6 grocery stores we helped to staff, we gathered over 8000 pounds of food to restock food pantries in Hollywood, Studio City and Venice.

Our Neighborhood Watch program is working well. Thanks to your vigilance and pro-active response, the thefts from mailboxes and unlocked cars seem to have quieted down (knock on wood). We are very pleased to tell you that we have developed a terrific working relationship with our new LAPD Hollywood precinct Captain Bea Girmala. She was born in and still is a resident of Hollywood. Captain Girmala is very committed to us and is already trying to see how to help in some of areas we're having problems like Runyon Canyon. Despite some personnel shifts at the LAPD we are lucky to keep Ralph as our SLO. As soon as we have the date and place, we'll be announcing a "coffee and dessert" evening for you, Captain Girmala and Ralph to meet. Stay tuned!

There is more to come!!! If you have ideas and want to get involved in any way, please let us know.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".