
FRIENDS - OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • 1122 Oak Street, Santa Monica, California 90405 • (310) 358-7117

FALL 2000 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

Yes on MM - Stop Airport Noise!

The communities surrounding the Santa Monica Airport are in need of your support in the upcoming November election. Proposition MM was placed on the ballot by the Santa Monica City Council in response to the pleas of the neighborhoods surrounding the Santa Monica Airport for a more effective Noise Abatement Policy.

Jet traffic at our local airport has increased 55% in the last three years. There were 449 noise violations in 1999. Only seven of them were sanctioned. There were

Continued on page 3

President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather we had this summer and took some time off. It is hard to believe that it is already Annual Meeting time again. Last year everyone enjoyed our historical perspective on Sunset Park, so we decided to expand the theme. This year it will be "Sunset Park - Past, Present and Future." I would like to talk a little about the "Future" part. As Friends representative to the Santa Monica Neighborhood Council networking group, I hear every month the prob-

Continued on page 3

2000 Election - A Message from the Board

Friends of Sunset Park was formed by a nucleus of neighbors who felt that there was a compelling need for a pro-active neighborhood organization that could serve two key roles: 1) to provide information and services to its neighborhood, and 2) to represent the concerns of our membership in the arenas where decisions affect our neighborhood.

Some of the issues affecting the quality of life in our neighborhood are inescapably political in nature. Resolution of neighborhood issues depends not only on facts and the desires of the neighborhood, but also on the makeup of our City Council.

Our founding Directors structured our Articles of Incorporation so that Friends may participate in political issues or processes. Our Directors have been very active in the community and have developed considerable insight and a useful perspective on the City Council candidates. Based on these insight and perspective, the Friends of Sunset Park Board of Directors recommends the following candidates who we feel will strongly support a pro-neighborhood agenda.

We urge you to enlighten yourselves about all candidates and measures, look carefully at the sources of your information. MOST IMPORTANTLY, VOTE!

Santa Monica - How Are We Doing on Preservation?

by Tom Cleys

In a city as forward thinking as ours, in a community known for its activism, did you know that there is no citizen preservation advocacy group? Los Angeles has the LA Conservancy. Pasadena has Preservation Pasadena. We do have a Landmarks Commission and the Santa Monica Historical Society. But there is no citizens' advocacy group organized to look out for our heritage found in buildings and landmarks, and Santa Monica has a very rich heritage to preserve.

Here are a few facts that many of the long-time residents may know but many new comers likely do not.

- ★ The original City was roughly one third the size of what it is today. Three separate annexations occurred through the 1920's to comprise what is present day Santa Monica. Present day Sunset Park was part of the first area annexed into the City in 1905.
- ★ The area south of Pico Boulevard that includes present day Sunset Park was part of the Rancho La Ballona land grant. *Rancho La Ballona* also included what we know today as Marina del Rey.
- ★ Santa Monica's founder, Senator Joseph P. Jones, had a grand 17 bedroom mansion known as "Miramar." It was demolished in 1938, and the present day hotel on the same site bears its name.
- ★ With its growth in the early 1900's, the City built a new mission style City

Continued on page 3

City Council Election
Recommendations
Richard Bloom
Michael Feinstein
Ken Genser

SM Airport Park Project Seeks Residents' Input for Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

The City of Santa Monica is currently taking public comment on the elements that should be studied during the EIR for the proposed Santa Monica Airport Park Project. You may comment and give your input on what will be studied and included in the EIR. A public "scoping" meeting to discuss the elements for the study and to provide your comments to the City will be held at the Ocean Park Library (Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd.) on Thursday, October 5 at 7 PM. If you cannot attend the meeting, written comments should be sent by 4 PM on October 16, 2000 to Karen Ginsberg, Assistant Director, Community and Cultural Services, 1685 Main Street, Room 210 Santa Monica, California, 90401, telephone (310) 458-8310. The first step in the process (an initial study) is available at the City Planning Division Public Counter, 1685 Main Street, Room 110, Santa Monica, California 90401, and the Fairview Library.

This project entails the development of a portion of the non-aviation land at the Santa Monica Airport for recreation/open space uses. The proposed project includes a walking path and streetscape improvements, the development of approximately five acres of play fields with surrounding lawns and restrooms, child's play areas, and an approximately 1.4 acre off leash dog area. Also, two options for onsite parking are being considered. Option 1 would provide 80 spaces adjacent to Donald Douglas Loop west of the park. Option 2 would provide 150 spaces north of the park in a portion of the existing midlevel tie down area. One of these parking projects will be selected with the project approval.

The City has determined that an Environmental Impact Report will be required to analyze the environmental effects of the proposed project. Environmental factors which would be potentially affected by this project include land use/planning, transportation/traffic, neighborhood effects, and mandatory findings of significance.

Ocean Park Boulevard Crosswalks Approved

by Ed Moosbrugger

The Santa Monica City Council has approved several crosswalk enhancements for Ocean Park Boulevard in Sunset Park. At its Aug. 8 meeting, the council authorized the city staff to prepare construction drawings.

Changes planned for Ocean Park Boulevard east of Lincoln Boulevard include:

- ★ In-pavement flashers and curb extensions on the eastern side of 16th Street. The flashers consist of a series of lights embedded in the pavement along a marked crosswalk that are directed toward motorists and a pedestrian crossing sign with flashing lights. Pedestrians activate the system by pushing a button.
- ★ The curb extensions, which are designed to improve visibility, will not extend beyond the width of the parked cars on Ocean Park Boulevard. The crosswalk will also be zebra-striped (a pattern that consists of painted vertical striping about two feet wide alternating with a wide section of unpainted pavement). Once this crosswalk is installed, the school crossing guard will be relocated to 16th Street from the signalized intersection at 17th Street.
- ★ Zebra-striping the signalized crosswalk at 17th Street.
- ★ In-pavement flashers and curb extension at 18th Street. A zebra-striped crosswalk will be added from the northwestern-most corner of 18th Street in conjunction with installation of an in-pavement flasher system and curb extensions. The curb extensions will fit within the existing red curb zones and should not require removal of on-street parking spaces, according to the city staff report.
- ★ A marked crosswalk on the eastern leg of the signalized intersection of 25th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard to provide direct access to Clover Park. This will require the construction of new wheelchair ramps.
- ★ A new zebra-striped uncontrolled crosswalk from the northeast corner of 30th Street to just west of the driveway on the south side of Ocean Park Boulevard. A new pathway will be cut through the median, avoiding the existing trees.
- ★ Zebra-striping for the signalized intersection at Lincoln Boulevard.



Some crosswalk changes are also planned on Ocean Park Boulevard west of Lincoln. Improvements are expected to be completed by Spring 2002.

For information, contact Ellen Gelbard, deputy director of planning and community development, at (310) 458-2275.

Although Friends of Sunset Park supports crosswalk improvements, its board of directors urged the city to do more on Ocean Park Boule-

Santa Monica College Faces Growth Crunch

Karen Comegys and Ed Moosbrugger

Santa Monica College (SMC) is reaching close to capacity on its main campus because of facilities limitations, according to SMC President Piedad Robertson and some trustees. SMC faces a dilemma because part of the state funding for the college is tied to enrollment growth. Some trustees have stated that action in Sacramento may be necessary to change the formula on how community colleges are funded to help alleviate the problem and lessen the pressure to grow.

The discussion comes after years of enrollment expansion, which has poured increased traffic into surrounding neighborhoods. It's not clear exactly where SMC is headed on growth because the college's wish list still includes a new, larger liberal arts building and new parking facilities. The college wants to tap city earthquake redevelopment funds to help finance some of the work.

Friends of Sunset Park is concerned about how SMC's plans will affect the surrounding neighborhoods and Santa Monica as a whole.

Meanwhile, a parking structure designed to replace Structure B destroyed by the Northridge earthquake is scheduled to come before the City Council on Oct. 3.

The Planning Commission at its July 19 meeting identified several issues that should be addressed before the council considers approving the development agreement for the project. The issues include traffic flow and coordination of construction of the replacement parking structure with the opening of the new municipal pool under construction at SMC.

Friends of Sunset Park asked the Planning Commission to consider how the parking facility would affect traffic and the surrounding neighborhoods, and to weigh alternative parking issues.

F R I E N D S - O F S U N S E T P A R K

Preservation, continued from page 1

Hall at 3rd and Santa Monica Blvd., had a beautiful Carnegie funded central library at 5th and Santa Monica Blvd., and several other notable municipal buildings, including several schools, built in this same era. All these buildings are gone today.

- ★ Homes began to spring up in what is now Sunset Park in the early 1900's as part of the development of Ocean Park by Abbot Kinney. Abbot Kinney later moved on to develop Venice.
- ★ Most of present day Sunset Park did not begin to be subdivided and built until the early 1920's. Many of these early homes still exist, including a large number of them around 21st and 22nd streets between Pearl Street and Pico Boulevard.
- ★ Sunset Park grew dramatically during the war years. Our growth was largely attributed to the location of the airport in our community that became the site of the Douglas Aircraft plant, formerly located at 26th and Wilshire until 1929.
- ★ Douglas' employment, at what was originally known as Clover Field, grew to over 40,000 at its peak during WWII. To be able to house these workers, zoning guidelines were relaxed and many "boot-leg" units were built in a city that heretofore had been predominately single family. It was in this same period that apartments buildings began to be built.
- ★ Sunset Park bears the name of a small park located on Ashland Avenue just west of 17th Street. There is no sign that identifies the park.

If you are interested in researching the history of your home or another building, a publication is available at the Santa Monica Public library entitled *How to Research Buildings in Santa Monica* (call # F720.9794H). You can find out such information as when it was built, when and what alternations were made to it, who the architect was, and who and how many owners it has had.

If you interested in historical preservation, the history of your community, and how it develops into the future, you can contact Tom Cleys either through the Friends of Sunset Park web site, or leave a message at (310) 358-7117.

Crosswalks, continued from page 2

ward. In an August 3 letter to the City Council, FOSP noted that "our neighborhood strongly supports crosswalk enhancements" but FOSP's board is "very concerned about the lack of a comprehensive traffic and/or streetscape plan for Ocean Park Boulevard between Lincoln Boulevard and 28th Street."

The FOSP board asked the City Council to commission a comprehensive study of that section of Ocean Park Boulevard as soon as possible. "The study should address ways to improve the flow of traffic on Ocean Park Boulevard," the FOSP board resolution said. "Consideration must be given to safeguarding our children who attend Will Rogers and Grant Elementary Schools, along with John Adams Middle School. These schools are all within one block of Ocean Park Blvd. A streetscape design that will give continuity to all of Ocean Park Blvd. should also be included."

Note: The crosswalk plans will be on display at our Annual Meeting on October 14, 2000

Friends of Sunset Park
7th Annual Red Cross Blood Drive
January 17, 2001
Mt . Olive Church (14th and Ocean Park)
2:30 - 8:30 PM

In addition to blood donors, we need volunteers to help with scheduling, set up, check in, and the canteen. Our blood drive started in 1995 to commemorate the anniversary of the Northridge earthquake and honor the police and fire fighters who came to our aid during our time of need. For info call (310) 358-7117.

Friends of Sunset Park Web Site

<http://www.friendsofsunsetpark.org>, the new Friends' website, is now on line! The site contains our standing committees, how to become a member, how to contact Santa Monica services and Council Members, and a City Calendar. Our plan is to use the Current Event section to let our members know about important issues and meetings that affect our neighborhood. Many thanks to Maryanne Solomon and Joan Charles of Art Meets Technology for designing the site.
www.artmeetstechnology.com

Airport Noise, continued from page 1

over 50 noise violations during this past July alone. No sanctions issued. The neighborhoods in the flight path are being bombarded by these violations on a daily basis. The quality of life is diminishing.

Currently, the city charter mandates a cap of \$500 for violations of the law. Proposition MM can change that. The \$500 fine is pocket change for the corporations and individuals who can afford to own or rent their own private jet.

- ★ The current charter mandated \$500 cap has been in place since 1907.
- ★ Proposition MM will allow the City of Santa Monica to raise fines above the \$500 cap for violations of the law. This is an important step in allowing the city to restructure the noise abatement policy at the Santa Monica Airport and to effectively enforce it.
- ★ This proposition will not allow the City to wantonly raise fines. Any changes in city fines will continue to go through the current public process requirements.
- ★ This proposition was unanimously endorsed by the City Council.

VOTE YES ON MM

Donations to support Proposition MM can be made payable to "YES ON MM and sent to: YES ON MM, c/o Cathy Larson, 1722 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90405-5914.

If you are interested in volunteering to help Prop. MM, call (310)392-1907 or denyerla@aol.com.

President's Message, continued from page 1

lens faced by other Santa Monica residents with overdevelopment of their neighborhoods. In Sunset Park we have been blessed with a low-density suburban environment. However, as other areas are built to the limits, I anticipate a big push in the future for development in Sunset Park. So now is the time to think about what we want for the future of Sunset Park. To help the Board of Directors envision this, we are going to ask you to write down your ideas for us at the Annual Meeting (and on your renewal dues form). This will help Friends continue to be pro-active in our work to keep Sunset Park a good place to live.

Kathy Knight

F R I E N D S - O F S U N S E T P A R K



Friends of Sunset Park

presents the 11th annual

Celebrate Sunset Park

Annual meeting and election of Board of Directors

This year's theme

"Sunset Park: Past, Present, and Future"

- ✦ Come see Historic Photos of Santa Monica.
- ✦ Listen to the John Adams String Quartet.
- ✦ Share with us your vision for the future of Sunset Park.
 - ✦ Learn about volunteer activities.
 - ✦ Visit Community Booths.

Listen to Music, Enjoy Refreshments,
and

Meet Your Neighbors.

Saturday, October 14TH, 2-4 PM

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 1343 Ocean Park Blvd.,
(corner of 14th Street and Ocean Park Blvd.)

If you have history to share with us or want more information,
call FRIENDS at (310) 358-7117

J O I N F R I E N D S - O F S U N S E T P A R K

2 0 0 1 M E M B E R S H I P

Name (s) _____

I will help with:

Membership Dues:

___ Crime & Safety Committee

___ \$25 Regular Household Dues

___ Airport Committee

___ \$50 or \$100 for Sponsor

___ College Committee

___ \$10 Minimum Household Dues

Address _____

___ Library Committee

___ Annual Meeting Committee

Membership Status (Please check):

Zip _____ Phone _____

___ Other _____

___ New ___ Renewal

Email _____

Please make check payable to *Friends of Sunset Park*.

What positive improvements would you like to see happen in Sunset Park? _____

Please forward to 1122 Oak Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405 as soon as possible so that we can continue our efforts.

(Contact our Membership Committee at (310) 358-7117 for senior/fixed income membership dues.)
