

FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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

MAY 2003 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

President's Message

“What I Like about Sunset Park!”
That's the theme for our 2003 Annual Meeting. It will be held on Saturday, June 7th from 2 to 4 PM in the Fellowship Hall at Mt. Olive Church. The parking lot entrance is on 14th Street just north of Ocean Park Blvd.

We are extremely lucky to have a hardworking and very congenial Board of Directors—Past President Kathy Knight, Vice President Tom Cleys, Secretary Karen Comegys, Treasurer Cathy Larson, and Board members Caroline Denyer, Emmalie Hodgin, and Ellen Mark. They've planned an informative and entertaining afternoon of activities for you, beginning with a short performance by the Senior Girls' Chorus from John Adams Middle School.

A member of the city's Planning Division staff will talk to us about the Interim Development Ordinance which is now in effect in Sunset Park and answer any questions you may have.

We'll have brief updates from our Airport, College, Fairview Library, and Historic Preservation committees. Electing the Board of Directors for 2002–2003 will also be an important part of the activities. And, we will be asking members of the audience to tell us “What I Like about Sunset Park.”

Beautiful art work by students at John Adams Middle School will be on exhibit as well as displays from the Santa Monica Conservancy, the Santa Monica Historical Society, the Santa Monica Fire Department, and the Santa Monica Police Department.

There will be plenty of refreshments and, at the end of the meeting, a raffle! We hope that you will come out to see old friends, make new ones, and have a good time!

An article in the May 11th edition of the L.A. Times described our neighborhood in this way:

“A mingling of generations graces Sunset Park. Called ‘the last Ozzie and Harriet area on the Westside,’ Santa Monica's Sunset Park is a place where retirees live next to young families and neighbors gather at block parties, the parks, or the shops along Ocean Park Boulevard. On weekends, people can be

Friends of Sunset Park

A non-profit neighborhood association
dedicated to working for the interests of all residents in Sunset Park

Annual Meeting

Mt. Olive Church, 14th & Ocean Park Blvd.

Saturday, June 7, 2003, 2:00 to 4:00 PM

“What I Like about Sunset Park”

—Musical Entertainment—

Senior Girls' Chorus and soloists from John Adams Middle School,
directed by Cecile Blanchard

—Development Standards for Sunset Park—

Presentation from the city's Planning Division,
plus a question and answer session

—Graffiti—

Where's it popping up? What can we do about it?

—Santa Monica Airport—

Is the new noise ordinance working?

—Santa Monica College—

What does the future hold in terms of traffic and parking issues?

—Fairview Library—

When's it open? Do they have bestsellers?
Can I access the card catalog from my home computer?

—Historic Preservation—

Did you know that the original buildings at Grant Elementary and John Adams Middle School date from the 1930's, that Rogers Elementary dates from 1948, and that Barnum Hall at Santa Monica High School, built in 1937, was the original Santa Monica Civic Auditorium?

—Election of the Board of Directors—

Displays from the John Adams Middle School Art Department,
the Santa Monica Conservancy, the Santa Monica Historical Society,
and the Santa Monica Police Department.

—Refreshments and Raffle—

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seen meeting and chatting as they walk along shady sidewalks, enjoying the ocean breezes.”

That's what I like about Sunset Park!

See you at the Annual Meeting on June 7th!

Zina Josephs

“My History in Santa Monica”

BY GEORGE W. REID

The earliest I can recall is when I lived on Raymond Avenue. Raymond currently stops at 4th Street, but in 1933 it went all the way to the beach.

One evening, we heard on the radio that there was a large earthquake off the coast of Long Beach. They also said it was possible that a tidal wave would cover all the low areas and that we should go to higher ground. We walked up the street and caught a streetcar to Santa Monica Blvd. The streetcar used to run where Neilson Way is today. When we arrived in Santa Monica, the Palisades was crowded with people. There were very few cars then, so all of the kids played on Santa Monica Blvd.

My family then moved to 2823 Main St. It was an apartment building in 1934 but is currently a commercial building. In 1938, during the Depression, we used to go to Pico and Lincoln. There was a large lot there, and the government gave families free fruits and vegetables.

In 1942, we moved to 1523 Lincoln Blvd., where the Bay Cities Italian Deli and Bakery parking lot is currently located. I sold this property to Bay Cities when my mother passed away in 1972.

When we lived at 1523 Lincoln Blvd., I went to John Adams Junior High School, now John Adams Middle School. Will Rogers Elementary School had not yet been built. I also went to Santa Monica High School and Santa Monica City College. The college was on the northwest corner of Lincoln and Michigan at that time, and Michigan still went through to 4th St.

At that time, Santa Monica College was a trade school. If you wanted to be a carpenter, electrician, or plumber, this is where you went to school. At the corner of Lincoln and Colorado, where Denny's is now located, there was a gas station and tire recapping place, and I used to work there after school and on weekends. Across the street, where Norm's restaurant is currently located, was the city dump.

The Big Blue Bus did not exist at that time. There was, however, a small brown bus which used to go from Santa Monica south on Main Street, turn right on Pier Ave. and go west to the Boardwalk. It then drove onto a round turntable, turned around, loaded passengers, and returned to Santa Monica.

Just a few yards from the bus turntable were the Ocean Park Pier, the Dome Theater, and the Rosemary Theater. Also located in the same area was the Aragon Ballroom. We used to go dancing there on Friday and Saturday nights. All the big bands and singers performed at the Aragon, including Tommy Dorsey, Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, and Lawrence Welk. My friends and I also used to gather at Hennis drive-in restaurant on 10th and Wilshire to have a soda and visit.

I enjoyed my life in Santa Monica very much.

City Staff to Speak at Annual Meeting about the “Monster Mansion” Ordinance Now Affecting Sunset Park

BY TOM CLEYS

A representative of the Santa Monica City Planning Division will be coming to speak to residents at the Friends of Sunset Park annual meeting on June 7th at 2 PM at Mt. Olive Church. The subject will be the impact of the interim ordinance that extended the so called “monster mansion” ordinance to Sunset Park. The speaker will address the general impact of the ordinance on remodeling and building new homes in Sunset Park and also discuss the reasons for its enactment. Another topic to be discussed will be the public process that

will take place in crafting an ordinance to create permanent standards.

This ordinance has a direct impact on the size of the home you can build and on what your neighbors can do as well. The speaker will take questions. However, if you are contemplating remodeling your current home or building a new one soon, you are encouraged to contact the City Planning Division at 458-8341 to get answers regarding your specific situation.

Record Sign-Up for FOSP Membership

We had a record response to our appeal in the winter newsletter for new members and membership renewals. The primary way we know we are doing a good job for the community is the number of members that sign up and your attendance at meetings. Our greatest efforts address the impact of the airport, Santa Monica College, safety and traffic, and, increasingly, development and historic preservation issues. We encourage everyone to renew memberships. If you believe in what FOSP is doing for the community, we ask that you invite your friends and neighbors to become members also.

We encourage your participation and attendance at our monthly meetings which are open to the public. After a summer hiatus, these meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 3rd. Our annual meeting is Saturday, June 7th at 2 PM. Except for our annual meeting, our meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at the meeting rooms at Mt. Olive Church at 14th and Ocean Park Blvd.

Members receive meeting notifications by mail and email. Non-members can confirm meeting dates by checking our website, www.friendsofsunsetpark.org, emailing us at friendsofsp@yahoo.com, or by leaving a message for us at 358-7117.

FOSP Can Help the Community Evaluate New Development

BY TOM CLEYS

The City of Santa Monica has had a long-standing policy of advising commercial property owners (retail, office, apartment buildings) who are remodeling or doing new building to contact the neighborhood group(s) in their part of the community in order to get feedback from the community that can improve the development and help understand the concerns of the community.

Owners have increasingly contacted FOSP, with the most notable example being the owner of a retail center at 2901 Ocean Park Blvd. who is proposing changes which include reconfiguring vehicular access. The owners accepted FOSP's invitation and presented their plans at a recent monthly meeting. The owner is also holding separate meetings with the immediate neighbors. The City encourages owners to involve the community in the process to make sure development is responsive to community concerns and so that owners do not have difficulty later in getting their project approved because of last minute community objections.

This is a voluntary program both for the owners and the community groups. Depending on participation from you, FOSP is considering sponsoring more such meetings. Generally, we plan on keeping such involvement limited to major development plans that we think will have a significant impact on the community. If you hear about new development and have questions, you can check the City's website for details or contact the City Planning Division at 458-8341. You are also welcome to contact FOSP regarding your concerns about development either by email (at friendsofsp@yahoo.com) or by leaving a voice mail message at 358-7117.

Council Approves Weight-Based Landing Fees for S.M. Airport

BY CATHY LARSON

On Tuesday, May 13, 2003, the Santa Monica City Council voted to amend a City Ordinance establishing Weight-Based Landing Fees at the Santa Monica Airport. In 2000, Airport Staff engaged the services of Pavement Consultants, Inc. (PCI) to conduct an analysis of the Airport's runway and taxiway pavement infrastructure. The results of this analysis showed a direct correlation between aircraft weight and degradation of pavement surface.

Pavement maintenance is essential to the safety of airport operations. PCI estimated costs of pavement maintenance and repair at \$8,060,000 for a 15 year period.

The ordinance amendment will distribute the responsibility for pavement maintenance proportionally according to the aircraft's respective weight, from no fee for light aircraft (under 10,000 pounds) to \$348 for aircraft approaching 60,000 pounds.

Based on both economic and safety issues, the Friends of Sunset Park Airport Committee supports the City Council's approval of Weight-Based Landing Fees.

Aircraft Emissions

BY CATHY LARSON

A meeting with the Ad Hoc Committee of Airport Commissioners, Environmental Task Force Members, and Airport Staff with the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has been in the planning stages for several months,

but no date has yet been agreed upon. The topic will be aircraft emissions and what can be done to mitigate their impact on the communities surrounding urban airports such as Santa Monica.

Pilots Association Sues City

BY CATHY LARSON

The Santa Monica Airport Association (SMAA), a group of local pilots, has sued the City of Santa Monica. Included in this lawsuit is a challenge to the 95 decibel (db) noise limit. The lawsuit is projected to last until June. The 95 db level is set forth in the 1984 Agreement between the FAA and the City of Santa Monica as protection for the community. The City is aggressively fighting to uphold this protection.

Unfortunately, this trial has kept city staff from working more aggressively on the Aircraft Conformance Standards and Safety Zone Implementation.

Airport Staff have had ongoing meetings with representatives from the FAA in Washington regarding the implementation of the Aircraft Conformance Standard (B-II Standard) and Safety Zones. These proposed safety enhancements would create "size appropriate" standards for aircraft utilizing Santa Monica Airport. Currently 50% of the jet aircraft (basically the larger ones) using the airport are not compliant with the FAA's own Safety Guidelines for the runway length at Santa Monica Airport. Also, Santa Monica Airport currently has no safety zones at the ends of the runway. Establishment of safety zones, a 300-foot declared distance of unusable runway at both runway ends, compliant with FAA standards, is paramount to the safety of the surrounding residences.

City to Remove Ficus Trees

The Open Space Management Division plans to remove and replace 23 mature ficus trees on 32nd Street between Pico and Ocean Park Blvd. A public meeting to discuss this project will be held on Wednesday, June 4, at 7:00 PM in the Marine Park Auditorium, 1405 Marine Street. For more information, contact Walter Warriner, Community Forester, at 458-8974.

Fairview Library

BY ELLEN MARK

The Fairview Branch Library is thriving. We are very fortunate to have Celia Carroll as the Library Director until the new Main Library reopens in two years.

The engraved brick fundraiser is continuing with great success. We already have achieved over 20% of our goal. Forms are available at the library or by calling 310-392-1306. Many thanks to all of you have given your support.

Mark Your Calendar for June 2nd! El Torito restaurant at 3360 Ocean Park Blvd. is donating 25% of the total food sales to the Fairview Branch to anyone who eats there between 11 AM and 10 PM. You must have a special flier that is available at the library or by calling 310-392-1306. What a fun and easy way to support your local library!

The theme for this summer's reading program for children and young adults is "Rainforest" and will highlight special events such as Darwin and his exotic rainforest reptiles in July.

Help a child learn to read this summer: volunteer now for one hour a week from June 23 to August 2. Call Sylvia at 310-450-0443 for details about upcoming orientation sessions.

Stop by Fairview if you have not already seen the branch since it was redone. Take a look at the "Happy to Be Back" Book Sale.

The temporary Main branch location is at 1324 5th Street. The entire library catalogue is accessible at: www.smpl.org.

How the State Budget Crisis Affects SMC

BY KAREN COMEGYS AND ED MOOSBRUGGER

Tom Donner, executive vice president of Santa Monica College, spoke at our April 2nd meeting. He gave us an update on how the State budget crisis will affect SMC: all classes at John Adams are canceled; September 2003 student fees probably will be \$24 per unit, up from \$11; some classes were cut and more reductions are likely. He also reported that the Library will open in the fall and will be available to the community. The Liberal Arts building will be replaced by new construction in the middle of the campus and the old building will be torn down, Donner reported. On traffic and parking, Donner said free shuttles will continue from the airport and parking on campus will be increased to \$75 from \$50. In the long term, SMC would like to change the shuttle route to run down Centinela and Bundy to Pico and then to a transit area on campus.

We appreciated Tom Donner's time and asked to be kept informed. Donner said he is willing to work with FOSP on issues such as transportation. As everything SMC does affects the neighborhood, we would like to work together.

To keep informed about spending under the \$160 million Measure U, go to the SMC web site at www.smc.edu, click on Administration & College Governance, then look under Board of Trustees and click on Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee.

Graffiti

BY ZINA JOSEPHS

How should homeowners respond if we find graffiti spray painted on our property? According to the Santa Monica Police Department, it's a good idea to photograph the graffiti. If it's a small felt pan "tag" on your trash containers, you may be able to wash it off. For more substantial graffiti, phone the Police Department at the non-emergency number, (310) 458-8491, and file a "vandalism" report.

If you see graffiti "in progress," phone 911. For help with painting over the markings, phone the Graffiti Removal Hotline at 458-2231. They will respond within 48 hours.

For more information, phone the Police Department Community relations officer assigned to Sunset Park, Mike Cveyich, at 458-8474.

2003 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Today's date _____

I will help with:

- Annual Meeting
- Crime and Safety
- Environmental Concerns
- Fairview Library
- Historic Preservation
- Planning and Development
- Public Schools
- Santa Monica Airport
- Santa Monica College
- Traffic, Parking, Pedestrian Safety

Membership Dues:

- \$30 Regular Household Dues
- \$50 or \$100 for Sponsor
- \$10 Minimum Household Dues
- Additional Donation

(Please check):

- New Renewal

*Please make check payable to "Friends of Sunset Park" and forward to:
1122 Oak Street,
Santa Monica, CA 90405.*

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