

FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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

SEPTEMBER 2003 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

President's Message

ZINA JOSEPHS

Congratulations to Tom Cleys, winner of the 2002–2003 FOSP “Emmalie” award, and thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting on June 7th. The program included beautiful music performed by student musicians from John Adams Middle School; a talk by Jonathan Lait, S.M. Planning Division, on the Interim Development Ordinance; an entertaining slide show narrated by Art Verge from the Santa Monica Historical society; reports from our able committee chairs; and the annual awarding of the Emmalie trophy to Tom Cleys, our hardworking FOSP Vice President. The election results for the Board of Directors were as follows: Tom Cleys, Karen Comegys, Caroline Denyer, Emmalie Hodgkin, Zina Josephs, Kathy Knight, Cathy Larson, Ellen Mark, and Suzanne Shellaby.

During the summer, Suzanne Shellaby informed us that she would need to resign from the Board, and Board members voted to appoint John Reynolds. John has run his own film and video production company since moving to California in 1980. He and his wife Christine moved into their Sunset Park home in 2001. Since then, John has been actively involved with the FOSP Airport Committee. As he has worked with citizen grassroots advocacy groups on domestic and global issues for over fifteen years, we feel very fortunate to have John join the Board and lend his expertise to our endeavors.

We look forward to a great year and to seeing many of you at our upcoming meetings on October 1st and November 5th. If you wish to place items on the agenda, please phone 358-7117 or email friendsofsp@yahoo.com

S.M. Airport News

CATHY LARSON

Airport Commission to Meet on September 22nd

The Santa Monica Airport Commission holds public meetings the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30pm at the Ken Edwards Center, 1527 Fourth St. (between Colorado and Broadway). Enter the driveway to FREE parking in the underground garage. The next meeting will be on September 22, 2003. Agendas are available online 72 hours before the meeting at http://pen.ci.santamonica.ca.us/resource_mgmt/airport.

Proposed Aircraft Conformance Plan in Jeopardy

Santa Monica City Staff has informed us of an FAA proposed statement of policy regarding weight based airport access restrictions. According to Rod Merle of Resource Management, Boeing Aircraft contacted the FAA regarding access to Teterboro Airport for business jets in excess of 100,000 lbs (visualize a 737 commonly used by Southwest Airlines). Teterboro, a general aviation airport, has had a weight restriction of 100,000 lbs for over 30 years. In recent years, because of its proximity to New York City, Teterboro has become a popular private business jet destination. Business jets are considered and

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JOIN FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

2003 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

 Address _____
 Zip _____ Phone _____
 Email _____
 Today's date _____

I will help with:
 Airport
 Annual Meeting
 Crime and Safety
 Environmental Concerns
 Fairview Library
 Historic Preservation
 Planning and Development
 Public Schools
 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.*

(If there is an asterisk on your mailing label, you do not need to pay dues until January.)

S.M. College Expands

KAREN COMEGYS

Santa Monica College is using Measure U bond funds to purchase residential property in Sunset Park. The College trustees on September 2 voted to buy the house at 1738 Pearl St. for \$700,000 plus costs.

SMC said the purchase will enable the district to expand while creating a buffer for the neighborhood and provide for future opportunities if the City decides to close Pearl Street.

The neighbors and the City have already told the College that they don't want SMC to expand into the neighborhood and they don't want Pearl Street closed, but it appears SMC has not heard us.

The action to buy the Pearl Street property came a month after SMC Trustees directed the college to continue working with the City to explore new ways the two can work together to address mutual planning issues.

Contrary to what SMC said about wanting to work with the neighborhood and reduce traffic problems, the college continues to move ahead intruding into residential zones and thinking about the possibility of closing off one of the main east-west streets in Sunset Park.

The purchase of property on Pearl Street was not on the list of Measure U projects presented to the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee at its last meeting in July.

It seems that the citizens of Santa Monica passed the \$160 million bond issue only to have some of these monies used to encroach into the surrounding neighborhood.

City Removing Ficus Trees

EXCERPTED FROM THE OCEAN PARK GAZETTE

Sept. 9 — The ficus trees on Yale Street north of Wilshire were granted a six months reprieve while residents and city staff work together to come up with a "win-win" solution. The tree removal project is part of a plan to eventually replace the city's 3200 ficus trees with more hardscape-friendly species. Once thought to be the ideal street tree, ficus are possessed of a dense, leafy canopies little bothered by either diseases or pests. Unfortunately, the roots have a tendency to grow under pavement, increasing in circumference until the concrete cracks and breaks.

According to the city, re-doing the curbs will necessitate massive root-pruning and the removal of many of the existing trees on Yale Street. Community Forester Walt Warriner said that root-pruning has already deprived the trees of most of their buttress roots, leaving them likely to fall during a heavy rain, wind storm, or earthquake.

Residents argued that the trees added not only to their property values but to the environment as well, cleaning carcinogenic properties out of the air and reducing energy needs by cooling the temperature. One resident commented, "I don't know how many of you have seen 32nd Street, but it's a disaster. It used to be a beautiful street." Ficus there were replaced with 36" box ginkgo bilobas, trees that are famously hardy but notoriously slow-growing. Another resident told city staff, "You dropped this on us with three weeks [notice]. This is not the way to get the community to buy in."

Citing Section 7, Section 19 of the California Environmental Quality Act, one resident stated that "CEQA requires an environmental review if you're removing a substantial number of trees." City staff agreed to push the Yale project to the back of the list and see what could be done about getting a six-month window in which the community and city to work together to formulate a more amenable solution.

FOSP Forms a Planning and Development Committee

TOM CLEYS

If you have lived in Sunset Park for a number of years, you have probably noticed the increase in traffic on many city streets. Rush hour on Pico Blvd., 23rd Street, Cloverfield, Centinela, and Olympic Blvd., to name a few, are clogged into the City in the morning and out of the City in the evening. We are seeing the impact of traffic from all the new office development that has taken place in our City over the last ten years, development now in Playa Vista, and growth at Santa Monica College.

This is one of the major reasons that residents of Sunset Park have come together and formed a Planning and Development Committee within Friends of Sunset Park. The areas that committee members have decided to focus on include:

- Traffic and Parking
- Mansionization
- Reviewing individual commercial projects within Sunset Park

- Potential improvements to the Commercial Development
- Airport development plans

We intend to keep an eye on any project within the City or in Los Angeles that will impact our quality of life. We are currently evaluating the impacts of the proposed 190,000 square foot expansion of the Lantana office development located between Olympic, Exposition, Centinela, and Stewart.

When new development projects of some size are planned in our community, the City Planning Division tries to elicit community input about the projects through the various community groups. The Planning and Development Committee will be reviewing any such development plans for FOSP. Our main objective will be to make the immediately impacted neighbors aware of the pending development and, in some cases, to hold meetings with the owners

and residents to facilitate community input. Once residents see what the project entails, they can express their views to City staff, the City Council, and to boards and commissions.

One such project is the retail center at 2901 Ocean Park Blvd., which contains Starbucks and Il Forno restaurant. The new owners of this center want to close off the entrance on Ocean Park Blvd. and add a new driveway on 30th Street. The Planning and Development Committee hopes to sponsor a community meeting to review final plans.

If you are interested in expressing your concerns to the Planning and Development Committee, please contact Tom Cleys at 310-452-9456 or email: tcleys@earthlink.net. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month. Please contact Tom for the location.

Parking Tickets During City Street Construction

The City is currently repairing sidewalks and driveways on a number of streets in Sunset Park, which sometimes makes it a challenge to find a place to park on "street cleaning" days. According to Allan Sheth, Civil Engineering Associate for the City of Santa Monica, it is City policy that parking enforcement officers do not ticket for a one-block radius on streets where City street construction activity is underway. If you should receive a parking ticket under these circumstances, please contact Mr. Sheth by phone at 458-8732 or by email at Allan-Sheth@ci.santa-monica.ca.us. Mr. Sheth cautions us that the policy applies only to City street projects and not to private construction projects at a specific site.

Sustainable Works

Ferris Kavar, Residential Program Manager for Sustainable Works, will speak at the October 1st FOSSP Board/Membership meeting and has sent us the following article:

How healthy is your home? Did you know that most household cleaning products and cosmetics are causing indoor air pollution?

Did you know that you can improve your cars gas efficiency with a few simple steps?

Did you know you can save hundreds of dollars per year on your utility bills with a few easy alterations to your daily habits?

Did you know you can eliminate three quarters of your junk mail in about fifteen minutes?

For answers to these questions and

many more like them, try a sustainable living class hosted free by Sustainable Works.

Courses are being held all over Santa Monica almost every night of the week. Give them a call to ask when a group in your area is meeting. The meetings are fun and informative, covering topics including water, energy, waste, chemicals, transportation, and consumer habits. Join us to build a better community.

To find out when a group in your area is meeting, phone Ferris Kavar at 458-8716 (ext. 1) or email kavar_ferris@smc.edu.



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regulated by the FAA as general aviation, not commercial aviation. Boeing is looking to expand their market for larger business jet aircraft and is pressuring the FAA for access for these aircraft at Teterboro.

Why Does This Effect Us?

Teterboro's weight restrictions are a *safety issue* based on the capacity of the runway and the airport design. Santa Monica's proposed Aircraft Conformance Program, which eliminates large Class C and D aircraft, is a *safety issue* based on the capacity of the runway and airport design.

The FAA proposal states that airports should accept aircraft *beyond* their design capacity a certain percentage of the time. The irony is that the FAA has always claimed that safety is their first priority. It is inappropriate for them to override their own safety standards. This proposed policy will endanger the ability of the City of Santa Monica to prevent large aircraft from using our airport.

The FOSSP Airport Committee encouraged all members to submit public comment to the Department of Transportation on this proposed policy before the Aug. 15, 2003 deadline, and we had over 70 responses. The communities surrounding Teterboro Airport had several hundred submissions. We will keep you posted.

Aircraft Emissions

Susan Mearns, Santa Monica Environmental Task Force, reported the following regarding the meeting between the Task Force/Airport Commission Ad Hoc Committee and the Air Quality Management District:

The Airport Ad Hoc Committee met with representatives from the AQMD on June 17, 2003. The AQMD expressed frustration at their inability to regulate the emissions from airports, ports and

trains, sources they believe are having an impact on the quality of air in the Southern California basin. AQMD did indicate they would participate in a study of the emissions from aircraft at Santa Monica Airport. The AQMD discussed collecting three months of data from multiple locations at S.M. Airport and from another comparable regional airport. The data will most likely be used in a human health risk assessment. The City is currently evaluating AQMD's offer, and it appears likely that AQMD's offer will be accepted.

City Staff reports that the AQMD is completing their Air Quality Management Plan for 2003 and will immediately start working on their next plan to be adopted in 2006. The City of Santa Monica is urging that general aviation traffic be addressed in the upcoming plan. Even though the AQMD is required to meet clean air standards in the LA Basin, they have no control over some of the polluting sources. For example, auto emissions are regulated on a state level, but aircraft emissions can only be regulated by the federal government. The AQMD, the California Air Resources Board, and the City of Santa Monica would like to approach the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting that aircraft emissions be addressed and regulated more strictly.

City of Santa Monica Victorious in Pilot's Lawsuit: SM Airport Noise Ordinance to Stand

In a ruling handed down on July 2, 2003, the City of Santa Monica won 12 out of 13 causes of action, including preservation of the current Aircraft 95 decibel Noise Limit and its enforcement.

FOSSP Airport Committee

The FOSSP Airport Committee sends out email/snail mail Updates on Airport Issues every 4-6 weeks. If you are interested in receiving these, please contact us at rcbreeze@labridge.com or (310) 392-1907.

Aircraft Emissions at Santa Monica Airport

Excerpts from a letter to the Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) from Ping Ho, an analyst at the UCLA Collaborative Centers for Integrative Medicine and a member of Friends of Sunset Park:

In 2002, my son conducted a study with the help of the California Air Resources Board and faculty in environmental sciences from UCLA and USC. He found that ultrafine particle emissions from aircraft at Santa Monica Airport were not only measurable, but also contribute to the degradation of air quality in the surrounding community. Increases in ultrafine particle counts were associated with the generation of fumes from jet-fuel propelled aircraft.

Ultrafine particles have been shown to be highly toxic to the human body because their size enables them to attach deep in the lungs and their twisted surface area enables the easy release of toxic compounds directly into the bloodstream. Particulate matter is known to be associated with a variety of lung and cardiovascular disorders and increases the risk of mortality in infants, elderly, and those with severe health problems. A recent UCLA-USC study included micrographs of ultrafine particles penetrating the mitochondria, or power source, of human cells. The investigators found that these particles not only caused structural damage that affected cellular function but also damaged proteins and DNA within cells. Studies have shown that ultrafine particles get into the central nervous system of animals that are exposed to concentrations that are typical at 50 meters from a freeway. Particulate matter emitted from aircraft rivals that of automobiles and may account for up to 1/3 of the air pollution in Los Angeles. Scientists in atmospheric sciences at UCLA are now proposing a major study of particulate matter emissions from airports.

With the enforcement of new noise regulations, there has been a noticeable decrease in fumes from Santa Monica Airport associated with taxiing, idling, landing and takeoff of jet-fuel based aircraft. However, the larger the aircraft, the more noxious the fumes; any aircraft that exceeds runway capacity will certainly contribute to diminished air quality.

Therefore, I advocate:

1. Conducting research on human health risks associated with aircraft emissions
2. Strict enforcement of weight, noise, and emissions regulations for aircraft, particularly jet fuel-based aircraft
3. Addressing aircraft emissions of general and commercial aviation aircraft in the upcoming Air Quality Management Plan for 2006
4. Approaching the EPA to request stricter Aircraft Emission Standards

Fairview Branch Library Continues to Pave The Way

Ellen Mark

Fairview is selling engraved brick pavers to raise money for new computer tables, a PA system, children's furniture, cassette holders and magazine racks, patio furniture for teenagers, and new ceiling light covers. You can purchase a replica of your brick and give it as a gift in time for the holidays! If you want an order form, or if you would like to make a donation, please call me at 310-392-1306, or stop by the library at 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. The library is open Monday through Thursday, 12–9, Saturday, 10–5:30. The library is closed on Friday and Sunday. Phone: 310-450-0443.

Also to raise money for Fairview: look for Book Pins by Lucinda of Maine. Great gift item for birthdays and holidays. No two are alike.

Fall programs include: For ages 6 and up – On 9/25 Sunset Park's own children's illustrator Kathryn Hewitt; For teenagers – Citywide Poetry Slam, SMPL Teen Advisory Council, "Meet The Author" workshops and book discussion groups; For adults – book discussion and writing groups; and don't forget story time for toddlers and preschoolers!

Cell Phone Antenna Project At 828 Pico Blvd.

WFI applied to the city on August 28th for a use permit to install cellular antennas on the commercial building at 828 Pico Blvd. When asked about notification and public meetings, Peter Blied of the Planning Division stated that there will be a public hearing before the Zoning Administrator, probably on either October 14th or November 11th, at 10:30 AM in the City Council chambers. Ten days in advance of the hearing, notices will be mailed to all property owners and tenants or residents within a 300-foot radius of the site, as required by code. Regarding possible health concerns about radio waves, Mr. Blied stated that federal legislation has rendered local governments powerless to object to wireless installations solely based on health issues. According to S.M. Municipal Code Section 9.04.20.11.040, the Zoning Administrator's decisions are to be based on design compatibility and architectural aesthetics, and the proposal should be compatible with existing and surrounding land uses and not detrimental to the public interest, health, safety, or general welfare. Those who wish to comment, but cannot attend the hearing, can send written comments to the Planning Division, Attn: Peter Blied, 1685 Main St., Santa Monica, 90401. Letters should include the name of the project (Sprint PCS/828 Pico Antenna Project) and the project number (30-UP-012).

FOSP Meeting on October 1st

Friends of Sunset Park will hold its next Board/ Membership meeting on Wednesday, October 1st, 7 PM, at Mt. Olive Church, 14th and Ocean Park Blvd.

The public is welcome to attend!