
FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • Box 5823, Santa Monica, California 90409-5823 • (310) 358-7117

JUNE 2004 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs



Celebrate Sunset Park!

Save the Date!

FOSP is having its Annual Meeting!

Come meet your neighbors and learn what's being done
to improve the quality of life in Sunset Park.

Saturday, June 19, 2004

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM meeting,
followed by a picnic lunch

Grant School Auditorium, Pearl at 24th Street

Keynote Speaker:

Lisa Pinto, District Director for our
Congressman Henry Waxman

— Vote for the Board of Directors —

— Help “Put the Brakes on More Traffic” —

— Learn about the Airport, Santa Monica College,
Historic Preservation, Planning and Development, and Fairview Library —

For more information, phone 358-7117, email FriendsofSP@yahoo.com,
or check our web site at www.FriendsofSunsetPark.org

Put The Brakes on More Traffic

Your signature could terminate traffic, if you sign an important petition now! Let's stop development that our streets cannot support and let officials know, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

The Board of Friends of Sunset Park has launched a petition drive to curb the growth of traffic. Taking a firm position, the Board states "We oppose all large scale commercial development, beginning with expansion of Lantana, unless additional traffic on our streets can be fully mitigated, and cut-through traffic in our residential neighborhoods stopped."

Nobody needs an explanation of the endless and intensifying nightmare of traffic. Cut-through traffic especially is changing the quality of life in our neighborhoods. As



Centinela at Pico

photo by Alex Melbane

main arteries back up, cars — in large numbers — peel off into residential streets, often at great speed.

Streets that were once quite, safe and residential are quickly becoming noisy highways during commute times — take a look at 23rd, 28th and Pearl Street any weekday.

Yet, approvals of large commercial projects invite more and more vehicles into Santa Monica with no explanation of where the cars will fit onto already crowded streets. Consider the following:

The biggest project nearing final approval — an expansion of Lantana at Olympic and Stewart — will create a phenomenal amount of new traffic. Many of those cars will push south into the residential streets of Sunset Park. Final plans for this expansion allow nearly 200,000 square feet of new building, producing nearly 2,000 new car trips each day! That's in addition to the traffic already flowing from the Lantana business park.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project admits that many of the intersections that will feel the impact of new traffic already carry the lowest ratings for traffic movement: "E" and "F." The EIR openly admits that the existing density problems at these locations CANNOT BE FIXED! Most significantly, the EIR was not required to look at any traffic that flowed south of Pico into Sunset Park — essentially saying "We don't see it, so there's no

problem!" Anyone who lives in the areas around 23rd, 28th, and the eastern section of Pearl Street will tell a different story.

The Board is collecting signatures in support of its position to be presented to the City's Planning Department and City Council during the final two approval stops for Lantana's expansion. You can help by signing the petition, getting the word out, and getting friends to sign.

"Put The Brakes on More Traffic" petition is circulating through our neighborhoods.

There are several ways you can find it: at the web site for Friends of Sunset Park it's possible to download a copy along with a fact sheet on the issue. Some stores like Café Bolivar's and Sunset Grill have copies. It will be available at Bob's Market on future Saturdays.

Additionally, you could contact FOSP by phone, mail, or email and get a copy sent right away.

At the web site you can see a short, powerful video produced by an Oscar award-winning community resident on this traffic issue. Copies of the video are available as well.

Contact FOSP anyway you like: voice (310/358-7117), email—FriendsofSP@yahoo.com, on line at www.friendsofsunsetpark.org or by mail at Friends of Sunset Park, P.O. Box 5823, Santa Monica, 90409-5823.

YOUR SIGNATURE TODAY lets City officials know ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! No more development until the traffic problems are solved!

Santa Monica College

BY KAREN COMEGYS AND ED MOOSBRUGGER

Potential problems could be developing over traffic patterns at Santa Monica College's new 10.2-acre Bundy Campus.

In the past Friends of Sunset Park has urged SMC to direct growth away from the main campus and continue its shuttle parking from the airport rather than building more parking structures on the main campus.

The new Bundy Campus is located in Los Angeles adjacent to the Santa Monica Airport. SMC hopes the City of Santa Monica will allow an access point to this site off Airport Avenue.

The city has not agreed to Airport Avenue access, but SMC will continue to pursue the matter, said Tom Donner, executive vice president at the college.

Presently, the shuttle lot is located on the north side of Airport Avenue on airport property and uses Airport Avenue. When that lot is replaced by a city park, the shuttle lot would shift to SMC's Bundy

Campus south of Airport Avenue.

Donner said Airport Avenue is important because "the only other access is Bundy and it is too busy a street to handle all the traffic."

Donner said: "We do not want to be forced by the City to construct more parking structures on the main campus. We feel the shuttle has worked very well on Airport Avenue and our mix of times will be appropriate for the traffic flow."

Some Sunset Park residents have expressed concern about the impact of access from Airport Avenue on traffic on local streets, such as 23rd Street.

In addition, Donner said that plans for a new building on SMC's 14th and Pico property have been delayed and the site will be used temporarily in relation to construction of the new Liberal Arts building in the center of the main campus.

Santa Monica Airport News

BY CATHY LARSON

Aircraft Conformance Program/Safety Zone Implementation Status

Implementation of the Aircraft Conformance Program and the Safety Zones requires an engineering report. That report is nearly complete. The Aircraft Conformance Program, approved by the City Council in December 2002, will prohibit the larger C and D aircraft from flying in and out of SM Airport. C and D aircraft make up about 50% of the jets currently using the airport. In its report, the staff is supporting this prohibition of the larger aircraft by referring to design standards which were recommended by the FAA itself and which were in existence at the time of the 1984 agreement between the FAA and the City.

Santa Monica Airport has the distinction of being the busiest single-runway airport in the United States. It also has residences closer to the runway than any other airport in the nation. What it does NOT have are safety zones at either end of the runway. In a letter dated May 2000, Congressman Henry Waxman asked the FAA for Safety Zone Implementation at Santa Monica Airport. Stay tuned....

Weight-Based Landing Fees

The City of Santa Monica implemented weight-based landing fees in August 2003. Based on the "wear and tear" caused by aircraft on the runway, the heavier the aircraft, the higher the landing fee. Up until 2003, the City was not collecting ANY landing fees. The National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) filed a complaint about the fees with the FAA. The FAA is supposed to rule on the

complaint by the end of May, but according to City Attorney Marty Tachiki, the FAA often fails to meet its own deadlines, so it could be several months before a ruling is issued. Presently, the fees are being collected and held in a separate fund until the FAA makes its decision.

Aircraft Flight Patterns

Santa Monica Airport has "requested flight patterns," which means that it cannot fine pilots who ignore the flight patterns, but it can contact them and request compliance.

Due to prevailing wind patterns, aircraft generally arrive from the east and depart to the west. Coming from the east, aircraft head west from the Century City Towers to the airport. Coming from the northwest across Santa Monica Bay, aircraft head east along the 10 freeway, turn south at the 405, and then head west to the airport. Coming from the south, aircraft follow the 405 north, then turn west to the airport.

Departing VFR aircraft (Visual Flight Rules used by most smaller propeller planes) head west from the runway, turn slightly to the south to cross over Penmar Golf Course, then follow Rose Avenue toward the ocean.

Departing IFR aircraft (Instrument Flight Rules used by jets, turbo props, and some propeller planes) are usually instructed to head straight west from the runway.

Southbound turns can be made at Lincoln, but northbound turns are not to be made before reaching the shoreline.

Pilots practicing take-offs and landings follow the "Touch and Go Loop" by flying west to Lincoln, south along Lincoln, east over Venice/Mar Vista, north at the 405, and west to the airport. This is only allowed during daylight hours on weekdays.

The minimum "required" altitude in urban areas is 1000 feet above the highest obstacle. The minimum "required" separation between aircraft is 2000 feet.

Complaints

If you want to lodge a complaint about flight path deviations or low-flying aircraft, log the date, time, and, if possible, the type of aircraft (jet, twin engine, single propeller, etc.) and

contact Noise and Operations Manager Matt Majoli at 458-8759. If the aircraft has deviated from the requested flight path, ask the staff to send a letter to the pilot. If you have observed unsafe flying (low altitude or insufficient separation between planes), ask the staff to confirm your observation with their ARTS system and file a complaint with the FAA. The Noise Hotline is 458-8692.

If you or a friend or a neighbor would like to be added to the FOSP Airport Committee notification list, contact us at the new email address, FOSPairport@labridge.com, or phone 310-392-1907.

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Fairview Branch Library News:

Fundraiser Ends June 30th

BY ELLEN MARK

The deadline to purchase a brick paver for the Fairview Branch Library fundraiser is June 30. As of mid-May we are approaching 70% of our goal of \$50,000! The laser-engraved pavers are 8" x 8" and will be placed in front of the library (\$200) and in the floor of the back patio (\$100). Honor your graduate, a family member, or quote your favorite author! A reception for donors will be held in the fall when the pavers are installed.

For more information on how to contribute to this campaign, please call (310) 392-1306. Order forms are available on line at www.smpl.org/construction/fairview/ or at the branch, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. Thank you to all those who have supported this fundraiser. Thanks especially to Bob's Market and the Saturday Farmer's Market

at the Airport.

To kick off the summer events for kids, Fairview Branch will host a SING-ALONG with Jacki Breger on Thursday, June 24, at 2:30 PM. The theme of this year's Summer Reading Program is *Ride A Wild Tale*. Sign up starts June 14 at any Santa Monica library.

Author William Pryor will discuss his books *Survival of the Coolest* and *Virginia Woolf and the Raverats* at Fairview Branch Library on Saturday, June 19, at 2:30 PM. As the great, great grandson of the scientist Charles Darwin, Mr. Pryor describes the spiral of addiction he endured as a youth at Cambridge and his subsequent recovery. *Virginia Woolf and the Raverats* details novelist Virginia Woolf's relationship with the Raverat family, as revealed in their correspondence.

Playa Vista Phase 2

By KATHY KNIGHT

On May 6, the first of 4 hearings was held on the proposed Playa Vista Phase 2 "Village" project on Jefferson Blvd. between Centinela and Lincoln. Echoing the concerns of Friends of Sunset Park and the Santa Monica Planning Commission, other Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils expressed concerns about cut-through traffic in their residential areas from Phase 2's 24,000 new car trips daily. Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McKeown stated, "Santa Monica requests more time to consider the impacts we are certain Playa Vista will impose on our residents, particularly in neighborhoods on the south side of the City. In addition to traffic, pollution, and other concerns, we now ask that you consider the loss of cultural resources represented by the ongoing disinterment of indigenous people."

Santa Monica also requested that the

response window on the 4,500 page Final Environmental Impact Report be extended from 30 days to 120 days.

Traffic was a main issue due to the fact that Phase 2 was not supposed to be approved before the impacts of Phase 1's projected 60,000 car trips daily were felt. However, Phase 1 is only 10% occupied, so the impacts have yet to be seen. Issues raised at the hearing included the destruction of a large Indian cemetery; reports on oil field gases; and unlimited helicopter flights. Citizens are still working to find funds to purchase the remaining Ballona ecosystem (including Phase 2 and the former Howard Hughes site) to create an interactive wildlife refuge/park for children and families to enjoy. For more information, visit the web site www.ballona.org.

Street Trees

By WALT WARRINER, COMMUNITY FORESTER

The Gold Medallion (*Cassia leptophylla*) is a semi-evergreen tree with brilliant yellow flowers in the summer. This popular tree is widely planted throughout southern California and generates a number of compliments when they re blooming. They are moderately fast growing and can reach a mature height of 25 feet with an equal sized canopy spread. The trees that line 23rd Street between Ocean Park and Pico Boulevards were planted in the early 90s and are trimmed periodically to cultivate their canopies, or to maintain traffic and pedestrian clearance.

The Gold Medallion responds to regular irrigation with healthy shoot growth but they can tolerate drought. However, when they are experiencing drought conditions they ll drop their leaves, which gives the canopy a sparse

look. To encourage growth, these street trees should be watered weekly during the winter and twice a week in the summer.

Trees will not tolerate damage to their trunk base, which commonly occurs when line trimmers are used to cut the grass or ground cover away from the trunk base. The cord of the trimmer strips the outer layer of bark away. This stunts the trees growth, creates an entry point for pathogens and causes decay at the trunk base. This can eventually kill the tree, but can be avoided by maintaining a tree well around the trunk free of plants.

If you have questions regarding the street tree in front of your house, call Walt Warriner, Santa Monica's Community Forester at (310) 458-8974.

FOSP Membership

Our appeal in the winter newsletter for new members and membership renewals brought a good response. The primary indicators that we are doing a good job for the community are the number of memberships and the attendance at our meetings. 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 also 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 evening, September 8th 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.

Our treasurer, John Reynolds, has done a terrific job of organizing the Annual Meeting this year. We're moving to a larger venue, the Grant School auditorium, and look forward to seeing you there.

To vote for the Board of Directors at the annual meeting, you will need to have paid membership dues by June 9th, ten days before the annual meeting.

If you have joined FOSP in the past and are not sure when you last paid dues, please check the date on your mailing label.

2004 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:

Box 5823,
Santa Monica, CA 90409-5823.