



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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

MAY 2005 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

Celebrate Sunset Park! **FOSP is having its Annual General Membership Meeting!**

Saturday, May 28, 2005, 1:30–3:30 PM
Mt. Olive Church, Ocean Park Blvd. and 14th St.

Come meet with your neighbors and let's discuss how to improve the quality of life in Sunset Park.

- How can we improve traffic/parking/pedestrian safety/public transit?
- How can we make our voices heard in the update of the city's General Plan?
- What improvements do we want on Lincoln, Pico, and Ocean Park Blvd.?
- What can we do to increase safety and reduce noise and fumes from Santa Monica Airport?
- How will Santa Monica College's plans for new Bundy/Airport Campus impact Sunset Park?

Vote for the Board of Directors, enjoy refreshments, enter the raffle, see old friends and make new ones.

Nominees for Board of Directors for next year are Tom Cleys, Charlie Donaldson, Eric Gabster, Susan Hartley, Emmalie Hodgins, Zina Josephs, John Reynolds, and Lorraine Sanchez.

(In order to vote, you will need to become a member of FOSP by May 18th, ten days before the election.)

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

JOIN FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

2005 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Today's date _____

I will help with:

- Airport
- Annual Meeting
- Crime/Safety/Graffiti
- Fairview Library
- Historic Preservation
- Membership Committee
- 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.

If you received this newsletter by mail, the address label has the date when you last paid FOSP dues.

Preventing Crime in Sunset Park

BY ZINA JOSEPHS

A recent article in the Santa Monica Mirror was entitled, "City Crime Rate Is Lowest in 40+ Years: Runs Counter to Statewide Rates." Meanwhile, we read about shootings at the Moose Lodge, burglaries, robberies at Lee's Market on Ocean Park Blvd. and 23rd and at US Bank on Pico and 33rd, and the Gang Violence Workshops at John Adams Middle School. I receive emails from residents about a stolen car, a brick being thrown through a livingroom window, items stolen from cars, and slashed tires.

So what is happening? I asked SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega, who attended our February 2nd FOSP meeting, for a summary of Part I crimes in Sunset Park for January 1st through March 31st of this year. (The numbers in parentheses show the increase or decrease from 2004.) Homicide: 2 (+1), Rape: 0 (-1), Aggravated assault: 14 (+5), Robbery: 7 (+5), Residential burglary or attempted burglary: 26 (+8), Non-residential burglary or attempted burglary: 13 (-4), Larcenies: 48 (-17), Auto theft: 6 (-10), and Arson: 0 (-1). This is an overall decrease of 12% from last year.

If you have a specific concern, what is the best way to contact the Police Department? To report an emergency situation, or a crime in progress, call 9-1-1. To report a suspicious circumstance, call the SMPD's non-emergency phone number, 458-8491. If you have a particular problem in your area, such as speeding cars, cars running stop signs, etc., contact one of the following Neighborhood Service Coordinators for our area:

- Lt. Frank Fabrega: 458-8418
or Frank.Fabrega@smgov.net
- Lt. Alex Padilla: 458-8419
Alex.Padilla@smgov.net
- Lt. Ray Cooper: 458-8760
Ray.Cooper@smgov.net

To participate in the SMPD e-mail crime alert notification system, e-mail Mike.Cveyich@smgov.net or Lauralee.Asch@smgov.net.

The SMPD web site at www.SantaMonicaPD.org posts a summary of Calls for Service and Arrest Records for the past 10 days, as well as information about Neighborhood Watch. We currently have about 40 Neighborhood Watch groups in Sunset Park. To set up a Neighborhood Watch Group or to request a free Residential Security Survey, call the Community Relations/Crime Prevention unit at 458-8474. With such a group you can organize an "Operation ID" event at which you and your neighbors mark your valuables with an identifying number, which hinders the sale of stolen property and helps SMPD return stolen items. You can also start a Block Parent Program or a Vacation Watch program, or schedule a Block Party.

As to how to prevent burglaries, Lt. Fabrega advises us to

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Hats Off to Sunset Park for Its Survey Responses!

BY TOM CLEYS

Our hats are off to the 324 residents of Sunset Park who took the time to respond to our survey regarding issues of traffic, development, the college, the airport, homeless, and other issues that will affect the General Plan update that is now underway by the City. Those responses were summarized and submitted to the City Council, Planning Commission, and planning and traffic staff back in March, and are available at our website, www.friendsofsunsetpark.org. Questions requiring narrative answers tallied over 2,000 responses. With 35 questions in the survey, we know that it took a lot of time and effort, but it paid off! And nearly 90 respondents joined Friends of Sunset Park for the first time. The City has formally accepted the survey summary and your responses. Your Board members have spoken to the City Council and will be attending other meetings to ensure that the voice of the residents of Sunset Park is heard.

Thank you, Sunset Park, for caring, for being concerned about your community! And thank you for joining and supporting your all-volunteer neighborhood group.

The "Emerging Themes" of the initial phase of the General Plan update, published by the City and its consultants, seems to cover nearly all the issues raised by Sunset Park residents. Areas that are not addressed, however, include the development and impacts of Santa Monica College and of the airport. Because the college is part of the state community college system, it doesn't have to abide by our General Plan and zoning ordinances. Our main influence over the college is through public opinion and the Board of Trustees, which is locally elected.

The airport is not currently zoned and thus is not subject to the General Plan and zoning ordinance. The FOSP Airport Committee lobbied to have the airport including in the General Plan update, and we will continue to monitor this situation.

Join FOSP

BY LORRAINE SANCHEZ

FOSP has a new logo! The house, as it appears on the masthead of this newsletter and on our newly printed brochure, has several additions: A tree has been added to reflect the aesthetic and environmental value of trees in our neighborhood, and the sun's rays behind the house represents the sunset for which our neighborhood was named.

The brochure is one of our membership drive tools used to inform potential members of the mission, goals, and accomplishments of FOSP. You will be seeing the brochure displayed at the library, stores, and businesses in Sunset Park. They will also be handed out at the Santa Monica Festival at Clover Park on May 14th, and at Bob's Market. At this time, it is especially important that we increase our membership in order to more fully represent our neighborhood's concerns and goals in the development of our city's General Plan for the next twenty years! We can double our membership if each of us brings in just one new member. So please grab some brochures and talk to your neighbors about joining us in our efforts to preserve and improve the city we love.

So Where Are We with This General Plan Update?

BY TOM CLEYS

The General Plan is a road map of sorts that the City crafts and must abide by in directing its development and operation. It contains sections or “elements,” covering land use, housing, circulation, open space, noise, conservation, safety, and historic preservation. The land use and circulation elements are being updated now, with land use being the “grand daddy” of the elements.

The General Plan does not get into specific issues such as what can be built on your block, or exactly how tall buildings can be downtown. It provides general guidelines that must be adhered to in the more detailed ordinances and actions the City takes.

Our zoning ordinance follows from our General Plan and its Land Use element and does get into the specifics of what can be built on your block. And the zoning ordinance is being revamped concurrently with the General Plan update. This update of the zoning ordinance is a huge undertaking, and you will begin to see additional meetings and outreach by the City later this year.

At these meetings, our “interim” so-called Monster Mansion ordinance which was implemented two years ago, will be fully studied. It requires more definition in the design of homes and less mass, preventing the construction of big box/monster homes. FOSP lobbied hard to get this interim ordinance in place. Our neighbors north of Montana had the ordinance implemented in their neighborhood some time ago, but it was never extended to Sunset Park until FOSP spoke up.

Drawing on community input, planning staff presented the “Emerging Themes” to the City Council on April 26th. The next phase of the General Plan update will include a new round of meetings in which the community can expand upon the “Emerging Themes.” The overall themes are:

- A unique city with a strong sense of community.
- A city rich in amenities, within walking distance to shops and services from neighborhoods.
- A diverse and inclusive city.
- A community built at an appropriate town-scale.
- A city of strong neighborhoods, protected from commercial and industrial uses.
- A pedestrian and bicycle-friendly place.
- A city rich in its array of transit offerings.
- A city where traffic and parking work.
- A city of balanced growth.
- A city with attractive boulevards.
- A safe and secure community.
- An environmentally sustainable place.

These can be studied in more detail at <http://www.shapethefuture2025.net/plandocs.htm>.

For future meetings involving with the General Plan and zoning ordinance updates, check the city’s website www.santamonica.org or contact the Planning Department at 310-458-8341.

Santa Monica College Update

BY ED MOOSBRUGGER

Traffic was the big issue in the minds of many Sunset Park residents at the sometimes acrimonious first round of community meetings on plans for Santa Monica College’s new campus adjacent to Santa Monica Airport. SMC is holding a series of community meetings as part of the process to develop a master plan for the 10.4-acre Santa Monica Airport Campus (formerly called the Bundy Campus), which is located in Los Angeles just south of Santa Monica Airport property.

The college is renovating a four-story building at the west end of the property and hopes to start classes there this summer. The hot issue is whether Santa Monica should give the new SMC campus access to Airport Avenue.

SMC will hold a second round of community meetings where it is expected to provide more detailed analysis of alternate plans, including traffic numbers.

Friends of Sunset Park has weighed in

on the issue:

“The Board of FOSP supports the educational mission of SMC but opposes any SMC traffic circulation plans involving Airport Ave. that would lead to increased traffic in the residential neighborhoods of Santa Monica.” Concerns have been raised that if SMC gets access to Airport Avenue, it will create more traffic on already congested 23rd Street and also lead to cut-through traffic on other Sunset Park streets.

Complicating the issue is the fact that SMC’s shuttle parking lot, currently located on airport land that will developed as a city park, must be replaced. SMC has proposed that it pay for the city park in return for being allowed to build underground parking at the site to replace the shuttle lot. Another alternative is to put the shuttle lot on the new Santa Monica Airport campus.

One idea that came out of the first

round of community workshops is for SMC to buy land near freeway off ramps for shuttle parking in order to keep the cars off residential streets.

If SMC cannot solve the shuttle parking site issue, it may look at putting more parking on the main campus. (For more information, go to www.smc.edu, move to the bottom of the page and click on Airport Campus Long Range Plan.)

Meanwhile, a whole lot of other construction, much of it financed by two bond measures, is taking place at SMC: Projects currently under construction include renovated theater arts and earthquake replacement liberal arts buildings on the main campus, and a Performance Arts Center and a music complex on the Madison campus.

SMC also plans to install artificial turf at Corsair Field to provide year-round use. Several other projects are in the planning stage.

Santa Monica Airport Update

BY CATHY LARSON

SM City Council Moves to Include SM Airport in Citywide Land Use Update

The City of Santa Monica is conducting a citywide update of their Land Use and Circulation Plan. This Plan, labeled “Shape the Future 2025,” began with community outreach to collect public input. Friends of Sunset Park Airport Committee invited the Shape the Future staff several times to schedule a community meeting to collect public input regarding the future land use of the SM Airport. Our requests were refused.

FOSP Airport Committee felt a policy for appropriate land use of the airport residual land is essential. Our neighborhood is already experiencing a traffic problem with weekday afternoon gridlock. The streets surrounding the SM Airport are particularly impacted.

After protests from Friends of Sunset Park and residents surrounding the SM Airport, at the April 26th City Council meeting, Councilmember Kevin McKeown made a motion, which was modified by Councilmember Richard Bloom, to have “staff return with information and

recommendations about how to respond to questions from the public regarding the airport, including the residual land; that there ought to be outreach so that all interested parties are allowed to provide input.” This motion was approved unanimously.

The Santa Monica Airport consists of 227 acres of land, only a portion of which is the actual runway. Currently, the City of SM leases the non-aviation residual land for a variety of uses, including artist studios, small businesses, SMC classrooms, and SMC shuttle parking lot.

In addition, the 1984 Agreement between the FAA and the City of Santa Monica to operate the airport expires in 2015—within the time frame of the Shape the Future 2025 project. In 2015, all the leases at the airport expire, so development guidelines will be essential.

Jan. 4, 2005—FAA Rules that Weight Based Landing Fees Are Discriminatory

The City of Santa Monica implemented weight based landing fees in August 2003. Basically, the heavier the aircraft, the higher the landing fee, based on the

wear and tear on the runway. Up until this time, the City was not collecting *any* landing fees. Subsequently, the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) filed a complaint with the FAA. The FAA was supposed to rule on this challenge by Sept. 30, 2004. They conveniently gave themselves an extension until November 15, and then another until January 3. On January 4, a ruling was issued deeming the landing fee structure discriminatory. The City of Santa Monica has yet to announce its next move.

Aircraft Emission Study Scheduled for Next Fall

The Air Quality Management District of Southern California will be conducting an aircraft emission study of the Santa Monica Airport this coming fall, after a similar study at the Van Nuys Airport is completed. We will keep you informed as to this project’s progress.

Want to stay informed about airport issues? Contact fospairport@labridge.com or call (310) 392-1907 to be put on the FOSP Airport Committee notification list.

Library News

BY ELLEN MARK

Using funds from the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library (SMPL) engraved paver fundraiser, the City has approved the design of a permanent canopy for the center patio at the Fairview Branch Library. It will be installed by the end of June, resulting in a perfect location for year-round reading programs, games, and celebrations to take place. Also, expect new patio furniture by mid-summer! Another major enhancement for Fairview library patrons: wireless access (“Wi-Fi”) all over the building.

The Youth Technology Center will be open during the summer on Monday through Thursday, August 4, 1–5 PM. Catherine Ronan, Youth Services Librarian, will teach “Web Search Garage—Learn the latest tricks for finding what you need on the Internet,” Wednesday, 4–5 PM, for grades 6 through 12. Grades 4 through 12 can sign up for the Mavis Beacon Keyboarding Challenge: improve your keyboarding score in 6 weeks and attend a pizza party! This activity takes place on Wednesdays anytime between 1 and 5 PM.

The Branch will have story and activity programs for kids 4 years and up every Thursday at 2:30. Other programs include: Knit and Crochet, Wednesday, 5–6:30; Board games, Tuesday, 2–5; and Chess Club continues on Thursdays from 4–6.

Summer programs run from June 27 through August 4. Registration begins June 20. Call Fairview Branch Library for details: 310-450-0443.

Preventing Crime, continued from page 2

lock windows and garages, as well as side and alley gates; install outdoor lighting, especially motion-sensor lights for back yards; if you have an alarm system, check that it has a battery back-up and that the battery is working; and if your keys are stolen, replace or re-key your locks ASAP. When you come home, if you see a door or window ajar, DON’T GO IN. Go to a neighbor’s house and call 9-1-1.

Additional police services:

General Information: 458-8495

Gang Hotline: 458-2281

Graffiti Hotline: 458-2231

Homeless: 458-8953

Narcotics/Crime Activity

Hotline: 458-2292

Parking Enforcement: 458-8466