



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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

APRIL 2006 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

Celebrate Sunset Park!

FOSP is having its Annual General Membership Meeting!

Meet our new City Manager, P. Lamont Ewell

Join a discussion group on topics such as Traffic and Development, Santa Monica Airport, Crime and Safety, and Santa Monica College.



Enter the raffle, enjoy refreshments, see old friends and make new ones!



Vote for Board of Directors for 2006–07.

(In order to vote, you will need to become a member of FOSP by April 26th, ten days before the election.

Current members can renew their memberships at the meeting.

If you receive this newsletter in the mail, the mailing label will have the date when you last paid dues.)



Saturday, May 6, 2006, 2:00–4:00 PM
Mt. Olive Church, 14th & Ocean Park Blvd.

JOIN FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

2006 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Today's date _____

My greatest concerns are _____

I will help with:

- Airport Committee
- Annual Meeting
- Communications/Mailings
- Crime/Safety/Graffiti
- Emergency Preparedness
- Historic Preservation
- Membership Committee
- Planning and Development
- Public Transportation
- 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.

City Manager to Speak at FOSP Annual Meeting

Santa Monica's newly named City Manager, P. Lamont Ewell, will speak at our May 6th FOSP Annual Meeting.

Formerly the City Manager in San Diego, Mr. Ewell began his career as a firefighter in Compton. Promoted through the ranks there and in Prince George's County, Maryland, he became Fire Chief in Oakland in 1991—just 13 days before the devastating Oakland Hills fire. He distinguished himself in both managing that fire disaster and in rebuilding the area, and was later named Assistant City Manager.



In 1997, Mr. Ewell was named City Manager of the City of Durham, North Carolina, where he restructured government for improved service delivery to the public and helped jumpstart the downtown renaissance currently underway in that city.

Recruited to San Diego in 2001, Mr. Ewell was named Assistant City Manager, responsible for day-to-day operation of all city departments, with 11,000 employees and a budget of over \$2 billion.

His appointment in Santa Monica followed a nationwide recruitment effort that attracted more than 60 candidates. The City Council interviewed six finalists, and Mr. Ewell was their unanimous choice to succeed Susan McCarthy as City Manager.

Mr. Ewell has a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's in general administration. He and his wife, Mary, have two grown children.

Under Pressure, FAA Finally Responds to Santa Monica Airport Safety Risks

BY CATHY LARSON

Runway Safety

After a year and a half of silence, the FAA finally issued a letter to the City of Santa Monica that included two counter proposals to the City's requested Runway Safety Area and Aircraft Conformance Program. Currently, the airport, embedded in a residential neighborhood with homes as close as 250 feet to the runway ends, has NO Runway Safety Areas (RSA). An RSA is a "buffer zone" at the ends of the runway for safety purposes in the event an aircraft overruns or undershoots the runway.

With the sharp escalation of jet traffic in the past few years (18,000 jet landings and take-offs annually), the residents surrounding the Santa Monica Airport have become alarmed by the growing number of larger aircraft utilizing the facility. According to Santa Monica Airport Staff, 50% of the jet aircraft do not meet the design standards of Santa Monica Airport. They are too large and too fast to meet the FAA's own recommended safety guidelines for an airport of Santa Monica's dimensions. The Airport Staff's proposed Aircraft Conformance Program (ACP) would prohibit these unsafe aircraft from using the airport. In spite of the growing danger, the FAA has been reluctant to admit that a safety risk exists at the Santa Monica Airport.

In May, 2000, Congressman Henry Waxman asked the FAA to look into establishing RSA's at Santa Monica Airport. In response, William Withycombe, FAA Regional Administrator, said, "The FAA considers the Santa Monica Airport to be a safe airport facility." Over the past six years, there has been several communications between the Congressman's office and the FAA regarding safety issues at Santa Monica Airport (these can be viewed at http://www.house.gov/waxman/issues/issues_other_santa_monica_airport.htm)

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

- April 24 – Airport Commission, 7:30 PM, City Council Chambers. Agenda at <http://SantaMonicaAirport.org>
- April 25 – City Council, 6:45 PM, City Council Chambers. Agenda at www.santa-monica.org
- April 26 – City-sponsored "Shape the Future" workshop, 7:00 PM, Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Auditorium
- May 1 – SMC Board of Trustees, 7:00 PM, SMC Business Building. Agenda at www.smc.edu
- May 3 – Planning Commission, 7:00 PM, City Council Chambers. Agenda at www.Santa-Monica.org
- May 6 – FOSP Annual Meeting, 2:00–4:00, Mt. Olive Church. Agenda at www.FriendsofSunsetPark.org
- May 13 – Santa Monica Festival: "A Celebration of Our Community Roots," at Clover Park. Stop by the FOSP table!
- May 20 – Grant Elementary School "Centennial Fiesta" – Grant celebrates its 100th Anniversary! See www.Grant100.com for more information or phone (310) 450-7684.

Santa Monica College

BY ED MOOSBRUGGER

Santa Monica College will be taking a look at the feasibility of adding more than 500 spaces of underground parking beneath Corsair Field. At a March 13 meeting, the SMC Board of Trustees approved a contract of up to \$191,000 with CO Architects for a study to help SMC understand a number of technical issues related to circulation, traffic congestion and cost of an underground parking structure. SMC wants a study of underground parking before it plans improvements that include artificial turf for the campus stadium.

Trustees have not decided on doing the underground parking. In supporting the feasibility study, Vice Chair Susan Aminoff said it would provide opportunities to study traffic circulation. Chair Nancy Greenstein said SMC needs to work with neighbors on the issue and develop a process that is more collegial.

Indeed, how the process proceeds will be a key test of how committed SMC is to working with neighbors surrounding the main campus on difficult issues such as traffic and parking. One key issue that needs to be addressed is whether adding more parking will just increase traffic or whether a parking plan can do something to alleviate traffic and parking pressures on the neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, SMC officials say that access to the Bundy Campus seems to be working well under an interim agreement that allows traffic to exit on Airport Avenue, with right turn only. Los Angeles, however, has not yet approved a new traffic signal at the Bundy Drive entrance to the campus that is supposed to be part of the solution for better access.

An interim agreement on Bundy Campus access is due to expire in July. Also, more work remains on studies for the Bundy Campus master plan. Clearly, the final chapter hasn't been written on the future of the Bundy Campus and its access issues.

Library News

BY ELLEN MARK

On November 16, 2005, Sylvia Anderle, Children's Librarian at Fairview Branch Library, was awarded the New York Times Librarian of the Year Award for 2005. As one of 27 Public Librarians chosen from 1200 nominated nationwide, Sylvia received a commemorative plaque (which is displayed at Fairview) and \$2500 at the ceremony and reception that took place at the Times building in New York City.

Catherine Ronan is the new Branch Manager at the Fairview Branch Library. Catherine, who received her Master of Library and Information Science degree from UCLA, was previously Young Adult Librarian at the Main Library. Celia Carroll, who was at Fairview, has returned to her position as Branch Manager of the Ocean Park Branch Library.

Spring Break Fun Days for ages 4–18 are scheduled at Fairview from April 10 to April 20. Activities include movies, games, and crafts. Also, free bridge classes will be offered at Fairview on Mondays, 1–3 p.m., beginning April 24.

Citywide Reads Is Here! — Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* is the 2006 featured title. Foer writes, "Books make people less alone. That, before anything else, is what books do. They show us that conversations are possible across distances."

Book discussions will be held on April 22 at 2 PM at Café Bolivar, 1741 Ocean Park Blvd., and on April 29 at 2 PM at Fairview Branch Library. An afternoon with the author will be held on April 23 at 3 PM in the Pavilion at SMC.

Thank You to Local Merchants!

BY LORRAINE SANCHEZ

FOSP appreciates the support of the many businesses and organizations along Pico and Ocean Park Boulevards who have displayed our posters and brochures this year.

A special "thank you" to the following, who provided wonderful raffle prizes for our 2005 Annual Meeting. The prizes ranged from gourmet cookies to roses to a stuffed Shrek doll!

Artful: Handcrafted Art Jewelry – 1726 Ocean Park Blvd.

Bring Something to the Party! – 1740 Ocean Park Blvd.

Edelweiss Flower Boutique – 1722 Ocean Park Blvd.

Maya Shoe Repair – 1708 Ocean Park Blvd.

Merrihew's Sunset Gardens Nursery – 1526 Ocean Park Blvd.

Miyako Japanese Restaurant – 2829 Ocean Park Blvd.

Orphan Annie's – 3017 Ocean Park Blvd.

Pookie: Clothing for Children – 1740 Ocean Park Blvd.

Rumba: art, design, decor – 1740 Ocean Park Blvd.

Sahara Art Gallery & Specialty Merchandise – 1700 Ocean Park Blvd.

Schmerty's Gourmet Cookies – 2819 Ocean Park Blvd.

Morgan-Wixson Theatre/Santa Monica Theatre Guild – 2627 Pico Blvd.

We will be asking for their help again this year to publicize FOSP and our Annual Meeting on May 6th, when we hope to raffle off some more fascinating goodies!

www.smconsumer.org

The Santa Monica City Attorney's Office has launched a new website designed to make it easier for residents to file consumer complaints and to find information about issues such as consumer protection, landlord-tenant relations, and disability rights. The web address is www.smconsumer.org.

The City Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit enforces local and state laws to assure that local businesses treat customers fairly. The Consumer Unit also enforces many fair housing and landlord-tenant laws, including the Tenant Harassment ordinance. The unit also addresses disability rights, smoking laws, and illegal discrimination. Another service the unit provides is helping consumers with Small Claims cases against local businesses.

The new website has on-line complaint forms and fact sheets. "We hope that local residents will come to us with any consumer questions or complaints. If we can't address their problem ourselves, we'll get them in touch with the right agency," said Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky. Information is also available at 458-8327.

**May 20th Grant School
"Centennial Fiesta"**

Join past and present Grant Elementary community members for an afternoon and evening of remembrances. Activities include:

- Carnival—Game booths, rides, and food
- Silent Auction
- Concerts—Music from the Santa Monica Symphony, JAMS and Grant students and parents.
- Sunset Park Landmarks Tour—The Baxter Residence, Shotgun House, Airport Beacon, and others
- Memory Hall Historical Presentations—Presentations and displays from the Santa Monica Historical Society and the Santa Monica Public Library plus a 20-minute documentary on the history of Grant School and Sunset Park produced by Peter Zasuly.
- Share Your Stories—Memories of Grant school shared by students, parents, teachers, and others.
- Alumni Reunion—hospitality area for meeting old friends.

The hours will be 1-7 PM, with the reunion taking place at the end of the fiesta and into the night.

For more information, go to <http://www.Grant100.com> or phone the school at 450-7684.

Airport, continued from page 2

On Sept. 8, 2004, the City of Santa Monica formally submitted a request to the FAA for the RSAs and the ACP. No response from the FAA occurred until Congressman Waxman's office asked the House of Representatives Transportation Committee to look into the matter. Around the same time, (Jan. 15, 2006) the Los Angeles Times ran an op-ed piece exposing Santa Monica Airport's risk.

On January 20, 2006, David Bennett, FAA's Director of Airport Safety and Standards, finally wrote to Airport Manager Bob Trimborn, offering two alternatives to the City's proposals. One involves the construction of EMAS at the western end of the Airport to "capture" aircraft if they overrun. (EMAS is a soft cement in which planes get "stuck" if they're not airborne by the time they reach the end of the runway). This alternative offered nothing for the east end. Costs of the EMAS installation run from the FAA's estimate of \$1.9 million to the City's estimate of "in excess of \$12 million." The other

alternative proposed partial RSAs only at the departure end of the runway with no buffer at the landing end.

On April 5, 2006, after Congressman Waxman enlisted the support of Congresswoman Jane Harman, the two wrote a letter in response to the FAA's proposed alternatives. They urged the FAA to find solutions that would protect both West LA and Santa Monica residents from under-shooters as well as overruns.

So, while jet traffic continues to increase at a rapid pace, safety improvements for nearby residents continue to progress at a snail's pace.

Recent Plane Crashes Involving Santa Monica Airport

On March 13, a Beechcraft Bonanza single-engine airplane en route from Santa Monica Airport to San Diego crashed into the ocean about 250 feet off shore, opposite the end of Ocean Park Blvd. The cause was mechanical failure. About five minutes into the flight, the pilot had radioed the control tower reporting engine trouble. Peter and Kathleen

Tomarken died in the crash.

On April 4, *The Lookout* reported that, "In what is the second fatal airplane accident in less than a month for flights leaving from Santa Monica Airport, a North Las Vegas native lost his life last Friday when his plane crashed in the wooded hills outside Burbank."

Air Pollution

The Southern California Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has commenced its emission study. Monitors have been placed around Santa Monica Airport to collect air samples from April 1 to June 30. The Santa Monica Airport Commission will hold an Aviation Environmental Workshop on May 22, 2006, 7:30pm, City Council Chambers, 1685 Main St.

Want more Santa Monica Airport info? Visit <http://www.friendsofsunsetpark.org/>. If you would like to receive monthly Santa Monica Airport info emails from FOSP, contact Cathy Larson at fospairport@labridge.com or phone (310) 392-1907.