



# FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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## SEPTEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

### **SM Airport News**

BY CATHY LARSON

#### ***The SCAQMD Aircraft Emission Study***

The first phase of the aircraft emission study conducted by the Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) was completed in July 2006. After numerous complaints by SM Airport Neighbors (especially those on the east end of the runway who are assaulted on a constant basis by aircraft fumes), the SCAQMD agreed to conduct an emission study at two local general aviation airports: Santa Monica and Van Nuys. The next monitoring phase is currently planned from December 2006 through February 2007. The goal of the study is to characterize the air toxics levels in communities adjacent to these airports.

#### ***Assembly Bill 2501 (AB 2501)***

In April 2005, AB 2501 was introduced by State Assemblyman Ted Liu who represents West Los Angeles. This bill would have required the City of Santa Monica, as operator of the Santa Monica Airport, to gather data of aircraft idling times for one full year commencing in January 2007. The purpose of the bill was to use this data as a tool to assess the impacts of the idling aircraft emissions on the surrounding communities.

The City of Santa Monica opposed this bill primarily because it was an “unfunded mandate.” In other words, the City would be financially obligated to pay the entire costs of the study. In spite of the fact that the City opposed this legislation, it passed the Assembly and moved on to the State Senate for approval. Unfortunately, the bill was not approved by the Senate.

Assemblyman Liu plans to reintroduce this bill in the next legislative session. The City of Santa Monica has also promised to conduct an “Aircraft Operational Data Augmentation Project” as a supplement to the SCAQMD Aircraft Emission Study (see above). This project will collect aircraft idling times of turbine aircraft (jets and turbo propeller aircraft) on weekday departures during the time period of the next phase of the SCAQMD study (Dec. 2006-Feb. 2007).

#### ***Aircraft Conformance Program/Runway Safety Areas Implementation Status***

The progress on these very important safety enhancements has been slow. The Aircraft Conformance Program (ACP), first proposed in May 2002 and approved by City Council in Dec. 2002, will prohibit safety inappropriate larger and faster C and D Aircraft from utilizing SM Airport because they do not meet the SM Airport’s design standards. According to Airport Staff, these Aircraft make up approximately 50% of the jets currently using SM Airport. Currently, our local Airport does not have any Runway Safety Areas (RSA) in spite of the fact that it has residences within 250 feet of the runway. Staff supports the proposed safety enhancements by using FAA recommended design standards that were in existence at the time of the implementation of the 1984 Agreement between the City and the FAA, and therefore in compliance with it.

On Jan. 20, 2006, the FAA finally responded to the City’s official proposal for these

### **FOSP Annual Meeting**

FOSP held its annual general membership meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Olive Church. The guest speaker was City Manager P. Lamont Ewell. He described what he sees as the three major challenges to the city: land use, the homeless, and traffic circulation. Mr. Ewell also described the three initiatives he’s launched since starting his job in January: looking at the city’s finances in order to reduce redundancies and increase efficiency and effectiveness, raising standards for customer service, and looking at human resources functions in order to shorten the time it takes to fill vacancies.

The prestigious “Emmalie” award, named after Emmalie Hodgin, was awarded to Eric Gabster and Lorraine Sanchez for their outstanding service to the community. Special recognition was also awarded to Ed Moosbrugger (outgoing College Committee Chair), Cathy Larson (Airport Committee Chair), Ping Ho (Airport Committee), and Phil Harnage (Neighborhood Council).

Discussion groups focused on S.M. Airport, traffic and development, and crime and safety. The following members were elected to the Board of Directors for 2006–07: Tom Cleys, Charlie Donaldson, Eric Gabster, Susan Hartley, Emmalie Hodgin, Zina Josephs, John Reynolds, and Lorraine Sanchez. The meeting ended with a raffle of 31 prizes donated by generous Sunset Park merchants and by local artist Phyllis Chavez.

Continued on page 4

## **Eyesore May Be Eliminated**

BY CHARLIE DONALDSON

The Santa Monica YWCA is exploring a partnership with Santa Monica College that would allow the Y to develop the vacant southeast corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Pico Boulevard. When the college purchased the former Texaco service station site about seven years ago, the YWCA also had sought the property to house young women emancipated from foster care. That housing was provided elsewhere at the Y at 2019 14th Street, which adjoins the vacant corner. Current discussions envision a city-SMC-YWCA partnership in which the college would continue property ownership and the Y would build a facility there for its programs, reports Sally Young, Santa Monica Y executive director.

Since the college took the parcel off the tax roll it temporarily has served as a Christmas tree sales lot, a construction yard, a parking lot for construction workers, and a weed patch. College funding was never provided for a number of projects envisioned for the site over the years.

## **FOSP Director Named to Oversee SMC Bond Spending**

BY CHARLIE DONALDSON

Lorraine Sanchez, a Friends of Sunset Park director, has been appointed to a two-year term on Santa Monica College's Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, which meets quarterly to review the spending of college construction bond funds.

Former FOSP College Committee Chair, Ed Moosbrugger, has ended his four-year term on that oversight committee.

Ms. Sanchez, a retired nursing administrator and Peace Corps volunteer, has been a Santa Monica resident since 1961. Three of her four children attended SMC. Brigitte is a graduate of the college's registered nursing program. Mark, who edited SMC's campus newspaper, and Gabrielle transferred to four-year universities. Mark, an educator, now serves on the San Francisco board of education.

Ms. Sanchez, daughter of a Sicilian father and a Canadian mother, moved with her parents from New York to Southern California near the end of World War II to escape the oppressive New York summer heat.

After completing her training at the St. Vincent Hospital School of Nursing, she attended UCLA, earning bachelor and master's degrees in nursing. She taught three years at Cal State L.A., where she led that school's first program to increase minority student retention. She spent many years directing Kaiser programs before retiring in 1998 and joining the Peace Corps in Ecuador.

"When I returned to Santa Monica in the fall of 2000 I went into shock at all the changes," she said.

That shock turned her into an active community volunteer, and she began work for Friends of Sunset Park by helping collate answers from residents to a FOSP questionnaire. That led to her election to the Friends board about two years ago.

Along with community volunteer work, Ms. Sanchez is a busy grandmother, and she admits, "Sometimes I am more busy than I want to be."

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## **You Can Join Pico Artists at Work**

BY CHARLIE DONALDSON

Artists of all types from Sunset Park are invited to participate in "Pico Artists at Work," an art walk along Pico Boulevard and at Virginia Avenue Park on Sunday, Oct. 15, from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Painters, potters, sketch artists, photographers, sculptors, quilt makers, architects, and art schools will take part.

"Artists at work, persons who can show the public how they do their work, will be spotlighted, but any Sunset Park artist, professional or amateur, will be able to show his or her work," says Randy Ball, chairman of this Pico Improvement Organization (PIO) event that is co-sponsored by Friends of Sunset Park.

"Pico is seen as a blue-collar boulevard, and the many artists who do their work there don't mind that. We create with our hands," Ball says.

Works of amateur and professional artists will be displayed

in an art pavilion at Virginia Avenue Park during the day. Demonstrations will take place, and galleries and restaurants—particularly those that regularly display works of Pico artists—will be open.

Ball, who runs an art gallery and a frame shop at 3129 Pico Blvd., is a member of the board of directors of the PIO, the business improvement district for all 34 blocks of Pico in Santa Monica.

The idea for an art walk came from artists, gallery and frame shop operators along the boulevard.

"Planning is ongoing, so we invite input from our neighbors in Suuset Park," Ball said.

Specifics on how to participate can be obtained from Ball by calling 310-449-1444, or by dropping by his shop, Artistic Picture Frames.

**Make a Difference—  
Be a Mentor at PAL!**

The Virginia Avenue Project is a free, after-school mentoring program that uses the performing arts to help underserved children realize their full potential.

Mentors are currently needed for the creative tutoring program, SMART PARTNERS, which helps struggling students to improve their self-discipline and focus their concentration so as to reap academic rewards.

Mentors commit to a 1½ hour meeting each week with their student partners at the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL) building at 14<sup>th</sup> and Olympic. The partners meet on either Tuesdays or Thursdays, between 4 and 7 PM. The program runs for the length of the school term, October to May. Teams do not meet during school holidays.

Each SMART PARTNER pair is encouraged to create their own imaginative means of learning, through activities such as creative writing, reading aloud together, group activities, fine arts, and research. In addition to homework assistance, tutoring, and other special events, SMART PARTNER adults and kids also contribute to a literary magazine.

Visit [www.VirginiaAvenueProject.org](http://www.VirginiaAvenueProject.org) for more information or call 310-264-4224.

**Citizen Police Academy**

BY JEANNE LAURIE

As part of a proactive program to encourage understanding and communication with the people of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Police Department offers a Citizen Police Academy. It provides a not-to-be-missed opportunity to become acquainted with the day-to-day workings of the police department. As part of the class, students have the opportunity to do a ride along with a police officer, enjoy being out on the water with the SMPD Harbor Patrol, make a “traffic stop,” take fingerprints and much more.

More importantly, representatives from each of the divisions give presentations informing the students of the duties, goals, and responsibilities of each department. Students meet numerous police officers and civilian personnel from the SMPD. Each presenter has a wealth of useful information to share. Did you know that if you call 9-1-1 from your cell phone, you are connected to the California Highway Patrol’s Dispatch Center? The call then gets routed to Santa Monica after you tell CHP where you are. All Santa Monica residents or workers should have the Santa Monica Police Dispatch number (310-458-8491) programmed on their cell phone.

Learn who the officers are; learn what they do; learn what you can do to help. You are encouraged to ask as many questions as you like, including the universal question, “Is what happens on TV the same as the real thing?”

At the end of the class, you will have more friends than you did when you first came to class. Not only do you meet many officers on a face-to-face basis, the students in the class become quite a happy group of pals.

Each student gets a photograph taken with the Chief of Police at graduation. Mel Weinstein, a professional photographer, and past graduate of the Citizen Police Academy, took each student’s picture at the 23<sup>rd</sup> class graduation. He told us, “I’ve always had an appreciation for police officers. After taking this class, that appreciation has increased 1000%. Every day officers go out and risk their lives for us. An officer can do everything right and still be killed on the job. They do this for people they don’t even know.”

The Citizen Police Academy is offered in the spring and in the fall. There are twelve sessions, one night per week for 3 hours (6 PM to 9 PM). There is no cost involved; all class materials are provided to the participants. The class is open to those who are 21 or over and who live, work, or go to school in Santa Monica.

For more information, call the SMPD Community Relations Unit at 310-458-8474 or visit [www.santamonicapd.org](http://www.santamonicapd.org), click on “Information & Services,” then “Citizen Academy.” Class size is limited, and the class is offered only twice a year, so send in your application as soon as possible.

**Calling the Police — Three Ways to Do It**

BY CHARLIE DONALDSON

A call to Santa Monica police to report that two young transients were engaging in sexual intercourse in public didn’t bring the expected response from the police dispatcher. She told the caller police would not respond because by the time officers arrived the sex act would be completed. It wasn’t. After washing their teeth at a nearby water fountain, the young couple provided an encore performance for onlookers before picking up their back packs and moving on.

Capt. Jacqueline Seabrooks, No. 3 in the command structure for Santa Monica police, expressed dismay at the August Friends of Sunset Park board meeting that people were still learning about that incident.

Residents expressed dismay that they were getting mixed signals from the police.

Community affairs officers speaking at earlier FOSP meetings have urged residents to report suspicious persons in their neighborhoods because that would provide police with probable cause to stop and question such persons.

Capt. Seabrooks said, “We have to protect the constitutional rights of everyone.” Calls reporting persons whom residents see as suspicious may be judged unwarranted by **civilian police dispatchers**.

If you disagree, she said the caller can ask for a **communications supervisor**, who would be a police officer.

Or, Seabrooks said, the caller could ask to be connected to the **watch commander**—a police sergeant or lieutenant—who could better evaluate the call. The watch commander, she said, also can be called directly at 310-458-8427.

## E-Waste

BY CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMEMBER FRAN PAVLEY

**W**hat do you do with 500,000 TONS of e-waste?

That's what the State of California handles every year, and, as of Feb. 9, Californians can no longer just casually toss any of it into their trash cans. Used household and rechargeable batteries, including small hearing aid and button batteries; old cell phones; TVs, printers, computers and monitors; fluorescent tubes; old-style mercury switches, gauges and thermostats, as well as novelties with mercury like musical greeting cards and pre-1997 shoes with flashing lights; aerosol cans that are not totally empty and contain hazardous materials; and other such items contain metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium and chromium. All can leak out in landfills and contaminate soil and groundwater. To protect the public health, the State Department of Toxic Substance Control has determined that e-waste items are hazardous waste, and it is now illegal to improperly dispose of hazardous waste.

To make it easier for people to properly dispose of these items, two of my bills that became effective on July 1 begin to provide convenient alternatives. AB 1125 requires retailers that sell rechargeable batteries to provide a spot in their stores where consumers can drop off used rechargeable batteries. And AB 2901 similarly requires any cell phone retailer to provide a place where people can drop off old cell phones at no charge. In addition, AB 1369, which became effective January 1, requires manufacturers to produce thermostats that do not contain mercury. Honeywell, the primary producer, has informed me that all their new thermostats are mercury-free, having found a non-toxic alternative. Every community is required to provide some household hazardous waste (HHW) collection opportunities.

Most cities and counties have information on their websites as to where and when HHW collection events will be held. Also, Goodwill Industries is a state-authorized e-waste collector, so your local Goodwill store will accept your old electronics for recycling or proper disposal. To find out where you can dispose of e-waste items, go to [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org), phone toll-free to 800-CLEANUP, or go to [www.zerowaste.ca.gov](http://www.zerowaste.ca.gov).

Airport, continued from page 1

safety enhancements with their own alternatives. According to City Staff, the City is having an ongoing dialogue regarding the FAA's proposed alternatives. But here we are eight months later with no RSA on the horizon—literally. In the meantime, FOSP Airport Committee has met with City Manager Lamont Ewell to express our dissatisfaction regarding the lack of progress on the implementation of RSAs and the ACP.

**For more information on Santa Monica Airport issues:** Visit the Friends of Sunset Park web site at <http://www.friendsofsunsetpark.org/>

### Join the SM Airport Contact List

If you are interested in SM Airport issues, you can be added to our notification list by contacting Cathy Larson, Friends of Sunset Park Airport Committee, at [fospairport@labridge.com](mailto:fospairport@labridge.com) or 310-392-1907 with your name, email, street address, and phone number. Email updates go out every four to six weeks, snail mail several times a year depending on the issues.

## Volunteer at Virginia Avenue Park!

If you have time and interest in volunteering to work with young people, here are some opportunities to do so at Virginia Avenue Park this fall.

### Elementary School

Homework Assistance, grades 1 to 5: M–Th, 3–6 PM

Tutoring, grades 1 to 5: M–Th, 6–7 PM

Tutors receive training.

Help with reading and writing is especially needed.

### Middle School

Homework Assistance, grades 6 to 8: M–Th, 3:30–5:30

Tutoring, grades 6 to 8: M–Th, 5:30–6:30

### High School and Young Adults up to age 21

Homework Assistance: M–Th, 3:30–8 PM

Tutors are asked to volunteer one or two times per week.

For applications, call 310-458-8688 or stop by the park office between 9 AM and 7 PM, Monday through Friday.

### Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Volunteers meet with their little brothers/sisters two to four times per month for two to three hours on the weekends. For applications, call Miguel Leon at 310-458-8688, e-mail him at [MLEon@bigbrothersbigisterslaie.org](mailto:MLEon@bigbrothersbigisterslaie.org), or stop by on Tuesdays between 2 and 5 PM. He is also willing to make appointments to accommodate applicants' schedules.

To learn more about being a Big Brother or Sister, visit [www.bigbrothersbigisterslaie.org](http://www.bigbrothersbigisterslaie.org) and click on "Be a Big."

### School Supplies Needed

The Virginia Avenue Park is also accepting donations of school supplies for families who cannot afford backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, protractors...you name it. Those wishing to donate can drop off supplies at the park office in the Park Center building between

9 AM and 7 PM, Monday through Friday.