



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

NOVEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

Can We Talk?

A continuing series of annual discussions with City Manager P. Lamont Ewell about community priorities

Attend one of these neighborhood meetings to get an update on neighborhood projects and discuss Santa Monica's needs and priorities as the 2009–10 budget planning cycle begins.

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM

Monday, November 10

SMASH/John Muir School auditorium
2526 6th Street

Thursday, November 13

Grant Elementary School Auditorium, 2368 Pearl Street

Monday, November 17

Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street

Monday, November 24

Montana Library, 1704 Montana

Wednesday, December 3

Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Avenue

Locations are wheelchair accessible.

For additional disability-related accommodations or for more information about these meetings, please call (310) 458-8281.

Presented by the City of Santa Monica in partnership with Friends of Sunset Park, the North of Montana Association, the Ocean Park Association, the Pico Neighborhood Association, and the Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood Coalition

Santa Monica Airport News

BY CATHY LARSON, FOSP AIRPORT
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Nov. 4, 2008

Currently, the City of Santa Monica is fighting the FAA's challenge to an ordinance passed last March banning the faster, unsafe Class C and D aircraft at the SM Airport. The FAA succeeded in their request to enjoin the implementation of the ordinance until rulings have been issued.

The issue is being heard in two forums: (1) An administrative hearing through the FAA, called a "Part 16 Hearing," where a federal hearing examiner issues a ruling after the sides present their evidence and positions, and (2) the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

An informational item is scheduled for the **Tuesday, November 11th**, City Council meeting regarding S.M. Airport Runway Safety Enhancements. The federal hearing examiner has ordered the City and the FAA to a "pre-hearing mediation." This informational item presents some possible options that this upcoming closed, confidential mediation hearing may discuss.

The agenda item is 3-A. "Report on status of dispute with the FAA and the alternative of enhancing airport runway safety through the use of EMAS technology, and request direction to staff relative to the required mediation with the FAA."

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From the City Manager's Office:

Establishing Community Priorities for Next Year's Budget

As 2009 approaches, city staff is beginning to develop the Fiscal Year 2009–10 budget. This effort involves balancing expenditures against revenue sources that are under increasing pressure from current economic conditions. Staff will continue to focus on completing significant infrastructure projects, addressing key community priorities, and strengthening core services as resources allow.

City Manager and staff are currently in the process of holding a series of neighborhood meetings that will continue through December 3. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss community priorities and how they are integrated into the City's budget process. All who live and work in Santa Monica are invited to help the City Council and staff plan for fiscal year 2009–10 by identifying the services, programs and projects you believe are essential to the City's continued progress.

You can submit suggestions in one of five ways:

- Attend one of the "Can We Talk?" meetings throughout Santa Monica
- Speak at the public hearing on budget priorities at the Council meeting on February 10, 2009.
- Send e-mail to budget@smgov.net
- Send regular mail to the City Council, 1685 Main Street, Room 209, Santa Monica 90401
- Fax your suggestions to (310) 917-6640

Development of the FY09/10 Budget:

- Neighborhood Meetings – Nov/Dec 2008
- City Council set budget priorities – Jan 2009
- Departments develop budgets – Jan to March 2009
- City Council budget workshops – May 2009
- City council adopts FY 09–10 budget – June 2009

Hard Times for the Economy Means Extra Demand for the Westside Food Bank

BY JEANNE LAURIE

Thanksgiving is fast approaching. Westside Food Bank is in need of Frozen Turkeys for the Holidays! Please consider holding a frozen turkey drive or simply donating a frozen turkey for a local family in need this holiday season.

As more and more people are experiencing hardship because of the current economy, the Westside Food Bank (WSFB) has been experiencing extra demand for food. The number of people who must depend on help in order to eat has been rising steadily.

Are you moving? Do you know anyone who will be moving? Consider taking your nonperishable food items to the food bank rather than taking them with you or tossing them. The containers must be unopened. Health Department regulations prevent the food bank from accepting those half-eaten pizzas you had left over from the big party or packages of any open packages of food.

If you have food that you can spare, please consider giving it to WSFB. When you are grocery shopping (Costco, etc.), it would be a wonderful gesture to pick up some extra items to help those people who have been hit the hardest with rising prices for food and other basic necessities.

The Westside Food Bank does not distribute the food directly to individuals. The food is provided to 65 human services agencies which provide food to the elderly, the disabled, veterans, abuse victims, schoolchildren, and others who are food insecure. Most of WSFB's food reaches low-income individuals and families via food pantries that distribute grocery bags of food. WSFB's food reaches over 83,000 local people each year, nearly half of whom are children.

Recent figures have shown a marked increase in the number of people seeking assistance. In the past six months, WSFB's member food pantries reported that 19% more people sought food assistance as compared with the same six months in 2007. Even middle income families are finding it difficult to meet their basic needs without some food assistance.

Any nonperishable items are gladly accepted. Protein-rich foods, baby food and infant formula are in especially high demand, and supplies are running very low. Tuna, peanut butter, and other high protein foods are a cost item usually outside the normal WSFB budget. Children need protein for growth, emotional well-being, and for their IQs. Adults need protein to guard against a wide variety of health problems.

Please call Allison at (310) 828-6016 Ext 12 for additional information, or take food items directly to 1710 22nd Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404. (West of Cloverfield and South of Olympic Blvd.) Donation hours are Monday through Friday between the hours of 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Please call to arrange a donation time outside of 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Thank you kindly for your help. For a list of food pantries and/or additional information go to www.westsidefoodbankca.org. (Note the "ca")

Remember, if you can **give** food, please donate to the Westside Food Bank.

If you **need** food, please contact one of the pantries or food distribution locations.

Annual Meeting Election Results

At the June 14 Friends of Sunset Park General Membership Meeting, the following members were elected to the Board of Directors for 2008–09:

*Brian Bland, Phyllis Chavez,
Tom Cleys, Charles R. Donaldson,
Susan Hartley, Emmalie Hodgin,
Zina Josephs, John Reynolds,
Lorraine Sanchez, and Laura Thixton*

At a subsequent meeting, the Board of Directors elected its officers, as follows:

*President – Zina Josephs,
Vice President – Lorraine Sanchez,
Secretary – Charles R. Donaldson,
Treasurer – John Reynolds*

New John Adams Middle School Athletic Fields Open

On November 1st, community youth soccer teams inaugurated the use of the new JAMS field, complete with the same artificial turf used by many NFL and college teams, new fencing and new lights. And on November 3rd, students at the middle school began using the outdoor complex.

The \$3 million project was funded by Measure S, the 2002 Santa Monica College bond measure, and was a result of cooperative planning between the college, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and the City of Santa Monica.

The athletic complex — which had been heavily used by the middle school, SMC and the community — consists of three fields: one for soccer, one for either soccer or football, and one for softball. It replaces a complex of grass fields, which had to be closed periodically for rain or for re-seeding. Because of their new FieldTurf surface, the fields' use can now be increased by as much as one-third.

The fields are used during school days by John Adams students for physical education classes and for unstructured recreation during recess and lunch breaks. After hours, they are used by the city's Youth Sports program and by community groups such as American Youth Soccer Organization and Pony League teams.

On Saturday, AYSO has scheduled 11 games beginning in the morning, and on Sunday the fields will be used for soccer scrimmages, practices and drills.

The John Adams fields had also been used by the SMC's women's soccer team for practice and games, but those have been moved to the college's Corsair Field because it, too, recently got a FieldTurf surface that works for both soccer and football. The John Adams field will now be used for practice and games by the SMC women's softball team, which had been playing in city parks.

And the Emmalie Award goes to...Emmalie!

The Emmalie Award is given each year to the FOSP member who has demonstrated unusual commitment, energy, and perseverance in serving the neighborhood. This year's Emmalie Award was given at the June 14th Annual Meeting to the person for whom it's named: Emmalie Hodgin.

Emmalie is a founding member of Friends of Sunset Park and has been on its Board since 1989. Emmalie grew up in Louisiana and met her husband Charles here in Santa Monica. They bought their Sunset Park home in 1957 and raised four children here. Charles worked at Douglas Aircraft Company and Emmalie was active in PTA and taught pre-school, among many other activities. For the last nineteen years, Emmalie has kept the FOSP Board on the straight-and-narrow with her sage advice and her determination to do what is right for our neighborhood and for the city. Her eloquent (and sometimes fiery!) speeches at City Council meetings are legendary.

All of us extend our congratulations to Emmalie Hodgin, winner of the 2008 Emmalie Award!

Local Businesses and Individuals who Donated Door Prizes for the FOSP Annual Meeting

Bark Williams – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd. #118
Campos Mexican Foods – 2800 Pico Blvd.
Chavez Art – <http://www.artshow.com/chavez/>
Edelweiss Flower Boutique – 1722 Ocean Park Blvd.
Gilbert's El Indio Restaurant – 2526 Pico Blvd.
Kramer Sporting Goods – 1727 Ocean Park Blvd.
Maya Shoe Repair – 1708 Ocean Park Blvd.
MiscPrint – 1706 Ocean Park Blvd.
Mrs. Winston's – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.
Salon Amba – 2813 Ocean Park Blvd.
Starbucks – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.
Sylvia Shapiro/The Massage Place – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.
The Cut Salon – 1620 Ocean Park Blvd.
The Hair Brains – 1718 Ocean Park Blvd.
The Massage Place – 2901 Ocean Park Blvd.
Teddie Tillett – 3238 Pico Blvd.
Zabie's Restaurant – 3003 Ocean Park Blvd.

The staff report for November 11 agenda item 3-A is posted at: http://www01.smgov.net/cityclerk/council/information_items/2008/AirportSafetyAlternatives.pdf

We urge residents to attend the Council meeting and to communicate with Council members at Council@smgov.net.

A Very Condensed Version of the Staff Report for Agenda Item 3-A on November 11th

The current controversy reflects the Airport's unique characteristics, i.e., the airport is surrounded by homes and there are no runway safety areas to protect the adjacent neighborhoods from an overrun. There is little or no space available to create safety areas without using part of the runway, and doing so would affect access to the airport by some types of aircraft.

Fleet changes in the years since the 1984 Agreement created new safety risks. The City addressed safety concerns by studying the options and formulating the Conformance Program, which would have used displaced thresholds to achieve safety areas for A and B aircraft, and would have limited Airport usage to aircraft which conformed to the its design by banning C and D aircraft. In 2002, the FAA reacted to this proposed plan by initiating the current administrative proceeding to challenge the proposal.

Since the Conformance Program was approved, EMAS technology (Engineered Materials Arresting Systems – crushable concrete beds at the end of runways to trap planes, similar in function to sand traps for runaway trucks) has improved and now provides an alternative means of enhancing safety. The possibility of installing EMAS at Santa Monica Airport warrants consideration. However, the SMO runway is too short to accommodate C and D aircraft if standard 500-foot EMAS beds are installed at either end of the runway, at a cost of about \$8.5 million each. Shorter EMAS beds would not protect nearby residents.

Possible policy goals and parameters for exploring any settlement opportunities include enhancing public safety and neighborhood quality of life by:

1. protecting against overruns through runway safety improvements, including EMAS technology;
2. maintaining and, if possible, enhancing the efficacy of the blast wall;

3. keeping the runway ends as far as possible from homes;
4. preserving neighborhood aesthetics; and
5. ensuring that neighbors at both ends of the runway are benefited by any voluntary resolution.

Protecting the City's fiscal health and attendant ability to continue funding a wide variety of City services and programs by:

1. insulating the City against future liability claims by striving to meet federal runway safety standards;
2. containing the cost of safety improvements and covering them, to the extent legally possible, through use fees; and
3. containing legal costs by fully exploring any possibility for voluntary resolution.

Staff suggests that the Council consider the information provided in this report, **the public testimony**, and any other information provided at the public hearing, deliberate on the goals to be pursued in the mediation process, and give staff general guidance to establish parameters for the mediation process. We urge residents to attend. The council meeting will be broadcast on CityTV (Channel 16 on both Time Warner and Verizon).

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Hearing

In addition to the upcoming mediation, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is scheduled to hear the City's challenge to the Interim Cease and Desist Order prohibiting the enforcement of the C and D ban on **November 19th, at 9:00 AM**, at 125 S. Grand Avenue in Pasadena. This court hearing is open to the public, and we urge residents to attend. The courthouse is located about 25 miles from downtown Santa Monica.

Directions to the courthouse:

- Take the 10 freeway east.
- Go north on the 110 (the Harbor freeway, and then the Pasadena freeway)
- Take Exit 31A at Orange Grove Ave.
- Turn left onto Orange Grove.
- Turn left onto Maylin St.
- Turn right onto Grand Ave. – 125 S. Grand Avenue, Pasadena CA 91105-1643

Community Oriented Policing Program

The Santa Monica Police Department's Community Oriented Policing program now includes the Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO). The NRO is the direct link between the community and the Police Department. The NRO is best described as the "small town sheriff" for each patrol beat and will provide a personal contact to anyone living, working, or visiting within the specific beat patrol. If there is an emergency or routine police service request, the public should continue to use 9-1-1 or the non-emergency line (310-458-8491). However,

if there is a reoccurring concern, or developing crime trend, or other non-routine need for service, the NRO will be able to assist. NRO's are available to attend community meetings and events; engage in regular patrols; and conduct proactive crime prevention. They can be contacted through e-mail, cellular phone, or a phone call to their office. If you would like to contact the NRO for Sunset Park (Beat 7), call (310) 458-2201, extension 4676, and ask for Officer Artis Williams.