



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

MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 30, 2009

1:30 to 4:00 PM

Mt. Olive Church, 14th & Ocean Park Blvd.



Speakers:

Mayor Ken Genser

Chief of Police Timothy J. Jackman

Fire Chief Jim Hone



Other City Officials Attending:

Eileen Fogarty, Director of Planning and Community Development

Bob Trimborn, Airport Manager



Samohi Jazz Combo, Refreshments, and Door Prizes



Vote for the FOSP 2009–10 Board of Trustees



In order to vote, you will need to become an FOSP member by May 20th, ten days before the election. A membership form is on the last page of the newsletter. Current members can renew their memberships at the meeting. If you received this newsletter by mail, the mailing label will have the date when you last paid dues.

Save the Date!

Celebrate your neighborhood with Friends of Sunset Park! The FOSP Annual General Membership Meeting arrives on May 30th—your chance to renew your membership, elect FOSP Board members, and talk to city officials. Plus, you can hear the Samohi Jazz Combo, enjoy refreshments, and have a chance to win free door prizes donated by neighborhood businesses!

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Friends of Sunset Park. Congratulatory certificates from State Senator Fran Pavley and Assemblymember Julia Brownley will be presented, and the founders and former Board members of FOSP will be gathering to reminisce.

So bring your friends, neighbors, and your curiosity to Ocean Park Blvd. at 14th, and join us in the Fellowship Hall of Mt. Olive Church.

Mark the date: Saturday, May 30th, 1:30 to 4 PM. Find out how you are represented by FOSP, discover ways you can support the neighborhood, and hear the latest about what's happening in your home town!

Join the July 4th Parade!

From the Ocean Park Association:

This year, you can join the ranks of the New York Transplants Who Love Santa Monica, the Samohi Viking Marching Band, the Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Club, and the Women of the Moose by participating in this year's Main Street 4th of July Parade.

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Santa Monica Airport Update

BY CATHY LARSON, FOSP AIRPORT COMMITTEE

Airport Safety Measures Held Hostage

For years there have been concerns regarding the close proximity (less than 250 ft) of the Santa Monica Airport's runway ends to neighborhood homes. On March 25, 2008, the city of Santa Monica passed an ordinance banning unsafe, faster Class C and D aircraft from the Santa Monica Airport. The City based the new law on the FAA's own recommended safety standards.

Unfortunately, the FAA deemed access for the unsafe, faster aircraft more important than the safety of the residents. The agency filed for a "cease and desist" order and the U.S. District Court granted a temporary restraining order, which was upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on May 8, 2009.

The FAA also challenged the City's new ordinance with an administrative review process called a Part 16 Complaint. A ruling is expected this month. There is a sense that no matter which side the Hearing Officer rules in favor of, the opposing side will appeal. Meanwhile, Airport neighbors continue to live under threat of an aircraft careening off the end of the runway.

EPA to Conduct Lead Particulate Study at the SM Airport

A presentation was made at the January 2009 Santa Monica Airport Commission meeting regarding a study of airborne lead particulates being conducted by the EPA. Currently, fuel for propeller planes still contains lead. The EPA's study of the dispersal of lead into the environment by aircraft exhaust, set to commence in June 2009, could lead to new standards for aircraft fuels.

NEW Museum of Flying to Hold Community Outreach Meeting Saturday, May 16, 2009, 2 PM, 3100 Airport Ave. (adjacent to the new DC-3 monument)

The Santa Monica Airport staff is working with the Museum of Flying to ensure that the new location is compatible with adjacent businesses and neighborhoods. They have invited all interested parties to review the site improvements and operational plan. While the museum was formerly located on the north side of the Airport, the new site is considered more desirable because of its close proximity to the DC-3 monument. For more information, contact the Airport office at (310) 458-8591 or Daniel Ryan, Managing Director of the Museum of Flying, at (310) 398-2500.

Airport Commission Looking at the Airport's Future

With the expiration of the operating agreement between the City of Santa Monica and the FAA approaching in 2015, the Santa Monica Airport Commission, at its April 2009 meeting, requested that a representative from the City Attorney's office make a presentation regarding documents that may have a determining factor on the use of Airport land after 2015. Airport Commission meetings are open to the public and are usually scheduled the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 pm, in the City Council chambers. Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the next meeting is scheduled on June 1, 2009. Agendas are posted the prior Thursday on the Airport's web site: <http://www01.smgov.net/airport>

*If you would like to be added to the FOSP Airport notification list, please contact the FOSP Airport Committee at fospairport@labridge.com

20th and Pearl: Still "Grand Central Station"

Big Blue Bus Traffic on 16th, 17th, 20th,
& Pearl Streets

BY LAURA THIXTON

It has been one year since the FOSP newsletter article "Twentieth and Pearl Turns into Grand Central Station" was published. It described how residential sections of 16th, 17th, 20th, and Pearl Streets had become inundated with Big Blue Bus (BBB) traffic, beginning in August 2007.

Most of the bus routes on these streets are serving Santa Monica College (SMC) at the neighborhood's expense. With buses idling within mere feet of homes, and with schedules running from early in the morning until late at night, sometimes at seven-minute intervals, the burden unfairly carried by the surrounding residential neighborhood remains.

Each weekday, the intersection of 20th & Pearl hosts over 20,000 car trips (north/south cut through traffic and SMC students), privately run SMC Intercampus Shuttles (White Deer), and four BBB routes. This intersection is uniquely situated between Grant Elementary, John Adams Middle School and SMC, and more than 130 elementary and middle school children use the crosswalks daily.

BBB has the following routes running through this area:

- ✦ Crosstown Ride/No. 11, Monday thru Friday, 6:59 AM thru 10:10 PM (every 15 minutes);
- ✦ Sunset Ride/SMC Intercampus Shuttle, Monday thru Friday, 7:00 AM thru 6:00 PM (every 15 minutes);
- ✦ SMC Commuter/Line 6, Monday thru Friday, 7:30 AM thru 6:55 PM (7 buses per day);
- ✦ SMC Intercampus Shuttle/Bundy Campus Evening, Monday thru Thursday, 5:30 PM thru 10:10 PM (every 15 minutes).

The SMC Intercampus Shuttle (White Deer) serving the Performing Arts Center, which runs Monday thru Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM, has also been seen on 20th and Pearl Streets, although it's supposed to pick up and drop off at Parking Structure A on Pico Blvd.

This adds up to 129 buses passing a few feet from homes morning, noon and night!

A portion of these bus routes is being supported monetarily by the Associated Students and SMC through a partnership, and SMC students and staff

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Parade, continue from page 1

Form a group or drill team, build a float, reconnect with your marching band, decorate yourselves and your bikes, volunteer to help, or just come and watch! Fire Chief Jim Hone will lead the procession as this year's Grand Marshal. Applications and guidelines for those who wish to march in the parade will be available on the OPA website www.opa-sm.org starting June 1st. Advance registration is required to participate. Our Blue Ribbon Panel will notify you of your check-in time after your application has been approved.

The parade begins at 9:30 on Saturday, July 4th, in front of the Civic Auditorium on Main Street at Pico, and then it will proceed south on Main to Marine.

For general Parade questions, contact parade@opa-sm.org. To volunteer, contact volunteers@opa-sm.org. To become a sponsor, contact sponsor@opa-sm.org. Last year was great fun, and we expect this year to be even better. So join the Parade!



Friends of Sunset Park lining up for the 2008 Main Street 4th of July Parade

Our Elected Officials and Where to Find Them

State Senator Fran Pavley has opened her District Office here in Sunset Park at 2716 Ocean Park Blvd. #3088. Staffer Rebekah Rodriguez-Lynn will work on healthcare, education, child welfare, and Santa Monica issues. Stephanie Molen will work on environmental and water issues. Aron Miller will work on transportation issues such as the Exposition Light Rail. Steve Lane will help constituents with unemployment benefits, DMV issues, and SSI benefits. The office can also provide information on legislation and has brochures on issues such as consumer protection and small business assistance. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 to 5, and the phone number is 310-314-5214. Website: www.senate.ca.gov/pavley

Assemblymember Julia Brownley—Local office is located at 6355 Topanga Canyon Blvd. #205, Woodland Hills 91367. Phone: 310-395-3414. Website: www.assembly.ca.gov/brownley

Representative Henry Waxman—Local office is located at 8436 W. Third St. #600, Los Angeles 90048. Phone: 310-652-3095. Website: <http://waxman.house.gov>

Senator Barbara Boxer—Los Angeles office is located at 312 N. Spring St., #1748, L.A. 90012. The phone number is 213-894-5000, and the website is <http://boxer.senate.gov>

Senator Dianne Feinstein—Los Angeles office is located at 1111 Santa Monica Blvd., #915, L.A. 90025. The phone is 310-395-914-7300, and the website is <http://feinstein.senate.gov/public>

Santa Monica City Council website—go to <http://www.smgov.net/departments/council/> for meeting dates, agendas, Council Wrap Up (informal minutes) and contact information.

Help Prevent Auto Burglaries

Auto burglaries are mostly crimes of opportunity. With a little time and effort, you can reduce your probability of being a victim. The increase in auto burglaries is part of a national trend. Do not keep your valuables in plain view in your vehicle. Take them with you, or place them in your trunk but before you arrive at a location where people might be watching.

Do not leave your vehicle registration in your car. It should be kept with your driver's license. Your GPS and other equipment, such as airbags and stereos can also be targets.

Always close your car windows and lock your doors, even if you plan to be gone briefly. An open door or window allows a thief a quick and quiet way to steal your property. Even when the window is only slightly open, it makes the thief's job easier. If your vehicle has an alarm system, be certain to activate it.

Thieves look for vehicles that they can enter with the least possibility of being seen or caught by citizens and authorities. Try to park in well-lit areas where your vehicle is visible to others. Be aware of your surroundings prior to leaving your vehicle.

Report suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood. Report suspicious persons wandering around looking into vehicles as they walk. Wait until your security gate or garage door closes before leaving your residential parking area.

Remember, if the crime is "in progress," call 9-1-1. To report an auto burglary that has already occurred, and if the suspect is gone, call the SMPD non-emergency number, (310) 458-8491.

FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

Grand Central Station, continued from 2

ride for free. These routes are advertised on SMC's website as "college serving." This advertisement runs contrary to the BBB's assurances that the routes are "community serving."

The neighborhood was also assured that smaller, quieter buses would be used on these lines beginning in spring 2008 but, to date, there are still 40-foot full-size buses traveling through the area and negotiating turns that often require cars in the opposing lane of traffic to back up. To paint a better picture for you, the same huge 40-foot buses that you see on Ocean Park and Pico Boulevards are also traveling on 16th, 17th, 20th and Pearl Streets every day.

Residents have strongly urged BBB to re-route these buses out of the residential areas and onto main arterials, not only because of the noise and dirt pollution, but because of the dangerous conditions these buses pose to school-age pedestrians and to the families, children and pets that live on these narrow streets.

The FOSP Board of Directors has conveyed the neighborhood's legitimate concerns to BBB, as well as to the SMC Board of Trustees and the City Council. Due to the tenacity

and persistence of residential outcry, letter writing, e-mailing, and meeting attendance, some small changes have been made. But there is still a lot of work to be done so that residents in this area of Sunset Park get some relief and regain the quality of life they previously enjoyed. A middle ground can be found while still allowing the BBB to serve the college and its growing student population.

If you would like the college-serving bus routes (SMC Commuter/Line 6, Sunset Ride/SMC Intercampus Shuttle, and the SMC Intercampus Shuttle/Bundy Campus Evening) to be moved off of 16th, 17th, and 20th Streets and onto Pico and Ocean Park Boulevards, please e-mail your comments to Stephanie Negriff, BBB Director of Transit Services, at Stephanie.Negriff@smgov.net, Dan Dawson, BBB Customer Relations Manager, at Dan.Dawson@gov.net, City Manager Lamont Ewell@Manager at smgov.net, and Friends of Sunset Park at FriendsofSP@yahoo.com.

For change to occur, our voices must be heard. Let's make our residential neighborhoods livable again, while still supporting our local college. A better balance is needed.

SMPD Receives Centurion Award

On April 30, 2009 the Santa Monica Police Department's Neighborhood Resource Officer Program received the Peace Officer Association of Los Angeles County 2009 Centurion Achievement Award for Excellence in Community Policing. SMPD was selected for this award from all the law enforcement agencies in L.A. County.

The Neighborhood Resource Officer Program was developed in January 2008 in order to provide the community with a direct contact with the Police Department. It takes the "Andy Griffith small town sheriff" approach to policing, in which everyone in the community has personal contact with the Police Department. In 2008, the SMPD Neighborhood Resource Officers attended over 650 community meetings and personally met with more than 6,500 people to discuss safety concerns.

In Sunset Park, our Neighborhood Resource Officer is Artis Williams. He can be contacted at 424-200-0687. To set up a Neighborhood Watch group or to arrange for a free residential security survey, contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator for Sunset Park, Mike Cveyich, at 310-458-8474.

Also, remember that when you dial 9-1-1 from a cell phone, you may end up talking to a California Highway Patrol dispatcher, who would then connect you with SMPD. If possible, program your cell phone with the SMPD Non-Emergency Dispatch number, 310-458-8491, which will connect you with the same SMPD communications center as 9-1-1.

JOIN FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Today's date _____

I will help with:

- Airport Committee
- Annual Meeting
- Crime/Safety/Graffiti
- Emergency Preparedness
- Membership Committee
- Neighborhood Mailings
- Planning and Development
- Santa Monica College
- Traffic, Parking, Pedestrian Safety
- Website/Internet

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 mail to P.O.Box 5823,
Santa Monica, CA 90409*

My greatest concerns are _____

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