



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 2009 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 to discuss Santa Monica's needs and priorities as the FY 2010–11 budget planning cycle begins.

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM

Thursday, November 12th
Grant Elementary School Auditorium
2368 Pearl Street
Co-sponsored by Friends of Sunset Park

Monday, November 9th
SMASH/John Muir School Auditorium
2526 6th Street
Co-sponsored by the Ocean Park Association

Monday, November 16th
Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th Street
Co-sponsored by the
Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood
Association

Monday, December 1st
Montana Library, 1704 Montana Avenue
Co-sponsored by the
North of Montana Association

Wednesday, December 2nd
Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Avenue
Co-sponsored by the
Pico Neighborhood Association

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

If you are unable to attend, you may also give your opinion on priorities or the FY 2010–11 budget by writing to: City Council, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401; post your feedback at www.smgov.net/budget; or e-mail your comments to budget@smgov.net

IT'S YOUR CITY – IT'S YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD – LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Santa Monica Police Department

Earlier this year, the Santa Monica Police Department held an awards ceremony at City Hall. Among the honorees was a Sunset Park resident, Shawn Nadery. He received the **Citizen Involvement Award** and was commended for his discretion, quick thinking, and his ability to act under pressure in helping the police to locate and arrest a burglary suspect.

During the ceremony, Alex Padilla, who has been with the department for three decades, was officially sworn in as **Captain**. Over the years, Captain Padilla has often represented the department at community meetings and events in Sunset Park, and he is well-known to many residents in the neighborhood.

Officer Brian Spencer was awarded a **Lifesaving Medal** for his rapid response, quick and decisive action, and calm under tremendous stress. In November 2008, he responded to a call regarding a 3-year-old child who had fallen into a swimming pool in the 1700 block of Pine Street. When Officer Spencer arrived, the child was unconscious and not breathing. He administered CPR, with the assistance of the child's grandfather, until Fire Department personnel arrived. The on-duty fire captain and the UCLA attending physician both stated that Officer Spencer's efforts saved the child's life.

Two officers, Cain Mora and Enrique Esparza, received **Medal of Courage** awards for their response to a January 2009 call concerning a suicidal man with a handgun in Clover Park. When the officers arrived, the man pulled a handgun from his pocket and placed it against his temple, shouting at Officer Mora to shoot him. When the man's mother entered the park and began struggling with her son for the gun. Officer Mora grabbed the woman, attempting to pull her out of harm's way. The woman began struggling with Officer Mora, and Officer Esparza assisted him in restraining her, and then moved her out of the park and to a safe location. Negotiations with the man continued but, despite the officers' best efforts, he committed suicide. The actions of Officers Mora and Esparza in confronting an individual with a gun, and in stepping away from protective cover to pull the mother to safety, led to their awards.

Calendar of Events

- November 10 and 24** – City Council – 6:45 PM – City Hall – agenda: www.smgov.net
- November 10, 17, and 24** – “Write-Away” – 12 to 3 PM – Inspiration, guidance, direction and support for writers – Fairview Library, Ocean Park Blvd. & 21st
- November 11 and 18** – Planning Commission – 7 PM – City Hall – agenda: www.smgov.net
- November 12 and 19** – “What’s New This Week?” – 1 PM – A discussion of the week’s key news stories, moderated by Jack Nordhaus – Fairview Library, Ocean Park Blvd. & 21st
- November 12** – “Can We Talk?” – 7 PM – Annual Sunset Park meeting to give community input to city staff regarding priorities for the city budget – Grant Elementary School Auditorium, Pearl & 24th
- November 19** – SMMUSD Board of Education – 5:30 PM – District Office, 1651 16th St. – agenda: www.smmusd.org
- November 20** – Main Library Docent Tour – 12:30 PM – Library collections, history, sustainability, art and architecture – 601 Santa Monica Blvd.
- November 23** – Social Service Commission – 7 PM – Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St.
- November 23** – Airport Commission – 7:30 PM – City Hall – agenda: <http://www01.smgov.net/airport/>
- November 28** – Santa Monica Turkey Trot/Widdle Waddle/Costume Contest – 6:30 AM registration – Reed Park – info at <http://SantaMonicaGobbleWobble.com> – bring cans of food for Westside Food Bank
- December 8** – SMC Board of Trustees – 7 PM – Business Building, 1900 Pico Blvd. – www.smc.edu

Resources

SMPD Non-Emergency Dispatch: 310-458-8491
 SMPD free residential security surveys: 310-458-8474
 SMPD Graffiti Hotline: 310-458-2231
 S.M. Airport Noise Hotline: 310-458-8692
 S.M. Animal Shelter: 310-458-8594
 SMC College Police: 310-434-4300

Disasters Happen! Are You Prepared?

Can you say “I’ve Got 7!” and mean it? In the event of a disaster, are you prepared to survive without assistance for 7 days? Here’s what you need to do to get ready:

- **Make a Kit** – Have a 7-day supply of nonperishable food and water on hand. Keep a First Aid kit, battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries available. Make sure you have cash, clothing, medications, personal hygiene supplies, important documents, and pet supplies in your kit.
- **Make a Plan** – Establish a plan for your family and make sure everyone knows what they should do, where to go or meet in case of an emergency — and practice your plan! Know your children’s school evacuation plan. Out-of-state contact information should be shared with family members so messages can be relayed to loved ones if local communications are not available.
- **Be Informed** – Visit the web site www.smgov.net/ivegot7 for more information on life-saving steps to prepare for a disaster.

“Migration Blues”

BY PHYLLIS J. CHAVEZ

Meet the “Quackers,” three young surf ducks, born and raised in the canals of Venice, California.

Their passion in life: surfing and saving the earth. Their mission: To surf and spread the word, to anyone who will listen, about saving the earth, cleaning up pollution, and stopping global warming.

Here is Episode #8 in the chronicles of Sidney J. Quacker, Richard Quacker, and Rusty Quacker, as told by FOSP Board member Phyllis Chavez:

About this time of the year we grow nostalgic. Our cousins are winging in from faraway places and although we are thankful to have settled here, we sometimes feel a little left out. So, we pull out the family photos and recall the stories of the “good old days” when Great Grandpa Quacker used to make the ‘great journey.’

Migrating was a necessity and a matter of survival for Great Grandpa Quacker but he always spoke of it as if it was a great adventure. We still hear him saying, “Boys, the great journey along the Pacific Flyway is filled with peril and hardship, but the wonderful places we visit along the way made it all worthwhile.” He described beautiful lakes, ponds and wetlands filled with abundant food and good shelter. He demonstrated the “V” formation they flew in and how important the tail winds were to their journey. Although he had to weather storms along the way, they were not as frequent or severe as we have today. He would say, “Sidney, we don’t fly in a storm. It is too dangerous. We find a good spot, stop, hunker down and wait it out. That way we come out fine.” Looking at the old photos and thinking of Great Grandpa made us feel connected again.

Great Grandpa noticed things were rapidly changing. Each year as he made the journey he noticed new roads, taller buildings, more houses, coming closer and closer to the lakes, rivers and wetlands. These changes coupled with global warming were of great concern, not just for us but for all migrants. Habitat loss and global warming was turning an ancient, natural process into an increasingly perilous operation. A process for survival was becoming an additional threat to survival.

The unpredictable weather from global warming has caused some of our family to misread the normal cues. They have started the journey too early or too late and were unable to find sufficient food on their stop over. Our cousins, on the Central Flyway, told us that they must time their arrival in Chicago later than ever before and are staying much longer before continuing south. Their stop over is so long, they are considering building a small condo and then renting it out in the off season.

We found some pictures of Great Grandpa Quacker’s favorite stop over, the Ballona Wetlands. They are the reason he decided to settle here. Unfortunately, they were being threatened too. He

told us he would always picture Ballona in his mind when he was tired or waiting out a storm. The thought of arriving there to rest always lifted his spirits. He would also tell us, “You boys don’t know how easy you have it. In those days we would fly at 50 MPH for 8 hours and travel for hundreds of miles before we could rest at the Wetlands.” Rusty didn’t always like it when Great Grandpa said he had it too easy. He got in trouble once when he said, “I know, I know Great Grandpa and you had to swim 40 miles in a frozen lake breaking up the ice as you went along to make a path, right?” Grandpa raised his voice and said, “No, boy! Don’t be ridiculous! But that does remind me of the time we had to use snow shoes near Mt. Shasta. It was so cold our wings froze...” Rusty should really think before he speaks.

Great Grandpa loved the Wetlands. Someone shared that great love, a wonderful lady named Kathy Knight. She lives near us in Santa Monica. She is a legend in our family. Each new generation is told of the great sacrifices she made. She fought strong and hard against insurmountable odds to save the Ballona Wetlands. We are forever thankful. Her contribution to ecology of the area is priceless. Thanks to Kathy Knight, when we get that “left out” feeling, we fly to Ballona Wetlands and enjoy a family reunion at Great Grandpa’s favorite stop over.

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To learn more:

flyways@nwf.org

www.ballona.org

Santa Monica College Update

Site work for the new Student Services/Administration Building on Pico near 20th began in December 2008. Demolition of the Concert Hall, Music Complex, and Amphitheater, and excavation involved over 5,000 truck trips. The 85,000 sq ft three-story building and three-level 500-space underground parking garage should be completed in summer 2013.

Access to the garage will include Pico, 20th Court (the alley behind homes on the

west side of 20th St.), the alleys connecting 20th Court to 20th Street, and Pearl Street just west of 20th.

The total budget is \$109 million, with about ¾ of the funding coming from Santa Monica and Malibu residents via ballot Measures U, S, and AA.

The next meeting of the Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2010 at 8 AM at a Santa Monica College location TBD. This meeting is covered by the Brown Act,

so the agenda must be posted 72 hours ahead, the meeting must be open to the public, and there must be allowance for Public Comment.

The next SMC Board of Trustees meeting will be on Monday, Dec. 8, at 7 PM in the Business Building Room 117, 1900 Pico. (To park, enter the main campus from Pico at 17th, stay to the right, and tell the parking attendant at the kiosk that you are attending the Board of Trustees meeting. You should not be charged).

Santa Monica Airport Update

BY CATHY LARSON

FAA Proposed Flight Path Cuts Across Neighborhoods – More Noise Ahead

Beginning approximately December 1, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is starting a 180-day trial period relocating the instrument departure path (radar, not visual) of piston powered aircraft. According to Santa Monica Airport (SMO) staff, this new procedure will affect around 20 departures a day during limited visibility weather (i.e., clouds, rain, fog, etc.).

The FAA has stated that the current SMO departure flight path has an intersecting trajectory with the LAX departure path. Because of the piston powered aircraft's slower speed, there is concern regarding the ability to maintain compliance with the minimum 3-mile horizontal separation that is required between aircraft, without causing delays of up to 15 to 20 minutes of jet departures from both SMO and LAX. The flight path of jets departing SMO will not be altered. Due to their similarity in speed to departing aircraft from LAX, they are more easily integrated into LAX flight departures.

Upon reaching 400 feet elevation from mean sea level (approximately midway down the Penmar Golf Course), the piston-powered instrument flight rules (IFR) aircraft will be directed to turn right on a 250-degree heading toward the Santa Monica Pier.

The FAA had agreed to make an informative presentation at the October 26 Airport Commission meeting for discussion and public comment. Unfortunately, they canceled at the eleventh hour and replaced the public meeting with a November 6 private meeting (no public allowed) with SMO staff and FAA representatives. In other words, **no public hearing, no public comment, no public record.**

An FOSP Airport Committee representative has voiced concerns to the City that the altered flight path will have significant noise impacts on the Sunset Park neighborhood. As the aircraft make their way along the new flight path toward the Pier, the rising topography of the neighborhood north of Dewey and Marine would actually position the aircraft closer to the elevated ground level (and homes) than when they initiate their right turn over the golf course.

According to SMO staff, any permanent change in flight paths will require the FAA

to conduct an environmental review under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Staff plans on requesting that the FAA establish a dedicated phone line to field residents' noise complaints.

EPA Emission Study Update

According to city staff, the EPA has completed its collection of data regarding lead emissions from air monitors and soil samples. A presentation to the Airport Commission and community regarding the findings of the study, originally scheduled for October or November, has been postponed and is tentatively scheduled for the Airport Commission meeting in January.

City of SM vs. FAA on Runway Safety

The City has filed an appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, also known as the "D.C. Circuit." The City Attorney's office is waiting for a docket briefing schedule to be issued, which may take several months. FOSP will forward more information as it becomes available.

Crash Data

Three aircraft have crashed so far this year at the airport. On January 6, the landing gear on a twin-turboprop Beechcraft King Air 100 collapsed as the plane landed. On January 29, two men were killed when a small single-engine Marchetti lost power shortly after takeoff and crashed back onto the runway. On August 2, a Long-EZ experimental plane lost power soon after taking off. The pilot circled around, landed hard, and skidded off the north side of the runway.

2009 Santa Monica Fourth of July Parade



One of our younger FOSP flag wavers



Marching down Main Street



FOSP Board member Emmalie Hodgkin, Charles Hodgkin, and driver Chris Thixton



The FOSP line-up