



# 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 2011 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

### FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 21, 2011

1:30 to 4:00 PM

Mt. Olive Church, 14<sup>th</sup> & Ocean Park Blvd.

  
*Speakers:*

City Manager Rod Gould  
SMC Trustee Rob Rader  
Airport, Fire Department, and  
Transportation Management Staff

  
*Refreshments, Music, Door Prizes, and  
Exhibit tables from the Red Cross and Sustainable Works*

  
Vote for the 2011–12 FOSP Board of Directors



*In order to vote, you will need to become an FOSP member by May 11<sup>th</sup>, 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.*

## **Airport Update**

BY CATHY LARSON

### **SMO Visioning Process Begins**

**A**s the operating agreement between the FAA and the City of Santa Monica regarding the Santa Monica Airport approaches its expiration in 2015, the City has begun a process to determine the options available for the airport's future. The airport consists of 227 acres located at the southeast corner of the City's borders. The 5000 ft runway is embedded in a residential area, and the environmental and safety impacts have been a longtime concern for airport neighbors. In addition to the runway itself, the airport property hosts aviation-related businesses, non-aviation business, airport staff offices, aircraft tie-downs (parking spaces), aircraft hangers, restaurants, artist studios, sports playing fields, a dog park, a theatre, and some SMC classrooms.

The City has engaged the services of three consultant firms to conduct an airport visioning process. The RAND Corporation will produce a study of potential development concepts and applications for the aviation and non-aviation land. HR&A Advisors will analyze the economic and fiscal impacts of the airport. PointC will formulate and manage an extensive community process regarding the range of possibilities for the Airport's future. This public outreach process will include all stakeholders, including residents, business owners, aviation and non-aviation interests.

Phase I of the process will involve information gathering. Phase II will consist of a comprehensive public input process. After a full range of options are identified with the associated costs and benefits, the City will then undertake Phase III, a deliberative

## Big Blue Bus

The Big Blue Bus Company held a series of community meetings in March regarding its plans for the next five years. Proposed changes will be presented at a public hearing before the City Council, tentatively scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>.

Those proposals include **decreasing** service on the **Local 7** line (which stops westbound on Pico Blvd. at Centinela, 33<sup>rd</sup>, Dorchester, Stewart, 26<sup>th</sup>, Cloverfield, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, Euclid, 10<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln, 6<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and Main St.) while **increasing** service on the **Rapid 7** line (designed to serve SMC students, the westbound route on Pico stops only at 18<sup>th</sup> St., and Main St., with a proposed new stop at 28<sup>th</sup>).

More information can be found at [www.BigBlueBus.com](http://www.BigBlueBus.com) and the City Council can be contacted at [Council@smgov.net](mailto:Council@smgov.net)

## Senior Exemption – Measure R

On February 5, 2008, the voters of Santa Monica and Malibu approved by 73% the Measure R parcel tax, which allows those senior citizens who qualify to be exempted from the tax if they:

- Are 65 years old by June 30, 2011
- Own and occupy their property as their primary residence
- Annually apply for exemption

Seniors who applied for and received the exemption will be sent a 2010-11 Renewal Form in June, which needs to be completed, signed and returned by July 31, 2011.

First-time applicants may call (310) 450-8338, ext. 269 to request an application, or print the application posted on the district website at: <http://www.smmusd.org/fiscal/pdf/1011ApplicMeasR.pdf>

Completed and signed applications must be returned, along with required proofs of age and property ownership, by **July 31, 2011** to: Santa Monica-Malibu USD (Attn: Dawn), 1651 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404-3891

### Airport Update, continued from 1

planning process for the future of the Airport.

#### **Phase I: February to September 2011**

- HR&A will prepare a study of Airport's economic impact.
- RAND will prepare a report and analysis of general aviation airport best practices, potential alternative layouts, operational configurations and uses.
- Point C will identify stakeholders, formulate a public process plan that will include all the stakeholders, and design presentations and formats to disseminate the information collected and produced by HR&A and RAND.

#### **Phase II: October 2011 to January 2012**

- A program of public workshops will be conducted. These meetings will be designed to include a broad range of participants.
- Meetings will be scheduled throughout this period to ensure all interested members of the public have the opportunity to participate.
- Recommendations will become part of the public dialogue report.

#### **Phase III: February to June 2012**

- City Council will begin the deliberative phase with presentations from RAND and HR&A on their reports and with a full review and discussion of the comments and recommendations from the Phase II public input process.
- City Council will consider appropriate policies and actions.

Friends of Sunset Park encourages all residents to participate in the public input process so their voices are heard in determining the Santa Monica Airport's future.

### **New Airport Commissioner**

Santa Monica City Council has appointed Sunset Park resident David Goddard as the new Airport Commissioner to fill a vacancy left by Jean Gebman's recent resignation.

### **WebTrak Now Available for SMO**

Santa Monica Airport's WebTrak system is now up and running. The WebTrak allows the public to access the

movement of aircraft over our neighborhood. It not only includes aircraft arriving and departing from SMO, but any aircraft in our neighborhood space. Aircraft are color coded to determine type and origin. Information shown includes the aircraft's type, altitude, origin/destination airports, and flight identification. Access to current air traffic is delayed approximately 20 minutes for security reasons and for system processing. Historical data can be viewed in the Replay Mode and is available up to 90 days in the past. The system also allows you to file a complaint about a particular aircraft.

For more info about the web tracking see the Airport web site page: [http://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/For\\_Our\\_Neighbors/WebTrak.aspx](http://www.smgov.net/Departments/Airport/For_Our_Neighbors/WebTrak.aspx)

To access the web track see: <http://webtrak.bksv.com/smo>

### **LA City Council Votes to Support SMO Flight Path Alteration and Closing of Flight Schools**

On April 20, 2011, the Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution that would support lobbying "for legislation or administrative action that would alter the departure path at the Santa Monica Airport (SMO) to enhance safety and reduce air pollution that results from jets idling on the runway, as well as closing flight schools at SMO."

There are concerns in the Sunset Park and Ocean Park neighborhoods that the City of LA will lobby for the permanent implementation of the FAA's recently tested 250-degree heading. That sent departing aircraft over residential areas instead over the Penmar golf course. During the test period, residents sent thousands of noise complaints to the airport staff.

Prior to the passage of this resolution, the Santa Monica City Manager responded to residents' complaints regarding flight schools by denying operating permits to two new flight schools. It's not clear whether there are legal grounds to rescind operating permits for the six existing flight schools.

## Ocean Park Boulevard Reconfiguration

*Note: Due to space limitations, we are printing only excerpts from the February 28, 2011 Information Item, prepared for the Mayor and City Council by Lucy Dyke, Deputy Director for Special Projects, Department of Planning and Community Development. The complete report is posted at: <http://www.smgov.net/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=21671>*

### Introduction

Ocean Park Boulevard between Lincoln and Cloverfield was reconfigured on a trial basis in 2008. The reconfiguration was incorporated into the paving improvement completed in 2010 and there are no plans to return to the previous configuration.

### Background

The primary reason for changing the street's configuration was to improve safety and pedestrian crossing conditions along Ocean Park Boulevard from 16<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> Streets. Residents, parents, and merchants sought improvements in this area because of its critical location near schools and because it is a neighborhood commercial district. In the past the City had addressed these concerns as follows:

- assigned crossing guards and installed marked crosswalks
- installed, repaired, and replaced several generations of flashing crosswalk technologies
- added school zone signs including real-time speed feedback signs

Although several other measures, including installing additional traffic signals on Ocean Park Boulevard, were considered in 2007, staff recommended a trial of a "road diet."

The recommended configuration would eliminate one travel lane in each direction, add left turn pockets, provide a continuous marked bicycle lane on both sides, and add onstreet parking in some locations. A community meeting was held at Virginia Avenue Park to discuss the proposal prior to trial implementation. The trial configuration, implemented during winter 2008, extended from a transition west of Lincoln Boulevard to a transition east of Cloverfield Boulevard.

This area of the Sunset Park neighborhood is adjacent to an active neighborhood business district, many schools including John Adams Middle School (JAMS), Santa Monica College (SMC), and several public and private elementary schools and preschools. There are marked crosswalks with in-pavement flashers at 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets, and at 17<sup>th</sup> Street there is a traffic signal. Crossing guards are deployed during JAMS student arrival and dismissal hours at both 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets. Ocean Park Boulevard itself is posted as a School Area speed

zone, with a 25 mile per hour speed limit when children are present. It carries approximately 23,000 vehicles per day.

### Accident History

Accident data reported by the Police Department indicates that there was a 65% reduction in the total number of accidents, from 35 to 12, on Ocean Park Boulevard in the first nine months following the reconfiguration, as compared to the same period in the year prior to the change. The second year accident rate was consistent with the first, based on accident data reported to the State. Injury accidents were reduced by 60% following the reconfiguration, from 15 to 6 in the subsequent 9-month period, and further to one during the same period in the second year.

### Speed of Traffic

The speed limit is 35 miles per hour and the school zone is posted at 25 miles per hour. Speed data following the reconfiguration indicates that most motorists now drive at reasonable speeds between 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Streets. Eighty-five percent of motorists in this area travel at or below 27 miles per hour. Speeds are higher outside the project area, at 39 miles per hour in the segment between Lincoln Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, and at 37 miles per hour in the segment between 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Centinela Avenue. Roadway users have expressed concern about delays in travel time and queues on Ocean Park Boulevard.

### Shifting Traffic

Overall, traffic volumes on local streets in the area have been relatively stable, with changes of less than 200 cars per day. The reduction on Ocean Park Boulevard itself is about 3,000–4,500 cars per day. It is not clear to where these trips shifted. Some motorists continue to drive faster than the speed limit on Oak Street and Hill Street, which parallel Ocean Park Boulevard.

## Earthquake!

What do you need to be prepared for an emergency?

- **Water** – at least one gallon per person or pet per day.
- **Food** – non-perishable food items that require no refrigeration or preparation and are easy to store.
- **Flashlight and radio** – with extra batteries!
- First Aid Kit
- **Medications** – any prescription medications needed regularly and general pain relievers, stomachache remedies, etc.
- **Personal Hygiene Items** – toothbrush and paste, hairbrush, soap, razors. Plastic garbage bags with ties are also handy.
- **Pet supplies** – don't forget food for Fido, water and a carrier.

Go to [www.IveGot7.com](http://www.IveGot7.com) for more information. You can also contact Paul Weinberg in the Office of Emergency Management at 310.458.8686.



# FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

## Photos from the 2010 Annual Meeting



# JOIN FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

## 2011 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

My greatest concerns are \_\_\_\_\_

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:*

**FOSP, P.O. Box 5823, Santa Monica, CA 90409  
(note the zipcode)**

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