



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • Box 5823, Santa Monica, California 90409-5823 • FriendsofSP@yahoo.com

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

New Police Chief

City Manager Rick Cole has selected Cynthia Renaud as the next Santa Monica Police Chief. Renaud has served as Chief of Police for the City of Folsom, California for the last seven years where she led the police force in both property and violent crime reduction during her tenure. Chief Renaud is not new to the Southland, as she served in the Long Beach Police Department for 20 years before taking the chief post in Folsom. She will assume her duties in April.

Identity Theft In the Alleys

From Beat 2 Crime Prevention Coordinator Myesha Morrison re identity thieves searching through trash bins in the alleys:

“We would suggest never engaging suspected thieves as we never know someone’s trigger. It is safer to call 9-1-1 or the non-emergency line – 310-458-8491 – to request that an officer respond.”

To prevent identity theft, the City has free paper shredding events sponsored by the Resource Recovery & Recycling Division. The next scheduled date is April 28 at the City Yards. Residents should be mindful of the items they toss in the trash. We suggest holding anything with personal information until it can be properly destroyed by a licensed contractor like the one at the RRR events, which are posted at <https://tinyurl.com/ya6pqhbo>

Door to Door Solicitations

From the Santa Monica Police Department: Every year, the Santa Monica Police Department responds to numerous calls regarding door-to-door solicitors. There are many legitimate organizations that solicit door-to-door, either to sell products and services or to promote a religious, political or charitable cause. However, there are also a growing number of individuals who illegally solicit with the purpose of committing fraud.

So when someone knocks at your door, ask the person to produce the required license before he/she begins a sales pitch. Be aware that your average con-artist will have a thousand reasons for why he/she has no license, but there is no legal reason to be without one. And don’t forget, if an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is!

Interim Standards For Single Family Homes

The City Council is scheduled to discuss on March 27 whether or not to extend the Interim Zoning Ordinance until November 2019. It is a temporary measure to reduce the maximum allowable size of new single family homes in the R1 zoning districts.

- It limits maximum parcel coverage to overall 50% (a reduction from the current 61%), with a maximum of 20% on the second floor. Parcel coverage is calculated by dividing the square footage of the lot or parcel into the square footage of the house. For example, a new home on a 7,000 sq ft lot would be limited to 3,500 sq ft. The parcel is considered to extend from the center line of the alley behind the house to the curb.
- It reduces the maximum building height of homes north of Montana to 28 feet (the same as the rest of the city).
- Accessory dwelling units (granny flats) are excluded from parcel coverage calculations.
- Upper level setbacks are measured from the second floor.
- Second floor balconies and decks cannot add up to more than 400 sq ft.

Santa Monica Airport (SMO)

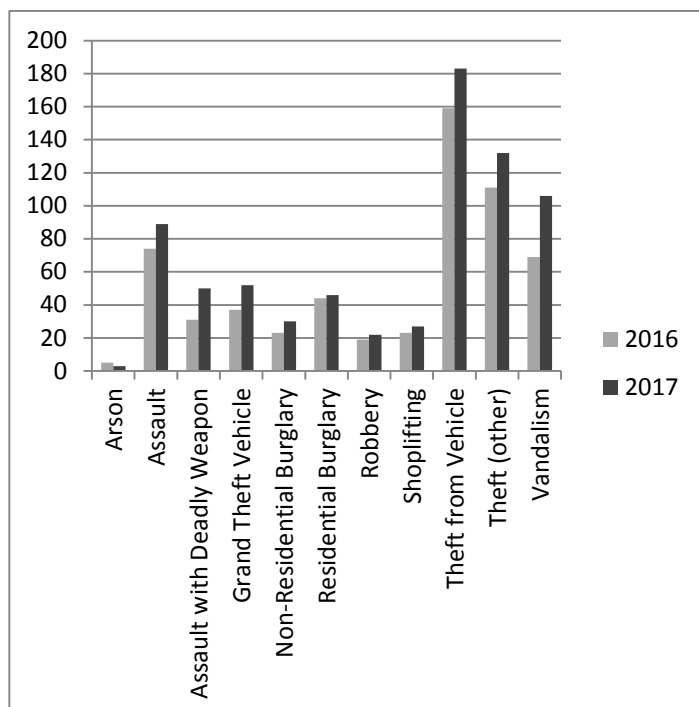
February Departures A comparison of monthly departures at SMO from February 2017 to February 2018 shows the following increases and decreases:

Helicopter departures:	72 to 126
Jet departures:	599 to 129
Turboprop departures:	197 to 331
Piston departures:	1,245 to 1,623
Total departures:	2,113 to 2,219

Airport Park Expansion This project will convert approximately 12 acres of non-aviation land at the Santa Monica Airport into new park and recreational space adjacent to the existing 8.3-acre Airport Park. It will involve the construction of two FIFA-regulation-sized synthetic turf sports fields, 95 community garden plots, a large natural turf multi-purpose area, pickleball courts, recreational paths, fitness equipment, picnic areas, and structures containing restroom, concession and storage facilities.

The Capital Improvement Projects budget has appropriated \$1.6 million in General Funds to fund the design phase for the project. The unfunded construction budget is currently estimated to be \$39 million.

CrimeMapping.com Summaries for Sunset Park in 2016 and 2017



Sunset Park Neighborhood Traffic Study

The Sunset Park neighborhood is bounded on three sides by Lincoln Blvd., Pico Blvd., and Centinela Avenue. These arterial roadways carry significant volumes of local and regional traffic on a daily basis. According to the city's Traffic and Parking Manager, Henry Servin, this area has experienced an increase in vehicular traffic within its local streets as a result of the arterial street volumes exceeding their existing capacity.

Recent advances in community-based traffic and navigation software applications such as WAZE have caused a further redirection of this traffic onto neighborhood streets. Spillover traffic from the main arterials is pervasive and floods collector, residential, and alleyways for several hours every morning and evening.

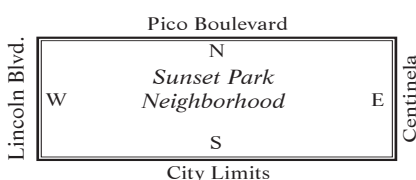
This traffic study will analyze existing conditions and develop possible modifications to the roadway network within the neighborhood to discourage, divert, and/or prevent spillover traffic onto the local roads. The city is getting ready to advertise and award a contract for consultant services. The consultant will then begin work on July 1 and share findings with the community in early 2019.

Santa Monica College

SMC has broken ground on its Early Childhood Lab School. It will be located on the SW corner of 4th Street and Civic Center Drive, on the Civic Center parking lot. The City is leasing 60,000 square feet to SMC for free for 55 years. The City is also contributing \$6.6 million toward the construction costs. The pre-school and child care center will serve 110 infants, toddlers, and pre-schoolers – primarily children of City, SMC, and RAND employees. 15% of the children will come from low-income families, and 30% will be Santa Monica residents.

Sunset Park

The Sunset Park neighborhood is bounded by Lincoln Blvd. on the west, Pico Blvd. on the north, and the city limits on the east (Centinela) and south (Airport, Dewey, Ozone).



A list of all the City-recognized neighborhood organizations and a map of their boundaries are posted at www.smgov.net/content.aspx?id=4241

SMMUSD Update

JAMS Auditorium The auditorium at John Adams Middle School is scheduled to be demolished this summer. The building, which dates from the 1940s, has been closed since 2014, due to structural safety concerns. A new performing arts center will be constructed in several phases on the site of the existing auditorium and music building.

The first phase will involve renovating the existing music building, removing the existing auditorium, and building a new auditorium. The second phase will involve constructing a rehearsal building, and the third phase will involve replacing the music building.

Plans will be submitted to the Division of the State Architect this summer. Construction of the new auditorium is expected to begin in summer 2019 and last about 18 months.

Sunset Park Christian Church The church, at the NW corner of 16th and Maple, has been sold to the school district, intended for the eventual expansion of the Will Rogers campus. As the cost of bringing the church up to code for rental purposes was deemed too expensive, it will be demolished at the same time as the JAMS Auditorium. The property will then serve, for the time being, as a parking lot – part asphalt, part grass.

Term Limits for City Council

The Friends of Sunset Park Board has not taken a position on term limits for City Council in Santa Monica. The city currently has no term limits for City Council. Petitions are currently being circulated to gather enough signatures to get a November 2018 ballot measure to limit Council members to three terms (12 years). It would not be retroactive.

How long have current City Council members been in office?

Pam O'Connor – 24 years
Kevin McKeown – 20 years
Tony Vazquez – 10 years
Gleam Davis – 9 years
Terry O'Day – 8 years
Ted Winterer – 6 years
Sue Himmelrich – 4 years

Additional information is posted at www.SantaMonicaTransparency.org/

FOSP Board of Directors

Zina Josephs, President
Clare Thomas, Vice President
Charles R. Donaldson, Secretary
Vivien Flitton, Treasurer
Nikki Kolhoff, Land Use Cmte. Chair
Cathy Larson, Airport Cmte. Chair
Peter Donald
Ofer Grossman

Leaf Blower Ban

Santa Monica Municipal Code 4.08.270 states: No person shall operate any leaf blower within the city. The Code defines a leaf blower as “any motorized tool (gas, electric, or battery powered) used to propel fallen leaves, grass clippings or debris for removal.” Alternatives to leaf blowers include push brooms, rakes, manual leaf sweeping machines and leaf vacuums. Hosing down surfaces to remove leaves or debris is also prohibited.

About 85% of leaf blower cases originate from complaints. Leaf blower complaints are submitted via the Government Outreach (GO) electronic reporting system, and via telephone and e-mail. When a complaint is received by Code Enforcement staff, a case is opened and assigned to the officer who patrols the area in which the reported violation is located.

When reporting the use of a leaf blower, the concerned party is asked to provide the time, date, and place that the violation occurred. The officer must personally observe the violation in order to take enforcement action. The current fine for operating a leaf blower in the city is \$500. The current fine for operating a business without the proper city license is \$500.

Clover Park Restrooms

Construction of the new restrooms is expected to begin in early summer 2018 and will take approximately 12 months to complete.

Both restroom buildings will be replaced with structures that are similar in size to the existing buildings with the same number of stalls. The north restroom building (near the basketball and volleyball courts) will have six stalls and a common hand washing station with two sinks. The south restroom building will have four stalls and a common hand washing station with two sinks.

Project information and updates are available at santamonicaparks.org, and residents can email ccs@smgov.net if they have any questions or concerns.

Calendar

April 4 & 18

Planning Commission – 7 PM – City Hall

April 10 & 18

City Council – 6:30 PM – City Hall

April 19

FOSP – 7 PM – Mt. Olive Church

April 23

Airport Commission – 7 PM – City Hall

April 28

Free Paper Shredding – 9 AM to 2 PM – City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue