



# FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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

## MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

### **Sunset Park Traffic Study – Community Meeting on March 28**

**When:** Thursday, March 28 – 7 to 9 PM

**Where:** Virginia Avenue Park – Thelma Terry Building

**Parking:** The south parking lot entrance is at Pico and 23rd. The north parking lot entrance is on Virginia Avenue between 21st and Cloverfield.

The City of Santa Monica has been conducting a traffic engineering evaluation of the Sunset Park neighborhood, which is bounded by Pico, Lincoln, Dewey/Ozone, and Centinela.

**Purpose:** To investigate documented concerns with safety, increased congestion, cut through traffic, and speeding vehicles.

**Goal:** To determine the extent of the concerns and identify potential short-term and long-term improvements.

At this meeting City staff will discuss data findings and proposed implementation measures at key locations to address some of the concerns regarding traffic flow. The meeting will begin with a short presentation and will allow for questions and comments from attendees.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may send comments or concerns to [Traffic.Engineering@smgov.net](mailto:Traffic.Engineering@smgov.net)

### **Save the Date! – May 11**

**What:** FOSP Annual General Membership Meeting

**When:** Saturday, May 11 – 1:30 PM

**Where:** Mt. Olive Church, 14<sup>th</sup> and Ocean Park Blvd.

The meeting will include interesting speakers, exhibit tables, refreshments, music, the annual “Emmalie” award, and the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones.

Local businesses will provide door prizes.

### **Santa Monica Airport (SMO) Update**

**Airport Interim Open Space** – The airplanes are cleared, and the gates opened to the east 6-acre parcel of the future Airport Park Expansion site, allowing public access for un-programmed recreational use such as rollerblading, bicycle training for families, and romantic sunset enjoyment. Be creative and enjoy the undeveloped space! The Airport Interim Open Space is open daily, sunrise to sunset. It can be accessed from Airport Park’s north parking lot adjacent to Donald Douglas Loop South. Rules are posted at <http://www.santamonicaparks.org/interim-open-space/>

**Airport Park Expansion design** – Rios Clementi Hale Studios’ design renderings for the proposed 12-acre expansion of Airport Park are posted online at <https://www.rchstudios.com/projects/santa-monica-airport-park/>

**Airport 2 Park videos** – <https://tinyurl.com/ybgj56oa>

*John Fairweather’s* 7-minute video stresses the role a large park could serve, when Santa Monica Airport is closed in 2029. It could alleviate past issues with the city’s parks that were driven by shortages. It could also help create an integrated citywide park infrastructure where parks, more than anything else, define and become the very fabric of our city.

*Michael Brodsky’s* 5-minute video details the vital roles that parkland, and in particular large parks like the one that will emerge at Santa Monica Airport, play in addressing the climate change issues we all face going forward. The video presents

## Fairview Library

Upcoming events at the Fairview Branch Library at 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. include the following:

- March 26 – NOON – “Write Away” – Support and encouragement for all writers
- March 28 – 1 PM – “Current Events” – A lively discussion of the latest news
- April 11 – 7 PM – Friends of Sunset Park – monthly meeting – all are welcome!

## Annual Report on Homelessness

The Annual Report on Homelessness will be presented to City Council on March 26. This report will include the results from the 2019 Annual Homeless Count. That agenda will be posted 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx>

## SCAQMD “No Burn Days”

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the government agency responsible for protecting our public health by regulating toxic emissions from stationary sources in Southern California. From November 1 to February 28 each year, SCAQMD requires that people NOT burn wood in their fireplaces, wood stoves, or fire pits on days where there is high air pollution. These are designated **No Burn** days as wood smoke contributes to the poor air quality.

Why does our government consider wood smoke to be bad? Because it contains very small particles of burned material, generally less than 2.5 microns in diameter (1/30<sup>th</sup> the diameter of a human hair) that lodge in our lungs and evade the body’s natural defenses. Wood smoke contains other toxic compounds as well. It is associated with reduced lung function and increased incidence of bronchitis, asthma, lung cancer, and heart attacks. To learn more and to sign up for AIR ALERTS, visit <http://www.aqmd.gov>

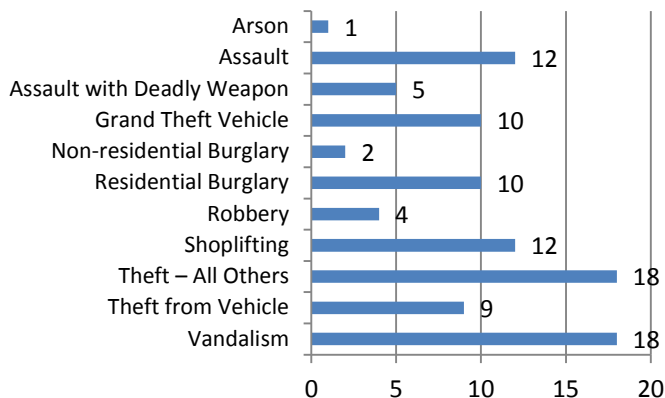
The air in Santa Monica is not great, even on a “good” day. Our air for the past 15 years has averaged only “moderate” quality (not “good”). Please consider your own health, that of your neighbors, and that of the general public before you burn on ANY day, not just on SCAQMD “No Burn” days.

## Crime update – January and February 2019 – Sunset Park Neighborhood

From Crime Mapping: <http://www.crimemapping.com/map/ca/santamonica>

- Arson – 1 – 17<sup>th</sup> Street
- Assault – 12 – 31<sup>st</sup>/Donald Douglas Loop, Cloverfield/Pico, Euclid, three on Lincoln Blvd., Lincoln/Pico, two on Ocean Park Blvd., three on Pico Blvd.
- Assault with deadly weapon – 5 – 11<sup>th</sup> Street, two on Ocean Park Blvd., two on Pico Blvd.
- Grand theft vehicle – 10 – 17<sup>th</sup> Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Street, two on Lincoln, Ocean Park Blvd., Pacific, three on Pico Blvd., Pier Avenue
- Non-residential burglary – 2 – 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Pico Blvd.
- Residential burglary – 10 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, 34<sup>th</sup> Street, two on Hill Street, Lincoln Blvd., Ocean Park Blvd., Pico Blvd., two on Pier Avenue, two on Sunset Avenue
- Robbery – 4 – Grant Street, Lincoln Blvd., two Pico Blvd.
- Shoplifting – 12 – six on Lincoln Blvd., six on Pico Blvd.
- Theft from vehicle – 9 – two on 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Street, 28<sup>th</sup> Street, 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Dewey Street, Euclid Avenue, Pico Blvd.
- Theft – all others – 20 – 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, two on Airport Avenue, Cloverfield Blvd., four on Lincoln Blvd., Maple Street, five on Ocean Park Blvd., three on Pico Blvd.
- Vandalism – 18 – two on 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Street, five on Lincoln Blvd., two on Lincoln/Ocean Park Blvd., Oak Street, Ocean Park Blvd., five on Pico Blvd.

## Sunset Park Crime Mapping: January and February, 2019



## FOSP Board of Directors

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

## Climate Action Plan

Santa Monica released a draft of its Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) on February 25 for public review and input. Community members are encouraged to provide comments on the draft plan through April 1 at <https://smClimateAction.konveio.com/>. The City is using an interactive platform that enables individuals to comment directly and view comments and suggestions made by others. The online draft includes supplemental information and links about existing City and regional programs and projects.

The City Council directed staff to develop a plan to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 or sooner. By 2016, Santa Monica's emissions had been reduced 20% below 1990 levels. The CAAP includes proposed policies and measures that would help reduce carbon emissions communitywide 80% below 1990 levels by 2030. Emissions reductions will come primarily in three Climate Action sectors: net zero carbon buildings, zero waste and sustainable mobility.

- **Net Zero Carbon Buildings:** This year, the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) began serving Santa Monica 100% green power to residents and businesses, potentially reducing current emissions by as much as 19%.
- **Zero Waste:** Landfilled waste generates a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions so keeping waste out of landfills through reuse, repair, recycling, and composting can have a big impact on climate change. Banning common disposable items such as disposable plastic takeout food containers helps reduce landfill.
- **Sustainable Mobility:** Traffic congestion, pollution, and carbon emissions are all linked. All three can be reduced by making it safer and more convenient to take trips by foot, bike, or personal mobility device. Making it more convenient to charge electric vehicles can also encourage drivers to transition to electric vehicles and help reduce emissions.

To learn more about what you can do to support the plan, reduce your carbon footprint, and prepare for climate change, visit [smgov.net/climate](http://smgov.net/climate).

## Clean Energy Alliance and Your Utility Bill From Southern California Edison

Clean Power Alliance is a Joint Powers Authority made up of public agencies across Los Angeles and Ventura counties working together to bring clean, renewable power to Southern California. If every Santa Monica household opted for 100 percent renewable energy, the city's total emissions would be 35 percent lower than they were in 1990.

City Council voted in December 2017 to become a member of the Clean Power Alliance (CPA), which provides electricity for communities across Los Angeles and Ventura counties using Edison's power lines. Council voted in October 2018 to set the default level of renewable energy ratepayers will receive at 100 percent. Other communities with a 100 percent renewable default option include Culver City, West Hollywood, South Pasadena, Ojai, Rolling Hills Estates, and Ventura County.

At any time, you can:

- Do nothing and enjoy 100% renewable energy serving your electricity needs, which started February 2019.
- Select one of CPA's other options: Clean Power providing 50% renewable content, or Lean Power, providing 36% renewable content.
- Opt out without penalty, and your electricity generation charges will remain with Southern California Edison.

Low-income customers enrolled in discount programs such as CARE and FERA are still able to enjoy 100% green power at the same rates they were previously paying to Edison.

Customers who opt down to lower levels of renewable energy, or opt out to remain with Edison, can change their preferences at any time.

For more information, visit [www.cleanpoweralliance.org](http://www.cleanpoweralliance.org) or, to indicate your preferences, contact Clean Power Alliance at [customerservice@cleanpoweralliance.org](mailto:customerservice@cleanpoweralliance.org), or call 888-585-3788.

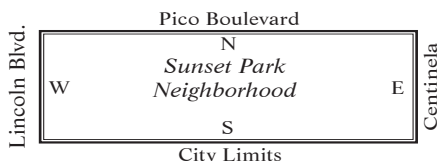
FAQs are posted at <https://tinyurl.com/ya8fx33q>

## Hedges, Fences, and Walls

**Maximum heights in front yard area** – In the front yard area, hedges, fences, and walls shall not exceed 42 inches in height. For the purpose of regulating the height of fences, walls, and hedges, the front yard area shall be considered to be the area between the front property line and the nearest building wall or front setback line, whichever is the shorter distance.

**Maximum heights in side and rear yards** – Fences and walls shall not exceed 8 feet in height. A hedge shall not exceed 12 feet in height, except that there shall be no height limit for hedges adjacent to and located within 10 feet of an alley.

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](http://www.smgov.net/content.aspx?id=4241)

**Airport Update, continued from page 1**

inspirational examples of other such projects from around the world.

**FLOAT – Fly Over All Traffic** is a new air shuttle service that promises to “whisk” commuters across the Southern California region and that views Santa Monica as a key destination. The service, which starts at \$1,250 per month, promises affordable alternatives for “super-commuters” who spend more than 90 minutes driving to work each day. They would be flown in a 10- to 14-seater Cessna Caravan aircraft.

**Airport Litigation** – The National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), and the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) have inquired about the use of airport revenue to fund the shortening of the SMO runway (as agreed to by the FAA in a January 2017 settlement agreement/consent decree) and the destruction of excess pavement. As of February 2019, the FAA is treating this inquiry as a Part 13 complaint.

**Landings and Takeoffs** at SMO in January 2019 – Here are some excerpts from the Noise Report presented at the February Airport Commission meeting:

Piston-propeller aircraft – 4,712 (up from 4,062 in 2017)

Turboprop aircraft – 407 (these seem as noisy as the jets)

Helicopter – 304 (up from 181 in 2017)

Jets – 206 (down from 1,230 in 2017)

TOTAL: 5,664 (an average of 183 landings and takeoffs per day)

**Next Airport Commission Meeting:** Monday, March 25, 7 PM, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor City Council Chambers at City Hall. Agenda: <https://www.smgov.net/departments/airport/commission/>

Chair Chair Andrew Wilder

Vice Chair Peter Donald

Commissioner Lael R. Rubin

Commissioner Joe Schmitz

Commissioner Chris Waller

**Noise Complaints and Flight Tracking:**

<https://tinyurl.com/y8qlsc0x>

“Button Offers Instant Gratification for Those Plagued by Airplane Noise” 12/29/18 – *Washington Post*

<https://tinyurl.com/ycljepzk>

**Santa Monica Airport contact information:**

Airport Office: (310) 458-8591

Fax: (310) 572-4495

Email Address: [airport@smgov.net](mailto:airport@smgov.net)

Web Page: <http://SantaMonicaAirport.org>

**Land Use**

**R1 Standards**

The City of Santa Monica is preparing to update its Single-Family Residential (R1) zone district development standards. The goals are to review the size of new home construction and make the current R1 Development Standards more “user-friendly.”

In February 2018, the City Council adopted an Interim Zoning Ordinance for the R1 zone district, due to concerns raised in the community regarding the incompatible character and scale of some new developments in the city’s single family residential neighborhoods.

The interim ordinance temporary amended portions of the municipal code with regard to maximum parcel coverage, maximum building height, minimum setbacks for upper stories, limits on aggregate square footage for upper-story balconies and roof decks, and excluding Accessory Dwelling Units (“granny flats”) from parcel coverage calculations.

Planning staff has been meeting with architects, contractors, and community members to gather input. During the months of April and May, planning staff will hold community meetings in the R1 districts (north of Montana, Northeast, Pico neighborhood, and Sunset Park) to gather more input from residents before holding hearings at the Planning Commission and, ultimately, at City Council.

**Civic Center Sports Field**

On March 6, the California Coastal Commission unanimously approved the permit for the Civic Center Multipurpose Sports Field at the northwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Pico Blvd. The project is now designed, fully funded, and set to break ground in August, six months ahead of schedule. Three conditions were adopted as part of the approval:

- Pay tribute to the history of the site and surrounding neighborhood – formerly the Belmar Triangle – through interpretive signage, education, and cultural arts programs.
- Submit a transportation demand management and monitoring program plan with the goal of reducing parking demand on the site over the long term.
- After construction, implement a parking monitoring program to measure occupancy

The \$8 million project is scheduled to be completed by July 2020. For project history and more information, visit [www.SantaMonicaParks.org/civic-center-fields/](http://www.SantaMonicaParks.org/civic-center-fields/)

**Leaf Blowers Are Not Allowed in Santa Monica**

According to the Municipal Code (S.M.M.C. 4.08.270) – “No person shall operate any leaf blower (gas, electric, or battery powered) within the City. A leaf blower is defined as any motorized tool (gas, electric, or battery powered) used to propel fallen leaves and debris for removal. Infractions will be punishable by substantial fines to property owners, property and landscape management companies, individual operators, and/or water customers.” Persons with lung ailments suffer from the airborne debris created by leaf blowers. As a result, they are a source of both health problems and noise pollution.