



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

A California nonprofit corporation of Sunset Park residents • Box 5823, Santa Monica, California 90409-5823 • www.friendsofsunsetpark.org

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

Land Use Update

Gelson's Teardown Project – The housing project at 2601 Lincoln Blvd. (replacing the grocery store and retail center at the SE corner of Lincoln and Ocean Park Blvd. with twelve 5-story buildings) was submitted for City review in March 2022. The project consists of 521 total housing units, of which 53 units will be affordable to Very Low-Income households, and 33,296 sq ft of commercial space. The proposed project is eligible for a “streamlined” review in accordance with Interim Zoning Ordinance 2645, which allows housing projects that comply with the City’s objective standards to be reviewed and approved through an administrative process, referred to as an “Administrative Approval.”

The Administrative Approval process does not require public hearings. It

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Bob's Market Dispels Closure Rumors amid Social Media Buzz

7/20/23 – SANTA MONICA MIRROR

“The vibrant community of Santa Monica recently experienced a wave of uncertainty when rumors began circulating on social media platforms about the future of Bob’s Market, the cherished neighborhood grocery store in [Sunset Park]. However, the owner, Bob Rosenbloom, has...clarified that there are no plans to close the market or sell its land. As a staple of the local landscape, Bob’s Market remains committed to serving Santa Monica with its finest produce, meats, and wines for the foreseeable future.

The rumors on social media had sparked concerns among residents who hold Bob’s Market dear to their hearts. The store has become more than just a place to shop; it represents a meeting point for neighbors [where] a true sense of belonging is fostered. For many, the thought of losing this community cornerstone was unsettling....

As urban landscapes evolve and change, maintaining these treasured establishments becomes increasingly important to preserve the neighborhood’s unique character and strengthen the bonds among its residents....”

Saving the Civic Auditorium

The Santa Monica City Council has been discussing in Closed Session negotiating the sale of the Civic Auditorium to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. A group of residents opposed to the sale of the auditorium has set up a website – www.savethecivic.org – and an email address – info@savethecivic.org

Below are excerpts from a piece published on August 6 in the *Santa Monica Mirror*: “Santa Monica Civic Auditorium: A Historic Gem That Shaped Our City’s Cultural Legacy” by Michael Jolly:

“The Santa Monica Civic Auditorium is an enduring testament to Santa Monica’s rich cultural heritage. This iconic venue has played a pivotal role in shaping the city’s artistic landscape, hosting many historic events and influential personalities over the decades. Exploring and researching the historical significance of the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium uncovers a treasure trove of memories that have left an ineradicable mark on local residents and the broader spectrum of world entertainment.

The Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, designed by renowned architect Welton Becket, opened on July 23, 1958. The 3,000-seat mid-century modern masterpiece immediately symbolized Santa Monica’s growing prominence as a cultural hub on the Southern California coast. Its sleek, minimalist design allowed the focus to be on the performers and events that graced its stage...

During the 1960s, the auditorium played a significant role in the folk music revival, hosting influential musicians such as Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Neil Young. As the music landscape evolved, the auditorium embraced the rise of rock ‘n’ roll, hosting iconic bands like The Rolling Stones and The Doors...

During the 1960s and 1970s, it served as a platform for political rallies, where influential figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez addressed crowds, advocating for civil rights and social justice....

The auditorium’s recognition extended beyond live performances as it became a backdrop for various television shows and films such as “A Star Is Born” (1976)...“Fight Club” (1999)...[and] “The

Blues Brothers” (1980)...Its distinctive architecture made it a desirable location for filmmakers looking to capture the essence of Southern California’s beach culture.

The Santa Monica Civic Auditorium closed its doors in 2013....

The local community’s deep-rooted attachment to the auditorium led to a concerted effort to restore and revive this cultural gem, as it is in dire need of earthquake retrofitting to current standards to ensure its structural integrity and the safety of its occupants....

In 2015, Santa Monica approved a plan to refurbish and modernize the auditorium while preserving its historic integrity. The renovation aimed to bring the venue up to contemporary standards, allowing it to host a diverse array of events, performances, and exhibitions once again. We want to see that approval followed through to completion by City Council....

There are numerous events and tourism venue opportunities that can be created and elaborated upon for decades to come to serve not only the people of Santa Monica but the region at large by hosting events, theatre, concerts, conventions, exhibitions...the possibilities are numerous, thus creating a venue for more tourism and an improved asset that will contribute more tax dollars for the City....

The legacy of the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium continues to shine brightly, reminding us of the power of art, music, and community to shape history.”

City Council

The Santa Monica City Council generally meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at City Hall. Go to smgov.net/council for agendas and minutes.

Meetings are broadcast live on City TV Channel 16 and on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/user/CityTV16santamonica>

You can speak in person for two minutes during Public Comment by filling out a form at the lobby kiosk. You can also email Council members at:

Phil.Brock@santamonica.gov, Gleam.Davis@santamonica.gov, Oscar.Delatorre@santamonica.gov, Lana.Negrete@santamonica.gov, Christine.Parra@santamonica.gov, Caroline.Torosis@santamonica.gov, JesseZwick@santamonica.gov

Santa Monica Airport

The 227-acre Airport property represents nearly 5% of the city's land area. 167 acres were purchased in 1926 using a Park bond approved by voters. 60 acres were used for an air field (named Clover Field).

The remaining 107 acres included an 18-hole golf course (site of PGA tournaments), tennis courts, lawn bowling, skeet shooting, archery, a clubhouse, and a football field. By far the largest park in Santa Monica, a newspaper article referred to it as "The Brightest Jewel in the City."

In 2014, city ballot Measure LC amended the City Charter to prohibit new development on Airport land, except for parks, public open spaces, and public recreational facilities, until voters approve limits on uses and development.

In 2017, the FAA and the City of Santa Monica reached a settlement agreement, which allowed the city to shorten the runway to 3,500 feet, and which will allow the City Council to close the Airport on December 31, 2028.

The city has begun a planning process to determine what will occur on the property once the Airport is closed. About 167 acres are currently used by the airport (5,380 landings/takeoffs in June 2023). The remaining 40 acres are non-airport-related, including Airport Park, Barker Hangar, Cars with Class, the Museum of Flying, the Ruskin Group Theatre, the 18th Street Art Center Airport Campus, the SMC Arts Campus (leased from the city), and the Cloverfield restaurant.

Website: <http://www.santamonica.gov/Future-of-Santa-Monica-Airport-Project>
Email: TheFutureofSMO@santamonica.gov

Phone: (310) 458-2205

Santa Monica Airport (SMO) website:
www.SantaMonicaAirport.org

Airport Commission: www.smgov.net/departments/airport/commission

SMO Future: <https://smofuture.weebly.com/>

Airport 2 Park: <https://airport2park.org/>

FOSP Beach Towel Drill Team

This July, after a three year COVID hiatus, the Friends of Sunset Park Beach Towel Drill Team made a triumphant return to the Main Street 4th of July Parade. FOSP member Alex Novakovich led the 12-member team, which included FOSP President Clare Thomas and FOSP Board member Aliceann Grusin, with FOSP Board Member John Murdock as associate banner carrier. The crowd along the 1.5 mile parade route was wowed by the team's fun formations with their red, white, and blue striped beach towels, and the team was repeatedly greeted with a rousing round of well-deserved applause.

Public Safety

Dial 9-1-1 – If someone is experiencing a medical emergency, a crime is taking place, or if there's an immediate threat to someone's life or safety.

Dial (310) 458-8491 – For non-emergency Police and Fire response in Santa Monica.

Dial 2-1-1 or visit www.LA-HOP.org – Submit a request for homeless outreach assistance using the L.A. County Homeless Outreach Portal.

Dial (800) 854-7771 – If someone is experiencing a psychiatric / mental health crisis, contact the L.A. County Department of Mental Health.

Dial 9-8-8 – The National Suicide Prevention Hotline provides free 24/7 confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.

Dial 3-1-1 or email 311@santamonica.gov – Submit a Santa Monica-specific request for services, including trash pickup and graffiti removal.

SMPD Beat 2 Neighborhood Resource Officers:

Edgar.Navarro@santamonica.gov

Robert.Galvan@santamonica.gov

SMPD Crime Prevention Coordinator:

Halima.Barreto@santamonica.gov

Fairview Library

Fairview Branch Library, located at Ocean Park Blvd. and 21st Street, is open for "self-service" on Tuesdays, 12 to 7 PM, and on Fridays, 10 AM to 5 PM, allowing users to pick up items on reserve, use the library space, access materials and resources, or use a computer. Apply here for access: <https://smpl.org/selfservicehours>

Buy Local

BY JEANNE LAURIE

Not another For Lease sign? Do you miss the restaurants you used to enjoy? Would you rather have a restaurant, or another empty storefront with a For Lease sign? Santa Monica restaurants have still not recovered from the pandemic. And, there are fewer tourists who used to be a large share of the restaurant business. Many restaurants are only doing 40% of their pre-pandemic business.

After 9/11, people went to New York City to shop and bolster the economy. After the volcano eruption on the Big Island of Hawaii, locals were encouraged to go to restaurants to keep them in business after the tourists disappeared.

Want to skip doing the dishes and give yourselves a treat? Tired of figuring out what's for dinner? Why drive miles to go out to dinner when we have desirable restaurants in Santa Monica? Otherwise, that restaurant you like may have a For Lease sign on it the next time you want to go there. Shop local and eat local. Let's keep what's left of the Santa Monica that we love.

Land Use, continued from page 1

requires only confirmation by City staff that the project meets all applicable code requirements, in which case the city is obligated to approve the project. <https://santamonica.gov/pending-project-updates-2601-lincoln-boulevard>

Upzoning of Neighborhood Commercial Districts – Upzoning on Ocean Park Blvd. and the south side of Pico Blvd. from 2 stories to 5 stories was included in the city's Housing Element. There has been no response yet to Planning staff's letter to the state HCD (Department of Housing and Community Development), requesting reduction of the zoning back to the previous level.

3402 Pico Blvd. – In July, a public hearing was held at the Planning Commission requesting a Development Review Permit for a proposed project at 3402 Pico Blvd. – a 2-story, 48,000 sq ft office building, with 30 bicycle parking spaces and 242 subterranean garage parking spaces, and relocating the vehicle access from 34th Street to Centinela Ave.

Hazardous View Obstructions

A hazardous view obstruction (HVO) is a wall, fence, or landscaping that blocks the view of a motorist. The city requires a 5' x 5' HVO triangle to be kept clear of obstructions over 24" high where a driveway, garage, parking space, or loading zone intersects with an alley or sidewalk. Triangles are also required where an alley intersects a sidewalk. Additional information and diagrams are posted at <https://tinyurl.com/yc9t9eom>

For example, if your next door neighbor has a tall hedge bordering your driveway that extends all the way to the sidewalk, that is a violation of the municipal code. The first 5 feet of the hedge can be no taller than 24 inches. You have the option of making contact with the responsible person or you can file a complaint with the Planning Department's Code Enforcement Division at <https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/About-Us/Code-Enforcement/>

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