



FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

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

FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Layout by Bill Josephs

City Proposes 78% Increase in Water Rates

Did you receive a water rate increase notice in the mail? Did you mistakenly toss it in the trash?

Many residents tossed as junk mail or didn't receive the City letter that contained a legally required notice explaining the proposed water rate increase, as well as the right of property owners to protest the increase.

Santa Monica Lookout: "If approved, proposed water rates for some 22,000 customers could jump by 9% in the first year, followed by 13% increases for the next four years, City officials said. 'It compounds year to year and, at the end of five years, it equates to a 78% increase,' said Santa Monica Water Resources Manager Gil Borboa.

"Although the Council approved the rate hikes in concept at its meeting on December 16, 'It's not a done deal,' Borboa said. Residents and property owners can still submit a written protest against the increases, he said. Letters must include

the person's name and address and must specifically state that the writer is opposed to the proposed increases."

If 51% of property owners send a written letter to the City Council protesting the proposed 78% rate increase, the City of Santa Monica cannot impose the increase.

If you wish to register a protest, you can write your own letter or use the form below by sending it by mail or hand delivering it to City Hall before February 24th (emails will not count toward the 51%).

You can email City Council members regarding the rate increase at Council@smgov.net (protest emails would not count toward the 51%), and you can attend the City Council meeting on February 24th when the rate increase will be discussed and voted on.

Media Coverage

"Activist Group Urges Opposition to Santa Monica Water Rate Hike" – 2/17/15 – *Santa Monica Lookout*

"Residents Get Final Chance to Protest Santa Monica's Proposed Water Rate Hikes" – 2/6/15 – *Santa Monica Lookout*

"300 Accounts Use 18% of City Water, Data Show" – 1/20/15 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

"Council Approves Santa Monica Water Use Reductions" – 1/15/15 – *Santa Monica Lookout*

"Penalties Coming for Water Wasters in August" – 1/15/15 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

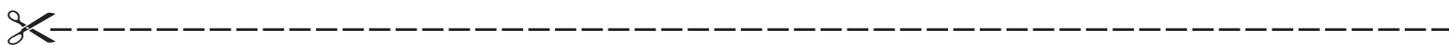
Opinion: "Rating Our Water" – Bob Taylor and Dan Jansenson – 1/10/15 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

"Mandatory Water Reductions and Penalties on Santa Monica Council Agenda" – 1/9/15 – *Santa Monica Lookout*

"Rent Board Blanches at Water Rate Pass Through" – 12/24/14 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

"Santa Monica Water Rate Hike Up to 70 Percent over Five Years" – 12/19/14 – *Santa Monica Mirror*

If you wish to oppose the proposed increase, mail in the following form:



Date: _____

I own the property indicated below and I am opposed to the proposed increase in water rates.

Address of property: _____ Santa Monica, CA _____

zip code

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. **Must arrive before February 24th**

**November 2014
Local Election Results**

as posted on <http://www.smvote.org>

Winning Candidates

City Council

- Kevin McKeown – 10,138
- Sue Himmelrich – 9,262
- Pam O'Connor – 6,696

Rent Control Board (no contest for the three seats)

Nicole Phillis, Steve Duron, Todd Flora

Santa Monica College Board (Santa Monica and Malibu)

- Nancy Greenstein – 14,604
- Louise Jaffe – 14,447
- Barry A. Snell – 11,804
- Andrew Walzer – 11,114

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

- Laurie Lieberman – 15,247
- Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein – 12,277
- Craig Foster – 12,126

(Ralph Mechur, with 11,522 votes, was appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy created when member Ben Allen was elected to the State Senate.)

Local Ballot Measures

Measure D (lost) – No: 14,688 – Yes: 10,288

Shall the Santa Monica City Charter be amended to require the City to continue to operate the Santa Monica Airport in a manner that supports its aviation uses unless the voters approve the Airport's closure or change in use, and until that voter approval occurs, the City shall be prohibited from imposing additional restrictions on aviation support services to tenants and airport users that inhibit fuel sales or the full use of aviation facilities?

Measure FS (passed) – Yes: 14,020 – No: 11,325

Shall the City Charter be amended to establish a maximum annual registration fee of up to \$288 per controlled rental unit and to limit the amount that landlords may pass through to tenants to 50% of the registration fee?

Measure H (lost) – No: 14,020 – Yes: 10,364

Shall an ordinance be adopted that amends the real estate transfer tax so that for commercial and non-commercial real estate sold for one million dollars or more, the tax rate would be \$9 for each thousand dollars of sales price?

Measure HH (passed, but was only an advisory to Measure H which lost) – Yes: 12,129 – No: 11,923

ADVISORY VOTE ONLY: If the proposed transfer tax on commercial and non-commercial real estate sales is approved by voters, should the revenue be used

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Santa Monica College Update

Facilities

SMC will be moving forward with the construction of the Student Services/Administration Building on Pico Blvd. just west of the Union 76 gas station. The underground parking structure will have 493 parking spaces and could possibly generate about 3,000 daily car trips. Residents near the Main Campus are concerned about a potential increase in traffic exiting the driveway on the north side of Pearl just west of 20th Street. According to city data, 20th and Pearl is already an "F" intersection, and many SMMUSD as well as SMC students use the crosswalks there.

SMC facilities upgrades are being funded by these bond measures:

- 1992: Measure T – \$23 Million, will be paid off in 2022
- 2002: Measure U – \$160 Million, will be paid off in 2032
- 2004: Measure S – \$135 Million, will be paid off in 2034
- 2008: Measure AA – \$295 Million, will be paid off in 2038

The total of the four bond measures is \$613 million.

SMC Still No. 1 in Transfers to UC, LMU and USC

In 2013-14, SMC transferred a total of 1,061 students to University of California. SMC also showed up as No. 1 in the number of African-American and Latino students who transferred to UC, with 51 African-American students and 150 Latino students transferring to UC campuses.

SMC was first in transfers to the University of Southern California, with 191 students, and it was also first in transfers to Loyola Marymount University.

SMC came in second for transfers to the UC and CSU systems combined, with 2,083 students. UCLA continues to be the most popular destination for SMC students with nearly 444 transfers. San Diego came in second with 156 transfers, followed by the Berkeley and Irvine campuses.

The Corsair Makes 82 Years Worth of History Available Digitally

Thousands of historic pages of the SMC newspaper, *The Corsair*, have now been preserved and converted into a more research-friendly digital format. The collection, representing 14,000 pages of *The Corsair* editions from 1929 through 2011, is now a searchable database hosted by the California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC).

It documents the college's transformation from an institution with 153 students in 1929 to its current status with more than 30,000 students and 80 fields of study. The entire collection is available to the public at cdnc.ucr.edu, searchable by the title "Corsair."

SMC Chosen for Pilot Program to Offer Baccalaureate Degrees

SMC was given initial approval by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to develop a Bachelor's degree in Interaction Design as part of a pilot program approved by the Legislature and Governor Jerry Brown last year.

SMC's proposal was developed in response to the needs of Los Angeles's tech industry – especially that of Silicon Beach, in the Westside region, which is home to over 500 tech start-ups.

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Crime Update

Erik Milosevich, the Santa Monica Police Department Neighborhood Resource Officer for the Sunset Park neighborhood and most of the Ocean Park neighborhood, is asking residents to be aware of their surroundings and to call the Police at (310) 458-8491 if they see any suspicious activity. This includes people loitering in the neighborhood or possibly going door-to-door selling something or pretending to be lost.

Residential burglary: At the time of a January burglary in the 1700 block of Dewey Street, the reporting party saw two males running quickly from the driveway and jumping into a dirty 2005 or older model burgundy Suburban parked directly in front of a home.

The driver is described as a male Black or Hispanic in his 30s, 6'1", 200 lbs. wearing a black/red hooded sweater with the hood on his head and khaki pants. The second suspect is described as a male Black or Hispanic in his early 20s, 5'10", skinny, shaved head, wearing white tee and khaki pants.

Robbery: At the time of a recent robbery on 28th Street, the victim was walking down the street with his new I-phone listening to his headphones. The two suspects pulled up in a white Dodge Caravan. Suspect 1 jumped out and demanded that the victim give him the phone, but the victim refused. Suspect 1 punched the victim several times, knocking him to the ground. The suspect then grabbed the phone, got back into the van, and the vehicle sped off.

Suspect 1 – male Black, early 20s, 5'6", black hair, brown eyes, heavy set, black tee, orange shorts, short dark hair. Suspect 2 – male Black, early 20s, black hair, brown eyes, average build, black tee, short dark hair. Vehicle: Dodge Caravan, white with dark tinted windows

If you see anyone matching the description of the suspect(s) or the vehicles, immediately call SMPD Non-Emergency Dispatch at 310-458-8491. If you see a crime in progress, immediately call 9-1-1.

SMPD Neighborhood Resource Officer for Beat 2 – Erik.Milosevich@smgov.net – 310-866-2197

Crime Prevention Coordinator for Beat 2 – Lauralee.Asch@smgov.net – 310-458-8618

CrimeMapping.com – <http://gismap.santa-monica.org/crimeviewcommunity/>

SMPD Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/santamonicapd>

Be Earthquake Prepared – <http://www.smgov.net/departments/oem/>

Sign up for **SMAlerts** at http://www.smgov.net/Departments/OEM/Stay_Informed.aspx

Fire Department – <http://www.friendsofsunsetpark.org/public-safety/>

Santa Monica College Update, continued from page 2

SMC President Announces Decision to Retire

Dr. Chui L. Tsang, SMC's president for the last nine years, has announced his decision to retire by June via an email to the college's 1,939 employees. Under Dr. Tsang's leadership, SMC came through the worst economic storm to beset the community college system since the passage of Proposition 13.

Dr. Tsang noted that SMC has achieved national and international recognition for innovative practices and rigorous academic standards for its roughly 33,000 student body, delivered by its 1,400 professors. About 100 full-time tenure track faculty were added during his tenure.

Lincoln Neighborhood Corridor Plan (LiNC)

BY ROGER SWANSON
CHAIR, LINCOLN BLVD. TASK FORCE

At long last, we can happily announce the first City workshop for the Lincoln Neighborhood Corridor Plan (LiNC), under the direction of Peter James, Special Projects Administrator, Planning & Community Development.

When: February 23, 2015 at 6:30 PM

Where: John Muir/SMASH Auditorium
(2525 5th Street – at Ocean Park Blvd.)

More info: www.lincsm.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lincsm>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/LiNC_SM

Survey: <http://lincsm.mindmixer.com>

You will be amazed at the concepts to be presented by the City staff and the consultants. Remember, your opinion expressed in the Lincoln Blvd. Task Force (LBTF) survey guided much of what you will see. The LBTF created a "wish list" that we gave to City staff. Then, we asked for your opinion, which counted heavily in the development of the LiNC Plan. The event will have presentations by three teams focusing on: Streetscape, Transportation, and Business Improvement.

So, please mark you calendar for this important event and don't forget to RSVP to Peter James (peter.james@smgov.com) to get an accurate refreshment count.

And, be sure to visit www.lincsm.net to sign up for project notifications and to get important details on how you can follow/voice your opinion of the Plan on Facebook and Twitter, plus take the MindMixer survey.

It has been three years since the formation of the LBTF. Our first efforts were to attack the visual blight, with cooperation from Code Compliance, as well as the three LBTF Clean Ups. Murals by Beautify Lincoln added a fresh look that sparked interest by businesses to improve their appearance. The support from neighborhood associations (OPA, FOSP and PNA) and volunteers like yourself, helped to make it all happen. Our "before and after" pictures illustrate a dramatically changed street.

See you on February 23rd at the LiNC Plan workshop!

FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

2014 Election Returns, continued from page 2

to preserve, repair, renovate and construct affordable housing for low-income people who work or live in Santa Monica, including seniors, veterans, working families and persons with disabilities?

Measure LC (passed) – Yes: 15,434 – No: 10,096

Shall the City Charter be amended to: (1) prohibit new development on Airport land, except for parks, public open spaces and public recreational facilities, until the voters approve limits on the uses and development that may occur on the land; and (2) affirm the City Council's authority to manage the Airport and to close all or part of it?

Zoning Ordinance Update

The City of Santa Monica Zoning Ordinance Update (ZOU) is being carried out by the City's Planning and Community Development Department (PCD) to implement the 2010 Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE). It was last comprehensively revised in 1988.

The Redline Public Review Draft Zoning Ordinance Update has been released and is available for public comment. Hard copies are available at all Santa Monica library branches and at the City Planning counter in City Hall. After the Planning Commission completes its review, it will make recommendations to the City Council. Two study sessions are scheduled at the Council on April 7th and 8th.

Some residents who have been studying the document carefully are concerned that the proposed increases in height and density in the update could drive up the land values. This might encourage developers to demolish existing affordable housing and low-rise commercial properties, which local businesses can now afford to lease, in order to build larger, taller, more profitable buildings with substantially higher rents.

Additional information is posted at <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Zoning/Zoning-Update/>

Sunset Park Resident Now Represents Two Million on The Board of Supervisors

By CHARLES R. DONALDSON

Winners in the November 2014 election include several Sunset Park residents: State Assemblyman Richard Bloom and L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. Long-time Sunset Park resident Sheila Kuehl now holds what the *Los Angeles Times* calls "one of the most powerful locally elected jobs in the nation."

The newly elected Third District supervisor represented us for 14 years in the California Assembly and State Senate. Today she is one of five supervisors who run Los Angeles County. These political grand dukes have executive and legislative powers. They carve up multi-million dollar budgets that benefit the cities and unincorporated areas in their domains.

Kuehl's area of 431 square miles serves nearly two million persons from the ocean to Los Feliz and from the San Fernando Valley to Venice.

The county handles property taxation, criminal felony prosecutions, a massive jail system, the Superior Court including traffic court, health inspections of restaurants and hospitals, and flood control. It records deeds and birth certificates and issues all marriage licenses. It is involved in funding streets, highways, and public transportation. It both funnels and filters state funds to the cities. Its influence on Santa Monica City residents may not be obvious, but it is great.

JOIN FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Today's date _____

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

What I like best about living in Sunset Park: _____

My greatest concerns are: _____

Membership dues and contributions to FOSP, a 501(c)(4) organization, are not tax deductible.