



North of Montana Association

SPRING 2020 NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

We are a non-profit all-volunteer group of residents working to protect and enhance the quality of life in the North of Montana area of Santa Monica.

1132 Montana Ave. #516, Santa Monica, CA 90403 // SMNOMA.org // Follow us on Twitter @SMNOMA90402

MONTHLY MEETINGS

NOMA will conduct monthly meetings via Zoom. The June Meeting will be on the 11th. The July meeting will be on the 9th. All meetings will be at 7 pm. Notice of the meetings will be sent to all members on email and posted on the NOMA website at www.smnoma.org.

DEAR FRIENDS

This has been a difficult time for all of us. A pandemic due to COVID-19 has upended our lives, and a dramatic shortfall in city revenues has triggered staggering cuts to our city services. We have faced nothing like this before. The immediate future is unclear, but our spirit and resolve are strong, and NOMA and our neighborhood will continue to do our very best to restore our civic health and community well-being. We hope the information provided in this newsletter will be a useful first step.

Sincerely,

Nancy Coleman, NOMA Chair



Social Distancing on Montana Ave. during the COVID 19 pandemic. This lifetime experience will be part of our narrative. Photo by Evelyn Lauchenauer

RECREATION, PARKS, AND THE UNKNOWN FUTURE

With expenses, structure and staff in a state of flux due to the present financial crisis, Santa Monica community recreation programs and facilities, park development, use, operations and maintenance face significant cuts that although not finalized, will have a negative effect for years to come. These come at a time when Santa Monicans are looking to do more with the open space we have.

One of the victims of the new austerity is the long-awaited Recreation and Parks Master Plan Update, the draft of which was set to be released to the public in March 2020 before being submitted to Council for approval. After City Council approval, the plan would have set the course for public parks, open space and park development and acquisition for the next 20 years. It is now shelved indefinitely.

Although some modifications are anticipated, in part as a result of advocacy by the community, here is a broad summary of some of the current proposals: The Swim Center, Memorial Park Gym, and Skate Park will continue to operate, but hours will be reduced. Cultural and recreational programming offerings will be scaled back considerably. Access to courts, and fields will be greatly reduced and public use of school sites during non-school hours will be eliminated. The Annenberg Community Beach House pool will remain closed in FY2021-2023.

Even with social distancing restrictions, reductions and eliminations in aquatics programs, pool use and athletic field use will affect thousands of children and adults in our community. Other facilities — tennis courts, gyms, basketball courts — will also face use reductions. Right now it is impossible to know exactly how much will ultimately be cut, but advocacy is and will be important.

LETTER ABOUT THE BUDGET

Santa Monica is in the process of addressing a huge deficit in our city's budget. NOMA has contacted our City Council to recommend possible savings, advocate prioritizing certain services, and to warn against using this crisis to push through new development standards unrelated to our current budget problem. Our entire letter is available on our website: www.SMNOMA.ORG.

Below are some of the services NOMA, Friends of Sunset Park, Mid-City Neighbors, Northeast Neighbors, Pico Neighborhood Association, and Wilmont all agreed the City should prioritize:

- Fire Department (SMFD)
- Police Department (SMPD)
- Sanitation Services including sewer, storm drains and public refuse receptacles
- City-Supported Before/After School Youth Programs
- Street and Alley Maintenance
- Water -- No resident water/wastewater fees beyond scheduled rate increases for the next five years
- Public transportation should be maintained (Big Blue Bus and MODE).
- Public Libraries
- Housing Authority -- Continue to fund senior housing including Preserving Our Diversity (POD).
- City Parks
- Maintain commitments to Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD)
- The Reduce Homelessness Framework, including the Homeless Multidisciplinary Street Team

LETTER ABOUT THE BUDGET CONT.

Additionally, we cautioned against using this crisis to push for fast approval of Development Agreements and entitlements. We are specifically concerned about four projects: Miramar, the Getty-designed hotel on Ocean Ave, the Plaza at Santa Monica on 4th/5th Sts. and Arizona (public land) and St. John's. The idea of getting an entitlement

now to build in the future has been used by developers before i.e., Village Trailer Park. Additionally, analysis needs to be done of the cost of these developments to the City's infrastructure including police, fire, water, sewer, power and more vs. the revenue they could generate.

2020 NOMA COMMUNITY SURVEY COMING SOON

We value your input!

In July a survey will be emailed to our NOMA members and friends. The survey is your chance to give input about our organization and help us guide the future of NOMA so it best represents the needs of our members.

Be sure to watch for the survey in your inbox. You will also be able to access the survey on our website at smnoma.org. Thank you in advance for your participation - we look forward to hearing from you!

WHY JOIN NOMA?



- Alerts on Hot City Council Items
- Monthly Meetings about Neighborhood and City Issues (now on Zoom)
- Up-to-date neighborhood info on our Website
- Strength in numbers! We advocate for our neighborhood!
- Updates on Crime
- Emergency Preparedness
- Pandemic Information
- Opportunity to Speak Up
- Opportunities to Volunteer
- Annual Make Music Day Celebration

Twitter! [@smNOMA90402](https://twitter.com/smNOMA90402)

During these unprecedented events there is no better time to keep up-to-date on neighborhood and city issues. One of the best ways to do this is to join NOMA. Joining NOMA provides many benefits, but here are a few:

Members include those living within the boundaries of 26th St. to the east, the Pacific Ocean to the west, Montana Ave. to the south, and Adelaide Dr. to the north. But NOMA is open to all!

CURRENT NOMA BOARD

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ Nancy Coleman, <i>Chair</i> | ▪ Tawny Laskar, <i>Secretary</i> | ▪ Stan Fox | ▪ Todd James | ▪ Sonya Fox Sultan |
| ▪ Danilo Bach, <i>Vice-Chair</i> | ▪ Jeff Brecht | ▪ Jeff Gordon | ▪ Evelyn Lauchenauer | ▪ Jim Williams |
| ▪ Victor Fresco, <i>Treasurer</i> | ▪ Phillis Dudick | ▪ Ann Greenspun | ▪ Steven Lissik | |

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

(NOMA does not share or sell email addresses)

ANNUAL DUES

NOMA is the City-recognized organization that represents the interest of our neighborhood. If you paid your dues in January 2020 you need not pay now.

- \$30 Household
- \$50 Supporter (or business)
- \$100 Sponsor
- ___ Additional Donation
- ___ New ___ Renewal

Dues can be paid online:
<http://www.smnoma.org/join-noma.org/join-noma.html>

Please make check payable to "NOMA" and mail to:
NOMA
1112 Montana Ave., #516
Santa Monica, CA 90403

(NOMA is a 501(c) (4) organization; dues and contributions are not tax-deductible)