



The Willard Neighborhood Association

March Newsletter

Steering Committee: George Beier (Secretary) • Doug Buckwald • John Caner • Vincent Casalaina • (President) • Dione Cota • David Cottle • Joe Halperin • Lynn Halperin • Marcia Levenson • Michelle Pellegrin • Ernest Scosseria • Tim Ruckle (acting) • Greg Wineger

Notes on the Annual General Meeting February 20th Crime Prevention Panel

Chief Hambleton , Berkeley Police Dept.

- Violent crime is down 1.4% since last year
- There has however been an increase from the last half of 2007 through start of 2008
- Crimes are a combination of strong arm and armed robbery
- There were several violent incidents last fall locally
- There has been success in catching perpetrators.
- Property crime is up 1.1% last year—that includes burglary, auto theft, theft and arson – for Berkeley as a whole
- However, down 25% overall since 2003
- Crime in the Willard neighborhood is pretty much static
- Property crimes are 50% auto
 - Recommend a steering wheel lock
 - Don't leave anything in your car
 - 10-15 year old Hondas, Toyotas and Saturns are the most vulnerable. Those cars have good transmissions but poor security.

(continued on page 2)

Chief Harrison, UC Police Department

- The University has lots of new people (students) at the start of every semester
- Students are out and about 24/7
- Students have laptops, cell phones, iPods – high profile items for theft
- There has been a double digit increase in street crime
 - Strong Arm and pellet gun
- About 70% of the crimes get solved.
- There were 139 violent crimes reported
- There is a night shuttle service which is a regular route till 3AM and after 3AM is door to door
- There is the Bear Walk
- There are blue phones on campus
- Students are encouraged to program in the University emergency numbers to their cell phones
- There is an additional funding request for the South Side which consists of 1 Sgt and 7 officers. Their duties would be patrols, party control and robbery suppression

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The police department would like a larger budget to handle certain areas of crime fighting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 more additional bike officers for daytime ○ 1 Sgt and 4 officers for evening bike patrols in Downtown and Telegraph ○ Berkeley is #1 for a city our size for injury/collision accidents for pedestrians and cyclist so more traffic enforcement is necessary ○ A request of additional community service officers ○ A request for 7 additional patrol officers • A larger funding request to make radios interoperable among all of Alameda and Contra Costa County police and fire departments. Currently Oakland Police can't speak with Berkeley Police. Berkeley Police can't speak with the University police etc. This could be a public safety problem in case of earthquake, fire etc. 	<p>Councilmember Gordon Wozniak -- D8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A goal to make all neighborhoods as safe as the safest neighborhood • Need neighborhood by neighborhood organization to provide sustained pressure across the city to the council • 50% of Berkeley's crime doesn't come from Berkeley • Ask the police chiefs what they want/need to reduce crime • There are many more needs than money in Berkeley • Berkeley doesn't have a commission focused on public safety • Work more effectively with UC Berkeley <p>There is no quick, simple fix</p> <p>Councilmember Kriss Worthington -- D7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help low income neighborhoods organize watches. A relatively inexpensive way to bring down crime • Increase the police force by 2 officers from current general fund —which is more expensive • Develop more crime prevention strategies
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President's Message

The Willard Neighborhood Association's second General Meeting will take place in just over three weeks – Wednesday, April 2nd. There are just two items on the agenda, a revision of the By Laws that will update the way we operate and the election of the steering committee for the next year. You can see the proposed By Laws in Willard NA Community Pages at:

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/berkeley/willard/main.html>

On page 1 & 2 of this newsletter you've seen what the panelists had to say about crime in our community. There was nothing earth shattering, but I personally learned a lot about the way

the two police departments fight crime and about the funding process that the City Council will be following over the next few months. On this, and the following, page you can see some of the questions that were asked at the meeting and the responses from the panelists. My thanks to Elizabeth Butler for keeping the notes that night.

Bus Rapid Transit on Telegraph was also discussed at the General Meeting. The Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Assoc. is holding a BRT Forum next Monday night. The details are on page 4. We will feature an extended discussion of BRT in the next newsletter.

This is the last opportunity to take part in the Disaster Preparedness water barrel purchase program that is being sponsored by the Halcyon Neighborhood Assoc. You can read more about it at the bottom of page 4 and I highly recommend that you take part. When a major earthquake happens here, drinking water will be an important commodity to have on hand.

Vincent Casalaina, President

Questions and Answers from the Crime Panel

Q: Why is there still no communication between the various departments? What is needed to get all the departments talking?

A: Each city developed its radio system independently. The fire departments have some regional radios. Berkeley has purchased some UC Berkeley and Oakland radios. There needs to be a new infrastructure put in place. That will be expensive. The federal government will provide some grants, but it will not cover everything. About \$65 million remains unfunded. Radios and the infrastructure that the radios use are needed. The hope is to start building over the next couple of years.

Q: How bad is it for this neighborhood? What do I need to be wary of?

A: In 2007 for Berkeley there were

- 5 homicides
- 23 rapes
- 432 robberies of which 1/3rd were commercial
- 167 aggravated assaults in which the parties mostly knew each other

It is a diverse group of people committing the crimes, not one specific group. Some suggestions on staying safe or what to do in an attack include

- Yell help or yell "Call 911"
- Carry and use a whistle and a flashlight after dark
- Walk with confidence and purpose
- Be aware of the area around you
- Don't walk and talk on your cellphone or listen to music
- Walk with a dog or in groups
- Cross the street if something seems odd
- Don't be afraid to call the police—it is better to "cry wolf" than not

Q: How were people caught?

A: They were tracked back from other crimes or by using stolen credit cards. Sometimes solving one crime would lead to several others.

Q: How much burglary is in the neighborhood?

A: Students are the main target. 35-40% could be prevented by making sure doors and windows are closed and locked. We suggest better locks in general. Please trim your bushes/shrubbery so no one can hide in them. More lights left on, like porch lights, and lights on motion sensors will also be helpful. If you call the Community Service Bureau at 510-981-5808 they will do a safety check. It is also good to get to know your neighbors and their cars so you can keep an eye on each other's houses/cars. An alarm system can be very helpful. If something doesn't look/feel right. Call 911 and have the police sort it out. Just because they aren't doing something today, doesn't mean they won't be doing something tomorrow or next week.

<p>Bus Rapid Transit Forum What's coming to a street near you? open meeting</p> <p>Monday, March 17th Fireside Room St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave. 7pm to 9pm</p> <p>AC Transit has proposed a new type of public transit system that will change the way people get around Berkeley. Their proposal takes 2 lanes of traffic off Telegraph Ave. and dedicates them to the Bus Rapid Transit system – at a cost estimated to be \$400 million.</p> <p>Proponents say that dedicated lanes, and high tech changes to the way the buses operate, will mean more on-time service and higher transit ridership.</p>	<p>Water is Essential in a Disaster <i>By Nancy Carleton</i></p> <p>Halcyon Neighborhood Association is coordinating a joint neighborhood order of water barrels to enable households to easily store 55 gallons of water for disaster preparedness.</p> <p>In the event of a major quake on the Hayward Fault, it will take time for government help to reach us. Even if the main water supply through the Caldecott Tunnel area escapes damage, EBMUD predicts at least 5,000 breaks in its system! And when government trucks finally arrive with water, there will be long lines and frustrating waits to get limited supplies.</p> <p>Water is essential for survival! The recommendation is to store a MINIMUM of 1 gallon per person per day (2 gallons per person per day preferable, to allow for cleaning and other needs), to last for at least</p>
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<p>Opponents say that its possible to get 80% of the time savings at a fraction of the cost by implementing many of the features proposed for BRT but without permanently dedicating 2 lanes of traffic to buses that will run every 5 minutes.</p> <p>Why does this matter now? Within the next two months, the City Council will take the first official steps to implement the system. People have an opportunity to weigh in on what they think is the right direction for Berkeley to follow.</p> <p>Come to the Bus Rapid Transit Forum that's been organized by the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Assoc. This community forum is being supported by many of the other local neighborhood associations. There will be speakers on both sides of the issue presenting their case and representatives from AC Transit who can answer questions. We look forward to seeing you there.</p>	<p>5 to 14 days. By ordering at least 70 water barrels at a time, we can obtain a substantial discount of approximately 35%.</p> <p>Willard Neighborhood Association and LeConte Neighborhood Association are joining with HNA so we can place this minimum order and get more water stored in our South Berkeley neighborhoods! The water barrels cost \$50; the manual pumps \$10; and optional bung wrenches \$10. (This is an all-volunteer effort; prices reflect actual costs.) Orders are due Thursday, March 20. For information email HNA Co-Chair Nancy Carleton at halcyon92@gmail.com.</p> <p>To obtain a pdf of an order form see link below:</p>
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<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/pdf/nhextra/734472517/782299266/910983724.pdf>

COME TO THE WILLARD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN'S SECOND

NEIGHBOR MEETING

Wednesday, April 2nd, 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.
At Mudrakers Cafe
(2801 Telegraph Ave. at Stuart St.)

- **By Laws revisions**
- **Election of 2008 Steering Committee**
- **Followed by discussion of directions in 2008**

MORE INFO: CONTACT VINCENT CASALAINA @ 841-8524
ProBerk@aol.com

Dues Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____@_____

Phone: () --

Interests: Transportation issues _____

Crime Prevention _____

Disaster Preparedness _____

Block Representatives _____

Land Use issues _____

Other issues _____

Suggested Dues: \$10/household Amount Donated: \$ _____
Make checks payable to: Willard Neighborhood Association

We appreciate your contribution and will use your money to support activities that benefit the Willard neighborhood. Whether you donate or not, you are still a member of Willard Neighborhood Association and entitled to all the rights and privileges that go along with that.

Send to: Willard Neighborhood Association
2619 Benvenue Ave. Apt. A
Berkeley, CA 94704

Email to: ProBerk@aol.com

How to get off this list:

To be removed from this email list, send email to ProBerk@aol.com with the subject line unsubscribe. I'll take you off as soon as I get your request.

*** * * * * City of Berkeley: Useful Contact Information * * * * ***

Police

Police Emergency Number: 911 (from landline);
981-5911 (from cell; preprogram with this number)

Police Non-emergency Number: 981-5900

Link to beat maps and a list of beat officers:

North of Derby is Beat 7, South of Derby is Beat 9.

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/police/departments/beatinfo/beatlineup.html>

Area Coordinator -- Steve Burccham 981-5778

Other City Departments:

Neighborhood Services Liaison Jim Hynes <jhynes@ci.berkeley.ca.us> 981-2493

Public Works Customer Service: 644-6620 (trash pick up, streets, sidewalks, graffiti, sewers, storm drains, street lights) pwworks@ci.berkeley.ca.us / publicworks@ci.berkeley.ca.us

Tree Trimming/Planting (Forestry): 644-6566 trees@ci.berkeley.ca.us

Written Communication with City Council:

To comment to City Council, cut and paste the following email addresses:

City Clerk <clerk@ci.berkeley.ca.us>,

Mayor Tom Bates <Mayor@ci.berkeley.ca.us>,

Councilmember Linda Maio <LMaio@ci.berkeley.ca.us>,

Councilmember Darryl Moore <DMoore@ci.berkeley.ca.us>,

Councilmember Max Anderson <MAnderson@ci.berkeley.ca.us>,

Councilmember Dona Spring <DSpring@ci.berkeley.ca.us>,

Councilmember Laurie Capitelli <LCapitelli@ci.berkeley.ca.us>,

Councilmember Betty Olds <BOlds@ci.berkeley.ca.us>,

Representatives for Our Neighborhood:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington <KWorthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
(District 7) 981-7170 All except Eastern edge of neighborhood

Councilmember Gordon Wozniak <GWozniak@ci.berkeley.ca.us>
(District 8) 981-7180 Eastern edge of neighborhood

Links to WNA website and other local websites:

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/berkeley/willard/>

<http://www.telegraphave.org/>