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Willard Neighborhood Association Newsletter August 17, 2007

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Items appearing in the WNA E-Newsletter are deemed to be of general interest to neighbors but do not necessarily reflect the views of Willard Neighborhood Association (WNA) or its Steering Committee

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Summary of Items in This E-Newsletter

Full articles appear further down in the body of this E-Newsletter.

1. Crime Alert -- Sexual Assaults in our neighborhood

Police are asking for community help in apprehending a man they believe is responsible for two sexual assaults of young women near the University of California, Berkeley campus. The assaults are rare because they were committed by a stranger who was able to get into secure lobby areas of apartment buildings. Sexual assaults in which the victim does not know the attacker "are very unusual" in Berkeley and especially two in less than a month.

2. Third Annual Willard Street Faire & Yard Sale Sunday, August 26

The third annual Willard Neighborhood Block Party and Yard Sale will once again take place on the 2500 block of Hillegass on the final Sunday in August. August 26th. The event is aimed at introducing students new to Berkeley to the Willard neighborhood and to the expectations of neighbors, the City and the University.

Needless to say, this takes time and volunteers to organize. Greg Murphy is heading up the effort one more time and is looking for additional volunteer both to leaflet before the event and to help with logistics that Sunday. Contact Greg: GregM@JFCS.ORG

3. Bus Rapid Transit or Rapid Bus + Pro-Transit Alternative

At the Willard Neighborhood Association Steering Committee meeting last night, the Steering Committee voted with a strong majority to oppose Bus Rapid Transit as it is currently proposed. At the same time, the Steering Committee came out strongly in

favor of implementing Rapid Bus +, a greatly enhanced version of the Rapid Bus line that replaced the 40L. Rapid Bus + is a low cost alternative that can be in place quickly and can provide greatly improved transit service to our community.

The text of the letter that we will be sending to the Mayor, the City Council and the Commissions is included here. George Beier is heading up the Steering Committees efforts to work with other neighborhood associations and groups in opposition to the current BRT proposal.

4. 2525 Telegraph -- Art House/Cafe or Night Club

The Willard Neighborhood Association Steering Committee held a meeting last night to hear both sides of this issue. The owner gave a presentation of his intentions and neighbors discussed their concerns. Two representatives from The Alcohol Policy Network, a local organization with much experience in dealing with alcohol related problems, attended as well as some neighbors who live above commercial stores on Telegraph very close to the proposed development.

The Willard Neighborhood Association Steering Committee ultimately decided that the owner's requests were not in the best interest of the neighborhood.

Another group of neighbors had previously worked with the owner and came up with a set of mitigations the owner was willing to write into the Use Permit in return for some concessions regarding hours and licensing requirements.

contact dionecota@sbcglobal.net

5. Shop Berkeley First

Did you know that almost 75¢ of every dollar you spend at a locally owned business stays in Berkeley. That's why its important to Shop Berkeley First whenever possible. Coming soon to businesses in Berkeley are logo's denoting those businesses that are locally owned. Before going to spend your cash in Emeryville or San Francisco you should check out the small merchants that are the backbone of our city.

6. Wrights Garage

On July 10th, the City Council met to hear the appeal of the ZAB ruling on John Gordon's redevelopment project at 2629-35 Ashby Ave.

ZAB had recommended that Use Permits be granted for a large restaurant, up to 5 retail spaces and an exercise studio.

ZAB's ruling was appealed by the Elmwood Merchants Assoc. and the Elmwood Neighborhood Assoc. Almost 40 people commented either in person or in written communication on the project.

At the end of the evening, the Council could not muster 5 votes to support, remand or overturn the ZAB ruling although two motions were put forward and debated. Gordon Wozniak was recused because of his early support for the project. Bottom Line: the ZAB ruling was passed into law because of the Council's inability to reach a majority on any motion.

The Elmwood Neighborhood Association intends to file suit against the City. If you want to get learn more, look at Item C below.

Other Events/Items of Interest (located at end of email)

A. Community Labyrinth Peace Walk

3 p.m., Willard Middle School.
Everyone welcome. Wheelchair accessible.
info@eastbaylabyrinthproject.org, 526-7377.

B. Last Solar Workshop Berkeley & Rockridge Collective Power

Program Monday August 20, 6:30 pm free
Rockridge Library,

Program will discuss basics of solar power production as well as Federal, State and installer rebate programs.

Included is a list of things you might bring to the meeting to make it more productive for you.

C. Elmwood Neighborhood Assoc. meeting

August 22, 7:30 pm, 2933 Benvenue
Wright's Garage project is the central focus of this group
All neighbors welcome.

Contact information of City of Berkeley and Willard NA (located at very end of email)

President's Introductory Note:

August is certainly the Willard Neighborhood Associations month for getting out and meeting our neighbors. We sponsored the National Night Out Ice Cream

Social on August 7 and between 80 and 100 neighbors turned out on a chilly night to talk with members of the Berkeley Police and Fire Department. A big thank you to the organizers of the event: Janet Byron and Greg Wineger.

Our next big event takes place on Sunday, August 26th between 11am and 4pm. Its our Third Annual Welcome to our Neighborhood Block Party and Yard Sale. We've gotten a tremendous amount of support from the City and the University this year and its gratifying to see them help us make this a great event. We still need your help to make this event successful. Come and buy something at the yard sale, talk with the Police and Fire personnel who will be there, enjoy some of the free food catered by Mario's and Carvels or just meet some of your new neighbors.

On a more serious note, the Steering Committee took a stand on Bus Rapid Transit this week. We think that BRT could well be the most defining planning issue to come before Berkeley in many many years. Please read what we had to say in our letter to the City and contact us if you'd like to work on this issue with the Steering Committee.

Thanks -- Vincent Casalaina

Willard Neighborhood Association Items in This E-Newsletter

1. Crime Alert -- Sexual Assault in our neighborhood

*contributions from EB Daily News, Doug Oakley
and BPD Public Information*

Police are on the lookout for a man they believe is responsible for two sexual assaults of young women near the University of California, Berkeley campus. The assaults are rare because a stranger who was able to get into secure lobby areas of apartment buildings committed them. Most sexual assaults near the UC campus are reported by women who know their attackers.

On July 6 at 3 p.m. a "college-age" woman was assaulted in a building in the 2500 block of Hillegass Avenue near People's Park, police said. And on Aug. 2 at 6 p.m., a second woman was assaulted in the 2100 Haste St. "We think it's probably the same person," Berkeley police Lt. Wesley Hester said. "We have some leads we're working on right now. We are hitting up a number of (police) agencies that may have had similar crimes, so we're putting together a description beyond what we have shared."


Hester said sexual assaults in which the victim does not know the attacker "are very unusual," especially two in less than a month. Part of the reason is because victims don't always report them.

"Sometimes people feel shamed by making a report," Hester said. "Some feel that nothing will come of it."

UC police Assistant Chief Mitch Celaya said his department is distributing a few hundred fliers to the UC student apartments Rochdale Village and Fenwick Weavers' Village to notify residents about the crimes. "For the south campus area, this is very infrequent," Celaya said. "I'm unaware of any similar incidents in quite a while."

Berkeley Police Department Sex Crimes detectives are requesting the community's help in solving two recent assaults. Although there are some similarities in the incidents, due to new details relevant to the investigations, as well as the following suspect sketches, detectives are compelled to investigate the incidents as two separate crimes.

On July 6th, at about 3:00 pm, a woman was assaulted in the 2500 block of Hillegass Avenue.

<p>Shown in sketch to right</p> <p>Described by victim as;</p> <p>Black Male, 30, dark complexion, 5'8, thin build wearing a black baseball cap, dark t-shirt with silver writing and dark loose fitting athletic type shorts.</p>	
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On Thursday, August 2nd at about 6:00 pm, another woman was attacked in the 2100 block of Haste Street.
Suspect in Haste Street Case

Shown in sketch to right

Described by victim as;

Black Male, late 20s-early 30s
dark complexion,
5'10-6', thin build
possibly chin length dreads or
shaved head
wearing, dark baggy jeans
and a dark jacket.



In both cases, the suspect made his way into secure lobby areas of multi-unit apartment buildings and targeted a college age Asian woman.

If you see or recognize either of the suspects in the sketches, or have any information regarding these assaults, please call Detective Sergeant Sean Ross S-25 at (510) 981-5734 or the BPD non-emergency dispatch line at (510) 981-5900.

For crimes in progress, call 911 or (510) 981-5911 from your cell phone.

To report suspicious persons or activity, call BPD non-emergency (510) 981-5900.

2. Willard Block Party & Yard Sale **Sunday, August 26**

It's time to make your plans for our third annual Block Party and Yard Sale.

Once again it will take place on the 2500 block of Hillegass on the final Sunday in August. August 26th. Our goal for the event is to introduce students new to Berkeley to the Willard neighborhood and to the expectations of neighbors, the City and the University. Needless to say, this takes time and volunteers to

organize. Greg Murphy is heading up the effort again this year and is looking for some additional help.

We have the event outlined, the permit from the city, the support of a number of community groups who will have tables at the event, support from UC Berkeley's administration, support from the City Manager's office and commitments from our local police and fire departments to be there talking about crime prevention and disaster preparedness.

We are still looking for additional people who would like to take part in the community Yard Sale. We'll make sure there is space for neighbors who have things to sell, but you'll need to reserve that space by contacting Greg Murphy in advance.

We hope you will come and spend part of your Sunday with the Willard Neighborhood Assoc. Steering Committee at the event. If you'd like to do more, there are jobs that we need done to make sure the event is a success.

What we need are volunteers to handle:

1. Flyering our neighborhood prior to the event
2. Flyering Hillegass on Friday & Saturday August 24 & 25
announcing Sunday's street closure
3. Food service -- helping to distribute the food during the event
4. Entertainment/Music -- if you've got it, bring and play it
5. Yard Sale and Community Group assistance on the day of the Block Party

Anyone who is interested in helping on this event should contact Greg Murphy -- GregM@JFCS.ORG Do it soon!!!

3. Bus Rapid Transit or Rapid Bus + for Telegraph Ave. Letter from WNA SC to Berkeley Mayor, Council & Commissions

The Willard neighborhood is a strong advocate of effective public transit. That has been one of the strongest points of consensus throughout our discussions about Bus Rapid Transit – discussions that have been on going now for several years and have included a neighborhood forum last year that drew over 100 people from the Willard neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods. At that forum, we raised a number of points that have never been addressed by AC Transit.

After carefully reading the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report, the Willard Neighborhood Association is opposed to BRT as it is currently proposed and we are not alone in that stance. Votes in opposition to BRT have been taken by the Berkeley Alliance of Neighborhood Associations, the Downtown Berkeley

Association and the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association. Straw polls have been taken in the LeConte neighborhood and our own neighborhood both with unanimous opposition.

Based on the deficiencies in the Draft Environmental Statement/Report and the clear neighborhood opposition, no official body should be talking about or, even worse, facilitating the implementation of BRT. We should be talking about what we want a transit system to do and then looking at what is the most cost effective way of achieving those goals.

To begin with we need any transit alternative to provide a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. From the DEIS/R we can reasonably infer that there will be almost no net reduction of green house gasses from a fully implemented BRT. CO2 was not even studied in the DEIS/R. For the gases that were studied, the numbers are not promising. There was virtually no difference between the Build and No Build alternatives. There is no reason to believe that CO2 will be any different than the other gases studied. With Berkeley committed to a massive reduction in greenhouse gases we cannot build a system that does not demonstrate conclusively that it will reduce greenhouse gasses more than not building the system will do.

A second point is we need to keep through traffic on the main arterials that have been well established in Berkeley. The woefully inadequate analysis of cut through traffic in the neighborhoods is a major deficiency. AC Transit's traffic study did not look at most of the smaller through streets when figuring the least path route. Their analysis of current traffic for traveling from Woolsey and Telegraph to downtown Berkeley showed the fastest path is a left on Ashby and a right on Shattuck. Anyone who drives knows that going straight through Ashby and taking a left on Parker or Carlton misses the congestion when turning left onto Ashby, misses the congestion on Ashby at Shattuck and misses the congestion at Berkeley Bowl. With a current traffic analysis that is that badly flawed, why should we assume that their dismissal of cut through traffic in the neighborhoods once BRT is fully implemented is any more accurate?

The third point relates to maintaining an adequate stock of parking both for residential and commercial property. BRT as is currently proposed will remove significant amounts of parking along Telegraph in front of small independent merchants who depend on that parking to keep their doors open. Businesses like the Looking Glass are perfect examples of what even a small reduction in parking can mean to their bottom line. When Telegraph Ave. was re-stripped to accommodate the bike lanes and parking at either end of the block removed, the Looking Glass saw an immediate and significant drop in its business. Couple the commercial impact with the "mitigation" of adding meters in the residential neighborhoods abutting Telegraph and you have a clear case of small business bankruptcy and residential parking nightmares.

The Willard Neighborhood Association feels that because the impact on our neighborhood cannot be realistically identified based on current documentation, the City must stop its drive to implement BRT. A viable public transit alternative is implementation of Rapid Bus + starting today.

What is Rapid Bus +?

AC Transit has implemented a bare bones version of Rapid Bus +. They call it Rapid Bus. It was a low impact change of service and did not even require an Environmental Impact Statement. The reason its environmental impacts are so low is that Rapid Bus travels in the same traffic lanes as autos and it uses the existing bus stops along the route.

Rapid Bus has two features that separate it from the 40L busses it replaced. The first feature gives buses traffic signal priority which means buses will be slowed as little as possible by the lights along the route. The second feature is real time bus arrival information at the stops. Unfortunately, AC Transit has put this second feature into only a very few stops, not even all the stops that they themselves identified as major transit pick up and drop off locations.

Rapid Bus + is a greatly enhanced version of Rapid Bus. It would start with the two features already in place for Rapid Bus and would add the two features of BRT that AC Transit acknowledges will most cut transit time and add ridership: proof of fare and greatly reduced time between buses.

Rapid Bus + has distinct advantages over BRT by maintaining the mixed use roadway where both autos and buses can share the lanes rather than implementing a transit only lane and also maintaining the current level of parking for businesses and residents by using the existing bus stops.

We have a unique opportunity today to create Rapid Bus + in our community. AC Transit has laid the groundwork for it in their implementation of the limited Rapid Bus service. There are many reasons that Rapid Bus + would benefit the community including the low cost of implementation, the low environmental impact of its infrastructure and the greatly increased speed and reliability of the buses on the line. We can do all this at a fraction of the cost projected for the implementation of BRT.

A fuller discussion of Rapid Bus + can be found in the EB Express on-line edition:

<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/2007-08-08/news/letters-for-the-week-of-august-8-14-2007/2>

We highly recommend implementing Bus Rapid + so that the community may receive the immediate benefits of CO2 reduction while then engaging in research

on a future public transit system, such as a light rail system, that would achieve many goals so important to the community and the city.

4. 2525 Telegraph - Art House/Cafe or Night Club

The owner of 2525 Telegraph Avenue is proposing a new business on the premises previously occupied by the Blue Nile restaurant and the Oxygen Bar. The building is on Telegraph a few doors South of Dwight, close to Pete's Coffee.

The establishment currently has a license that allows for the sale of beer and wine only (Type 41 license) and for the hours of operation not to exceed 10pm during the week and midnight on Friday and Saturday. Ali Eslami, the owner, is requesting a Type 47 license, which allows for the sale of hard liquor and food in the establishment. He is also requesting to be open everyday until 2am and to have amplified music every night.

The Willard Neighborhood Association Steering Committee held a meeting last night to hear both sides of this issue. The owner gave a presentation of his intentions and neighbors discussed their concerns. Two representatives from The Alcohol Policy Network, a local organization with much experience in dealing with alcohol related problems, attended as well as some neighbors who live above commercial stores on Telegraph very close to the proposed development.

The Willard Neighborhood Association Steering Committee ultimately decided that the owner's requests were not in the best interest of the neighborhood. They came to this conclusion based on experience in dealing with problems that arise from the sale of alcohol in the area and its affect on the surrounding neighborhood and residents.

After a thorough discussion, a vote was taken and with only one dissenting vote the steering committee decided that the owners requests for later night operating hours and a hard liquor license, would contribute to the problems that already affect our neighborhood. As a result a letter will be written to the Zoning Adjustment Board reflecting our concerns.

The WNA approves of this project if it adheres to the existing zoning laws, (hours Sun-Thurs until 10pm and Midnight on Friday and Saturday and a beer and wine license only).

A group of interested Steering Committee members have agreed to look into this further for issues that may warrant further consideration including sound insulation and parking concerns. If you are interested, this issue will be reviewed by the Zoning Adjustment Board on September 13.

Please contact dionecota@sbcglobal.net if you would like more information.

Other neighbors (including Vincent Casalaina who attended on his own behalf) have been working with the owner to reach mitigations that could be incorporated into the use permit, mitigations that go beyond the requirements of current Berkeley Ordinances and Zoning Codes. To reach agreement on the more restrictive mitigations, those neighbors agreed to somewhat longer hours and a type 47 liquor license.

Mr. Eslami started early and has organized or attended a number of meetings with neighbors. On May 7th Mr. Eslami held a walk through for interested Willard Neighborhood Association members. To inform a wider group of neighbors about the planned development, Mr. Eslami held an open house on June 9th where he presented his vision for the business and gave the neighbors an opportunity to see the space to be developed.

On July 20th Mr. Eslami attended a meeting with fourteen very concerned residents and neighbors. The purpose of the meeting was to identify the issues neighbors had with the project and how they might be addressed. The neighbors identified seven issues for which mitigations would need to be agreed upon.

On August 2 the neighbors met again to write out their mitigations for presentation at the ZAB meeting. Only seven of the original 14 neighbors could stay for all or part of the meeting but mitigations were determined and agreed to by a small group of neighbors. Some neighbors thought the mitigations inadequate and some felt too much had been given away. Others were concerned about the interrelationship of noise, behavior, and the type of alcohol license.

Its clear no one got everything they wanted. You will find the agreed upon mitigations below broken into nine areas.

For more information contact ProBerk@aol.com

Items from negotiated agreement which modify the ZAB staff report

Item 2 Parking for out of area patrons

- a) Staff will direct patrons to park in UC public lot on Dwight West of Telegraph.
- b) Signage inside front entrance will ask patrons not to park in neighborhood but rather to park in UC public lot or take public transit
- c) Expanded parking and public transit information to be posted on website
- d) Escort service provided for patrons to walk to their cars when requested after dark

- e) Conduct yearly survey of patrons including where they live and how did they travel to the project.

Item 3 Sound insulation for Regent St. side of project

- a) The rear area of the building currently listed as dinning/gallery space will be a sound buffer zone with no amplified sound above normal conversation level, approximately 65 dB.
- b) The rear door opening onto Regent St. will be an emergency exit and will be alarmed
- c) The rear door will also provide handicap access/egress for the mezzanine level. Establishment personnel will have keys to the alarm and will escort handicapped patrons in and out of that door.
- d) Signage inside the doorway will ask patrons to be respectful of the peace and quiet of the neighborhood when exiting the establishment.
- e) No sound will be audible greater than 50' from the establishment on Regent St. This is a much stricter standard than is contained in Section 13.40.050. but one that has been agreed to by Mr. Elsami. It does not require the use of a decibel meter which is not typically available on nights and weekends when the establishment will be generating most of its audible sound.

Item 4 Sound insulation between establishment and residences above

- a. No sound will be audible between the club and the residences above the establishment. This is a much stricter standard than is contained in Section 13.40.060. but one that has been agreed to by Mr. Elsami. It does not require the use of a decibel meter which is not typically available on nights and weekends when the establishment will be generating most of its audible sound.
- b. No noticeable vibrations from bass notes of music played may be felt in the residences above the establishment. It does not require the use of a decibel meter which is not typically available on nights and weekends when the establishment will be generating most of its audible sound.

Item 5 Live or Amplified performances in the establishment

- a) All Live or Amplified performances will end by:
 - 10 pm on Sunday through Wednesday evenings
 - 11 pm on Thursday through Saturday evening
- b) The maximum sound level in any portion of the establishment will be no higher than 85 dB. We request the project permanently install a sound level meter with a big readout somewhere in the establishment so that levels can be easily monitored and controlled where feasible.
- c) Amplified background music that allows normal conversation to be carried on may be played at any time during operating hours and will be approximately 65 dB.

Item 8 Noise from "roving parties"

- a. Many of the proposed mitigations such as early cut off of entertainment and limits on hours of operation make "roving parties" attributable to this establishment less likely to occur.

- b. Signage inside the front doorway will ask patrons to be respectful of the peace and quiet of the neighborhood when exiting the establishment.

Item 9 smoking on sidewalk

- a) Signage saying “no smoking within 20’ of doorway” will posted.
- b) Establishment personnel will enforce this prohibition.

Items in the negotiated agreement which are not discussed in the ZAB staff report

Item 7 Visual isolation of Regent St from establishment

- a. The window facing Regent St, will be blocked after sunset.

Items which are in conflict with the ZAB staff report

Item 1 Liquor License

- a. application for type 47 license
Establishment must serve at least as much food as alcohol and compliance is measured in dollar volume.
- b. All personnel will receive employee training regarding general issues of alcohol consumption (ABC regulations), specific laws in Berkeley regarding alcohol consumption (BAPAC ordinances) and specific issues regarding the immediate neighborhood including noise and parking.

Item 6 Hours of Operation

- a) The establishment may be open from 6:30 am everyday
- b) The establishment will close by 12 am on Sunday through Wednesday
- c) The establishment will close by 1 am on Thursday through Saturday
- d) The hours of operation will be reviewed after the establishment has been in business for one year. The success of all the mitigations listed here will form the basis of such a review. Notice of this review will be delivered to all residents within 300 feet of the establishment and to all other groups and individuals who have demonstrated an interest in the operation of the establishment during that year.

5. Shop Berkeley First

Mark McLeod, Downtown Business Association

One of the most interesting partnerships that DBA formed in 2006 is with ... Business Alliance For Local Living Economies, or, more commonly, BALLE. BALLE is a growing alliance of businesspeople around the US and Canada who are committed to building strong, sustainable local economies. At the present time, there are almost 40 networks with a membership of over 11,000 members. Businesspeople organize into local business networks – each network fully autonomous, with its own name, mission, and initiatives.

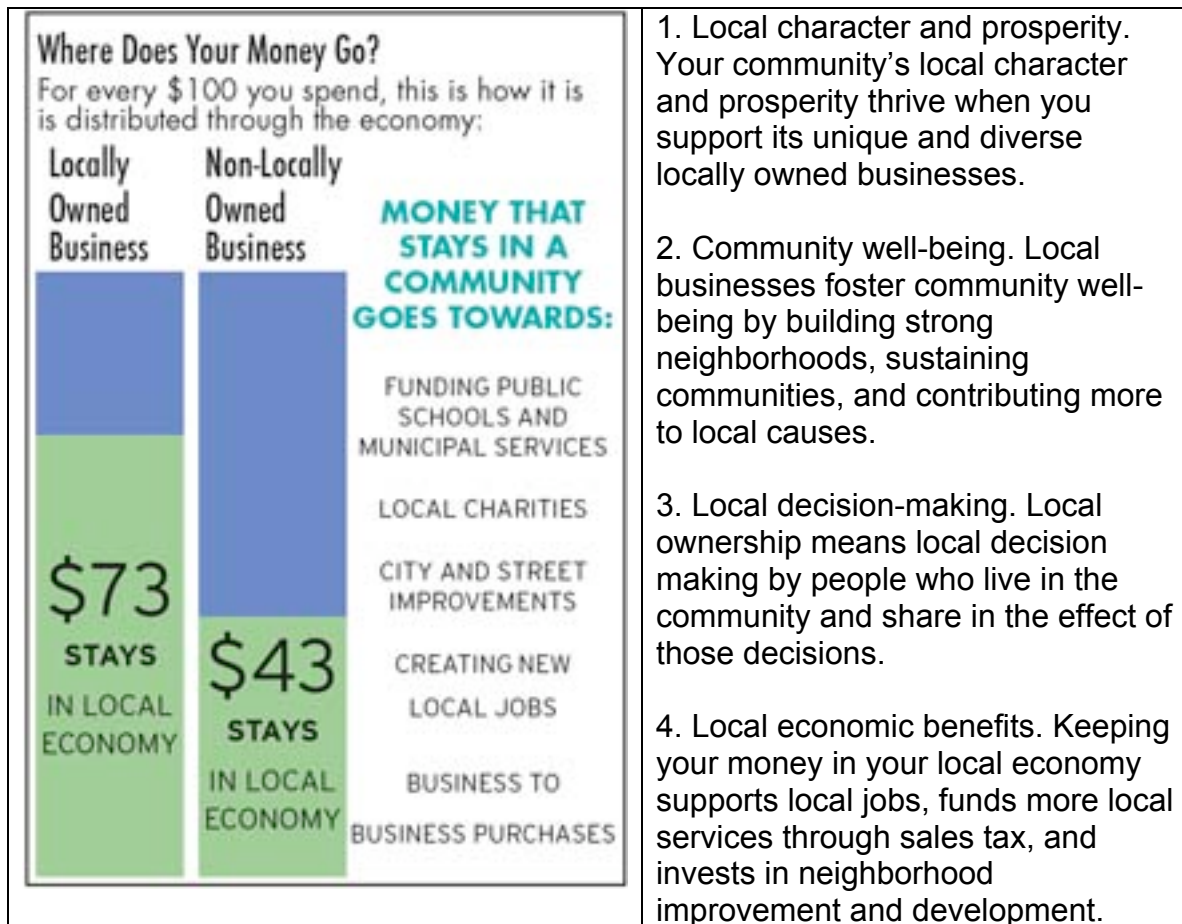
All networks share a commitment to Living Economy principles, which include:

- Living economy communities produce and exchange locally as many products need by their citizens as they reasonably can, while reaching out to other communities to trade in those products they cannot reasonably produce at home.
- Living economy public policies support decentralized ownership of businesses and farms, fair wages, taxes and budget allocations, trade policies benefiting local economies, and stewardship of the natural environment.
- Living economy consumers appreciate the benefits of buying from living economy businesses and, if necessary, are willing to pay a price premium to secure those personal and community benefits.

The long-term vision of BALLE is to build a sustainable global economy made up of Local Living Economies that build long-term economic empowerment and prosperity through local business ownership, economic justice, cultural diversity, and environmental stewardship.

BALLE members around the country, including the DBA, are staging campaigns, which we refer to as “Shop Local First Week.” DBA encourages all of its members to shop locally and multiply the value of every dollar they spend by keeping it circulating within the Berkeley community. Remember, a dollar spend within the community can be worth to the community ten times what the same dollar will be worth to the community if it is spent in a store that is not local.

Ten Reasons to SHOP LOCALLY



5. Local jobs and wages. Locally owned businesses create more jobs locally and, in some cases, provide better wages and benefits than chains do.

6. Entrepreneurship. Local entrepreneurship fosters economic innovation and prosperity.

7. Public services costs. Local stores in town centers make more efficient use of public services and community infrastructure than big box chain stores.

8. Environmental impact. Local stores help sustain vibrant, compact, walkable town centers, which in turn are essential to reducing sprawl, automobile use, habitat loss, and air and water pollution.

9. Healthy competition. A marketplace of tens of thousands of small businesses across our country fosters healthy competition and ensures innovation and low prices over the long term.

10. More choices for you. An abundance of small locally owned a business, each selecting its own product mix, guarantees a much wider range of product choices for everyone in the community.

Other Events/Items of Interest

A. Berkeley Community Labyrinth Peace Walks

Sunday, August 19 3pm, Willard Middle School free

The East Bay Labyrinth Project holds guided monthly group walks at our demonstration labyrinth painted on the blacktop at Willard Middle School the third Sunday of the month, at 3p.m. You are invited to join us as we walk in community, sharing the quiet focus of labyrinth walking, and drawing support for creating inner peace and world peace.



The Willard Labyrinth is available for people to walk on their own any time except during school hours (8a.m. to 4p.m. M-F during the school year). If the front gate on Telegraph is locked, you can get to the labyrinth via the access road opposite Andronico's driveway on Derby.

The East Bay Labyrinth Project

This group of volunteers is dedicated to the installation of an 11-circuit labyrinth crafted of paving stones at a public and accessible site in Berkeley. The group has successfully secured approval from the City of Berkeley to install a Community Peace Labyrinth at the Berkeley Marina. We are currently raising funds for its engineering and construction by a master labyrinth builder.

About Labyrinths

Labyrinths are ancient patterns found in many cultures around the world. They date back as far as 5,000 years. Their design is based on the spiral in nature,

with one path leading to the center and back out again. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has no tricks or dead ends. It is not designed for you to lose your way, but rather to help you find it.

There are many different styles of labyrinths, including the classic Cretan labyrinth and the 11-circuit medieval labyrinth, which consists of one continuous path of 11 rounds, or "circuits," leading to the center.

The Labyrinth Experience

Walking the labyrinth is an increasingly popular activity in which people often experience centering and calming. When you walk the labyrinth, the path is in full view, which allows you to focus inwardly. Many find that walking the labyrinth, individually and in community, offers a powerful way to ground our peace and justice work in the world.

B. Solar Workshop on Berkeley & Rockridge Collective Power Program Monday August 20, Rockridge Library, 5366 College Ave, 6:30 pm free

This is the last scheduled workshop for the Collective Power Program. Its a follow up to the successful workshop Solar City held at Willard Middle School on June 7 which introduced its large scale solar project for Berkeley and Rockridge. Cisco DeVries, Mayor Tom Bates' chief of staff, presented a short overview of how going to solar power fit into the scheme of Berkeley's Measure G goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% in Berkeley by 2020. Over 35 neighbors came to hear the presentation.

If you've been thinking about installing solar panels but have never gotten around to it, now might be a good time. The current rebate and tax credits are as high as they are likely to be for the next ten years, and electricity isn't going to get any cheaper. It will also help us reach our greenhouse gas goal.

At the upcoming workshop SolarCity will provide an overall presentation of residential solar power. It will include information about how Solar Power is produced and then go over the details of Solar City's Collective Power Program as well. That's where Solar City works with a community to get as many households signed up at once as possible, which lowers their costs and lets them pass on a discount to you. For those who have participated in other Solar City collective power programs, the total savings is approximately 30% of the cost of solarizing your home or business.

The financial terms are quite good, because Solar City will file the paperwork and get your rebates directly from the state -- meaning you don't have to shell out that money yourself. If you qualify, you can get a loan through a green bank in San Francisco that they have an arrangement with, or from your own lender.

Solar City will have three Solar Consultants on hand to answer specific questions after the presentation.

The Berkeley and Rockridge Collective Power Program -- goals

- 1) Convert Berkeley/Rockridge households and small businesses to solar power-totaling a minimum of 250kW
- 2) Offset a minimum of 3.5 million pounds of carbon over the next 20-30 years using solar power

You can register for the Rockridge Library event at:
<http://www.solarcity.com/Default.aspx?tabid=219>

If you know that you want to go solar, you can call Solar City for an on-site evaluation of whether solar makes sense on your particular building. You can contact them directly at 888-765-2489.

There are a few things that would make the meeting more directly useful for you.

- 1) Find out exactly how much electricity you used last year - in Kwatt hrs. You can either add up your electricity usage from your bills, or go to PGE's website and they have the last 12 months usage for your account on line. You'll need this to know how big a system you might want to install.
- 2) Do a rough plot plan of your property / house which shows the ridgelines and any trees / buildings that cast shadows on your roof. You'll need this to give the engineering types from Solar City an idea of what space you have to work with.
- 3) This one is tougher -- take a look at the roof structure. You want to write down the size and spacing of the rafters. Once you get more serious about wanting to install a system, you'll need this information so the engineers can figure out how much structural retrofitting will be needed.
- 4) You should take a good look at the roof itself. If its not in pristine shape (installed within the last 5 years), then you likely want to redo the roof as part of the installation. Once the panels go on, its really tough to redo the roof when it starts to leak (most roofs are only good for 20 years max -- and the life of the solar panels is at least 25 years.).

With these 4 things in hand, you should be able to walk away at the end of the night with a good idea about what a system will cost to install, and hopefully the presentation will give you a good idea of the rebates (tax and other rebates) you could take advantage of.

*** * * * * 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:

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

In Willard neighborhood, North of Derby is Beat 7, South of Derby is Beat 9.

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 (streets, sidewalks, graffiti, sewers, litter, storm drains, street lights)

Tree Trimming/Planting (Forestry): 644-6566

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>,

Councilmember Kriss Worthington <KWorthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us>,

Councilmember Gordon Wozniak <GWozniak@ci.berkeley.ca.us>

Representatives for Our Neighborhood:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington (District 7) 981-7170

All except Eastern edge of neighborhood

Councilmember Gordon Wozniak (District 8) 981-7180

Eastern edge of neighborhood

Mayor Tom Bates 981-7100

Zoning Adjustments Board:

To comment to the Zoning Adjustments Board regarding projects on their calendar, email: Zoning Adjustments Board <zab@ci.berkeley.ca.us>

Best to submit your comments 10 days prior to meeting for inclusion in the advance packet to board members, but late submissions will be distributed the evening of the meeting

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Willard Neighborhood Association Newsletter: The WNA Newsletter covers items of general interest to neighbors in the Ashby/Telegraph/Dwight/College area of south Berkeley, including announcements about community-building events, greening projects and work parties around the neighborhood.

If you're receiving this email, you probably either signed up at a neighborhood event or a neighbor forwarded it to you. Please note that to prevent spam, WNA always uses bcc and does not share your email address with third parties. Feel free to pass the WNA Newsletter on to other neighbors you think might be interested.

To submit items for the newsletter: Email content or links you'd like to see included in the Newsletter to Vincent Casalaina <ProBerk@aol.com>. Please note that due to the volunteer nature of the endeavor, the Newsletter does not typically include "letters to the editor" or "commentary" type articles. The Berkeley Daily Planet has a large section devoted to opinion.

WNA Yahoo Group: If you would like to receive messages (and participate in discussions) on the WNA Yahoo Group, please sign up on the website indicating your interest, and you will receive a confirmation of your membership.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/willardna/>

WNA Neighborhood Links site: If you would like to see the agendas and background information that the Steering Committee gets each month, you can find it here at this site. Also here are archived copies of the Newsletter and some additional contact information.

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

Willard Park Blog: If you would like to view and contribute to Mark Celsor's neighborhood blog go to his site.

<http://www.willardpark.com/>

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please reply to this email with the subject line of "un-subscribe" and I'll remove your email address.