



LeConte Neighborhood Association

www.neighborhoodlink.com

October 2005

LNA Meeting Schedule:

Thursday, October 20

Thursday, November 17

No December Meeting

**7:30 PM at LeConte School
2241 Russell Street**

Agenda for Oct. 20 Meeting:

- **LeConte School Landscaping**
- **Student/Neighbor Relations**
- **Special Election Initiatives**
- **Disaster Preparedness Classes**
- **Downtown Area Plan**
- **Neighborhood Traffic Concerns**
- **Report from Beat Officer Chris Waite**

Citizens Sue over Downtown Plan

Our Association sent a letter to the Planning Commission and the City Council asking that we be included in the planning for a revitalized downtown. We were turned down. What follows is an excerpt of an article that appeared in the Berkeley Daily Planet on Sept. 2, 2005: "Citizens File Suit Seeking To Overturn UC-City Pact" by J. Douglas Allen-Taylor.

"A group of Berkeley citizens filed a lawsuit against the City of Berkeley and several city officials in the California Superior Court in Oakland yesterday, asking the court to set aside the city's settlement agreement with the University of California over UC's Long Range Development Plan because it 'contracted away the City Council's right to independently exercise its police power in the future.'

"The plaintiffs charge that the agreement would deprive the council (and future councils) of independent regulatory and planning powers and also of environmental protection authority,

which they claim is in violation of state and local law and contrary to at least three settled lines of legal authority in case law."

For more information or to help, contact Anne Wagley at 325-8466 or blue@igc.org.

Student/Neighbor Relations

Last spring, UC Berkeley appointed a task force on student/neighbor relations to address problems that arise between students and long-term residents in the areas near the campus. The task force includes representatives from campus and city police departments, Dean of Students, city neighborhood services, community relations, and other departments, as well as student leaders and neighborhood representatives. Focusing initially on the Willard neighborhood (Dwight to Derby and Telegraph to College), the task force published a brochure that is being distributed to neighbors and students in private housing called "We All Live Here." The brochure sets out some of the community expectations regarding behaviors and provides useful contact information, key municipal codes, and other information. The task force wants to work with other neighborhoods near the campus on strategies to reduce problems and improve relations. Find out more at the LNA meeting on October 20. (Irene Hegarty, director, UCB Community Relations, 643-5296, <http://communityrelations.berkeley.edu>)

Disaster Preparedness Classes

The recent tragic hurricane disasters have prompted both residents and City officials to review, refresh, and activate our disaster preparedness programs. To that end, the Berkeley Fire Department and the Berkeley YMCA will host three disaster preparedness workshops to provide training in self and home preparedness, neighborhood networking, and information on specialized training (fire suppression, search and rescue, etc.):

- **Saturday, October 22, 10 AM - Noon, South Berkeley Senior Center**
- **Saturday, November 5, 10 AM - Noon, West Berkeley Senior Center**
- **Saturday, December 3, 10 AM - Noon, PG&E Facility downtown Berkeley**

RSVP if you plan to attend one of these meetings, which will each offer the same curriculum with firefighter trainers. (Carol Lopes, 981-7003)

BUSD Asks City to Close Derby

For the third time in the past seven years, the Berkeley school district is asking the City to close the 1900 block of Derby Street to accommodate a baseball field. The East Campus Neighborhood Association (ECNA) urges LeConte residents to join ECNA in supporting the most expedient solution — an affordable multi-purpose field that leaves Derby Street open, while pursuing field rights for our BHS baseball team at the new Gilman Sports Fields complex. ECNA has the following concerns with the Derby Street closure plan.

1. **Parking.** ECNA already deals with traffic, parking, and noise associated with varied and numerous local businesses and institutions, from the Herrick medical campus to Iceland to Berkeley Bowl. There will be a net loss of parking spaces and the displaced cars will seek parking in surrounding neighborhoods east of Shattuck and west of MLK.
2. **Traffic.** Relocating the traffic light at Derby and MLK (essential for BFD emergency response) will dramatically increase traffic on adjacent streets such as Carleton and Stuart. Areas east of Shattuck and west of MLK will be more congested.
3. **Farmers' Market.** The Tuesday Farmers' Market would be disrupted. BUSD does not have funds to implement a reconfiguration of the market with needed mitigations and amenities to make the market plan work.
4. **Cost.** If done carefully, a closed-street project including mitigations, required infrastructure, and planning is estimated to cost \$4 million. The voter-approved AA Bond measure allocates \$1.1 million for "landscape

improvement"*** at East Campus resulting in a significant short fall of nearly \$3 million. Due to community pressure, the BUSD board, at this point in time, has declined to move funding from other school projects to cover the difference. Rather, the Board is now seeking special building exemptions related to infrastructure as well as funding from the City. Where will the money come from?

5. **Usage.** Even if Derby Street were closed, squeezing the regulation size baseball field at East Campus requires overlapping the dirt infield over the multi-purpose grass field, and taking playing area from the King Early Learning Child Center. This would not be necessary with the open-street plan. The open-Derby plan provides a higher-quality field for a more diverse group of athletes from the high school, middle schools, and community.

But there is good news. As stated by BUSD staff, "The District has sufficient resources to build the Derby Street open minimal scheme, and probably has sufficient resources to add fencing and some buffer plantings to this plan"*** and could be ready by spring of 2007. With input from the BHS athletic department the open-street option was designed to include an entirely grass multi-purpose field for BHS rugby, lacrosse, soccer, and other field sports teams, as well as a regulation-size baseball infield and batting cages for the BHS boys baseball team practices. The Gilman Sports Fields are a much more suitable option for baseball games. It includes a regulation field, lights, bleachers, and ample parking for spectators. Funding is nearly complete for the Gilman Street sports fields. It could be ready for baseball play within a couple years.

* Berkeley School Facilities: AA Bond Measure official text page 17 orange book

** BUSD board meeting packet, October 5, page 87

LNA Board Elections October 20

Attend the October 20 meeting to vote for the LNA Board, which has ten members. Board members serve a one-year term and are expected to attend LNA meetings and take on additional side duties or serve on committees. They will uphold the tradition of an organized and activist neighborhood association to voice

our concerns. Nominees are listed below (*incumbent); nominations will also be accepted from the floor. To vote or be nominated, you must pay your dues; if you can't pay dues, just declare yourself a member. For either, contact Karl Reeh at rakespro@aol.com.

Susie Bluestone* was a founding member of the group that worked for 4.5 years to get a full-service supermarket (Berkeley Bowl) into the abandoned Safeway site (as opposed to a McFrugal's). She is working to get more trees planted on the streets surrounding LeConte School. Susie is active in the PTA and would like to help LNA work more closely with the PTA concerning the school grounds. She brought back the LeConte School Fundraising Annual Yard Sale in 2003 and 2004.

George Conklin has owned a home in the 2300 block of Parker Street for 24 years and been active in LNA. Retirement is his "work"; he was a professor at Pacific School of Religion. George is interested in the use and role of communication in society and he maintains the Yahoo listservs for LeConte. Past service in Berkeley has included the City of Berkeley Telecommunications Task Force and membership on the LNA Board.

Patti Dacey* has lived here 29 years and attended UC Berkeley. She has been a strong supporter of the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance. She has enabled better control and mitigation of traffic (i.e., traffic circles and barricades) while protecting us from disruptive UC nighttime shuttles. Patti will continue to help tackle the threats of increased development and traffic.

Jan DeBlasi* has lived for over 15 years in her Parker Street home, part of a co-op that emerged after the citywide rent strike in the early '70s. She has served as LNA secretary and as a liaison with the LeConte PTA. She also wants to focus on development issues and traffic. She helped design our original traffic circles.

Robin Grossinger* lives at 2146 Russell Street at Fulton. He has lived on Russell for 4.5 years and in Berkeley since 1978, including

5 years on Blake near Dana. He and his wife coordinated the planting of the Russell/Fulton traffic circle and they are interested in diverse neighborhood issues. Robin is an environmental scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute and directs the Historical Ecology Program, where he is involved in local and regional ecological restoration.

Carolyn Kolka* has lived at 2331 Derby since 1974. She taught in Berkeley public schools from 1967 until 1993, when she retired. She has been a board member of the Golden Gate Audubon Society for 8 years. Carolyn served on the LNA Board during the Hollywood Video affair and works on the campaign to save our neighborhood pool. She is very interested in issues of traffic control, having a clean neighborhood, and dealing with the University and their tendency to take over.

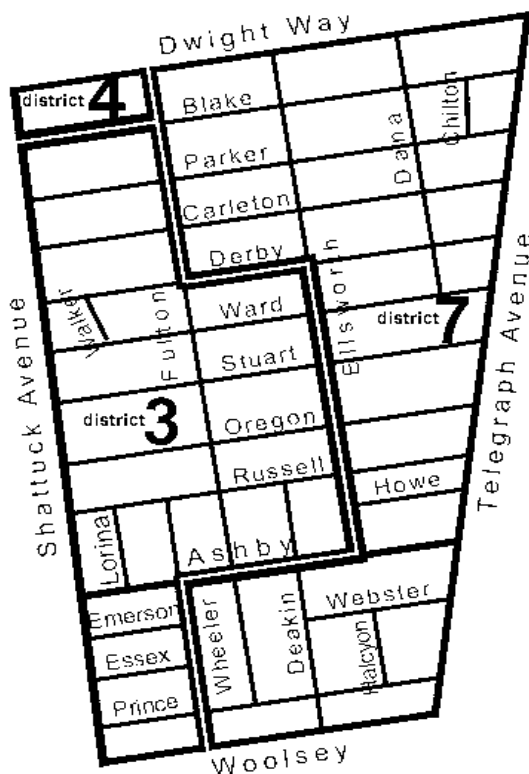
Dick Lerner* is a retired, disabled anthropologist who has been a LeConte resident since 1965. He was a founding Board member in the early '70s and on the Board again in the '80s when we incorporated. He would like to continue to serve as coordinator with LeConte School staff and PTA.

Jerry Miller* lives on Carleton Street and has organized for traffic circles, the original 3-ton weight limit signs, to eliminate illegal lawn parking, and to get more trees planted in the neighborhood. Jerry also works with the City and UCB to improve student/community relations regarding loud parties, recycling and trash pickup, and student abandonment and city pick up of household furnishings. He has served on the Berkeley Police Review Commission and is currently serving on the Energy Commission.

Paul Rabinow* lives on Derby Street and has served on the LeConte Board and the Transportation Commission. His highest priorities have been in protecting our neighborhood from traffic congestion and speeding. Most recently he worked to reverse the decision of city staff to take away our five-ton no truck signs. He will work to ensure accountability and will be a strong neighborhood advocate.

Karl Reeh* has always believed that one's "security" is best measured by how well one knows and gets along with neighbors. His more than 30 years on the 2200 block of Stuart has reaffirmed this concept as neighbors continue to improve Neighborhood Watch and Disaster Preparation skills. Karl has served on the LNA Board for almost ten years. During that time we have gotten eight traffic circles plus a measure of control over new businesses and housing developments.

Rob Wrenn* has lived with his family on Derby Street since 1990. He has been very active in the neighborhood association for ten years. He is proud of the many achievements of the LNA: traffic calming measures; winning important mitigations from developers of properties on Shattuck and Telegraph; and fight to get a full-service supermarket at Shattuck and Oregon.



LeConte Neighborhood Boundaries

Council Districts as of March 2002

LeConte Neighborhood Assn.

The LeConte Neighborhood Association (LNA) deals with issues that affect the entire neighborhood, such as development on Shattuck and Telegraph, crime, transit, and parking issues. We also work with individual blocks or other neighborhood groups on matters of common interest. We voice our concerns to the City in order to find solutions.

Getting online with us is the best way to stay informed about our neighborhood. Sign up at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lecontechat/> to send and receive messages to all of our registered members.

We meet the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM. Agenda on [craigslist/eastbay/date](http://craigslist.org/eastbay/date).

LNA Board Members

Karl Reeh, President (KarlReeh@aol.com)
 Dick Lerner, VP (DickLerner@worldnet.att.net)
 Patti Dacey, Secretary (pateye1@aol.com)
 Jerry Miller, Treasurer (jk_m@pacbell.net)
 Susie Bluestone (sbluestone@igc.org)
 Jan DeBlasi (jkdeblasi@aol.com)
 Robin Grossinger (robin@sfei.org)
 Carolyn Kolka (libbydemo@juno.com)
 Paul Rabinow (rabinow@berkeley.edu)
 Rob Wrenn (RobWrenn@comcast.net)

Become a Member of the LeConte Neighborhood Association

Help support the activities of LNA by becoming a member. The suggested member donation of \$10 annually helps pay for our hardcopy newsletter distribution. LeConte Neighborhood Association is registered with the State of California as a nonprofit corporation, so donations to LNA can be claimed as charitable donations on both state and federal taxes.

Send your check payable to LeConte Neighborhood Assn. along with your current name, address, phone, and email to Jerry Miller, LNA Treasurer, 2316 Carleton Street, Berkeley, CA 94705.