



# The Willard Neighborhood Association

**Steering Committee:** George Beier • Jeff Bradt • Doug Buckwald • Elizabeth Butler • Janet Byron  
John Caner • Vincent Casalaina • David Cottle • Colleen Donovan • Joe Halperin • Lynn Halperin  
Conrad Lagasca • Marcia Levenson • Jane Miller • Rebecca Perry • Tim Ruckle

## **President's message**

I want to thank all of the Steering Committee members who have stepped up to be officers and subcommittee chairs this year. Our neighborhood association is only as strong as the people who participate and give willingly of their time.

At the last Steering Committee meeting, I was elected President for one more year. I'm looking forward to working with the Steering Committee and the subcommittees on many of the pressing issues facing our neighborhood. The Willard Neighborhood Assoc. rightly limits the terms of officers and I will be termed out in January next year. I trust the neighborhood will be in better shape when I leave office.

If any of the areas that we will be focusing on this year are areas that you feel strongly about, **I encourage you to come to the next Steering Committee meeting – June 26, at 7 pm (the fourth Thursday each month), at Mudrakers Café on Telegraph at Stuart.**

Vincent Casalaina

## **WNA subcommittees to focus on neighborhood concerns**

At the WNA Steering Committee Retreat on May 4, 2008 in Sonoma, five subcommittees were recommended to focus on issues of particular concern to the neighborhood. The idea was discussed and approved at the WNA steering committee meeting on May 22.

**Your participation in the subcommittees is encouraged and welcome. See the list of Subcommittees below for their chairs and the contact information if you'd like to get involved.**

In addition, ad hoc subcommittees or working groups may be added to address single pressing issues that arise during the course of the year. The following is a summary (courtesy of David Cottle) of the subcommittees and issues that they may focus on this year.

## *Physical Environment*

- Look at ways to give the Willard Neighborhood a clearer, better-defined physical identity.
  - Signage, especially at neighborhood entry points such as the intersection of Telegraph and Ashby
  - Monuments/Columns; see historic examples in the Elmwood and Claremont neighborhoods
- Continue the “Public Works” effort. These activities improve the physical appearance of the neighborhood and provide an opportunity for neighbors to work together in a constructive fashion.
  - Willard Park cleanup
  - Move out coordination
  - Tot lot/playground construction
- Consider whether traffic circles would be beneficial in the Willard neighborhood. If yes, WNA should work on identifying where they are most needed and lobby the City and City Council representatives to have them constructed.
- Consider expansion of the playground at Willard Park; determine whether it is better to do this ourselves as a community-building activity, or to lobby for the City to do this.

## *Crime Prevention*

- Continue to encourage self-policing of noise and party behavior by students, while demanding prompt attention from the City and UC police when incidents do occur.
- Engage our neighbors in activities that reduce crime.
  - Establish a Willard Watch with “super local” block captains.
  - Encourage reporting of incidents.
  - Host additional forums on crime/crime prevention, possibly on a quarterly basis.
- Increase lines of communication.
  - Between the neighborhood and the City
  - Between the neighborhood and the UC
  - Between neighbors themselves
  - The WNA should get involved in effort to establish a public safety commission.
- Send out email alerts (including number of days without violent crime).

### *Disaster Preparedness*

- Organize a disaster drill.
- Coordinate a group purchase of home safety supplies (e.g., water barrels).
- Coordinate the efforts of crime prevention block captains and disaster preparedness block captains.
- Host a forum on disaster preparedness.

### *Political Action*

- Tackle one big issue each year.
- Engage UC and City of Berkeley.
- Work on BRT issue
  - Help neighborhood residents understand what has been proposed.
  - Lobby for neighborhood mitigation funds if BRT/Rapid Bus Plus moves forward.

### *Outreach*

- Look for ways to make the WNA relevant to the lives of our members and effective in improving residents' quality of life.
- Conduct a neighborhood survey to engage neighbors and identify issues of concern/interest.
- Host community events that encourage neighbors to get involved.
  - Street Faire
  - National Night Out
  - Park Clean Ups
  - Forums on Crime, Disaster Preparedness
  - Volunteer projects (Berkeley Project, Options for Recovery, Rebuilding Together)
- Continue publishing the newsletter. Consider mailing letters to neighbors; remember that some people don't use email.

## 2008 WNA officers & subcommittees

President	Vincent Casalaina	<a href="mailto:ProBerk@aol.com">ProBerk@aol.com</a> (841-8524)
Vice-President	John Caner David Cottle	
Secretary	Elizabeth Butler	
Physical Environment	chair – Greg Murphy Joe Halperin Lynn Halperin Marcia Levinson Rebecca Perry	GregM@JFCS.ORG
Crime Prevention	chair – David Cottle Marcia Levinson Conrad Lagasca George Beier	davidcottle@comcast.net
Disaster Preparedness	chair – John Caner Lynn Halperin David Cottle Greg Murphy	johncaner@gmail.com
Political Action	chair – George Beier Joe Halperin Vincent Casalaina Rebecca Perry	GeorgeBeier@hotmail.com
Community Outreach	chair – Janet Byron Conrad Lagasca Joe Halperin Colleen Donovan George Beier	<a href="mailto:janetbyron@comcast.net">janetbyron@comcast.net</a> 848-4008

## **EBMUD declares mandatory water rationing**

Two dry winters have resulted in the biggest water supply threat to the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) in nearly 20 years. The District, which supplies water to all of Berkeley, received roughly half of its normal runoff this year and projects its water storage will be over 200,000 acre-feet short of the water desired by October 1. To safeguard its shrinking supply, EBMUD has declared a severe water shortage emergency. Mandatory water rationing is now in effect.

EBMUD is seeking a 15% overall reduction in water use, with specific goals for different types of customers. Reduction goals are 19% for single-family and 11% for multifamily residential users.

Water-use prohibitions include the following:

- \* Using water for decorative ponds, lakes and fountains except those that recycle the water.
- \* Washing vehicles with hoses that do not contain shutoff nozzles.
- \* Washing sidewalks, patios and similar hard surfaces.
- \* Irrigating outdoors on consecutive days or more than three days a week (EBMUD recommends watering in the evening or before dawn).
- \* Lawn or garden watering that results in excessive runoff.
- \* Sewer and hydrant flushing and washing streets with potable (drinking) water supplied by EBMUD except for essential purposes.
- \* The use of potable water for construction if alternatives are available.
- \* The use of potable water for soil compaction and dust control when another source is available.

Customers who violate these rules may be subject to fines, water flow restrictions, or loss of water service. Information on proposed drought rates will be mailed to bill payers in the coming weeks.

More information:

<http://www.ebmud.com/drought/drought%20management%20program.htm>

## **Berkeley World Music Festival – Saturday, June 7**

The free Berkeley World Music Festival, Saturday June 7th, Noon - 9 pm, welcomes Willard neighbors to a Telegraph Avenue community festival sponsored by the city of Berkeley. A diverse range of music will be featured in intimate cafe settings as well as a Dance Music Concert in People's Park. For more information go

to: [www.berkeleyworldmusic.org](http://www.berkeleyworldmusic.org) <<http://www.berkeleyworldmusic.org>>

Schedule includes: Amoeba Music's Dance Party in People's Park with Sila & the Afrofunk Experience, Andrew Carriere & the Creole Belles (Cajun), Sambahá (Afro-Brazilian Funk), Sukhawat Ali Khan (Qawwali Sufi trance) & Stephen Kent (didjeridu). Telegraph grooves with Dengue Fever (Cambodian Pop), Eva Scow Ensemble (Brazilian Choro-Jazz), Disciples of Markos (Greek "Rebetika"), Hombres de Tango, & Arabian Passion. Everything from Diana Rowan & Lily Storm's Ancient Lullabies, Barvinok Ensemble (Eastern European), Michael Masley (Bowhammer Cymbalom) to Laurie Chastain's Celtic Rad-trad fiddle.



May 22, 2008

## **COMMUNITY CRIME ALERT**

### **Update: San Pablo Avenue Robbery Series**

On April 24, 2008 following three southwest Berkeley armed commercial robberies, the Berkeley Police Department (BPD) issued a Community Crime Alert. The series that began with the robberies of the Famous Foam Factory, the ECO Home Improvement store, and the Good Vibrations store, has now grown to a total of 9 businesses. BPD Detectives believe the suspect in the first three cases is also responsible for the following armed commercial robberies:

- The Subway Sandwich Shop (April 29th, 1105 University Ave)
- New Economy Laundry (May 1st, 3200 Sacramento Ave)
- Radio Shack (May 12th, 1652 University Ave)
- Deafghan Kabob (May 14th, 1160 University Ave)
- Wave Wireless (May 16th, 1479 San Pablo Ave)
- Berkeley Wireless (May 20th, 1955 Ashby Ave)

In each case, the suspect, wearing a mask and brandishing a handgun, rapidly entered the business and immediately confronted employees and customers. The suspect robbed the business and in some cases its customers, and fled the area on foot. The suspect is generally described as:

African-American male, late teens to late twenties, tall, thin build, wearing dark clothing, baseball or other cap, a mask, and armed with a handgun.

Please be aware of the following crime reporting and prevention measures:

- If you sense trouble in your business, or see the above described suspect, call 9-1-1. Be prepared to give the suspicious person's description, location, and direction of flight whenever you call to report suspicious people or activity.
- If you are using a cellular phone, always call the Berkeley Police Department's emergency number, (510) 981-5911. This will connect you directly to the Berkeley Police Communications Center. The Berkeley Police Department recommends that you program this number into your cellular phone, so that you have it immediately available to report any police, fire, or medical emergency in Berkeley.
- If you are the victim of a robbery, immediately call the police. An immediate report, including the suspect description, direction of flight, and any associated vehicles, gives responding officers the best possible chance of locating the suspect, and ultimately making a successful case.
- Do not resist a robber. Do your best to get a good description, and call as soon as it is safe to do so. Also, consider depositing receipts earlier in the business day, and always lock all doors at the end of a business day prior to counting out business receipts.

Berkeley Police Detectives are seeking the community's help with this investigation. Anyone who may know the identity of the suspect is urged to call the Berkeley Police Robbery Detail at (510) 981-5742. Robbery Detectives believe this series may be connected to a similar series in Oakland. Surveillance camera footage from that series has been shown on KTVU Channel 2's website, and shows a suspect wearing a red baseball cap and armed with a handgun.

2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA. 94704  
(510) 981-5900 (510) 981-5819 (fax) TDD (510) 981-5799

**\*\*\*\*\*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](mailto:pwworks@ci.berkeley.ca.us) / [publicworks@ci.berkeley.ca.us](http://publicworks.ci.berkeley.ca.us)  
Tree Trimming/Planting (Forestry): 644-6566 [trees@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto: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, WNA Yahoo group and other local websites:**

<http://www.willardna.org>  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/willardna/>  
<http://www.telegraphave.org/>