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## **Willard Neighborhood Association Newsletter November 9, 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. This newsletter is edited by Vincent Casalaina, President, WNA.*

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### **Summary of Items in This E-Newsletter**

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

#### **1. What can Willard neighborhood do about crime?**

##### **Overview**

Many of us are frustrated about the crime situation here in the Willard neighborhood and all across South Berkeley. There are many different ways where we can make a difference. We just need to come together about what we want done.

##### **What our elected officials and CoB staff say?**

Councilmembers Kriss Worthington and Gordon Wozniak and Jim Hynes, Neighborhood Services Liaison in the City Manager's office give us a few specific ideas about fighting crime locally.

##### **Proposals to think about**

Here are a few concrete ideas about what to do that have been brought up by neighbors in the Willard, LeConte, Halcyon, CENA and Bateman neighborhoods.

#### **2. Southeast Campus Integrated Plan**

**Two dramatically different views of what needs to happen.**

The University of California has been working to develop the Southeast corner of the campus. Two distinct groups have emerged around whether development should take place. Both sides have initiated letter writing campaigns and both of

their letters appear below.

**\*\*correction in the November 7, WNA Newsletter.**

The article on the City Council's removal of BRT from the Transportation Commission's jurisdiction was written by Scott Tolme.

## **Other Items of Interest (located at end of email)**

### **A. People's Park Advisory Commission**

#### **– MKThink concept basis for recommendation to UC**

Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup>

After more than eight months of research and community outreach, the People's Park advisory commission has made its formal recommendation to the University about how to move forward with the redesign of People's Park.

### **B. Housing Advisory Commission Survey**

Each year the Housing Advisory Commission seeks community input regarding the prioritization of funding for its federal funding. This year the HAC is asking Berkeley residents to fill out a survey form so that they can get input from wider cross section of our community.

### **C. Berkeley Students work on Community projects**

In October, the Berkeley Project got over 1,500 students out into the community to help with projects. They were the backbone of the work that was done in Willard Park.

*Contact information of City of Berkeley and Willard NA (located at the end of this email)*

## **President's Introductory Note:**

Following up on the main topic of this newsletter, the annual Willard Neighborhood Assoc. General Meeting's main event will be a panel discussion on how the City of Berkeley can better fight crime in our neighborhood. Take a look at the first article below, both at what our City officials had to say and at what possible options some of our neighbors have generated. Get your questions ready for our City officials and plan on attending. We are still pinning down the date and location, but plan on it being the third week in February.

In the last newsletter, I described some of the things that I felt had been successful this past year in the Willard Neighborhood Assoc. Some of those things like National Night Out and the Block Party are easy things to say “yes, we want to do that again”. What else we want to do in large part will depend on who steps up to join us on the Steering Committee.

A number of Steering Committee members are termed out and ready to take a break from neighborhood politics. If you have any interest in taking an active role in fighting crime in the neighborhood or in doing public works around Willard Park, please drop me an email so that we can talk about what’s involved.

As a starter, we’d like to offer an invitation to come to our Steering Committee meetings. They are the third Thursday each month – the next meeting will be December 20<sup>th</sup> – in the week before Christmas vacation begins. If you’d like to come see what we do each month, email me and I’ll send you the draft agenda and where to come for the meeting.

For those of you who feel WNA is helping make our neighborhood a better place to live I’m asking that you step up and contribute \$10 per household in voluntary dues. You can find the form at the very bottom of this email, and on our neighborhood link website.

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/pdf/nhextra/734472517/782299266/505369471.pdf>

If you can donate you will help us cover our costs for events like our spring and fall workdays in the neighborhood, the Xeroxing that let’s us flyer for the events like the Block Party and the ability to support good works in the community with seed money. 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.

Thanks -- Vincent Casalaina <ProBerk@aol.com>

## **Willard Neighborhood Association Wish List**

From time to time we will ask for things that would make our job easier.

## **Willard Neighborhood Association Items in This E-Newsletter**

### **1. What can the Willard neighborhood do about crime?**

#### **Overview**

Its clear that many Willard residents are frustrated that our neighborhood is such a magnet for crime. In the last 6 months, the Berkeley Police Department reports

violent crime is up 14% while other crime categories are down 7%. That tracks with the empirical evidence we've seen locally.

Some residents are frustrated that the Willard Neighborhood Assoc. Steering Committee has not been more active in supporting crime suppression by the police. Greg Wineger (Steering Committee member) says "I made a motion to the Willard Steering Committee last year to replace police officers lost due to city budget cuts. I prepared, discussed for two months and presented a letter for (last year's) president to send to the city council (with the support of Councilmember Wozniak, who encouraged me / Willard as funds had become available). My efforts were challenged by our current president who said additional officers were NOT the solution. The steering committee did NOT support moving forward with increased BPD presence." Here is Joe & Lynn Halperin's response (both Steering Committee members), "We remember Greg's motion and remember being very upset about the lack of support. Our frustrations with almost all issues with WNA is that everything gets talked to death. As we said, there is no more time for talking, list making, or even going over old errors. This is much too serious. We love our neighborhood and believe that this is fixable but everyone has to be aggressive in their actions."

Some residents are frustrated because the randomness of most of the violence makes it extremely difficult to eradicate. Dea Robertson-Gutierrez says "Last week, I read a government report that Oakland had the #3 spot for the highest crime rates while Richmond held #7 or #8. Unfortunately, we are sandwiched in between them. Yet, the villains do not hit us more often just because of that stat. Desperate times seem to make desperate people. These are random opportunities by hoodlums taking advantage of our own ignorance about who they really are and about our forgetfulness, failing to watch out for ourselves. As I see it, it is a simple problem with a complex solution. Yet, we cannot ignore it without denying our concern that the neighborhood has a sudden rise in crime rates."

Dea goes on to describe a mugging just outside his house. "There was a strong-arm robbery near the corner of Benvenue and Parker Streets at approximately noon today, November 23, 2007. An assailant used a tool to strike our neighbor, a middle-aged woman on the side of her head, which I saw bleeding profusely when I arrived. She described the criminal as a large black woman who had leaped out of a small black Toyota that a male accomplice was driving. After striking her victim, the perpetrator stole her victim's purse and all its contents including her money, ID, and her apartment house keys.

If anyone within earshot of my home simply shouts for help, it gets my immediate attention. If you use words like fire, rape, or thief first, someone will call 911 even as I leave the front door. Please do not hesitate to call me in case of any emergency."

Some other neighborhoods have had better results in driving down their crime rate. Nancy Carlton from the Halcyon neighborhood says, "While the safety walks neighbors are engaging in may be symbolic, they do remind neighbors to be eyes on the street the rest of the time too (i.e., we all need to remember not to look the other way when our gut tells us something isn't right, but take the time to call the police and ask them to come check it out).

In Halcyon, the walks have also helped us to work together as neighbors and to engage in a partnership approach with the police (we call dispatch when we'll be walking so that the beat officer knows we're out there, and sometimes they'll drive by while we're walking; this fosters better communication). The police can't be everywhere at once, and neither can neighborhood walkers, but if we all work together we lessen the odds of criminals feeling like they can engage in crimes without being noticed. Of course, it's harder to track the crime we may be preventing than it is to count crimes that have occurred.

Having neighbors call repeatedly about suspicious behavior can also really make a difference. For example, multiple calls to police when some teenage drug dealers were starting to use our small neighborhood park for their dealing vastly reduced the incidence in a matter of weeks. This wasn't because of arrests, but because having the beat officer drive by sent a message that this was an area where neighbors took action and cared about what was happening. In other words, we drew a clear boundary, and the police worked with us to do that."

The Willard Neighborhood Association is planning several crime related activities over the next few weeks. Michelle Pellegrin is organizing a meeting with our elected officials, City of Berkeley staff and members of the Berkeley Police Department to specifically address the issue of how to bring down the spike in crime in the northern edge of the neighborhood. This meeting is targeted specifically for those who live on the 2500 & 2600 blocks of Regent, Hillegass and Benvenue or on Parker between Regent and Benvenue. If you'd like to attend send me an email [ProBerk@aol.com](mailto:ProBerk@aol.com) with your physical address and we'll attempt to get you in – space is limited.

### **What our elected officials and City of Berkeley Staff have to say.**

#### **Here's what Kriss Worthington has to say:**

I have been talking about this issue at City Council repeatedly. There are some very practical steps that could be and should be taken by the City.

During the last budget process my violence prevention/violence response item was referred to the budget process, but basically not included in the adopted budget. On Monday I will be submitting a City Council item to once again seek to prioritize this issue and propose a variety of steps the City could take. That will

appear on the City Council agenda on Dec 18th. I will email it to you before the meeting.

I am talking with residents and business people from multiple neighborhoods who are concerned about this issue, to try to build an effective coalition to make sure we do not have to wait until a ballot measure in November 2008 to get the attention this needs.

In the meantime I am happy to meet with you and any other interested persons to try to get sufficient focused attention to this important issue.

**This is Kriss' response to his request to Chief Hambleton about what the Berkeley Police Department will be doing to stem the tide.**

THANK YOU Chief Hambleton for the prompt response with increased attention during this time of stress for many folks hearing about more incidents and getting very worried, as well as our concerns for the biggest shopping month of the year.

In addition to your immediate improvements I still want to get the City Council to discuss how we can prioritize Violence Response and Prevention in our mid year budget adjustment, as well as in restructuring resources and considering what surrounding jurisdictions are attempting, including the possibility of cooperation with or copying of other successful efforts.

I believe it would also be beneficial to meet with interested folks to make sure they have a chance to propose their own ideas of solutions, so when we have our January City Council meeting discussion we will have considered a wide range of suggestions.

Some people who read the City Annual Report interpreted the reference to a November 2008 ballot measure for public safety as an indication that the City would wait until then to deal with these problems. Especially given the uncertainty of taxpayer support for new measures, and the long time before a new measure would translate into actual implementation, I think we need to send a loud and clear message that we will seek solutions expeditiously.

**Here's what Councilmember Gordon Wozniak has to say:**

My chief of staff, Kelly Kirkpatrick, lives around the block of College and believes that more lighting is needed in this area. We will take a look at the lighting and see what can be done.

If the area is being targeted, as residents believe, having the City assign some undercover cops could help catch the perpetrators. I suspect that the BPD is already doing this.

I would be in favor of installing some cameras to try and get some pictures of the bad guys. Even if they were only faux cameras, they may discourage bad guys from working this area.

Having a meeting to hear neighbors concerns and what the BPD can realistically do is a good idea. My office is willing to work with the Willard Neighborhood Association and Councilmember Worthington to arrange such a meeting.

I would also like to see the City form a new Public Safety Commission that would take the leadership in working with the BPD to reduce crime and improve public safety in Berkeley. The Berkeley Police Department is the only City department that does not have a commission that works, in a collaborative fashion, to help it accomplish its mission of having a safe city.

**Here's what Jim Hynes from the City Manager's office has to say:**

My mantra on this is all about Neighborhood Watch and using various means to message the bad guys out there that this is a vigilant community. Students need to become much more proactive in participating in (Willard neighborhood) with long time residents and UC should explore some innovative ideas to provide incentives for students to be more participatory.

We should be doing regular assessments of the characteristics of the physical environment using CPTED principles wherein we provide for better lighting and fewer shadowy areas that create haborages for the bad guys.

We should address the underlying "anything goes" way of thinking for Telegraph and People's Park

**Specific proposals to think about.**

**(not everything here is recommended for implementation but it is all worth at least thinking about how it might affect the crime rate)**

People on the street.

Can we work on developing smaller block by block units for neighborhood watch? That means Block Captains, but they could also be Block Captains for disaster preparedness.

Can we make an active recruitment of dog walkers to help organize / walk on a daily basis. People often walk their dogs after dark and the dog is a hand deterrent to street crime.

Carry and USE a bright flashlight every time you go out at night – even when you are just going to and from your car! This gives you a major

advantage if anyone is hiding or approaching you in the dark. If a criminal thinks you have seen them they are more likely to move on. Plus with a super bright LED light you can temporarily blind anyone who is too close for comfort.

#### Extra light on the street.

Turn on your porch light every night and leave it on overnight. Many, if not most homes don't turn their porch lights on. Use energy efficient bulbs in all outdoor lighting.

Where possible, add motion detectors to outside lights. This makes a spotlight effect as people move down the street.

Add more street lights (install energy efficient lights to offset power needed for extra lights) to blocks that are dark.

Add a timer to a light which is visible through front windows so that the house appears to have someone in the front room. Make sure the fixture uses energy efficient bulbs.

Trim trees to open up line of sight to existing street lights.

#### Extra Patrols on the street.

Last Fall the BPD did a surge of patrols into the south campus area. Was that a successful tactic in terms of driving down the crime rate. If it was successful, what would it take to do that on a regular basis?

Could the police be asked to make a consistent habit of driving on neighborhood streets when headed to non-emergency destinations, rather than bypassing the neighborhood by driving more direct on Telegraph, Ashby, Dwight, and College.

Can we add new non-sworn BPD personnel or private security guards to make bike and walking patrols in the after dark hours – changing routes and times to keep their patrol location unpredictable. They would call in problems for sworn officers to take care of, but they would be on the street and visible much more of the time. This should be considerably less expensive than fielding additional sworn officers.

Add more flexibility to the way officers and non-sworn personnel are assigned to beats so that its easier to quickly add patrol capability to areas that are experiencing an upsurge in crime.

Use reverse decoys to train naïve pedestrians.



Would any of these concepts require changes in the BPD contract that is currently being negotiated?

#### Communication.

Distribute more of the BPD magnets with all the emergency / non-emergency numbers on them.

Make it possible for residents to talk directly with the beat officer. That might mean BPD issued cell phones or some other direct contact method.

More communication from BPD to neighborhood groups regarding crimes committed in the neighborhood such as periodic updates on crimes like the armed robberies earlier this fall. The BPD should pass on names of those arrested & convicted as well as conviction rates for different types of crimes.

Post the names and pictures of people arrested for crimes in the area.

Could the City post the voting history of Council in a way that would make it easier for residents to see how individuals have treated various areas of legislation?

Make more opportunities for beat officers to meet with residents on a regular basis.

#### Funding.

Fund all public safety from the general fund. After public safety is fully funded, ask for additional funding for areas still needing additional funding.

Can we get UC to pay for added patrols by BPD, especially on Thursday through Saturday nights when the vast number of parties take place.

Can we get any federal/state crime fighting money to help homeowners add lights & motion detectors and to help city pay for extra tree trimming / adding new lights / changing over to energy saving lights, adding non-sworn personnel for foot/bike patrol?

#### Land Use policy.

Change land use policy so that it favors long term residents over transient renters.

## **2. Southeast Campus Integrated Plan**

### **Two dramatically different views of what needs to happen.**

For more than two years, the University of California has been working on developing the Southeast corner of the campus. Those plans included the renovations to Memorial Stadium and the construction of the Student High Performance Fitness Center in the adjacent Oak Grove in addition to a number of other construction projects in the area.

You can find information about the Southeast Campus Integrated Projects and the completed Environmental Impact Statement on line at:

<http://www.cp.berkeley.edu/SCIP/EIR.html>

Two distinct groups have emerged around this issue. One side, Stand Up For Berkeley is opposed to the University expansion plans on a number of different grounds and has filed a law suit to block the construction. The other side wants to see Berkeley accept that the development will take place and concentrate efforts on issues facing the City that can be won. Both sides have initiated letter writing campaigns and both letters appear below.

### **Stand up for Berkeley**

The Stand Up For Berkeley letter .... was sent primarily to households in 94705, plus a few in 94704 and a few to people who signed the letter and live in other parts of Berkeley. It's purpose was two-fold: to inform people about UC's development and commercialization of the area, and secondly to raise money to pay for the law suit.

Beverly Doane

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

For the many years we've lived in Berkeley, we've been Cal's biggest fans. But even seasoned blue and gold supporters like us were surprised about a year ago when some neighbors began to talk about the realities of the University's proposed expansion and commercial development of the Stadium. Our neighborhood and our quality of life are central to our lives. It's what makes us tick and we can't imagine living without it.

Our friends and neighbors felt similarly alarmed about the safety and environmental consequences so they took the "bull by the horns" with court

challenges paid for by neighbors and private citizens. The issues championed in these legal challenges, on behalf of so many who care about Berkeley and the University, seem now even clearer and more compelling than when we first came here: Our heightened sense of danger from earthquakes and recently gained knowledge that the Hayward Fault could go at any time; the increase of gridlocked streets a good portion of our day; loss of beauty and quality of life and our landscaped heritage.

If you've been following the news, you may have heard that as a neighborhood community we stood up at the public hearing before the City Council in early September and raised the banner "Stand Up For Berkeley!" These court challenges – led by Panoramic Hill Association and California Oak Foundation —will imminently be ruled on in the California Superior Court. We are confident we will win.

Michael Lozeau, attorney for Panoramic Hill Association, and Stephan Volker, attorney for California Oak Foundation, have advanced clear arguments before the court. The lawsuits demand that the University re-evaluate the total project with regard to public safety and potential impacts on the surrounding community.

To ensure that the future of our neighborhood is as bright as our past, we're supporting these private legal challenges put forth by Panoramic Hill Association and California Oak Foundation. Court cases incur deep expenses, so we ask you to help our neighborhood defray the legal and court expenses. A consequential portion of dollars has already been raised, but we have a few more \$ to go.

We ask you, our neighbors, to contribute an amount that makes you feel comfortable. Amounts for \$50, \$100, \$250, or \$500 are encouraged, but please send whatever you can. This is an honest effort for long term solutions with the University to ensure the health and safety of our City, including its citizens, its neighborhoods and its academic community. Please make checks payable to: SCIP Legal Fund, P. O. Box 5428, Berkeley CA 94705.

Sincerely,

Chris/Jane Adams  
Barbara Allen  
Joan Barnett  
Jane Barrett  
George Beier  
Henrik Bull  
Susan Cerny  
Matthew Chen  
Shirley/ Dan Dean  
Beverly Doane

Joanna Dwyer  
Lesley Emmington  
Joe Engbeck Jr.  
Hank/Mariedite Gehman  
Martha Jones  
Michael Kelly  
Fredrica Drotos  
Wendy/Bennett Markel  
Morton McDonald  
Sylvia McLaughlin

Robert & Nancy Morse  
Cathy Orozco  
Greg Pedemonte  
Anne Wagley  
Marianne Tanner  
Janice Thomas  
Scott/Beth Wachenheim  
Jerry/Renee Wachtel  
Lynn Yamashita

## FACTS ABOUT UC'S STADIUM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1. **Stadium Expansion:** In addition to the student training center/office complex, this UC project includes plans for building two additional stories above the current rim of the stadium, including the addition of VIP luxury boxes, 2 exterior glass elevators, a subterranean commercial concourse, a set of huge, prominent, permanent light towers and an enhanced state-of-the art sound system. Although seating capacity would be reduced from 70,000 to 60,000 stadium seats, renovation would vastly expand the stadium **and the frequency and character of its current use**. Contrary to statements by UC, our neighborhoods include thousands of residents with deep connections to and a love of the University, but the commercialization of the stadium is of great concern to its residential neighbors.
2. **Greatly Increased Stadium Use:** The rebuilt stadium would have a full capacity of 60,000 people. UC's plans put no constraints on how the stadium would be used. In addition to 6 or 7 home football games, plans call for up to **seven additional full capacity events and an undisclosed and unlimited number of events under 60,000 people**. The events could be concerts or any other commercial event UC chooses, each with traffic, noise and safety impacts.
3. **Traffic Gridlock:** Impacts from the proposed projects will affect all Berkeley neighborhoods. We will all endure gridlock and delays in emergency services before, during and after stadium events. With permanent light towers and a state-of-the-art sound system, there could be continual **day or night events**, with cars traveling and parking primarily on narrow two-lane residential streets.
4. **A Decade Of Construction Disruption:** UC's plans call for a three-phase construction process. Each phase is enormous in scope, **with construction spanning a decade**. The demolition and excavation for the student training center and expansion of the stadium will require thousands of semi-trailer and dump trucks traveling through Berkeley streets.
5. **Law Suits:** Currently, law suits are being heard in California Superior Court in opposition to UC's plans: The Panoramic Hill Association (PHA) and the California Oak Foundation law suits are being paid for by neighbors and private citizens. Legal arguments are that the Environmental Impact Report is legally inadequate by failing to meet the standards of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. (The City of Berkeley's law suit has a slightly different basis.)
6. **The Law:** The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act prohibits the building of new public buildings or substantially renovating (at a cost of more than 50% of current value) public buildings within 50 feet of an earthquake fault. The proposed

145,000+ square foot Student Athlete High Performance Center (student training center) would be built adjacent to the western wall of the stadium prior to any stadium retrofit.

7. **Dangerous Site:** The Hayward Fault runs lengthwise through the stadium which is embedded in a canyon, built on fill and adjacent to residential neighborhoods, with access limited to narrow two-lane roads. Since January 2007 there have been five earthquakes in this area; a 4.2 in July and a 5.6 on the adjoining Calaveras Fault in October.
8. **Removal of Oak Grove:** Building the student training center adjacent to the western wall of the stadium would necessitate the removal of 38 mature Coast Live Oaks which form a grove leading into the stadium. City of Berkeley law protects Coast Live Oaks, prohibiting their removal.
9. **The Cost:** UC has yet to disclose the cost of renovating the stadium or its financing plan. In recent weeks, a University spokesman recently revealed that the retrofit may be financed by floating uniquely structured bonds. The viability of such a financing scheme has not been tested, anywhere, to date.
10. **Long-term Effects:** Berkeley residents will continue to pay for the additional demands on police and emergency services and added wear and tear on the City infrastructure. In the event of an earthquake or other disaster, California citizens will bear the cost of post-disaster liabilities.

### **The other side of the argument**

The following letter was drafted by UC neighbors on all sides of campus in response to a letter from an organization called Stand Up for Berkeley. That organization's letter requested donations to support the pending lawsuits against the University, the stadium and the athletic center projects. As we do not have access to the mailing list of Stand Up for Berkeley, we are asking that you please forward this letter on to Berkeleyans who might be interested in learning the truth about the charges made in the "fact sheet" composed by Stand Up for Berkeley.

Thanks, Linda Schacht

November 19, 2007

Open Letter to Stand Up for Berkeley :

We received your letter requesting donations to support litigation against the university's plans for Memorial Stadium and the Student-Athlete High Performance Center. As longtime Berkeley residents, we are equally concerned

about maintaining our quality of life. But we do not believe these projects will adversely affect our neighborhoods and feel it is time to move on.

With so much public information available on these projects, it is difficult to understand why there continues to be such gross misrepresentation of the facts. We can understand and accept that reasonable, well-informed people can wind up on different sides of these issues. But we cannot accept an effort to solicit additional support based on falsehoods and distortions. For example:

\* The description of the stadium project in the “fact sheet” is profoundly misleading. On the east side, there will be permanent lighting to replace the temporary lighting that is currently brought in for late afternoon games, but the university has worked closely with consultants to ensure these are slim vertical elements, not “huge prominent” towers such as are seen at the Oakland Coliseum. On the west side, a new low, press box would replace the existing temporary press box—is this what the “fact sheet” refers to incorrectly as “two additional stories above the current rim”? The stadium plan does not include VIP luxury boxes. The stadium already has a “subterranean concourse” that would, in a final phase of the project (depending upon funding availability), be extended to the entire perimeter of the stadium to provide improved disabled access, add bathrooms, and remove the dozens of “porta potties” lined up along Rim Way and Centennial Roads for every game. In each instance, the “fact sheet” misleads and fails to explain the real “fact” – that existing facilities at the stadium are substandard and need to be upgraded.

\* These projects will not change the character of use at the stadium or “commercialize” its use. For nearly 20 years university chancellors have agreed to limit the use of the stadium in consideration of the community. The university has already stated flatly that the stadium will not be used for rock concerts and the university will not be installing a sound system that would support such use. The new system would direct sound down and towards the field and away from surrounding areas, an improvement over the current system. While the university has limited the number of “capacity” events to no more than 7 events beyond football games, the definition of “capacity” is any event that would draw more than 10,000 attendees. In addition, the campus has offered to discuss with the city parameters and protocols concerning future use of the stadium.

\* There will be some disruption and truck traffic due to construction, but we will get through it. This is unfortunate but unavoidable if the stadium is to be retrofit for the safety of athletes, staff, and fans, which we feel must be done. The City of Berkeley has undertaken many large-scale projects to retrofit historic public buildings or to build new ones—the main Library, Berkeley High School, City Hall, and the Brower Center, to cite a few. These have disrupted traffic flow for a period of time, but the results are well worth the temporary inconvenience. The

alternative to renovating an historic structure like the stadium is to let it deteriorate or tear it down—Is that really what we want?

\* The project will not make the area more dangerous; in fact, it will provide better emergency access and reduce the capacity of the stadium by 10,000 seats. As part of the project, a portion of campus property at the southeast corner of the stadium would be dedicated to the city to widen the roadway and improve pedestrian safety and emergency access. Removing the portable bathrooms along the roadway will also improve access and open Rimway and Centennial during stadium events.

\* The trees that are removed will be replaced three to one, with one substantial tree for every specimen tree removed. Although the city passed a moratorium on the removal of Coastal Live Oaks in 2006, the ordinance does not apply to state agencies. On the other hand, most individual property owners do not have the resources or opportunity to replace oaks as the university has pledged to do. An interesting fact: There are more oak trees on campus property today than there were 100 years ago.

\* The stadium and student-athlete center will be built with private funds. Why should the community care how the university raises these private funds?

\* There will not be additional demands for police or emergency services due to the stadium/high performance center projects. The university pays the city for any damage to city infrastructure caused by its construction projects. The university pays the city for police services associated with stadium events and pays the city annually for fire services and equipment. In the event of a major earthquake we will all depend on our fellow Californians and the federal government for assistance. The university will be working alongside local, state, and federal agencies to provide emergency response and shelter.

Whatever the court's decision on the current lawsuit, it does not benefit the city, the university, or the community to continue this adversarial relationship. It's time to move on and work together, as one community. We would rather spend our dollars on projects to help the poor, support our schools, or protect the environment than to waste them on more lawyers. We ask our neighbors to join us.

Sandy and Dick Bails  
Richard Beahrs  
Hilde and Robert Clark  
Fred Conrad  
David Drubin  
Karin Cooke and David Schlessinger  
John Gage and Linda Schacht

Edward and Alexis Kleinhans  
Martin and Joann Lorber  
Bruce and Judy Moorad  
Fred Nachtwey  
Jenny Wenk  
Jeff Williams

## **Other Items of Interest**

### **A. People's Park Advisory Commission – MKThink concept is basis for recommendation to UC**

At its December 3, 2007 meeting, the People's Park Community Advisory Board Board discussed the draft study and recommendations to make to the university with respect to the study. The Board passed the following resolution:

#### **Recommendation 1**

The University of California sponsor an open competition to solicit a specific design for People's Park based on the People's Park Assessment & Planning Study with a focus on "emerging directions for people, program, and space." The competition instructions will emphasize Community Advisory Board recommendation, universal design, and require a feature that commemorates the historical significance of the Park. Applicants are strongly encouraged to detail the level of community involvement in their proposal.

#### **Recommendation 2**

The University appoint a diverse task force, separate from this Community Advisory Board, but that includes Community Advisory Board members, comprised of service providers, City of Berkeley, and faculty of UC Berkeley with expertise in public policy, social welfare, and public health. The mission of this task force will be as follows:

- Make recommendations as to how at-risk individuals who currently frequent the Park can best be provided with necessary social services.
- \* Determine where such services can best be provided.
- Determine that if some services can and should be provided in the Park, the standards by which this should be done and by whom.



Public comments of the draft report: People's Park Assessment & Planning Study by MKThink consultants have been compiled as Appendix 9 and are posted, with the study and the other appendices, on the UC Berkeley Community Relations website:

[http://communityrelations.berkeley.edu/whatsnew/peoples\\_park\\_draft\\_study.htm](http://communityrelations.berkeley.edu/whatsnew/peoples_park_draft_study.htm).

The comments are also available for viewing at the People's Park office.

## **B. Housing Advisory Commission Survey**

Each year the Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) makes funding recommendations to the City Council for Housing Urban and Development Community Development Block Grant funds for various community services such as:

Public/Community Facility Improvement i. e. accessibility  
Emergency Shelter Services i. e. facility improvement  
Housing Services i. e. accessibility, emergency home repair and emergency relocation.

Part of that process is receiving feedback from the community. In the past Public Hearings conducted by the HAC and City Council have been the main sources of community input.

This year the HAC is distributing a short survey to better understand our entire community's views on the funding we oversee. The one page form offers an opportunity to prioritize the type of projects to be funded, to comment on currently funded projects and to give your suggestions about unmet needs in the community.

If you'd like to take part in the survey, you can fill out a form at any Berkeley Public Library, any Berkeley Senior Center, the Housing Department on the 2nd floor of City Hall, 2180 Milvia Street or online via the City of Berkeley Housing Department home Page:

<http://www.cityofberkeley.info/housing/Default.htm>  
choose either the RFP link or the direct link to the HAC survey in the same box.

There is also a direct link from the RFP page to the HAC survey as well:  
<http://www.cityofberkeley.info/housing/communityaction2yr/default.html>

## **C. Berkeley Students work on community projects**

*By Lilya Mitelman, Daily Cal*

Berkeley Project Day participants numbering an estimated 1,500 worked at various community sites this Saturday, including one group of volunteers who painted a mural over graffiti under a bridge at Live Oak Park.

More than 1,500 students and community members volunteered this Saturday in the second annual Berkeley Project Day, working at 58 sites across the city.

Based on requests from the city and other organizations for community improvements, the project's student coordinators assigned volunteers to work on a variety of tasks including gardening at Willard Park, painting a mural at Live Oak Park and sending books on behalf of the Prisoners Literature Project, according to the project's spokesperson Mark Matsumoto.

This year, sign-ups for Berkeley Project Day had to close early because more people signed up than the organizers could accommodate, said Executive Director Edward Pao. Nearly 2,000 people signed up and an estimated 1,500 showed up to volunteer, Pao said, adding that organizers had accounted for this discrepancy in their planning.

"I think it's important for places to be claimed by the community, not individuals," said Jenny Cooper, the community outreach director, who helped coordinate the Live Oak Park project where volunteers painted a mural over graffiti on a bridge.

The first Berkeley Project Day was held last fall, with a turnout of 1,000 volunteers. UC Berkeley alumnus Peter Do said fellow founder senior Andrew Rowland got the idea when he heard about The Detroit Project, organized by students at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor for volunteering in the Detroit area.

"I just met with (Cooper and Rowland) and I just kind of politely nodded my head ... but they kept coming at me and finally I committed on behalf of the city," said Berkeley Assistant City Manager Jim Hynes.

Volunteer materials, transportation and food were donated and supplied by the campus, city and outside organizations. City officials arranged for buses and free BART passes for volunteers.

Local stores donated food for volunteer meals, and organizers received \$15,000 in donations from the campus and various local businesses, Pao said.

Hynes said the day is a good investment for the city, which saves \$100 for every dollar it invests in the project. If not for the project, the city probably would not take on the tasks completed by volunteers, he said.

Matsumoto said one of the project goals is to inspire individuals and groups to

get involved in the community. "It's not a one-day event. It's about promoting a culture of service," Cooper said.

Leonora Bittleston, a member of the University Students' Cooperative Association Board of Directors, said that the co-ops are planning a community service event with the Prisoners Literature Project, which they heard about through the project.

"We're obviously very proud of these students and we really want to keep this up," said Associate Chancellor John Cummins, who spoke at the opening ceremonies.

**\*\*\*\*\*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) [pwworks@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:pwworks@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>,  
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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## ***Dues Contribution Form***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_-- \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Dues: \$10/household      Amount Donated: \$\_\_\_\_\_

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.

Make checks payable to: Willard Neighborhood Association

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

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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:

After a five and a half year tour of duty in the San Francisco Bay Area, Christine and Mark Celsor have moved back to Cincinnati.

We will miss the energy that both Mark and Christine have shown in their public service to the neighborhood. Mark's neighborhood blog will go away soon – so say goodbye before it comes down.

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

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**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.**