



# The Willard Neighborhood Association

## February Newsletter

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

### **Crime Prevention in our Neighborhood** *By David Cottle*

The troubling spate of criminal incidents that occurred in and around the Willard Neighborhood this past Fall was a reminder that the safety of our streets, parks, homes and businesses is not something we can take for granted. While the Berkeley and UC Police Departments protect our neighborhood 24/7, officers cannot be in all places at once--we ourselves have a vital role to play in making neighborhood safety and crime prevention efforts a success.

As an outgrowth of the WNA, an informal working group has begun meeting to create an Action Plan to guide community-based activities aimed at promoting neighborhood safety and preventing crime. Discussions to-date have generated a wide range of ideas that working group participants believe will make our neighborhood less inviting to would-be criminals and safer overall. Potential strategies include:

Neighborhood outreach and education

Neighborhood and police coordination

Safety infrastructure  
(e.g., street lighting and signage)

Property maintenance  
(e.g., vegetation, porch lights and graffiti)

Community building

Advocacy and partnerships

Data collection and research

*(continued on page 2)*

### **Working to Improve our Neighborhood** *By Greg Murphy*

The Willard Public Works Committee has been actively involved with improving the physical condition of the neighborhood. We have actively managed work projects in Willard Park, helped organize the coordinated effort with the City of Berkeley and UC to clean up debris during the spring "move out" of students, and supervised the annual Street Faire last August. Over 50 students and neighbors volunteered for Public Works Committee events and projects last year and we hope to get even more folks involved this year.

#### **Agenda for 2008**

1. The committee will continue its work on improving and maintaining Willard Park, and are considering such projects as:

Graffiti abatement

Weed Control and  
Landscape Improvements

Clubhouse Improvements

Tot Lot Improvements

Lighting Improvements

2. Additionally, the committee will continue to coordinate the Willard Street Faire and Yard Sale this August and will start the planning process for the event in March.

*(continued on page 2)*

<p>More ideas are sure to be generated at the February 20<sup>th</sup> WNA General Meeting. Future meetings of the working group will focus on prioritizing and implementing neighborhood safety and crime prevention strategies and actions. Willard neighbors with an interest in joining this grassroots effort are encouraged to take part in upcoming working group meetings and activities. Look for announcements in upcoming WNA newsletters.</p> <p><i>David Cottle is a member of the Willard Neighborhood Association Steering Committee.</i></p>	<p>3. Finally, the committee will work with the Safety and Crime Task Forces to help assess the physical conditions of the neighborhood and help develop ways to mitigate problems that might contribute to unsafe conditions and lead to crime. We will be looking at conditions such as street lighting and tree trimming, lighting and landscape conditions on private property, and other potentially unsafe conditions.</p> <p>We urge all interested neighbors to get involved with the committee by contacting the chair of the committee, Greg Murphy. We are particularly interested in your ideas for work projects for the committee to tackle this year and in the future. Greg can be reached by e-mail (<a href="mailto:GregM@jfcs.org">GregM@jfcs.org</a>) or by phone (510-644-9415).</p>
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## President's Message

The Willard Neighborhood Association's annual General Meeting will take place in two weeks – Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. It offers us a great opportunity to hear what our City can do about reducing crime in our neighborhood. We will hear from the Chiefs of both the Berkeley Police Department and the UC Police Department about what they plan to do to reduce crime. We'll also hear from both our Councilmembers about what policy changes and revenue increases are planned by the City over the next year.

In addition, we've allocated 40 minutes for people in the audience to ask specific questions of the panel members. Come with your questions and we'll work hard at getting answers to them. Time is limited, so try to keep your questions short and to the point.

There are two Willard Neighborhood Association administrative items on the agenda:

Agenda & By Law changes can be seen: <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/berkeley/willard/main.html>

- The current Steering Committee has worked at bringing the by laws into conformance with the way things have actually been done. We will be asking for your vote on those by laws revisions.
- We will also be electing officers and Steering Committee members for the next year. A number of current members are stepping down and we have new people who have stepped up to volunteer for the Steering Committee.

Vincent Casalaina, President

COME TO THE WILLARD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN'S ANNUAL

# **NEIGHBOR MEETING**

**Wednesday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 - 9:15 P.M.**  
Willard Middle School Cafetorium  
(On Stuart, between Regent and Telegraph)

Panel Discussion on Crime Prevention

- Chief Doug Hambleton BPD
  - Chief Victoria Harrison UCPD
  - Kriss Worthington, Councilmember D7
  - Gordon Wozniak, Councilmember D8
- 
- Followed by Q&A from audience

**Steering Committee elections**

- Meet Neighbors...Have Fun!

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

# Dues Contribution Form

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

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

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

Phone: ( ) --

**Interests:**

Transportation issues	_____
Crime Prevention	_____
Disaster Preparedness	_____
Block Representatives	_____
Land Use issues	_____
Other issues	_____

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

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

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

### Additional Material in this newsletter:

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## **Bus Rapid Transit Update**

*By Scott Tolme*

*Bus Rapid Transit is a proposal by AC Transit to decrease travel time and increase reliability of buses connecting Berkeley / Oakland / San Leandro by dedicating 2 lanes of Telegraph Ave. for the bus right of way leaving only 1 lane for autos in each direction. WNA had a number of questions we want answered before the project moves forward.*

I spoke with both Kriss Worthington and Gordon Wozniak this month to get an update on the status of BRT, with an emphasis on how to forward a 'real world' test/trial of the route and dedicated bus lanes that AC Transit proposes.

In short, instead of taking AC Transits questionable presumptions / projections created to sell the \$400,000,000 project forward 'on faith', let's do what has earned Berkeley all those Nobel Prizes, let's apply The Scientific Method to BRT.

Let's lay BRT out as proposed by AC Transit -the routes and dedicated bus lanes- on Telegraph Avenue with pylons & traffic mitigation devices for a trial period and see what happens.

If AC Transit stands behind and has real faith in it's projections for BRT's consequences for those traveling in Berkeley and the businesses and neighborhoods that will be effected, AC Transit should embrace a real world trial of BRT that will confirm it's expectations.

Certainly AC Transit must agree it's 'best to test' before spending \$400,000,000 of taxpayer money? *(continued page 6)*

## **Berkeley's Solar Initiative**

*By Cisco DeVries*

In 2006, Berkeley voters overwhelmingly approved Measure G -- setting bold greenhouse gas emissions targets for the City and directing aggressive action to meet those targets. With the signs of global warming growing more ominous by the day, both the City and many in the community have actively been working to meet that challenge.

As part of this effort, the Berkeley City Council recently gave its initial approval to a proposal by Mayor Tom Bates to allow property owners to install electric and thermal solar systems and make energy efficiency improvements to their buildings and pay for the cost over 20 years through assessment on their property tax bills.

The program is being designed to address many of the financial hurdles that are dissuading people from undertaking energy projects. The pilot phase of the program should be up and running later this year.

No property owner would pay an assessment unless they had work done on their property as part of the program. Those who do have work done on their property would pay only for the cost of their project (including interest) and fees to administer the program.

You can learn much more about the program, including a

list of frequently asked questions, on the Mayor's website:

[www.cityofberkeley.info/mayor/GHG/solar.htm](http://www.cityofberkeley.info/mayor/GHG/solar.htm)

*Cisco DeVries is Chief of Staff in Mayor Tom Bates office.*

There is simply NO reason not to test BRT unless you're seeking to hide what you expect to be a bad outcome.

Many of you are already aware that the City Council has given oversight of BRT to the Planning Commission (and taken it from the Transportation Commission).

The Planning Commission will hold at least one but probably two meetings in February at which BRT will be discussed, and during which proposals for a 'trial period' test of BRT's route and dedicated Bus lanes will be heard from anyone and everyone who cares to propose this. As a result of these meetings, someone on the Planning Commission must then advocate for this test/trial period for BRT with the City Council.

In March, the Planning Commission will then make a recommendation to the City Council to be voted on.

Gordon Wozniak supports testing BRT, and Kriss, who advised me of this Planning Commission/City Council schedule, said he will get an email out this week providing his perspective on the BRT process from here.

Let's put all of our opinions, pro and con, about BRT aside.

Talk is cheap and BRT's \$400,000,000 is not.

So let's do the 'real' Berkeley thing, the scientific thing: Test BRT.

*Scott Tolme has been active on the WNA BRT working group.*

## **Water is Essential in a Disaster**

*By Nancy Carleton*

Halcyon Neighborhood Association is coordinating a joint neighborhood order of water barrels to enable households to easily store 55 gallons of water for disaster preparedness.

In the event of a major quake on the Hayward Fault, it will take time for government help to reach us. Even if the main water supply through the Caldecott Tunnel area escapes damage, EBMUD predicts at least 5,000 breaks in its system! And when government trucks finally arrive with water, there will be long lines and frustrating waits to get limited supplies.

Water is essential for survival! The recommendation is to store a MINIMUM of 1 gallon per person per day (2 gallons per person per day preferable, to allow for cleaning and other needs), to last for at least 5 to 14 days. By ordering at least 70 water barrels at a time, we can obtain a substantial discount of approximately 35%.

Willard Neighborhood Association and LeConte Neighborhood Association are joining with HNA so we can place this minimum order and get more water stored in our South Berkeley neighborhoods! The water barrels cost \$50; the manual pumps \$10; and optional bung wrenches \$10. (This is an all-volunteer effort; prices reflect actual costs.) Orders are due Thursday, March 20. For information email HNA Co-Chair Nancy Carleton at [halcyon92@gmail.com](mailto:halcyon92@gmail.com).

To obtain a pdf of an order form see link below:

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/pdf/nhextra/734472517/782299266/910983724.pdf>

**\* \* \* \* \* 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 (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](mailto: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 (District 7) 981-7170 <KWorthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us>  
All except Eastern edge of neighborhood

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

Mayor Tom Bates 981-7100