



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 • Zofia Rybkowski

Willard Neighborhood Association Newsletter – October 2008; In this issue:

WNA voter's guide – page 2

Willard Park clean up, Nov. 15 – page 3

New Earthquake Prep group – page 4

Community events/resources – page 4

WNA committees/contact info – page 7

President's message

It's hard to miss that there is an election coming up in two weeks. Locally we have the races for mayor, school board, and rent board, as well as seven ballot measures that cover topics from new City taxes to who should decide what happens to our streets.

Willard Neighborhood Association doesn't endorse candidates, but WNA does endorse ballot measures. In this issue, you'll find a Voters Guide with a brief description of the seven measures and the endorsements that the membership voted on last month (see page 2). There's lot to vote on at the state and national level too. I urge you all to go out and vote.

Our final neighborhood event of the year is coming up in mid-November. We will be working in Willard Park on November 15 in conjunction with the Berkeley Project, a student group committed to doing good works in the community. Greg Murphy has put together an ambitious list of 16 projects to get done that day. We need your help to accomplish all the tasks; whether it is wielding a paintbrush or a broom, we'll find worthwhile work for you to do. We are also looking for a few skilled carpenters and an electrician (see page 3).

The neighborhood continues to struggle with late-night noise and parties. Dea Robertson-Gutierrez and other neighbors have done some research about best practices in other university cities and have discovered some good ideas that we think would benefit Berkeley. We are working with UC on some of the issues that can be addressed strictly within the University, and we will be approaching the City shortly on things that require coordination between the two jurisdictions. We are hoping to help implement both short- and long-term solutions. I look forward to being able to report some progress back to you in the near future.

Finally, a neighborhood association is only as strong as the people who volunteer their time to research problems, develop potential solutions and reach out to other neighbors to support those efforts. The Steering Committee will have five vacancies in January, when some of our current members step down. If you'd like to get more involved in the neighborhood, I strongly urge you to contact me about joining the Steering Committee. The commitment is about 4-5 hours per month. We will be voting on the 2009 Steering Committee at the January General Meeting.

Vincent Casalaina
President, Willard Neighborhood Assoc.

WNA Voter's Guide

There are seven local measures on the Berkeley ballot this year. On Sept. 25, WNA held a General Meeting that was announced here in our newsletter. The purpose of the meeting was to hear pro and con arguments and vote on WNA's endorsement or opposition to the measures. To take a stand, a 2/3's vote of the members present was needed.

The WNA took NO POSITION on 4 of the 7 ballot measures. However, we did take a position on two measures: KK and LL. We endorsed a "YES" position on KK and urge our voters to do the same. KK requires all plans for dedicated traffic lanes to come before the voters for approval. AC Transit's "Bus Rapid Transit" project (the "BRT") calls for the replacement of two auto lanes on Telegraph Avenue with two dedicated bus lanes. If KK passes, these plans would have to be submitted to the voters before approval by the City Council.

The WNA took a "NO" position on LL. Measure LL – if passed -- would reduce the time and cumbersomeness of the City's landmarking process and encourage development. Voting "No" would keep the current (slower) landmarking system in place. We urge our members to vote "No" to keep our neighborhoods protected from excess development pressures.

For more information, see the City of Berkeley's ballot measure information:

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=14124>

Measure FF – Library Bond (must pass by 2/3). Raises \$26 million for renovation/expansion of branch libraries. WNA – **No Position**

Measure GG – Fire Protection (must pass by 2/3). Keeps all fire stations open and provides for a paramedic on each fire engine. WNA – **No Position**

Measure HH – Gann Override (must pass by 2/3). Allows Berkeley to continue to exceed state spending limits. WNA – **No Position**

Measure II – Redistricting Timelines (majority). Lets Berkeley redraw council districts up to three years after the census is complete (instead of one year). WNA – **No Position**

Measure JJ – Cannabis Initiative (majority). Eliminates the need for public hearings on cannabis clubs and eliminates cannabis quantity limits. WNA – **No Position**.

Measure KK – Voter Approval of HOV/Transit-Only Lanes (majority). Requires all plans for dedicating a street or traffic lane to public transit submitted to voters for approval. WNA – **Vote Yes on Measure KK.**

Measure LL – Landmarks (majority). Revises the permitting and landmarking process that Berkeley has followed since the original adoption of the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. WNA – **Opposes – Vote No on Measure LL.**

Willard Park Work Day November 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WNA's Public Works committee needs your help to clean up, fix up and generally improve our neighborhood park. Last fall, we partnered with UC students who founded the Berkeley Project. This year we are the community sponsoring agent for the Berkeley Project, and they will be back to help us on Nov. 15.



All ages!!!!



All skill levels!!!!

Work will focus on Willard Park. The projects will include:

- Graffiti abatement
- Weed control and landscape improvements
- Clubhouse improvements
- Tot-lot improvements

We need nine supervisors (from WNA volunteers); skilled workers in carpentry (3-4) and electrical (1); and volunteer workers (28 or more).

Meet at the clubhouse in Willard Park, Hillegass between Stuart and Derby at 9am.

You are welcome anytime, but we'll prioritize projects based on the volunteers who show up at 9 am. We'll have the tools for the projects but you should come in work clothes and bring a pair of gloves if you have them. Stick around for a light lunch after we've finished the work.

If you are interested in helping out or just want to come out and give us moral support, contact WNA's Public Works Chair Greg Murphy, (510) 644-9415 or GregM@JFCS.org.

Benvenue/Parker/Derby Street neighbors form earthquake-preparedness group

On Sep. 23 about 25 Benvenue/Parker/Derby neighbors met to kick off an earthquake-preparedness group for their extended block area. The meeting covered:

- 1) What you can do to prepare your family and household.
- 2) What you need for a disaster kit.
- 3) How we can get our block organized.

The meeting included a video and Powerpoint presentation outlining preparedness steps, and then discussion of next steps to set up block leadership team. Seven neighbors agreed to serve on leadership team that will meet again shortly. At the meeting there were also sample supplies to purchase for a disaster kit.

If you are interested in getting an earthquake preparedness group organized for your block, please contact John Caner at johncaner@gmail.com or Joe Halperin at JoeLynn@Comcast.net.

Community events: Mark your calendars

Community input sought re: Berkeley Pools Master Plan (including Willard Pool); first meeting October 22

The Berkeley City Council has set up a task force to put together a master plan for Berkeley city pools including Willard, King and West Campus pools, as well as new warm water pool and possible other new swim facilities. John Caner, a longtime Willard swimmer and member of WNA Steering Committee, is representing the Willard community on the task force.

The task force has scheduled three meetings to get input from the Berkeley community. Please be sure to attend if you want to keep open Willard Pool, and/or have other ideas for Willard and other swimming resources in Berkeley:

Wed., Oct. 22nd, 7-9pm, Live Oak Recreation Center (Craft Room), 1301 Shattuck Ave.
Topic: Existing conditions and community needs

Wed., Nov. 19th, 7-9pm, Malcolm X Elementary School (Library), 1731 Prince St.
Topic: Site plan concepts and preferred alternative

Wed., Jan 28th, 7-9pm, James Kenney Community Center (Community Room), 1720 8th St.
Topic: Draft citywide pools master plan

If you cannot make meetings or would like to discuss or provide further input please feel free to contact John Caner at johncaner@gmail.com or (510) 501-0256

Draft Climate Action Plan – comments requested, upcoming meetings

In November 2006, Berkeley voters issued a call to action on the climate challenge by overwhelmingly endorsing ballot Measure G. The mandate is to reduce our entire community's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. The measure directs the Mayor to develop a Climate Action Plan. This plan is currently in second draft form and available for public review and comment. It is built upon the ideas provided by hundreds of Berkeley residents who took advantage of the many opportunities to get involved. The draft plan includes:

- New and existing Berkeley buildings achieve net zero energy consumption through increased energy efficiency and a shift to renewable energy sources.
- Public transit, walking, cycling, and other alternative modes are the primary means of transportation.
- Personal vehicles run on alternative fuels or electricity.
- Zero waste is sent to landfills.
- The majority of food consumed in Berkeley is produced locally, i.e., within a few hundred miles.
- Our community is resilient and prepared for the impacts of a changing climate.
- The social, economic, and employment benefits of the climate protection effort are shared across the community.

The public comment period on the second draft of the Climate Action Plan closes on Friday, Nov. 7. An executive summary is available at:

<http://www.berkeleyclimateaction.org/docManager/1000000208/A.CAP%20Front.pdf>

Upcoming meeting dates/locations:

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 6:30–8:30 p.m.: North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave.
Energy Commission

Monday, Oct. 27, 7–9 p.m.: N. Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave. *Zero Waste*

Thursday, Nov. 6, 7–9 p.m.: 2118 Milvia St., 1st Floor Conference Room *Community Environmental Advisory Commission*

Solar Workshop

The City of Berkeley invites you to an information workshop to learn about the new City program for financing solar electric installations. The Berkeley FIRST program is intended to solve many of the financial hurdles facing residential and commercial property owners who want to install solar systems. The advantages are: (1) little up-front cost to the property owner, because the cost is paid for through a special tax on the property and is spread over 20 years; (2) financing costs are comparable to a traditional equity line or mortgage; and (3) since the solar system stays with the property, so does the tax obligation. The final workshop is on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7-8:30pm, at the West Berkeley Senior Center, 1900 Sixth Street.

Free flu shots

The Public Health Division will conduct a community-wide FREE flu vaccine clinic on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 3–7 p.m. at Berkeley Adult School, 1701 San Pablo Ave.

School age children 5–18 and their families, residents of south and west Berkeley, seniors and those with chronic health conditions who might be at higher risk for a serious case of the flu, are encouraged to attend this special clinic. Children as young as 6 months should receive a flu shot.

In addition to the usual seasonal flu shots Public Health will offer “flu mist” an intranasal flu vaccine that is appropriate for healthy individuals 2-49 years of age.

More info: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=27224>

Neighborhood resources

Online recycling guide

What do you do with an old TV and VCR? How can you recycle batteries and fluorescent bulbs? For answers to these and other recycling questions check out the Alameda County Recycling Guide online at <http://www.stopwaste.org/home/index.asp?page=355>. The Recycling Guide is a great resource to help find recycling solutions for home, school, and business. Visit the general StopWaste.org website for more information on how to reduce waste, <http://stopwaste.org/home/index.asp>.

Enhanced neighborhood lighting: Order deadline Oct. 31st

Jill Finn of Halcyon Neighborhood Association has launched a project to help residents obtain motion-sensitive lights for the front of their homes. She has gotten a quantity discount of \$30 for a flexible two-bulb unit, plus an estimate for installation (or install yourself). The lights allow sidewalks and driveways to “light up” when people walk by. For an order form, e-mail: <<mailto:jcf2525@gmail.com>>. The deadline for ordering is October 31st.

WNA Committees

WNA has several committees to work on a variety of neighborhood issues. You are welcome and encouraged to join a committee. For more information, contact the following chairs:

Disaster preparedness: John Caner, johncaner@gmail.com or 848-9451.

Public outreach. Janet Byron, janetbyron@comcast.net or 848-4008.

Political action: George Beier, georgebeier@hotmail.com or 848-9451.

Physical environment: Greg Murphy has retired and we need a new chair.

Public Safety: David Cottle has retired and we need a new chair.

WNA president: Vince Casailana, proberk@aol.com or 841-8524

* * * * * 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: 981-2493 jhynes@ci.berkeley.ca.us

Public Works Customer Service: 644-6620 (trash pick up, streets, sidewalks, graffiti, sewers, storm drains, street lights) pwworks@ci.berkeley.ca.us / publicworks@ci.berkeley.ca.us

Tree Trimming/Planting (Forestry): 644-6566 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 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

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, dist5@acgov.org (510) 272-6695; 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland

Links to WNA website, WNA Yahoo group and other local websites:

<http://WillardNA.org>

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

<http://www.telegraphave.org/>