

# VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Public Meeting

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Four Corners Room/Community Center

### INTRODUCTION

Ron Bialkowski led the meeting. He described the purpose of the VRA as an organization designed to:

- Foster resident interaction and community-building in the Village
- Provide funding for events that benefit Village residents
- Generally help out residents in need

Ron mentioned the upcoming talk for international students by Ivor Emmanuel at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

An invitation was extended to all interested residents to become a VRA board member. A resident asked about the duties of a Board member. Board member responsibilities include:

- Attending the Board member meetings
- Participating in planning and carrying out VRA events
- Board members are typically expected to serve for a minimum of one academic year.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Officer Brian Parsley addressed us on a number of items:

1. **Crime.** Right now petty theft is not bad, but it will get worse as the holidays approach. Bike theft particularly becomes a problem during the holidays. Be sure to:
  - *Lock your bikes!* Even if you keep your bike on your balcony, lock it up! Or, if you have a particularly nice bike, keep it inside.
  - *Purchase good locks* for your bikes, preferably the U-lock type. Remember that thieves often carry bolt-cutters, so invest in the strongest lock you can afford.
  - *Keep your storage closets locked.*
2. **Parking.**
  - There is practically no parking for guests at night.
  - If you park your car in a guest spot for more than three days you are almost certain to get a ticket.
  - Local officers are now beginning to use new technology to assist in identifying illegally parked cars, making it more probable that offenders will receive tickets.
  - Double parking is illegal and will be ticketed.

- Cars parked in front of the Community Center for more than two hours during the day will be ticketed.
- There have been complaints from AC transit about cars parked the wrong way (facing oncoming traffic) in the village.
- If you notice a car parked in a guest spot for an extended period (several days) you can call the Village Office and leave a message for Brian.
- In the case of an emergency, either call 911 or the local police at 642-6760.

## COMMUNITY MATTERS

Tavie Tipton, University Village Manager, spoke on the following matters:

1. **Contact her.** If you have any questions, concerns or complaints you can email her at [tippy@berkeley.edu](mailto:tippy@berkeley.edu).
  - Unless there are serious mitigating circumstances, she will not change assigned parking spots.
2. **Construction.**
  - There will be three more years of construction, with parts of the new section of the West Village becoming operational on July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2006.
  - If you hear construction noise before 7 am, call the office.
3. **Jobs for spouses.** A resident asked why the Village Office cannot offer part-time jobs to spouses of students. Tavie replied:
  - There is a UC Berkeley rule that only students can work for the University (including the University Village). When hiring for a position, the Village must:
    - a. First advertise it for student residents of the Village.
    - b. If no student residents apply, they must open it to students who do not live in the Village.
    - c. If no applications are received, then they may finally offer it to the general public (which includes spouses).
4. **Power outage.** A goose apparently hit a power line near Section A on Monday, Sep 12<sup>th</sup>. Power was out in Section A for several hours but was restored by morning.
5. **Yard sale.** A resident suggested having a yard sale twice a year instead of the current once-yearly arrangement. (was there any response to this suggestion?)

Pepper Black, Director, Resident Programming addressed us about:

1. **Computers.** The Computer Center was down for a short time because it was short-staffed, but it is now open and operational. The Computer Center is working on beta-testing the new appointment booking software. Right now, call 528-1813 to reserve a spot in the computer room.
2. **Village Festival.** The festival is planned for Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Rasha Gish (RA) spoke about the festival. \$5,000 will be spent on it. It will be catered to children, with face painting, a petting zoo, and free food. JR Roberts contributed \$1000 towards the event to pay for the food, saving the VRA from having to make its usual \$1000 donation.

3. **Resident Advisors.** There will be a meeting about spousal abuse for the Resident Advisors. Anyone from the Village community is also welcome to come. For information, contact Pepper Black at 526-8505 (Extension 12).
4. **Community Coordinators.** The Community Coordinators program is looking for funding opportunities and is encouraging interested people to join.
5. **FRC.**
  - The Stay-at-Home Parents group meets every Wednesday at 10:30am at the Family Resource Center (building 123, room 456). In the coming weeks they will be bringing in professional counselors to give talks related to marriage and family.
  - The FRC provides free babysitting from 4 – 7 pm Monday through Thursday and 10am – 1pm on Saturday. Children between the ages of 6 months and around 5 or 6 years are eligible for this service. In order to participate, you must remain in the Village in case of emergencies. For more information or to reserve a spot, call 528-4784. You can reserve a spot up to 48 hours in advance.
6. **Changing Village codes.** The Village will be changing some of the codes and regulations that apply to residents. There will be a public forum coming up to discuss potential changes.
7. **Car washing.** Washing your car is not allowed here in the Village because the street drains all empty directly into the creek. A car washing facility is planned for the new construction.

#### RANDOM ITEMS

- Maile Urbancic talked briefly about the **Community Garden**. There are around 30 plots available in the garden right now. Plots can be reserved for \$15 per year. To reserve a plot, contact Amir Aghaee at: 543-4184. More information regarding the proposed entrance into the garden during the next construction phase will be available soon.
- A resident mentioned that he had seen **raccoons** in the garbage at night. If you see a raccoon or other animal in the Village, you can call the Village Office or pest control. The raccoons themselves are harmless, but their feces are dangerous.
- If you see a **homeless** individual in your courtyard or acting suspiciously, call the UC police.
- All Village residents may pick up a free copy of “The Good Life in Berkeley” at the Village Office. Among other things, the book contains coupons and restaurant reviews.
- A white plate was left at the potluck. If it is yours, please contact Maile Urbancic at 524-2286.

Secretary  
Maile Urbancic  
September 22, 2005