

# VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Public Meeting

June 14, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Four Corners Room/Community Center

### INTRODUCTION

Maile Urbancic led the meeting. We began with enjoying the great food provided by new local restaurant Taxi Brousse. The owner of Taxi Brousse introduced his restaurant (West African cuisine, located at 1101 San Pablo Ave). He wants to become involved in the community and extended a long-term discount for residents of University Village: all University students and their families can get 20% off. At some point in the future he will have an open house and will invite Village residents to sample his new children's menu for free.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Officer Brian Parsley addressed us:

#### 1. **Parking.**

- When West Village goes online there will be no more guest parking on Kincaid Street. In fact, there will be NO guest parking in West Village for first two years.
- (Tavie Tipton from the Office mentioned that JR Roberts is hoping to put in some temporary parking. They are cognizant that parking is a big problem.)
- We will have Little League continuing until July, but it looks like the parking situation with regard to Little League families will not be too serious.

#### 2. **Vandalism.**

- There has been some vandalism in Section B recently (mostly spray painting). It looks like a group of teenagers is responsible. If you see anyone spray painting or vandalizing Village property, call the Albany Police Department (642-6760).

#### 3. **Bike Theft.**

- We always have a problem with bike theft in the Village. Most bike theft (and vandalism) occurs between the hours of 2:00 and 5:00 a.m. If you have a very expensive bike, keep it indoors if possible. Otherwise have two Kryptonite locks on it and be very careful to always lock them. Even very well protected bikes are routinely stolen. The best idea is to keep expensive bikes indoors. If you do have your bike stolen, contact the Albany Police Department. It is unlikely that they will recover the bike, but you can always try.

#### 4. **West Village Opening.**

- They will be bringing in an extra police officer on July 8<sup>th</sup> for the move to West Village. During the day they will not be ticketing or towing cars, but will instead be trying to help things to go as smoothly as possible for everyone. By the evening, however, people need to be parked in their assigned parking spots.

## CABLE TV IN THE VILLAGE

Tavie Tipton from the Village Office and Greg Snow from Information Technologies in RSSP. addressed us regarding changes to the method of delivery for cable TV for the Village:

### 1. **Summary of Changes.**

Housing is beginning a new system for providing cable TV to the Village. Currently all cable access is offered through Comcast, with families signing up individually and/or installing dishes as necessary. Starting with West Village in July 06 and expanding to East Village in 2007, Housing will take over the contract to provide cable TV. Plans will be as follows:

- *Stage 1:* Cable will be free for West Village for the month of July 2006. After that residents can decide whether they want cable for the year or not. If they choose to have cable they will be charged a flat fee for the entire year amounting to approximately \$75.00. Residents who chose not to have cable will not need to pay any fee above their set rent.
- *Stage 2:* Starting in July 2007, East Village and West Village residents will pay an extra fee included in their rent to cover cable access. This fee might be as much as \$25 per month. All residents will pay this fee, regardless of whether they want cable or not. There will be no way to opt out of the fee.

### 2. **Questions and Answers.**

Tavie and Greg answered questions from the residents about the changes:

- *Q: What if you don't want cable? It seems unfair that some people will be paying for cable even though they don't even have a TV.*  
*A:* It doesn't matter whether you want it or not. You will still have to pay the fee. It's like the Class Pass for students – everyone subsidizes the cost, regardless of whether you use it or not.
- *Q: What will the rent increase be?*  
*A:* It will depend on what channels are included in the package. It could be as much as \$25 per month. The more channels that are put in the “basic” package, the higher the fee will be.

- *Q: Do you know what percentage of residents use cable in the Village?*  
A: No. But Tavie estimates 70%. A VRA Board Member suggests that the Office take a poll of residents before assuming that many people would use cable.
- *Q: Isn't this an illegal increase in rent since it is not stipulated in the lease?*  
A: The leases in the Village are month-to-month, so there will not be any legal problem with adding the fee into the rent next year.
- *Q: Will residents need special equipment to access cable?*  
A: The TV will need to be hooked up to the cable outlet with a coaxial cable. If you just use an antennae then you will pick up the local stations but not the cable stations.
- *Q: What channels will be offered as basic cable?*  
A: Residents will be able to participate in the selection of channels for basic cable. The more channels that are available, the higher the fee. If enough people want, for instance, a certain international channel, then it will be included. Many people would need to want a channel, however, because the Village Office wants to keep the fee as low as possible. Housing & Dining could add or subtract channels at any time, according to the desires of Village residents. The Village could also have a local cable channel where we could broadcast anything we wanted to. In addition, there could be a channel that would show Village announcements, emergency information and updates.
- *Q: What if you want to order more channels than are available on basic cable?*  
A: You would need to rent some equipment from Dish Network then pay for the extra channels.
- *Q: When will the decision as to which channels will be offered be made?*  
A: During the first year in West Village (July 2006 – June 2007), Housing will fine-tune which channels are offered. The selection of channels can be changed at any time if enough residents want/don't want a channel.

## VILLAGE OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tavie Tipton from the Village Office made a few announcements and answered some questions about the move to West Village:

### **1. Construction.**

- As far as Tavie knows, Section A will be completely closed as of June 2007.
- The new section of West Village will be complete in 2008. The construction will continue to use 6<sup>th</sup> Street as an access road. Village residents will not be able to use that road until the construction is finished.
- Starting in September the Community Garden will need to be accessed though the soccer fields to the south.

## **2. West Village Phone and Mail Services.**

- A resident complained that she had tried to notify her phone company (SBC) that she would be moving to West Village and that she would need her phone service changed. The service representative told her that it was not possible to change her service because West Village did not exist. How could she change her services if SBC did not know about West Village's construction?
- Tavia answered that SBC has indeed been informed of West Village, but that SBC has not informed their service representatives about it yet. The Village Office will be pestering SBC, as well as the postal office, to recognize West Village and allow residents to switch their services.
- Even after moving to West Village, residents will still be able to use their mail keys to retrieve mail delivered to Section B.
- The post office still does not know what zip code West Village will use. Hopefully they will resolve that question soon so that residents can submit a change-of-address form to have their mail forwarded.
- When filling out a change of address form, do not include the building number. The post office only uses apartment numbers and will mis-deliver mail that has a building number in the address.

## **3. July 8<sup>th</sup> Plans.**

- 125 families will be moving into West Village on July 8<sup>th</sup>. In order to make things go as smoothly and quickly as possible, a special system for checking in has been planned. Transfer residents may go to the Office any time during the week of July 8<sup>th</sup> to fill out the necessary transfer paperwork. On July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, residents will go to the Study Center in West Village on Kinkead (building 153, apartment 105) to finish the check-in process. Residents who have already filled out the paperwork earlier in the week will be able to stand in an express line to just pick up their key.
- If you want to rent a dolly you will still have to go to the Office. There are only 12 dollies available.
- The Study Center/Move-in Office will be open to process transfers from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Sunday.
- Section B residents can keep their keys until July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Section B apartments do not need to be perfectly clean upon moving out, but the appliances should be cleaned because the Office will be recycling them.

## **4. Open Houses.**

- Open Houses for West Village are still being held every Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 in West Village building 137.

## **5. West Village Ethernet.**

- There will be several network connection jacks in each apartment, one in each main room. In order to use Ethernet you will need to have a network card on your computer. The package of information given to transfer residents will include information about configuring your computer to access the Ethernet. For more information you can call ResComp at 642-help.

## COMMUNITY MATTERS

### **1. New VRA Board Member.**

- Lisa Monson, a current Section B resident, introduced herself and stated her desire to give back to the community and be involved by being on the VRA Board. We took a vote and unanimously voted to accept Lisa as the newest VRA Board Member.  
Welcome, Lisa!

### **2. Upcoming Events in the Village.**

- Parents Discussion Group will start up again on August 2.
- There will be a Baby Sign Language class on August 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the Family Resource Center.
- The Village Ice Cream Social will take place on July 29. The RAs are looking for talented Village residents to perform.
- The RAD Kids program will be repeated in the fall. More information will be available later.

Prepared by:  
Maile Urbancic  
June 20, 2006