

VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Public Meeting

November 8, 2005
7:00 p.m.
Four Corners Room/Community Center

INTRODUCTION

We started by going around the room and introducing ourselves.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Officer Brian Parsley addressed us:

- We have had a few auto burglaries and one auto theft in last couple of months. But we are coming up on holiday season, which means that we get more home burglaries. When you leave for the holidays, make sure your house is locked up and windows are secured. There are criminals who know that students leave on vacation and take advantage of it. It might be a good idea to have a neighbor keep an eye on your house while you are gone.
- There have been a couple incidents in the construction site with copper and other tools taken.
- As always, we have had bike thefts. Every month the Village loses two or three nice bikes. If you have a quality bike, invest in a very good lock or consider parking your bike in your house. Don't even leave children's bikes outside – they will be taken.
- Parking continues to be problematic. The officers are now taking a more active role in towing cars away. If you have guests come, make sure they know to not park in a reserved spot, otherwise their car will be towed.
- Do not park in guest parking for longer than 72 hours, or else your car will be towed, even if you are a resident.
- If you park in the two-hour zones in front of the Community Center for more than two hours, you are subject to citation and towing.
- There are several spaces in front of the Albany Children's Center that are reserved from 7am – 6pm. You can park in these spaces after 6pm, but your car MUST be gone by 7am or else it will be towed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Child Development Workshop Series. Betty Coren, former Professor of Early Childhood Development and Psychology is leading discussions on potty training, discipline, understanding challenging behavior, the effects of divorce on children, and language development. The discussions will be held every Wednesday in November, from 10:00 am – 11:30 am in the Four Corners Room of the Community Center. The FRC Children's Program is available for parents attending the group (call the FRC at 528-8784 at 7:00 AM the morning of the meeting to reserve

one of the limited spaces). For more information, contact Betty Goren at 510-450-0590 or RA Mandi Bozarth at 510-867-8631.

Thanksgiving Potluck. Everyone is invited to this fun and delicious International Thanksgiving Potluck. Turkey, pie and other traditional Thanksgiving food will be served. Bring a dish you're from your native country to share with others! Wednesday, November 22, from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm.

Toy Exchange. Do you have used but still useable toys that your children have outgrown? Would you like to trade them for other toys that your children might enjoy more? Then come to the annual Toy Exchange. November 28 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm in Four Corners Room. Bring all your old toys.

Holiday Festival. The Village Holiday Festival will be held on Friday, Dec 8, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm in the Community Center Gym. Food and dessert will be served, and fun will be had by everyone.

Winter Boutique / Yard Sale. Do you create craftwork or art and want to use your talents to make some extra money for the holidays? Do you have gently used toys, clothes, or other items that you would like to sell? Would you like to get your holiday shopping out of the way without having to leave the Village? Bring crafts, used goods, anything, and sell them at the Holiday Boutique! Open to everyone, no registration necessary – just show up. Bring your own tables and blankets to display items. Sat, December 16, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm, in front of the Village Office (or inside the gym if it rains).

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pacific Steel Casting. Carl, a Village Resident who is affiliated with Green Action, a social action group, addressed us regarding Pacific Steel Casting. Pacific Steel Casting is an old steel plant that has not been updated. In their manufacturing process they produce noxious fumes including particulate matter, benzene, and formaldehyde. An increase in asthma and respiratory illness in the area has been correlated with an escalated production schedule at Pacific Steel. Green Action is trying to get community support to persuade Pacific Steel to update their factory. If you are interested in becoming involved, visit their website at www.greenaction.org.

Stove Problems. Tavie Tipton, Village Manager, reminded residents to test their stoves and ovens BEFORE Thanksgiving and report any malfunctions as soon as possible. Invariably there are residents who have never used their ovens, and discover that their ovens don't work properly when they try to bake a turkey. Report any problems to the Village Office at 526-8505, ex. 10

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS IN THE VILLAGE

Qazi Tarif, manager of our University Village Computer Center, addressed us regarding computing resources in the Village:

- The University Village Academic Computer Center is designed to provide services for UC Berkeley students, whether undergraduate or graduate. There are 21 Dell PCs and 4

Mac computers, as well as a scanner and a multitude of useful software packages installed on the machines. Printing pages can be purchased for a cheap price (\$5 for 250 pages).

- Most of the services are for scholars and students, but the Computer Center also tries to take care of children and spouses. For children the Computer Center tries to provide services so that they can do homework and play games. There are also some computer-related classes for kids during the summer. In order for their children to use the computer center, parents need to fill out a release form and have the children obtain Computer Center IDs. This can all be done at the Computer Center during operating hours.
- The Computer Center tries also to make sure that spouses can also use services. There are occasional basic computer literacy night classes, such as a course on Word that was offered recently.
- The Computer Center is located next to the Community Center, at the corner of Jackson St. and Monroe. Operating hours are 8am – 11pm every day, including weekends. The Computer Center is typically closed for holidays.
- In addition to the Computer Center, there are several other computing resources available in the Village. There are two Internet-capable computers in the Village Office, along with a small printer, and a computer kiosk in the Community Center Café.

Tavie Tipton, Village Manager, then spoke to us about the various study rooms in the Village:

- The **Academic Study Center** just next door to the Computer Center is available for use by any resident. There are Ethernet connections and wireless Internet, as well as a limited number of electric plugs to use with laptops. The Academic Study Center is locked, but the Computer Center has a key and can let people in. Residents can obtain permanent keys for themselves at the Village Office.
- The **Section A Study Center** is located in Building 7, Apartment A. It contains some chairs and desks, but has no Internet access. The same key that opens the Academic Study Center will open the Section A Study Center. This key can be obtained at the Village Office for a small fee.
- The **Nasher Kashani Doctoral Study Center**, located in Section A, is for use by graduate students preparing to take oral exams. Residents who reserve a space in the Doctoral Study Center may leave books and other personal items there. Spaces are limited, so apply early at the Village Office. Spaces will be opening up in the Spring Semester. Even if you are not a graduate student, you may go ahead and apply - if the spaces don't fill up with graduate students, undergraduates will be accepted.
- The **West Village Study Center** is a temporary study center located in building 135, apt 105. It will be replaced by a permanent study center that will be included in the second

phase of West Village. Currently it has chairs and tables, but no Internet access. West Village keys open the patio door. East Village keys open the kitchen door.

- The permanent study center that will be finished in 2008 with the next phase of West Village will hold 38 – 39 people and will have Ethernet ports at every seat. The Office is also trying to get an electronic key-card system for the entrances.

Questions & Answers, Study Center Related

Q: Two of the study centers will be torn down with Section A. What is the Village going to do to replace them?

A: We are trying to purchase a trailer from the construction site in West Village.

Q: What are the operating hours of the study rooms?

A: All study rooms are open 24 hours a day, every day.

Questions & Answers, Non-Study Center Related

After discussing the study centers, Tavie answered any questions that residents had about the Village:

Q: What is the policy on satellite dishes in West Village?

A: Satellite dishes are not allowed in West Village, except if you have a non-attached, free-standing dish on your patio.

Q: We have the Housing & Dining cable deal in West Village right now, but the channels are terrible. We were told that they were going to send out a survey to ask what channels we wanted, but that hasn't happened yet. Who can we complain to in order help push the process along?

A: Send me (Tavie) an email about it and I will forward it to the appropriate people. My email address is: tippy@berkeley.edu.

Q: Has there been any response to the VRA's letter regarding the mandatory cable fee?

A: No, not yet.

Q: When will East Village be able to get the Housing & Dining cable TV?

A: July 1 2007.

Q: Is there going to be a change in the bus route any time soon?

A: Yes, when the next phase of West Village is completed in the summer of 2008. The bus route will circle the perimeter of the Village. The Village Office is working right now to get bids to install weather covers for the Village's existing bus stops.

Q: Is there any news about what is going to happen on the Section A land after the buildings are vacated?

A: There is a persistent rumor of a Whole Foods grocery store, but no concrete plan yet.

Q: If there is no plan, why demolish Section A?

A: Because it is not a good place to live. It is old, run-down, and has some serious maintenance issues. The buildings contain lead and asbestos, and they have electricity and leaking problems. The Office is replacing faulty rain gutters, however, so that the spring rain won't flood the apartments as badly, and they are still doing repairs as necessary in Section A.

Prepared by:
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