

VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Public Meeting

November 14, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Four Corners Room/Community Center

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Village Office will be sending out fliers from East Bay Mud about not putting grease down the drain. (The proper way of disposing of liquid grease is to soak it up with paper towels and throw it away.)
- Karen Larsen has been promoted to Operations Manager for the Village. She is now in charge of the Front Office operations here and at Smyth Fernwald. She will be streamlining processes and procedures and acting as an advocate for residents in maintenance complaints. She can be reached at 527-0160 or klarsen@berkeley.edu.
- The VRA is now sponsoring courtyard parties as a way of building community and encouraging families to get to know their neighbors. A courtyard party can be a barbeque, a potluck, a holiday-themed party, or anything the residents of the courtyard would like to organize. The VRA will provide funding up to \$150 for qualifying parties. Up to 10 courtyards in the Village may receive VRA funding for one party per academic year. The guidelines are as follows:
 1. The organizers must create a detailed plan and budget for the party. VRA funding up to \$150 can be used for food (with the exception of alcohol), entertainment (jumping castle, etc.), or other expenses.
 2. The organizers should send their plan and budget to vra@berkeley.edu along with the amount of funding requested.
 3. The organizers must advertise the party to ALL residents of the courtyard through flyers (and any other means that make sense, such as posting announcements near the mailboxes or in the laundry room).
 4. The party must be open to ALL residents of the courtyard, including children.
 5. The party must be held inside the courtyard.
 6. The organizers must agree to NOT use VRA funding to purchase alcohol.
 7. If there will be alcohol at the event, the organizers must fill out an Alcohol Exception Form. It can be found online at:
<http://universityvillage.berkeley.edu/PetitionServeAlcoholicBeverages.pdf>
 8. Each courtyard may receive funding for a party once per academic year.
 9. Email vra@berkeley.edu if you have any questions.
- The VRA is sending a letter of complaint to AC Transit regarding the recent poor bus performance. Karen Larsen has been in dialogue with AC Transit and can provide some assistance.

THE VILLAGE WOULD BE BETTER IF...

Residents were given an open floor to make suggestions and recommendations about what could be improved in University Village:

- It would be nice to have a skateboard area in the Village. The skateboard park near the Village is still too far for younger kids.
- Let's hang a sign in the West Village Study Room saying, "Please turn off the heat and lights when you leave." The room can get very warm, and sometimes the lights and heat are left on all night with no one there.
- There is a lot of trash in the recyclables. It leads to problems with rats. How can we educate residents about what is garbage and what is recyclable?
 - We could send around a flier in English and a variety of foreign languages.
 - We could stencil basic instructions on the recycle bins.
 - We could make a magnet with recycling information and include it in the Welcome Packet.
- Is there composting in the Village? Answer: right now the Village is not staffed well enough to make it work. We are short-staffed in grounds dept by about 50%. There is, however, some composting that goes on in the Community Garden.
- It would be great to have a regular course in basic CPR for parents and older teens.
- Some residents would like to know about the Pacific Steel and whether the Village should be worried about it's emissions. We should have a VRA meeting about it because it is good to have good, solid information about toxins in the environment, especially considering that we live in an industrial zone.
- There are many cars that speed in the Village. What can be done about this?
 - We can't install more speed bumps on the route that the buses take.
 - UCPD Officers cannot write moving violations, but perhaps the situation will improve when the Albany Police and Fire Station are temporarily relocated to the Village next year.
- Occasionally there are incidents in the Village when there are multiple police officers at a location or walking around asking questions. How can residents find out what is going on? Answer: if there is a threat to the community, everyone will be notified. In a public threat case, the Village Office will post emergency notifications at the bus stops and try to disseminate the warnings other ways. Additionally, the University is trying to create a safety listserve. If the security issue is a private event, however, the officers won't be able to share any information.
- When is the new study room going to be in place and functional? Answer: No one knows. It will take \$100,000 to retrofit the old trailer sitting next to the Community Center. It's just a matter of waiting for the funding.
- It would be nice if there was more of an orientation process for new residents. (The RA's are trying to fix this.)
- There are lots of kids' activities in the Village, but it would be so nice if we had something for adults, like a game night for adults. Maybe we could have adult game stuff happening during Family Friday?
- Let's have a ping pong table tournament.

- What about an adult soccer team? Dawn Martin-Rugo would be the right person to discuss this with. It would also be good fun to set up an intramural team the Fire Department, once they have moved into the Village.

Prepared by:
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