

# VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Public Meeting

June 11, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Four Corners Room/Community Center

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This Saturday the Village will hold an International Teatime in the Crossroads Room.
- A program that was run previously in the Village, “Re-Inventing Ourselves in Times of Transition” is back by popular demand. More information can be obtained by contacting Janisse Ponte at janissec@hotmail.com.
- Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday there is a “Noon Jam” on the Village Green (the grassy space next to the large playground between East and West Village). There is live music, singing, and karaoke. Bring your family and a picnic. Come enjoy the sun!
- West Village phase C will be opening on July 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be some parking spot shuffling as the Village Office tries to assign parking spots to everyone.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

Brian Parsley, the UCPD officer assigned to the Village, addressed us about safety, security, and parking issues in the Village:

- We have recently had an increase in auto thefts. Thieves are using the “shaved key” method. (Most auto makers make only 4 or 5 keys which can be approximated by using a key that has been shaved down. Thieves shave down keys and then go through a large key ring to find one that works well.)
- There have also been a number of auto break-ins. The perpetrators are stealing radios, GPS, i-pod, purses, whatever they can get. Do NOT leave anything of value in your car.
- The best way to avoid having your car stolen is to get a club. If you think clubs are a hassle, just get one and stick it on your steering wheel and don’t lock it. It only takes a few seconds to lock and unlock a club, but it makes your car MUCH safer.
- The worst-hit areas are near 8<sup>th</sup> street, around Red Oak & Ohlone. There doesn’t seem to be a typical time; sometimes it happens in the morning, sometimes at night, sometimes the afternoon. Cars made by Honda, Saturn, Toyota, Acura, and Lexus are being particularly targeted.
- Resident question: Have you heard anything about plans to open the 6<sup>th</sup> street entrance when the construction is finished? Answer by Tavia Tipton: The current plan is to open it after the construction is done. There are no plans at this time to close it at night, although that could be a possibility because there will be a gate at the entrance. (At this point several residents expressed concern about the safety of the area. Tavia replied that administratively it is a big hassle and pain to lock it at night and leave it open during the day, but she is open to the idea.)

- There might be some traffic problems when West Village opens. Likewise, there are always traffic issues in front of Ocean View Elementary when school opens. The Village Office will be talking with Ocean View about it.

## PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE

Michael Urbancic, the Graduate Assembly Family Housing Class Pass Representative, spoke with us about AC Transit bus issues in the Village:

- Bus service between the Village and campus has dramatically changed in the last year. One of the bus lines to campus, line 52, was discontinued last year and bus service from the Village to campus went from 6 trips an hour to 4 trips an hour. Starting in the fall semester of 2007, the crowds on the other main bus line (the 52L) were unbearable. Sometimes the buses filled up completely before reaching all the stops in the Village. When this happened, the bus driver would skip the later bus stops and those students would just have to wait until the next bus. This problem still sometimes happens in the morning.
- Besides overcrowding, the reliability of AC Transit buses between the Village and campus has decreased. Buses are frequently late and do not show up at all.
- The VRA immediately saw in the fall semester that this wasn't good. They emailed AC Transit, encouraged residents to fill out AC Transit surveys, and most recently, tried to address the problem from the campus Class Pass Advisory Committee.
- As part of the Class Pass Advisory Committee, Mike has been in discussions with AC Transit personnel. AC Transit is not unaware of the problems. They understand that there are important issues that need to be fixed. One barrier is that because of union contracts, AC Transit can only change the bus schedule occasionally, at set times during the year.
- In addition to fixing the current busing problems, there is a deep need to plan for the opening of the new West Village sections, which open at the end of July 2008. When the new apartments open, the number of apartments in the Village will increase by about 50%, to a total of 974. Obviously, more apartments mean more students, which mean more bus riders.
- In preparation for the changes in the Village, AC Transit is looking into several options:
  1. They may start using 60 foot articulated buses (the very long ones that look like an accordion in the middle). Bus drivers have practiced driving around the Village twice, and have found that this type of bus is compatible with our streets.
  2. They are looking at having more trips during peak travel hours in the morning from the Village to campus, with fewer trips from campus back to the Village, and vice versa during peak travel times in the afternoon from campus back to the Village. Basically, in the morning, buses would take passengers from the Village to campus and then turn around and race back to the Village to do another run without stopping for passengers on the way.
  3. They have agreed to put a bus stop for line 18 in the Village, if the Village Office will agree to dedicate the necessary street space for it. (Line 18 currently travels from campus by way of Shattuck, down Solano, and stops on Buchanan. Currently line 18 travels through the Village, but does not stop here.) Students who have classes or offices at the bottom of campus, near Shattuck, could take the 18, which would relieve pressure from the 52L.

- AC Transit is also trying to get line 18 to go to Target. If that were the case, it would be even more convenient to have a bus stop for line 18 in the Village.
- The VRA has prepared a petition to Target management, encouraging them to allow AC Transit to put a bus stop in their parking lot. (At this point, we passed around the petition and residents signed it.)
- The best place in the Village for a stop for line 18 would be at the corner of Jackson & Ohlone. It would require giving up a few guest parking spots, unfortunately.
- Resident question: AC Transit's budget is being cut by the state. Will that impact our bus service? Answer by Mike: We don't really have any good information about this. It's likely that no one in AC Transit knows the answer to that yet either.
- Resident comment: line 9 picks up at same stop as the 18 on campus and also stops outside the Village. It might be useful for residents to know that line exists as well.

Tavie Tipton, Village Manager, now spoke briefly with us about the introduction of City Car Share into the Village:

- The Village Office has been working with City Car Share since last fall to try to get a car into the Village. For a while, City Car Share was behind in their car production, so it took a while to get a car for the Village.
- In order to sign up, you need to go to the City Car Share office in San Francisco. (*Note: since the meeting, Tavie was told by City Car Share representatives that students just needed to visit their website to sign up.*)
- Hopefully the option of occasionally renting a car will reduce the need for Village families to own two cars. Perhaps, since campus and shopping centers are so easily accessed by bus, some families will even choose to not own a car at all and just rent one when they need it.
- Resident question: how many new guest parking spots will be included in the new West Village Phase C areas? Answer (by Tavie): We don't know yet. More than zero, but not many.

We then had an open discussion about ways to improve the usage of public transportation in the Village and to reduce the number of two-car families, as well as the number of families who park their car in the guest parking. Suggestions included:

- Require cars parked in guest spots to have a guest parking permit.
- Require cars parked in guest spots to have a guest parking permit for overnight parking.
- Put meters on guest spots. (The problem is that we don't want Parking & Transportation on campus to get involved in parking in the Village because they might start charging residents for parking spots.)
- Send emails about City Car Share and aggressively advertise for them.

Prepared by:  
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