

VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Public Meeting

August 13, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Four Corners Room/Community Center

The turnout for this meeting was so large (100 + residents came) that we had to move the meeting to the amphitheater. The change of venue (lack of an electrical outlet and a dying laptop battery) made it difficult for the Secretary to take detailed minutes. However, the content of the meeting was very similar to the last “Mini-Orientation” that we had, in September 2007. The following is a combination of the August 2008 orientation and the September 2007 orientation.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety tips from Police Officer Brian Parsley:

- Bikes are routinely stolen from the Village, mostly by non-residents who come in looking for bikes to take. You can protect yourself from bike theft by doing the following:
 - *Invest in a high-quality lock.* A solid U-shaped lock is much, much better than a cable lock. If you have an expensive bike, keep it in your apartment or in your storage closet.
 - *Register your bike or at least record your serial number.* If your bike is stolen and recovered, you will not be able to get it back unless you know the serial number. To find the serial number, turn your bike over and look near the hub. Record the 7 or 8 digits on the bike.
 - If your bike is stolen, call the Village office and leave a message about it for Brian.
- Parking:
 - Each family in the Village is allowed 1 car and assigned 1 parking spot.
 - Please don't park your 2nd or 3rd cars in guest spots. It makes it very difficult for people to come visit the Village and is a violation of your rental agreement. Instead, you can park on Monroe in any of the spaces blacked out for up to 72 hours. You may park on Jackson St. overnight.
 - Please don't park in front of Ocean View during school hours.
 - Don't park in friend's space when they move out of Village. If you do that, you may be towed or ticketed.
 - Use caution when parking on 8th St. There have been occasional burglaries and car thefts out there. Make sure you have a steering wheel club if you park there; many car models are easy to break into using a fake key.
 - If someone is parked in your parking spot, call the police department at 642-6760. Be prepared to tell them the license plate number, color and make of the car, and your parking space number. UCPD will come tow the offending vehicle.
- Police contact numbers:
 - University of California Police Department (UCPD): 642-6760

- Albany Police Department: 525-7300
- If you call 911 from your cell phone, it will go to Highway Patrol and will take a while to reroute to the local police department. Instead, program the number 642-3333 into your cell phone and dial it in emergencies.

VILLAGE MINI-ORIENTATION

Dawn Martin-Rugo, the Village Recreation Director, explained to us the recreation program in the Village. Dawn oversees recreational programs and assists in the design and implementation of educational, social, and cultural programs.

- There are many programs in the Village Recreation Department, for children as young as 9 months up to adults. (Residents can sign up for programs on the Recreation website at <http://services.housing.berkeley.edu/VillageRecreation/index.htm>) Some programs are free, some have a cost. There is a pamphlet available in the Village Office that contains information about all the classes.
- America 101 is an 8 week program for international students and spouses. It introduces American culture and language. It will be held on Friday mornings. Postdocs and scholars may also attend. See the Recreation website for more information.
- English as a Second Language for Children is a program for school-aged children. You can sign up at the Village Office.
- The Recreation Program offers classes in Taiko drumming, Kapoera, yoga, gymnastics, and more.
- Adult residents can obtain a fitness membership for \$50. A membership provides access to all classes in Weight Training, Yoga, and Kojasho Karate. You can purchase a membership at the Community Center.
- There are some scholarships available for residents who are unable to pay for programs. Scholarships are funded in part by the Village Residents Association.
- There are community groups for basketball, volleyball, and more. Participation is free for Village Residents. (It costs \$4 per event for non-residents.)

Keri Mitchell spoke to us about the Village Family Services:

- Kids' Corner is an after-school recreation program which offers a safe atmosphere where children can learn and play in a well-organized but flexible environment. More information can be found on the Village Website at http://universityvillage.berkeley.edu/fam_corner.htm.
- The Family Resource Center (FRC) is now open. You can reserve a spot a FRC by calling (510) 528-4784 a day ahead. The FRC is located in building 123, apartment 456. More information at: http://universityvillage.berkeley.edu/fam_frc.htm.
- Teen Night, a program for residents in 6th grade and older, begins on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of October. Each resident teen may bring one friend.
- Parents' Night Out is once a semester. We have two age categories: 4 and under – older than 4. There will be flyers about it when it gets closer
- The Village also provides a service called For Finals Sake during the finals. Flyers will be sent around.

Lisa Monson, a VRA Board Member and computer consultant at the Village Computer Center, told us about the Computer Center and Study Centers in the Village:

- The Village Computer Center is next to the Community Center at the intersection of Monroe Street and Jackson Street.
- The Computer Center has PCs, Macs (currently under repair), and scanners. You can purchase printer pages. There are Residential Computer Consultants (RCC) who come three times a week to the Computer Center, and can help you with technical problems with your computer or laptop.
- The Computer Center is open to children from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm. After that, children are allowed only when accompanied by a parent. Computer Center staff do not monitor the children, so you need to be able to trust your children if you send them there unaccompanied.
- There are two study centers in the Village. One is in West Village, building 153. The other is in West Village, building 160. You will need to take your apartment key to get in the Study Centers. One door opens with the East Village, and one door opens with the West Village key.
- Both current study centers have AirBears (CalNet account) wireless internet.
- The code for the study center next to the computer center and for the public bathroom near the playground is 947061.

Maile Urbancic, the VRA Secretary, spoke about the Sick Child Care Program.

- The Sick Child Care Program provides childcare for mildly ill children who are too sick to go to school or daycare (colds or the flu), but don't have a major illness (chicken pox, etc.). This can be useful if you have a sick child but still need to go to work or to school.
- The program is located in West Village, so it is very convenient for Village residents.
- There is a sliding fee rate, depending on income.
- There is a lot of paperwork to submit before they can take care of your child, so it is best to submit the paperwork in advance.
- More information at: <http://www.sickchildcareprogram.com>

Maile also spoke about the Community Garden:

- Residents can obtain large garden plots for about \$20 per semester. Water is free.
- More information at: <http://universityvillage.berkeley.edu/gar.htm>

Prepared by:
Maile Urbancic
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