



The Word on the Street



Welcome to WOBO

In this, our third newsletter, we celebrate having more than 100 members on our growing email list! Thanks to everyone who has helped to spread the word about WOBO to their friends and neighbors. With a group this size, we will be able to have a real influence on our city officials. Please continue to help spread the word. Pass this newsletter along to others you think might be interested, or bring them out to our potluck this week.

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Fun-Filled Free Outdoor Event

Round up your walking and cycling buddies for a WOBO potluck-picnic at the SF Mime Troupe Performance this Thursday, August 9th

Join us, hopefully by bike or on foot, for this perfect opportunity to gather together for a potluck picnic in advance of the show. Music starts at 6:30pm, show at 7pm.

More info on the SF Mime Troupe at www.sfmt.org
 Map of Lake Merritt's Lakeside Park at <http://tinyurl.com/yqf28z>

WHAT: Potluck picnic, music and SF Mime Troupe show
 WHEN: Thursday, August 9th, 6:30pm - ??
 WHERE: Lakeside Park



Michael Gene Sullivan, Kevin Rolston, Velina Brown, Lisa Hori-Garcia, Victor Toman, Ed Holmes perform with the SF Mime Troupe

Look for the WOBO sign!

PARKing Day



PARKing Day began in a single metered parking spot in San Francisco and then spread around the world. This year, PARKing Day will be celebrated on September 21st. This is our opportunity to rethink that parking spot, and encourage others to do the same. 10' x 20' of concrete and asphalt - is that what you really want in the middle of your city or neighborhood? Doubtful. Plants? Benches? Much better!

More than 70% of a typical city's outdoor space is dedicated to private cars in the forms of roads and parking. Sadly, less than 30% of that land is allocated to open space for people. Around the nation, inex-

pensive curbside parking results in increased traffic, wasted fuel, and more pollution. It's time to rethink the way streets are used two hours at a time!

Walk Oakland Bike Oakland will bring PARKing Day to the East Bay this year, email info@walkoaklandbikeoakland.org to sign up to participate.

Wanted: More Bicycle and Pedestrian Staff

Do you wonder how the City of Oakland can become a model in walking and bicycling? One key is staffing. Does Oakland put its money where its mouth is? The City of Oakland has solid bicycle and pedestrian master plans, which create a vision for safe and convenient auto free travel throughout the city, and the city council has adopted good policies in the areas of conservation and sustainability.

However, in a city with an ANNUAL budget of nearly \$1 billion dollars, we have only two permanent staff and one intern to do all of the city's bicycle and pedestrian planning and no dedicated engineer. By comparison, the City of San Francisco, with a population less than twice the size of Oakland, has 13 staff and 2 interns working on pedestrian and bicycle planning, design, and engineering. Not to mention another 9 working on traffic calming. That is 7 times more staff!

Oakland needs to at least double its current staffing to 4 staff and 2 interns so that we can do more to implement our great plans. Right now our intern is working nearly 100% on the bicycle parking crisis brought about by the new parking kiosks. There isn't enough time for new studies for bike routes on Broadway, Fruitvale, East 12th, and so it goes.

Write the Mayor's office (he makes all decisions about staffing!!!) and your City Council office to let them know you want more staff working to make Oakland a better place to walk & bike. Now!

Decision Makers to Contact:

Mayor: Ron Dellums
officeofthemayor@oaklandnet.com, (510)238.3141
City Administrator: Deborah Edgerly
citymanager@oaklandnet.com (510)238.3301
District 1: Jane Brunner
jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, (510)238.7001
District 2: Patricia Kernighan
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com, (510)238.7002
District 3: Nancy Nadel
nnadel@oaklandnet.com, (510)238.7003
District 4: Jean Quan
jquan@oaklandnet.com, (510)238.7004
District 5: Ignacio De La Fuente
idelafuente@oaklandnet.com (510)238.7005
District 6: Desley Brooks
dbrooks@oaklandnet.com (510)238.7006
District 7: Larry Reid
lreid@oaklandnet.com, (510)238.7007
At large: Henry Chang
cityochang@aol.com
Not sure what council district you are in? Visit:
<http://www.oaklandnet.com/oit/CDST/DisMain.cfm>

Parking Meter Removal Update

By now, you have probably seen the pay and display kiosks that have been installed all around the city. They have been installed in many locations, and have been activated in some parts of downtown, on Piedmont Avenue, and probably in additional locations by the time you read this. When the kiosks are activated, the traditional parking meters on the street are being removed.

Thanks to a compromise among city staff, some deactivated meters are being left in place to serve as bike parking. There are also some poles, used to indicate the location of the new parking kiosks, that should be suitable for short term bicycle parking. While cycling around the city, you may now encounter places where there is not sufficient bicycle parking, so what can you do?

Don't get frustrated, take action. Talk to the owners of the businesses that you patronize. Let them know that bicycle parking is important to you, and tell them about the three options that they have to make sure that their cycling patrons have secure bicycle parking.

Contact the Mayor

We would like to continue asking that \$200,000 be committed to the City Racks Program to cover the cost of replacing the lost bicycle parking. It makes the most sense for this money to come from the Finance and Management Agency, since their implementation of the new pay and display kiosks is the source of our bike parking woes. Projections suggest that the new parking kiosks will be much more lucrative than the former parking meters, so there should be some funding to share. Currently the majority of Bicycle Program funds come from grants, not from the general fund. This shows a lack of commitment of the part of the city toward improving bicycle facilities. A small financial commitment from the City of Oakland will prevent our bicycle parking infrastructure from being set back several years. See the list on page 2 for contact information.

Opportunities for Action

The WOBO team is looking for some of you who may want to get more involved.

- * become our volunteer coordinator
- * tell neighborhood groups about WOBO and get feedback from the group
- * help refine the WOBO website
- * submit photos, artwork, or articles for the newsletter
- * attend city meetings and pass along important information to other members
- * enter data into our member database
- * visit farmers markets or community events to sign up new members
- * help develop a list of campaigns

Your input can help us make Oakland the most walkable, bike-able city in California. Send your suggestions to info@walkoaklandbikeoakland.org

The Three Options for providing bike parking

1. request a rack from Oakland's CityRacks program (which may require a substantial wait because of the backlog caused by the parking meter removal)
2. donate the cost of a rack (about \$250) to the City of Oakland to have a rack installed outside the business with less delay.
3. purchase and install a rack of their own. (\$35 permit required, but also allows the option of commissioning a unique rack)

Contact Oakland's Bicycle Program staff to investigate options.
Call (510)238-3983,
Email: bikeped@oaklandnet.com, or Visit:
<http://www.oaklandpw.com/Page127.aspx#racks>

eLockers Update

Up to this point, one of the major drawbacks to using an eLocker has been that you could not add value to the bikeLink card that operates the lockers. Now, you can add value to your BikeLink Card online. Go to http://bikelink.org/addValue_step1.php to add value to your card. If you do not have a card yet, visit <http://bikelink.org/getcard.php> to order a card. Cards will soon be available at downtown locations near the lockers as well.

Lockers are being installed in more locations all the time, so now is a good time for you to get a card so that you are prepared to use a locker near you. Find out more about eLockers at: www.oaklandpw.com/page127.aspx#eLocker.

