

Jim Watt

...from front page

You evaluated how Kensington's salary and benefits for its police officers stack up against comparable towns. What did you find?

That study is available on the KPPCSD website/ad hoc/community documents. In brief, I found that while Kensington's salaries are comparable to other towns, our benefits (pensions and health care) are substantially better, and other towns have been more proactive in negotiating much more reasonable employee benefits. Hopefully the Kensington police contract now under negotiation will provide comparable terms.

What is so generous about Kensington's police contract?

It allows officers to vest at 3% for each year of work and retire at age 50. Most other towns vest at 2.5% per year or less and do not pay pensions until age 55. Kensington also pays all medical costs for retired officers and their dependents, while other communities greatly reduce these medical benefits in retirement. In 2015 the total salary budgeted for our 10 officers was about \$970,000 and our benefit costs, pension and medical, were \$850,000. Because people live longer, we are looking at greater medical and pension payouts that are driving up our expenditures on benefits at about three times the growth in revenues—92% of which come from property-related taxes.

Are there other benefit issues that concern you?

Because our officers belong to CalPERS, we pay benefit costs to CalPERS, which invests this money at an assumed rate of return of 7.5%. I believe this rate of return

is very unrealistic. Since any shortfall in this “assumed” rate of return has to be made up by the taxpayers, this could have significant cost implications going forward.

Is Kensington's situation unique, or do you expect most municipalities to face shortfalls?

This is a problem for all municipalities including the State of California. Governor Jerry Brown recently expressed his concern about the growth of our public benefit liabilities.

What do you recommend we do?

We need to build up our reserves during good times to cover our obligations in the lean years. We need to justify each expenditure and consider reorganizing our police department as I outlined in my letter to the editor in the March *Outlook*.

Some fear that splitting the jobs of general manager and chief of police would mean two salaries and higher costs. How do you view this question?

I remain unconvinced that we need a separate GM. In my opinion, the issue of good financial governance starts and ends with the board. If the board does not establish priorities, ask the right questions and fully grasp the financial risks we face while proposing potential solutions, then why should we think a GM will undergo this type of scrutiny? What we do know is that it will add more costs to running the district.

Do you favor a new form of governance for the police district?

Until we know the cost/benefits of the different options I think it is too soon to say

what we should do. But it is not too soon to start working on cost containment because of all the concerns about the potential for major cost increases.

You are also on the Parks Building committee. How will these costs affect the district's budget?

At this point we know we have to do seismic and ADA (disability) upgrades to the Community Center/Youth Hut building. Preliminary estimates indicate the total cost to bring the building into code compliance is about \$600,000, which is approximately the amount available to complete the work. If we add in additional upgrades this money will have to come out of district reserves of about \$1.1 million, of which \$500,000 should be retained to meet normal cash flow needs.

Are there any other financial issues that are important?

The fire board just completed a seismic analysis of the combined fire station/police department building that indicates the Public Safety building needs to undergo some very expensive upgrades. This will have major budget consequences for both the fire and police departments and significant implications for governance of the police district in the years ahead.

If you were Kensington's king, what would you do?

I'd require all adult residents to pass a basic exam on public finance as a condition of voting on district-related matters, and any board or finance committee members would have to take 10 hours of classwork on budgets, audits, and actuarial studies. Then I'd abdicate.



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Backpacking is what Jim Watt likes to do best: here he takes a break in Italy Pass, John Muir Wilderness. Photo by Tom Watt.

Q&A with Jim Watt: How Worried Should We Be?

By Linnea Due

Financial analyst and consultant Jim Watt grew up in Berkeley and moved to Kensington nearly a half-century ago. Graduating from UC Berkeley with a degree in economics followed by an MBA, Watt and his wife raised two children while participating in community activities. Watt was scoutmaster for five years, and his son Tom carries on in that role. His daughter-in-law Rachele Sherris-Watt sits on the Kensington Police and Protection Community Services District board. Watt says, “We love Kensington, the people, the views, and the shops. Unfortunately the community

has become very polarized, and instead of trying to work out our problems we prefer to draw battle lines.” Watt believes that the two biggest issues dividing the community, the structure and operation of the police department and the ability of the district to operate within reasonable financial parameters, are solvable. As a member of two KPPCSD committees, district finances and the parks buildings, Watt explores challenges and solutions in a March interview.

[See Jim Watt, back page](#)

Marathon Meeting on MOU, Traffic Stop—with an Addendum

By Linnea Due

Nearly a full house attended the March 10 Kensington Police Protection Community Services District meeting, which began at 6pm with a closed session and ended at 1am. Midway through the closed session, Vanessa Cordova left the room, recusing herself from two topics entitled Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release. When the directors emerged at 7:20, they announced that nothing could be reported from the closed session. A few highlights from the seven-hour session:

Memorandum of Understanding

Attorney Jonathan Holtzman and consultant Adam Benson, both from the Public Law Group, discussed the MOU between the KPPCSD and the Police Officers Association. Several changes have been made in this new version of the MOU (Kensington police officers have been working without a contract since July 1, 2014). The new contract runs from that date through December 31, 2017 and does not include a wage increase until March 1, 2016, after which a 3% increase plus a \$1,000 one-time lump sum payment applies, followed by another 3% across-the-board increase beginning March 1, 2017.

In the new contract, police personnel would begin to pay portions of pension costs and health care costs. Kensington Property Owners Association president,

[see Meeting, page 2](#)

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...Meeting, from Front Page

Gail Feldman, read a statement: “The MOU includes an initial step, albeit a symbolic one, to address the long overdue need for employee pick-up of pension and health care expense... Kensington has been quite behind in addressing cost-sharing with our officers and retired officers... We need a... coherent long-term strategy, rather than lurching from crisis to crisis or MOU to MOU with a reliance on optimistic short-term projections.” Other speakers congratulated the negotiators on securing an important first step to employee cost-sharing. For more details, see the KPPCSD web site; this item will be voted upon at the April meeting.

Traffic Stop

Interim Chief Kevin Hart said that he was not finished examining the materials from the Richmond PD’s investigation into the Cordova traffic stop, which includes video and audio tapes and testimony from twelve unnamed witnesses. Kensington Police Office Juan Ramos has been put on paid administrative leave. In a later interview, Hart said that administrative leave is not itself a disciplinary measure. “It’s a routine process,” he said. “It gives me the opportunity to make sure we’re cautious and judicious in maintaining employee rights and constitutional rights.” He estimated that he could provide an update in thirty days.

Secondary Investigation

On the morning of March 11, PLG attorney Randy Riddle informed Director Cordova that the board had authorized an investigation into Hart’s characterization of her behavior following the traffic stop to a group of about

ten recent residents at a meeting February 9 in one resident’s home. Hart was invited because recent residents wanted to meet leaders in the community—and, said Andrea Lingenfelter, express concerns about speeders on Kensington’s streets. One person asked a general question about how to file a complaint, and Hart, said Lingenfelter, began talking about the aftermath of the Cordova traffic stop, in which he would not take a complaint from her (she ended up filing a complaint at the El Cerrito Police Department). “He said that she stormed into his office and that she was throwing things,” Lingenfelter said. “It was a vivid description that caught me by surprise. His narrative was a little misleading. He said that the officers came back and then they told him about it. And then Vanessa came in. The way that he described the events was that he was there the entire time and inferred that they [Barrow and Ramos] told him in person that she was coming. There was this sense of ‘Watch out, hysterical woman coming your way.’ I felt uncomfortable when he described her that way.”

Lingenfelter, a literary translator, continued, “My interpretation is that he was trying to explain that he hadn’t taken a complaint because... she was in no condition to write it down, so it was her fault. He came across as defensive. He wanted us to believe him and not believe her.” Hart declined to comment on the matter.

An independent investigator, Karen Kramer, who specializes in personnel and harassment cases, has been hired to delve into the particulars of Cordova’s complaint, emailed to Riddle and Holtzman of PLG the morning of March 10.

Letters to the editor

Consolidation Deserves Analysis

Dear Editor:

In the March issue of the *Outlook* several letters criticized Paul Dorroh’s February proposal that at this time Kensington should seriously consider consolidating our two districts, the Kensington Fire Protection District and the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District. Two of the letters written in opposition to Dorroh’s proposal speak of “raiding the fire district’s treasury.” The letter from two fire district directors mentions that the fire district has recently “waived the police district’s rent for using the Public Safety Building that we own.”

These arguments actually seem to support the point that Mr. Dorroh was making. The reserves and the Public Safety Building do not actually “belong” to the fire district, except in a technical sense. They belong to our community and are funded with taxpayer

See page 5

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Community Education

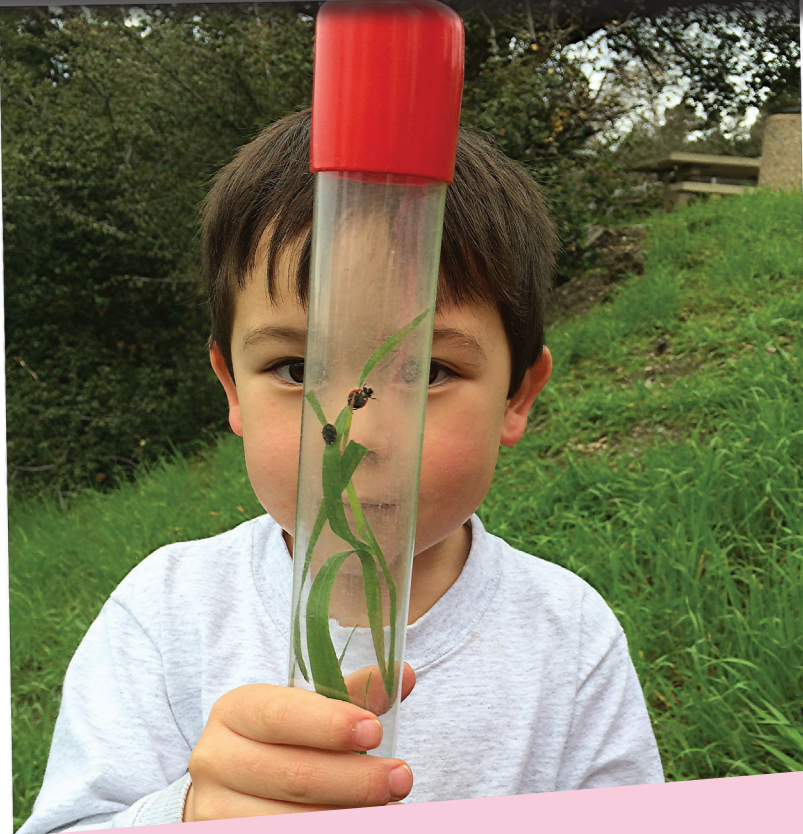
KASEP

The clock struck 7:30pm and the KASEP families’ fingers went clicking. Forty-eight (48) KASEP classes filled within the first 30-minutes of online registration. KASEP Families-you rock! This session we are delighted to offer two new computer courses that introduce computer literacy and tools that lead to animation and video gaming. Cameron Fadjo, Founder of The Computing Innovation Center in Berkeley is teaching our KASEP computer classes. This is the first time we have offered computer classes in our KASEP program and are delighted both classes filled.

Stay alert, walk smart and learn how to stay safe is the theme to our Self-Defense Class for Girls. Sarah Brown, Karate instructor, is teaching this KASEP class. We are very excited that this class filled and our girls will begin practicing skills to keep themselves safe as they move forward in their lives.

KASEP Spring session started March 21st and ends Friday, May 27th. Our office will be closed for spring break, April 4th - 8th (Spring Break: No KASEP classes). Registration for Eric Pomert’s **Gourmet Cooking Camp for Kids** is closed.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 1ST GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PICTURES; 3:30pm KCC OFFICE



KCC Summer Camp 2016

KCC Summer Camp online registration started in March and we are off to a roaring start! Week one, June 13th is filled. As your summer plans get finalized, think KCC Summer Camp! Join us in a beautiful park setting where we have the facilities right here-one place for tennis, cooking, large grassy area for soccer, baseball, tug of war and friends! We have classrooms for art, gymnastics, carpentry, legos and circus. Every Wednesday we take a field trip to local sites like Bladium in Alameda for indoor soccer and rock climbing, Scandia for miniature golf and Oakland Zoo, to name only a few.

Enroll by the week! Cost is \$265 per week.
9:00am - 5:00pm, Monday-Friday (extended care available)
Enroll online: www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org.

What do your campers do all day at camp? Camp life is relaxed with structured time for group tennis lessons, daily craft projects, time for Karaoke, playing camp games like capture the flag, tug of war, baseball and of course soccer. Our counselors come with varying talents such as hip hop dance, ping pong wizard, master of lanyards, and of course they all share a love of working with children. Students from Hilltop School connect and share adventures. Camp is a safe place for your child to come, make childhood memories and share adventures with friends.

Week 1	June 13- June 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialty: Carpentry• <i>Field Trip: Scandia Miniature Golf/Laser Tag</i>	Week 6	July 18-July 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialty: Gymnastics• <i>Field Trip: Bladium/ Rock Climbing & Soccer</i>
Week 2	June 20- June 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialty: Gymnastics• <i>Field Trip: Adventure Playground/ Berkeley</i>	Week 7	July 25-July 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialty: Fiber Fun• <i>Field Trip: Tilden Park: Jewel Lake & Animal Farm; Karaoke Friday</i>
Week 3	June 27- July 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialty: Circus Arts• <i>Field Trip: Oakland Zoo; Balloon Animals</i>	Week 8	August 1-August 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialty: OLYMPIC WEEK• <i>Field Trip: Lawrence Hall of Science</i>
Week 4	July 5-July 8 \$220/ Closed July 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialty: SkyHawk - Sports Week!• <i>SPIRIT WEEK -</i>	Week 9	August 8-August 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialty: Block Printing• <i>Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool Party</i>

Jazzercise

Strength, tone, dance - come see what you are missing. 8:15am - 9:15am, Monday - Friday. Drop-ins are welcome. Community Center. Instructor is Kevin.

Body Sculpting

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15-10:15am ongoing; Community Center. Body sculpting is shaping your body to look leaner, more toned and strengthened. Register at class. Come join the fun and get healthy. Just bring a mat and weights. Questions? Call Kevin at 486-2728. Location for both classes: Kensington Community Center.

Acrylic Artists

Wednesdays, 9:45am - 12:30pm Open Studio, lots of natural light. Come paint in community of other artists. Easels are provided, bring your canvas, paints and creativity! The mornings are spent painting, bring a lunch and relax. Community Center, ongoing.



Photos by Marty Westby

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. E-mail: kccrec@yahoo.com, or call 525-0292. M-F, 10am-4pm.

Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am.

Call the KCC office for info. Court Fees: 45-min. singles reservation: Resi-




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Market Update

◆ Featured Listings ◆




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Neighborhood Notes

Stanley G. Prussin November 1939 - August 2015

Stanley was born and raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut and passed away in his home in Kensington August 20, 2015. He received his B.S. from MIT and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan in Chemistry. After conducting postdoctoral research at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, he joined the Department of Nuclear Engineering at UC Berkeley in 1966. He served there until his transition to professor of the graduate school in 2004.

Stan had a great love and respect for the wilderness. He hiked through the Sierra Nevada, Karakoram, Patagonia, Greenland, Tilden Park and anywhere he could find a trail. In the winter he could be found skiing the mountains near Lake Tahoe. Stan had a remarkable sense of humor and enjoyed debating, particularly politics. He loved to laugh over a great bottle of wine with friends and family. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, nephew, friend, and mentor. He is survived by his wife Traudel, and two children, Stephanie and Alexa.

Valerie C. Tonkin (1921-2016)

Valerie was a longtime resident of Kensington. She was an owner of Tonkin Orchids, a certified orchid judge, and was well known for her paphiopedilum hybrids. Valerie was active in orchid societies and garden clubs.



Mary Goold Appelman

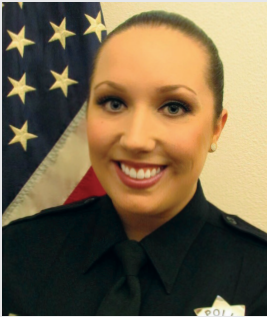
Mrs. Appelman lived in Kensington from 1997 to 2014; she died Feb. 25 in State College, Pa. at the age of 90.

Mrs. Appelman was born in London on Feb. 8, 1926, the third daughter of Herbert Stewart Goold, an American diplomat, and Cora Smith Goold, both of San Francisco. She spent her early childhood in Greece and Costa Rica and attended school in Beirut, Helsinki and Casablanca, where her father was consul-general. She graduated from Vassar in 1945 and later pursued graduate work at UC Berkeley, where she met her husband, Evan Appelman. The two were married in 1960 at Congregation Beth El in Berkeley and moved to the Chicago area. They retired in 1996 to California, returning to the Berkeley Hills she loved. The Appelmans lived on Lake Drive until health concerns led them to move nearer to family.

Mrs. Appelman devoted much of her life to working for peace and social justice. She was an early supporter of a two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinians and a tireless advocate for dialogue between the two peoples at a time when official U.S. policy was not to negotiate with the Palestinians directly. She was also active in the Fair Housing movement, anti-Vietnam war protests and local and national Democratic Party politics.

She loved the mountains, and Tuolumne Meadows was her idea of heaven.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 56 years; her sister, Louise Green; her son, Harry Appelman; daughter, Hilary Appelman; and four grandchildren.



Stephanie Wilkens Honored

On February 22, Interim Police Chief Kevin Hart announced that Kensington’s police officers selected Stephanie Wilkens as 2016’s Kensington Police Officer of the Year (the award honors events of the past year). Hart says that Wilkens, who came on the force in September 2012, “is the shining light of the department. She rewrote the curriculum for the Citizens’ Academy and received outstanding feedback for her involvement and facilitation of the academy.” Wilkens handles social media and relays important information—including putting together the police log for the *Outlook*.

Writes Wilkens in an email, “Growing up in the East Bay [Richmond], shaped me into the person and officer I am today. I was raised by a strong single mother who taught me how to protect myself and rise above circumstances.”

She writes, “The level of alertness you have to maintain to stay safe in Richmond segues nicely into a law enforcement career. You have to always watch your back and know how to talk to people.” Wilkens notes that the culture in Kensington is much different, but there are “still people out there that aim to hurt those of us who are here to help them.” Wilkens received her BA from St. Mary’s College.

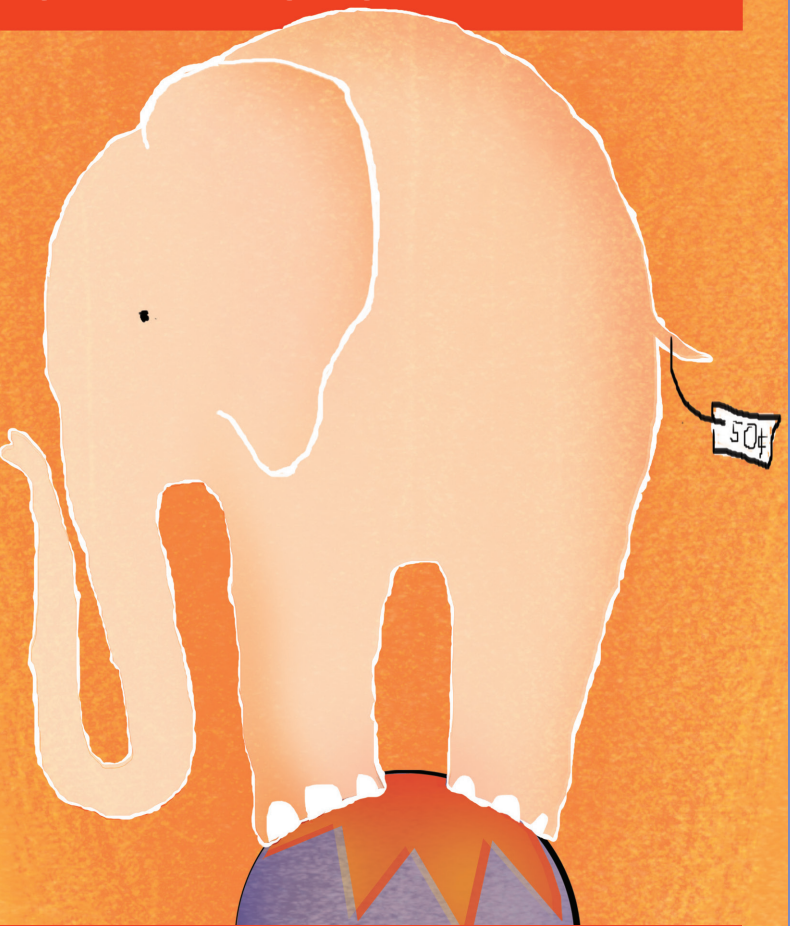
She says that she was chosen as Officer of the Year due to her public outreach efforts. “During a recent KPOA meeting,” she writes, “my peers expressed their gratitude and appreciation for my coordination of our 2015 National Night Out event as well as the 2015 Citizens’ Academy. It’s an honor to have been selected by so many experienced officers that I genuinely look up to.”

Hart adds, “Stephanie loves the community and works hard to protect and serve Kensington’s residents.” —Linnea Due

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Foil Identity Thieves

Have you been spear-phished? Experienced smishing or vishing? These words, debatable in Scrabble, are very real stratagems of identity theft. It’s complicated out there in the public and cyber world, and if you don’t have a thirteen-year-old to secure your identity, you might want to pick up a booklet at the Public Safety building. Called *Identity Theft: Protect Yourself, Know What to Do*, the free booklet might be 2016’s best investment.

Chapters explain how to guard your cards (think RFID blockers), shop online safely, recognize “skimmers” at a gas pump or an ATM, monitor the dangers of social networking sites and pop-ups (not that pop-up tacqueria at your favorite bar). The booklet lists the signs that your identity has been stolen (don’t toss that notice about a flu shot you haven’t gotten before investigating further). If the worst happens, the booklet includes a list of who to notify and how to minimize the damage. Pick it up at 217 Arlington Avenue—it’s up front on the counter. — Linnea Due

Graduating High School Seniors—Come to the *Outlook* photo shoot!

Calling, rallying, and celebrating graduating high school seniors! A tradition in Kensington is to take a group photo of graduating high school seniors and sharing their success with our community. If you are a senior and attended Kensington Hilltop Elementary School for part or all of elementary school and/or who live in Kensington now or earlier, come join us! The shoot is scheduled for Sunday, May 1 at 3:30pm. Eat some pizza and chat with other seniors before the photo shoot at 4:00pm. Location: KCC Office, free. —Marty Westby



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Letters

...from page 2

money from the entire community. So, when the fire district was charging the police district rent, in practical effect, we were charging ourselves rent!

Consolidation of the two districts may or may not be a good idea, but it deserves an objective and thorough analysis and community discussion, not just overheated rhetoric. Let’s get the facts and then have a reasoned and measured conversation about whether the division of the two districts still makes sense for our community.

Susan Garfin

Focus on Priorities

Dear Editor,

Thank you for publishing the article in the February issue of the Outlook, clarifying the scope of work for the three KPPCSD subcommittees. I was pleased to see the objectives outlined, however I am concerned about what appears to be an overreach by KPPCSD. Considering consolidation with the fire district—and specifically “the ability to maintain a high level of...fire protection and paramedic services” is not a mandate of KPPCSD—an organization charged with Police Protection and Community Services.

As a Kensington homeowner and taxpayer, I am very satisfied with my current Fire Protection and Paramedic services. With respect, I would prefer that the KPPCSD focus on the three key questions at hand: (1) police governance, community trust, and stewardship; (2) bifurcation of the general manager/chief of police position; and (3) exploring contracting of police services.

These three KPPCSD foundation issues are a major scope of work, and need to be addressed very soon. Adding an unnecessary fourth (and nonessential) consideration of fire protection is not only out of scope of the KPPCSD—but this overreach seems to add risk and complexity to an already ambitious set of 2016 KPPCSD committee objectives.

Given the recent challenges that the KPPCSD, KPD, and our community have faced, we need to focus on clear and manageable priorities. Let’s solve the “top three” KPPCSD challenges first, and then pursue a period of calm, stability, and good stewardship. After that has been achieved, we might consider a consolidation scheme. To quote some wise words—”If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” And I don’t believe our Fire Protection services are broken.

Ryan Anderson



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Highlights from the February Kensington Police Log

February 5 OUTSIDE ASSIST. Rincon Drive. UC Berkeley PD advised regarding an auto burglary on their jurisdiction.

February 6 SUSPICIOUS PERSON, Marchant Gardens. Report of a person who the P/R thinks might have been her new neighbor, walking in her back yard, the day before.
WELFARE CHECK, Arlmont Road @ Arlington Avenue. El Cerrito resident not feeling well went to Kaiser Richmond for exam. I advised her husband and brought her dog home.

February 8 TRAFFIC / MISC, Grizzly Peak Boulevard @ Beloit Avenue. Stalled transit bus. Directed traffic until it left the area.
TRAFFIC / MISC, Berkeley Park Blvd @ Colusa Avenue. Speeding vehicles. Area checked clear. Stephanie Wilkens notes that Officer Wilson found parked vehicles matching the description of those speeding and spoke to the drivers, who took the opportunity to leave the area.
FIREWORK, Cambridge Avenue. One firework set off. Area checked clear.

February 11 MISCELLANEOUS, Kenyon Avenue / Wellesley Avenue. Unable to locate tree blocking the roadway; roadway was clear.
DISTURBANCE, Arlmont Drive. Verbal neighbor dispute regarding barking dogs.
SUSPICIOUS EVENT, Arlington Avenue. Vehicle’s passenger side door was opened by unknown person(s); nothing was taken.

February 13 CIVIL, Colgate Avenue. Civil dispute of cut trees.
RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY, Amherst Avenue. Residential burglary.

February 15 NOISE, Norwood Avenue. Loud party. Advised.
SHOTS FIRED, Beloit Avenue. Per Richmond Dispatch, Animal control/EBRPD dispatching severely injured animal.

February 16 TRESPASS/ARREST, Arlington Avenue. Subject arrested for trespassing.

February 17 BURGLARY, Oak View Avenue. Unknown suspect(s) entered residence under const. and removed tools.
SUSPICIOUS PERSON, Estates Drive. Contacted person soliciting magazine subscriptions. The person was wanted out-of-state but with no extradition. The person left the area without incident. Officer Wilkens says that if another state will not pay for extradition, the subject must be released but can be advised to leave the area.
THEFT, Wellesley Avenue. Bicycle stolen from unlocked garage.
THREATS, Highgate Road. Resident received a series of phone calls, one a direct threat to harm him and family.

February 22 ID THEFT, Coventry Road. Unknown suspect(s) using victim’s info for online credit application.
ID THEFT, Sunset Terrace. Unknown suspect(s) using victim’s info for online credit application.

February 23 DISTURBANCE, Lenox Road. Ongoing verbal altercations between citizens.

February 24 MAIL THEFT, Arlington Avenue. Package stolen from doorstep.
ASSAULT, Yale Avenue. Two subjects were fighting and one was transported to hospital, under investigation.
ANIMAL, Coventry Road. Barking dogs.

February 25 VANDALISM Oak View Avenue. Rear window of vehicle smashed by unknown suspect.
VANDALISM, Oak View Avenue. Rear window of vehicle smashed by unknown suspect. Officer Wilkens says that these were two separate vehicles vandalized on the same street.

February 26 TRAFFIC/MISC, Willamette Avenue. Citation issued for blocking driveway.
SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Grizzly Peak Blvd. FedEx delivery vehicle making deliveries.

Ad Hoc Committee Hard at Work

By Dave Spath

KPPCSD’s Ad Hoc Committee is researching the three tasks that the board outlined as possible governance and operations alternatives including the bifurcation of the general manager/chief of police position, contracting of police services, and consolidating with the Fire District. The following is a summary of each of the subcommittee’s activities: **Subcommittee on Contracting of Police Services** activities to date include: 1) meeting with the city managers of Orinda and Lafayette to discuss their experiences in contracting with the county sheriff for policing services; and 2) meeting with the city manager and chief of police of Albany about the possibility of contracting for Kensington’s needs in whole or in part. Similar meetings in March are set with officials in Richmond, El Cerrito, Berkeley, and other jurisdictions. **Subcommittee on Bifurcation of the General Manager/Chief of Police** activities include: 1) outline of job duties for a general manager and for a chief of police; 2) research on Community Service Districts with police services, other applicable Special Districts and small cities with shared and separated GM/COP functions; 3) review information developed by community members; 4) meeting with police chiefs of Berkeley and Albany; and 6) telephone conferences with part-time general managers for other districts to understand how they function. **The Subcommittee on Consolidation** activities include: 1) clarifying what the two separate districts entail (history, charter, legal responsibilities); 2) clarifying what the different options are for initiating consolidation; 3) detailing what each of those options mean in practical and legal terms; 4) interviewing representatives from relevant organizations regarding details, logistics and views of potential consolidation; 5) preparing to survey special districts and small communities with independent and unified governance structures; 6) completing financial data collection and analysis for Kensington districts; and 7) defining potential post-consolidation structure(s). **Public Forums are being planned.** The committee will present the subcommittees’ findings at public forums, most likely to be held in early June (save June 4 and June 11 as possible dates). Notice of the forums will be made at the committee’s monthly meetings (first Thursday of every month at the Community Center), on the Committee’s web page, in the *Outlook*, on NextDoor and by postings throughout the community. The community’s input is critical.

The committee has made available on its web page (on the KPPCSD web site) documents from the January forum including the full set of presentations, individual responses to the questionnaire and an analysis of those responses. These documents are also available at the Kensington Library.

The committee is finalizing a web-based survey designed to get a general idea about what Kensington residents think about current police services. The survey is expected to be available by late April.

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Kensington Calendar

Ongoing Low Impact Jazzercise, 8:15-9:15am, Mondays through Fridays, Community Center.

Ongoing Body Sculpting, 9:15-10:15am, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Community Center.

Ongoing Acrylic Artists, Wednesdays 9:45-12:30pm, Community Center. Paint in Open Studio. Easels provided.

April 2 *Ghost Town to Havana* (2015) is a heartbreaking, funny, and inspirational film about kids, baseball, life, love, and mentorship, in Oakland and Havana today. Join us for a free screening and Q&A with Coach Roscoe Bryant and Director Gene Corr. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road. Doors open at 5pm, film screens at 6. Complimentary tickets REQUIRED: gttthuucb2.eventbrite.com

April 3 Rev. Cathleen Cox, Community Minister for UUCB, spiritual director, teacher, certified dream worker and workshop facilitator; 2002 recipient of the Margaret Fuller Award of UU Women’s Federation. “Who Stole Jesus?” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

April 4 Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs.” All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. Meets on the first Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 5 Best of Myth at the Movies: *Chinatown* View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7:00-9:15 pm. \$8. Info: Richard Stromer, (510) 682-6302; registration: Lonnie Moseley, (510) 655-1444 or lonniemoseley@hotmail.com. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

April 7, 14, 21, and 28 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15 am & 11:15 am. Free. 524-3043.

April 9 The Power of Conflict Resilience! Workshop led by Rev. Cathleen Cox. 9:30am-1pm. Suggested donation \$20. To

register, contact: Lonnie Moseley, (510) 655-1444 or email lonniemoseley@hotmail.com. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

April 10 Rabbi Harry Manhoff, Congregational Rabbi at Temple Beth Sholom in San Leandro; author; lecturer at St. Mary’s College; doctorate in the New Testament. “The Siddur: Jewish Prayer, its History and Interpretation.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

April 11 Three Jewels of Rome: The Chiesa Nuova and St. Filippo Neri. Join local artist and art historian Michael Stehr for the last in his three-part art lecture series, Three Jewels of Rome. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7:00 pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 11 and 25 Digital Docent Kensington Library’s Digital Docent will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1:00 & 1:30pm. This one-on-one 30-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign-up onsite at Kensington Library Info Desk. Please bring your device. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 1:00 pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 12, 19, and 26 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 14 Bouquets to Art at the El Cerrito Garden Club, 9:30am. Garden club members display their own floral arrangements along with art that reflects and complements their designs. Members free, guests \$3. Bonnie (510) 237-4654. El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane.

April 16 Storytelling Show Join us for animal stories and folk tales from around the world! This free preview of the East Bay Storytelling Festival is brought to you by storytellers Susan Billings and Jean

Ellison. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 11:00a.m. Free. 524-3043.

April 16 The choirs of Berkeley and San Francisco UU Churches join Kensington Symphony Orchestra for “Viva la France!”, a concert featuring Poulenc’s “Gloria,” “Carnival of the Animals” by Saint-Saens, “Radionuclides March” by Berlioz, and music by Bizet, Duparc, and Bernstein. Bryan Baker shares conducting duties with Geoffrey Gallegos and is piano soloist, with Inara Morgenstern, for the Saint-Saens. Vocal soloists are soprano Marcelle Dronkers, mezzo Meghan Dibble, and tenor Rod Lowe. Tickets: \$20/15. The Church is wheelchair accessible and parking is free and plentiful. 8pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington.

April 17 James O’Hara, author of *In the Land of Shiva*; former Catholic Brother and teacher whose life changed when he visited India and Nepal. “Beyond Belief and Religion: a Seven Year Journey in India and Nepal.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302.

April 18 Master Gardener Talk. “The Squeeze on Citrus—Caring for Citrus in the Garden.” Learn the basics of caring for citrus, whether existing trees or new. Learn how to select and buy healthy trees for your location and the best method for planting, watering and feeding your tree. We will also cover pruning and protecting your tree from environmental elements, pests and diseases. Sierra Higgins and Molly Wendt are avid gardeners who enjoy ornamental and vegetable gardening, keeping chickens, and managing bees. Kensington Library, 6:30pm, free.

April 19 Create Your Own Moving Toy! Engineer and create a personal toy machine! Lawrence Hall of Science educators will walk patrons through choosing a motion, designing your project, and making a working automata machine that you get to take home! 3:00-4:30 p.m. Best for Kindergarten and up. Free. 524-3043.

April 23 Heartfulness Meditation: An Introduction. Learn to meditate with Dr. Som Soni from the Shri Ram Chandra Mission Meditation & Retreat Center. Dr. Soni and his wife Gita will answer questions and lead a beginner’s guided heartfulness meditation. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 12pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 24 Rhonda Servin, artist and writer; storyteller; book in progress titled *U: The Universe Chronicles*; UUCB member. “The Universe: The Ultimate Superhero.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

April 25 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *Remains of the Day*, by Kazuo Ishiguro. Book Club normally meets on the 4th Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.


April 30 Musical Frozen Show A special musical storytelling group will perform an interactive version of *Frozen* using the instruments to evoke different characters. Come join Elsa’s adventure and learn about sounds along the way! Kensington Library, 11 am. Best for ages 2-8. Free. 524-3043.

Undergrounding Utilities Forum

Whether unsightly utility wires and poles can be taken down and the conduits run underground affects views, property values, and community safety. A forum on undergrounding utilities, cosponsored by the Kensington Property Owners’ Association and the Kensington Improvement Club, will be held April 20 at 7pm in the Community Center: it will cover basic requirements, processes, and cost estimates associated with undergrounding utilities in the public rights of way and private property.

Guest speakers include Rocco Colicchia of Harris and Associates, a firm that has contracted to facilitate undergrounding in many communities in the East Bay. Colicchia has also worked for PG&E and governmental agencies, so he can explain the nuts and bolts and answer everyone’s questions. Mary Halle from the Contra Costa County Engineering Department will address the practical aspects of undergrounding.

Undergrounding utilities has many complexities, including the rating of the street, the cooperation of neighbors, and the ease of access. We hope to provide an introduction to these issues and help assess the feasibility of undergrounding in your neighborhood. Please bring your neighbors and your concerns. See you there! — Kevin Padian



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