

————— *Bringing The Community Together* —————

K E N S I N G T O N

O U T L O O K

FEBRUARY 2010

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 67 NUMBER 1



**Berkeley dancer Patricia Bulitt performed
Mother of the Mukluk Seal Mask Dance last
month at the Kensington Library.**

**I
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D
E**

**KCC Spring Party: March 13
Earthquake Preparedness
Supervisor John Gioia
on Pt. Molate Casino**

**KCC Welcomes
Donations for Silent Auction**

Police Tax Increase Headed for June Ballot

At the January 7th meeting of the KPPCSD, the Board of Directors voted to authorize NBS – a consulting and administrative services provider to local governments – to do the preliminary work for placing a Police Tax Assessment increase on the June 2010 ballot. NBS has been asked to gather information on a proposed increase, provide financial estimates on what the tax increase should be, prepare the necessary materials sufficient to place a tax initiative on the ballot, and coordinate the election schedule with the County.

The KPPCSD Finance Committee recommended an annual “up-to-\$200 per parcel” tax increase (if less than \$200 is needed in any year, less would be collected) with annual CPI-based Cost-of-Living increases, and proportionate tax increases on business- and unimproved property.

According to Director Wright, “Fifteen years ago, the existing supplemental police tax of \$300 per house was instituted by the voters,

see Police Tax, page 5...

Summit Reservoir Replacement Project

EBMUD is planning to replace Summit Reservoir, located on the Berkeley/Kensington border. Built in the 1890’s, the reservoir has had several upgrades over its life, but now needs to be replaced.

Preliminary planning studies call for either one or two small water tanks within the footprint of the large site, as well as the replacement of two pumping plants on the western side.

Late last year, EBMUD met with local officials and held the first of three planned community meetings, to develop a design for the site. Outreach will continue through the early spring of 2010. Work on the Environmental Impact Report will also begin this year. The existing reservoir will be empty and removed from service during the expected 3 years of construction.

see Reservoir, page 5...

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Mark P. Choi 524.0800 2005 Eunice St. Berkeley

Incredible views from this handsome three-level contemporary. Great natural light, master suite, open living, dining and kitchen area. Three brs, 2.5 baths. Offered at \$845,000.

434 Beloit Ave. Kensington Todd & Ron 527.9111

Wonderful Piedmont Ave home. Spacious 3 brs, 2 baths, fine details, large yard w/hydrangeas, roses, fruit trees, veggies. Many recent improvements. Offered at \$689,000.

Sheri Madden 524.0800 80 Linda Ave. Oakland

We are excited to announce a new art exhibit in our Kensington office. The colorful paintings of local artist Doris Villadsen Mendell will be showing from now until early May. Come in during business hours to see them! And please come meet the artist at a reception Saturday, February 6th, from 2-5:00pm.

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EDITOR
JOEL KOOSÉD

ADVERTISING MANAGER
ALMA KEY

PUBLISHER
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Editorial.....510-236-8632
editor@KensingtonOutlook.com
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advertising@KensingtonOutlook.com

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February Advertising Deadline.....Feb. 8
February Editorial Deadline.....Feb. 10

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Gioia on Molate

Supervisor John Gioia on the Proposed Point Molate Casino

I grew up in West County and am raising my family here. I understand how three casinos could change the character of the Richmond area in ways many of us don't want. That's why it wasn't easy for me to take another hard look at the proposed Point Molate Casino Resort in Richmond and reassess how I think the County should prepare for this possible development.

In addition to Casino San Pablo, which is already designated tribal land for the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians, the Guidiville Band of Pomos are seeking approval from the federal government for Indian land at Point Molate, and the Scott's Valley Band of Pomos are seeking tribal land in North Richmond. Such approval would allow the tribes to build a casino.

In order to get federal approval, the tribes must prove they have a connection to the area. The U.S. Dept. of Interior makes this determination. The County has no approval authority whatsoever. Local agencies can weigh in with their opinions on these projects, but approval rests solely with the federal government.

The City of San Pablo supported *Casino San Pablo*, and the Richmond City Council approved a contract to sell Point Molate land to the Guidiville tribe for a casino resort project. The Obama Administration has told tribal leaders that it wants to make the process for transferring lands to Indian tribes less onerous and time-consuming.

Contra Costa County has been the primary public agency opposing these casino projects, and I've been a leader of this opposition. Now that the projects are moving forward, with a chance of approval, I'm committed to protecting local communi-

22nd Annual KCC Spring Celebration

The Kensington Community Council will hold its Spring Celebration this year on Saturday, March 13th, from 6:30-9:30pm. *Andronico's Market*, *Marvin Gardens Real Estate*, and *Mechanics Bank* are generously sponsoring this year's event, to be held at the Community Center. Tickets are \$25 at the door. There will be food and drink to enjoy while bidding on silent auction items provided by local residents and businesses.

A free children's party with games, movies, and food will be provided for children ages 3-11.

Many of our talented community members have helped to support this fundraiser over the years by donating auction items for the event. If you'd like to donate an item for KCC's Spring Celebration, please contact Danielle Power at 524-6737, or for party information, call Esther at 525-0292.

ties from impacts on traffic, public safety, health and social services. I'm also determined to ensure that local residents are first in line for economic benefits – including jobs.

This doesn't mean I support urban gaming. It means that I don't want the County to be left out in the cold if the projects are approved, and not receive help from the tribes to mitigate community impacts.

Recently, after much examination, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with the Guidiville Band of Pomos under which the County will get substantially more revenue and jobs than if we had opposed the Point Molate proposal to the bitter end.

The Point Molate agreement provides funding for traffic improvements and a guaranteed \$12 million annually which will more than cover public safety, and health and social service impacts, plus revenue for violence prevention, job training, youth services and other pressing needs. This amount can be renegotiated if impacts are greater than projected, and will be adjusted for inflation annually.

An additional provision in the agreement allows the possibility of an *additional* \$10 million annually for improved healthcare services to County residents. The agreement also guarantees that 70% of the project's estimated 4,500 jobs are reserved for County residents, with 40% going to Richmond residents.

Richmond, through its agreement with the tribe, is guaranteed \$17 - \$20 million in annual revenues from the project, and has required "green" construction, and that all the shoreline be public open space.

All of these mitigations are incredibly important if the Point Molate project is approved – especially in today's economy. While it does feel a little like being between a rock and a hard place in an uncertain future, I believe the Board's decision is in the best interests of county residents. If the project is approved, we are guaranteed local jobs and revenue to address impacts and provide community benefit. Without the agreement, there are no guarantees.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — 401 Colusa

To the Editor:

At a County Board of Supervisors meeting in November, Andrew Woolman, the architect of the project at 401 Colusa, chose to withdraw his clients' application for a building permit rather than allow a vote that would have resulted in a compromise to their plan.

Throughout the planning process, the owners of 401 Colusa have asserted their right to construct a full 3-story building. But doing so would block views of San Francisco and the Bay from my property at 1619 Oak View, as well as the house at 1611 Oak View next door.

Decision makers, including KMAC, the Planning Commission and now the County Supervisors, have consistently held that these views should be protected under the Kensington View Ordinance.

Sup. John Gioia and the County Department of Conservation and Development worked hard to craft a compromise that would give the owners a viable project while protecting residential views. In the end, they formulated a plan that would allow the project to retain the 3 residential and 2 commercial units they envisioned while scaling back overall space by just 668 of the originally planned 4326 sq. ft.

It is the refusal of the owners to make this concession that has brought their plans to a halt. Their choices now are to restart the process with a new plan or to acquire the adjoining property at 411 Colusa, demolish the house there now, and build a project approved under the 1983 PUD that would include a 34-car parking garage. I hope they recognize that the unyielding position they have taken to date has gotten them nowhere.

My group would like to see development at 401 Colusa. But we believe it important to preserve existing residential views and ensure the scale of development is consistent with the surrounding neighborhood.

We're sorry to see the planning process at a standstill but we think under the circumstances, this outcome is just.

Enforcement of the View Ordinance affects the interests of a great many Kensington residents. Sup. Gioia and the others who considered this project have been thoughtful and fair. We should applaud their efforts to find a reasonable solution that respects the property rights of all interested parties.

Sincerely,

Rodney Paul
Chair, Colusa Circle Improvement Assoc.

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KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue, the Kensington Community Council’s After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) winter session began on January 4 and will continue through March 19th. KASEP will be closed during the Presidents’ Week break, Feb. 15-19. Spring registration will be held on Wednesday, March 3, in the Kensington Community Center, starting at 6:45pm for kindergarten students and 7:15pm for grades 1-6.

KCC office hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We can be reached at 510-525-0292 or kccrec@yahoo.com

KASEP brochures are available in the office or at www.aboutkensington.com, listed under children’s services.

KCC SUMMER CAMP

The Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in Fall 2009. The camp runs June 14 through August 20, 2010, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Campers may enroll on a weekly basis. Cost per week is \$205. To ensure the best experience for each child, our camp has a maximum of 62 children per week. We employ one director, a head counselor, eight counselors, a tennis instructor, and a “specialty consultant” each week to work with the campers. Extended day care is available 8-9am and 5-5:30pm each day for an additional fee paid to our camp director.

Each week the campers will enjoy:

- Field trip by private bus to points of interest around the Bay Area, such as *Scandia*, *Water World*, the *Explorium* and the *Jungle*.
- Special activities such as carpentry, sports, dance, and cooking.
- Tennis with Kim Roots, three days per week.
- Games, arts and crafts, hiking, and fun!

Our brochures for summer day camp will be mailed out and available in the KCC office starting in late February. We’ll hold registration for camp on Wednesday, March 10, 7 pm, in the Kensington Community Center.

ADULT CLASSES

User-Friendly Pilates with Ernie Adams

Pilates is designed to stretch and strengthen your body in an intelligent way, and engages your deepest core abdominal, lumbar, breathing and pelvic floor muscles. Developing core strength gives you greater power and precision in movement, and helps protect your body from injury. Pilates can help you discover how to feel more powerful, age more gracefully, and move with more rhythm and flow. These classes are mixed-level, appropriate for those with experience, and also for those who are just beginning.

CURRENT CLASS SERIES

(Still open for enrollment & drop-ins.)

• Level One
Get Stronger Without Getting Hurt
WEDNESDAYS, 7:30-8:30pm,
Jan. 13-Feb. 24 (7 Classes)

*\$86 Residents, \$87 Non-residents.
(\$15 drop-in) • Mats provided

*Special Discount: Take Level One & Two together for \$140 (\$10/class)

Level One is about becoming aware of deep supportive core muscles, learning how to release tight muscles, and stretch and strengthen in a way that reduces the chance of injury. *(Also from March 3- April 7: 6 Classes - \$72/73)*

• Level Two
Endurance – Increasing the Challenge
TUESDAYS, 7:30-8:30pm
Jan. 12-Feb. 23 (7 Classes)

*\$86 Residents, \$87 Non-residents.
(\$15 drop-in) • Mats provided

*Special Discount: Take Level One & Two together for \$140 (\$10/class)

Level Two is about building endurance and increasing power and control of movement. It is a little faster paced and more challenging than Level One, yet involves many of the same principles. *(Also from Mar. 2nd: 6 Classes - \$72/73)*

Ernie Adams is a Pilates Instructor and Feldenkrais® Movement Educator, with an extensive background as a professional dancer. He presents a less stressful way of learning Pilates, and

has sixteen years experience collaborating with physical therapists to treat orthopedic, neurological, dance and sports related injuries. Private sessions are also available. (510) 619-9223 or adams@bodyinaction.com. www.bodyinaction.com.

To register for the class, contact the KCC office at (510) 525-0292. Seven-student minimum. Classes are held in the Kensington Recreation Building (‘E’), located in Kensington Park at 59 Arlington Avenue.

Yoga for Health

Tuesdays 9:15-10:30am

Harmonize your body, mind, and spirit. This class involves basic Yoga poses, correct body alignment, breathing techniques, and relaxation. Develop strength, flexibility, endurance, and grace. Therapeutic concerns such as wrist, knee, neck and back pain, and stress reduction will be addressed. No prior experience required – all ages welcome. Please bring a mat to the class.

Classes held in the Community Center.

Fees for residents: \$15 for drop-in; \$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresidents please add \$1 surcharge. To register, call the KCC office at (510) 525-0292.

Acrylic Painting

Wednesdays, 9:45am-1:30pm

Stan Cohen (533-3003) leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning adult artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting, with assistance available. Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Enrollment is limited. Instructor approval required.

Fees: \$32/month (\$36 for nonresidents)
Held at the Community Center.

REGISTRATION

Class Registration: Please call the office at 525-0292. Some classes have enrollment limits; those registering will be notified if they can’t be accommodated.

Tennis Court Reservations: Reservations are for weekends and holidays only; the earliest is 9am. Call the KCC office at 525-0292 for tennis court reservation information. Tennis Court Fees: Residents – \$2 for a 45-min. singles reservation. Nonres: \$5.

Kensington Community Center Rental Information: Please call KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection & Community Services District) at 526-4141.

59 Arlington Avenue, Building E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707
kccrec@yahoo.com • (510) 525-0292



Annual Picture of High School Seniors in Kensington

Each June, the *Outlook* publishes a picture of Kensington students who will be graduating from high school. Please note that the picture will be taken in Kensington Park on Sunday, May 2, in the afternoon. More information will follow in the March and April issues of the *Outlook*.

Save the Date – Sunday, May 2

Maybeck Estates Walking Tour Returns

In the subdivision named *Berkeley Highland Terrace*, the Bernard Maybeck family owned a large piece of property which they subdivided and where they began to sell individual lots after World War II. On this walk, the privately owned part of Purdue Avenue will be explored.

An original and current homeowner, Bob Shaner, will narrate the walk and share personal experiences of building his own home and working with the Maybecks. Bob will be assisted by Paul Grunland, leader of several East Bay historical walks.

Save the Date – Saturday, May 22, 10am-Noon

Thanks to Our Additional Fall Fundraising Donors!

(Through January 1st)

\$200-300

Paul and Vida Dorroh
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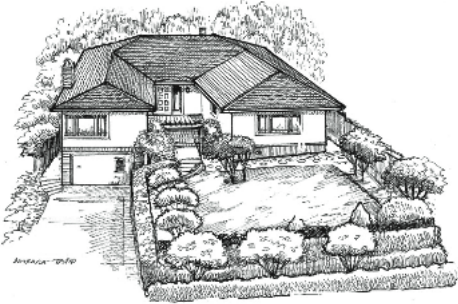
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(matching \$25 from BofA)
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Homero and Ines Yearwood

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Featured Property

Fabulous Mid-Century on Large, Level Parcel



69 Kingston Road, Kensington

Classic 1950's updated Ranch architecture. Situated on one of Kensington's favorite streets near the Village Shops and City Center.

This home features:

- Three very spacious bedrooms, two full baths all on one level
- Updated kitchen with granite counters and rich dark wood cabinetry
- Family room, with fireplace and built-ins, is oriented towards the very large, level garden
- Living room with fire place looks out to a partial San Francisco Bay view
- Master suite has en suite bath and second bath is convenient to the other bedrooms
- Lower level includes a finished room with full bath and second laundry area; separate entrance affords a variety of uses
- Finished garage can either be used as extra storage space or converted back to a parking area
- Expansive sunny front garden
- Minutes to BART, shopping and dining and Kensington Hilltop School (admittance must be verified with the school as class size is limited)

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6th grade teacher, is deeply committed to professional development. Always looking to refine and master her craft, she is an alumna of the Summer Writing Institute at Teachers College and a recipient of the prestigious Klingenstein Summer Institute fellowship. In her free time, Suzette volunteers at A Better Chance to help parents and children in their pursuit of a better education.



ELEMENTARY (K-4)

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MIDDLE SCHOOL (5-8)

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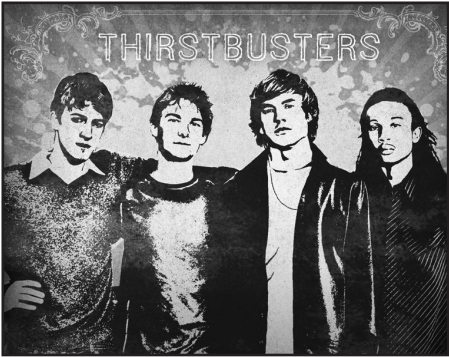
Please call to reserve a tour during the school day.

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Neighborhood Notes

Let's Hear it For the Boys!

Young local Kensington rocker, Ryan Thomas, and his fellow Berkeley High boy band mates, known collectively as *Thirstbusters*, have invited the world to watch their new music video. (A thousand people did just that on its first day online, alone.) We found it sweet, melodic, suspenseful(!), and professionally done. Check it out at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mjz_sRjp-8U.




Neighborhood EQ Preparedness

The Kensington Public Safety Council is a new community organization formed to help bring Kensington into a state of readiness should a major event occur on the Hayward Fault. KPSC welcomes the participation of all Kensington residents at its meetings on the 2nd Monday of every month (Next: Feb. 8th) at 6:30pm at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/kpsc/home or 501-8165


From the Kensington Elementary School PTA Newsletter:

Back in November, fourth graders, Phoebe Lucas Hyer and Maya Lavorando, set up a lemonade stand and made \$9. Along with their earnings, they left a note for school secretary, Pam Porter, saying, "We hope you can use it for any school supplies you might need." *Thanks Maya and Phoebe for supporting the school with your hard-earned money!*




Casting Purls Without Glitches Keeps Knitters in Stitches . . .

First, you should know that a *purl* is a type of stitch (and yes, that is how it's spelled); and also that on the 1st Monday of every month, Adult Program Director, Louise O'Dea, and the *Castoffs* meet at the Kensington Library to work on their knitting projects and help newcomers master the fine points.




The World is Also Our Neighborhood – Crisis Relief for Haiti

Following the worst earthquake in Haiti in more than 200 years, an untold number of people have been lost, and hundreds of thousands more now have very limited access to food, shelter, medicine, and basic sanitation. In their hour of need we should all remember that this horrible disaster could very easily become an even bigger tragedy if we don't do our part to help. Please consider donating to one of the following relief organizations: Clinton Foundation at www.ClintonFoundation.org/HaitiEarthquake/ • American Red Cross at www.RedCross.org/en/ • Doctors without Borders at <http://DoctorsWithoutBorders.org/> • UNICEF USA at www.UnicefUSA.org/ • ACDI/VOCA at www.AcdiVoca.org. (Info provided by Representative John Garamendi, 10th District.)




Rabbit Adoption Day Every Month at RabbitEars on Colusa Circle

RabbitEars owner, Judy Hardin, had help at last month's *Rabbit Adoption Day* from Contra Costa Animal Services Department volunteer, Suzi Hibbard (holding "Lucy"), Quinn Girard (holding "Pepe," the guinea pig), Thomas Molnar (holding "Freddie"), and Ezra Abarbanel (holding "Bruce"). Drop in and see (or even hold) one of these precious little creatures anytime, or attend one of RabbitEars' official, semi-monthly, *Small Animal Adoption Days*, the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of most months. www.RabbitEars.org




CERT: Community Emergency Response Team Training

CERT is a free program to help residents of El Cerrito and Kensington be self-sufficient in a disaster. Session 1: at the Kensington Community Ctr, Wednesdays from 6:30-9pm; 2/3: Disaster Medical Part II; 2/10: CERT Organization; 2/17: Search & Rescue; 2/24: Disaster Psychology. Session 2: at the EC Community Ctr, 7007 Moeser Lane; starts again Thursday, 2/25. Reservations: www.ElCerritoKensingtonCERT.org. or 215-4450.



Wildland Interface Project

Thanks in part to a PG&E grant applied for by Ciara Wood and Gil Bendix (at right), this fall, Kensington residents worked with the KFPD, Diablo Fire Safe Council, and East Bay Regional Park District to establish a fire buffer zone between the community and park district land. *Good work, gang!*



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... Police Tax from Page 1

but did not include a (not then legal-) CPI inflation provision. The proposed increase will restore the original amount of the 1995 supplement on an inflation-adjusted basis, ‘clean up’ the Kensington budget deficit, and allow our police department to maintain existing levels of coverage.” A 2/3 vote of the Kensington electorate will be required for passage.

Director Stein asserted that KPPCSD is expected to run annual deficits of approximately \$400,000, beginning this year. At that rate he said, “We’re good for a couple of years,” though in the long run the deficits would be unsustainable.

According to Director Wright, “to bridge this year’s deficit gap, police personnel costs would have to have been cut through reduced officer headcount, reduced officer shifts, or a 20% compensation reduction.”

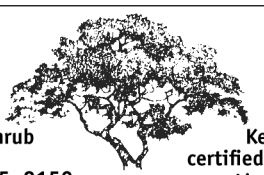
The revenue problem dates to the 1978 endorsement of *Proposition 13* by California voters. As previously reported, at that time apportionment of funds to the Police District was frozen at then-current levels. The approx. 13% of property tax revenues apportioned to the Police District, and the police tax supplement of \$300 passed in 1995, however, have not kept pace with the costs of policing our community.

The Board, after hearing input from residents about the importance of keeping local control of the police force, feels the tax increase is the best choice for Kensington, among available options.

Should the measure be rejected, these other options will be reconsidered: cutting the number of officers, cutting officers compensation, consolidation with the Fire District, and contracting for police services with another local agency.

Before deciding to pursue placement of the Police Tax Assessment increase on the ballot, the Board hired consultant, and former interim Police Chief, Brown Taylor, to analyze the costs and benefits of contracting with the EC Police Dept. to

see Police Tax, Back Page...



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... Reservoir from Page 1

When Summit Reservoir was originally built, more water was considered “better.” California now has more stringent controls and regulations concerning drinking water. The reservoir is being downsized from its current capacity because water, like any fresh food product, ages, and will go stale with time. Maintaining water quality for a reservoir that is much too large for the customers it serves, as is the current situation, is costly and cumbersome.

While the capacity of the newly replaced reservoir will be smaller, EBMUD is not decreasing its water supply. Its water supply reservoirs, which capture seasonal runoff, are in the Sierra foothills and also scattered around the East Bay.

New storage volume has been coordinated with the Kensington Fire Improvements project. All local reservoirs are generally sized such that 2/3 of the tank is available for emergencies. Water for fighting fires is also available from pumping plants and other nearby reservoirs in the system.

At flow rates required for the Kensington Fire Improvements project, the Summit replacement tank could flow for more than 10 hours without any additional pumping and still remain 1/3 full.

The reservoir will have seismic isolation valves so the valves can be remotely closed to prevent water from flowing out of the tank. The tank structure and foundation will be built to the latest seismic codes, making it unlikely to fail catastrophically during a quake. In an earthquake, it is more likely the drains and pipes from the reservoir would fail and cause leaks before the new tank structure itself would

fail and cause flooding.

Existing public observation areas along Spruce St. and Grizzly Peak will remain. There are no plans at this time to surplus or sell any property at the site, or to move the existing fence line.

New pumps will be more efficient, and enclosed in a more soundproof structure with the expectation that there will be less noise than is currently being generated by the 1940’s vintage pumps.

The roof of the proposed replacement tanks at Summit will likely be the same elevation or slightly higher than the current reservoir roof. Appurtenances, such as required fall protection railings, may also protrude above the top of the tank. As this is a gravity-fed system, alternatives such as making the tanks shorter and wider could cause lower water pressure for some customers; Burying the tanks would be very expensive and could interfere with maintenance.

EBMUD considered all comments and input gathered from the first community meeting, and developed several viable design alternatives for presentation at the most recent community meeting on Jan. 20th. The goal for the design alternatives is to balance community concerns related to aesthetics and other design features with costs, engineering requirements, security, fire flow capability, long-term maintenance and operation considerations for EBMUD, and service to its ratepayers.

More info at <http://ebmud.com/about-ebmud/news/project-updates/summit-reservoir-replacement-project>, or 287-2053.

This article is excerpted from the information provided on the EBMUD web site listed above. Used with permission.

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Excerpt From December 2009

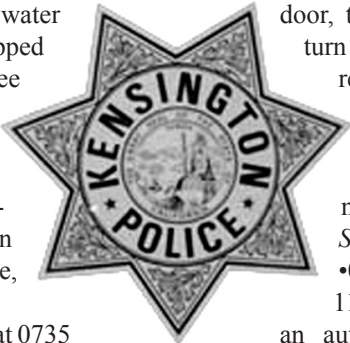
•09-5344 – On 11-25-2009, at 1055 hrs, Officer Martinez responded to a reported traffic collision with injuries at the Kensington Park Tot Lot. An au pair was attempting to park in the handicap zone and hit the accelerator instead of the brake. The vehicle surged into the park toward two teenage female residents who were standing at the water fountain. The vehicle stopped when it collided with a tree approximately 6 to 8 feet from the water fountain. The only injuries suffered were to the driver. The toddler, seated in a child seat in the back seat of the vehicle, was not injured.

•09-5446 – On 12-3-2009, at 0735 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of vandalism to a vehicle in the 400 block of Colusa Ave. It is suspected that a window was shattered by a BB or pellet gun. This case was referred to *Investigations*, as Albany PD had previously contacted two juveniles as a result of BB and/or paint gun incidents. Similar incidents, with similar results, took place on 12-3-2009 on Oak View Ave, Coventry Road and Berkeley Park Blvd.

•09-5458 – On 12-3-2009, at 1853 hours, Officer Medina responded to a report of residential burglary in the 300 block of Berkeley Park Blvd. A burglar climbed atop a carport and forced open a weak door to the master bedroom to gain entry into the residence. Approx. \$7,300 worth of electronic goods were stolen.

•09-5466 – On 12-4-2009, at 0830 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of auto theft in the 00 block of Highland Blvd.

•09-5511 – On 12-6-2009, at 0351 hours, Officer Medina responded to a report of a mentally ill person threatening to kill people in the 00 block of Highgate Road. A resident, who had not been taking his psychotropic medication, had become irrational and agitated. The resident was taken and held for 72 hours for evaluation at the county hospital.



•09-5557 – On 12-9-2009, a citizen came to KPD to turn in a women’s wallet that was found in the parking lot of *Trader Joe’s* in Berkeley. The citizen knocked on the wrong door on Highgate Court so the resident, who did not answer due to darkness (“*I can’t hear you – it’s too dark!*”), phoned KPD. Receiving no answer at the door, the citizen came to KPD to turn in the wallet. The citizen was recognized as a known residential burglar and illegal drug user from Richmond with an extensive criminal history. (*Thief, or Good Samaritan? You decide!*)

•09-5624 – On 12-13-09 at 1146 hrs. Officer Wilson took an automobile burglary case on Arlington Avenue.

•09-5662 – On 12-15-09 at 1753 hrs. Officer Ramos took a grand theft report on Kingston Road.

•09-5685 – On 12-17-2009, at 1341 hours, Sgt. Hull responded to a report in the 00 block of Anson Way of a verbal dispute between neighbors over the foul language being used by the construction crew refurbishing a home. One resident felt foul language was inappropriate for this neighborhood and conveyed his feelings to the property owner. The property owner took umbrage at the manner in which the resident expressed himself. A verbal dispute ensued, which resulted in KPD being summoned. No crime had occurred. (*And boy, were those officers @#\$%&! disappointed! However, no additional umbrage was taken.*)

•09-5707 – On 12-18-2009, at 1427 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of identity theft in the 200 block of Arlington Ave.

•09-5787 – On 12-23-2009, at 1406 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a burst EBMUD water pipe in the 00 block of Highland Blvd. Several homes on Highland Bl. and Arlington Ave. suffered water damage. Sgt. Hull filed a claim with *EBMUC Risk Management* for a senior citizen whose home had flooded.

Obituaries

FRANCES SPIETH CONNICK Nov. 13, 1923 – Dec. 29, 2009

Frances, the youngest child of William and Martha Spieth, was born and raised in Chicago, IL. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College and earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley.

In 1948, Frances returned to Mount Holyoke to teach chemistry. In 1949, she took a position teaching at Lingnan University in Canton, China. She was expelled from China by the Communist regime in 1951, and returned to research at UC Berkeley.

In 1952, Frances married a young chemistry professor, Robert (Bob) Connick. Subsequently she devoted her energies to their six children. In 1968, she returned to teaching chemistry at City College of San Francisco, where she was a highly regarded teacher, mentor and developer of curricula, as well as Chair of the Department of Chemistry and active in Academic Senate affairs. In 2002, her career in chemistry was documented in the Women in Chemistry Oral History Project at Iowa State University.

Upon retirement, she and Bob continued to pursue their interest in California rock art by visiting sites, participating in symposia, photographing petroglyphs, and publishing analyses of sites. In these pursuits and because of their shared keen interest in other cultures, they traveled extensively on all continents except Antarctica. Frances also served on the board of the Lingnan Foundation and engaged in various social and political causes.

Frances balanced an enthusiasm for reading, language, and numbers with an appreciation for physical fitness. Those closest to her fondly remember her as warm and generous, with a love for learning and ideas.

Frances is survived by those she most loved

to gather together — her husband Bob and their children Mary (Derek Covert), Elizabeth, Arthur (I-Wen), Megan, Sarah, and William (Marcelle Bobst), and eight grandchildren.

At her request, no service will be held. In lieu of flowers, a fitting tribute to Frances would be a contribution to an educational institution of your choice. The family may be reached at ConnickFamily@gmail.com.

DOROTHY KELTON November 2nd, 2009

Dorothy Kelton, longtime Kensington resident, died November 2, 2009 in San Rafael. She was 88. Originally from England, she emigrated to the United States following World War II, after having met her husband George, a US serviceman stationed in England. They settled first in Santa Monica and moved to Kensington in 1962. She was a passionate gardener, and lover of music, art and animals. She and her dogs walked the streets and paths of Kensington and Blake Gardens everyday, rain or shine. In later years she and her friends traveled the world. She was always a lively, kind and giving companion.

Dorothy is survived by her sister Annette Nicholson of Bexley, England; son and daughter-in-law, Christopher and Noel Kelton of San Francisco, daughter Erika Kelton of Washington DC, granddaughters Indra Coles Uniyal of Dublin and Gemma Kelton of Washington DC, great-grandchildren Surya and Jake Uniyal, and nieces Barbara Nicholson and Dianne Piper, both of England. She was the loving wife of George Kelton, who passed away in 1998, and mother of Stephanie who passed away in 1994. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the San Francisco SPCA or *Doctors Without Borders* – her favorite charities.

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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Town Meetings

at the
Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington
(Unless otherwise noted)

KCC - February 1st
Kensington Community Council
7:30pm • 525-0292 • 1st Mondays

FKL - February 2nd
Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm at the Library, 61 Arlington Avenue. 1st Tuesdays.

KPSC - February 8th
Kensington Public Safety Council
EQ & Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays, 6:30pm. 501-8165

KFPD - February 10th
Fire Protection District
2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD - February 11th
Police Protection and Community Services District
2nd Thursdays 7pm. 526-4141

KIC - February 22nd
Kensington Improvement Club
4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 558-1123

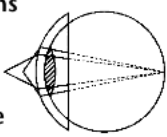
KMAC - February 23rd
Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tuesdays 7pm. 273-9926

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Feb. 1-28 Art Exhibit. Paintings by Carol Tarzier at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue. 524-3043 for hrs.

Feb. 2, 9, 23 Family Storytime. Ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

Feb. 3 The Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters discusses local issues at 1:15pm. Guests welcome. Please call 527-8683 to confirm.

Feb. 3 Taize Candlelight Service of Song, Prayer, and Silence, 7-8pm. Short meditative songs in the style of Taize, an ecumenical monastic community in France. Choir and orchestra practice at 6pm. Pacific School of Religion Chapel, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. <http://newspritchurch.org/>

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24 Wake Up To Al-Anon. 7-8am. Fireside Room, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue

Feb 3, 10, 17, 24 Young People's Choir. Learn sight-reading, voice training, and the basics of music. Small fee. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave. 6:15-7pm. 526-9146

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, 25 Community Emergency Response Team Training. Free program to help residents be self-sufficient in a disaster. Reservations: www.ElCerritoKensingtonCERT.org

Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25 Baby & Toddler Storytime. Stories, songs, & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15 & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

Happy Valentine's Day!



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Feb. 4, 11, 25 - Young People's Dance Theatre. Youth (ages 7-14) create dances and songs. Small fee. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave. 6:15-7:30pm. 526-9146

Feb. 5 Fitness Friday; Kensington Hill-top Elementary: Walk to school with your kids. Then meet parents, & teachers on the upper yard for treats & coffee provided by *Espresso Subito*. To sponsor/volunteer: lesmac@sbcglobal.net

Feb. 8 "Abraham Lincoln: Fact Rather than Fiction." Lecture/slide show by Emeritus Professor, Gerald Henig. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

Feb. 9, 7pm. Author Showcase: Join Suruchi Mohan for a talk on her novel, "Divine Music." El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., EC. 526-7512.

Feb. 13 Love Your Digital Camera: Photographer Michael Mejia will improve your digital experience. 10am-2pm at Nan Phelps Photography, 398 Colusa Ave. \$95. Register at: 528-8845. www.NanPhelps.com

Feb. 13 Chamber Music for strings, winds, voice, and piano. Miriam Abramowitsch, mezzo-soprano. *Shepherd on the Rock* and others. 7:30pm, Crowden School, 1475 Rose St. Berkeley. \$15; \$10 students and seniors. Wheelchair accessible. 409-2416.

Feb. 13 & 14 Love Songs & Chocolate. Famous arias, tunes from musicals, sing-a-longs, and the short, comic play, *The Ferris Wheel*. \$20 includes dessert buffet. Sat: 7:30pm; Sun: 1pm. Wheelchair accessible; Free parking. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302

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Feb. 16 Knucklehead the Clown shares magic tricks and creates amazing balloons for ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Feb. 22 Kensington Library Book Club: Discussion of *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. 524-3043. Free.

Feb. 24 Kensington Area Republican Women's Club Meeting, 12pm; 12:30 lunch. Mira Vista Golf & Country Club, 7901 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito. \$30. Reservations at 524-5689 by 2/19.

Feb. 27 Kensington Symphony performs. 8pm, Unitarian-Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Suggested donation: \$15; seniors/students \$12; Children free. 524-9912



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... Police Tax from Page 5

provide police services to Kensington (as the KFD has done w/the EC Fire Dept.)

Brown Taylor’s report concluded that, “(An) in-depth evaluation of Kensington ongoing direct costs, refined ECPD fair and equitable fees for required services, the cumbersome and costly transition process, and potential adverse impact on the existing Kensington staff, suggest sufficient economies and/or service enhancements are not preset to focus immediately on contracting as a service alternative.”

One knowledgeable Kensington citizen maintained that Brown Taylor’s report underestimated the costs to Kensington for contracting out – including the costs of retention bonuses, salary increases for EC officers beyond January 2010, maintaining staffing levels, and legal fees; and the potential increased costs to ensure that the six Kensington-assigned EC officers would actually have to be present in Kensington for a minimum number of hours. Factoring in these expenses would only

serve to reinforce the conclusion of the Brown Taylor report, that contracting out for police services doesn’t appear to be an economical solution to the fiscal crisis.

Consolidation with the Fire District still remains an alternative, though with many challenges, including: resistance from the Fire District Board, possible dilution of funds for fire services, unwieldiness of one (temporarily) larger, combined Board managing both districts, and possible seizure by the County of some property tax revenues now accruing to the two districts. Some opine that consolidation would only be a temporary solution, at best, and that deficits would soon catch up to a combined District, as well.

Reducing the number of police officer shifts has been unappealing to much of Kensington citizenry, and cutting officer compensation is not only distasteful, but is also a challenge to attracting and maintaining talented officers on the force.

This June, residents will either vote to bring police funding to sustainable levels, or choose instead, by default, to resort to one of the above alternatives.

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