

Tony Lloyd

...from front page

Tony was an accomplished musician and vocalist. He was well known for his wonderful, rich voice. In the early '90s, Tony helped organize Kensington's Blues Daddies Band, a group consisting of Tony, Joe Pratt, Dwayne Ramsey, Cody Reese, and Art Swislocki, all Kensington parents. The group performed with an evolving mix of musicians and their children at local venues; the band played at a special benefit premiere of the Robin Williams film *Jack* at the Palace of Fine Arts.

More recently, Tony became very involved in Cantare Con Vivo, a group of 100 singers accompanied by a full orchestra. He enjoyed rehearsing and performing in this choir and believed deeply in its mission of providing music education to students of the Oakland public schools. Tony also assumed a volunteer management role with the group, lending his business acumen to its further financial development.

Kensington Community Council president Anne Forrest remembers fondly that during the holidays, Tony's two daughters, Morgan and Erin, would go around the community and sign up families that wanted to have Santa visit on Christmas Eve. That evening, Tony and his wife, Carol, would drive Morgan and Erin to the houses on their list so that Morgan and Erin could shake very convincing sleigh bells outside the children's windows to give them a special Christmas treat. Anne's then young daughter was both scared and delighted each year by this performance, thinking that St. Nicholas himself was outside!

Tony was a well-respected community and church leader, and he will be sorely missed, not only for his ongoing contributions to the

betterment of our small town, but also for his warm personality and inspiring devotion to serving his church and community. His service as moderator at the Arlington Community Church led to his participation for two years on the KCC as the liaison with the church. Tony was elected in 2010 to a four-year term on the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, serving as a board member, vice president, and president during some of the board's more turbulent and challenging times, all with style, grace, devotion, and professionalism.

Tony devoted his time and his talents to Kensington in a positive and constructive manner, looking for solutions with a sense of humor and a smile. But there is no doubt that Tony's overriding love was for his family. He was a devoted husband to Carol for 37 years, and father to daughters Morgan and Erin. He made a point of introducing his two daughters to music and singing early on so they could share his enthusiasm.

Tony's family requests that donations in his memory go to Cantare Con Vivo or Arlington Community Church.

Ad Hoc

...from front page

had two full-time officers, a part-time officer, and a chief of police. By 1984, the department reached current levels, 10 officers including the chief of police. The staff of sworn officers is 1.89 officers per 1,000 residents compared to a county average of 1.18 per 1,000 residents.

Garen Corbett analyzed police func-

tions: tasks, scheduling, and collateral duties, noting that some duties must occur whether the department has a force of 10 or 5,000. He estimated that a quarter of the department's time is spent on administration and said that perhaps a civilian staffer could manage some tasks. He delved into comparative crime statistics; in a 2011 report, Kensington had about 13 crimes per thousand residents, compared to a county average of 24.

Rick Artis gathered financial data about costs, presenting charts of tax revenues and expenses, including data from 1996 forward. Deppe criticized one chart that compared ad valorem property tax revenues, saying that because it did not include special taxes and Measure G, it made it appear that tax revenues of the fire district are twice as much as the police, while when special taxes and Measure G are included, the two districts are close in revenue. Artis' charts showed how much KPPCSD's legal expenses had risen, nearly doubling each year from 2011 to 2014.

During the Q&A, audience members asked about staffing minimums. Corbett said that assumptions would be examined about supervision and number of officers on duty.

Concerned about future pension costs, Jim Watt said that we need to look ahead five years. Corbett promised that the committee would project finances for each option

Several congratulated committee members on taking on such a daunting and ambitious project. The meeting video is available on the committee's web page on the KPPCSD site. The committee encourages everyone to come to its first Thursday of the month meetings at 7 pm at the Community Center.

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Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

FEBRUARY 2016

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VOLUME 74 NUMBER 1



Tony Lloyd delivers the toast at his daughter Morgan's wedding. Photo by Deborah Coleman Photography.

Passing of Leader Tony Lloyd

By Chuck Toombs

It is with great sadness that we inform the community of the passing of Richard (Tony) Lloyd, on December 24 from complications due to longstanding health issues. Tony continued to make substantial contributions to Kensington up to his passing.

Born in 1949, Tony grew up in Detroit. Tony's father played baseball for the Negro League in the late 1940s and was an engineer with the Detroit Public School system. His mother was a homemaker and an elementary school teacher. Living in Detroit, Tony viewed firsthand the development of the Motown sound that informed

his own musical taste. He met his future wife Carol while they both worked at Michigan Bell. In 1976, the couple moved to California, camping their way across the country.

Tony spent his professional career at Pacific Bell and its successor, AT&T, working at different times in sales and marketing, assisting with lease negotiations, and preparing rate utilization studies for the California Public Utilities Commission. After taking an early retirement, he returned to AT&T before retiring a second time and pursuing a private consulting business, offering professional guidance to small businesses.

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Policing Options Group Holds Forum

By Linnea Due

On the rainy Saturday morning of January 23, about fifty people gathered at the Community Center for the first public forum on policing hosted by the Ad Hoc Committee for Governance and Operations Structure, the committee appointed in August by the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District board.

Committee chair Dave Spath reminded the audience of the committee's charter to gather facts on four topics: assess current services, investigate contracting out to another body (El Cerrito, East Bay Regional Parks, Contra Costa County Sheriffs, UC Berkeley Police), consider consolidating the police and fire districts, and assess dividing the job of general manager and chief of police, now combined in one position. This forum examined current services.

Lisa Caronna explained the regulatory framework in which Kensington operates as a community services district. Kensington is under no obligation to provide police services (the county sheriff would enforce the law). Thus there are no staffing requirements or mandated levels of service. However, once a police department is formed, administrative functions must be met, such as reporting statistics to the Department of Justice and adhering to training standards. While there need be no chief of police, a general manager must head the district.

Chris Deppe attempted to discover staffing of Kensington's 70-year-old police force. Because of poor recordkeeping, he could only say that in 1948, the department

see Ad Hoc, back page

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Letters to the editor

Twists and Turns Don't Faze KFD

Dear Editor:

The following comments are in response to Karl Kruger's letter in the December 2015 issue. Kensington and El Cerrito's per capita rates are a matter of small population scale. If Kensington was twice as large and a single fire station was adequate, the per capita would drop proportionally. The Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District has similar per capita costs rates also due to the small population scale.

The annual contract cost between the El Cerrito Fire Department and the Kensington Fire Protection District is approximately 1/3 of the total El Cerrito Fire Department budget. In return, Kensington achieves the ability to operate as a full-service, all-risk fire department.

The fire service response times for Kensington are slightly higher than El Cerrito's because of the hilly terrain with an irregular twisting street pattern, and narrow streets with only one full traffic lane sometimes blocked by delivery and garbage trucks impacting response times. Other districts and fire departments with similar topographic and street systems, such as the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, have response times over two minutes longer than Kensington's.

El Cerrito's terrain is often flat, with a grid street pattern and generally wider streets. Kensington FPD and El Cerrito Fire Department's response times combined are the shortest in Contra Costa County.

Don Dommer, Kensington Fire Protection District President

Give Hart a Chance

To the Editor:

We have been impressed with the professionalism of Interim Chief of Police Kevin Hart and wanted to add our voices to those who vouch for the good job he is doing so far.

Kensington has important public safety needs, and we need a police force that is focused and well run. Frequent changes in its leadership will undermine that, and we therefore believe it is important for the Chief to continue in his role.

We know there is an analysis underway regarding the question of splitting the COP and GM roles. We don't understand how splitting the position would not lead to higher compensation costs but have no problem with our community looking into and discussing its options.

We think it would be a big mistake to make yet another change in the leadership of the KPD in the meantime. Let's give Chief Hart a chance to continue demonstrating his leadership skills.

Rodney and Sarah Paul

Time to Consolidate?

Dear Editor:

Kensington is blessed with an educated, affluent and engaged population. Nearly eight in ten adult residents have college degrees, and nearly half hold graduate or professional degrees. Median household income in Kensington is 72% higher than that of Contra Costa County as a whole, and more than double the national median. And voter turnout in local, statewide and national elections is consistently high.

The two special districts that provide Kensington's police, fire and emergency medical services are, in total, strongly funded, with combined annual revenue of \$6.1 million and combined surplus funds "in the bank" of over \$5.8 million, representing 105% of combined annual operating expenses, in 2014. This is a strong financial. And, for the most part, Kensington residents seem to believe that these essential services are being performed in a satisfactory manner.

Both districts are governed by five-member boards elected by Kensington voters. Other communities similar in size and demographics to Kensington that provide both police and fire services have one elected governing body overseeing both services. It is apparent that these communities have determined that a single governing body is the most appropriate structure for deciding how best to spend the communities' funds. Neither of our districts

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The Kensington Community Council is dedicated to the improvement, development, and education of the community, and to the promotion of social welfare in Kensington. It enriches the community by providing educational and recreational programs for all ages and by publishing the *Outlook*, a monthly newsletter that covers local events and issues.

KCC also provides a forum for all Kensington community groups to meet and coordinate their respective efforts toward the common good of the community.

The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Outlook, its editor, or the publisher, the Kensington Community Council. Residents are invited to submit letters on matters of interest to the community. Letters must be signed and include the author's address and phone number (address and phone will not be published). Publication is subject to space limitations and the editor's discretion. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. One letter per person, per issue. Obituaries for Kensington residents are published at no charge. E-mail preferred to Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

PLEASE NOTE: Modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after all periods.

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March Advertising Deadline Feb. 8
March Editorial Deadline Feb. 10

K E N S I N G T O N

Community Education

KASEP

KASEP Winter session is at the half way mark, starting the first week in January and continuing all the way to Friday March 18th. Save the Date for Spring KASEP Online Registration: Tuesday March 8th at 7:30pm. Brochures will go home in student's backpacks the last week of February. We have a new face to welcome into our family of teachers, Rebecca Frisch. Rebecca is teaching "Practice of Everyday Art". She comes to us as a graduate from The Institute of Design in Chicago!

Looking for a Spring Break Activity? Well Chef Erik contacted KCC and together we are offering a Spring Break Cooking Camp! This camp is Monday - Friday, half day (9:30am - 1:00pm) for grades 2-5th. DATES: APRIL 4-8, 2016! Be on the lookout for more information in March's Outlook and on KCC's website, WWW. Kensingtoncommunitycouncil.Org.



Summer Camp Tennis

KCC Summer Camp 2016

Hard to imagine, but KCC is in gear, planning a terrific KCC Summer Camp 2016! KCC Summer Camp is for children entering first grade in FALL 2016 up through to 6th grade. This year's camp is filled with exciting field trips to local sites around the bay such as miniature golf at Scandia, Rock Climbing at Bladum and Adventure Playground at the Berkeley Marina. Each week a new place to discover! Camp starts Monday, June 13th and goes until Friday, August 19th. You may enroll by the week. KCC camp offers tennis lessons, daily arts and crafts with an afternoon of sports, games along with a themed activity such as carpentry, gymnastics, soccer, circus, plus more! Online Enrollment starts March 1st and is on-going. Keep your eyes on our website.

Meet KASEP Teachers



Vicky Brodt, Chocolatier Creations, Muffin Madness, Mixed Media Art & Concepts in Math for Kinder

Meet versatile Vicky! We are so proud to have Vicky onboard teaching KASEP classes. Let me count the ways one can make so many different kinds of muffins in Muffin Madness, savory and hearty! Chocolate appears to be many student's favorite food group as Chocolatier students smile ear to ear, satiated with their fill of chocolate. Vicky created both these popular course curriculums.

In addition to cooking, talented Vicky took on a new challenge: making sense of numbers. She has staged a learning environment full of tactile objects, making numbers and math concepts real. She has kindergarteners talking about

patterns, explaining their choice of size and shapes, and of course a chorus of continuous counting, Vicky earned her degree in Early Childhood Education, taught preschool for fifteen years before joining our family of KASEP teachers; Vicky has been teaching with us, going on year ten!



Proud Birdhouse Made in Carpentry



Oh No -We forgot the eggs! Chocolatiers in Action



Practice of Everyday Art



Proud Puppeteer in KASEP Storytelling Class

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.

Jazzercise

Need to lose a couple of "holiday pounds"? Think New Years' Resolution and join Kevin to get rid of the excess. The \$49 processing fee is waived -this month only! Sign up for the 12 months and payment starts in March at \$45 a month, unlimited classes. Jazzercise fitness class combines dance-based cardio with strength training and stretching for flexibility and muscle toning. Daily, Monday through Friday 8:15 - 9:15am ongoing - bring mat and water.

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.

KCC Annual Fund Drive

THANK YOU GENEROUS DONORS!

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Ad Hoc
...from back page

As the rain poured down outside, audience members lingered. Concern over interim Chief Hart’s contract was expressed—his contract is up in March, with a possible three-month extension to June, and while the ad hoc committee is now going full-bore, it is clear from the forum that the job is time-consuming and challenging. In an email, KPPCSD board member Rachelle Sherris-Watt said that Hart would need to apply again should the combined position be offered on a permanent basis or the position be divided. However, she thought that the board could extend his interim contract again for a short period. “I have requested that we first take up the issue of the contract extension before we delve into other arenas,” she wrote.

Letters
...from page 2

has professional management of the kind that would be provided by a general manager or city manager. Instead, we have two boards, consisting of dedicated and well-intentioned volunteer citizens who serve without compensation and have to rely on their own best judgment and often limited experience, with occasional (and expensive) input from consultants and lawyers.

Things need not be this way. Kensington can best be served by a unified governing body that is supported by professional management. And we can afford it. Our annual tax revenue, for the two districts combined, was \$6.1 million in the 2014 fiscal year, compared to \$5.6 million of combined operating expense, leaving combined income in excess of expenses of over \$450,000.

It’s time to reexamine the rationale for having two separate districts, governed by two separate boards that seldom communicate and almost never coordinate with each other, drawing their funding from, and serving, exactly the same taxpayers and geographical area. Our community needs to take a step back from the controversies of the moment and consider how we can unify our governance and secure capable, professional management of our critical public safety services.

Paul Dorroh

Under the Radar

Dear Editor,
At the last board meeting, the attorney for the board, Randy Riddle, stated his opinion that the combination of general manager and chief of police in one person is legal. The opinion was based on his research that turned up nothing that expressly meant that it was illegal within Special Districts. I’m afraid I must respectfully disagree with Randy.

There is a principle that must be expressed in a number of ways in the law to the effect that a conflict of interest is inherently impermissible. That relatively rare special districts fly under the radar of the legislature or the County Board of Supervisors probably isn’t intentional or surprising. Legal research might also substantiate the conclusion of impermissibility if that were the client’s goal. What has happened in Kensington is a perfect rationale for the prohibition of such a conflict of interest.

Leonard Schwartzburd

Neighborhood Notes

Jill Bryans, Jan. 31, 1941–Dec. 17, 2015

Kensington resident Jill Bryans was the youngest of three children born to Clyde and Frances Bryans in Ashland, WI. The family lived in a number of states and Guam. Jill recalled her childhood at the family home in Carpinteria as idyllic. The home was surrounded by nature and filled with many pets. Her lifelong involvement with environmental organizations stemmed from this early exposure.



In 1962 Jill graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in microbiology and went on to a career as a medical technologist. While at UC, she joined Theta Upsilon sorority. Jill worked for over twenty years at Brookside Hospital and then at John Muir Health where she managed lab operations at the Mt. Diablo campus. After retiring in 2004 she worked at H&R Block as a senior tax adviser and enrolled agent.

Jill was a Master Gardener with the UC Master Gardener program in Contra Costa County (treasurer 2008-2015), a member of the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society, a docent at the Tilden Native Plant Garden, and a subscriber to SF Opera, A.C.T. and Berkeley Rep. She traveled extensively, completing a lifelong goal for a trip to Africa in 2014. Since 1981, Jill was a member at the Arlington Community Church, active in the vocal choir, bell choir, Missions and Social Justice Board, Church Council, Knitting Ministry, bridge group, and Women’s Group. Jill maintained her own garden in Kensington, which featured a large bird feeder, high enough to tantalize her dearly loved cats but safe for the birds.

Jill, who died at home, is preceded in death by both parents and brother, Jack. Her older brother Jim survives her. A memorial service will be held 2pm Thursday, February 4, at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ACC or a charity of your choice.

Kensington Elementary Seeks PE Aide

Kensington Education Foundation (KEF) supports Kensington Hilltop School by funding classes in art, science, computer lab, music, library, and much more. KEF is hiring a part-time aide to support the physical education program. The aide works directly with the PE specialist teacher to supervise students during PE. For information and application, email KEF Human Resources Chair Amy Mullarkey, shmullarkey@gmail.com. EOE.


Reduce Kensington’s High Carbon Footprint by Supporting Community Choice energy programs

By Shoshana Wechsler

The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors took a bold step towards a clean-energy future last October when it authorized staff to explore a countywide Community Choice energy program, alternately known as Community Choice Aggregation, or CCA. (If “aggregation” seems off-putting, think pooling resources and bulk-buying electricity—and the energy and cost savings this implies.) As of mid-January, ten Contra Costa cities have agreed to participate in a feasibility study of the alternative to buying electricity from PG&E, with benefits accruing locally, rather than to the shareholders of a for-profit utility. Three more Contra Costa communities have already jumped enthusiastically on the CCA bandwagon. Richmond, El Cerrito, and San Pablo are currently enrolled in a Community Choice energy program under the auspices of Marin Clean Energy, the CCA founded by Marin County in 2010, the first to launch in California.

What exactly is Community Choice energy? As established by California’s AB117 in 2002, it enables cities and other jurisdictions to choose where their electricity comes from. According to Contra Costa County’s Department of Conservation and Development, CCA partnerships are attractive to jurisdictions for the potential cost savings they offer to consumers and for their promotion of electricity generation from renewable energy sources, as they can choose a higher percentage of renewable energy than PG&E offers. CCAs provide governments with an effective means to meet local clean energy goals and projected greenhouse gas reduction targets. Under Community Choice programs, PG&E can continue delivering electricity through its grid and service customers who wish to remain with PG&E.

Potential cost savings associated with CCAs extend far beyond lower energy bills.



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2015 Market Summary

Happy New Year!

KENSINGTON MARKET SUMMARY

FOR 2015 AS COMPARED 2014

2015

• Number of sales closed per MLS: 70 homes

• Average list price per sq. foot: \$471.00

• Average days on the market: 18

• The highest sales price per sq. foot: \$819.00

• Lowest sales price: \$620,000. 1BR/1BA 914 +/- sq. ft.

• Highest sales price: \$2,300,000. 4BR/4.5BA 3889 +/- sq. ft.

2014

• Number of sales closes per MLS: 72

• Average list price per sq. foot: \$449.00

• Average days on the market: 24

• The highest sales price per sq. foot: \$970.99

• Lowest sales price: \$450,000. 4BR/2BA 2294 +/- sq. ft (Blakemont slide - major fixer)

• Highest sales price: \$2,845,000. 3BR/2.5BA 2930 +/- sq. ft.

The good news: In summary the Kensington real estate market is up 10.16% from 2014. Forecast 2016: To sum it up, the California housing market is strong but expect the rate of home appreciation to slow down. “Global economic slowdown, financial market volatility, and the anticipation of higher interest rates are some of the challenges that may have an adverse impact on the market’s momentum next year,” says Appleton-Young, but also adds, “As we see more sales shift to inland regions of the state, the change in mix of sales will keep increases in the statewide median price tempered.”


When is the best time to sell? When inventory is low and demand is high, which is now. I am getting calls every day from both buyers and their agents asking if I have any listings coming on the market in Kensington. If you would like to know your home’s value in today’s market call me the appointment is both confidential and complimentary.

Ruth Frassetto, CRS

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Based on information from the East Bay Regional MLS as of October 1st, 2015. All data, including all measurements and calculations of area, is obtained from various sources and has not been, and will not be, verified by broker or MLS. All information should be independently reviewed and verified for accuracy. Properties may or may not be listed by the office/agent presenting the information.

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Given the astronomical costs of mitigating climate catastrophe, the fiscal advantages of renewable energy development take on a greater dimension. With Community Choice energy programs, communities not only join together to purchase renewable electricity on the market, but they can also pool resources to develop local renewable energy resources. This means the building of urgently needed green energy generation facilities, as Marin Clean Energy has done with Solar One, its new 49-acre, 10.5 megawatt solar facility currently under construction in Richmond. Once it's up and running, the solar farm will support 341 jobs and generate enough power for 3,400 homes per year. And it's located on a Chevron Richmond Refinery brownfield site—a perfect example of a new sustainable future emerging from the contaminated ground of fossil fuel dependence.

This is exciting for Contra Costa County, the second-most industrialized county in the state and home to four oil refineries. The EPA has designated 40,887 acres of county land as uninhabitable but suitable for renewable energy generation. If all of Contra Costa's brownfields were covered with wind and solar farms, they could produce three times the amount of renewable energy than the county could use. This local renewable energy production potential could power 1.27 million homes. Our excess renewable energy could be sold on the open market or to any of the other six Bay Area counties that already have a CCA or are planning one.

What are the specific benefits for our green-leafed sanctuary in unincorporated Kensington, admittedly far from hazardous brownfields and the refinery corridor? Outside of the obvious advantage of increased county tax revenue and lower household energy bills, there is another important advantage. Recently issued UC Berkeley maps of Bay Area carbon footprints indicate that Kensington is not quite as green as we'd like to think it is. In fact, we are veering dangerously close to the red zone of high carbon intensity. Electrification of home heating would significantly reduce Kensington's heavy carbon footprint. On February 29, the completed feasibility survey will be presented at an open meeting of the Board of Supervisors' Internal Operations Committee. Please attend to show your support. For more information, contact Catya de Neergaard at 510-525-5779. Sign a Sierra Club petition: sierra.force.com/actions/SanFranciscoBay?actionId=AR0029450.

Highlights from November-December Police Log

Wednesday, Nov. 11 HIT AND RUN, Arlington @ Oberlin avenues Vehicle into retaining wall and fled the area leaving their bumper and license plate behind. Officers were able to locate driver through license plate. Suspect questioned.

Wednesday, Nov. 25 ARREST, Cowper Avenue and Highland Blvd. Male subject from Antioch, Texas with numerous prior arrests, was cited and released for being under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, and possession of prohibited weapons. The subject also took a dog without the owner's permission but owner declined to make a theft report after the dog was returned. Further information from KPD Officer Stephanie Wilkins: "After someone is arrested, the officer will have the option to either book the suspect into the county jail, or 'cite and release' them (depending on the severity of the crime). We provide them with a citation that they must sign, promising to appear in court for their offense at a later date. Prohibited weapons/substances/ drug paraphernalia will always be confiscated and booked into evidence even though the suspect is released."

NON-INJURY ACCIDENT, Arlington Avenue Two-vehicle collision with no injuries. While taking the report, two other vehicles collided. There were no injuries. The spectacle caused by the first accident distracted a driver, resulting in the second accident.

MISCELLANEOUS, Sunset Drive Resident was out of town for the day and forgot to let their animals out for food. I was able to gain entry, fed animals. Comment by KPD Officer Stephanie Wilkins: "Every so often, residents will call on us to help with something like this. We are a full-service department, which means that we've responded to homes to assist with things like a stove possibly left on or leaky sprinklers while a resident is out of town. Residents who take advantage of our key program give us a key to their homes in case of emergency, which makes it much easier for us to provide assistance when needed."

Tuesday, Dec. 8 THEFT, Berkeley Park Boulevard Unknown suspect(s) removed property/package in-front of residence.

Sunday, Dec. 13 ATTEMPTED AUTO THEFT, Anson Way Attempted auto theft, ignition and door lock cylinders punched.

Tuesday, Dec. 15 COMMERCIAL BURGLARY, Lawson Drive Unknown suspect(s) gained access to interior of building.

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Cordova Traffic Stop Still in Limbo

By Linnea Due

On the morning of December 18, Interim Chief of Police Kevin Hart took pains to explain why KPPSCD board director Vanessa Cordova need not miss her family’s Christmas due to her traffic citation, issued in October by two Kensington Police officers in Berkeley. “December 27 is not a court date,” Hart said, referring to the date on the ticket; confusingly, the person cited must sign the form, which directs her or him to appear in court on or before that date. “What we do on a normal basis,” Hart explained, “we write a citation and file it with the court, and anywhere from thirty to sixty days, [the person ticketed] will receive something in the mail.” That something is a courtesy notice, including the court date. The person has the option of paying the ticket or showing up in court to contest it.

“She has not received a courtesy notice from the court,” Hart said. That means that Cordova could not know her court date. Moreover, she couldn’t know it because as of press time, the ticket still has not been filed with the Alameda County courts.

Cordova, who had made repeated phone calls and trips to the Wiley M. Manuel Courthouse in Oakland, attempting to nail down her court date, discovered this state of affairs via a December 22 email sent to her from Hart. In the email, Hart explains how court dates work and writes that he has a year in which to file the citation.

Why has the ticket not been filed? “I haven’t filed it yet because I wanted to see what the investigation looks like, to see if there are procedural errors in the citation process,” Hart explained. What might those be? “Citations are not typically written to a town councilmember,” he said. “I want to make sure it was done correctly to meet the law. Maybe they issued the wrong citation for the wrong violation. Maybe they did something that made it not a valid stop... I want to make sure that we do our due diligence.”

And if they made errors (beyond those already corrected by the revised ticket, such as the violation date and court)? Hart said that he can ask the court to waive the citation. Or he could correct the procedural errors and file it within the year deadline.

The results of the investigation are expected the last week of January or the first week of February. “They have a few more interviews to do so they are thorough,” Hart said. “Because all citations go through the court, [Cordova will] have to pay a nominal fee because she was cited. She had expired registration. She cleared that up in November. And she didn’t have her front license plate. She’s fixed both of those. Once I file it, she won’t have to go to court. At the end of the day, this is a fix-it ticket. That’s what this is all about.”

While Cordova and Hart are on the same page about the small change aspect of a fix-it ticket, on other issues they’re reading different books. Cordova says that Hart’s assertion that she had not cleared up her registration until November is incorrect—and judging by her paperwork, she is right. On October 2, she paid her registration and received a 60-day “vehicle moving permit” that allowed her to obtain the smog permit necessary to complete registration. When she was stopped on October 7, she had passed smog at a station on the Alameda and was headed up to the bank on Solano to pay for the test. While it is technically true that her registration was not complete, she had passed smog and had a permit to drive her car.

Cordova says she was missing her front license plate and will pay the court fee to clear that. But she plans to fight the registration citation. “I’m entitled to due process,” Cordova said, referring to Hart’s not filing the ticket. “I should be able to put this behind me sooner rather than later. How many times do we have to correct this ticket to legitimize that stop? You don’t get to hold up due process to figure out how to make your case legit. The chief appears to be hedging his political bets.”

To Cordova, the internal affairs investigation is quite separate from her citation. “I want to resolve this matter, and I want to fight a violation that should not be on my record in the first place.” She likened Hart’s holding onto the ticket as abuse of process, a legal term that means deliberately misusing court procedure.

Ad Hoc Committee Sets Timelines and Scope of Work for Three Subcommittees

By Dave Spath

The Ad Hoc Committee on Governance and Operation Structure held its public forum on existing police services January 23 (see story, page 1). The committee is now focusing on the other tasks that the KPPCSD Board of Directors outlined in the Process Framework 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.

Subcommittees have been formed to research and assess each of the three remaining tasks:

The Contracting of Police Services Subcommittee will investigate whether contracting out our police services, in whole or part, will provide reasonable and cost-effective services. The subcommittee will undertake its fact-finding on varying levels of collaboration, including but not limited to: 1) Research of similar service models in jurisdictions more focused on community policing, 2) Identifying and engaging potential interagency law enforcement partners, such as the El Cerrito Police Department, UC Berkeley Police, Contra Costa Sheriff’s Office, and East Bay Regional Park District.

The Consolidation Subcommittee’s look at consolidation may include assessing potential impacts relative to cost, service and community confidence in emergency response. This may include: 1) The ability to maintain a high level of police services, fire protection and emergency paramedic services and 2) The feasibility of maintaining cost-effective contracts with two separate bargaining units each with distinct total compensation packages. The subcommittee will enlist the Local Area Formation Commission, California Special Districts Association, and academic think-tanks to explore the success and challenges facing other urban special districts, small cities, and towns that deliver combined police and fire services.

The Bifurcation Subcommittee will research the bifurcation of the current general manager (GM)/Chief of Police (COP) position and analyze the economy of alternatives posed by the community, including but not limited to: 1) Part-time GM; 2) Full-time police captain or lieutenant instead of COP or 3) Shared GM or COP. The subcommittee will present cost benefits of all alternatives to our current structure relative to alternative scenarios, such as contracting out or district consolidation.

Work plans and timelines to be defined

The subcommittees each developed a draft work plan and timeline for completion of work. The work plans are being further detailed to more clearly define the nature of the investigations and to identify the resources and research methods needed to develop comprehensive data.

The subcommittees will provide the full committee with updates at the regular committee meetings and will seek input from the public at those meetings. We strongly urge public participation and engagement during the process. The committee meets the first Thursday of each month at the Community Center. Meetings begin at 7pm.



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Kensington Calendar

Ongoing Low Impact Jazzercise, 8:15-9:15am; Kensington Community Center. Monday through Friday.

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

Ongoing Acrylic Artist, 9:45am-12:30pm, Kensington CC. Every Wednesday.

February 1 Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs” All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We 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. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

February 2 Best of Myth at the Movies: *Cinema Paradiso*. View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7-9:15pm. \$8 per session. 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.

February 2 Art Lecture: Celebrate Lunar New Year Join us for the second presentation in a three-lecture series presented by docents from the Asian Art Museum.6:30-7:30pm, El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Free.

February 2, 9, 16, and 23 Family Storytime. Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

February 4 Valentine Votive Craft. Join us for a chance to create something beautiful for your home or special someone! Create your own personalized glass candleholder and take the candle home, too! Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 3pm. Free. 524-3043.

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

February 6 Read to Izzie. Izzie is a registered therapy dog and she loves to have children read to her. Fifteen-minute appointments can be booked; walk-ins welcome to remaining time. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 2:00pm-

4:00pm. Free. 524-3043.

February 7 Rev. László Major, current Balázs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry; studied in Transylvania; Parish Minister at Unitarian Congregation of Dak. “Simplicity is the Ultimate Sophistication.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302.

February 7 Love Songs and Chocolate Concert, 1pm. Tickets at the door: \$20 adults/\$15 students & seniors/\$5 children under 12. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

February 8 Three Jewels of Rome: Cheisa Nuova Join local artist and art historian Michael Stehr for part I of his three-part art lecture series, Three Jewels of Rome. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

February 9 Insect Discovery Lab. Explore the fantastic lives of beetles, millipedes, tarantulas, walking sticks, whip scorpions and more! See how insects defend themselves and learn to identify them. Register now for this chance to see and touch ambassadors from the incredible insect world! Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 3-4pm. Best for 3rd through 7th graders. Free. 524-3043.

February 11 El Cerrito Garden Club meeting and guest speaker. Trish Clifford, a master gardener and certified Feldenkrais practitioner, will speak on the Effortless Gardening Program, a Feldenkrais program that uses neuromuscular reeducation to promote movement awareness and efficiency while working in the garden.El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane at 9:30 a.m. Members free, guests \$3. Bonnie (510) 237-4654.

February 13 Love Songs & Chocolate Concert, 7:30pm. Tickets at the door: \$20 adults/\$15 students & seniors/\$5 children under 12. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

February 14 Susan Moon, writer, editor and lay teacher in the Soto Zen tradition; author of a number of books about Buddhism, including *The Hidden Lamp: Stories from Twenty-Five Centuries of Awakened Women*. “What Does Death Have to Teach the Living?” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

February 16 Berkeley Garden Club Lecture Program, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue. Bonsai

demonstration by Johnny Uchida, Bonsai expert and nurseryman 12:30-1 plant exchange, 1-2 meeting, 2-3 lecture.

February 20 The Puppet Company presents Mae Lin and the Magic Brush. Celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year at the El Cerrito Library. The Puppet Company will perform the story, Mae Lin and the Magic Brush. All ages welcome! El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 11am. Free. 510-526-7512

February 21 Nancy Abrams, lawyer, author of several books, activist, scientist and philosopher, Fulbright Scholar; was interviewed by Deepak Chopra as part of his Deepak Homebase series and has lectured at NASA. “A God That Could Be Real in the Scientific Universe.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

February 22 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*, by Gabrielle Zevin. Book Club normally meets on the 4th Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

February 27 One-Day Dream Workshop with Jeremy Taylor. 9:30am–5pm. Suggested donation \$ 60. To register, contact Lonnie Moseley (510) 655-1444 or email lonniemoseley@hotmail.com.

February 28 Nicoletta Karam, Bay area educator with PhD in Arab-American history; author of *The 9/11 Backlash* and other writings. “Kahlil Gibran’s ‘Pen Bond’: Feminism and Spirituality in Jazz-Age New York.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

February 29 “Drought Adapted Landscapes.” Kensington Library, 6:30pm, free lecture by Master Gardeners. Hear ideas about gardening with limited water and how to understand Mediterranean climate and plants. California receives little to no rain in the summer, typical of Mediterranean climates. Come learn about how plants have adapted to regions with little to no summer rain. A drought-tolerant garden need not be a lone cactus in a sea of rocks!

March 1 Art Lecture: The Art of Tea Join us for the third presentation in a three-lecture series presented by docents from the Asian Art Museum. 6:30-7:30pm, El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Free.

Town Meetings

(Schedule Subject to Change – Call to Confirm.)

Kensington Community Center 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington
KCC-February 1, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 7:30pm. 525-0292

FKL-February 2, Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm (at the Library) 1st Tuesdays

Ad Hoc Committee-February 4, 7pm, Community Center. 1st Thursdays

KPSC-February 8, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

KARO/ECHO-Amateur Radio Operators 2nd Mondays of odd months, 7:30pm. 524-9815

KFPD-February 10, Fire Protection District 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD-February 11, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

KIC-February 22, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 524-7514.

KMAC (Tent.)-February 23, Municipal Advisory Council Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s office to confirm: 231-8691)

KPOA Property Owners Association Meets quarterly. 559-8232

Kensington Farmers’ Market Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm, Colusa Circle.

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