

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

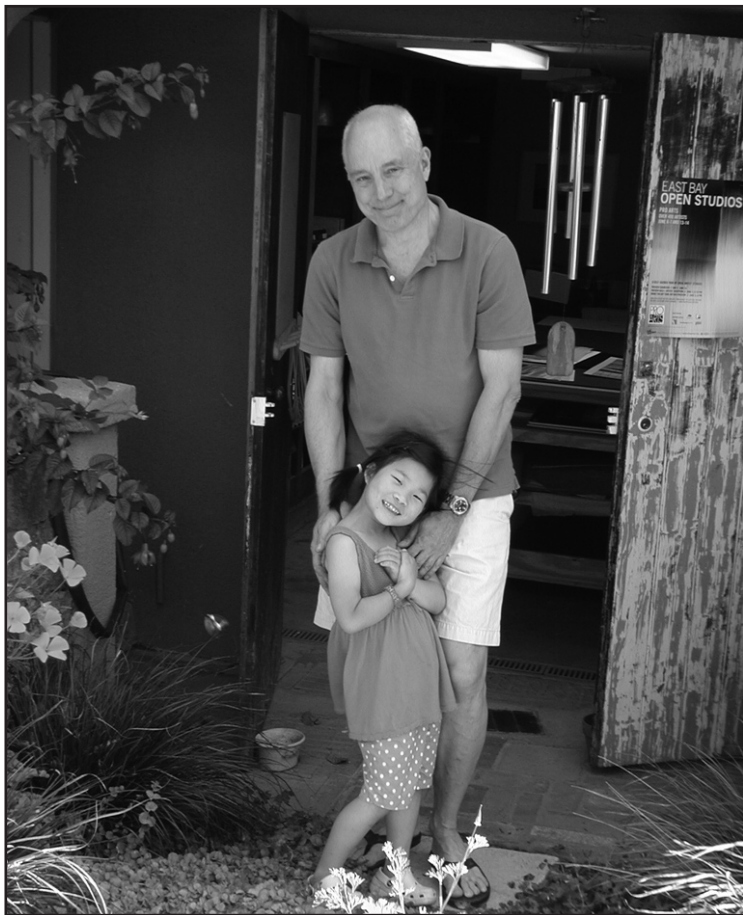
K E N S I N G T O N

O U T L O O K

JULY/AUGUST 2009

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VOLUME 66 NUMBER 6



Kensington painter and photographer; David Kwett, and daughter, Anna, in front of his home studio at East Bay Open Studios in June. You can still see some of David's work at <http://dkwett.wordpress.com/2008/12/31/fog/>

Inside the KPPCSD

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District continues to confront budget, morale, and personnel challenges.

Budget. The increasing compensation (including retiree costs) associated with providing public safety in Kensington has now outstripped relatively flat property tax growth. Proposals to solve projected budget deficits include: putting to a vote an increase of the police tax assessment, reducing the number of officers, and/or contracting out police services to El Cerrito.

Morale. Claims by some police officers of a “hostile work environment” pre-date current Chief, Greg Harman’s tenure, and appear to endure. (The investigator who performed the two internal investigations #08-04 and #08-05 – “alleged hostile work environment,” initiated in 2008, determined that “there has not been a hostile work environment as alleged.”)

As personnel issues such as these are private by statute, it’s difficult to get the facts about the exact nature of the officers’ past and current complaints. Neither the Board President, Bill Wright, Chief Harman, nor the four officers rumored to be absent without leave appear to be at liberty to speak. (Recent reports indicate two of the four have apparently returned to work.)

Previous interim Chief of Police, Brown Taylor, has been engaged as a consultant to assist the board and Chief in dealing with the personnel problems faced by the District. Wright says Taylor’s mandate will be to “take a look at the reporting structure, directions for the future, provide guidance to the chief, (and) to work with us individually, so the board has the benefit

See KPPCSD, page 5...

An Open Letter to the Town of Kensington

Dear Residents,

K.C.C. has identified badly-needed improvements to the Community Center and will be working in tandem with the K.P.P.C.S.D. in the hiring of an architect and contractor to accomplish the work.

Ideally, the improvements will include a new kitchen, refurbished bathrooms, replacement of the heating system and, if our capital reserves allow, opening up of the west wall of the Community Center to the outside garden area.

Finally, we would like to solicit your ideas on what might be the best use for the area around the old tot lot, next to the library.

There exists a great deal of talent in this town, as well as a strong commitment, past and present, to volunteering to participate in projects which improve our community. I am hoping

See Town, page 5...

KENSINGTON
OUTLOOK

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You're Invited!

An invitation from the President of the Kensington Community Council, Bruce Morrow, and the Police Chief/General Manager, Greg Harman, of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District.

Topic: Improvements to the Kensington Park and the Kensington Community Center; **Date:** Saturday, July 25, 10a.m. to Noon; **At:** the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington.

Chief Harman and I are sponsoring a forum to give the community an opportunity to discuss a combined initiative, which will address possible improvements to the Park, utilizing the Prop. WW Park funds by the Community Services District, as well as, upgrades/renovations to the Community Center, utilizing a combination of community contributions and funding underwritten by the Kensington Community Council.

We look forward to your participation and welcome your ideas and suggestions. Thank you.

Bruce Morrow, President
Kensington Community Council

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
Signs of our times.
A hearty thank you! from this corner at least to those few who took the creative initiative to conceive, install, and pay for the new *Welcome to Kensington* sign. Seems friendly, mellow, and certainly green. And stylistically evocative of the era Kensington arose on this hillside. Most folks I've spoken with agree to its positive appeal, especially considering the splintery-looking and otherwise unimaginative sign it replaced that most of us, I daresay, simply ignored or endured.

Now if gaudy/ugly's still the topic, one can do little worse than the authoritarian, hostile and boringly formulaic and-a-one-two-three-four-FIVE STOP signs gracing this intersection, one of which compromises the new *welcome* sign as seen from the south. Wouldn't YIELD signs be more appropriate to this mature and peaceful village? My knowledge of the stop signs' pre-history is that the intersection was largely problem-free and certainly no site of public sacrifice and carnage. But if two stop signs there simply must be at the ARLINGTON ACE hardware store, why not have the offending left (west)-side sign be mounted on the light post not far beyond (northward)? After all, that's what was done coming the other way (south). Think of all the annual pollution caused by all this braking to stop, not to mention fuel waste by having to drive in lower gears even more. And, why not take a clue from cities in Germany, Belgium, Italy, and France now enjoying freedom from any traffic control signage at major intersections?

Could it be the dreaded HSI (hyper-signage-itis) syndrome that explains the suffering certain Kensingtons are experiencing over the new sign? There's even been a call for a community-wide meeting to establish a committee (a la Berkeley's fabled Arts Commission, perhaps?) to guide us to a more artistically palatable new-new sign. After Diebenkorn? Modigliani? Schoolyard swing set becomes a space station?

Happy New Year, folks! [sic]
— Dick Riemann. (5/9/09)

Our independent police department reflects the unique character and values of Kensington residents. Residents and officers know each other and our police officers know our community. Because we

have local control over our police services, we have been able to contain costs and ensure a high level of service from trained peace officers. But there is a move afoot to contract our police services out to El Cerrito or some other police department. If that were to happen, we would be forfeiting our ability to meaningfully affect staffing levels and costs, and to ensure the highest level of protection for Kensington residents. The impact on our community could be devastating, as the needs of the Kensington community would no longer be the first priority of the police. And without a local and dedicated police department, an important part of what makes our town a safe and comfortable place to raise our children would be lost.

Many residents in this community do not believe this decision – that will affect and touch all of our lives – should be made in a meeting room on a weeknight with only a few Kensington residents in attendance. For that reason, we are petitioning for an initiative to ensure that changes in the way police services are provided to our community can be made only with the approval of a majority of the voters.

If you want to have a say in the way police services are delivered, signing the petition is the only way to make that happen. Otherwise, our independent police services may be drastically changed without the input or support of the Kensington community at large.

We will be circulating the petition over the summer. The circulators of the petition will be happy to answer any questions about this critical issue.

— Pat Gillette, Paul Dorroh, Gretchen Gillfillan, Walter Gillfillan, John C. Norcross, John Stein, Kathy Stein

A sign recently erected on the vacant lot on the Colusa Circle (401 Colusa) misleadingly depicts a 3-story building, and mentions available office space. Many residents have concluded that this indicates the 401 Colusa property owners have received approval from the County to build this project. But that is not the case.


The Kensington Municipal Advisory Council unanimously recommended against this plan. [sic] It was then rejected last October in a 5-1 vote of the Contra Costa County Planning Commission. The owners are now appealing that decision to the County Board of Supervisors. Our neighborhood group has advocated that the building be limited to 2 stories to protect residential views of San Francisco

See Letters, page 5...

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Candace Hyde-Wang 524.0800



428 Michigan Avenue Berkeley

Mediterranean w/grand living room, cathedral ceiling & stone fireplace. 3br/3 ba, dining room, sunny office & bonus rooms. Lovely gardens. Near Village. Price upon request.


Celia Concus 524.0800



736 Coventry Road Kensington

Wonderful 3br/2ba with expansive Bay views. Great floor plan, huge yard w/deck, hot tub. In-law potential & plus rooms, hardwood floors, formal dining room. Offered at \$800,000


Todd & Ron 527.9111



1645 Julian Drive El Cerrito

Spacious 2br/2ba. Charming garden & front porch, new kitchen, family room, large deck, backyard with mature trees. Nr Hilltop Elementary, library. Offered at \$699,000


Toba & Suzanne 524.0800



58 Arlington Court Kensington


Utterly charming 2br/1ba on coveted street. Extensively remodeled eat-in kitchen, lovely architectural details, inglenook, numerous upgrades. Near Northbrae. Offered at \$679,000

Sheri Madden 524.0800



1402 Edith Street Berkeley

marvingardens.com





JOHN DEY,
Owner

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Excellent
References

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Prime lot with Regional Park land view \$299,000

Coming Soon



8210 Terrace Drive, El Cerrito

4BR/2.5BA

Offered at \$1,150,000

300 Vermont Avenue, Kensington

3BR/2.5BA

Price Upon Request

El Cerrito Hills

Walter Ratcliff Mid-Century,

large property and very special.

Offered at \$1,900,000

Pending Sales - Kensington

55 Kenyon Ave. Kensington 3+BR/2BA

12 Jessen Ct. Kensington 5BR/2BA*

33 Edwin Dr. Kensington 4BR/3.5BA**

*Pending bank approval

**Representing the buyer

Recent Sales

1415 Devonshire Dr, El Cerrito 3+BR/2BA

66 Eureka Ave. Kensington 4BR/2BA

642 Beloit Ave. Kensington 5R/2BA

6960 Fairview Dr. El Cerrito 3BR/1.5BA

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Neighborhood Notes

First Friday Art Walk - Colusa Circle - July 3rd and August 7th

Once a month on the first Friday, participating businesses across the country – and now in Kensington – stay open from 6-9pm and greet art lovers with art, music, wine and more. In June there were local artisans (including painter, Claudine Fribusch, shown here), a street musician, and free refreshments at many businesses on Colusa Circle.



New Optometrist in Kensington

Kevin Dong has recently joined Dr. Cottrell at Kensington Optometry. Dr. Dong is a therapeutics-trained optometrist, and received his doctorate from UC Berkeley's School of Optometry. Practicing in the Bay Area for the last 6 years, Dr. Dong believes it's important to get to know how his patients use their eyes so that he can tailor the prescription to meet their unique lifestyle needs. When asked what he enjoys most about Optometry, Dr. Dong answers with a smile, "Building the Doctor-Patient relationship." Info at 527-1714.

Red Panda Acrobats Perform at Kensington Library

Last month, Friends of the Kensington Library presented the Red Panda Acrobats in a spectacular performance incorporating exceptional acrobatic skills, traditional Chinese music, and colorful costumes. Wayne Huey is shown here with talented local assistant.



Yoga In Kensington

Yoga classes are now being held at the White Magnolia Tai Chi School, 281 Arlington Ave. A great place for beginners and accomplished Yogis as well, with each class geared for all experience levels. First class free for Kensington residents. Tuesdays and/or Sundays beginning in July. Info at (831) 596-7170.

Hilltop School Carnival a Huge Success

Let's have a hand for all who had a hand in making last month's 62nd Annual Hilltop Elementary School Carnival a fun day for all – volunteers, coordinators, and sponsors, too numerous to list – you know who you are. More than a thousand people attended the event, which raised over \$19,000 to benefit the school. Good job!



Kensington Public Safety Council + Disaster Preparedness Class

A new information exchange on Disaster Preparedness Response between residents, block captains, and fire and police services meets the 2nd Monday of every month, 6:30-7:30pm, in the Community Center. Learn about local resources, including Neighborhood Watch, County Hazard Mitigation, the EC/Kensington Emergency Plan and shelters, and KARO-Echo Ham Radio Operation. Speakers, guests, & refreshments. 508-8163.

And don't forget the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training series, to be held in Kensington beginning Sept. 2nd. Prepare for The Big One, with basic first aid, fire suppression, and search & rescue skills! ElCerritoKensingtonCERT.org, or 215-4450.

Dad's Club Year-End Party

The Dad's Club at Hilltop Elementary wrapped up another year of service last month, with a celebratory dinner and dance at the Community Center. Whether it needs fixing, feeding, or funding, the Dads Club gets it done. Bravo to these fathers for being present in a big way in their children's lives!

Contest for Teens at the Library

For teens who like to draw comics or write: Enter the Kensington Library's DIY Comic and Short Story Contests, this summer. Prizes for the winners! More info at 524-3043.

Beacon Hill Village Living Room Chat - Sunday, Aug. 23rd at 2pm

The Beacon Hill Village concept, which offers services that help seniors and the disabled stay in their homes longer, will be discussed for Kensington on Sunday, August 23rd, at 2pm, in Kensington. Information/Reservations: please call Melissa at 526-3297 or Betty at 524-8260; email them at TimeAndThyme@aol.com; or go to www.beaconhillvillage.org



Arlington Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
• SUNDAY •
8:45 Bible Study
10:00 Morning Worship
52 Arlington Avenue • Kensington, CA 94707 • 526-9146 • www.acc-ucc.org

Rev. Al Williams, Interim Minister
An Open and Affirming Church

K E N S I N G T O N

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KCC Summer Camp

Please call (510) 525-0292 to register for summer camp. (Registration forms are available at www.aboutkensington.com.)

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in fall 2009. The camp runs June 15 through August 21, 2009, Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm. 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 \$7 fee paid to our camp director.

- Each week the campers will enjoy:
- Field trip on Wednesday by private bus to points of interest around the Bay Area such as Scandia, Water World, the Exploratorium and the Jungle.
 - Special activities such as carpentry, gymnastics, golf, dance and cooking.
 - Tennis with Kim Roots, three days per week.
 - Games, arts & crafts, hiking and fun!



SUMMER CAMP SPECIAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE*

- Week 4, July 6-July 10, Golf with Alex Brown; field trip to The Exploratorium.
- Week 5, July 13-17, Gymnastics with Judy Baker; field trip to Scandia.
- Week 6, July 20-24, Gymnastics with Judy Baker; field trip to Oakland A's game.
- Week 7, July 27-31, Hip Hop with Tati Argue; field trip to Lake Temescal.
- Week 8, Aug. 3-7, Sports and Games w/Kim Roots; field trip to Waterworld.
- Week 9, Aug. 10-14, Cooking with Janet Martorano; field trip to Pier 39/Alcatraz/Aquarium.
- Week 10, Aug. 17-21, Cooking with Janet Martorano; field trip to The Jungle.

**Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances.*

KIM ROOTS' SUMMER TENNIS CLINIC 2009
Grades 1 - 6

- Session 1.....July 6-10
Session 2.....July 13-17
Session 3.....July 20-24
Session 4.....July 27-31
Session 5.....Aug. 10-14
Session 6.....Aug. 17-21

LOCATION:
Kensington Tennis Courts

TIME: 1-3pm

COST: \$80 per week

MINIMUM: 6 students per class
(Session will take place if at least six students enroll.)

MAXIMUM: 10 students per class

Clinic includes stroke instruction, play, and ball-machine practice. For information, please call Kim Roots at 526-6730, or the KCC office at 525-0292.

Children are registered on a first come first served basis in the KCC office, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, Monday through Friday 10am to 3pm. Emergency card, registration and waiver forms must be completed prior to the beginning of the session. For further information or to request an application, please call the KCC office at 525-0292.

ADULT CLASSES

New Location for Summer!



User-Friendly Pilates

Get Stronger Without Getting Hurt
Wednesdays 7:30-8:30pm

Series of 7 classes starting June 17 and continuing through July 29. Students may join after 1st class, space permitting. Please call instructor for info.

This class is for anyone who wants an introduction to Pilates and for those who want to get stronger without getting hurt. Your core muscles protect your spine and prepare you for strenuous activities. Developing core strength involves engaging your deepest abdominal, lumbar, and pelvic floor muscles. Where: Kensington Community Center (*Youth Hut*)

Minimum of 7 students required for class; Cost: \$84 for seven classes (residents); Non-residents add \$1 surcharge. Please register with KCC.

The instructor, Ernie Adams, presents an intelligent, less stressful way of learning Pilates and has 16 years experience specializing in movement education and injury prevention. He is a Certified Pilates Instructor and Feldenkrais® Practitioner with an extensive background as a professional dancer.



Ernie Adams

In addition to private practice, Ernie Adams has many years clinical experience collaborating with physical therapists and chiropractors to treat orthopedic, neurological, and dance and sports injuries. These include improving walking, balance, posture, back care, scoliosis, MS, CP, Parkinson's, traumatic brain injury and stroke, repetitive strain and chronic pain, and movement re-education. He offers individual sessions and classes at his offices in Albany and El Cerrito.

For more information about the class, please contact Ernie at (510) 619-9223 or adams@bodyinaction.com. Website is www.bodyinaction.com.

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 class.

Where: Kensington Community Center (*Youth Hut*)

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 525-0292.

See a very short video about our camp, filmed by Kensington Hilltop graduate and Kensington resident, Beau Cardall:
www.kccdaycamp.com

Spaces are still available in camp if you'd like to register for the summer!

Thursday Night Series:
Restorative Yoga
and Meditation

Thursdays, 7-8pm

This five-week series will blend a deep but gentle practice of yoga poses with attention to breathing and thought patterns. Each class will end with a guided meditation. The poses and meditation practice are as suitable for beginners as for those with more experience. Please bring your mat and props to class. Pre-registration is recommended.

5-week series will meet in the Kensington Recreation Building (Building E) on the following Thursdays: June 18 and 25, July 9, 16, and 23.

Series cost: \$55 (\$56 for non-residents)

Questions on Yoga class content: Call Instructor Claire Lavery at 681-3077.

For questions about registration or location, please call KCC at 525-0292.

Registration

To Register for Classes: Please call the office, unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits; those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

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-minute singles reservation. Nonresidents – \$5.

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

KASEP

The Kensington After School Enrichment Program fall session begins Mon., Sept. 21st. Fall registration is Sept. 9th. Brochures go home with Kensington Hilltop students after Labor Day.



KASEP Year End Celebration
On June 9th, KASEP administrator, Esther Hill, gathered the instructors and other friends of KASEP for an alfresco, end-of-the-school-year lunch on the Community Center lawn.

From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From April 2009

•09-1430 On 4/4/09 at 1250 hrs. Officer Barrow performed CPR on an elderly male on Arlington Ave. – the second time this year Barrow has provided this life saving service.

•09-1443 On 4/4/09 at 0930 hrs. Officer Barrow took graffiti report from a resident on Kenyon Ave. who had his car defaced.

•09-1486 On 4/7/09 at 0807 hrs. Officer Barrow took an injury accident report involving a vehicle on Arlington Ave.

•09-1502 On 4/8/09 at 1012 hrs. Officer Wilson took an identity theft report from a resident on Sunset Dr. *(It is our policy not to name victims of identity theft – we can't tell who they are!)*

•09-1579 On 4/13/09 at 1244 hrs. Officer Wilson took an attempted residential burglary report on Berkeley Park Blvd.

•09-1582 On 4/13/09 at 1500 hrs. Officer Wilson took another attempted residential burglary on Beverly Ct.

•09-1583 On 4/13/09 at 1533 hrs. Officer Barrow took an identity theft report on Kenyon Ave.

•09-1587 On 4/13/09 at 1946 hrs. Officer Wilson took a graffiti report at the Kensington Hilltop School.

•09-1635 On 4/16/09 at 1719 hrs. Officer Wilson took an identity theft report on Beloit Ave.

•09-1698 On 4/21/09 at 0719 hrs. Officer Barrow took a stolen auto report from a resident on Arlington Ave.

•09-1847 On 4/27/09 at 1208 hrs. Officer Barrow took a residential burglary report at a house being remodeled on Lake Dr.

•09-1849 On 4/27/09 at 1705 hrs. Sgt. Khan took a report of an auto burglary from a resident on Westminster Ave.

•2009-1411 On 4/3/2009, at 1318 hours, Officer Stegman responded to a report of identity theft in the 600 block of Oberlin Avenue.

•2009-1526 On 4/9/09, at 2100 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of vandalism (graffiti) at the Hilltop School. Both suspects had blonde hair, black hooded sweat shirts and sweat pants.

•2009-1644 On 4/17/09 Sgt. Hull responded to a report of residential burglary in the 00 block of Kensington Rd.

•2009-1657 On 4-18-2009, at 1230 hours, Sgt. Hull responded to a report of graffiti vandalism at the Hilltop School.

•2009-1768 On 4/24/09, at 0002 hours, Officer Stegman located vandalism (graffiti) at the Kensington Library.

•2009-1792 On 4/24/09, at 0029 hours, Officer Stegman assisted El Cerrito PD with a fight consisting of 50 subjects in the 900 block of Richmond St. *(Let's just hope one of the subjects wasn't whether evolution should be taught in schools!)*

•2009-1878 On 4/29/09, at 1000 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of identity theft in the 1600 block of Oak View Avenue. The resident was contacted by Capitol One Bank to confirm he applied for a credit card on 4-16-2009. The resident was also contacted by Barclay's Bank to confirm he applied for a credit card on 4-28-2009. The resident ran an internet based credit check on himself and learned of a third, unsuccessful, attempt to obtain credit with his personal information that was attempted at Fifth Third Bank on 4-8-2009. *(Too many credit cards already?)*

This report was submitted by Officer Khan and Officer Hull. *(The editor's comments are in italics.)*

... KPPCSD from page 1

of outside expertise in addition to relying on current staff.”

Personnel. The police department continues to be at full staffing for sworn personnel, “with two members on extended leave.” District-wide police coverage remains at pre-existing levels. Patrol functions are currently being handled by two teams, working 12-hour shifts. According to Chief Harman, the department is “in the background process” with four candidates for Reserve Police Officer.

Investigation of Alleged Misconduct. A number of investigations have been initiated (and sustained) regarding incidents from Oct. - Dec., 2008, including alleged falsification of a police report, failure to properly prepare for and testify during a court appearance, failure to report a traffic collision involving a District vehicle, and two incidents of conduct unbecoming.

Three additional investigations, which are ongoing, were initiated from January - April 2009, including an allegation that an officer failed to perform his duties during his shift, and allegations that three officers were absent without leave for 3-7 days. (Rumors estimate four officers absent without leave for at least the past month.)

The Good News. According to Lynn Wolter, because of Chief Harman’s work, Kensington now qualifies for FEMA funding. This means that we’re qualified to obtain funding for hazard mitigation work and would now be in line to receive funding following a major disaster. Also at Chief Harman’s instigation, the first meeting of the Kensington Public Safety Council was held in May. Meetings continue at the Community Center on the 2nd Monday of every month. KPPCSD meetings are now on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

We'll have a report on the other 'K' groups in our September issue.

... Letters from page 2

and limit other negative impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

The sign is a premature declaration of victory from developers who at every step of the process have ignored input from the residents around them. Doing so has done nothing to advance their plans, yet they continue to claim that a 1983 approval for a very different project somehow applies to their current plans. The County has consistently rejected this, noting that the original plan included turning the adjoining property at 411 Colusa into a parking structure.

The neighborhood group I lead seeks reasonable development of the Colusa Circle. We have previously reached agreements with Ed Hammonds and Narsai David to allow other projects on the Circle to move forward. We are not opposed to growth but believe it’s important that existing statues, such as the Kensington View Ordinance, and guidelines on parking be enforced and respected. We hope the owners of 401 Colusa can move beyond the wishful thinking evidenced by their sign and work constructively with the community to find a better solution.

• Experience Matters •

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- Estelle Kent
- Linda Lipscomb
- Stuart Marson
- Lorraine Osmundson
- Gene Millstein

Happy Golden Anniversary!

Jim and Dot Walker, high school sweethearts; UCLA graduates; parents of 4 boys; Big Cal Bear fans; and long-time Kensington residents, recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Grandchildren Christopher, Andrew, Daniel and Jonathan of Vashon Island, Washington join their Mom and Dad in wishing a very Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary to their grandparents!

ton View Ordinance, and guidelines on parking be enforced and respected. We hope the owners of 401 Colusa can move beyond the wishful thinking evidenced by their sign and work constructively with the community to find a better solution.

– Rodney Paul, Chair,
Colusa Circle Improvement Association

The Outlook has published several letters castigating the semi-new sign at the southern entrance to Kensington. I don’t understand this – the sign is a vast improvement over the faux-Old West lettering of the old sign. A greater puzzle is how an urn can be offensive.

– Dan Kevin

... Town from page 1

that I can once again prevail upon you, and solicit the help of the Kensington community, encouraging you to donate your expertise, your labor, and/or your capital in helping us with this initiative, since the project will benefit everyone.

If you are in a position to be of assistance, or share our ideas, please contact me at 526-6500 and leave a message regarding what you might be able to provide. Any help will be most welcome.

As this initiative develops, we will be regularly reporting to the community in *The Outlook* regarding its progress.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and assistance.

Bruce V. Morrow, President
Kensington Community Council

This letter has been re-printed from the May issue of The Outlook, at the request of the KCC Board.

Obituaries

Berton H. Wilson, a long-time Kensington resident, passed away peacefully on April 11, 2009. He is survived by his adoring wife, Patricia; sons, Clifford, Stephen, Neil, Evan, Berton, and Bryan; daughters, Reed Wilson and Evelyn Van Hoozer; daughters-in-law, Peggy, Rebecca, and Elena; and son-in-law, Donald VanHoozer; as well as brothers Clyde and James and their families, eleven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

“Bert,” as everyone called him, grew up in Berkeley, attended Berkeley schools, and graduated from UC Berkeley. After serving in the Army during World War II, he married his high-school sweetheart, Patricia Sutton. They settled in Kensington, where they have lived for 56 years, while Bert pursued a lifelong career as a chemical engineer for Chevron. His work took him on many voyages around the world with the shipping fleet, which instilled in him a love of travel, which he and Pat enjoyed throughout their 63 wonderful years together. He also served on the Kensington Fire Commission, the Richmond YMCA, the Boy Scouts, and the Berkeley City Commons Club board of directors, while giving time to his interest in wood-working, sail-boat racing, photography, and gourmet cooking.

Primary in his life was his love for his precious family, dear friends, and beautiful Kensington. He will live in our hearts forever. A memorial celebrating Berton’s life was held on Saturday, June 6, 2009. Contributions in remembrance may be made to a charity of one’s choice.

Obituaries are run on a space-avalable basis.
E-mail to Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

Pet of the Month

At RabbitEARS, Lucy has taken up her current post as Queen Bunny of Colusa Circle. She rules with a gentle paw, and enjoys special treats and extra attention, as any queen would. She's smart, and thrives on interaction with people and toys. If spoiling a soft, lovely bunny is your cup of tea, then you'll love Lucy! Visit Queen Lucy at RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. 7 days/wk. 525-6155, or www.rabbitears.org

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Town Meetings

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

**KCC - July 6th and Aug. 3rd
Kensington Community Council**
1st Mondays, 7:30pm. 525-0292

**KFPD - July 8th and Aug. 12th
Fire Protection District**
2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395

**KPPCSD - July 9, 23; Aug. 13, 27
Police Protection and
Community Services District**
2nd & 4th Thurs, 7pm. 526-4141
(Please note new time & schedule)

**KMAC - July 28th and Aug. 25th
Municipal Advisory Council**
Last Tuesdays, 7pm. 273-9926

Friends of the Kensington Library
7pm at the Kensington Library, 61
Arlington Avenue. 1st Tuesdays.
July 7th and Aug. 4th

**KIC - Aug. 25th (No July mtg)
Kensington Improvement Club**
4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 558-1123

**KPOA
Property Owners Association**
One annual general spring member-
ship meeting; Board of Directors
meets quarterly. 525-1709

**KARO/ECHO - July 13th
Amateur Radio Operators**
Provides assistance to community
emergency response teams in the
case of natural disasters. Actively
soliciting new members interested
in operating amateur radios as a
community service. 2nd Mondays
of odd months. 7:30pm. 524-9815

**KPSC (New!) - July 13 & Aug. 10
Kensington Public Safety Council**
EQ & Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays 6:30pm. 525-8163

Online Neighborhood Newsgroup
[http://groups.google.com/group/
kensingtontips?hl=en](http://groups.google.com/group/kensingtontips?hl=en)

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**July 1 - Aug. 31 "Ephemera of the For-
gotten - May 25th 1938"** (Mixed Media
on Library Card.) Kate Phillips' art
exhibit at the Kensington Library. Info:
524-3043 or www.charmfoundry.com

**July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Wake Up To Al-
Anon.** 7-8am. Fireside Rm, Arlington
Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

**July 3 Kensington First Friday Art
Walk.** Enjoy summer nights at partici-
pating Colusa Circle merchants offer-
ing refreshments, street music, gallery
and sidewalk art. 6-9pm. 525-6155.

July 5, 12, 19, 26 Farmers' Market.
Sundays from 10am-2pm. Oakview
Ave. at the Colusa Circle. 524-5604
farmersmarket@aboutkensington.com

**July 5 "Freedom Schools, Children's
Sabbath, and the Goals of the Chil-
dren's Defense Fund."** A talk by
Carson Perez, Program Associate for
the CDF-California. Unitarian Univer-
salist Church of Berk., 1 Lawson Road,
Kensington, 10am. Free. 525-0302.

July 6 "Castoffs" Knitting Group. All
levels welcome and help is provided.
Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave.
7 pm. Free. 524-3043. (1st Mondays)

July 7, 14, 21 & 28 Family Storytime.
Fun stories for preschoolers and up, &
their families. Kensington Library, 61
Arlington Ave. 7 pm. Free. 524-3043

**July 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 Yoga with
Kimberly Wolff.** White Magnolia Tai
Chi School, 281 Arlington Ave., 7:15am.
First class free. Info: 831-596-7170.

**July 9, 16, 23 & 30 Baby/Toddler Sto-
rytime.** Stories, songs & action rhymes
for young children and their caregivers.
Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave.
10:15 & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

July 10 Dance to Traditional Jazz played
by the Gateswingers Jazz Band at 33
Revolutions Record Shop and Cafe,
10086 San Pablo Ave. at Central, El
Cerrito, 7:30pm. No cover. 898-1836.

July 11 Rabbit Adoption Day. Lots
of baby bunnies! RabbitEARS, 377
Colusa Ave., 1-4pm. 525-6155

July 12, 19, 26 Yoga with Tony Wolff.
White Magnolia Tai Chi School, 281
Arlington Ave. 9am, 10:30am, and
12:15pm. 1st class free. 831-596-7170.

**July 12 What's Happening in the Dis-
trict?** A talk by West Contra Costa
School District board member, Antonio
Medrano. Unitarian Unitarian Univer-
salist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson
Rd, Kensington, 10am. Free. 525-0302

**July 13 Folk Songs with local musicians,
Sharyn Dimmick and Carol Denney.**
Traditional ballads, original songs, and
19th century compositions. Kensington
Library, 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

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-The Contra Costa Times*



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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

July 18 Colusa Circle Community FreeCycle. Keep serviceable goods out of landfill through a local trading and swapping network. Bring your wonderful but forgotten treasures to Colusa Circle and give them all away. Take home someone else’s treasures for free! (Don’t bring dirty or trashed items.) Salvation Army will haul away the leftovers at the end of the day. 11am-5pm. To reserve a space or drop off items, call RabbitEARS, 525-6155.

July 18 Kathryn Roszak and her Children’s Dance Program. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 3:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

July 18 Pet Seminar. Easy Tips To Save Money on your Pets While Treating them Really Well; plus Forum on Traveling with Pets. New baby hamsters, rats, mice, guinea pigs and bunnies for adoption at RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. 1-4pm. 525-6155

July 19 Family Brunch & Blues Concert featuring Kensington’s own Blues Daddies. Food and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Dancing! Children welcome. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 11:30am-1pm. Free. 526-9146.

July 19 Social Action Summer Forum. Leon Litvak, Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley, and author: “Fight the Power After the Civil Rights Movement.” Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, 10am. Free. 525-0302, ext. 306

July 20 Author Talk and Slide Show with Alonzo Addison, “Disappearing World: 101 of the Earth’s Most Extraordinary and Endangered Places,” will speak about UNESCO’s mission to protect and preserve cultural and natural heritage sites around the world. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue, 7 pm. Free. 524-3043

July 25 KPPCSD Public Meeting to discuss possible options for improvements in the park. Community Ctr, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington 10am-Noon

July 26 Social Action Summer Forum. Sharon Tennison, Dir. of the Center for Citizen Initiatives: “U.S.-Russian Relations.” Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, 10am. Free. 525-0302, ext. 306

July 27 Book Club: Discussion of *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue. 7 pm. Free. 524-3043. (4th Mondays)

Aug. 1 Peter Apel, *Dinosaur on my Head.* Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 3:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Aug. 2 Rights of Farm Animals. Lecture/discussion with Kristie Phelps, of *In Defense of Animals*. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 10am. Free. 525-0302

Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Farmers’ Market. Sundays from 10am-2pm. Oakview Ave. at the Colusa Circle. 524-5604 or farmersmarket@aboutkensington.com

Aug. 3 Castoffs Knitting Group. All levels welcome and help is provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7 pm. Free. 524-3043. (1st Mondays)

Aug. 4 & 11 Family Storytime. Fun stories for preschoolers and up, and their families. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7 pm. Free. 524-3043

Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26 Wake Up To Al-Anon. 7-8am. Fireside Room, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

Aug. 6 & 13 Baby/Toddler Storytime. Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 10:15 & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

Aug. 7 Kensington First Friday Art Walk. Enjoy summer nights at participating Colusa Circle merchants offering refreshments, street music, gallery and sidewalk art. 6-9pm. 525-6155.

Aug. 8 Bunny Adoption Fair at RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave., 1-4pm.

Aug. 9 The Obama Administration and Social Justice. Lecture/discussion with Department of African American Studies at UCB’s Professor Charles Henry. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, 10am. Free. 525-0302, ext. 306

Aug. 10 Stroke Awareness Program. Harvey Brosler, of the Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County, speaks about stroke, diabetes, heart disease, and their symptoms. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free.

Aug. 10 – 15 Peace Child, Summer Arts Camp — dancing, acting, art, music and puppets. Ages 8-14. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 9am-1pm. 526-9146.

Aug. 15 Fratello Marionettes. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 3:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Aug. 15 Peace Child Musical Theater Performance at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 7pm. 526-9146

Aug. 16 Family Brunch & Blues Concert featuring Kensington’s own Blues Daddies. Food and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Dancing! Children welcome. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 11:30am-1pm. Free. 526-9146.

Aug. 16 Iran Today. Lecture/discussion with Iranian journalist, Ali Es-hraghi. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 10am. Free. 525-0302, ext. 306

Aug. 16 Small Critter Adoption Fair. RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave., 1-7pm.

Aug. 18 Mad Science & Summer Reading Program Prize Party. Sponsored by Friends of the Kensington Library. Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Aug. 23 Social Justice & the Environment. Free lecture and discussion with Sierra Magazine’s Bob Shildgen. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 10am.

Aug. 24 Book Club: Discussion of *The Witches of Eastwick* by John Updike. Kensington Library, 7 pm. Free.

Aug. 30 Current Events in the Middle East. Lecture/discussion with Dr. Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics and Int’l Studies at USF. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 10am. Free. 525-0302

Sept. 2 Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters discusses local issues. 39 Stratford Rd. 1:15pm. Guests welcome. Call 525-5187 to confirm.

Sept. 2 Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training starts at the Community Center. (Details pg 9.)

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Eureka Avenue	4	2	\$755,000
Kensington Court	4	3	\$675,000
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Lake Drive	2	1	\$477,000

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