

**JULY/AUGUST 2015** 

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**VOLUME 72 NUMBER 6** 



### KFPD Celebrates 20th Anniversary!

(Article submitted by Janice Kosel, KFPD Director)

The Kensington Fire Protection District is celebrating the 20th year of its contract with the City of El Cerrito. Under the contract, Kensington owns the public safety building and the equipment, including two fire engines, and the KFPD Board, working with our Fire Chief, assesses the needs of Kensington and sets District policy. El Cerrito provides Kensington with three firefighters around the clock as well as administrative services. As a result, the district has only one employee—a half-time Manager.

At the time of the initial contract, the District was in a very difficult financial position. It had become apparent that it was simply not cost efficient to run a single-station independent fire district for a community as small as Kensington. This relationship with El Cerrito has given the District the ability to provide an exceptional level

of service to the community of Kensington.

During the last two decades, the Kensington Fire Protection District has thrived—some of the many accomplishments include:

Installation of 33 hydrants throughout the community and over 7,000 feet of pipeline improvements. As a result, the community as a whole is much safer from the threat of wild land interface fire.

Because of the water system improvements, the high level of training of our firefighters, and the acquisition by El Cerrito of a ladder truck, the insurance rating for the community has been raised to level 2 from an initial level 4 when the contract started.

KFPD has fully funded our retirees' benefits as well as maintain reserves for engine replacement and building mainte-

— Continued on back page

### Kevin Hart Hired as KPPSCD Interim General Manager

(Article submitted by KPPSCD Board Member Rachelle Sherris-Watt)

With great civic spirit, the Unitarian Universalist Church, provided space and set up for the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District for two meetings in as many months. Master Sergeant and acting Chief of Police, Ricky Hull and all five directors were on hand for the rescheduled June 1 meeting which included public comment from over twenty concerned community members and fea-

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### **KPPCSD Wants You**

Applicants interested in a role on the ad hoc committee to evaluate different ideas for structuring our special district are invited to complete the application available at www.kensingtoncalifornia.org.

Those with a desire to present empirical evidence, offer analysis and provide leadership for thoughtful civic discourse under a tight timeline, are encouraged to apply. The commitment will vary, but at the minimum involves monthly meetings and outside research for a period of six to twelve months. Applications will be accepted from July 1.



#### KENSINGTON MARKET UPDATE



We have dozens more listings available throughout the East Bay.

Call for details or to talk about real estate 524.0800.



COMING SOON ~ 40 Rincon Rd 4br/2.5ba Tudor



PENDING ~ 83 Norwood Ave 3br/1.5ba on park-like estate

PENDING ~ 204 Arlington Ave, 4br/3ba. Listed at \$849,000 PENDING ~ 217 Willamette Ave, 3br/2ba. Listed at \$850,000

Our recent listings sold at or above asking price. Please call for details on pricing.

SOLD! 460 Coventry Rd ~ 3br/2ba ~ Listed at \$899,950 SOLD! 606 Canon Drive ~ 4br/2ba ~ Listed at \$895,000 SOLD! 12 Highland Blvd ~ 3br/2ba ~ Listed at \$719,000 SOLD! 239 Trinity Avenue ~ 2br/1ba ~ Listed at \$695,000

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For more information visit prospectsierra.org

#### Kevin Hart, continued from page 1

tured the hiring of Kevin E. Hart for the position of interim General Manager.

A discussion ensued about recent articles published in the *Outlook* written independently by individual Board Directors without contribution from Directors Cordova, Gillette, or Sherris-Watt. Therefore, it must be noted that this article has not been vetted by the Board and the opinions expressed are the author's own.

During the closed session, a discussion of issues related to the hiring of the new interim General Manager/Chief of Police and terms proposed for the KPPCSD/KPOA (Kensington Police Officers Association) Memorandum of Understanding were discussed. Returning to the open session, Board President, Len Welsh reported that Director Chuck Toombs and Jon Holtzman, lead negotiator from the firm of Renne Sloan Hotzman Sakai, LLP, would be present during the labor negotiations on the proposed MOU. This decision, reached with the advice of legal counsel, differs from what was explained previously to the public.

Director Cordova related that in response to photos of various civic displays on social media, Supervisor John Gioia made the generous offer that, "If the Kensington community wants to redesign its' sign, I'd be glad to get County Public Works to make and install a new sign."

The initial findings of the volunteer Information Gathering Group to give feedback on data security for the District were read into the public record. The contributors, Ryan Anderson, Rick Artis, Sergeant Kevin Hui, and Director Sherris-Watt, are not subject matter experts, but applied the common sense test to identify areas of concern or where protocol could be improved to prevent security breaches from unauthorized users. After evaluating roughly fifty focus areas, the group suggested places for improvement and exploration, but found no cause for alarm. Their complete statement can be found on www.kensingtoncalifornia.org.

With a 5-0 vote, the Board selected Kevin E. Hart to fill the position of interim General Manager/Chief of Police for Kensington. Mr. Hart assumed the position of General Manager June 8, but due to the time frame requirement for background checks for police, he will not take over the Chief's role until mid-July. Besting an impressive set of candidates,

Mr. Hart has a resume of breadth and depth. A former school board member, he is a current City Councilman for Dublin. His previous experience includes working for the Alameda County Sheriff's office, POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training), and a position as Chief of Law Enforcement for the Department of State Hospitals.

After the vote, Mr. Hart said that he looks to move the District forward and hopes to spend the first few months doing more listening than talking. With the

— Continued on page 8

#### **New Outlook Editor**

As the President of the Kensington Community Council, I am pleased to announce that we have a new editor of the Kensington *Outlook* starting in September, Linnea Due.

While attending El Cerrito High School, lifelong Kensington resident Linnea Due wrote a column for the Outlook about the doings of fellow Kensington students. That was the start of a journalism career that included 22 years as an editor at the East Bay Express and 8 years as editor of the Ecology Center's Terrain magazine. She has written feature articles on topics as disparate as feral cats at Tilden Park, the Mills College basketball team, community and school gardens in Richmond, and the tea buyer at Chez Panisse, which won a national food-writing award. An article on gay teenagers, named a Project Censored story, expanded into a book, Joining the Tribe, which was awarded a Best Book of the Year by the American Library Association. She has also published three novels, the first also an ALA Best Book, and is working on a fourth.

In between novel-writing and gardening, Due plans to present a balanced picture of Kensington. "This has been a tumultuous time and my primary interest is that the *Outlook* tell the story, not try to create the story." She hopes for a lively letters column and bylined articles that inform good decision-making on the part of Kensington residents, who, she says, "are the brightest and the best. I am positive that we will make great decisions as a community. I'd like the *Outlook* to provide a framework for communication and an era of coming together."

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. Meeting dates and times of the various community groups can be found under Town Meetings on the Kensington Calendar page.

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.

### KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

INTERIM MANAGING EDITOR AND ADVERTISING MANAGER ALMA KEY

# PUBLISHER KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

59 Arlington Avenue Kensington, CA 94707-1307

The Kensington *Outlook* is published ten times a year by the nonprofit Kensington Community Council. It is published monthly except for the combined Dec./Jan. and July/Aug. issues and is available online in PDF format at www. kensingtonoutlook.com courtesy of www. aboutkensington.com.

#### Advertising

Classified ad rates are \$7 a line with a minimum of 2 lines at \$14. One line consists of 45 spaces or characters. An online ad form is available at: www.kensingtonoutlook.com or contact our Advertising Manager by email at: advertising@kensingtonoutlook.com

Sept. Advertising Deadline . . . . August 8 Sept. Editorial Deadline . . . . August 10

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### KENSINGTON

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION

#### **KASEP**

# Kensington After-School Enrichment Program

Hard to imagine, but we are in the throes of planning our **FALL KASEP** program. **KASEP FALL** Brochures go home in Kensington Hilltop student's backpacks the second week of school, August 31. Mark your calendars for **FALL KASEP** Class Online Registration, Tuesday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m. Classes start Monday, September 21. Have a restful and safe remainder of your summer and we will see you in the fall. The **KASEP** Office will be closed August 22 through September 7. The **KASEP** website to view classes and to register is KensingtonCommunityCouncil.Org

#### **KASEP Muffin Madness Recipe Voted Best of 2015**

Students in **KASEP's** Muffin Madness class voted *S'more Brownies* as their favorite 'muffin' of the year. It is so good, KCC staff made it too! Delicious dessert and easy!

#### S'mores Brownie Muffin Recipe

Ingredients:

- Any brownie mix
- Marshmallows, small
- Graham crackers (break up into small pieces)
- Hershey chocolate bar (break up into small pieces) or chocolate chips

#### Directions:

- Preheat oven to directions on brownie mix
- Follow directions on brownie mix
- Spray muffin pan with non-stick spray
- Pour half of mixture into muffin pan
- Top off each muffin with marshmallows, graham crackers, and chocolate
- Bake in middle rack for 20–30 minutes
- Cool 30 minutes or make a day ahead of event

### WELCOME TO KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP 2015

Camp is in full swing, a very hot first day of camp with temperatures reaching up to 95 degrees! Camp life is full of activities—we have a group of serious baseball players, fancy feet soccer players, talented tennis players, craft enthusiasts and a really nice bunch of campers! There is space available in the remaining weeks of camp. Remember we added a **Week 11**, **August 17–21**, **GAP WEEK** to accommodate the late start of school (August 24). Week 11 welcomes **Legos Pay-Well** as the specialty class; the week includes group tennis lessons and of course, the weekly craft project!

Enroll by the week. One fee includes: 1 free T-shirt, entrance fee and transportation to weekly field trip, daily snack, group tennis lessons, camp arts and crafts, and of course, Friday's BBQ!

Camp Hours: 9:00 a.m- 5:00 p.m.

Extended Hours: 8:00 a.m. -9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., separate fee required.

Cost is \$250.00 per camper, per week.

Register online at www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org



Week 1 of KCC summer camp—Counselor Maddy welcomes new campers!



Big guys last year at camp-mighty 6th graders.



Counselor Cassandra outside on the hottest day of camp-95 degrees!



Summer camp – making friends!

#### **JAZZERCISE**

Monday through Friday
Ongoing (drop-ins OK)
8:15-9:15 a.m.
Kensington Community Center
Bring water and a mat

Start Working It!
Strength, Core,
Dance Mix — Jazzercise —
come see what you are missing!
Jazzercise fitness class combines
dance-based cardio with
strength training and stretching
to sculpt, tone and lengthen
muscles for maximum fat burn.
Jazzercise is a fusion of
jazz dance, resistance training,
Pilates, yoga and kickboxing.

### **BODY SCULPTING**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Ongoing

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 and we'll get started.
Questions?
Call Kevin at 486-2728;
Location for both classes:
Kensington Community Center.

Both classes will continue through summer.
Kevin, the instructor, will weave exercise around the start of summer camp.
Same place and same time,
May-September.

### **REGISTRATION**

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Avenue, Bldg. E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. Email: kccrec@yahoo.com, or call 525-0292. Mon.-Fri, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**Tennis Court Reservations:** For week-

ends and holidays only, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Call the KCC office for info. Court Fees: 45-min. singles reservation: Residents: \$2; Nonresidents: \$5. KCC Summer Camp uses the tennis courts for our campers Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:15 a.m.— 1:30 p.m.

**Kensington Community Center Rental Info:** Please call KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 510-526-4141.

#### **KCC Summer Camp Activities & Schedule**

Week 5: July 6-July 10

Specialty: Circus Arts Field Trip: Bladium/Rock Climbing and Soccer

Week 6: July 13–July 17 OLYMPIC WEEK

Specialty: Gymnastics Field Trip: Lindsay Museum— Animals of Mt. Diablo

Week 7: July 20-July 24

Specialty: Monster Mash Clay Zombies Field Trip: USS Hornet Battleship/Alameda

Week 8: July 27–July 31

Specialty: Paper Weaving Arts/ Bread Making Field Trip: Lake Temescal Week 9: August 3-August 7

Specialty: Woodland Gnomes & Fairy Houses
Field Trip: Bladium/ Rock Climbing

Week 10: August 10-August 14

Specialty: Monster Madness Paper Creations Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool Party and Grand Finale!

WEEK 11: August 17-August 21 GAP WEEK—week before school starts Specialty LEGOS Play Well Teknologies

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



Counselor Alex lends a helping hand in carpentry.



Counselor Sheridan—check out the friendship bracelets.



CIT's (Counselor Camp counselors 2013 and CIT's (Counselor in-Training); front row: Sheridan Loney, Mischa Vernon-Wyatt, Piper Carlstrom (CIT), Ben Harkless (CIT), Emily Jefferies (CIT), Jacob Punz (CIT); row 2: Mathilde McKeever (CIT), Sophia Ortiz (CIT), Ethan Houser, Director, Liam Crawford (CIT), Emily Cain, last row: Aaron Moore (CIT), Raquel Driscoll, Griffin Kamm, Alex Thompson, Jacob Fong, Co-Head Counselor, Cassandra Ruff, Emiliano Carrasco-Zanini, Co-Head Counselor. Not pictured: Galen Hans, Alex Meurer, Maddy Woelffer. Picture by Marty Westby.





3 Arlington Lane, Kensington 5BR/4BR w/central courtyard. Originally offered at \$1,080,000 Represented the Sellers



8363 Kent Dr., El Gerrito Handsome 3BR/2BA Traditional Originally offered at \$998,000 Represented the Sellers



1335 Rifle Range, El Cerrito 5BR/2.5BA Cape Cod Originally offered at \$1,148,000 Represented the Sellers

If you are considering selling in the Fall, now is the time to start planning!

#### Kensington Market Snapshot - As of June 1st, 2015

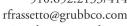
- 7 Available Listings Average List Price: \$467. per sq. ft. Average days on the market: 12
- 6 Pending Average List Price: \$475 per sq. ft. Average days on the market: 13
- 7 Sold Average List Price: \$438 per sq. ft. Average Sales Price: \$481 per sq. ft.
  - Average days on the market: 15

If you are considering selling or simply wish to know the value of your home in this market call me. All appointments are confidential and complimentary.



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Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Data provided by East Bay Regional Data - MLS.

### **Kensington Fire Protection District CERT Program—Be Prepared** for Disasters!

The imminent danger and threat from fire, earthquake, and medical emergencies are critical and complex. One of the important ways KFPD works to protect you and your neighbors is through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program taught by the Kensington Fire Protection District.

The KFPD CERT program teaches neighbors to help themselves and help each other. Through CERT, you will receive hands-on training in disaster first aid, disaster preparedness, basic firefighting, light search and rescue, damage assessment, and how to turn off utilities.

Certified CERT Training—The Kensington Fire Protection District will be holding a free CERT Class this fall. Our 20-hour program is designed to assist residents to be self-sufficient in the event of a disaster. Classes begin on Tuesday, August 25 and run weekly through Tuesday, October 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There will also be a day-long Saturday drill. This informative session will be held at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington

Avenue, Kensington, CA. To register for the session, or to make up a missed class from a previous session, please call (510) 215-4450 or email fire@kensingtonfire.org.

Community-wide CERT Drill— Save the date! A drill will be held throughout Kensington and El Cerrito on Saturday, August 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This will be a very simple, very short drill focusing on gathering at your neighborhood Disaster Meeting Spot and practicing checking in. There is no pressure to volunteer for anything. The drill will practice assigning impromptu volunteers to rescue teams and will also practice radio communication. Contact your CERT Area Coordinator (volunteer residents) to find out about what is happening in your specific area and where your neighborhood Disaster Meeting Spot is located. Kensington has six CERT areas. You can find your CERT Area Coordinator, and maps for the boundaries of CERT areas, at: http://www.elcerrito.org/index.aspx?NID=579 or contact KFPD at (510) 215-4450 to assist you.



### **Neighborhood Notes**

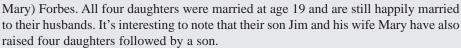
#### Frank and Barbara Forbes—Married for 75 Years!

Anna-Maria and David Hertzer nominate their wonderful neighbors, Frank and Barbara Forbes, for the honor of being Kensington's

longest residents (69 years), as well as Kensington's longest married residents (75 years)!

Frank and Barbara Forbes were married in

September 1940, and moved to their Kensington home in June 1946 where they raised their five children: four girls and one boy. Their five children are Linda (and Ken Johnson), Bonnie (and Mike Roach), Janet (and Gary Pacheco), Patricia (and Jerry Cook), and Jim (and



Frank worked for his father's business, F. E. Forbes Co. Real Estate, Insurance, and Loans. In 1943, he took over management of the real estate property insurance services, and eventually took over the whole business with his younger brother. He officially retired in 1982, but continues to check in on the business located on Solano Avenue, now run by third generation family. Located two blocks down from F.E. Forbes Co. is the dental practice of Frank and Barbara's son, James E. Forbes, D.D.S. and granddaughter, Kristen M. Forbes, D.D.S.

Frank and Barbara have always been actively involved in the Kensington community and with the Arlington Community Church. They still enjoy reading, gardening, watching a good sports game, and visiting with friends. Frank plays bridge once a month with Charlie Fender, Tom Dean and David Hertzer, all of Kensington.

Barbara will be 96 in July, and Frank will be 99 in December. They have 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. Of all their endeavors, they are most proud of their family, and it delights them that everyone still makes special efforts to be together for holidays and special occasions.

#### **Local Heroes in Kensington**

We have two heroes in our village! John Davis (left) and Will Moore (right) volunteered their time and expertise, arrived at the community center armed with electrical engineering knowledge, tools, soldering gun and repaired the center's sound system. Big thanks to these two gentlemen, both members of the Grizzly Peak Fly Fishing Organization.



Photo by Marty Westby

#### **Arlington Community Church Solar Project Completion**

Arlington Community Church of Kensington, CA announces the completion of its Solar Panel Project. The array of 72 panels, 48 facing west and 24 facing east, will be dedicated and blessed in worship on Sunday, July 12, 2015, 10:00 a.m. The worship and dedication will be presided by Rev Tony Clark, Minister of Arlington Community Church United Church of Christ, and Rev Diane Weible, Conference Minister for the Northern California-Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. Following



the worship service, a reception and cook-out will be held.

#### Hilltop's 'Under the Sea' Project an Overwhelming Success.

Thank you to everyone who participated, and we hope you and your family had a great time! To meet demand, we added a second night, and between the two nights we painted and decorated more than 275 fish and tiles! Everyone enjoyed being a part of this community-building event. The proceeds directly benefit the enrichment programs of Kensington Education Foundation. Thank you to all of the volunteers for their support and guidance and the Dads' Club for a terrific barbeque!



#### **KIC Path Beautification Project**

On the first Saturday morning in June, an all-age group of Kensington path enthusiasts met at the base of Upper Ardmore Path hauling clippers, gloves, and green waste bags. Posting signs announcing a path beautification event, the volunteers quickly donned orange KIC T-shirts and proceeded to pull weeds, remove ivy, and sweep up enough foliage to fill 21 bags of material. The Path Beautification Project, sponsored by the Kensington Improvement Club, is an all-volunteer effort dedicated to cleaning, preserving, and raising visibility of Kensington's hillside paths, of which there are currently 15 mid-block segments, all but two in regular use.

"We live on these twisty, windy roads, and the paths give little shortcuts so people aren't on the streets," says Melissa Holmes Snyder, President of the Kensington Improvement Club. "It's a unique way to get up and down the hills." The KIC has been working to refurbish the paths for "at least 20 years," says Linda Lipscomb, former president of the KIC and Vice-President of the KPPCSD Board. Not only do the paths promote a culture of walking in an increasingly car-centric world, they can be a vital route of evacuation in the event of fire or earthquake. "I'm very sensitive to ingress

— Continued on page 5

#### Neighborhood Notes, continued from page 4

and egress issues in these hills," Lipscomb says, "and I think the paths are very important from that perspective."

The KIC collects money in its annual membership solicitation, asking members if they'd like to contribute to the Paths Fund. The money is then carried in a separate account, disbursed as needed for people who come and ask for improvements in the paths. "The KIC funds the materials and also helps publicize when a group of volunteers gets together for an improvement party," says Lipscomb, "but we have our limitations as to how much we can take on."

"There's 100+ years of history of the paths," says Bryce Nesbitt, an advocate for the paths who joined the project in 2010, when the KIC and KPOA funded the laying of wooden stair treads on the path connecting Yale Ave to Stanford Ave. "Throughout that hundred years, there has been no official maintenance of the paths, ever, going right back to when they were laid out in 1910–1914. And yet the paths have always found somebody to take care of them," Nesbitt says.

When Nesbitt and his family moved to Berkeley, the task of organizing and promoting the Paths Beautification Project was taken up by Gretchen Gillfillan, a long-time resident and community volunteer who lives alongside Coventry path. Gillfillan currently maintains the paths mailing list, chooses the sites, and schedules work parties to coordinate with green waste pickup dates. She also bakes cookies. Lots of cookies.

Those who'd like to contribute to the Kensington path effort can send donations to KIC Path Fund, P. O. Box 8165, Berkeley, CA 94707. Email Gretchen at hikinglady@gillfillan.com to be added to the Path Mailing List. Future beautification dates are as follows: July 25th Cambridge Path, August 22nd–Cambridge Path. (Article submitted by Jim Fisher.)

#### Coming Together July 19 For Prabesh

On April 28, Nepal and Tibet were devastated by a 7.8 earthquake. Days later a second large aftershock hit creating more mayhem. Over 6,000 people were killed and more injured. Directly affected was Prabesh Amatya, a student and grocery clerk at

Young's Market in Kensington. He lost an aunt and his extended family of 11 is living in a tent behind their uninhabitable home. A temporary kitchen was created within the remaining structure. Soon the home will be demolished. "It is really stressful knowing my family is without a roof…and not being with them right now," shared Prabesh.

On July 19, the communities of El Cerrito and Kensington will come together to raise funds for the family of Prabesh. The fundraising event will be held in the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington from 5:00-8:30 p.m. There will be an auction and works of art from community artists as well as donations from private collections will be available.



Additionally, the auction will include an antique doll, gift cards, jewelry, wine, photographs hand analysis and much more. Vanessa Cordova and Rachelle Sherris-Watt, Board members from the KPPSD have volunteered babysitting and weeding services for the auction. Food will be available and music and dancing will be included. A performance of classic Indian dancing will be performed.

Donations in the form of money, auction items and volunteers are sought. For donations or questions, please contact Candace Capogrossi at 510-984-0256 or CandaceCap408@aol.com. A volunteer sign-up sheet is also available on line. Check June 9 on nextdoorkensington.com for more information under "Coming Together for Prabesh."

#### Local Resident Named to Macalester College Dean's List

Heather Bourne, the daughter of Janice Prudhomme and Gerald Bourne of Kensington, California, has been named to the dean's list of Macalester College for academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2014-15 school year. A graduate of Lick-Wilmerding High School, Bourne was a sophomore at Macalester last spring.

#### Kensington Welcomes Interior Designer Barr Park

Well known Bay Area interior designer Barr Park has moved to Kensington, bringing her design expertise to this locale. She specializes in extensive home remodels, new construction, kitchen/bath design, office design and space planning, as well as quality furnishings for both residential and commercial properties. For the latest design ideas see her "Design Buzz" monthly ideas at www.parkplacedesign.com.

#### Neighborhood Watch

Officer Doug Wilson K38, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Kensington Police Department, will be passing the torch, as they say, to Officer Stephanie Wilkens, K50. We will work together on events like National Night Out and a possible 3rd Citizen's Academy. Officer Stephanie will eventually take over the UPDATE list and start attending the Kensington Public Safety Council meetings as well, when possible. Please welcome her and support her. If your Neighborhood Group would like an officer to come to your home and speak to your group about Public Safety, Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Watch, contact Officer Wilkens at

THIS COMMUNITY PROTECTED

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.swilkens@kensingtoncalifornia.org (Article submitted by Officer Doug Wilson K38, Kensington Police Department.)

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D'Jour Floral will be closed for the month of August for vacation. In September, we will return with fresh flowers, plants and our featured \$5.00 Friday Flowers.



#### Thinking of Remodeling?

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We offer a free home consultation.



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- Certified Kitchen/Bath Designer
  WWW.PARKPLACEDESIGN.COM



#### FROM THE FILES OF THE KPD

The Police Report is published on a space-available basis, and will return. The Police Report, Board packets, monthly reports, minutes, recordings of the KPPCSD Board Meetings, and Bay View County Solid Waste contracts are available for review at <a href="https://www.KensingtonCalifornia.org">www.KensingtonCalifornia.org</a>.

### **Hilltop Carnival Another Huge Success!**

This year's Spring Carnival was a grand success. The schoolyard was booming with excitement as young kids paraded around with their fantastic face painting, while groups of older kids squeezed inside the photo booth to make goofy faces at the camera. Kids of all ages tried their luck at exciting carnival games, and collected prize tickets. Everyone enjoyed delicious Dad's Club BBO, as well as sweet carnival treats. The school bands' performances also added to the fun and lively atmosphere.

Thanks to all the parents for helping out—it took over 300 parent volunteer shifts to staff the booths, cook and serve the food during the carnival, and many more Dads' Club and PTA volunteers to plan, set up and tear down. This year, students also staffed, and in some cases, designed some of the booths. Special thanks to Hilltop's 6th graders, middle and high school volunteers, as well as Cub Scout and Girl Scout Troops. "It was truly heartwarming to watch everyone pitch in to make a fun, memorable day for our school and community," said Carnival chairs Karen Thompson (PTA), Doug Diego (Dads' Club), and Tim Heath (Dads' Club).

This year's **Plant Sale** plant sale was more extraordinary and more beautiful than ever, thanks to the leadership of Kate Verhoef, PTA's Outdoor Classroom Coordinator! Kids were excited to see pots that they helped glazed during art class, and everyone was blown away by the wonderful selections of plants, flowers, edibles, fairy gardens, hanging plants and garden decorations. Special acknowledgment goes to Flowerland Nursery, Berkeley Horticultural Nursery, The El Cerrito Garden Club, Kids 'n' Clay Pottery Studio, individual donors, art teacher Winoka Turin, and the talented 4th and 5th graders of Kensington Hilltop School.

On carnival day, White Elephant Sale and Deals on Wheels White Elephant coleads, Mary Shaughnessy and Susannah Wijsen, plus a team of fabulous volunteers, completely helped transformed Hilltop's multipurpose room into a bargain hunter's paradise! The shopping experience was especially enhanced by the clean and organized merchandise display. Out on the schoolyard, Rob Dunn and other volunteers helped to clean up and fix up an assortment of used bikes for kids to choose from. A big thank you to the entire Kensington community for donating to the White Elephant Sale and the Bike Sale, and then coming back to shop on the big day! We would also like to acknowledge Kensington Chevron Station for its continuing support of the Deals on Wheels.

The second annual Pie Baking Contest was embraced with great enthusiasm. You had to see the energy, excitement and deliciousness to believe it! "It was inspirational to see 13 entries by students, including one as young as five!" said Pie Contest Lead. Kim Keller. Congrats to these student category winners: Elea Addison, 4th grade (Blackberry Crunch); Aaron Moore, 8th grade (Lemon Chiffon), and tied for 3rd place were Elke Carlstrom, 3rd grade (Chocolate Cream) and Emily Baxter, 4th grade (Apple). Winner of the Adult category was Beth Refsland (Amish Apple).

Thanks to so many in the Kensington School and the greater community for participating in this year's Carnival Raffle! Raffle coordinator. Serena Heaslip, wants to acknowledge all those students who sold tickets, families that

bought tickets, volunteers that made the quilt, and businesses that donated prizes! This fundraiser brought in \$8,500 for the PTA and Dads' Club! This money will be put to good use paying for emergency supplies, educational assemblies, the Outdoor Classroom/Gardening, Library, teacher support, physical improvements to the classrooms and campus, and more.

The entire school community has won because of the success of the raffle; but as is the case with a raffle, there were four people who some who won a bit more! There were four prize winners. The handmade Water Gardens quilt was won by 4th grader Julia Schweitzer. The Arlington Avenue Shopping Spree was won by William Tao, father to a 2nd grader. The Colusa Circle Shopping Spree #1 was won by 5th and 4th grade sisters Piper and Sophie Gillern. The Colusa Shopping Spree #2 was won by a family friend to a 4th grade student.

We are fortunate to have many wonderful, generous donors and Donations. Kensington PTA and Dads' Club would like to thank all the local businesses that supported and made this year's event a

— Continued on page 8







































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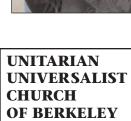
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# Kensington Calendar

- July to August 21-KCC Summer **Camp** for Kids and visiting Grandkids. Continues, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington.
- July 1, 2, 5, 7-Jazzercise for Adults, on-going 8:15 a.m.-9:15 a.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington.
- July 2, 7, 9-Body Sculpting for Adults, on-going, 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington.
- July 2, 9, & 16-Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15 a.m. & 11:15 am. Free. 524-3043.
- July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30-Storytime. Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.-11:40 a.m. Join us for stories, songs and fun. All children are welcome. Free, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 526-7512. ccclib.org
- July 3, 4, 5 Fourth of July Celebration Playland-Not-at-the-Beach's at \$10-\$15. Open Friday 12:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. and Weekends 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 592-3002. www.pnatb.org

### **Town Meetings**

Kensington Community Center 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

(Schedule Subject to Change—Call to Confirm)

KCC-July 6 **Kensington Community Council** 1st Monday, 7:30 p.m. 525-0292

FKL-July 7, August 4 Friends of the Kensington Library 7:00 p.m. (at the Library, 61 Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesday

KPSC-July 14, August 10 **Kensington Public Safety Council** EQ & Disaster Preparedness 2nd Monday, 6:00 p.m. 501-8165

KFPD-July 8, August 12 **Fire Protection District** 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. 527-8395

KPPCSD-July 9, August 13 **Police Protection and Community Services District** 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. 526-4141

KIC-June 22 **Kensington Improvement Club** 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m. 527-3062

KMAC-July 28, August 24 **Municipal Advisory Council** Last Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. (Call Supe. Gioia's Office to confirm: 231-8691)

KARO/ECHO-July 13 **Amateur Radio Operators** 2nd Monday of odd months. 7:30 p.m. 524-9815

**KPOA Property Owners** Association – September / TBA 2:00-4:00 p.m. Meets quarterly. 559-8232

**Kensington Farmers' Market** Live produce & live music every Sunday

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Colusa Circle

- July 4-Berkeley Marina 12:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Live entertainment, carnival rides, arts and crafts, food trucks, kid fun includes pony rides and Adventure Playground. Fireworks at 9:35 p.m. Free admission. \$15.00 Parking. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley 510-548-5335
- July 5-"Meeting with a Killer," a video from Restorative Justice Online. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Free. 525-0302. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, www.uucb.org.
- July 6, 13, 20, 27 & August 3, 10, 17, 24, **31–Storytime.** Mondays, 12:30 p.m.-12:55 p.m. Join us for stories, songs and fun. All children are welcome. Free. 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 526-7512 ccclib.org
- July 6, 13, 20, 27 & August 3, 10, 17, 24, **31–Crazy 8s!** Mondays, 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Drop by for "math gone wild"! Beeping, buzzing, bouncing math fun for all ages and abilities. This program is funded by Bedtime Math.org. Free. 526-7512. 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. ccclib.org
- July 6 & August 3-Kensington Library Knitting Club "The Castoffs" All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. Meets on the first Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 p.m. Free. 524-3043.
- July 7, 14, 21, 28 & August 4, 11, 18, 25-Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 p.m. Free. 524-3043
- July 11-Sealife Songs-Sandi & Stevie use an interactive combination of humor, fantasy, and reality to help teach kids about the habits of our sea creature friends in this Summer Reading Festival Read to the Rhythm event! 11:00 a.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.
- July 11, 18, 25 & August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29-Science Saturday-11:00 a.m.-Noon. Join us for a fun science storytime, or special science presentation every Saturday! All children are welcome. Free. 526-7512. 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. ccclib.org
- July 12-Ashby Village, "Volunteer Project to Help Seniors Stay in their Homes." 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Free. 525-0302. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, www.uucb.org.



- July 13-Qian Gao Demonstrates Watercolor Technique, Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Garden Room, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. Cost: Free
- July 18, 25-Core Strength, Posture & Movement Consultations, Saturdays 12:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m at Mind Body Dojo, 7512 Fairmount Ave. El Cerrito, Call Ernie at 510-619-9223 adams@bodyinaction.com
- July 19-Fundraiser for Prabesh-5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. 510-984-0256 CandaceCap408@aol.com.
- July 19 Dr. Frederick Shaw, founder of Developing Indigenous Resources (DIR), "Working with Women in Chandigarh, India." 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington 525-0302. www.uucb.org.
- July 21-Sept 1-User Friendly Pilates, Tuesdays, 6:15–7:15 p.m. 7/21-9/1, Series Seven Classes, \$95 series/\$17 single. Mind, Body Dojo, 7512 Fairmount Ave. El Cerrito Ernie: 510-619-9223 adams@bodyinaction.com, www.userfriendlypilates.com
- July 25-Apple Tree and Honey Bee Show Jelly Jam presents a puppet show complete with dance, song, and science from your own backyard in this Summer Reading Festival Read to the Rhythm! presentation best suited to children 3-8. 1:00 a.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.
- July 26-Rhonda Servin, UUCB member, "Women in Art: A Presentation of Sculpture." 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302. www.uucb.org.
- July 27-Kensington Library Book Club. Discussion of War and Peace, Part I by Leo Tolstov. Book Club normally meets on the 4th Monday of the month, Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

- August 2-Karen Andre, "Children with AIDS in Africa." 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302. www.uucb.org.
- August 3-31-Jazzercise for Adults, Drop ins OK-daily, Monday-Friday 8:15–9:15 a.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington.
- August 4, 6 Body Sculpting for Adults, Drop ins OK, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:15-10:15 a.m. at Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington.
- **August 9–Stephen Zunes, Professor of** Politics and International Studies at USF, "ISIS: Causes, Consequences, and Options." 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302. www.uucb.org.
- August 15, 25-Core Strength, Posture & Movement Consultations, Saturdays 12:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m at Mind Body Dojo, 7512 Fairmount Ave. El Cerrito Ernie: 510-619-9223 adams@bodyinaction.com
- August 17-Dr. Riess Potterveld, President, Graduate Theological Union, "The Roots of Religious Conflict." Free. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road Kensington, 525-0302. www.uucb.org.
- August 23-Antonio Medrano, Chair, ACLU Berkeley/North East Bay Chapter, "What is Happening at the ACLU?" 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 525-0302. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, www.uucb.org.
- August 24-Kensington Library Book Club. Discussion of War and Peace, Part II by Leo Tolstoy. Book Club normally meets on the 4th Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 p.m. Free. 524-3043.
- August 30-James Church, International and Foreign Documents and Economics Librarian at the University of California Berkeley, "A Closer Look at Micro-Financing." 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302. www.uucb.org
- August 24-September 7-KCC Office Closed
- Sentember 2-Kensington Unit of the League of Women WCCC-will bring brown bag lunches to meet at a picnic table in 524-6071.Kensington Park 12:30 p.m. to discuss local issues. Guests are welcome. Please call to confirm
- September 19-KCC Family Movie Night-Saturday night See September Kensington Outlook for details.





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#### Carnival, continued from page 6

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#### **Kevin Hart**, continued from page 2

Board's approval he will post his 100 day plan for Kensington on the District's website.

A discussion about the formation of an ad hoc committee to analyze the governance of Kensington yielded no motions. The Board had previously discussed a four pronged approach examining possibilities of separating the GM/COP positions, contracting police services to another agency, combining with the Fire District or keeping the present structure.

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A citizen's group is to be appointed to participate in research with Directors Cordova and Toombs. Information about applying can be found in this month's Outlook . See the article "KPPCSD Wants You!" The next regular meeting of the KPPCSD will occur on Thursday, July 9, at the Kensington Community Center.



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#### **BACK PAGE**



#### **KFPD**, continued from page 1

nance. As a result, the District has not sought additional funding from the voters in over thirty years.

KFPD was the first fire district in West County to have firefighter/paramedics available round the clock giving the community better access to advanced life support skills.

KFPD has developed a collaborative relationship with the Diablo Fire Safe Council resulting in numerous vegetation management grants and a very high level of participation from the Kensington community.

KFPD was the first fire district in the county to initiate a pharmaceutical drop-off program ensuring that unwanted medications were disposed of safely and properly.

KFPD has achieved HeartSafe designation from Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services through our on-going CPR and First Aid classes and the placement of several public defibrillators throughout the community.

KFPD participates in a nationally-recognized comprehensive CERT training and response program to help citizens become better prepared for future disasters.

KFPD maintains an aggressive vegetation management program and are delighted that in the last few years we have achieved 100 percent voluntary compliance by residents.

KFPD is the only district in the county to initiate a shredding program allowing us to help residents lower the fuel loads in residential structures and assisting them with identity theft prevention.

KFPD has been designated a District of Distinction since 2009 and awarded a Certificate of Transparency in 2013 by the California Special Districts Association.

The KFPD is proud of its achievements in the last twenty years and looks forward to a continued successful relationship with the City of El Cerrito.