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LAFCO
...from front page

and rents space to the police district, would the new entity then own the public safety building?

In a reorganization as described above, LAFCO staff believes that the successor agency (i.e., CSD) succeeds to the powers, duties, properties, contracts, etc. The process of getting to that point would provide many discussions with

stakeholders. Everything is speculative at this point, but why would the City of El Cerrito want to terminate its contract? Also, LAFCO could impose conditions that would continue the contract for a period of time or the reorganization could not go forward.

Do you think combining the two districts is a good idea?

Consolidation of the two districts was identified as a governance option in

three previous LAFCO Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs), which were prepared by independent consultants. As noted in these MSRs, there could potentially be some benefits from combining the two districts, including cost savings through economies of scale, possible streamlining of local government, and providing the community more options as to how public safety funds are allocated. That said, the commission has taken no action to date to initiate a reorganization of


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JULY-AUGUST 2016

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 74 NUMBER 6

**Ad Hoc Committee
Puts on Show**

By Linnea Due

Any grumblings that the KPPCSD-appointed Ad Hoc Committee for Governance and Operations Structure has been twiddling its thumbs were firmly squelched June 4. In what counts as one of the Kensington’s finest hours, the committee hosted a public forum to discuss its findings on three major governance issues. Over 130 residents attended, receiving packets of Power-Point slides, a questionnaire to assess the forum’s usefulness, and index cards to pen questions. Residents also participated from the audience, using handheld microphones.

First up was Rick Artis, the lead on the consolidation committee, which examined consolidating Kensington’s two special districts, the fire district and the community services district, which oversees the police, park, and refuse. Artis acknowledged that consolidation was the wrong word for this option (see sidebar with LAFCO Executive Director Lou Ann Texeira) in that the fire district would be dissolved, not merged, with the KPPCSD. And, as fellow subcommittee member Chris Deppe pointed out before the meeting, “It would be a hostile takeover,” since Kensington Fire Protection District board members unanimously oppose such a move.

Artis stuck mostly to financials and then touched on pros and cons of reorganizing the districts into one, with KPPCSD the successor district (state



Lisa Caronna, bifurcation subcommittee lead
Photo by Byron Kawaichi

code mandates that community service districts can provide fire services but fire districts cannot provide police services). Pros boil down to possible cost savings by allotting property tax dollars to a single district, eliminating what Artis described as “the historical uneven distribution of ad valorem property tax” that benefits the fire district. Cons include the KPPCSD inheriting the aging Public Safety Building (now owned by the fire district) and expanding the workload of board members, among others, including the warning: “Information from official sources is not trusted or believed to be reliable by some...” Since 1996, the fire district has contracted with the city of

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Q&A with Lou Ann Texeira

Lou Ann Texeira is the executive director of Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), which oversees the county’s special districts. She answered questions by email about the governance option called consolidation, in which the Kensington Police Protection Community Services District would take over Kensington’s Fire Protection District.

One proposed plan is to consolidate Kensington’s Fire District and the KPPCSD, which oversees the police department, garbage services, and the park. Is “consolidation” a realistic description of what would happen?

Just for clarification, LAFCO does not have a proposed plan for consolidation of these two districts. Consolidation has a specific definition in LAFCO law. We are currently aware of at least one way to combine the two districts through what is referred to as a “reorganization.” The reorganization would involve dissolving the Fire District, activating the Community Services District’s (CSD) power to provide fire service, and transferring the responsibility for fire service to the CSD. Based on other questions received from Ad Hoc Committee members, LAFCO staff continues to research other options for combining the two districts.

If the Fire District were dissolved, what would happen to its assets and its contract with El Cerrito? Since the Fire District owns the Public Safety Building

see LAFCO, back page

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Letters to the editor

Controversy Consuming Resources
Dear Editor,
The recent, now infamous, traffic stop of Director Vanessa Cordova by Kensington officers has been the focus of her critics and her supporters. But there is a bigger question here. The attorney for the police officers involved, Justin Buffington, stated in a press release that Director Cordova had a lapsed driver's license and a lapsed car registration for long periods before the stop. If true, this raises a serious question of whether Dir. Cordova is in a conflict-of-interest position with the police who are charged with enforcing the law, and over whom she has ultimate authority as part of the governing KPPCSD Board. Indeed, she voted against the passage of police contract, voted for the termination of GM/COP Harman, and voted against the extension of contract of GM/COP Hart

This controversy is consuming a huge amount of the resources of our small community. The vast majority of Kensington residents would not even back their car out of the driveway without registration and valid license. The investigation report completed by the Richmond police department regarding the traffic stop may answer the questions that the public has regarding the director's actions. And of course, Director Cordova herself can resolve these questions by agreeing to release the report, and by producing her own DMV records for period during which she has served as a director. Given the serious implications of the allegations, she should do so in the interest of transparency.

Linda Lipscomb

Praying for Strength
Dear Editor,
In 1969, five years after I moved from Virginia to California (the latter known for devastating earthquakes), a major Caribbean hurricane hit the Gulf Coast. Three days and a thousand miles later, in the middle of the night, unpredicted and unprecedented torrential rain poured down on the little county in the Blue Ridge Mountains where I grew up, causing devastating flooding and killing 120 of the 12,000 inhabitants in just a few hours.

In the aftermath, members of the Mennonite community came over the mountain from the Shenandoah Valley to help, searching in the August heat for bodies that were buried in rubble of houses and in piles of mud, rocks, and trees—many, many miles down the small creeks and shallow rivers from where they had been sleeping.

Before a meal one day, the minister said grace, being “thankful for our bounty and asking for the strength to help mend this torn land.” I pray that KPPCSD's board, its staff and police, and Kensington residents will be thankful for our bounty and find the strength to help mend this torn community.

Dr. A. Stevens Delk

Kensington's Finest
Dear Editor,
On Saturday June 4, I attended the Public Forum of the KPPCSD Governance & Operations Structure Ad Hoc Committee. When the presentations were over and the public was invited to ask questions, I stepped out of the building for some fresh air. KPPCSD board president Len Welsh came over to say hello. Moments later, a man came down from the park, sweating profusely, asking us to call 911.

Len and I went back inside the building to get Police Chief Kevin Hart. Minutes later, we discovered the man had gone into the Kensington library, where children were gathered for a Saturday morning children's program. The librarian on duty had left the building to seek help. She feared that the man, who appeared distraught and unreasoning, posed a danger to the children.

Minutes later, as Police Chief Hart worked to calm the man, Officer Rodney Martinez, a ten-plus-year veteran of the department, arrived at the scene. Within literally a few seconds, Officer Martinez had the situation under control. He was impressively calm and thoroughly professional; he conducted the interaction with compassion, grace, and

See Letters, page 5

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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OUTLOOK

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59 Arlington Ave.
Kensington, CA 94707-1307

Published ten times a year by the nonprofit Kensington Community Council. (Monthly, except for the combined July/August and December/January issues.) Available online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com, courtesy of AboutKensington.com.

Editorial.....510-525-0292
editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

Advertising.....510-508-3241
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Classified ad rates are \$7 a line (45 spaces or characters), with a 2-line minimum. Online ad forms are available after the back issues listings at: www.KensingtonOutlook.com.

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September Advertising Deadline Aug. 8

September Editorial Deadline Aug. 10

K E N S I N G T O N

Community Education

KASEP

FALL KASEP is planned! We are so excited about offering over 55 classes this fall session. We welcome five new teachers and ten new classes to our mix of enrichment classes. Who would have known that a teacher in our world was ready to teach cheer leading and hip hop? Well, circle Thursday afternoon on your KASEP calendar to dance with Tara. We also welcome Veronica, a leading environmental educator whose passion is global warming and recycling. She will teach hands-on experiments to “Save the Planet” and bring awareness alive! Sewing has also resurfaced! This treasured life skill is once again being offered and we are proud to introduce master quilt instructor, Darcie. Jeanne, a known face and friend from Neighborhood School is sharing her magic and will be teaching pastel art.

The big change for fall Hilltop kindergarten is that it is now a full day. Good news - we will continue to offer kinder KASEP classes! Our teachers modified their curriculum to fit the shorter teaching time, with class ending at 2:20pm. Parents can enroll in kinder classes during online registration, Tuesday Sept. 6th. A full listing of classes will be in the brochure, sent home from school the end of August.

Dates to circle: August 31 KASEP brochures goes home from Hilltop school; Tuesday, Sept. 6th at 7:30pm Online KASEP registration; Monday, Sept. 19 KASEP classes start and continue to Dec. 16th. KCC/KASEP Office is closed for deep cleaning and transition from summer camp to KASEP, August 22 - Sept 5th.



Meet the 2016 camp counselors: Marshall Doty, Heather Bates, Danny Schumacher, Ethan Houser, Julia Shebek, Andrew Whittemore, Amara Hans, Galen Hans, Kelly Barry

KCC Summer Camp is in motion!

The last week of camp, August 15-19 is already full. The remaining weeks have space available and you can sign up by the week. Each week has a different field trip and theme. Camp days start at 9:00am and end at 5:00pm with morning and aftercare available. Parents, need a break in the blissful summer-time routine? Join us!

Skyhawks kicks off the 4th of July week with soccer, basketball and flag-football. Week 5, July 11th cools us off with a field trip to Lake Anza and afternoons enjoying KASEP teacher Vicky’s cooking magic. It is a week of making (and of course eating!) pizza! Put on the rock climbing shoes for the Bladium July 18th and of course Olympic Week, not to be missed week, is August 1st.

Camp: \$265 per week. Enroll online at www.kensingtoncommuitycouncil.org One fee includes BBQ on Friday, free camp t-shirt, entrance fees and transportation to all field trips, group tennis lessons and daily snack.

Week 4	July 5-July 8 \$220/ Closed July 4 • Specialty: SkyHawk - Sports Week! • SPIRIT WEEK -	Week 5	July 11-July 15 • Specialty: Cooking- Pizza Specialties • Field Trip: Lake Anza • Karaoke Friday!
Week 6	July 18-July 22 • Specialty: Gymnastics • Field Trip: Bladium/ Rock Climbing & Soccer	Week 7	July 25-July 29 • Specialty: Fiber Fun • Field Trip: Tilden Park: Jewel Lake & Animal Farm; Karaoke Friday
Week 8	August 1-August 5 • Specialty: OLYMPIC WEEK • Field Trip: Lawrence Hall of Science	Week 9	August 8-August 12 • Specialty: Block Printing • Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool Party
Week 10	August 15-August 19 • Specialty: Legos- Playwell Technologies; End of Summer Air Bouncer and Jousting tents and Home-made ice cream		



Carpentry Captures the Attention of Campers



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BODY SCULPTING

9:15-10:15am Tuesdays and Thursdays, Ongoing; Community Center

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.



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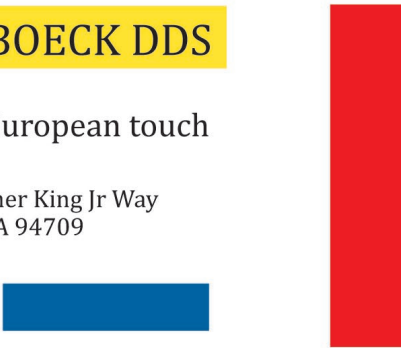
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Rain No Downer at Carnival

It rained and rained, but that didn't dampen spirits at Hilltop School's Spring Carnival! Braving the outdoors, kids and adults enjoyed the carnival games in raingear and umbrellas. Balls were tossed, faces painted, and water balloons catapulted with joy. Despite the rain, or perhaps because of it, the Cake Walk and Plasma Car Races seemed more exciting than ever. There also seemed to be a deeper sense of camaraderie among the parent volunteers, smiling even while the rain pelted their faces. We were more proud than ever of our school community: parent Victor Fernandes happily working the Angry Birds booth for three shifts while soaked to the bone (I found an umbrella for him later), parent Mary Shaughnessy singing and dancing in the rain while running the Cake Walk, and the numerous sixth graders who volunteered to run the Minute-to-Win-It booth despite the fact that this would be their last Carnival as Hilltop kids. The Carnival is a capsule of everything that makes Hilltop such a great school and Kensington such a wonderful place to live. The Carnival is the only fundraiser of the PTA and Dads' Club, and proceeds fund emergency supplies, educational assemblies, the Outdoor Classroom/ Gardening, Library, teacher support, physical improvements to the classrooms and campus, and more. Thank you, everyone, for a wildly successful day. —2016 Carnival Co-Chairs Yvonne Lau, Karen Thompson & Doug Diego

A New Website for Kensington!

David Bergen is building a new website for local Kensington governance issues. This website will be a place where information can be found and communicated to everyone in Kensington. The site may include pages such as: News, Basic Issues, Kensington Documents, KPD Current Issues, Traffic Issues, Legal Issues and Costs, Neighbors' Comments of Interest, Candidates for the KPPCSD Board, History, and Links of Interest, and more. It will be a normal website without all the overhead and restrictions that are found on NextDoor; it will not duplicate the back-and-forth conversation features of ND. When ready there will be an announcement on Nextdoor and in the Outlook. If you are not a member of NextDoor and wish to receive the announcement, send a note to David at dpbergen@gmail.com.

Don't Use the Yellow Dumpster!

You may have noticed a large yellow dumpster at the Arl-mont Dr end of the Library parking lot. This dumpster is only to be used for green waste from the Park Fuel Reduction Project. Do not put household trash or green waste in or near this dumpster. If you have trash that will not go into your normal weekly pickup, call Bay View (510-237-4614) to arrange for a special pickup.



Lazar Receives Award for Kingston Residence

The East Bay chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association recently honored twelve local landscape contractors. Oakland's Lazar Landscape Design took home several awards, including one for this redo of a yard on Kingston. Hillsides, especially those above the entry, are always a challenge, and Lazar was judged a winner on originality, construction, and attention to detail on this project. Congratulations to Lazar and to the lucky homeowners.



First-Ever KCC Summer Solstice



Chef Matt Tindol and his wife Kari grill up a storm on the new BBQ. The chicken tastes were great!



KCC president Anne Forrest with friend Cara Bell



Kristen Park with her LED-enabled hula hoops.



Giant robot Doug Park gets tall on stilts.
All photos by Marty Westby

A Farm in Your Kitchen: Q&A with Trisha Mindel about Kensington’s Kitchen

by Linnea Due

Last November, while browsing the Internet, Trisha Mindel discovered a group called Farmigo, which connects farmers and consumers without a middleman. Then and there, she decided to start a Farmigo group called Kensington’s Kitchen, with pickups at her house on the Arlington. The group started just in time for the holidays and has been going strong ever since.

How did you come across Farmigo?

I can’t remember! It was somewhere in the pop-up ads that are very cleverly meant to target a browser’s interests. “Local, delivery, and food”? How could I resist checking it out? I believe they started in Brooklyn and are new to the Bay Area.

How does it work?

If people want to join, they go to the main Farmigo website and choose the community that is most convenient for them—ours is called Kensington’s Kitchen. They sign up online and provide their payment info to Farmigo directly. Then they go to the online marketplace and shop! Farmigo has lots of in-season produce as well as other items that are locally made, from names we are familiar with. You have between Thursday and Sunday midnight to place your order for the coming week. This is the hardest part as it requires a bit of forward planning, but it’s not too onerous.

The orders are delivered to my house on Wednesday, all packed in temp-regulating, recyclable packaging, and people come pick up their bags between 4-6pm. Most of the time I have fruit, nuts, or homemade baked goods out for people to munch if they want to come in and chat. Some do and others just come pick up their items and head home. Anything is fine with me. Though I must say I cherish my visits with the small people who come by every week. I have a few under-five friends who come every week and spend a bit of time drawing on the chalkboard table [Mindel’s coffee table is painted with chalkboard paint so kids can decorate to their hearts’ content]. Those relationships are very special to me. One of our members who lives a few houses away tells me her daughter often asks if she can “go to Trisha’s house to have a cookie.” I love that! I always say YES YES YES! Come anytime.

About how many families are involved?

We have about twenty members right now and average about five orders a week. That’s the beauty of it. It isn’t like a CSA because you order exactly what you want when you want it. That could be once a week or once in a year.

Have there been issues with the products?

One of the challenges they face here, particularly in our little Kensington’s Kitchen community, is the incredibly high standard we have for our produce. I regularly communicate with the office about making sure we are getting the absolute best produce available. The big issue people have is not picking out their own beautiful lettuces and luscious berries. The quality control has to be as picky as I would be shopping for my beloveds. We have so many options with Berkeley Bowl, Monterey Market, and of course the farmers’ markets in Kensington, El Cerrito, and Berkeley. There are too many choices to be complacent with quality. Busy families are interested in convenience, but not at the expense of quality.



Farmigo offers two delivery-day options, Monday and Wednesday. I chose Wednesday, as I always saw this as a way to supplement mid-week, never as a competition with our market. Chris Hall is amazing and puts together the feel-good event of the week. But mid-week, I need lettuce and other fresh goods. Also Farmigo sells a lot of things that aren’t sold at the farmers’ market. Lots of prepared foods, pickles, chocolates, breads, meats, dairy, gluten-free, and vegan options—the best vegan yogurt I’ve ever had. All the food comes from within 250 miles. I think that is awesome. And it’s a B corporation.

What is a B .corporation?

A Benefit Corporation. It’s something I was interested in before I knew anything about Farmigo. I have felt for a long time we needed a different way of looking at the world. There has to be a better way to encourage more humane industry. The Benefit Corporation is a step in that direction. A B Corp is to business what Fair Trade certification is to coffee or USDA Organic certification is to milk. They are for-profit companies certified by the nonprofit B Lab to meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency. There are now more than 1,600 certified B Corps from 42 countries and over 120 industries working together toward one unifying goal: to redefine success in business.

Who packs the bags for each customer?

The Farmigo warehouse is located right next to the Gilman Street Whole Foods. That’s where they receive the delivery from the farmers. People work there packing each bag.

This is a lot of effort for you. What do you get from it?

Tons! For one thing, as an “organizer,” you are given a modest discount on your personal purchases, which to our family of three isn’t life-changing, but it’s nice since I do buy high quality food. More importantly, though, it’s the sense of fairness. I had a career in clinical social work. When I stopped working I knew it would be important for me to continue to contribute to my community. Social work was always a way for me to feel like I deserved the space I took up in the world. When my husband and I figured out that there was something going on with our daughter that needed special

attention, it became clear that I needed to stop work for awhile. Even though it was for the good of the family, and she is the most important person in my life, my sense of self-worth took a huge beating. It’s amazing how critical we women are of ourselves and how we judge. I floundered for a while, but eventually came to understand I can still contribute to the greater wellbeing of the world without a paycheck. I try to do that in as many ways as I can by volunteering, providing help and support for others in our circles, and finding small ways to improve the world. That is what I get from it most of all.

It’s a great deal for farmers, who can cut out the middleman. Is it a good deal for customers or more of a feel-good gesture?

Prices are comparable to the farmers’ market, and items that are also sold at the grocery stores tend to be either slightly lower at Farmigo or about the same price. When I see that is not the case, I make sure to let Farmigo know. They are very responsive and good about feedback. If I or any of the members ever feels like any part of their purchase is unsatisfactory for any reason, Farmigo credits the account, no questions asked. They have been very good about that.

About how many more families could you accommodate?

Not sure, definitely more. Since not everyone orders all the time, I think it would take a lot more to say I have reached capacity. I love connecting with my neighbors.

Are people generally pleased with the produce and selection of foods?

Yes! You can buy Mary’s chicken, Vital Vittles bread, Strauss milk, and many other producers I hadn’t heard of before I started using Farmigo. My daughter loves the Ducks and Dragons gluten-free chocolate rolls.



Letters

...from page 2

kindness.

Relieved that the man was in good hands and the children in the library safe, Len and I returned to the public forum, where one of the topics being discussed was the viability of contracting with an outside police department to provide police services in Kensington.

How lucky we are to live in the Bay Area. How fortunate we are to live in Kensington. How outstanding is our local police department! Thank you to all the police officers, and a special thank you to Officer Martinez. —John Stein



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LAFCO

...from back page

these two districts.

Who would ultimately sign off on this plan of dissolving the fire district?

LAFCO has authority to approve or deny a change of organization (e.g., dissolution) or reorganization proposal. But again, let me explain that this is not on our horizon. The commission has set the work plan for the next fiscal year, and a reorganization in Kensington is not part of that plan. In order to combine two districts, a special study must be done. An MSR might be the springboard for a special study, but an MSR alone would not provide the detail needed for a reorganization. Also, only the community services district can ask that a power be activated. By that I mean that the district would come to us with a plan and ask us to activate its ability to provide fire and EMT services. LAFCO cannot initiate activating a power.

If residents are not in favor of dissolving the fire district, how can they oppose it?

LAFCO proceedings typically require at least one public hearing, and many times, two public hearings. When a proposal is presented to the commission, individuals and local agencies can make their positions known to LAFCO. Should a second hearing be required (protest hearing), there is a prescribed process for filing written protests as a landowner or registered voter. Depending on the number of valid written protests received, the proposal may go to an election or even be terminated.

—Linnea Due

Traffic Stop Lurching Towards Conclusion

By Linnea Due

On May 27, KPPSCD board director Vanessa Cordova called the Alameda Courthouse to check on the status of her citations for the traffic stop last fall, when Kensington Police Officer Juan Ramos and along-for-the-ride Sergeant Keith Barrow pulled her over in Berkeley for a missing front license plate and expired registration. “[The court] told me it was dismissed,” she said. “I asked a bunch of questions—‘I don’t owe any money’?” She was told the charges were entirely dismissed and no fine, including court fees, was due. When she got the notice of decision by email and then snail mail, she was relieved to see that Judicial Officer Taylor Culver adjudged her “not guilty” “in the interest of justice.”

This being Kensington, the Fat Lady saw no reason to burst into tune. Board President Len Welsh said by email that he doesn’t have enough information to comment fully on the “not guilty” findings. “But taking an educated guess, and given the fact that she was issued ‘fix-it’ tickets,” Welsh wrote, “I think the dismissal of charges pertained to an initial no-show on the appeal she filed, and fix-it tickets almost never produce appeals, so the whole thing was probably a bit perplexing to the court.

“What the recipient of a fix-it ticket usually does is show proof of correction, pay a very small fine, and the matter is over. I believe that she did in fact, show to DMV or some other authority that she corrected the conditions alleged in the citations. I can’t imagine that she was contending that the substance of the tickets was incorrect.”

But this is more complicated than two fix-it tickets. The stop occurred outside the jurisdiction, Barrow was out of uniform and not on duty, and Cordova was driving with a temporary moving permit from the DMV, her paid registration waiting only on the smog permit. Said Cordova: “I’ve always maintained I was driving legally. I have also suggested that the stop was problematic. A court of law has agreed with me, and I think it’s time for everyone to move on.”

Interim Chief Kevin Hart said that he was not surprised by the court’s verdict. “Both citations she was issued were correctable citations. You’d have to talk to the court about the not-guilty verdict. They were corrected in late 2015, so it’s done. Police departments don’t get that involved with the court. They were corrected and cured; end of story for me.”

On June 1, Hart demoted Sergeant Barrow to Officer Barrow. Though cleared of the most serious charge of harassing Cordova, Barrow ran afoul of several charges, including not properly supervising Ramos. Hart explained that he could not say why Barrow was demoted. “I cannot speak to that directly,” Hart said during a phone interview June 10. “I can speak to the fact that he has a change in classification that took effect June 1. I can’t say that it was related to the traffic stop.” Barrow’s status change has an impact on his pocketbook and on the department. “In conjunction with his reclassification, I have made some organizational changes,” Hart said. “[Barrow] is now on patrol. The department’s detective is now Rodney Martinez.”

Hart said that he was hoping to wrap up Ramos’ investigation within a month. Ramos was put on paid administrative leave in April. When asked if this incident would follow Barrow and Ramos, Hart explained that the records are part of a personnel file, and that by law another department would be required to review that file. “Any discipline is a big deal to a police officer or a firefighter,” Hart said.

Hart reiterated that he is the only one who examines the Internal Affairs report and determines the discipline. And he was now able to explain why Justin Buffington, Barrow’s attorney, had been given the report. “The reason Mr. Buffington had the IA is because I made a determination that I intended to administer discipline. I gave notice to the employee pursuant to police officer bill of rights. When I gave [Barrow] the letter of intent, he challenged it. Then it goes to a Skelly hearing, which is his right to due process. Once that happens, he’s allowed all information.” A Skelly hearing ensures that public employees subject to discipline are able to present their side of the story.

So has the board seen the IA report? “The board of directors has not seen the report,” said Hart, “and they have not given me direction to release it. They have the matter under discussion. I think the board is cognizant of the circumstances and significant media attention, and they’re trying to show transparency. But they haven’t made that final decision.”

Hart said that he realized that to many people, the process is taking a very long time to conclude. “Law enforcement agencies try to be very thorough in their investigations,” he said. “It takes time to get all the witnesses together. Done correctly it takes longer than what some people’s desires are, including chiefs of police.”

Committee

...from front page

El Cerrito to provide fire and EMT service to Kensington. LAFCO Executive Director Lou Ann Teixeira believes that in the event of dissolution, contracts could transfer to KPPCSD, but others point out that the contract with El Cerrito for fire services is with the fire protection district, not the community services district, and thus would be negated.

Charles Reichmann spoke on contracting out police services in the same way that fire is contracted out to El Cerrito. He said his committee first ascertained whether contracting out would provide the same amount of coverage, how the command structure would work, and other factors. Entities that were interested in policing Kensington would add Kensington as a beat to their own forces, assign police specifically to that beat, offer the same coverage, with officers wearing Kensington uniforms and driving Kensington cars. Reichmann noted that costs for these services were not given as the KPPCSD board would have to request a proposal, but he believed costs could be similar or less. Because the committee identified four entities interested in policing Kensington, Reichmann thought that there might be cost leverage. Those four are Albany, Richmond, El Cerrito, and the UC Berkeley police, which specializes in community policing.

Reichmann identified pros of contracting out: individual officers could be changed, a field supervisor would be on duty 24/7, departments such as Internal Affairs, Human Resources, and a crime lab would be available to Kensington. Cons include a possible loss of local identity and control. One questioner asked what would happen to our officers, and Reichmann said that they could reapply to the contracting department. About a thousand hours of vacation pay has accrued among Kensington’s officers; no other payments are owed. The contracting-out committee will meet again on Saturday, July16, at 9:30 am in the Community Center; residents with questions are urged to attend.

Lisa Caronna tackled the issue of whether the general manager’s position and chief of police should be separated. Her group interviewed 15 comparable agencies, met with professionals, developed a spreadsheet and conceptual organizational diagrams for KPPCSD with six options, such as part-time GMs, consolidating with the fire district, contracting out to another policing entity. Caronna said that everyone they talked to, apart from three organizations that combined the position, favored separating the jobs. Many reasons involved what Caronna described as challenges rather than conflicts of interest. A police chief might favor his own department in budgetary choices, for instance, and many respondents brought up problems in resolving investigations, grievances, and discipline when the job was combined. Another level of oversight and a vision that was larger-picture and more community-focused are other plusses that could be gained by hiring a stand-alone general manager; interviewees stressed that the skills needed by a general manager and a chief of police are different and distinct. A questioner wondered if dividing the position might save money by reducing legal fees. Caronna said that she hoped that would be the case, but general managers are typically not lawyers.

The committee identified pros and cons for each of six structural configurations, such as “part-time general manager and retain in-house police department.” Residents are urged to study this material and the rest of the packet at the library, the Public Safety Building, or at the ad hoc committee’s web page at KPPCSD’s site. A videotape of the meeting is on the committee’s web page.

At the end of the meeting, residents expressed admiration for the professionalism of the presentations and the enormous amount of work that went into investigating, interviewing, and writing up the material. Said one, “This is the best of Kensington; there are so many talented people here.” But a cloud hung over the proceedings: Donna Stanton said that her concern is that it all must go back to the KPPCSD board. “Will we have any ability to affect change?” she asked.

Committee member Garen Corbett said that the committee strongly encouraged the board to host a town forum to discuss governance options. The final report, complete with pros and cons, will be turned into the board in late August or early September.

During comments from the floor, John Sullivan said that while the consolidation question was framed in terms of tax-dollar equity, the level of threat to Kensington by fire or by crime is not equal. Artis agreed that numbers only tell part of the story and argued for a values-based discussion. “What do we want?” he asked. “I believe this community shares more values than it looks like.”

Ad hoc committee members are Dave Spath, Chris Deppe, Lisa Caronna, Garen Corbett, Mabry Benson, Rick Artis, Tim Snyder, Gail Feldman, Charles Reichmann, and Simon Brafman. Each deserves heartfelt thanks.

Contracting Out Subcommittee Meets
Saturday, July 16, 9:30am in the Community Center

Highlights from the May Kensington Police Log

Tuesday, May 10 NARCOTICS ARREST, Arlington Avenue. Suspect arrested after dropping his meth pipe where another resident found it and reported it to police. He was also found in possession of a controlled substance.

Sunday, May 15 BURGLARY, Arlington Avenue.

Wednesday, May 18 RESIDENTAL BURGLARY, Kingston Road. Resident arrived home to find two men in his home going through his family’s belongings. Suspects ran out rear door and left in a vehicle occupied by a third man.

Friday, May 20 THEFT, Arlmont Drive. Theft of a bicycle from garage. THEFT, Anson Way. Theft of a vehicle registration from an unlocked vehicle.

Saturday, May 21

THEFT, Garden Drive. Theft of a wallet from an unlocked vehicle. THEFT, Avon Drive. Personal property stolen from vehicle.

Sunday, May 29 THEFT, Columbia Avenue. Report of a stolen handicap placard. Vehicle was unlocked, sunglasses and handicap placard stolen from vehicle.

Monday, May 30 BURGLARY, Highland Blvd. A resident’s vehicle was broken into, and items were stolen by unknown suspect(s).

BURGLARY, Kenyon Avenue. Three bicycles were stolen from a garage, by unknown suspect(s). Pending investigation.

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Kensington Calendar

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

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

July 3 Dr. Mimi Bull, retired legislative analyst. “Prisons for Profit.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

July 5 KCC Summer Camp! Enroll online at Kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org. Camp runs for seven more weeks, ending August 19. Enroll by the week, ages 6-12 years. Affordable at \$265 per week. Questions? Call KCC at 510-525-0292.

July 5, 12, and 26 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

July 6 The Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters will meet Wednesday at 1:15 at 631 Parkside Court for a film and discussion. Guests welcome. Please confirm at 527-1266.

July 7 & 14 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.

July 9 “Insect Songs” by Sandi and Stevie Come learn about insects through this fun-filled concert buzzing with music, movement, and more! Children march in time with the Marching Ants, hop with the Green Grasshopper, and zoom around with the insects as Sandi and Stevie sing and perform. Best for ages 2 to 8. 11am. Free. 524-3043.

July 10 Dr. Lynne Henderson on The Shyness Institute. 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

July 11 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., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

July 16 Ad Hoc Contracting-Out Subcommittee, 9:30am, Community Center. Come ask questions about this facet of three governance options.

July 16-17 Relay for Life At El Cerrito’s Relay for Life walkers go around the track as we fight cancer, celebrate cancer survivors and remember lost loved ones. This unique fundraising event raises funds for the American Cancer Society. The overnight relay at Cerrito Vista Park (950 Pomona Ave.) starts with cancer survivors walking the first lap at 10am Saturday morning. Live music, games, crafts, raffles, and other family fun activities are part of the spirited celebration. The Luminaria Ceremony, honoring those who have lost their battle to cancer, is at 9pm. The event ends at 10am Sunday morning. www.RelayForLife.org/ElCerritoCa



July 17 Walter Gorski, mental health worker. “Community Clinics: How Are They Doing?” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

July 18 Digital Docent Kensington Library’s Digital Docent will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1 & 1:30pm. This one-on-one 30-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign up at Kensington Library Info Desk. Please bring your device. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Free. 524-3043.

July 23 “Electrifying Electricity” by Math Science Nucleus You’ll be electrified by this illuminating event! Enjoy interactive stories, followed by hands-on experiments in electron art, static electricity, and more! Best for ages 5 and up. 11am. Free. 524-3043.

July 24 Valerie Cuevas, Member Board of Education, West Contra Costa School District. “Change and Construction in a Challenging Time.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

July 25 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *Passage to India*, by E.M. Forster. Book Club normally meets on the fourth Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

July 30 Summer Reading Festival Ends! Make sure to complete your Summer Reading and return your Gameboards or your Certificate of Completion to the library by July 30 to claim your free prize book and be entered into drawings for grand prizes including BB8s, Giants tickets, and more! Free. 524-3043.

July 31 Candidates for the State Senate: Nancy Skinner, Sandré Swanson, Katherine Welch. 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

AUGUST
Ongoing Low Impact Jazzercise, 8:15-9:15am, Mondays through Fridays, Community Center.
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August 1, 15, 29 Digital Docent will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1:00 & 1:30pm. This one-on-one 30 minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign-up onsite at Kensington Library Info Desk. Please bring your device. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 1:00 pm. This appointment is Free. 524-3043.

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

August 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.

August 7 Dr. Stanley Klein, UC Professor of Vision Science, UUCB member, and active member of the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS). “Science and Religion.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

August 14 UUCB members Stanley Klein and Helen Toy on the Berkeley Global Campus at Richmond Bay. 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

August 21 Earl Canfield, volunteer Executive Director of American-Nepali Students’ and Women’s Educational Relief (ANSWER) Nepal. “Nepal: The Earthquake, the Schools and the Children.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

August 22 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *Honor*, by Elif Safak. Book Club normally meets on the fourth Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

August 28 Dr. Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics and International Studies at the University of San Francisco. “The Middle East Today.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

Town Meetings

(Schedule Subject to Change – Call to Confirm.)

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

KCC-July 11, Aug 1, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 7:30pm. 525-0292

FKL-July 5, Aug 2, Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm (at the Library) 1st Tuesdays

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

KPSC-July 11, Aug 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-July 13, Aug 10, Fire Protection District 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD-July 14, Aug 11, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

KIC-July 25, Aug 22, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 524-7514.

KMAC (Tent.)-July 26, Aug 30, Municipal Advisory Council- Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s office to confirm: 231-8691)

KPOA Property Owners Association
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