



Bringing The Community Together

K E N S I N G T O N O U T L O O K

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JUNE 2014

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VOLUME 71 NUMBER 5

Kensington’s Graduating Seniors 2014



Photo: Wenyan Petersen, Precious Studio

A very impressive group of forty-two graduating high school seniors gathered on Sunday, May 4th for the annual *Kensington Outlook* school picture. Below is a list of this year’s high school seniors, their high school, and the college they are going to this fall.

A warm thank you to Wenyan Petersen, owner of “Precious Studio,” a personalized quality photo album business in Richmond, CA. This is Wenyan’s third year as volunteer photogra-

pher taking the senior photo and snapping the perfect shot!

ROW 1 (left to right): Yurie Murayama, Head-Royce, Maryland Institute of the Art; Kevin Luan, Berkeley, University of Washington; Alvin Nguyen, El Cerrito, UC San Diego; Duncan Tait, El Cerrito, UC Berkeley; Maggie Scarpa, Albany, Chico State; Emma Steinheimer, Berkeley, Sonoma State; Jacqueline Shepherd, St. Mary’s, Holy

Names University; Colin Davis, Berkeley, Morehouse College; Grace Miller, St. Mary’s, School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Kelvin Guo, Miramonte, Bowdoin College;

ROW 2: Zuhair Bhatti, Northgate, UC San Diego; Maddy Jurisich, El Cerrito, UC Santa

see Grads, Page 9...



START YOUR SUMMER OFF
IN HIGH GEAR!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE KCC
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT ON
SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH

**Anti-SLAPP
Denial Reversed**

KPPCSD Prevails in Quick Decision
by Court of Appeal – See Page 3

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CORRECTION Upon additional review of the video of the July 12, 2012 KPPCSD meeting, in preparation of this month's edition of the Outlook, it became evident that Cathie Kosel and Mari Metcalf were NOT responsible for the motion and second to extend that meeting, as reported in last month's issue.

see Correction, Page 8...



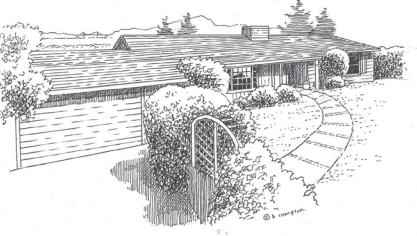
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Your guidance was a constant reassurance. Plugging us into all the services required to sell a house was especially appreciated.

- B. Lundgren

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. (PLEASE NOTE: Modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after all periods.) E-mail preferred, to: Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

Letters to the Editor

KPPCSD Board Insurance?

Dear Editor:

I received in today's mail, the May copy of the *Kensington Outlook*.

As a 40-year resident of Kensington and former attorney, I have been following this litigation with interest. In the current issue of the *Outlook*, the editor wrote of the current lawsuit:

"The action was brought against the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Board, and three of the five sitting individual directors;... KPPCSD attorneys acting on behalf of Lipscomb, Toombs, and Lloyd responded to the complaint...the cost to the town of defending the suit has reached the \$200,000 mark (about \$100 per household thru March 31st).

Regardless of which position each of us supports, it has been perplexing to me why Kensington residents will be paying for this litigation. This litigation apparently designates the named directors as defendants. Boards typically purchase "Directors and Officers Liability" to have insurance carriers and their attorneys defend actions brought against boards and covers legal exposure for actions taken by the board in actual or alleged exercise of their responsibilities as Board members. This insurance is "Directors and Officers Liability" insurance.

I contacted one of the KPPCSD board members and asked whether the District Board had this insurance. That director told me that the Board did have this insurance.

If the Board (actually the community, since our property taxes/assessments would pay the insurance premiums) purchased the insurance, why did the Board engage the Hanson Bridgett firm – at the cost stated by the Editor? If the defendant Board unnecessarily engaged attorneys at the community's additional expense, then this should be of serious community concern as to the Board's judgment.

If, on the other hand, the Board member who told me the Board had this insurance was incorrect, and the Board, in fact, does not have Directors and Officers Liability insurance, then that too should be of serious community concern as to the Board's judgment.

Jan Behrsin

Support for Measure L

Dear Editor,

Measure L will help fund the Kensington Community Center safety and remodeling plan. This plan improves the current building in a necessary and responsible manner.

Someone suggested to me that the construction costs are too high. From my experience managing institutional remodels, the figures seem within typical range. It is important to remember that our project will require public bidding and the payment of prevailing wages. We'll also need to use commercial grade materials to withstand the heavy use by our kids and community.

Professional estimators were hired to develop the construction budget. They were smart enough to include a contingency. The KPPCSD has included a second contingency that creates a higher and more conservative budget. That is the correct approach to getting the job done right.

Please vote yes on Measure L. We will all enjoy returns on our investment for years to come.

Andrew Reed

The Pub: Now Inspiring?

Dear Editor,

In your last issue, my neighbor Gordon Becker wrote that the citizens of Kensington deserved more "inspiring" fare than that served at our Pub on Colusa Circle.

I have long respected Gordon's high standards. But I would like to look at the Pub from another angle. For if it is inspiration you want with dinner, there are food temples all around where, for \$100 plus a pop, you can get uplift from a reverentially prepared entrée and a selection of exquisite lettuce leaves arranged in a perfect bouquet,

The Pub gives us something else. There,

see Letters, Page 4...

We're Voting Yes on L

To the Editor:

My wife Sarah and I held a discussion on measure L in mid-May and heard thoughtful presentations from both sides. Based on this, we have decided to support L. The cost of doing the needed safety improvements (only) would also require a bond, and the proposed improvements allow the building to better meet the needs of the whole community.

The Boy Scouts is a private organization, and we don't accept the idea that it has a special claim to the building.

Sincerely,
Rodney Paul

**K E N S I N G T O N
OUTLOOK**

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May KPPCSD Meeting – Public and Board Comments: The Writ and Meas. L

What Happens if Measure L Doesn't Pass? – Lisa Coronna

I'm here tonight as an individual to speak about the Community Center Safety Project and Measure L.

First off, I want to thank the Board for putting this important measure on the ballot.

Next, I want to remind the Board that you've been discussing what to do with the park buildings for the past 4 years.

The discussion has been thorough and included three highly publicized special public workshops and an online survey.

There have been at least 14 separate District agenda items on some aspect of what to do with the park buildings.

You have asked the hard questions and sought answers both from the community and from professionals.

The question that you asked, and one that keeps coming up, is...why not just do the minimum?

First off, Option 1 (minimal health and safety) was estimated at over \$700,000 in 2012. That number will have escalated significantly by the time any projects can be implemented. The District does not have the funds to implement all the minimum safety projects, so they would not happen in the foreseeable future.

But even more important than the money, I believe the Board made the right decision ... that if we are going to have to raise the funds that we don't have, we should raise enough money to not only make the building safe, but also to ensure that it will be more functional, comfortable, and energy efficient; and a place where everyone in the community – youth through seniors –

wants to gather.

So, what happens if Measure L doesn't pass and we struggle through many years of trying to merely hobble money together to just make the building safer?

1. The building will be exactly like the concrete block bunker it is today – even after spending well over \$700,000.
2. The building will NOT have an improved entry.
3. The building will NOT have a more flexible floor plan for multiple activities or one larger gathering.
4. People will NOT be able to access the restroom without walking through other people's meetings and events.
5. The building will NOT have a strong connection to the park and will NOT have increased windows and access along the west wall to enjoy the surrounding landscape and views.
6. The building will NOT have new energy efficient heating and ventilation system, improved acoustics, flooring, lighting, wall surfaces, or other comforts.
7. The District will NOT generate increased revenue from rentals for private family events that a more attractive building will bring.
8. The building will NOT meet the expressed interest of the community for a building that accommodates a wider range of programs and events; this minimal plan (Option 1) was NOT recommended by the architect or by the Park Buildings Committee.

You've done the work. The benefits are huge. Make safe and modernize the Community Center. Vote for Measure L.

– From the speaker's notes.

Director Pat Gillette on the Writ

I note that some of the citizens that come to every meeting, who are among those who sued the board, are not here tonight, and I think that's unfortunate...I also note that there are not a lot of people here who have expressed some concern about the park (improvement proposal). I say that only because I think it's so important that we have open dialogue and that everyone is willing to talk and exchange ideas in a friendly and open way; and that's what the litigation we've been involved in has been about. So I want to review how we got here.

We got here when seven citizens, led by former Board member Mari Metcalf, filed a writ against the Board and the three Board members, Chuck, Linda, and Tony, who voted in favor of increasing the COP/GM salary.

They asked the court to find that the Board 1) failed to give proper advance notice of business items discussed at the July 12, 2012 meeting; 2) that the Board impermissibly extended the meeting after failing to secure the four votes necessary at 9:45pm to continue the meeting past 10pm; and 3) that the merit bonus payment was actually a retroactive pay increase.

Because they filed this writ against individual Board members based on the way the members voted, the Board filed an anti-SLAPP motion – which prohibits bringing claims against persons for exercising their free speech in connection with a public issue.

Procedure:

The anti-SLAPP motion was heard by the Superior Court judge in Contra Costa County. While he ruled in favor of the

seven citizens, he made it clear that he thought it was a close case.

The Board and the individuals filed an appeal of that decision. (That appeal) was argued on April 1st and the decision was issued on April 30th.

Decision:

The decision by the Court of Appeal is as follows:

The court found that the seven citizens had violated the rights of the individual Board members by naming them in the writ.

In doing so, the court made the following findings:

The allegation of a Brown Act violation – i.e., that the Board failed to give proper notice of the salary discussion – the court found it had no merit because the Brown Act was not in effect at the time; And that the idea that this writ would benefit the public at large – a requirement for the relief the citizens were seeking – was not proven.

The court concluded that, based on the evidence presented by the parties, "petitioner's motivation in filing this lawsuit was, at least in part, to intrude upon the First Amendment rights of the individual Board members." The court was persuaded to give this argument credence in part because Kosel and Metcalf – although on the Board – were not named as defendants, and the defendants were not served with the writ until after Kosel lost a bid for re-election and Metcalf had resigned from the Board.

The court also said that the individual defendants were not sued simply because

see Writ, Page 8...



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Residents on Measure L, Mardi Gras, Tomatoes, and More

...*Letters, from Page 2*

we get fulsome, tasty fare without scraping the last dollar from our wallets. We get it with great, live entertainment – from first-rate cover bands to world-class bluegrass.

True, the service Gordon complains about was once so breathtakingly bad it left you hovering between outrage and bemused laughter as you requested your bill for the fourth time. But under the new owners, service is already much better. They have hired some of the top wait people from near-by establishments; and they have eliminated other weaknesses while adding strengths. The long popular fish and chips still features Atlantic cod; but it no longer turns soggy as it cools, and the chips don’t require a Viagra injection lest they go limp before the climax of your meal. The delicious steak is twice the thickness, but only 10% pricier. Along with the old standards there are good new items on the menu. My favorites include the hearty tortilla soup. And I was near grief Mother’s Day morning when I came to the end of my crème brulee French toast.

You know, when I consider what the new owners have done with our Pub in just 18 months...well, it’s downright remarkable. Maybe even inspiring?

David Gerstel

An Investment in Ourselves and in Our Community

Dear Editor:

In the 36 years I have lived in Kensington, I have seen many changes. That is what happens in our type of community – change occurs to reflect the needs of our citizens. So the tot lots are torn down and replaced by a beautiful park. The drug store is converted to our very own cheese store. The Colusa Circle loses Narsai’s and gains other terrific smaller, family oriented restaurants.

On June 3rd, we will be asked to support another change in our community – to vote for Measure L so that we can improve our aged and bedraggled community center. This is in keeping with the tradition of our town – to make changes that benefit our larger community – our children, our seniors, and our families. The community center serves all those constituencies. And

that is why I am hoping our citizens will do as they have in the past – vote for a change that will ensure the benefit of everyone, by voting yes on Measure L.

The money generated from this bond measure is one more opportunity for us to move the dial on what makes Kensington such a wonderful place to live. By passing this bond, we not only make the community center a safe place for all members of our town to use, but we also make it a place that people will want to use.

There is a cost, of course, to doing this. It will cost a maximum of \$14 for every \$100,000 of assessed property value. For the average resident, that will be about \$56 a year – or less than \$5 a month. And for that we get increased earthquake and fire safety, modern kitchen and bathrooms, more program capacity thanks to a better floor plan, plus a center that is more comfortable, accessible, and energy efficient.

Is it worth it? In my mind the only answer is YES. Our community is going through a revival, as new families move into Kensington. They will send their kids to our wonderful public school, they will use the parkland we bought 25 years ago, they will frequent the stores and restaurants on the Arlington and at the Colusa Circle, and they will use the community center for scout meetings, after school classes, birthday parties, and movie nights. At the same time, our more mature residents will use the revamped center for yoga classes, dance classes, and community social events. And it will be both a safe and beautiful place for all of us to enjoy.

The new center will reflect our investment in our community and in ourselves. This is the future for us and I, for one, embrace it and welcome the change. Please join me in voting yes on Measure L.

Pat Gillette

In Support of Measure L

(Editor):

Our kids and family use the community center all the time. Between KASEP after-school, KCC summer camp, civic meetings and school activities, we spend lots of time in the park and in the building. We want this important building to represent how we feel about Kensington – that’s it’s strong, that it’s proud and that it serves everyone. If these improvements are not

made the District will still need to find money it doesn’t have to provide for basic safety on the youth hut grounds. And after all that time and money, the building will still look like and function exactly like it does today. That’s just not good enough.

Measure L will implement all the safety improvement plus it will add many other features that will make this building sing!

Along with all the critical safety improvements the building will have:

· Flexible floor plan for multiple activities and large or small gatherings

· Strong connection to the park and views through increased windows and doors along the west wall.

· Energy efficient heating and ventilation systems, improved acoustics, flooring, lighting and other comforts.

· More enjoyment and use by everyone

We need to invest in this building and it should be both safe and improved.

Our children and our families will all benefit. We’re voting YES on Measure L

Sincerely,
Sarah and Doug Diego, Hilltop Parents

No on L

Dear Editor,

Measure L asks Kensington residents to upscale the 4,430-square-foot cinder block Youth Hut/Community Center in order to attract income-producing private events focused on adult social activities. This proposed 30-year, \$2 million makeover (full term bond costs estimated at \$3.7 million) produces negligible economic benefits, and will tax property owners for changes that will curb the energetic youth activities that have defined the building’s purpose and character for almost 60 years.

In 1955, the Youth Hut was conceived, designed, built and financed through pro bono work and donations by the people of Kensington. By comparison, Measure L is the product of costly studies prepared by outside consultants who analyzed three possible options. It should trouble voters that one of the options in their feasibility study (Option #1) was NOT given a proper vetting by the District Board. This sensible upgrade of the Community Center at a price of \$750,000 would bring the building into code compliance and complete needed maintenance obligations with no bonding required. Option #1 includes earthquake, electrical & fire safety, roof repair, bathroom accessibility, and a modern commercial kitchen – the very items listed by proponents as reasons to vote for Measure L.

In the May *Outlook*, a prominent supporter of Measure L stated that the money needed to perform necessary repairs is not available in the KPPCSD fund – suggesting that Measure L is therefore the only option. If true, then KPPCSD has not adequately budgeted for these repairs. However, KPPCSD’s own studies show there are sufficient funds to phase in these improvements without a bond measure. The KPPCSD website “2013 Financing Options” p.28 shows \$508,000 available, and the 2014 voter pamphlet shows \$738,000.

A NO vote on Measure L will urge the KPPCSD Board to go back to its initial 2012 feasibility study and adopt Option #1 – a sensible plan that brings the building into code compliance and completes necessary repairs and upgrades. VOTE NO on Measure L.

Jim Watt – 46-year Kensington resident and former scoutmaster T100

No on Measure L

Dear Editor:

Why haven’t the people of Kensington been polled to determine if they would rather proceed with a sensible \$750,000 upgrade of the Community Center / Youth Hut (CC) and paid from continuing funds, rather than an expensive upscale plan requiring a \$2.0 million bond levy (eventually indebting us for some \$3.5 M) on all Kensington households? Here’s why.

In 2011, an inexpensive on-line survey (SurveyMonkey) about the CC was undertaken (see www.kensingtoncalifornia.org, Kensington Park master plan 2013 financing options, page 28). Although the initial feasibility study for the CC had analyzed two options, one for the \$750,000 upgrade (Option #1) and the other requiring the upscale \$2.0 million bond measure (Option #2), Kensington residents were never polled and given an opportunity to choose between these options. The Board simply assumed that the residents of Kensington wanted the upscale Option #2, and they decided at their June 2013 meeting to employ Godbe Research to survey the community for possible bond measure support for Option #2.

The results of this survey showed that the most important issues favoring support of a bond measure were safety and accessibility, coupled with upgrades to the kitchen. This is why the mailers and flyers by Measure L’s proponents stress those issues. However, all of these items are fully addressed in the upgrades detailed in Option #1, and this would likely have been the preferred choice among Kensington residents had they been asked. The Godbe poll found more support for less expense than for greater expense among residents, which the Board ignored.

A NO vote on Measure L will still leave the KPPSCD Board with the ability to implement the Community Center upgrade described as Option #1 in phases (safety first), and do so with NO bond financing. Because Option #1 does all that we need, and seems to be what most residents want, I’m voting no on L. Let’s fix the CC the *right way*.

Kevin Padian

Measure L is the Future

(Editor):

I have been fortunate to be a community volunteer in Kensington for the last several years and having had the privilege to work on a number of projects, including the Master Plan for the Park, all of which, in my estimation, have improved our town and our surroundings.

Currently, I have been working on promoting the passage of Measure L, which will upgrade and secure our Community Center for future generations.

The Center is aging and needs to be brought up to current seismic, safety, and health codes. More importantly, it serves as the center of civic, educational, and social life in this community.

The improvements envisioned will enhance all that is positive about this Center, providing a safe, secure, and comfortable place for all individuals and groups who currently use it.

Please ignore the negative voices who are focused only on their narrow, selfish interests and who would deny the greater community of 5,000 residents from enjoying all that an improved Community Center will bring to this community.

Join me in voting Yes on Measure L and voting for a better tomorrow.

Bruce Morrow

More Letters, Page 12...

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KASEP

Kensington After-School Enrichment Program

The Kensington Community Council is grateful to have teachers and Board members that work so hard to bring its mission to life through KASEP classes, summer camp, adult fitness classes, community events like Movie Night, the Fall Parade and Picnic, and this year’s Mardi Gras dance. None of this can happen without the support of our parent community! There is not a more supportive, intelligent, and adventurous community of involved parents, and KCC says thank you!

Kensington After-School Enrichment Program (KASEP) FALL Session begins Monday, September 15th and will continue through December 19th, a 14-week session. Online Registration for FALL KASEP is scheduled to begin at 6pm Tuesday, September 2, 2014. FALL Brochures will go home in Kensington Hilltop Elementary School children’s backpack the week of August 25th. FALL class information, schedule and costs will be published, available for viewing on the website beginning August 18th. To view, go to KASEP/KCC’s website at www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org.

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KASEP SUMMER CAMP 2014

Time to Stop, Think, and Plan

Top Reasons Kids Should Go to KCC Summer Day Camp

Woo hoo! It’s time for KCC Summer Day Camp sign up! Don’t miss out – Week 1 is already filled! Summer camp can be one of your child’s most rewarding, unforgettable, and joyful life experiences.

A creative, community-oriented, affordable summer day camp experience!

KCC Summer Day Camp provides a sense of community – many classmates from Hilltop Elementary School attend, as well as those from neighboring communities.

To register go to www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org. We accept credit card payment online. Payment is accepted in the KCC office for checks/cash and partial payments. Questions? Call 510-525-0292.

One of the goals of KCC Summer Day Camp is making sure children have fun, in a supervised and safe environment. Summer camp is a much needed break from the academic year where campers experience creativity, adventure, thrills, smiles and participate in non-competitive games.

KCC Summer Day Camp is for children entering 1st through 6th grades in Fall 2014.

Affordable Summer Camp
\$245 per week per camper

You choose the weeks you want to attend:
Monday, June 9th – Friday, August 15th

One fee includes BBQ lunch on Friday, free T-shirt, field trip entrance fees and transportation, snack each afternoon, group tennis lessons, and art/craft lessons.

Camp Hours: Monday – Friday 9am-5pm

Before-care: 8-9am • **After-care:** 5-6pm
Childcare is \$8 per hour/per child additional.

What does your child do at camp?

Try new things: KCC Summer Camp pushes children out of their comfort zones and exposes them to new activities and experiences with which they may not be familiar, such as working with a real hammer and nails to build something with Sandy in Carpentry, getting a “hole in one” while on the field trip to Scandia’s miniature golf course, or learning how to make pasta from scratch! Campers develop their social skills through being around other children, teamwork, and problem-solving. Camp life fosters independence – children learn the responsibility of making their own decisions with the safety net of insightful counselors and staff in a safe environment.

Cost is \$245.00 per camper, per week
Registration is ongoing throughout the summer.
Register On-line: www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org

REGISTRATION

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. E-mail: kccrec@yahoo.com, or call 525-0292. M-F, 10am-4pm.

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

Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am. Call the KCC office for information. Court Fees: 45-minute singles reservation: Residents: \$2; Nonresidents: \$5.

Please Note: KCC Summer Camp teaches tennis on the courts every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9am -1:30pm, from June 9 through August 14th. Courts are not available for public use during this time.

Summer Camp Activities & Schedule

- Week 1: June 9 - June 13**
Specialty: Carpentry
Field Trip: The Jungle – Indoor Playground/Concord

Week 2: June 16 – June 20
Specialty: Soda Pop Tab Belts/Jewelry
Field Trip: Adventure Playground/Berkeley

Week 3: June 23 – June 27
Specialty: Gymnastics *Spirit Week*
Field Trip: Oakland Zoo

Week 4: June 30 – July 3
Specialty: Ultimate Frisbee & Volleyball
Closed 4th of July

Week 5: July 7 – July 11
Specialty: Ceramic Clay Creations
Field Trip: Lake Anza

- Week 6: July 14 - July 18**
Specialty: Gymnastics *Olympic Week*
Field Trip: Marine Mammal Rescue/Marin

Week 7: July 21 – July 25
Specialty: Circus Arts
Field Trip: Bladium-Alameda Rock Climbing/ Soccer

Week 8: July 28 – August 1
Specialty: Cooking *Spirit Week*
Field Trip: Lake Temescal

Week 9: August 4– August 8
Specialty: Metal Art, Dog Tags
Field Trip: Scandia

Week 10: August 11 - August 15
Specialty: Ceramic Critters
Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool Party!

Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances.



Real critter caught by 'KASEP Critters' • The Tooth Fairy comes to KASEP KCC Summer Camp – Just Can't Wait! • Best Friends in Art and Bookmaking Ethan Houser returns as KCC Camp Director and welcomes you to camp!

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Listing Update

55 Marguerita Rd., Kensington
Signature Millar White Modern. 4BR/3BA.
SOLD - Originally offered at \$1,250,000

88 Edgcroft Rd., Kensington
One-of-a-kind view cottage. 2+BR/1+BA.
PENDING - Offered at \$679,000

New Listings

318 Arlington Ave., Kensington
Level-in to this ultra charming bungalow.
Magical setting! 4BR/2BA.
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924 Liberty Ave., Kensington
Updated level-in 3BR/1BA traditional with
separate garden office.
Offered at \$599,000

MARKET SNAPSHOT - APRIL 1 - PRESENT

The number of listings from April 1-May 1 has almost tripled since March 1 to April 1

- 11 Available Listings • Average List Price: \$510.60 per sq. ft. • Average days on the market: 14
- 6 Pending • Average List Price: \$472.65 per sq. ft. Average days on the market: 20
- 6 Sold • Average List Price: \$458.24 per sq. ft. • Average Sales Price: \$525.53 per sq. ft. • Average days on the market: 20

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

Neighborhood Notes

Chillin' Chill'un Chase Change for Challenged Chileans

Roving correspondent, Gretchen Gillfillan tipped the *Outlook* to third grade Kensington Hilltop Elementary School teacher, Janet McKnight, whose class had a yard sale last month at Janet's place to raise money for the earthquake victims in Chile. The \$500 they raised will surely help. *Good work, everyone – way to go!*

Vacation Watch, Drug Take Back Day, P.D. Staffing

With summer here, the Kensington Police Department is reminding residents of its Vacation Watch program, which provides additional police scrutiny of your home while you're out of town. So that it can provide better service, KPD is asking all vacationers to notify them at least a week prior to your trip...In other news, the police department reports being fully staffed at ten sworn positions, with two reserve officers. The department is now in the background process with three additional potential reserve officer candidates...On National Drug Take Back Day in April, the Kensington Police Department's Corporal Stegman collected 125.3 pounds (not including packaging) of unwanted pharmaceuticals, for safe disposal.

Kids' Day at Farmers' Market - June 15th

June 15th is Kid's Day at the Farmers' Market in Kensington. The market is also supplying fresh fruit, blueberries, and its traditional gift of a tomato plant for each kid on June 6th – *Walk to School Day*. The Kids' Day at the market will start with Scott the Storyteller and his puppet theater at 10am. *The Amazing Clementine* will be there with her face painting, and the fire truck arrives at noon. Musical programs will change throughout the day, with everything from trombones to flute and guitars coming in for the afternoon. Hands-on events include a visit from SCRAP that will have the kids making everything from space ships to action figures – all with recycled materials. There will also be some special interactive food tours with many of the farmers at our market. (Mmmm....an interactive food tour – sounds a lot like what we used to call eating!)

Photo: Mark Altenberg

June 19th – Talk About Wildfire!

The Kensington Public Safety Council hosts a talk on Wildfire on Thursday, June 19, at 7pm. Michael Bond, the Fire Marshall for Kensington & El Cerrito, will talk on how to reduce the risk of wildfire in your neighborhood. Additional information about which plants are best for fire resistance will also be provided. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. RSVP to kensingtonpsc@gmail.com so they know how many cookies to bake!

'Lift' Acupuncture Now in Kensington

After remodeling the office behind the hardware store at the corner of Amherst and the Arlington, former schoolmates, Melissa Hammesfahr (left) and Nicole Anderson have been sticking it to Kensington residents since last October (*requisite acupuncture joke now out of the way*). Both graduates of SF's American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Nicole is also the program coordinator for Acupuncturists Without Borders, which facilitates disaster relief by acupuncturists wherever disaster occurs, and co-director of the Bay Area Veterans Acupuncture Clinic – for which Melissa is also a practitioner – a group that provides services to veterans, Bay Area-wide...When asked about the most common misperceptions about acupuncture, Melissa and Nicole said that most people don't know that acupuncturists actually have more than four years of schooling – an integrative training that includes an extensive education in western- as well as Chinese medicine. “Most often the clients we get are those who are being stopped in some way by pain in their lives; they may have tried everything else, and most of the time they're pleasantly surprised by the results,” Melissa said. “We've seen so many instances of people just feeling better with this medicine and we want to share what we've learned with anyone who asks.” Lift Acupuncture, 303 Arlington Ave., Suite 1A. 526-5028. www.liftacu.com. *Welcome to Kensington, Melissa and Nicole!*

Kensington Community Council Presents KENSINGTON FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT JUNE 7 at 7pm

Movie starts at dusk on the big lawn next to Building E.
Bring a picnic or purchase a hot dog dinner.
Popcorn, water, decaf coffee & hot chocolate for sale.
Bring blankets, jackets and lawn chairs.
Raffle tickets sold at event for great prizes.
Winners to be announced that night. 5 for \$5 or 12 for \$10.
Proceeds to Benefit KCC Community Projects such as the renovation of the Community Center.
For more information, call Marty Westby at 525-0292

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Neighborhood Notes

Girl Scout Troop 32222's Pollinator Garden

In completion of a service project demonstrating both planning and leadership skills, to make a positive difference in its community, last month, 5th-grade Girl Scout Troop 32222 proudly presented to the community a pollinator garden adjacent to the Community Center. In recognition of its achievement, the Junior Girl Scout Troup received a Bronze Award from the Girl Scouts of Northern California... The troop created the garden to help attract pollinators to our area. As these young Girl Scouts explain it, pollinators are important because pollination is necessary for making more plants and flowers grow, and humans and animals need plants to live. *(That's the way most of our parents explained it to us, and it sounds like things haven't changed much in the last fifty years or so – except when it comes to the bees, of course.)*

The troop thanks its sponsors, who donated gardening supplies, plants, flowers, or money to make the garden possible, with a special shout out to Flowerland for letting the whole troop come visit. *Good work, Scouts!*



Fire District Demonstrates its Generosity of Spirit

At last month's KPPCSD meeting, Director Pat Gillette, chairing the meeting in President Len Welsh's absence, announced that the Kensington Fire District had decided to reduce the Police District's monthly rent for the Public Service Building (administered by the Fire District on behalf of Kensington residents), to \$1 per month – a savings of over \$36,000 annually for the Police District. (Cue the sound of many hands clapping.) *Thanks, KFD!*

Fundraiser for Kim Wilkens

Long time Kensington community booster, Mechanics Bank Financial Service Manager, KCC Board Member, and mother to recent addition to the Kensington P.D., Officer Stephanie Wilkens, Kimberly Wilkens now needs our help in her battle with a serious health issue. Friends have set up a fundraising site to help her with medical bills while she is on disability and undergoing chemotherapy. If you'd like to donate, or leave a message of support for Kim, please go to www.giveforward.com and search for "Kimberly Wilkens." Thanks in advance to all who can help, and Kim, we will keep you in our thoughts and in our hearts – *hang in there!*



Kim Wilkens at Last Year's Valentine's Day Dance

Doctors Hospital Loses at the Polls – Now What?

No word yet from Supervisor John Gioia's office on what West Contra Costa County residents are going to do when they need a hospital, and fast. One local emergency responder opined that Kaiser Hospital might find it in its own best interest to keep Doctors open and avoid having to deal with all the emergencies Doctors has handled in the past, but would naturally accrue to Richmond Kaiser if Doctors closes. Speculation has it that Chevron might also be one to step up to the plate, as they are frequently looking for good publicity – and what could be better than supporting a local hospital where people could go when they have refinery-related health problems? *Stay tuned...it may not be over 'til it's over.*

Hilltop Carnival Another Grand Success

This year's Spring Carnival was another huge success, with droves of local residents participating in the many carnival games and activities, enjoying the Dads' Club BBQ, and shopping at the White Elephant-, bike-, and plant sales – possibly the most visited carnival in recent history!... The pie baking contest attracted 28 entries – thanks go to judges, John Gioia, Linda Lipscomb, Linda Jones, Sharon Anderson, and Judy Sanders; and congrats to the winners: Audrey Abt, 3rd grade (Student category); Melinda Dennen (Pies, over all); Sangwei Lu (Cream pies); Michelle Fillingim (Nut); Beth Refsland (Fruit)... The quilt raffle was in full swing, with lucky winner, Gretchen Miezowski, and runner-up prizes (Arlington and Colusa shopping sprees) going to Elliott Joh, Melissa Gray, and Carla Blenkinsop... Kensington PTA and Dad's Club thank all those who helped make this year's event a success: Ruth Frazzetto & The Grubb Co., Todd Hodson and Marc Choi of Marvin Gardens Real Estate, Arlington Wine & Spirits, Aidells' Sausage, KPMG, Arlington Café, Arlington Ace Hardware, Kensington Chevron, Country Cheese Co., Kensington Fine Foods, Kensington Nail Spa, Inn Kensington, Lift Acupuncture, Young's Market, 4 Cats Art Studio, Alchemy Skin Spa, Benchmark Pizza, Circle Salon, Colusa Market, Pacific Acupuncture, The Fuse Fitness, Hendrickson's Clinic, Kensington Optometry, Kensington Vet Hospital, Nan Phelps Photography, and Semifreddi's... and a big thank you to the entire Kensington community for donating to the sales, and then coming back to shop and have fun on the big day!



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– Jim Valvano

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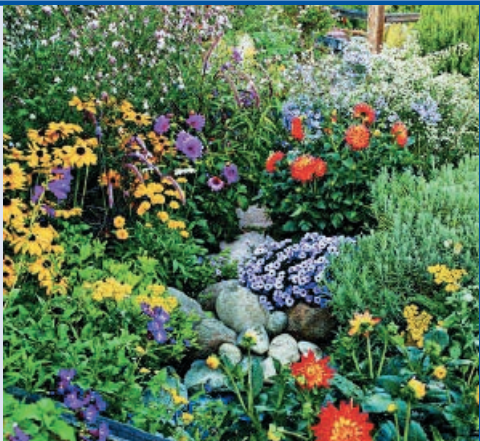
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SAFETY NOW

"No viable alternative exists to Measure L.
Unfortunately, the District simply doesn't have the funds to implement the minimal option. And if Measure L doesn't pass, it will be years before any safety work on the Community Center will begin. We've all retrofitted and renewed our houses over the years. Shouldn't we do the same for our 60 year old Community Center?"

LORRAINE OSMUNDSON
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"Hilltop School just renovated its multi-purpose room with a wall of windows that is used by hundreds of kids a day and it looks great! We want our two kids to benefit from these same types of safety and design improvements at the Community Center, where they attend KASEP and KCC Summer Camp. That's why we're voting for Measure L. **Let's get on with it!**"

MARK BELL
Hilltop Parent | Resident since 2000



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Yes on Kensington Measure L Committee FPCC # 1365332

Around Town Last Month



Friends of the Kensington Library Book Sale



Car Meet at Jason's Kensington Chevron Station (above, and at right)



KASEP Mixed Media Printing Project



Dir. Pat Gillette on the Writ ...Writ, from Page 3

they voted, but based on *how* they voted and (how they) expressed themselves at the Board meeting – which is exactly what the anti-SLAPP law is designed to prevent.

As to the clam that the merit bonus given to the COP was a retroactive payment rather than a retention bonus, the court found that claim without merit because Harman would not have received the bonus had he not agreed to continue working for the district.

The court also found that the allegation regarding the improper extension of the meeting was pure nonsense...“what the petition fails to state, however, is the undisputed fact that the Board took a vote at 10pm and unanimously voted to continue the meeting past that time. Thus, the Board did not violate it own policies in allowing the meeting to go past 10pm.”

So the court granted the anti-SLAPP motion as to the three Board members, and denied it as to the Board, itself – because

the court found that the anti-SLAPP provision did not apply to the Board.

But in doing so, the court noted: “In light of the fact that we have concluded the petition [against the individuals] lacks merit, the viability of the instant suit [against the Board] is questionable at best.”

What’s Next:

The case against the individuals is dismissed.

The case against the Board is sent back to the trial court “for proceedings consistent with this opinion” and, given the Court of Appeal conclusion regarding the merits as to the individuals, and the fact that it went out of its way to say the probability of success on the merits as to the Board was “questionable at best” – it is highly unlikely that the citizens will prevail against the Board.

The individual Board members have a statutory right to seek attorneys’ fees against the citizens, and we will be seeking those fees to reimburse the community for the legal fees we have incurred.

– From the speaker’s notes and remarks.

Writ of Mandate Timeline

- October 12, 2012**
Writ of Mandate filed by attorney (and KPPCSD Director) Mari Metcalf, on behalf of Schwartzburd, et al. – seven petitioners, including fellow KPPCSD Director, Cathie Kosel.

November 2, 2012
The names of Cathie Kosel and (Mari Metcalf’s husband) Jeffrey Koehler are removed from the suit. (All original petitioners were still named in the April 30, 2013 decision on the anti-SLAPP motion handed down by the Court of Appeal. Should the Board prevail in the suit, as the Court of Appeal suggested it may, and attorney fees be awarded, it’s unclear at this point whether these two petitioners – as well as Catherine De Neergard, who was removed later – would be dunned. KPPCSD legal fees to-date are estimated at over \$200,000 – which would be about \$30,000 per plaintiff, should all petitioners be subject to such a collection. Director Pat Gillette said at May’s KPPCSD meeting that it was the intention of the Board to pursue recovering these costs on behalf of the town.)

November 6, 2012
Cathie Kosel loses election to retain her seat on the KPPCSD Board of Directors.

December 13, 2012
Mari Metcalf resigns from the KPPCSD Board.

January 30, 2013
Writ of Mandate served on the KPPCSD Board and the three directors remaining from the previous Board.

April 2, 2013
Anti-SLAPP motion filed by KPPCSD attorneys.

May 15, 2013
Superior Court hears arguments.
- July 5, 2013**
Superior Court denies anti-SLAPP motion.

August 26, 2013
Settlement conference.

August 30, 2013
KPPCSD appeals denial of anti-SLAPP motion.

October 2013
Catherine De Neergard’s name removed from the suit.

April 30, 2014
Court of Appeal reverses Superior Court judge on anti-SLAPP motion.

Analysis

It’s curious to note the delay in serving the Board (and three of its Directors) with the writ.

The writ was originally filed on October 12, 2012, but not served until more than three months later – after Kosel lost the election and Metcalf resigned from the Board.

Was the serving of the writ withheld to see what the results of the election would be? Did Metcalf resign from the Board to avoid sitting on the Board while also acting as an attorney for plaintiffs who were suing the Board and three fellow Board members?

Further, all five directors voted to extend the July 12, 2012 KPPCSD meeting past 10pm; If the three individual directors named as defendants in the writ were not sued on the basis of how they voted on the issue of the GM/COP’s raise (as the plaintiffs maintained they were not – and which would be impermissible under anti-SLAPP), on what basis were they singled out for suit?

...Correction, from Page 2

That motion was made, instead, by Director Tony Lloyd, and seconded by Director Linda Lipscomb. All five directors, including Kosel and Metcalf, voted to extend the meeting, as reported, however the genesis and second of the motion were not as originally stated in the May edition.

Given that corrected scenario of how the meeting was actually extended, we hereby amend our (Outlook, May 2014) analysis of that event, thusly: When all five direc-

tors are present, a minimum 4/5ths vote is required to extend a meeting; at the July 2012 meeting, either Kosel’s or Metcalf’s vote would have been required to meet that criteria and extend the meeting.

At that meeting the vote to extend was unanimous, with both Kosel and Metcalf instrumental in the vote to extend. Had the threshold not been met, the meeting would’ve been adjourned by default, thereby automatically tabling discussion of the raise.

The Outlook regrets the error. – Ed.

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14 Things to Consider: The Solid Waste and Recycling Services RFP Process

At the May KPPCSD meeting, Kensington resident, Nicole Forte took the podium during public comment and impressed everyone in the room with the apparent breadth of her understanding of the issues involved in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for identifying the future waste hauler for Kensington.

Subsequent to that meeting, the *Outlook* contacted Nicole and asked her to expand on her remarks for our readers. Here are her suggestions for Kensington:

- The primary goal should be to get more diversion of waste from going to landfill. Add food scraps from homes and businesses to green waste collection; but...
- If food scraps are added to green waste, then I recommend weekly green waste collection, with a requirement for collection containers with lids, due to pests (i.e., raccoons). This may involve the need to have an automatic truck to pick up carts.
- Request an increase in the types of recyclables allowed (i.e., plastic wrap and bags bundled together; all types of hard plastic (toys, yogurt type containers, clam shell types, etc). Right now residents are allowed up to 32 gallons/week but industry standard is 64 gallons/week. Residential service should be allowed two 32-gallon containers/week or a 64-gallon cart.
- Consider whether backyard service should be an option, and if so, how the cost should be assessed – individually, or spread out over all accounts.
- Have a *Reuse Day* like the City of Albany does, where the hauler would pick up and dispose of anything left on the curb.
- Consider having bulky waste pickup, such as old furniture, mattresses, appliances, once or twice a year. Most cities are getting this service now. I suggest reviewing other Contra Costa County unincorporated city services.
- Consider including an option to provide one or two special Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events per year. If less

people use the HHW Facility in Richmond this will help cover added costs. Or get a price for curbside HHW Collection.

- Special trucks may need to be used; the large automated trucks would have problems with the narrow streets and the low hanging branches of trees.
- Consider increasing the District’s franchise fee from 2% to 5% to help cover Franchise Agreement administration, road repairs if automated trucks are used, and legal and rate review costs. (County may request to increase their franchise fee collection as well.)
- I suggest the contract be for 10 years (with possible extension) with only two rate reviews, and CPI in the years between reviews. Rate review costs could be paid by the hauler.
- Request the successful bidder pay RFP process costs. This is not unusual for the industry.
- Places to recycle and properly dispose of batteries, fluorescent tubes, and compact fluorescent bulbs are an issue for many residents. I suggest we request the prevailing bidder provide collection events and disposal on a twice-a-year basis. (Electronics and batteries can currently be dropped off for free at El Cerrito Recycling Center, and paint can be taken to Kelly-Moore and Benjamin Moore paint stores for free.)
- Continue the no-charge for the District and County facilities recycling and waste collection.
- Kensington total tonnage is small, so we should expect that a guaranteed profit will have to be continued in order to get companies to bid on the proposal.

Nicole Forte is a Kensington resident, who was the Programs Manager with the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority (aka RecycleMore) for the past six years. This Joint Powers Agency was responsible for making sure the five cities (Richmond, Pinole, Hercules, San

Pablo, and El Cerrito) complied with the State AB939 waste reduction goals. RM spent the past two years putting out an RFP, reviewing bids, and then negotiating a contract with Republic Services for post-collection disposal and processing of all the solid waste and recycling. Nicole has also worked as a consultant with other cities for solid waste management.

There will be a town hall meeting on this matter, with opportunities for questions and suggestions from residents, at the KPOA Meeting on June 21st at the Community Center, at 10am. (See Calendar.)

...Grads, from Page 1

Barbara; Emily Cain, El Cerrito, Colorado College; Erin Sakaji, St. Mary’s, UC Los Angeles; Graeme Bates, Albany, University of Toronto, Canada; Kennedy Grant, Oakland School for the Arts, Seattle University; Anna Cardall, Marin Academy, Georgetown University; Deena Mufti, Bentley, UC Berkeley; Sydnie Koontz, El Cerrito, UC Davis; Mischa Vernon-Wyatt, St. Mary’s, Lewis and Clark.

ROW 3: Kian Vafai, Head-Royce, UC Berkeley; Kaiya Levine, Albany, University of Oregon; Miranda Kahl, El Cerrito, UC Berkeley; Simona Ruzer, Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz; Julia Teitelbaum, Albany, University of Oregon; Rayleen Ortega, Berkeley, Sacramento State; Brianne Patrick, El Cerrito, Sacramento State; Heather Rickansrud, El Cerrito, UC Berkeley; Jonah Miller, El Cerrito, Willamette University; Samantha Burnell, El Cerrito, M.I.T.

ROW 4: Arianna Allen Gardizi, Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara; Casper Gaviria, El Cerrito, UC Riverside; Christoph Stolcke, Berkeley, Princeton; Jackson Spector, Berkeley, San Francisco State; Amira Cohan, Berkeley, Boston University; Olivia Lee, Berkeley, Harvard University ; Malory Wolfe, Albany, San Diego State; Liam Godfrey, St. Mary’s, Diablo Valley College; Lorenzo Siemann, Berkeley, Tufts University; Mario Santos-Davidson, Albany, Whitman College; Joanne Kirkby, Albany, Cal Poly; Morgan McMullen, El Cerrito, Diablo Valley College. (Not shown: Ben Van Scoy, El Cerrito, UC Berkeley.)



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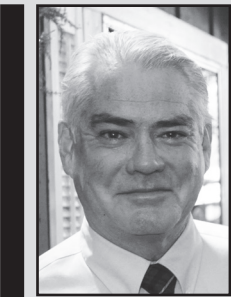


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In Memory



Richard Michiel Kentz, Sr.
August 5, 1946 – April 25, 2014

Born August 5, 1946 in Redlands, CA to Henry August and Mildred Kientz; this one-of-a-kind, loving, and quirky man (born Richard Michiel Kientz) passed suddenly on April 25, 2014 in Kensington.

Devoted husband, father, and nono, Richard was a handyman, artist, chef, salesman, and proud Vietnam veteran with the 101st Airborne Division.

Richard was a gentle and kind soul that used his innate culinary talents to bring family and friends together, especially in his favorite gathering place: Mineral, CA.

He is survived by Marilyn Kentz, his wife of 34 years, his five children, Pfilipa, Richard Jr., Aaron, Marcy, and Francisco; his granddaughter Amelia; his siblings Danniell and Kathaleen; the Astis and Matulichs and MacKenzie clan; three chihuahuas, and one desert tortoise. A memorial will be held Sunday, June 15th at the Albany Veterans Memorial Building from 3-5pm.

Rest in Peace

From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From April 2014

4/1/14, Officers Turner and Ramos responded to the unit block of Marchant Gardens on a report of a deceased elderly female. The case was initially investigated as a possible homicide. It was eventually determined the subject died of natural causes.

4/2/14, Officers Turner and Ramos took a report of a possible elder abuse/check fraud that occurred in the 200 block of Arlington Ave. Through follow up investigation it was determined no crime occurred.





4/03/2014, Officer Martinez responded to the unit block of Lenox Ave. on a report of an identity theft.

4/04/2014, Officer Martinez responded to the 200 block of Lake Dr. on a report of an identity theft.

4/6/14, Master Sgt. Hull and Officer Armanino, responded to the 200 block of Willamette Ave. for a death investigation.

4/7/14, Officer Ramos responded to a hit and run on the 700 Block of Coventry Rd.

4/7/14, Officer Turner arrested a subject for possession of narcotics inside the subject's vehicle.



4/13/14, Officer Turner responded to the unit block of Marguerita Rd. for a report of a burglary.

4/13/14, Officer Wilson responded to the unit block of Marchant Ct. for a report of a vehicle theft.

4/14/14, Officer Turner located a stolen vehicle on the 400 block of Coventry Rd.

4/16/14, Officer Turner took a vandalism report on the unit block of Oberlin Ave.

4/20/14, Officer Turner took a vandalism report on the unit block of Garden Dr.

4/20/14, Officer Turner took a vandalism report on the unit block of Highgate Rd.

4/22/14, Officer Turner took a report of a non-injury accident on the 300 block of Colusa Ave.

4/27/14, Officer Turner responded to a natural death on the 300 block of Colusa Ave.

Complete Report at KensingtonCalifornia.org/KPPCSD-board/2014-agenda-packets-0

Website The Board packets, monthly reports, minutes, recordings of the KPPCSD Board Meetings, and Bay View County Solid Waste contracts are available for review at: www.KensingtonCalifornia.org



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June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Kensington Farmers Market. Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm. Free. Colusa Circle.

June 2 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.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Taize Meditation and Brown Bag Lunch at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue. 7:30am.

June 3 The Power of Myth at the Movies: The Life of Pi (2012). Please view this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7:30-9pm. \$7. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

June 3, 10, 17 & 24 Family Storytime. Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun. Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

June 4, 11, 18, 25 Yoga at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue. All ages. 4:45-6pm. Bring balance to mind, body and spirit. Drop-ins welcome, small fee. Call Suzanne Lingo at 525-1881.

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

(Schedule Subject to Change – Call to Confirm.)

**KCC - June 2nd
Kensington Community Council**
1st Mondays, 7:30pm. 525-0292

**FKL - June 3rd
Friends of the Kensington Library,** 7pm (at the Library, 61 Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesdays

**KPSC - June 9th
Kensington Public Safety Council**
Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

**KFPD - June 11th
Fire Protection District**
2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

**KPPCSD - June 12th
Police Protection and Community Services District**
2nd Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

**KIC - June 23rd
Kensington Improvement Club**
4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 527-3062

**KMAC (Tentative) - June 24th
Municipal Advisory Council**
Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia's office to confirm: 231-8691)

**KARO/ECHO - JULY 14th
Amateur Radio Operators**
2nd Mondays of odd months, 7:30pm. 524-9815

**KPOA
Property Owners Association**
Meets quarterly. 559-8232

Kensington Kalendar



See Kensington artist, Elaine Chu's 'Sock Critters' and more at this year's Live Oak Park Fair, Saturday and Sunday, June 14th and 15th at – where else? Berkeley's Live Oak Park!

June 5 Women's Fellowship at Arlington Community Church, 6:30-9pm. Bring a dish to share. 526-9146

June 5, 12, & 19 Baby & Toddler Storytime. Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library. Two identical sessions, 10:15am & 11:15am. Free.

June 7 Pixar's "CARS" at Family Movie Night. Free. Bring blanket, jacket, and picnic. Bldg. E. lawn, 7pm.

June 8 Stephen Zunes, "The Power Struggle in the Middle East, Syria, Iran, Iraq..." 11am-noon. Free. UUCB, Kensington, www.uucb.org.

June 8 Knitting at Arlington Community Church, 11:30am. Knit shawls, hats, scarves, and mittens for those in need. Info 526-9146.

June 9 KCC Summer Camp Begins. \$245 for the week. Ongoing through August 15th. More info at 525-0292.

June 9 Timothy Horn Talks About His Plein Air and Studio Painting. Garden Room, EC Community Ctr, 7007 Moeser Lane, EC, 7pm. Free. 277-6996 or bdaniell1943@gmail.com

June 9 Berkeley Repertory Theatre Docent talk on "The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism, with a Key to the Scriptures." Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free. 524-3043

June 14 Police Officers & K9 Unit. Summer reading kick-off. A Kensington police officer will read stories and introduce a working police dog. Ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 11am. Free. 524-3043

June 14 & 15 44th Annual Live Oak Park Fair features original hand-made art & crafts, family-friendly entertainment, and 'Edible Tastings.' 10am to 6pm at Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Avenue (at Berryman), North Berkeley. Free. www.liveoakparkfair.com

June 15 Dorothy Herzberg, "Letters from Nigeria, 1961-1963." 11am-noon. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

June 18 The Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters meets to discuss local issues at 1:15pm at 28 Camelot Court. Guests are welcome. Please confirm at 527-4240.

June 19 KPSC Wildfire Talk. Hosted by the Kensington Public Safety Council at the Community Center at 7pm. Michael Bond, Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Marshall, will talk about how to reduce the risk of wildfire in your neighborhood; information about which plants are best for fire resistance provided. RSVP to KensingtonPSC@gmail.com so they know how many cookies to bake!

June 21 Annual Meeting of the Kensington Property Owners Association. Town Hall Meeting, 10am-noon at the Community Ctr, including presentations and a panel discussion with questions from the audience, and an information forum to gather input for the development of the next garbage services contract. Everyone invited.

June 21 Path Clean-up. The Gore Lot near the Chevron Station on Arlington Ave., 10am-noon. (Rescheduled from May.) Bring rakes/gloves/brooms/clip-pers, etc. Water and cookies provided.

June 22 Anuradha Mittal on "Challenging Test of Land, Water and Forest: The Politics of Land Grab." 11am-noon. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

June 23 Kensington Library Book Club. Discussion of "Headmaster's Wager" by Vincent Lam. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

June 27 Memoir Writing Group in the Fireside Room at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 10am.

June 27 Bridge at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue. Potluck at 6pm. Info 526-9146.

June 28 ARF Dog Training Demonstration. To fit in with our summer reading theme, "Paws to Read" the Animal Rescue Foundation will put a dog through its paces and tell us about dog-training techniques. Ages 3 & up. Kensington Library, 11am. Free.

June 29 Rev. Carrie Knowles, "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Not only veterans but victims of violent crimes need help." 11am-noon. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org.

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...Letters, from Page 4

5th-Grader on Measure L

(Editor):

I’m a fifth-grader at Kensington Hilltop School and I am concerned about making the Youth Hut safer. Our Girl Scout troop uses the Youth Hut for meetings, and we just planted a garden in front of it to attract pollinators. We also put in a fairy house to attract children! At our last Girl Scout meeting, we talked about Measure L while we were working on our “Inside Government” badge. We learned how Measure L could make the Youth Hut safer in an earthquake.

When I walk by the Youth Hut on my way to school, I think about Measure L and how it could make the Youth Hut a safer place for everyone who uses it. Please vote for Measure L!

Sincerely,
Anna Diehl

20 Questions

Dear Editor:

Some things I’d like to know:

You say the writ will fail because the facts are wrong, so why did the Board spend \$200,000 suing homeowners; why didn’t they just let it be heard? Since comparables defend the salary at issue, why weren’t they available for review? Are they available now?

Regarding L, why is the Youth Hut now called the Community Center and not the newer adult building with the nice classrooms that we’re still paying for, where the KCC meets? Why wasn’t the Youth Hut roof repaired five years ago with normal property tax funds? Why hasn’t there been a structural engineering report for the Youth Hut? Why didn’t the \$80,000 architectural plans come with building permits?

Why \$2,000,000? Why 12%? Why 30 years. The estimate is \$13.99 per 100,000, is there a cap on how high it could go?

Why are only 81 residents provided with email announcements? Why aren’t all of us who use email invited onto the list? Why are announcements available in the library and at the police station, when neither is open that often? Are we expected to stop by regularly to see if there may be an important announcement? Why not the bank? Why not the grocery store? Why not everywhere the *Outlook* can be found?

How much is in our reserves? How many outstanding workers’ comp cases are there? What happens if we lose however many there are?

Anna Shane

Volunteers, Lawsuits, and Tomatoes

(Editor):

People may be subdivided into all sorts of groups. Young/old, tall/short, liberal/conservative, etc. There are two sub groups that often go unnoticed: Those who organize, march in, and clean up after the parade and those who sit on the sidelines and jeer and throw tomatoes. Sometimes the tomatoes are very expensive to clean up, especially when they involve lawsuits.

Kensington is fortunate to have a wealth of talented, dedicated people who volunteer their time and expertise on behalf of the community. Unpaid, I might add. Some are in visible roles on the KPPCSD, many are entirely anonymous. Some of the ones who are not anonymous are being sued for their efforts. Sued personally, I might add. To what end is the current suit? What will be changed in our community as a consequence of this suit that is worth \$250,000 and counting?

I must admit that corruption is rampant amongst the various “K” groups. For example, if members arrive early enough to a meeting, those members tend to park ANYWHERE THEY WANT! *Sheesh!* When cleaning up after an event, some members have been known to munch on the leftovers while sweeping up. Unbridled larceny.

Aside from this, our community is well-served by its many volunteers. We could also use more help. If people cannot help, might they recall the old adage of “Lead, follow, or get out of the way,” to which must be added “and please don’t shoot out our tires.”

Ted Blanckenburg

Erroneous Information?

Dear Neighbors,

Some of you may have seen communications asserting erroneous information and misleading statements about the bond measure for upgrading the Kensington Community Center (Youth Hut). Please allow us an opportunity to respond.

First of all, you won’t find more dedicated Kensington volunteers than the group that has worked with the KPPCSD board over the last 4 years to help develop a prudent plan for making our Community Center safer and more useful.

It’s no secret: These volunteers don’t like change for the sake of change. However, they do believe in progress for our growing community.

But progress requires diligence, not divi-

See Letters, Back Page...

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...Letters, from Page 12

siveness. Progress demands teamwork and consensus, not conspiracy theories. Let’s focus on reason, not rhetoric.

Is any ballot measure ever the only choice? Of course not. The KPPCSD, their citizen volunteers, and consulted experts worked together to make the responsible choice. That’s why Measure L is on the ballot.

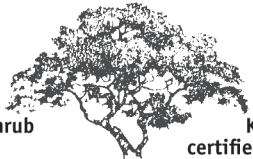
After reviewing the minimal option, the KPPCSD Board of Directors determined it simply wasn’t financially viable. In fact, it would cost approximately \$850K in today’s dollars.

Unfortunately, the District simply doesn’t have the funds to implement the minimal option and must raise funds in the most cost effective way possible.

That’s why the District Board of Directors decided that if the community was committed to a legitimate fundraising effort, the District should commit to raising the bar – that is, not just a safer and accessible building, but one informed by energy efficiency, functionality, comfort and community input.

Let’s help Kensington move forward, not lag behind. Our Community Center’s longevity can be responsibly realized through this modest and sustainable community investment. Please vote yes on Measure L.

Sincerely,
Kay Reed, The Yes on L Committee



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—Alethea, Oakland

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