



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

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JUNE 2015

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 72 NUMBER 5



Congratulations, Graduates!

First row, left to right: Jenna Tran, ECHS, Berkeley City College; Maxine Lien, SF Flex Academy, University of the Pacific; **Second Row:** Stella Van Den Eeden, Saint Mary's HS, Loyola University Chicago; Hadley Roberts-Donnelly, Albany High, UC Davis; Sierra Lee, ECHS, UC Berkeley; Natalie Meacham, ECHS, Bryn Mawr College; **Third Row:** Amanda, Undecided; Ellen Lavorando, Berkeley HS, UC San Diego; Olivia Scott-Dahrouge, Berkeley High, Gap Year; Remy Afong, Piedmont HS, Northwestern University; **Fourth Row:** Charlotte Manyasli, Berkeley HS, Occidental College; Megan Foley, ECHS, SF State; Karyna Cabral, Berkeley High, Santa Barbara Community College; Jessica Reed, St. Mary's HS, George Washington University; Raven Mahoney, Saint Mary's HS, Undecided; **Fifth Row:** Monica Ramsey, ECHS, Rice University;

Madeleine Jones, ECHS, UC Davis; Julia Shebek, ECHS, Cornell University; Emily Leung, ECHS, UCLA; Erika Page, Marin Academy, Tufts University; Gabriel Lee, ECHS, San Jose State; Elinor Lewis, Berkeley High, McGill University; **Sixth Row:** Ursula Lochner-Bravo, ECHS, New York University; Lukas Ferreira, Oakland School of the Arts, UCLA; Andrew Brodsky, ECHS, Tufts; Andrew Whittemore, ECHS, UC Santa Cruz; Alex Meurer, ECHS, Cal Poly SLO; Sacha Warnock, ECHS, Santa Barbara Community College; Noah Bennett, Jewish Community HS, UC Davis; Nicolas Cassman, ECHS, Berkeley City College; **Back Row, left to right:** Austin Wansick, ECHS, California State Long Beach; Jan Minarik, ECHS, Cal Poly SLO; Cameron Thorpe, Oakland School of the Arts, UCLA; Charles Alston, School of the Arts-

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Kensington Explores Options for Governance and Police Services at KPOA Meeting

Upwards of a hundred people packed Kensington's Community Center May 3, on a balmy Sunday afternoon, for the Kensington Property Owners Association's annual meeting. "I'd like to see this many people at our meetings," commented Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District (KPPCSD) president and panelist Len Welsh.

The two-hour session focused on governance options for Kensington's police and fire districts. Lou Ann Texeira, executive officer of Contra Costa LAFCO (Local Area Formation Commission), which oversees

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The KPPCSD Continues Forward

The regular **June 11** meeting has been changed to **June 1**. For location, check: kensingtoncalifornia.org

KPPCSD Board President Len Welsh, and KPPCSD Board director, Chuck Toombs were asked by the Kensington *Outlook* to provide a summary of the May 14 meeting of the Board of Directors of Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District. A new editor for the *Outlook* has not yet been hired, so Board members as well as the *Outlook* would like to provide the community with a summary of the meeting.

This summary does not represent the views of the full Board or the other Board

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KENSINGTON MARKET UPDATE



We have dozens more listings available throughout the East Bay.
Call for details or to talk about real estate 524.0800.



204 Arlington Ave ~ \$849,000
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217 Willamette Ave ~ \$850,000
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PENDING ~ 606 Canon Drive
4br/2ba ~ Listed at \$895,000

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Kensington Explores Options, continued from page 1

formation, boundary-setting, and service capacity of special districts in the county, summarized the structure of special districts. She said that most are single-purpose, such as water or sewer districts. Only six of 78 special districts in Contra Costa County are multipurpose, including Kensington’s KPPCSD, which manages solid waste and Kensington’s community center and park in addition to police services. LAFCO reviews the special districts, assessing financial capacity to deliver mandatory public services; assigning “spheres of influence,” which can ultimately determine boundaries; and projecting future service needs.

Texeira said that LAFCO last reviewed Kensington’s Fire Department in 2009, and that district, which is separate from the KPPCSD, fared very well in terms of fiscal sustainability and service. The fire department contracts for services and personnel with El Cerrito, in an arrangement common among cities and unincorporated areas like Kensington.

Two years later, LAFCO assessed the KPPCSD. The district was formed, Texeira said, in 1946. In 1953 parks and recreation was added, and later solid waste. LAFCO noted that in 2009, the district had financial constraints, but those had lessened by 2011 because of a special tax passed in 2010. Texeira noted that the district could consolidate with El Cerrito, as Kensington falls under El Cerrito’s sphere of influence. Kensington’s two special districts could also merge, though the boundaries of the two are not identical: the EBMUD reservoir falls under the police but not the fire district. (For more information, see www.contra-costalafco.org.)

The next speaker, San Bruno city manager Connie Jackson, a Kensington native, explored how shared and contracted services work, describing San Bruno’s arrangements with Millbrae for fire services. She made the point, echoed later by others, that contracts for shared services can be creative and cost-effective, but must reflect the needs of all the partners. For example, Millbrae had a volunteer police component that was important to them to retain. “Does it make sense for twenty cities in such a small area [as the Peninsula] to provide police and fire services all on their own?” Jackson asked, adding that cost-savings is almost always the factor that galvanizes the discussion,

though honoring each partner’s objectives is key to the success of the venture. Millbrae had three senior fire officials retiring over an eighteen-month period when it proposed joining forces with San Bruno. The two cities worked out a regional fire plan in which they now share a fire chief, personnel, and some equipment.

El Cerrito and Kensington fire services have a different arrangement, which also works well, reported panelist Larry Nagel, president of the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD). He said the contract with El Cerrito requires that the Kensington station is always staffed with three firefighter/paramedics for each shift or nine for a twenty-four hour period. One employee works half-time for El Cerrito and half-time for Kensington, while other services are shared two-thirds for El Cerrito, one-third for Kensington, including the labor of the fire chief, fire marshal, and battalion chief. The KFPD owns two fire engines and the Public Safety Building.

Kensington has options for how it provides its police services. These boil down to three scenarios, each with its own permutations: 1) Continue with the community services district as it is, while deciding whether the general manager and chief of police job should be shared or divided; 2) Negotiate a joint-powers-agreement with the county’s sheriff’s department or with El Cerrito to share services, such as the chief and other personnel; 3) Merge the two special districts, police and fire. In this scenario, the police district, which is a community services district, would absorb the fire district, and the boundaries would be readjusted so that the fire district would include the reservoir.

Panelists in the second part of the afternoon answered questions from the audience. Several audience members raised concerns about the level of police service we might expect from a police contract. Supervisor John Gioia, one of the panelists, explained that when entities contract for services, those services take priority. If Kensington contracted with El Cerrito and several officers were ill, leading to a reduction in staffing, Kensington staffing would take precedence because the contract would have to be fulfilled.

As to how much savings might be real—

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

KCC also provides a forum for all Kensington community groups to meet and coordinate their respective efforts toward the common good of the community. Meeting dates and times of the various community groups can be found under Town Meetings on the Kensington Calendar page.

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

KENSINGTON
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July/Aug. Advertising Deadline . . June 8
July/Aug. Editorial Deadline . . June 10

KENSINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KASEP

Kensington After-School Enrichment Program

Congratulations on completing a successful school year! We are gearing up our world for summer camp, starting Monday June 8. Please put on your calendars two important **KASEP** dates: **FALL registration** is scheduled on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m., and the other is the start of **KASEP** classes, Monday, September 21. **KASEP** classes continue through to Friday, December 18.

If you have not changed your child's grade on the computer, now is a good time. Change your child's grade to next year's grade (under account profile on the website www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org). The software edits on grade, not by age, and you will be blocked from classes that are age specific during **FALL registration**.

At the end of this **KASEP** year, we are sad to say good-bye to two of our long-time **KASEP** teachers. Lynn Crook, sewing instructor, is retiring after 19 years teaching our children. Lynn has developed an incredible program for our students. Grades 1-3 learn the lost art of hand stitching. Check out the crocodile pencil bags her students are making and the needle books. Older students learn how to use sewing machines while making fabulous pillows and wall quilts. Lynn has touched the lives of so many children; she has given a tremendous gift to this community—time and a passion for sewing that will be with them throughout their lives. Thank you, Lynn!

Sarah Torney, kindergarten instructor for Zoo Art, and Singing for older students, began teaching with **KASEP** five years ago. We have been so fortunate to have Sarah as part of our program and **KASEP** family of teachers. Sarah's singing students led us in holiday carols many a year during our winter performances. Folk songs, campfire songs and favorite tunes of the day resonated from her classroom. Patience combined with creativity brought Sarah's projects alive with her kinder classes. Sarah is moving on to join the world of real estate sales, and we wish her all the best.

Family Movie night is scheduled for Saturday, September 12—we are accepting movie suggestions! Circle the evening on your calendar: giant outdoor TV screen, hot dogs and popcorn, bring blankets and chairs, be outside with friends. A lovely way to spend a Saturday night!



Lynn Crook retires after nineteen years of teaching sewing!



Sarah Torney, thank you for your art-filled projects and singing talents.

WELCOME TO KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP 2015

Summer is right around the corner! KCC Summer Camp Week One, June 8, is **full**. Summer Camp is for children entering first grade, and includes all grades up to 6th grade as of Fall 2015. We have a selected a great team of counselors, led by returning Director, Ethan Houser and his Head Counselors, Jacob Fong and Emiliano Carrasco-Zanini.

KASEP teachers will be at camp—Sandy Thacker, teaching carpentry, Doug McNeely coaching circus skills, Jean and Judy bring out the mats for gymnastics, Shelly Courneyor will be crafting paper monsters, Jamie Aberegg is our clay instructor making zombies and garden gnomes. Of course there has to be arts and crafts with teacher, Vicky Brodt. KCC Summer Camp invites you to be part of our exciting and fun adventures.

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

Camp Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

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

An additional week, August 17–21 was added for families in preparation for the late start of school, August 24. **"We love Legos"** with Play-Well Teknologoes is the themed specialty for the week!

Cost is \$250.00 per camper, per week.

Register online at www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org



Guess who is coming to camp?



Life is good at camp with Legos.

JAZZERCISE

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

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

BODY SCULPTING

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

Body sculpting is shaping
your body to look leaner,
more toned and strengthened.
Register at class.

Come join the fun
and get healthy.

Just bring a mat and weights
and we'll get started.

Questions?
Call Kevin at 486-2728;

Location for both classes:
Kensington Community Center.

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

REGISTRATION

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

Tennis Court Reservations: For
weekends and holidays only,
beginning at 9:00 a.m. Call the KCC
office for info. Court Fees: 45-min.
singles reservation: Residents: \$2;
Nonresidents: \$5.

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



Vicki Brodt leads
weekly crafts at camp.



Counselor Mischa lends
a helping hand.



Hula hoop camper finds her groove.

KCC Summer Camp Activities & Schedule

Week 1: June 8–June 12 — **FULL**

Specialty: Carpentry
Field Trip: The Jungle

Week 2: June 15–June 19

Specialty: Gymnastics
Field Trip: Adventure
Playground/Berkeley

Week 3: June 22–June 26

Specialty: Iron Chef Pizza Competition
Field Trip: Oakland Zoo

Week 4: June 29–July 3

SPIRIT WEEK
Specialty: Sports Madness:
Statistics in Action!
Field Trip: Lake Anza

Week 5: July 6–July 10

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

Week 6: July 13–July 17

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

Week 7: July 20–July 24

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

Week 8: July 27–July 31

Specialty: Paper Weaving Arts/
Bread Making
Field Trip: Lake Temescal

Week 9: August 3–August 7

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

Week 10: August 10–August 14

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

WEEK 11: August 17–August 21

GAP WEEK—week before school starts
Specialty LEGOS Play Well Teknologies

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



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REALTORS

Market Update

◆ Recently Sold ◆



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



8363 Kent Drive
El Cerrito
Handsome 3BR/2BA Traditional
Originally offered at \$998,000



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

◆ Coming Soon ◆



1265 Contra Costa Dr. El Cerrito
Level-in to this elegant 3+BR/3BA view home.
Price upon request



18 Avon Rd. Kensington
Enchanting 4BR/2BA home in a magical setting.
Price upon request



451 Vermont Avenue, Berkeley
Ultra charming 3BR/3BA fixer upper.
Price upon request

KENSINGTON MARKET SNAPSHOT - AS OF MAY 1ST, 2015

- 6 Available Listings • Average List Price: \$441. per sq. ft. • Average days on the market: 9
- 4 Pending • Average List Price: \$473 per sq. ft. Average days on the market: 18
- 4 Sold • Average List Price: \$503 per sq. ft. • Average Sales Price: \$615 per sq. ft.
- Average days on the market: 32 • Median days on the market: 14

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KPPCSD, continued. from page 1

members—just those of Chuck and me. And don't forget, if you want full access to a replay of the entire board meeting, a video of the entire proceeding has been posted online at <http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/latest-news/may-14-2015-kppcsd-board-meeting-video/>, and we encourage all readers to find the time if they can to take a direct look if you weren't able to attend.

The Board continues to move forward with efforts to address community issues. Among other business, the Board held closed session interviews with three finalist candidates for the interim general manager-chief of police position. The Board also received a brief update by the ad hoc committee being led by Vanessa Cordova and Chuck Toombs on the proposed structural review of District operations that will be held with community members in committee meetings and at public town hall meetings. And the Board received a first look at the potential budgetary impact of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Kensington Police Officer's Association (the "MOU"), in a presentation by Adam Benson of the Public Management Group. Finally, the Board voted 5 to 0 in a closed session that took place after the public meeting to end all of litigation regarding the writ of mandate and associated claims for attorneys' fees.

The Board also said goodbye to current GM/COP Greg Harman who leaves employment with the District on May 31 after eight years of public service to our community. He was thanked for his commitment to duty and management of the District and its police department in the face of daunting challenges.

The Board was also saddened to hear that its District Administrator, Lynn Wolter has been sidelined with a broken arm and

was unable to attend the District meeting; the Board wishes her a speedy recovery.

The Board has scheduled another closed door session on May 26 to make its final decision on selection of an interim general manager/chief of police and will then consider salary terms at the June Board meeting, which has been rescheduled from June 11 to June 1 so that all Board members can attend. Please mark your calendars and visit the District's website at <http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/> for more information. The District has already published notice of the meeting times and dates on its website to provide as much advance notice as possible, and will post updates on location and agendas as the information becomes available.

Selection of an Interim General Manager/Chief of Police

Board members Patricia Gillette and Rachelle Sherris-Watt have done a terrific job managing the selection of candidates for an interim general manager-chief of police made necessary by the impending departure on May 31 of Chief Harman. As part of the hiring process, Directors Gillette and Sherris-Watt invited 5 prospective candidates to a public, ad hoc committee meeting on May 11. At that meeting, those in attendance had the opportunity to listen to prepared remarks by the 5 candidates who appeared, and to ask the candidates pointed questions about their visions for this position. A digital tape of this meeting is available online for those who missed it at <http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/latest-news/2015-05-11-interim-chief-general-manager-candidates/>.

Three of the five candidates, Kevin Hart, Kevin Kyle and Ed Laverone were invited back for interviews at the Board's closed session meeting that preceded the public meeting on May 14. The Board has truly

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Neighborhood Notes

50 Years and Still Celebrating!

John and Martha Vlahos, Kensington residents since 1967, celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on May 2, 2015. John is a lawyer with Hanson Bridgett in San Francisco and Martha was a teacher at Windrush School for many years. Their three children, Jennifer, Jamie and Jonathan and their spouses, plus their six grandchildren enjoyed a catered dinner at their home on Arlington Court. It was a special evening, complete with an amusing song, set to the tune of "Love and Marriage," composed and performed for John and Martha by their children. The family enjoyed lots of laughs as they looked at the wedding pictures and recalled memories.

Kensington Girl Scout Junior Troop Bronze Award

Ten Girl Scouts from Troop 31120, who designed and made a Plinko Board for the Kensington Hilltop Carnival, are being awarded the Girl Scout Bronze Award this year.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Junior can earn, recognizes the leadership and planning skills required to follow through with a project that makes a positive difference in the community.

Winning the award were Natalia Brunetti, Charlotte Connelly, Cate Flowers, Irena Connelly, Kiara Fillingim, Soshana Goldstein, Lilliana Porter, Ava Robertson, Lily van Linder, and Zoe Wolfson.

For their project, the 5th grade troop of budding artists wanted to create a neighborhood mural but couldn't find a suitable location. Kensington Hilltop School asked the troop if they would be able to make a Plinko Board for the school's yearly carnival instead. The girls decided on a Snow Cone theme showing people holding hands around a giant snow cone "world" to symbolize friendship around the world.

The Plinko Board made its debut at this year's carnival on May 9th with the girls manning the booth. This board will be at the Kensington Hilltop Carnival for many more years to come, thanks to the efforts of this troop.

June Tips from CERT—Use of Phones during Earthquakes

CERT is your Community Emergency Response Team. To find out which of the 6 Kensington CERT Areas you live in and who your CERT leader is go to: www.el-cerrito.org/index.aspx?NID=579

This month let's consider how we'd use **Telephones** in an earthquake emergency.

1. If safe to do so, check and make sure all your landline phones are hung up, to help restore local service. It's best to have one phone that doesn't need electricity.
2. Phones which require electricity or a battery that needs recharging may not work. Some examples are cordless phones, VoIP phones (unless you have a modem with a battery backup system and it has a charge), computer VoIP-based calling systems (e.g. Skype, FaceTime, etc.)
3. If your cell phone isn't damaged and still has juice try texting your Out-of-Area Contact. Keep messages short.
4. Pay phones are part of the emergency services network and are a priority to be restored to service. You can tape the coins needed to use a pay phone to your Out-of-area Contact card. Your nearest pay phone: there are two inside and two outside the El Cerrito Plaza Bart Station.

Share your ideas about the **Telephone** in times of disaster with your Kensington neighbors. Together we're all smarter!

Your Kensington neighbors are preparing, are YOU?

A Big Thank You to Kensington Improvement Club Volunteers

Among the volunteers at the Kensington Improvement Club's April 25th path beautification event were Elsa Prendergast (left) and Iris Fisher (right), 2nd graders at Kensington Hilltop School. Together with an orange-shirted crew of weeders and ivy-whackers, the workers collected twenty-three bags of material from the Gore Lot triangle on Arlington Avenue, just north of the Chevron filling station. Home-baked cookies and enthusiastic honks from Saturday morning traffic kept spirits and productivity high for the two-hour work party.

The Kensington Symphony Orchestra

Save the Date—The Kensington Symphony Orchestra invites you to enjoy another beautiful music concert in their last season's performance on Saturday, June 6, at 8:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley in the Kensington Hills, located at 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, CA.

This special program, conducted and directed by Geoffrey Gallegos, includes: Schumann—Concerto for Cell and Orchestra with Rebecca Rust, cello. Sonata for Trumpet and Strings by Henry Purcell—played by trumpeter Dana Kemp in his final concert after 30 years with the The Kensington Symphony Orchestra. Cost is \$20. for Adults, \$15. for Seniors & Students, and Children Under 12, Free. Tickets are available at www.kensingtonsymphonyorchestra.org

— Continued on page 5

Neighborhood Notes, continued from page 4

The Kensington Symphony Orchestra is a community-based orchestra based in West Contra Costa County. Membership consists of seasoned professionals, committed non-professional musicians, music educators and students from throughout the entire Bay Area.

Bristly Ox-tongue

This very invasive plant appeared in the neighborhood recently. Please, make every effort to keep it from blooming and spreading seed, and if at all possible, remove the plants altogether. It is very aggressive! The problem with this plant is that once it has taken hold of the area, it is almost impossible to weed out as it has a VERY LONG TAP ROOT. If you try to pull it out, the root breaks and it will grow back from even the smallest piece of the root. Then, the only way to remove it, is by using herbicides, which is to be avoided. This weed is mostly spreading from the un-maintained parking strips and front yards, where it is freely blooming and spreading its dandelion-like seed far and wide.



Helminthotheca echinoides. Photo and article submitted by Irma Jarvenpaa.

Celebration of Fatherhood

Nancy Rubin, Kensington resident since 1977, will be exhibiting her first solo photography show at the North Branch Berkeley Library located at 1170 The Alameda, Berkeley, on Saturday, June 6 from 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Nancy is the photographer of the popular photoblog, Humans of Berkeley and the Bay Area, and a former Berkeley High School teacher. Since her days as a teacher, she has been aware of the importance of having fathers be engaged in the lives of their children, and the dearth of this kind of involvement. From behind the lens, she has captured men of Berkeley and the Bay Area lovingly involved with their children. This exhibition honors those fathers and all fathers like them. The exhibition will be at the Library June 6–July 1.

Graduates, continued from page 1

SF, Pennsylvania Academy Fine Arts; Tyler Johnson, ECHS, California State University East Bay; Kahlil Lowry, ECHS, American Academy of Dramatic Arts; Galen Hans, ECHS, San Diego State; Kai Marshland, ECHS, Stanford; David Razzano, ECHS, Diablo Valley.

Not Pictured: Matthew Jenkins, Lick-Wilmerding HS, Washington University St. Louis; Leo Gould, ECHS, USC; Sophie Gio, The Bay School, UCLA; Toby Lyons, Cambria HS, attending Washington University St. Louis.

Special thanks to our photographer. Photo taken by Robert Mohr, commercial photographer; robert6647@mohrproductions.com



Emily Wise, Albany High, attending CSU Long Beach.



Kelly Barry, ECHS, attending San Jose State University.

KPPCSD, continued from page 4

impressive finalist candidates, each of whom has retired after careers in different police agencies and is equally at ease in managing police departments.

They all have experience in creating and managing agency budgets, and we believe it is fair to say that their management credentials are very strong in addition to their ability to serve as police department heads. All of the three also bring experience in the political arena to bear on their positions.

The Board has scheduled another closed door session on May 26 to make its final decision on selecting a candidate and will then discuss salary terms and a proposed form of written contract to be presented for action at the June 1 Board meeting.

The Future of District Services to our Community

As reported in the May 1 issue of the Outlook, Directors Vanessa Cordova and Chuck Toombs are chairs of a new ad hoc committee composed of community residents that will engage in long term planning on the future structure of the District. We understand this committee will look at the District’s current operational structure, whether the chief of police position should

–Continued on page 6

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Come & experience the restaurant everyone is talking about and see why they love us!

Great spot for graduation parties & rehearsal dinners

Live Indian classical music entertainment every Friday evening.

PEOPLE LOVE US ON yelp

Enjoy your summer days
with a fresh bouquet from
D’Jour Floral
of Kensington Gardens,
available daily at the Colusa Market,
406 Colusa Avenue and at the
Country Cheese Company,
299 Arlington Avenue.
Need something special? Beautiful
flowers for every occasion selected and
arranged especially for you by Judy.
Phone (510) 525-7232 to place an
order or schedule a consultation.
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FROM THE FILES OF THE KPD

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



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Options, continued from page 2

ized, that figure is unknown, since it would depend upon the terms of the agreement—which Teixeira and Gioia reiterated could be creatively structured so long as it benefited both parties. LAFCO would study the proposal to ensure that levels of service would be met, and the plan, if adopted, would likely have a trial run and then be reassessed.

Board president Welsh noted that Kensington “has its own history. This is one of the things we need to take a good hard look at.” Welsh advocated hiring a consultant to assess the options, which are complicated by Kensington’s dual GM/Chief of Police role. Welsh wants to examine how the fire district and police district budgets compare, and he warned against “running to a solution.”

Supervisor Gioia had prepared a chart showing how our property tax dollars are apportioned. Special parcel taxes approved by voters and the small portion of property taxes that are returned to the districts help support those services. The fire district receives about 30 cents of a dollar, the police district about 13.4 cents, and all else (schools, libraries, lighting, AC Transit, etc.) share in the property tax pie. Nagel stated that the fire district does not receive twice as much “revenue” as the police district; because of special parcel taxes that Kensington voters have approved for the police district, he says the two districts receive about the same amount of funding.

Gioia, who said he would support whatever the community wanted, said that Kensington residents must be involved in the decision. “A change in governance should be community-driven,” he said. “Financial concerns are usually the driver, as well as quality of service. There is no right or wrong answer.” He also noted that there is always a tension between a board and the larger Kensington community: “What may be in the interest of one special district may not be in the interest of the entire community.”

After the meeting, KPOA President Gail Feldman said she was pleased with the audience’s interest in educating themselves about alternatives for governance and provision of public safety services. “We should think more like a town,” Feldman said, “and not separate entities that are competing with each other.”

After the meeting, ballots were counted for KPOA’s election of board members. All eleven candidates were elected. Board members serving a two-year term are Paula Black, Garen Corbett, Linnea Due, Gail Feldman, Rob Firmin, Sylvia Hacaj, Kristine Hafner, Kevin Padian, Jim Scott, John Sullivan, and Greg Tananbaum.

The annual get-together also functions as a membership vehicle. By the meeting’s close, KPOA had over 300 members.

KPPCSD, continued from page 4

be separate and distinct from the general manager position in lieu of the two positions being combined as is currently the case and has been for many years, the type and level of police services the District should provide to its residents, whether police services should be provided by the District or should be contracted out, and a review of possible consolidation of the District with the Kensington Fire Protection District.

Over the next year, this committee will hold regular meetings to analyze these key issues and will also invite all community stakeholders to town hall meetings specifically designed to encourage community participation as part of the ongoing debate over the future of District services and how they will be managed and delivered to the community.

Directors Cordova and Toombs are working on a final draft of a position paper that they hope to present to the Board at its June 1 meeting. They intentionally decided to remove this issue from the May 14 board meeting given the more pressing business regarding selection of an interim GM/COP, and the desire to hear the economic report of the Public Management Group. However they are ramping up this committee as the Board moves forward.

Economic Analysis of the Public Management Group

As mentioned above, the Board engaged the Public Management Group, the consulting wing of the Board’s new law firm, through group’s chief economic consultant Adam Benson, to prepare an analysis of the impact of the proposed MOU, captioned “Report to the Board of Directors, Financial Forecast and POA MOU Analysis dated May 11, 2015” (the “Report”); the Report may be viewed at pages 73-107 of the May 14 revised agenda packet at the following link: <http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/download/misc-kppcsd-documents/051115%20PLG%20FINANCIAL%20FORECAST%20MOU%20ANALYSIS.pdf>

We strongly encourage you to read Mr. Benson’s report. To summarize, the Report provides an objective, comprehensive and unbiased overview of this issue and briefly analyzes the Kensington community profile, the Draft MOU, comparability and consumer price issues, and then concludes with a financial conditions assessment and multi-year forecast.

Among other things, the Report notes that Kensington ranks first among the cities of Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito and Richmond in household income; the community also has the lowest unemployment rate of these five communities.

Further, the Report details that roughly 25% of the current housing units were occupied by their current residents prior

to 1979, the year Proposition 13 passed, indicating potential for increased assessed valuation and property tax revenues as these pre-Proposition 13 homes change ownership.

Without passing judgment on the terms of the proposed MOU, the Report reviews its key economic provisions over its four-year term, including among other things, shifting to the current rank and file the obligation to pay upwards of 12% of the total cost of their pension obligations, and the MOU’s cumulative pay increases over the proposed 4-year term of 16.98%, creating an average annual net wage increase of roughly 1.25% to the rank and file.

The Report then notes that the base salary of the officers, assuming implementation of the proposed MOU are around 22.1% below the base salaries of officers in the adjacent cities of Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito and Richmond which constitute the local labor market for our patrol officers; the Report also notes that the total compensation of the police officers, assuming implementation of the proposed MOU are still roughly 13.8% below the total compensation of officers in Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito and Richmond. In each case, Kensington officers rank at the bottom of this list of these communities both in base salary and total compensation.

The report acknowledges that comparison to similar communities instead of local communities may be more relevant in terms of salary comparability, and uses data from a study on that issue to conclude that there is less of a difference but still potentially a lower rate being paid to officers in those communities. Should the Board decide it wants to look harder at the comparability of our community to similar communities in terms of salary, benefits, etc, more study of that issue will be most likely be needed to draw firm conclusions.

The Report notes that past wage increases for the officers, beginning in 2008 represent a cumulative increase of 13.5% which essentially kept pace with average annual change in regional consumer price increases of 13.8% over that same time period; at the same time, the report notes that other personnel costs have continued to rise, citing as an example a 66% increase from 2008 to 2015 in

the Kaiser Bay Area single premiums for health care insurance.

The Report noted that the District’s reserves (captioned as “fund balances”) ranged from 61.9% to 57% of total expenses between FY 2010 and FY 2013 with unassigned fund balances ranging from 59.4% to 41.6% over that same time frame. The Report provided a set of criteria with which to measure the level of reserves, noting that there is no universally accepted right level of reserves, and this is an issue that really is up to the Board and the community to decide.

Finally the Report analyzes projections of revenues and expenses, based on the terms of the MOU and on an expected decision by the Board to spend what the report estimates as \$250,000 on renovations to the Community Center in FY 2018. Under this scenario, the Report projects surpluses for FY 2015 of \$67,939, FY 2016 of \$106,604 and FY 2017 of \$3,555. The Report predicts a deficit of \$288,502 for FY2018 (due in large part to the capital expenditures on the Community Center), and deficits of \$35,606 for FY2019 and \$42,148 for FY2020. Over this same time frame, and based on capital expenditures in 2018, the reserves as a percentage of total expenses are projected to drop from 50.1% to 35.9% with contingency reserves remaining fairly constant at 25%, and all other reserves dropping from 25.6% to 10.9%.

The Report also contains projected surpluses and deficits over this time frame based on a decision NOT to make capital improvements; the decision NOT to make improvements will cause the total reserves as a percentage of expenses to drop from 50.1% to 48.5% over that same time frame.

The Report contains the following summary of findings:

- Over the last three contract periods, the wage increases have generally kept pace with inflation; however benefit cost pres-

— Continued on page 8

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Kensington Calendar

June 1–Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs” All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. Meets on the first Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 p.m. Free. 524-3043.

June 1, 2, 3, 4, 5–Jazzercise for Adults, on-going 8:15 a.m.–9:15 a.m. Community Center

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29–Storytime. Mondays, 12:30 p.m.–12:55 p.m. Join us for stories, songs and fun. All children are welcome. Free. 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 526-7512 ccclib.org

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29–Crazy 8s! Mondays, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Drop by for “math gone wild”! Beeping, buzzing, bouncing math fun for all ages and abilities. This program is funded by Bedtime Math.org. 526-7512. Free. 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. ccclib.org

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

(Schedule Subject to Change—Call to Confirm)

KCC – June 1
Kensington Community Council
1st Monday, 7:30 p.m. 525-0292

FKL – June 2
Friends of the Kensington Library
7:00 p.m. (at the Library,
61 Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesday

KPSC – June 8
Kensington Public Safety Council
EQ & Disaster Preparedness
2nd Monday, 6:00 p.m. 501-8165

KFPD – June 10
Fire Protection District
2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. 527-8395

KPPCSD – June 1
**Police Protection and
Community Services District**
Check website for location:
kensingtoncalifornia.org 526-4141

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

KMAC – June 30
Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
(Call Supe. Gioia’s Office to confirm:
231-8691)

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

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

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June 2, 4–Body Sculpting for Adults, on-going 9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m., Community Center

June 2–The Power of Myth at the Movies: *2001 A Space Odyssey* (1968). View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer. 7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m. \$8. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

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

June 3–The Kensington Unit of the WCCC League of Women–Voters will meet at 1:15 p.m. to discuss local issues at 21 Camelot Court. Guests are welcome. Please confirm at 527-1332.

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

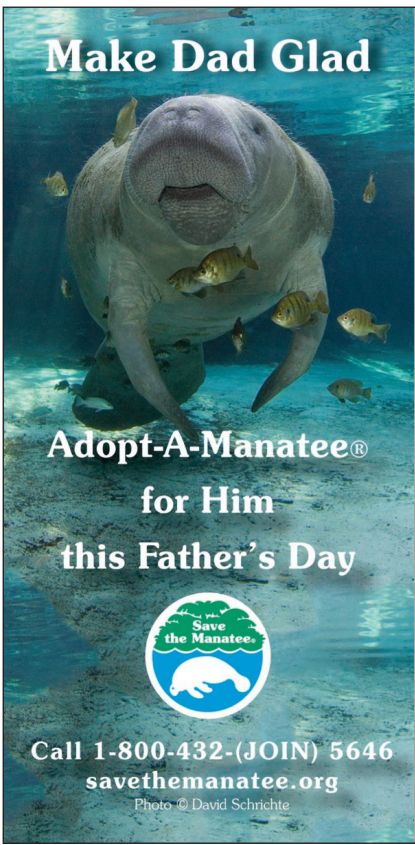
June 4, 11, 18, 25–Storytime. Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.–11:40 a.m. Join us for stories, songs and fun. All children are welcome. Free. 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 526-7512. ccclib.org

June 6–Kensington Symphony Orchestra (KSO) 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302. For more information see Neighborhood Notes. www.uucb.org.

June 6–August 15 “Ready to the Rhythm” Summer Reading Festival. Babies, kids, teens, and adults are invited to read for fun and prizes all summer long during Contra Costa County’s annual Festival. Be sure to visit ccclib.org for free countywide events! 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito 526-7512

June 6, 13, 20, 27–Science Saturday–11:00 a.m.–Noon. Join us for a fun science storytime, or special science presentation every Saturday! All children are welcome. Free. 526-7512. 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. ccclib.org

June 7–Family Ministry Field Day with homemade carnival games, bounce house, sack race, water balloon toss, & watermelon eating contest. Starts at Noon. Free entry & events; \$2 for BBQ hot dogs/hamburgers/veggie burgers. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.



June 7–Professor Chris O’Sullivan, Adjunct Professor of History, USF, “History of Arab–U.S. Relations.” 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

June 8–First day of KCC Summer Camp, Week 1

June 13–Read to Izzie the Dog! Izzie is a registered therapy dog and she loves to have children read to her. Sign-up sheet will be at the door; first come, first served. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Free. 524-3043.

June 13–Coventry & Kaluza. 11:00 a.m.–Noon. This high-energy clown duo will perform circus tricks, and show you how to turn your body into an instrument at this action-packed program for all ages! This show is part of Contra Costa County Library’s 2015 “Read to the Rhythm” Summer Reading Festival. Free. 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito 526-7512. ccclib.org

June 13 & 14–Fantastic Four Weekend at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach. \$10.-\$15. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito 592-3002 www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org

June 14–Budd MacKenzie, founder of Trust in Education, “Working with Schools in Afghanistan.” 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

June 20–Hums, Strums, and World-Wide Drums Bonnie Lockhart presents sing-along, move-along, play-along songs and music games from around the world in this highly participatory concert for this summer’s *Read to the Rhythm!* Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 11:00 am. Free. 524-3043.

June 20, 21–Father’s Day Weekend at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach. \$10.-\$15. (\$2. off for Fathers). 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito 592-3002 www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org

June 21–Maria Kelemen Solis, holo caust survivor, shares her story of growing up in Budapest and her miraculous escape during the deportations of WWII. 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

June 22–Kensington Library Book Club. Discussion of *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham. Book Club normally meets on the 4th Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 p.m. Free. 524-3043.

June 27, 28–Inside Out Weekend at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach. \$10.–\$15. 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito 592-3002 www.playland-not-at-the-beach.org

June 28–Rev. Carrie Knowles, UUCB Chaplain, “Working with Homeless Veterans.” 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

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KPPCSD, continued. from page 6

tures (mainly active and retiree health and pension costs) continue to be acute.

- Based on limited analysis, the total compensation is not at the top of the local market; nonetheless with a generous benefits package and few recruitment/retention issues, the District is a good career opportunity.
- The District currently has healthy reserves, the use of which must be balanced against the concentration of risk in revenue sources, limited options for revenue enhancement and other future uncertainties.
- The additional short-term costs under the draft MOU appear to be manageable given the current revenue and expense

projections over the next 2 years; under the Report’s projections the District has a narrowly balanced budget in FY2017, followed by a deficit in FY2018 (whether with improvements to the Community Center or not). In the out years, even with more moderate wage growth assumptions, the District faces an operating deficit.

- Finally the Report notes that moderate changes to the underlying forecast (i.e., a recession) could pose significant challenges to the District in the future; the duration and severity of any economic downturn is difficult to predict however. The Report provides a comprehensive

overview of the economic impact and this summary can only touch on further detail presented there. Community members should go to the website to review the Report and begin to think what it means to a decision on how best to proceed with the MOU.

The Board accepted the Report, and at the next Finance Committee meeting we should all anticipate further in depth review of the Report, its underlying

— Continued on back page



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assumptions, its projections, its invitation to us to determine what level of reserves are best for the community, and how conservative we should be in making the assumptions on which we base the projections we ultimately accept. The next Finance Committee meeting has not been scheduled yet, but we hope to do so shortly.

The Writ of Mandate

On March 24, The Board agreed to settle the writ of mandate with respect to six petitioners under the terms of a settlement agreement that is available at:

<http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/download/misc-kppcsd-documents/2015-03-24%20Settlement%20Document.pdf>

The Board reported out at the May 14 closed session that the petitioners with whom it had settled through mediation had each agreed to make payments toward settlement of the dispute. In addition, as part of the settlement agreement, those petitioners, the District and the individually named Board members parties each entered into a non-disparagement agreement regarding the entire issue. The Board reported out from closed session on May 14 that it will not pursue its attorneys' fees motion against the remaining petitioners Cathie Kosel and Jeffrey Koehler, who did not participate in the mediation, did not settle, and took the position that they had previously been dismissed from the litigation.

We hope to have more formal minutes of the May 14 meeting by the June 1 board meeting but that may prove difficult in light of the absence of District Administrator Lynn Wolter due to her broken arm.

Thanks to all who attended the May 14 meeting and provided input on these and other issues. We hope to see you at the upcoming meetings. Please keep checking the District website for more details.