



TM

— Bringing The Community Together —

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

Available Online at [www.KensingtonOutlook.com](http://www.KensingtonOutlook.com)

MARCH 2014

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 71 NUMBER 2

## Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler! KCC Presents Mardi Gras Fundraiser – Saturday, March 8th

With fairy lights and purple fabric, on Saturday, March 8th the Community Center will again be transformed into a rocking dance hall – this time in celebration of Mardi Gras. Dance instructor, Lynn Gardiner will get people on their feet with a dance lesson, and DJ, Devin Pennix will play all the right music to get everyone out on the dance floor.

Childcare will be provided for attending families with children ages 3 to 11, to make this the perfect “Parents’ Night Out!”

This is a great opportunity to warm up the long nights with someone special, and



*Last year's Valentine's Dance – Clockwise, from top left: Sara and Doug Diego; Walt and Gretchen Gilfillan; “The Food;” Mary and Michael Abraham; and Cara Marasco and husband (center). This year – Mardi Gras!*

to help support the many recreational and educational programs that KCC provides for the community. Dessert confections and liquid bubbies will be served.

Tickets are \$25/advance or \$30/door. Checks may be made out to Kensington Community Council and sent to 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, 94707. Advance tickets will be held at the door.

KCC is pleased to announce that Marvin Gardens Real Estate and Mechanics Bank are generously sponsoring this instant trip to New Orleans for a night of dance and fun. Our new neighborhood merchant on the Arlington, Shirley Ng of Country Cheese, will be the food sponsor for the evening. *Thank you, Shirley – and welcome to the neighborhood!*

## KCC Confirms \$250,000 for Community Center Remodel

The Kensington Community Council announced last month that it has passed a motion to gift the community \$250,000 towards the renovation of the Community Center. “KCC agree(d) to make a commitment to spend \$250,000 towards the renovation of the Community Center, if the bond to fund the renovation is approved on the June 2014 ballot.” The motion was passed unanimously by the board members in attendance at the February meeting. *See more project details on Page 3.*

## ‘Indian Oasis’ Now On Solano

See Back Page



*Subhash Arora, Owner, of the recently opened Delhi Diner on Solano.*

**Update****Writ Defense Thru Jan. 2014: \$145.8K**



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First time on the market! Spacious 1940's two+-bedroom, 2.5-bath home near Colusa Circle shops, Kensington Farmer's Market and the Transbay bus. Family room opens to low-maintenance backyard. Price TBA.

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A sweet two+-bedroom, two-bath midcentury home on a quiet cul-de-sac near Kensington Park and Hilltop Elementary School. Features include lovely bay views, a private, landscaped courtyard, and large backyard patio. \$545,000.

10 Windsor Ave.   Kensington   Todd Hodson      510.701.1008

We are delighted to announce that realtors Amy Kurzer and Parviz Bagherzadeh, both longtime residents of Kensington, have transferred from the Marvin Gardens Berkeley office to our Kensington office. Welcome to both of them!

289 ARLINGTON AVENUE 510.524.0800  
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### • KENSINGTON MARKET UPDATE •

	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	BR/BA
• Amherst . . . . .	\$1,098,000	\$1,262,000	5/3
• Beloit . . . . .	\$998,000	\$965,000	4/3
• Yale . . . . .	\$995,000	\$950,000	3/2
• Arlington . . . . .	\$899,000	\$900,000	4/2

Source: EBRD-MLS Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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For each Kensington home I sell, I donate to the KEF.

There were a lot of realtors wanting to help us out but we felt that Amy's knowledge and experience in Kensington was invaluable.

- Tim Heath

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## Letters to the Editor

### A Fair and Balanced City

(Dear Editor):

I want to commend the editors for such wonderful content as the notice of Mr. PJ Bowden about the lug bolt. For want of a nail, Richard III lost his ride, then the kingdom, we must keep in mind.

I feel also I must disagree with another of your gentle readers; I myself am much in favor of bitchy name-calling. We learned from the trendsetting film, Network how a fourth-rate TV operation went viral by the outrageous pandering to general if unspecified public grievance. No news business ever went bust overestimating the public appetite for crazy controversy.

Give us more.

*Clovis Potter*

A common visitor to your fair and balanced city.

### Mindfulness

Dear Editor:

The level of vituperation and wounded feelings in our little community is amazing, as is evident in the recent letters to Outlook ("appalled," "bitchy," "zero tolerance"). Perhaps, we should take a deep breath and remind ourselves of how lucky we are to live in such a blessed intersection of time and space.

Mindfulness is.

*Bill Tilden*

### Pub Not Their Cup of Tea

Dear Editor:

We arrived at Circus Pub on Colusa Circle for dinner at 7:30pm on Feb. 14, 2014 only to be met with the following:

A very noisy atmosphere. (It calmed down somewhat later.)

The sign said "Wait to be seated." We did, and the waitress said she would be right with us. We observed her carrying at least two loads to the tables. Meanwhile a second couple came behind us and waited. We decided not to wait any longer, as it was obvious there were empty tables and at least one booth vacant and cleaned. We sat down. Soon the other couple joined us at our table. For some reason they were served 15 minutes before us, although we were seated first. We said nothing. Our order was finally taken and we were served, I had fish and chips, and my wife, two tacos and beans.

The fish was soggy, as were the chips, with little tartar sauce, but I ate them. (We have had crisp fish and chips at less cost at Long John Silver's, and elsewhere). My wife said her tacos were cold inside. No water was served until asked. My Boddington's keg ale was not frothy as it comes from the can and it was not a pint (the traditional English measure). If it came from a can, what happened to the rest of the pint? It was not given to me.

When the check was paid I did not receive the silver change from the odd dollar. (This has never happened to me before.) We let it go. We also received no customer copy of the check. On arriving at 7:30pm

initially, we observed that they appeared to be short of help. The band "The Happy Hotdogs" which we had specifically come to hear at 8pm (according to their flyer) didn't start until 8:45pm. They told people the flyer was in error. They played for tips. (Maybe that had something to do with it.) We left after one hour of the band playing – not our kind or quality of music.

All in all, the new owners have not kept up the quality of service or food that we had come to expect from the former owner. (He served a great Shepherd's Pot Pie.)

Please export the former owner back to Kensington to retake Circus Pub.

*John and Anne Fleming*

P.S. Also, what happened to the dartboard? (A liability problem?)

### Remodel Bond Measure

Dear Editor,

Regarding the poll finding public support for a proposed \$2,000,000 bond measure to fund county code upgrades for the community center, I wonder if the results would have been the same had some questions been different.

Rather than a question on generic trust, what about: 'Was it smart use of public money spending \$160,000 fighting with our garbage company over a rate increase, only to learn Bay View's contract required more than they'd requested?' Or, 'Do you think the KPPSCD Board is smart spending \$115,000 suing homeowners over their own freedom of speech, and then appealing their loss?'

Is it smart to take thirty years to pay for a 2M interim building upgrade project that won't increase revenue?

Is it smart management maintaining an underused public building that hasn't the revenue to support itself?

Do you think the KPPSCD Board should lease the community center, pay for only necessary repairs out of the rent, rent space from the KCC for their own meetings, and pocket a saving?

*Anna Shane*

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**April Advertising Deadline.....Mar 8**  
**April Editorial Deadline.....Mar 10**

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Community Center Safety Project

June 2014 Ballot Measure: General Obligation Bond for Community Center Improvements

At the February 13th meeting of the Kensington Police Protections and Community Services District (KPPCSD), the Board of Directors approved a resolution to place on the June 3, 2014 ballot, a general obligation bond measure (a 30-year bond for up to \$2M) for improved safety and modernization of the Community Center. The Board also approved expenditures of up to \$35,000 from the Park Building reserve fund to place the measure on the ballot. The actual ballot language as will be printed in the June 3 voter pamphlet was part of that resolution, and reads as follows:

The Ballot Question:

To meet community needs of Kensington residents by modernizing the aging Community Center (Youth Hut), improving earthquake safety, meeting fire and health safety codes, repairing the roof, updating the kitchen and restrooms, updating spaces for youth programs, meetings, and events, and providing disabled access, shall the Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District issue up to \$2 million in bonds, proceeds of which cannot be taken by the State, and requiring independent citizens’ oversight? YES/NO

Recent Actions:

In January, the KPPCSD Board took a number of actions in support of a possible general obligation bond measure for the June 2014 election, that would fund building safety improvements and renovations to the Kensington Community Center – which included entering into contracts with NHA Advisors to serve as financial

advisors to the District and with Jones Hall to serve as bond counsel; and authorizing funds to utilize the services of the District’s legal counsel. The consultants retained after that meeting worked with the District to produce a resolution regarding placement of a proposed bond on the June 2014 ballot.

At that January meeting, the KPPCSD Board requested additional information, including detailed accounting of District funds expended to date, and anticipated funds needed to get through the election and the construction process. The Board also requested an accounting of known and promised contributions and donations.

At the beginning of the current fiscal year, FY 2013-2014, the District had a park building fund reserve amount of \$300,000. That funding has been built into the revenue sources for the Community Center Safety Project.

Prior to the February KPPCSD meeting, approximately \$36,000 of that funding had been authorized (\$23,500 of which was spent for the phone survey and related informational materials, with a remainder of \$12,500 authorized for project legal fees, not yet spent). At the February Board meeting, the District authorized the additional \$35,000 to complete the steps necessary to place the bond measure on the ballot.

Should the measure be successful, the remaining funding from this District reserve (\$229,000) will be applied toward the Community Center project. The projections for all revenue sources for the

project have sufficient contingencies, and no additional funding is anticipated from the District to complete the project. Should the measure *not* pass, the District will have \$229,000 of the original \$300,000 remaining in the park building reserve.

Another funding source for the project is the East Bay Regional Park District *Measure WW* funding of approximately \$158,000. Finally, the District has obtained generous pledges of approximately \$280,000 from other groups and agencies in the community for use towards the proposed project.

All these funds would supplement the bond proceeds to achieve the completion of a safe and modernized Community Center. Current funding commitments are close to 30% of anticipated project costs.

Should the bond measure pass, each homeowner would pay an annual tax of up to \$14 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation to pay for debt service on the bond to make safe and improve the Community Center. (The average home in Kensington is assessed at \$378,000. Assessed Value of taxable property is what is on the County tax rolls and not the property’s market value. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property’s assessed value.) The average annual homeowner’s tax would be approximately \$54 in the first year. As the total assessed value of homes increases over time, a subsequent decrease in the annual tax rate would be expected. All properties in the District would be taxed, with the exception of certain non-profit

entities, such as church and university properties that cannot be taxed. A two-thirds vote of support is required to pass the measure.

Background:

Kensington Park and its buildings are major assets both to the District and to the community. The buildings and the indoor recreation and community gathering space have not been significantly improved in over 30 years. Major safety and accessibility improvements are sorely needed.

Four years ago, at the February, 2010 KPPCSD meeting, the Board requested an ad hoc committee be formed to examine, discuss, and come up with a recommendation on the best use of funding for the repair, remodel, and uses of the Kensington Park buildings.

In March of 2012, the District accepted a Master Plan for Park Buildings prepared by the architectural firm of Muller and Caulfield. The Master Plan included among other things, an evaluation of existing structures, a financial analysis of rental potential, and a proposed public design and planning process for all three buildings – the Community Center, the Annex (currently vacant), and Building E (currently used by KCC). The planning process included three public workshops that focused on community desires, construction needs, and estimated costs.

The Master Plan considered different options, and recommended adopting

see Bond, Next Page...

Local Grassroots Seniors Group

Expands to North Berkeley (& Beyond)

Ashby Village – a four-year-old community-based nonprofit that is empowering older residents in the greater Berkeley area to take charge of their lives as they age together – is actively seeking new members and volunteers. The group kicked off its yearlong organizing efforts in North Berkeley last month, with a free informational open house at Epworth United Methodist Church.

Ashby Village is dedicated to supporting and empowering East Bay residents over 50 to remain independent, active, engaged, and inspired as they age. The organization’s 275 members form a vibrant and diverse community and participate in cultural, social, and educational events and gatherings. Additionally, the Village provides an array of supportive resources, including home-based volunteer services, referrals to service providers, and opportunities to meet new people and build community.

Helping Older East Bay Residents  
Take Charge of Their Lives

“We’re eager to begin organizing in North Berkeley and look forward to meeting people of all ages who might be interested in helping us build community here locally for seniors who want to stay in their homes as long as possible,” said Andrew Gaines, Ashby Village’s executive director. “That’s what the Village movement is all about – neighbors helping neighbors,” he said.

While Ashby Village actively serves adults 50 and older, there are also many volunteer opportunities available for residents younger than 50. The February open house featured an overview of Ashby Village and the broader “Village Model” that

is taking off across the country, plus a discussion about the benefits and costs of membership. Current Ashby Village members and volunteers shared their experiences and explained how the organization had improved their lives, and presenters answered questions from the audience. People from many East Bay neighborhoods attended; at least one Kensington senior is currently using its services.

About Ashby Village

Ashby Village is a community of people living in the East Bay who are united by their desire to remain active in their communities as they age – in the vibrant, culturally rich, multigenerational neighborhoods that they know and love. Ashby Village provides its members with a multitude of benefits that enhanced their community and their quality of life today,

while also helping them develop peace of mind about the future.

Ashby Village’s unique approach allows members to engage with the Village at the pace of its members – as they need it, when they want it. True to that mission, Ashby Village provides:

• **Connection** – Ashby Village hosts a broad range of social, educational and cultural activities and events each month, including neighborhood potlucks, group hikes, book clubs, happy hours, parties, and forums on issues of aging. New friendships are plentiful within its cross-generational community of members and volunteers.

• **Support** – Village members are just a phone call away from a host of volunteer-

driven support services, including rides to doctors’ appointments, minor household repairs, help caring for pets, gardening, light housekeeping, and help with computer issues.

• **Resources** – When Village volunteers are unable to provide adequate support, members also enjoy one-call, concierge referrals to carefully vetted service providers that can include gardeners, painters, attorneys, accountants, and personal care attendants, among others.

For more information, visit Ashby Village on the web at [www.AshbyVillage.org](http://www.AshbyVillage.org).

“Love is like war: easy to begin  
but very hard to stop.”  
– H.L. Mencken

What’s Going On?

KPPCSD Board meeting agenda packets, monthly reports, minutes, recordings of the KPPCSD Board Meetings, and the Bay View – County Solid Waste contracts are available for review at <http://www.KensingtonCalifornia.org>.

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# Assemblymember Skinner and State Senator Leno Announce Plan to Address Cell Phone Theft Epidemic

New smartphones sold in California would be required to have the latest in anti-theft technology under a new measure announced by Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and Assemblymember Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley).

At last month’s news conference, the two Bay Area legislators unveiled Senate Bill 962 with San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón, Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, Oakland City Councilmember Dan Kalb and national advocates.

“Smartphone manufacturers have a responsibility to ensure that consumers do not become targets as a result of purchasing their products,” Skinner said. “Thieves

don’t want a phone that doesn’t work. Kill switches take the incentive away from robbers, keeping us cell phone users safer and more secure.”

SB 962 would require smartphones sold in California to include anti-theft security features that would render the device inoperable if stolen. Specifically, the measure calls for a technological solution to deactivate the phone.

“The alarming rate at which smartphones are being stolen in every city in America cannot be ignored. It’s incumbent upon us to remove every incentive there is, to deter robberies,” Oakland Mayor Jean Quan said. “I’m proud to support

this legislation, because it is a needed step in keeping Oakland residents, and smartphone owners across California, safer.”

Skinner reported that, according to the National Consumers League, 1.6 million Americans had a handheld device stolen in 2012. In San Francisco, about 50 percent of property crimes involve mobile devices. In Oakland, about 60 percent of thefts and robberies in 2013 involved a cell phone.

Oakland Councilmember Dan Kalb expressed support for SB 962, sharing his personal experience.

“Over a year ago, I was robbed of my

iPhone at gunpoint while returning home from an anti-crime meeting in North Oakland—and I am just one example of an all-to-common occurrence,” said Councilmember Kalb. “While other serious crimes are down, armed robberies of smartphones are up in Oakland and other cities. The smartphone robbery epidemic will only get worse unless we take the necessary action to protect our citizenry and deter this type of crime.”

*Elected in 2008, Assemblymember Nancy Skinner represents the 15th Assembly District, which includes Hercules, Pinole, El Sobrante, San Pablo, Richmond, El Cerrito, Kensington, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont and parts of Oakland. Skinner serves as Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee. [www.asmdc.org/Skinner](http://www.asmdc.org/Skinner)*

## ...Bond, from Previous Page

Option 2, which includes improvements to the Community Center that address all the safety, code, and maintenance issues, provides better program and event capacity, and improves comfort, energy efficiency, and aesthetics.

Thereafter, with a generous grant of \$5,000 from the Kensington Community Council, the District hired the NHA Advisors firm to evaluate several public funding options, which it presented at the Board’s January 2013 meeting.

The presentation outlined options for financing improvements at three levels – minimal health and safety (Option 1), Option 2, as described above, and major renovations to both the Community Center and the Annex building immediately adjacent to it (Option 3). The presentation then looked at alternate financing mechanisms, including a general obligation (GO) bond and a parcel tax.

Under the direction of the Board, the Park Buildings Committee then conducted public outreach to many of the community organizations in Kensington (ten in all) regarding the proposed renovations and the various funding alternatives. The committee presented a summary of that public outreach process with feedback from the groups at a Board meeting and community workshop in June of 2013.

At that meeting the Board took steps leading to the employment of Godbe Research to conduct a survey of registered voters to determine what renovations were most important to voters, and to ascertain community willingness to support a pos-

sible bond measure to pay for the needed improvements to the Community Center.

The Kensington community has had several opportunities to provide input regarding the future plans for the Community Center. A majority of residents has consistently expressed its desire to see the Center improved, particularly in regard to building code compliance and earthquake safety.

The Community Center was built in the 1950’s, and is located within a seismic hazard zone. Funds from the bond measure would be used to retrofit the building and bring the kitchen and restrooms up to current health and safety codes, and into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A modernized Community Center would help pay for its operation by generating additional rental revenue from private events. Although new revenue would not completely cover the operating costs, increased rentals would help offset current operating expenses.

The Kensington After School Program (KASEP) has been in existence for more than 30 years. Renovating and updating the Community Center would ensure that this community program could provide a safe environment for the students who attend, as well as for other youth programs, such as the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts, who currently use the space.

None of the bond funds from this measure could be used for administrative salaries or pensions, or be taken by Sacramento; by law, every dime would need to be used to upgrade the Center, and an independent citizen’s oversight committee

would be established to monitor compliance.

**Why Option 2 Was Chosen**

The Park Buildings Master Plan explored a number of options for improvements to the Community Center. Option 1 was to “do as little as possible” to make the building safe and meet basic fire, health and safety accessibility codes. The Committee believes that the District must make these minimum repairs to increase compliance with current law and to improve overall safety, whether or not the community passes the proposed bond measure. However, Option 1 does not meet stated community interests for a more functional building with better program- and event capacity, physical comfort, and energy efficiency.

The Committee believes that funding Option 1 would provide insufficient value to the community, and might easily take several years to complete without bond funding. (Were the Board to implement Option 1 using existing operating monies and reserves, it is estimated that an additional \$300,000 over the existing \$300,000 reserve would be required.)

Additionally, the Committee does not know if current community groups would continue to make gifts towards this project if the recommended plan is not implemented and the bond is not passed – potentially reducing public support by up to the \$280,000 now pledged – which would also add to the shortfall.

Option 2 would provide these long-term and necessary improvements to the Community Center: increasing safety during a major earthquake or fire, continuing

youth afterschool and summer programs, increasing the number of programs, classes, and special events, increasing the physical comfort and enjoyment of users, and providing flexibility to meet future needs of the community.

Construction features would include: meeting codes for fire and safety throughout the building, repairing or replacing the aging, leaking roof as needed, updating the kitchen, improving disabled access, installing energy-efficient systems, and installing flexible room dividers to provide for multiple simultaneous events.

Option 3, which provided for an extensive remodel of The Annex in addition to the Community Center remodel, called for a substantially larger bond measure with incipient higher costs to residents to retire such a bond, and was rejected as a viable option by the Committee. (There is currently no identified pressing need for additional space, such as a remodeled Annex would provide, and it appeared that it would likely have been more cost-effective to tear it down and build an entirely new building – at an additional cost of approximately \$1M.)

As it happens, bond interest rates are at a low point, making it a good time to borrow money. As building costs continue to increase and interest rates are expected to rise, should the bond measure pass, the work in the recommended plan (Option 2) could be completed at this juncture in the most economical fashion as might be imagined. Should the bond measure pass, construction would begin in 2016.

*—Excerpted (and expanded) from the KPCCSD Feb. 13th, 2014 Agenda Packet – online at [www.KensingtonCalifornia.org](http://www.KensingtonCalifornia.org). (Pages 101-109.)*

## Neighborhood Pre-School

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Office Phone 510 236-5901  
email [neighborhoodschool@comcast.net](mailto:neighborhoodschool@comcast.net)

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Neighborhood School also offers before and after school care  
for K-6 grades for students attending Kensington Elementary School

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# K E N S I N G T O N C O M M U N I T Y   E D U C A T I O N

## KASEP

### Kensington After-School Enrichment Program - Winter/Spring

Kensington After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) ONLINE SPRING class registration is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4th at 6:00pm. KCC staff will be on-site on Mach 4th from 6:00pm-7:00pm, to provide telephone support, and will enroll families paying by check or cash. SPRING KASEP classes begin Monday, March 24th, WINTER KASEP classes continue through to Friday, March 21st. KASEP class schedule and online registration can be viewed on the website, [www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org](http://www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org).

## KASEP SUMMER CAMP 2014

Welcome to KCC Summer Day Camp, your home for a day camp program located in the beautiful East Bay hills community of Kensington. Camp is for children entering 1st-6th grades in FALL 2014. Camp is a full day of activities, Monday – Friday 9am-5pm. Morning and afternoon extended care is available for an additional fee.

Cost is \$245.00 per camper, per week  
Register On-line at: [www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org](http://www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org)  
Registration Starts Tuesday, March 11 and is ongoing throughout the summer.

Our traditional day camp is all about having a good time, safely, supervised by trained camp counselors. This camp offers a fun, well-rounded summer camp experience where our campers get to do a little bit of everything from arts and crafts, games, and group tennis lessons, to team sports.

### KCC Summer Camp Activities & Schedule

|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Week 1: June 9 - June 13</b><br>Specialty: Carpentry<br>Field Trip: The Jungle – Indoor Playground/Concord           | <b>Week 6: July 14 - July 18</b><br>Specialty: Gymnastics <i>Olympic Week</i><br>Field Trip: Marine Mammal Rescue/ Marin |
| <b>Week 2: June 16 – June 20</b><br>Specialty: Soda Pop Tab Belts/Jewelry<br>Field Trip: Adventure Playground/ Berkeley | <b>Week 7: July 21 – July 25</b><br>Specialty: Circus Arts<br>Field Trip: Bladium-Alameda Rock Climbing/ Soccer          |
| <b>Week 3: June 23 – June 27</b><br>Specialty: Gymnastics <i>Spirit Week</i><br>Field Trip: Oakland Zoo                 | <b>Week 8: July 28 – August 1</b><br>Specialty: Cooking <i>Spirit Week</i><br>Field Trip: LakeTemescal                   |
| <b>Week 4: June 30 – July 3</b><br>Specialty: Ultimate Frisbee & Volleyball<br>Closed 4th of July                       | <b>Week 9: August 4– August 8</b><br>Specialty: Metal Art, Dog Tags<br>Field Trip: Scandia                               |
| <b>Week 5: July 7 – July 11</b><br>Specialty: Ceramic Clay Creations<br>Field Trip: Lake Anza                           | <b>Week 10: August 11 - August 15</b><br>Specialty: Ceramic Critters<br>Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool Party!               |

Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances.

## ADULT RECREATION CLASSES

### jazzercise

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9-10am • Ongoing



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*Lights, Camera, Action!* Ready to learn the basics of filming? Kids create short movies, start to finish, and learn valuable camera skills in a fun and collaborative environment. Learn how to use the “GoPro” camera or bring your own digital camera from home! Students learn about all parts of movie production – story development, storyboarding, lights, set design, acting, and directing. The only prerequisites necessary are an interest in storytelling and photography.

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**ACRYLIC ARTISTS**  
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Join this great group of artists and be part of a creative community where you work at your own pace and have the opportunity to paint with others. This Wednesday group of artists invites you to join them.

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Qi-Gong is designed to stretch and strengthen your body. Qi-Gong is one of the basic self-healing techniques prescribed by Chinese medical practitioners. Meg McDowell, LAc, MSTCM, is a certified Qi-Gong therapist, as well as a licensed acupuncturist. Meg has a thriving practice in Kensington and specializes in women’s health. For more information or to reserve, send email to Meg at [NeedleSandQi@gmail.com](mailto:NeedleSandQi@gmail.com) or call her at 229-9922.

## 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](mailto:kccrec@yahoo.com), or call 525-0292. M-F, 10am-4pm.

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

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



1. KCC Summer Camp – counselor Taylor with her group; 2. Crazy hair day at KCC Camp; 3. ‘Night Stars’ made in carpentry for new baby brother; 4. Making new friends at KCC camp; 5. ‘DJ for the Next Generation’ captures a student’s imagination.





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• 64 Pending • Average List Price: \$309.47 per sq. ft. Average days on the market: 26

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Neighborhood Notes

New Book by New Resident

Journalist, director, and documentarian, Skye Dent just moved to Kensington and already he has a first novel, *Killing Kin*, to his credit. (*Must be the water.*) It's a young adult crime novel based on what might have happened if anyone had investigated the murder of his brother, when Skye was thirteen. Sadly, no one ever did, and so in the real world, the murder is still unsolved. You can read the book however, to find out how Skye's version comes out. (Available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble, and at a discount at Pegasus Books). *Congratulations, Skye – and welcome to Kensington!*



Benches? We Don't Need No Stinkin' Benches!

Lucky Hall, son of Kensington Farmers' Market Manager, Chris Hall, at his own expense, constructed and installed a beautiful bench at the corner of Arlington and Coventry, for the comfort and convenience of all Kensingtonians. Apparently, more than one party complained to the powers that be, and last month, Lucky was notified that the bench needed to be removed. Apparently people just can't drop down anything they want anywhere they want on town property, as, among other reasons, it could be considered a potential liability issue. There is currently no process for submission of such public works of art. To address this lack, the Park Path and Recreational Committee has been created, which will establish an approval process for such donations. Until then, donations of any kind are not being accepted...Meanwhile, you're welcome to walk a block west and rest your weary bones in style on another of Lucky's bodacious benches, in front of the Hall residence at Coventry and Edgcroft. *Makes sense, when you think about it we suppose, but Lucky, we still like your style, your spirit – and your now-departed bench!*



Ron Eggherman Celebration and Benefit

On February 1st, as per his wishes, a celebration of the late Ron Eggherman's life – and benefit for Berkeley Association of Realtors' Youth, Arts, and Education Fund – was held at the Sanctuary for the Arts in Oakland. Ron's favorite band, Little Marvin and the Gardeners, played, and there was dancing in the aisles of what appeared to have once been the sanctuary of a church, now a hip/funky/cozy performance space that would have served well for a 1960's be-in or a late-night *satsang* with spiritual guru, Ram Dass. The evening was highlighted by a photomontage of Ron's life. Over 100 people attended, with more than \$3,000 raised for the fund Ron created when he served as president of the local Realtor® group. A great send-off for a great man. *Rest in peace, Ron!*



New KIC Officers Elected.

Kensington Improvement Club Officers and Board Members (L-R): Vice President Linda Lipscomb; Daffodil Queen, Lorraine Osmundson; President Melissa Holmes Snyder; Paths Maven, Gretchen Gilfillan; Lisa Corona, Secretary; Jaima Roberts, Sign Board Mistress; and Janet Hittle, Treasurer. (Not shown: Larry Thai and Betty Webster.) Considering joining a K-Group? Of all the K-Groups, KIC has not only the best snacks – but the only snacks!



Kensington Municipal Advisory Committee (KMAG) Members:

Walt Gillfillan (Alternate), Catherine Engberg, Melissa Holmes Snyder (Alternate), Patrick Tahara – Chair, Christopher Brydon, and Vanessa Cordova. (Below, L-R.)



KFPD Awarded District of Distinction (again) and Transparency Certificate of Excellence.

The District of Distinction accreditation is one of the most prestigious local government awards in California, validating the District's commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices. Congratulations to Fire Chief Lance Maples, Director Nina Harmon, President Janice Kosel, Director Helmut Blaschczyk, Brenda Navellier, Manager, and Director Larry Nagle. (Above, L-R) Not shown: Director Joe DeVille.



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# Neighborhood Notes

## Small Workshops, Talented Instructors

Nan Phelps has been photographing people for over 30 years. She’s developed relationships with other respected professionals and has invited the best to share their knowledge and insights through classes this month at her studio on Colusa Circle. Workshops include *iPhoto Easy*, *iPhoneography*, digital photography, and portraiture. Take your photos up a notch at [www.nanphelps.com](http://www.nanphelps.com) or 528-8845.



## Neighbor Conflict Resolution – What, Here?

On Thursday, March 20, at 7pm, the Kensington Public Safety Council will present a workshop on Conflict Resolution with Neighbors, at the Community Center. It will cover effective ways of presenting complaints, listening effectively, and diffusing anger. Please RSVP to [KensingtonPSC@gmail.com](mailto:KensingtonPSC@gmail.com).

## Resident Takes a Drubbing and Keeps on Running

According to *Runner’s World*, 66-year old Kensington resident, Eric Spector has raced in more than a hundred events since taking up the sport in 1978. After a five-month layoff in 2012 due to a fractured fibula, Eric plotted “a bucket list of 10 grueling endurance events he’d complete” at the age of 65. He subsequently completed the 7.4-mile Dipsea Race, the Double Dipsea, the 50K Woodside Ramble, the 1.25-mile Alcatraz Invitational Swim, the 129-mile mountain-bike race, the California Death Ride, a half- and full Ironman triathlon, the SF Half-Marathon, a local 10K run, and then, on his 66th birthday, the Avenue of the Giants Marathon. “A lot of these events were totally a reach for me,” said Spector, who is now qualifying for the 2015 Boston Marathon. “I told myself that if I recovered fully...I would use the year to do something challenging for myself and maybe inspire others to realize that being fitter is a choice everyone can make, no matter how old they are.” Last month, Eric won the 2014 Super Bowl Handicap Run – 7.4 miles on Mill Valley trails. *Way to go, Eric! And from now on, we’re going to jump up and change the channel by hand – no more just sitting on the couch and clicking the remote!*



Eric Spector  
Photo: Matthew Reamer

## Monastery Update

Resident, Sande Waters tells us she had a surprise visitor in early February – Probate, Trust Real Estate Realtor®, Geri Murphy, representing the new monastery owners – another Carmelite order – who were scheduled to have taken title by mid-month. According to Sande, this group of 12 silent nuns expects to be moving in within two or three months. Word has it that the attempt/interest in sub-dividing was not successful so a *benefactress* purchased the property and donated it to this group, through the Oakland Diocese. The Realtor intimated it would not be as uncomfortable a relationship with neighbors as was the case with the previous tenants, and in fact a public welcoming party is planned. An arborist has already been consulted about existing trees. Sande said, “It’s a relief to know our neighborhood won’t be shattered, but I suspect our success does not include restoring the full beauty of the neighborhood.” *TWO Carmelite orders in the Bay Area? A benefactress?? Who knew all this still exists, in this day and age?*



## Congrats to Officer Chris Turner

For the second straight year, Officer Turner was voted by his peers to be Kensington Police Department’s *Officer of the Year*. He was honored at the Richmond Elks Club last month. Officer Turner had indicated at the end of 2012, that it was his goal for 2013 to receive a Mother’s Against Drunk Driving (MADD) award for drunk driving enforcement. Of Officer Turner’s 23 arrests for the year, he made 15 drunk driving arrests, which qualified him to receive his award from MADD. Not only is 23 arrests for the year quite an accomplishment, but 15 arrests for drunk driving is outstanding, and could have possibly saved a life or prevented a serious injury. These two honors are well deserved and are a result of the work and professionalism demonstrated by Officer Turner this past year. *Great job, Officer Turner – Kensington thanks you!*



Two-peat! Officer Chris Turner receiving last year’s Officer of the Year award.



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## Should the Fire District Continue to Charge the Police District Rent?

### Interview with Kensington Fire Protection District Board President, Janice Kosel

There are calls among some Kensington residents to revisit the current arrangement whereby the Police District pays rent to the Fire District for use of the shared Public Services Building at 217 Arlington Blvd.

Both the Police District's and the Fire District's largest sources of revenue are derived from property tax allocations. In 1978, voters passed Proposition 13 and removed the ability of local agencies to set their own property taxes. The 1% maximum property tax rate is now fixed by the California Constitution.

The percentage of the property taxes awarded to each district was based on their individual budgets at the time the law was passed. In 1978 the Police District was reportedly running "lean," while the Fire District was running in the red, and, in the estimation of some, about to go bankrupt. In accordance with the law, the percentages of that property tax were fixed at approximately 30% of the 1% for the Fire District, to help it survive, and 13% of the 1% for the Police District. And, as per the statute, it has been that way ever since.<sup>1</sup>

Once the Fire District contracted with the El Cerrito Fire Dept. for fire services, it was then able to control its costs. Some residents now interpret the Fire District budget as flush – with sufficient cash to fund new engine acquisitions as needed, funds to contribute to the improvement of water mains owned by EBMUD, as well as funding a (mandated) 12-month set-aside for fire service employees; meanwhile few, if any, doubt that, despite additional special assessments, it is an annual struggle for the Police District to fund park, police, and waste management services with the

funds that are available to it.<sup>2</sup>

Since the two Districts are serving the same town, some residents feel it doesn't make sense, in the context of one District that appears to have extra cash on hand while the other is strapped, that the Fire District should be charging rent to the Police District – on a building owned by the residents of Kensington – especially given that the police are on patrol 24/7, while the fire department is primarily an emergency service.

While some residents question why the town of Kensington should take money out of one pocket only to put it in another, when Fire District Board President, Janice Kosel has been questioned about it in the past, she has said giving the Police District free rent – or a token \$1-a-year lease as some have suggested – would constitute an "illegal gift of public funds."

Last month, the *Outlook* sat down with Kosel, to explore this, and other issues.

**KO:** *Who owns the public service building and the land underneath it?*

**JK:** It currently costs \$100K a year to maintain the building. The Fire District (FD) is getting \$31,514 a year in rent from the Police District (PD) – which is 30% of our costs – and they occupy close to 50% of the building, as well as the lion's share of the parking lot. We're not charging fair market. I think they ought to be paying their actual costs. I don't think we need to make money on it, but each district should pay its own costs.

The lease runs out June 30th. I sent a letter to the PD requesting a proposal to renew. I hope to meet in a closed meeting of the FD in March to evaluate the pro-

posal of the PD – either on the same terms, or new terms that the PD might suggest.

We have to spend our funds within our statutory mandate, and subsidizing the police district is not within our mandate. There's a constitutional provision that prohibits a gift of public funds – I'm not sure whether this would apply. The mandate doesn't say anything about subsidizing a weaker district.

I think each board should stand alone and defend its own income and its own expenses. I'd vote "No" even if the PD suggested a contract with the same terms. Other FD directors might feel differently, but I think each district should pay its own way.

I think it would be about an additional \$18K/yr to be equitable in terms of square footage, not even including the parking lot.

**KO:** *Is it true that the Fire District gets 30% (approximately \$2.8M according to your audited financials Year Ending June 30, 2013) of the property taxes in Kensington while the KPPCSD gets 13% or approximately \$1.2M for the same time period?*

**JK:** Our total annual revenue is \$2,965,000. I don't have any idea what proportion of the property taxes it is. That figure includes a special tax of \$200K/yr – a per parcel tax.

Even sticking just with the property taxes, I wouldn't be able to evaluate the difference, because I don't know what it costs the PD to run its services.

We have stats on our website on what we spend to provide the services we provide,

in comparison with other local districts; it would be interesting to see similar stats for the PD. Those comparables would help us to evaluate how much it costs to run each district. Then you could evaluate how the PD uses the money it has, and whether it needs more. I think that's a legitimate question to ask about both districts.

**KO:** *If the choice were to either increase taxes for police services or combine the two service districts to more equitably share the combined property tax revenue, which approach would you support?*

**JK:** I'd want to see how the police district's costs to provide services compare with neighboring districts before I could answer that question.


**KO:** *Police Chief Harman estimates the PD's unallocated ("piggy bank") reserves at \$827,000. Could you give us a comparable estimate of the Fire District's reserves, distinguishing between reserves that are earmarked for specific purposes (like engine replacement or station repairs) and those that are true unallocated "piggy bank" funds for emergencies?*

**JK:** We have unallocated reserves of approximately \$610,000.

(According to the most recent FD balance sheet, provided by President Kosel to the *Outlook* at the time of the interview, "Ending Cash" is stated as \$4,440,687, with "Designated Funds" of \$969,877 for capital replacement [building replacement reserve]; \$1,094,935 for prepaid CERBT [CALPERS retiree trust], and \$2,365,475 for El Cerrito Fire Services contract 12-month set-aside.)<sup>3</sup>

**KO:** *Can you explain the concept of "Contracting Out" fire services to El Cerrito? How does that impact the budget?*


see Rent, Next Page...



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**At left:** at least one Kensington senior is already obtaining services from Ashby Village to help her stay in her home. (Story on Page 3.)

**Below:** More student art from Hilltop Elementary classes, funded by the Kensington Education Fund.

Left: "Penguins;" Right: "Lions."

**Bottom:** The Macy Blackman Combo at the Kensington Farmers' Market. "Live Produce and Live Music Every Sunday."







...*Rent, from Previous Page*

**JK:** It saves us a bundle. The survival of the Fire District was in doubt. We contract with El Cerrito for administrative services and firefighting. That's how we've been able to build up these reserves. We've been doing that since around 1996. We pay 1/3 of the Chief's salary, and so we don't have to have our own. We can provide higher quality service at a greatly reduced price. El Cerrito gets an additional engine company. It's a dramatically more efficient organization. It saves Kensington – I think it's in the magnitude of hundreds of thousands of dollars. We now have paramedics on each engine – one of the first in the County to do so.

**KO:** You've stated in the past that charging the PD less than a reasonable market rate is not possible because it would be considered a "gift of public funds." Do you have a legal opinion that charging a reduced rent to the PD would be a gift of public funds?

**JK:** No, I don't. As I mentioned, I'm not sure that that would be the case, but in any event, I would be against subsidizing the PD with a substantially below-market rent.

**KO:** On another note, attention was recently drawn to the fact that the FD is spending large sums to upgrade East Bay M.U.D.'s water mains. Is it appropriate for one public agency to be funding another public agency's capital improvements? Shouldn't East Bay M.U.D. be responsible for funding the installation and maintenance of water mains that meet all of Kensington's needs?

**JK:** In this case, yes, it is appropriate, if you look at the statutory mandate of EBMUD – which is to supply drinking water. The FD's mandate is to supply fire protection services. (We get some enhance-

ment for "free" when EBMUD replaces pipes.) The fire chief says we need to be able to provide water to three trucks for 15 minutes. That's what the improvements are for. We're currently getting a contribution (20%) from EBMUD for some of the pipe replacements. Each homeowner is now paying less on his or her home insurance because of the improvements that have been made in these mains – and will certainly benefit if there is ever a conflagration at the wild land interface.

**KO:** Other residents have inquired about a dinner that was given by the Kensington FD for El Cerrito firefighters.

**JK:** We usually provide some sort of firefighter recognition every year. A couple years ago we hired a taco truck at Arlington Park. This year we chose to buy dinner for each of the shifts of firefighters over the holiday. We bought a dinner at Picante for each of the firefighters. It was about \$1400 – for morale it's not a bad expenditure.

**KO:** Is there anything else you'd like residents of Kensington to know about the Fire District?

**JK:** If they have any questions or complaints I'd like to hear them.

*According to an opinion of the California Supreme Court issued in 2006: [City of Marina v. Board of Trustees of the California State University 39 Cal.4th 341, 138 P.3d 692]:*

*"... 'It is well settled that, in determining whether an appropriation of public funds or property is to be considered a gift, the primary question is whether the funds are to be used for a 'public' or a 'private' purpose. If they are for a 'public purpose,' they are not a gift within the meaning of [the Constitution].'" (County of Alameda v. Janssen (1940) 16 Cal.2d 276, 281, 106*

*P.2d 11.)"*  
*While opinions differ on what the appropriate amount of rent – if any – the Police District should pay the Fire District, the "gift of public funds" argument against a below-market-, or a token rent appears to have been adjudicated previously at the State Supreme Court level, and apparently found not applicable in cases such as this.*

*Fire District Director, Joe DeVille, during his time last year as Board President, mentioned publicly on more than one occasion that reducing the PD rent was something he'd be open to considering. Director Nina Harmon said that the Board had never discussed the issue but that it was expected to be on the agenda in the next month or two.*

*Director Larry Nagle remembers it differently: "The topic of rent paid by the PD to the FD has come up at board meetings a couple of times, and I suppose it could turn into a thorny issue. It seems to me that the FD has an obligation to charge rent to the PD (or any other agency) for*

*the use of part of our building at our cost. Otherwise, the FD either would be subsidizing the renting agency (if the rent is less than our cost) or would be subsidized by the renting agency (if the rent is higher than our cost).*

*"My understanding...is that the rent paid last year was about \$31K and the pro rata cost of maintaining the portion of the building rented by the PD is about \$50K, so it seems to me that we should be talking about increasing the rent, not reducing it. If we were to charge a significantly lower rent, say \$1 as (some) suggest, that would amount to the FD using our funds to subsidize the PD, and I see no reason to do that. I'm not even sure that we are legally allowed to do that. I would want to hear a legal opinion before even considering such an action."*

*Questions remain concerning reports suggesting a year of payroll expenses (in addition to the mandated 12-month set-aside) may also have been prepaid by the*

*see Rent, Page 12...*

<sup>1</sup>The average assessed value of a home in Kensington is \$378,000. Based on that figure, the 1% county-wide property tax assessment would average \$3,780. The Fire District receives 31%, for a total of approximately \$1,172, plus an additional parcel tax of approximately \$84, yielding \$1,256. There are an estimated 2000 households in Kensington, at \$1,256 that would yield approximately \$2.5M annually for the Fire District.

<sup>2</sup>The Police District receives 13% of that \$3780, for a total of \$491.40, plus these supplemental parcel tax assessments: Other Service District tax, \$300; Measure G, \$214.90; Kensington Park Landscaping and Lighting (for park maintenance), \$14.86; and Kensington Park Ad Valorem, \$97.80 (for New Park purchase – tennis courts, the Annex, Building E, and the area behind the Community Center) – for a total of \$627.56 in supplemental assessments, yielding \$1,118.96 annually for the KPPCSD as a whole, with \$1,006.43 going directly to the Police District, for approximately \$2,012,600 annually from 2000 households (Police District only – KPPCSD annual total estimate: approx. \$2.2M).

In recent years, the Police District has also been the beneficiary of the COPS Grant minimum allocation of \$100,000. Those funds must be used for front line equipment/services, and all expenditures must be approved by the District Board of Directors. In fiscal year 2011/2012, this grant money was used to fund the tenth officer position. If the grant is received it gets recorded as revenue, but the District is not allowed to include it as a revenue source when creating the budget. (One of the reasons the Kensington Community Services District changed its name to KPCSD was to qualify for that grant.

<sup>3</sup>The Police District estimates total cash reserves of \$1.5M, with approx. 50% allocated, including state-mandated 10% of its \$2.6M budget, \$300K building fund, \$80K for accrued employee vacation and comp time, and \$98K to guarantee the park bond, for a total of \$738K total allocated reserves; the rest of the \$1.5M is unallocated cash reserves of approx. \$762K.

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**KPPCSD Standing Committees and Board Coordinators for 2014**

In January, KPPCSD Board President, Len Welsh appointed and publicly announced the members of the standing committees and Board Coordinators for the 2014 calendar year, pursuant to KPPCSD Board Policy.

**President Welsh made the following Standing Committee appointments:**

Finance Committee: President Welsh and Director Lloyd; Solid Waste Committee: Vice President Lipscomb and GM/COP Harman; Emergency Preparedness Committee: Director Toombs.

President Welsh appointed Vice President Lipscomb and Director Toombs to continue serving on the ad hoc Park Buildings Committee, and made the following **Board Coordinator appointments:**

Finance and Administration: President Welsh; Intergovernmental/External Issues: Vice President Lipscomb and Director Gillette; District Policies and Procedures: Vice President Lipscomb and Director Gillette; Public Safety Building: Director

Toombs; Park Planning and Recreation (including paths): Vice Pres. Lipscomb and President Welsh; Park Funding: Director Toombs; Community Outreach: Director Gillette.

President Welsh announced the following **community members of these committees:**

Finance: Pat McLaughlin, Paul Haxo, Elena Caruthers, Gloria Morrison, and Paul Kruger.

Policy and Procedures: John Stein, Joan Gallegos, and Barbara Dilts.

Park Buildings Committee: Bruce Morrow, Lisa Caronna, Andrew Reed, John Stein, and Jack Griffith.

Park Planning and Recreation: Dan O'Brien, Paul Dorroh, and Ray Barraza.

Path Committee: Gloria Morrison, Gretchen Gillfillen, Ray Barazza, Paul Dorroh, and Katie Gluck.

Solid Waste: Lorna Thompson, Greg Christie, and Kathy Stein.

**From the Files of the KPD**

**Excerpt From January 2014**

1/01/2014, Sergeant Hui responded to the unit block of Edgcroft Ave. on a report of a mail theft.

1/02/2014, Officer Martinez responded to the 200 block of Stanford Rd. Ave. on a report of a fraud.

1/03/2014, Officer Turner contacted a subject on the 200 block of Arlington Ave. and subsequently arrested him for an outstanding warrant.

1/03/2014, Officer Turner responded to the unit block of Kingston Rd. on a report of a fraud.

1/04/2014, Officer Turner contacted the occupants of a suspicious vehicle at the intersection of Lawson Rd. at Craft Rd. and subsequently arrested one occupant for an outstanding warrant.

1-8-2014, Officer Ramos responded to the 200 block of Cambridge Ave. for a reported suspicious person, who later was arrested for DUI.

1/09/2014, Officer Martinez responded to the 200 block of Wilamette Ave. on a report of tampering with a vehicle.

1/10/2014, Officer Martinez responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. on a report of a hit-and-run traffic collision.

1/10/2014, Officer Martinez responded to the 100 block of Purdue Ave. on a report of a vehicle burglary.

1/10/2014, Officer Martinez responded to the unit block of Dewey Rd. on a report of a residential burglary.

**Staffing...**The Dept. was in the process of conducting backgrounds on two reserve officer candidates, but one is now in the employment process with the Contra Costa Sheriff's Dept. and the other was removed from consideration. Sgt. Hui is conducting recruiting for reserve officers at the local police academies.

**Complete Report...**<http://kensingtoncalifornia.org/kppcsd-board/2014-agenda-packets-0>

1-13-2014, Officer Ramos responded to the 100 block of Arlington Ave. for a reported identity theft.

1-13-2014, Reserve Officer Armanino responded to the 100 block of Highland Blvd. for a reported fraud.

1-14-2014, Officer Wilson responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. for a reported non-injury hit-and-run vehicle collision.

1-14-2014, Sergeant Barrow responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. and arrested a subject for being drunk in public.

1-19-2014, Sergeant Barrow responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. for a reported injury accident.

1-20-2014, Corporal Stegman and Sergeant Barrow responded to the 1500 block of Giarmita St. in North Richmond to conduct a follow-up interview, and took a subject into custody for a \$150,000 warrant for burglary and possession of stolen property.

1-22-2014, Officer Ramos responded to the 300 block of Arlington Ave. for a reported non-injury hit-and-run vehicle collision.

1/26/2014, Officer Turner initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Yale Ave. and Yale Circle and arrested the driver for DUI.

1-27-2014, Officer Ramos responded to the 200 block of Lake Dr. for a reported non-injury hit-and-run vehicle collision.

**Investigation of Alleged Misconduct...**All investigations have been completed.  
**Ring Time...**The Ring Time Report for January identified 37 total 911 calls with 4 having ring times over 20 seconds. The average ring time for the month was 10 seconds.





**March 1 Kensington Symphony Orchestra**, Geoffrey Gallegos Conductor: Glazunov, Spring; Prokofiev, Lt. Kije Suite; Tchaikovsky, Piano Concerto #1, with Daniel Glover, pianist. 8pm at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington; Admission \$15, Seniors \$12, Children under 12 free. Free parking. Info at 526-6752.

**March 2 “Walking with Mary Magdalene through Scripture, Literature, and Legend”** with Beverly Allen, PhD, 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, 525-0302.

**March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Kensington Farmers Market.** Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm. Free. Colusa Circle.

**March 3 “Castoffs” Knitting Group.** All levels welcome and some help provided. This group normally meets on the first Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

**March 3, 5, 7 Jazzercise**, M/W/F, 8-9:15am; Ongoing. Drop-ins welcomed. At the Community Center.

**March 4 KCC Spring Online Registration.** 6pm, on-going.

**March 4 The Power of Myth at the Movies: *As It Is In Heaven* (2004).** View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7:30-9pm. \$7. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, 525-0302.

**March 4 & 6 Body Sculpting.** Tues/Thurs, 9-10am; Ongoing. Drop-ins welcomed. At the Community Center.

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center  
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington  
*(Schedule Subject to Change – Call to Confirm.)*

**KCC - March 3rd  
Kensington Community Council**  
1st Mondays, 7:30pm. 525-0292

**FKL - March 4th  
Friends of the Kensington Library**, 7pm (at the Library, 61 Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesdays

**KPSC - March 10th  
Kensington Public Safety Council**  
Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness  
2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

**KARO/ECHO - March 10th  
Amateur Radio Operators**  
2nd Mondays of odd months,  
7:30pm. 524-9815

**KFPD - March 12th  
Fire Protection District**  
2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

**KPPCSD - March 13th  
Police Protection and  
Community Services District**  
2nd Thursdays, 7pm. 526-4141

**KIC - March 24th  
Kensington Improvement Club**  
4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 527-3062

**KMAC (Tentative) - Mar. 25th  
Municipal Advisory Council**  
Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s  
office to confirm: 231-8691)

Kensington Kalendar

**March 4, 11, 18, 25 Taize Meditation** at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 7:30am.

**March 5 Contra Costa County Community Warning System presentation**, hosted by The El Cerrito Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. Representatives from Contra Costa’s Office of Emergency Services will discuss the community warning system and how residents can get the most out of the services offered. Kensington CERT Area Coordinators will be on hand to discuss the CERT program and connect with residents in their designated CERT area. EC Recreation Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, EC. 7pm. Free.

**March 5, 12, 19, 26 Yoga at Arlington Community Church**, 52 Arlington Ave. All ages. 4:45-6pm. Bring balance to mind, body and spirit. Drop-ins welcome, small fee. Call Suzanne Lingo at 525-1881.

**March 6 Women’s and Men’s Fellowship** at Arlington Community Church 52 Arlington Ave. 6:30-9pm. Bring a dish to share. Info 526-9146.

**March 7 Medieval Music Concert** at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. In partnership with BACH (Bay Area Classical Harmonies). 7:30pm. Info 526-9146.

**March 7 Qi-Gong for Adults.** Fridays, 9:30-10:30am.

**March 8 KCC Mardi Gras Dance**, 7:30-10pm. Childcare provided. At the Community Center. *Details, Pg. 1.*

**March 9 Rev. Sue Magidson, “100% UU. 100% Jewish. Joys and challenges of life at the intersection.”** 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, 525-0302.

**March 9 Knitting at Arlington Community Church**, 52 Arlington Ave. 11:30am. Knit shawls, hats, scarves, and mittens for those in need. We pray over each item before giving it away. Info 526-9146.

**March 10 Berkeley Repertory Theatre Docent Talk**, on the current production of “Accidental Death of an Anarchist.” Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

**March 10 El Cerrito Art Association meets.** Carole Peel demonstrates portrait drawing. 7pm, EC Community Ctr., 7007 Moeser Lane, EC. Includes “mini art show” of members’ work, speaker, and brief business meeting. Public welcome; w/chair-accessible. 277-6996 or [www.ElCerritoArt.org](http://www.ElCerritoArt.org).



*Singers, Marcelle Dronkers and Meghan Dibble in a comic duet from last year’s “Love Songs” concert – See March 15th & 16th*

**March 11 KCC Summer Camp Online Registration Begins.** On-going.

**March 12 Potluck Community Dinner** at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Potluck for everyone, families welcome at 5:30pm. Adult study from 6-7pm. Info: 526-9146.

**March 15 & 16 Love Songs & Stories & Chocolate – a Late Valentine.** Romantic songs and stories in a casual cabaret-like setting, interrupted every so often by delicious desserts. Classical melodies, jazz, and show tunes, plus short monologues featuring gifted actors. Saturday at 7:30pm and Sunday at 1pm. UUCB. One Lawson Road, Kensington. Includes a dessert buffet. \$20/15/5 at [www.brown-papertickets.com/event/580671](http://www.brown-papertickets.com/event/580671), or at the door. No one turned away for lack of funds. Wheelchair accessible. Free parking. [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org) or 525-0302.

**March 16 Rabbi Harry Manhoff, “Why I Love Purim (and Hate Hanukkah).”** 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, 525-0302.

**March 17 Art Talk and Slideshow with Michael Stehr.** Part 2 of his “Three Days in Paris” series. Tonight: sculptor, August Rodin. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 11:30am. Free. 524-3043.

**March 18 Berkeley Garden Club Lecture Program**, 12:30-3pm, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Lecture(2-3pm): “Urban Homesteading” by K. Ruby Blume, Director, Institute of Urban Homesteading. 12:30-1pm garden sales table, 1-2pm general meeting. [www.berkeleygardenclub.org](http://www.berkeleygardenclub.org). Public welcome!

**March 19 The Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters** meets to discuss local issues at 1:15pm. Please call for location: 527-1266.

**March 20 Neighbor Conflict Resolution Workshop** presented by the Kensington Public Safety Council. Includes effective ways to present complaints, listening effectively, and diffusing anger. 7pm at the Community Center. Please RSVP to [kensingtonpsc@gmail.com](mailto:kensingtonpsc@gmail.com). More information at 501-8165.

**March 20 & 27 Baby & Toddler Storytime.** Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

**March 21 Memoir Writing Group** at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Fireside Room, 10am.

**March 22 Open Mike and Karaoke** with Officer Doug Wilson at The Arlington, 6-10pm. New format! Free.

**March 23 Martin Verhoeven, “The Mountain and Me: Nature in Buddhist Meditation.”** 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, 525-0302.

**March 23 ‘Sounds New’ in Concert.** Tix at the door: \$20 adults/\$15 seniors & students/\$5 children 12 and under. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, 525-0302.

**March 24 Book Club Discussion** of *Stoner* by John Williams. 7pm. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Free.

**March 24 Start of Spring KASEP Classes.**

**March 25 John Marsh and his Great Stone House.** Hear his story and that of his stately 1855 stone mansion. Talk by Gene Metz, about its restoration and the 4,000-acre Marsh Creek State Park that surrounds it, with newly discovered archeological remains going back 7,000 years. 7pm. Free. Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, EC. wheelchair accessible. 524-1737 or [davidswinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:davidswinstein@yahoo.com).

**March 28 Bridge** at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Potluck at 6pm. Information at 526-9146.

**March 30 Josh Kornbluth, “Today I Am a (Middle-Aged) Man.”** 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, 525-0302.

Evening-sky view taken by NASA’s Mars rover, *Curiosity*, shows Earth as seen from Mars on Jan. 31, 2014:  
[www.UniverseToday.com/109095/you-are-here-curiositys-1st-photo-of-home-planet-earth-from-mars/](http://www.UniverseToday.com/109095/you-are-here-curiositys-1st-photo-of-home-planet-earth-from-mars/)  
  
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...Rent, from Page 9

FD; as well as a report of surplus funds that may have been used to pay off future FD retiree medical benefits over the past three years – two large expenses that, if counted, would significantly impact the bottom line of the FD. (For comparison purposes, PD has a schedule to pay off its post-retirement medical benefits over the next 30 years. The FD’s post-retirement medical obligation ended when it contracted with El Cerrito for fire services. PD obligations continue to accrue.) Payments such as these would paint a different picture of the FD’s cash reserves.

While further inquiry would be needed to clarify and compare the costs of running the two districts, they each have different mandates and concomitant costs to fulfill those mandates. If the Fire District is amassing large reserves while the Police District is struggling financially to fulfill its mandate, however, it’s possible that a rebalancing of payments from one district to another may be in the best interests of Kensington.

In any event, we’re lucky to have two such well-run districts, filled with devoted public servants concerned with the welfare of our town and all of its residents.

Here’s what one observer suggested as a “back of the napkin” solution. “Without getting into what each District provides, how well it’s doing it, or how much it costs to do it, a quick comparison shows a difference in annual revenues between about \$2.5M for the FD and \$2.2M for the PD — a difference of about \$300K; a credit of 10% of that amount from the FD to the PD would bring the PD’s rent down to about a hundred bucks a month. Ba-da-bing – Let’s all go have a beer!” – Ed.

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*Josh is extremely savvy and has great tact in negotiations. He is an expert in the East Bay real estate market having done so many transactions and being a Kensington resident. Perhaps best of all, Josh is a great person and it's been an absolute pleasure working with him.*  
*—Christopher and Lauren, Kensington*

Josh Dickinson  
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