K E N S I N G T O N

OUTLOOK

NOVEMBER 2009

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 9

Last Month's Festival and Parade

The 2009 Kensington Community Council Annual Fall Festival and Parade, led by Grand Marshals, Betty Anne Engel and her daughter, Molly Engel Park, went off with barely a hitch one Sunday in October. Predicted rain held off for an entire day while Kensington residents frolicked on the Community Center

lawn and enjoyed the virtual flag raising, shepherded by the Boy Scouts and the El Cerrito High School Marching Band.

Sponsored by Marvin Gardens Real Estate and Mechanics Bank, with entertainment by The Blues Daddies, the El Cerrito High School Jazz Band, and Fortune Smiles Jazz Ensemble. Beach

balls, balloons, and the scent of summer's last burgers on the grill (that's summer's last burgers, not last summer's burgers!) filled the air as folks relaxed after having perused – or in many cases participated in – a parade of Cub Scouts, Brownies, Litterbugs (they have a troop!), police cars, fire engines, and a panoply of other community groups and families that wended its way from downtown Kensington to our civic hub.

Mechanics Bank Coloring Contest winners in three different age groups were Otto Gullixson-Carver (age 4-6), "Azzmi" (age 7-9), and "Regina" (age 10-12). See inside for Marvin Gardens Pumpkin Carving Contest winners and more photos of the festival and parade!

More Photos on page 6...



KIC Town Hall Meeting: Saturday, Nov. 7th

Can Kensington Keep its Own Police Force?

The Kensington Improvement Club's annual Town Hall Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 7th at the Community Center at 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, from 9:30am to noon. KIC's Town Hall meeting provides an informal forum for resi-

dents to meet with local representatives and community volunteers and become informed about local issues. A short annual meeting of the membership will precede the speakers' portion of the program.

See KIC, page 9...

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25 Highgate Court-Modern & handsome 3br, 2-bath-home with stunning City and Bridge views. Master suite, terraced gardens.

Offered at \$895,000.

Ron Egherman & Todd Hodson

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Susan Grant & Tim Scully

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Considered at \$719,000.

Ron Egherman & Todd Hodson

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736 Coventry Road-Mediterranean with a Bay view & vintage architectural details. Grand living room, lovely garden, 3 brs, 3 baths.

Celia Concus

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Celia Concus

Offered at \$785,000.
524.0800

*If you would like the sales price on any of these homes, please call us.

marvingardens.com

O U T L O O K

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Advertising

Classified ad rates are \$6 a line (45 spaces or characters), with a 2-line minimum. Online ad forms are available after the back issues listings at: www.KensingtonOutlook.com

Display and classified advertising mail to: *Kensington Outlook* 18 Kingston Rd. Kensington, CA 94707. Other mail to: 59 Arlington Road, Kensington, CA 94707.

Dec/Jan Advertising Deadline.....Nov. 8 Dec/Jan Editorial Deadline.....Nov. 10

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Editorial

Can We All Get Along?

Immortal words uttered by Rodney King – inveterate drunken driver, wife-beater, police assault victim, and subsequent multi-millionaire and hip hop entrepreneur – in his fifteen minutes of Warholian

It's a question as pertinent in the West Bank, Afghanistan, Darfur, the U.S. Congress, and sadly, right here in Kensington, as it is in South L.A.

Kensington residents are some of the wealthiest, most privileged people in the history of the world. We live in one of the most beautiful spots on earth. As one resident put it, "You can't throw a rock in any direction without hitting a Pulitzer Prize winner." The question is, why are all we talented, intelligent people throwing rocks at each other (figuratively speaking)?

As a newcomer to the community, and a frequent attendee at many of the 'K' groups responsible for the management of our town, this reporter has been surprised by the lack of civility in the public discourse at many of those meetings. The vitriol directed at individual board members by some Kensington residents is shocking.

This summer, *The Outlook* had a college student and Kensington resident working briefly as an intern. In the course of her

duties, she was asked to cover a community meeting. Her question upon her return was, "Why do all these people hate each other so much?"

As board directors are unpaid and serve, one would assume, out of a sense of civic devotion, it's hard to understand what could cause Kensington residents – some of the most privileged and educated people in the world – to treat their representatives with such animosity.

This summer, one board member requested an armed officer be present at the meetings!

If the people who have been chosen to represent us, and who contribute their time (a contribution which appears to be considerable) don't even feel safe enough to attend the meetings over which they preside without an armed guard, perhaps it may be time to ask ourselves how it has come to this, and if this is really how we want to continue to treat each other. (One local described it as "a different kind of viciousness.")

At this summer's *National Night Out*, even the police chief's wife was verbally assaulted at one of the neighborhood parties she attended. There she was, supporting her husband and our community, giving of her own time without compensation, only to be accosted by one attendee who confronted her with (to paraphrase), "You shouldn't be here; you don't live in Kensington."

In just the last few months we've seen two of our most diligent public servants – one paid and one unpaid – treated repeatedly with such disdain and disrespect that, as with our young summer intern, it boggles the mind

Instead of playing, "Gotcha!" as one public servant described Kensington politics, one wonders if we might consider giving each other the benefit of the doubt – and assume that, though opinions may differ, each of us has the best interests of our town at heart, and as such, is deserving of the courtesy and respect of the other members of our community.

Or, as Rodney King put it, "Can we all get along?"

Please Note: Our December and January issues are combined. Deadlines for the Dec/Jan issue are Nov. 8th (advertising) and Nov. 10th (editorial). Missed the deadline? E-mail us your item and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

Letters to the Editor

Greg Harman Gets Congratulated

Since I have not been hesitant in the past to criticize KPPCSD agendas for lack of documentation that informs the public and enables board members to reach informed decisions on issues facing the district, I wish to offer hearty congratulations to General Manager Greg Harman on the agenda packet for the October meeting. Documentation and necessary information was presented in a meaningful and comprehensible way.

Regretfully, one member of the board had, apparently, not read all the information and felt entitled to halt the progress of the meeting while texting for information that was in the packet. Even had the information not been in the packet, the agenda is distributed far enough in advance of meetings to enable any necessary additional research. More respect should be shown to fellow board members and members of the public than was demonstrated by this behavior!

Joan Gallegos

EBMUD Summit Reservoir Project

First of all, thanks for continuing to put out a paper that's concerned about and informing our little town of Kensington. I know it's been tough at times but I appreciate the service you're providing.

Second, I attended the EBMUD Summit Reservoir project pre-planning meeting tonight at the KCC. I'm sure the *Outlook* had someone in attendance, but I was hoping you could mention that we're forming an on-line Yahoo community to stay informed.

This is open to anyone and will not be affiliated with EBMUD. We will use it to distribute information and provide input during the planning, design, and construction of the reservoir replacement.

If you could include the group in your Outlook article, I would appreciate it. People can join at the URL: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EBMUDSummitReservoir/

Thanks for your help.

Hans Johansen

Update: EBMUD has posted its first information about the reservoir, here:

http://ebmud.com/water_&_environment/ water_supply/current_projects/summit_ reservoir replacement/default.htm





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K E N S I N G T O N

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue, the Kensington Community Council's After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) fall session began Monday, Sept. 21, and continues until the winter break. KASEP will be closed during the school holidays on Tuesday, November 3; Wednesday, November 11; and Thursday-Friday, November 26-27. Winter registration will take place on Wednesday, December 9th. For additional information, please visit www.aboutkensington.com to see a copy of the fall brochure, or call the office at 525-0292.

ADULT CLASSES

Yoga for Health Tuesdays 9:15-10:30am

Harmonize your body, mind, and spirit. This class involves basic Yoga poses, correct body alignment, breathing techniques, and relaxation. Develop strength, flexibility, endurance, and grace. Therapeutic concerns such as wrist, knee, neck and back pain, and stress reduction will be addressed. No prior experience required - all ages welcome. Please bring a mat to the class.

Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered Yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. Info: Call Nicole at 527-6443.

Residents: \$15 drop-in or \$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresidents please add a \$1 surcharge. Registration at 525-0292.

Classes are held in the Kensington Community Center (the "Youth Hut").

ADULT CLASSES

User-Friendly Pilates

Get Stronger Without Getting Hurt 5 Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30pm Nov. 4 - Dec. 16 (except Nov. 11 & 25)

Pilates is designed to stretch and strengthen your body in an intelligent way, and engages your deepest core abdominal, lumbar, breathing, and pelvic floor muscles. Developing core strength gives you greater power and precision in movement and helps protect your body from injury. Pilates can help you discover how to feel more powerful, age more gracefully, and move with more rhythm and flow.



A mixed-level class, appropriate for beginning and experienced students. Resident: \$64 for 5 classes; \$1 surcharge for Non-residents. 7-student minimum. Kensington Recreation Bldg. ('E').

Ernie Adams is a Pilates Instructor and Feldenkrais® Movement Educator, with an extensive background as a professional dancer. He presents a less-stressful way of learning Pilates and has 16 years experience collaborating with physical therapists to treat orthopedic, neurological, dance, and sports-related injuries. Private sessions in Albany also available. 619-9223 or www.bodyinaction.com.

ADULT CLASSES

Thursday Hatha Yoga Thursdays, 5:45-7pm

The practice of yoga can bring a sense of calm and mental and physical well being. This early evening class presents two different ways to relax the body and renew the mind. On the first and third Thursdays we have a more active class, using classic Hatha Yoga poses to stretch and strengthen. The second and final Thursdays are restorative classes that systematically and gently relax every part of you. All levels of experience welcome.

Claire Lavery, MA, RYT, incorporates poses, breathing techniques, and alignment from several styles of yoga (including ashtanga, Iyengar, integral, vinyasa, hatha and yin) with traditional ayurveda principles. She's been teaching yoga since 2000 and practicing since 1989. A Master's swim coach as well as a teacher of yoga for people with disabilities, she has extensive experience with different body types and conditions.

Residents: \$15 drop-in. month pass (4 classes) \$50. Nonresidents please add \$1 surcharge.

Questions about class content: Call Claire at 681-3077. Registration & location info: Call 525-0292. Classes are held in the Recreation Building (Bldg. E).

REGISTRATION

Class Registration: Please call the office at 525-0292. Some classes have enrollment limits; those registering will be notified if they can't be accommodated.

Tennis Court Reservations: Reservations are for weekends and holidays only; the earliest is 9am. Call the KCC office at 525-0292 for tennis court reservation information. Tennis Court Fees: Residents - \$2 for a 45-min. singles reservation. Nonres: \$5.

Kensington Community Center Rental Information: Please call KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection & Community Services District) at 526-4141.

59 Arlington Avenue, Building E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94704 kccrec@yahoo.com • (510) 525-0292



Pilates Instructor, Ernie Adams

Help Discover the Next Ansel

This Fall, photographer Mark Costantini will teach KASEP students classic photographic techniques using black and white film, including developing and printing their own photographs. We're seeking donations of working 35mm single-lens reflex cameras (working light meter optional), as well as other darkroom equipment. Please call the office to donate.

Thank you!

Mark Your Calendar!

The annual KCC holiday performance for families will showcase many of our KASEP classes with performances and exhibitions of completed work. Please mark your calendars for Friday, December 11, 7 p.m., in the Kensington Community Center.

Coming: Friday, December 11th, 7pm

Many Thanks to Our Fall Fundraising Donors!

(Through November 15)

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Thank you! • Gracias! • Domo Arigato!

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5 Ridgeway Avenue, El Cerrito 4+BR/3BA & Kensington School* Offered at \$899,000



8210 Terrace Drive, El Gerrito 4+BR/2+BA & Kensington School* Offered at \$930,000



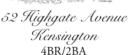
2729 Belrose Avenue, Berkeley 6+BR/6+BA

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* call school district to verify admissions

Sold! Kensington is selling!





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Neighborhood Notes

Kensington Hilltop Garden Party Fundraiser - Saturday, Nov. 7th

Each November, parents, teachers, and friends of Kensington Hilltop Elementary School throw a big party with a big purpose: the annual school fund raiser to benefit the Kens-

ington Education Foundation (KEF). The Garden Party raises critically needed money for programs not provided by the district - including physical education, art, music, the Read Naturally and math club enrichment programs, computer lab, science lab, the school library, and more...An auction of fantastic donated items is the main event at the Garden Party, including fine art and student art, a home-improvement work party provided by the Dads' Club, weekends in vacation homes, merchandise and gift certificates from local merchants, and more – all available at both silent and live auctions...



This adults-only event will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, One Lawson Road, Kensington. Admission is \$50 in advance or \$55 at the door. For more information call 525-2835 or 527-1297. To make a tax-deductible donation, call Beth Thomsen at 527-1319 or Julie Molkenbuhr at 527-2636.

Last Month: Walk to School Day; This Month: Fitness Friday!

Same action, different name. Life's confusing sometimes, but still fun! Join other parents, kids, and teachers for Fitness Friday Kickoff, Friday, November 6th at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School: Walk to school with your children, then gather with other parents, their kids, and all the teachers on the upper yard for breakfast treats and coffee provided by Espresso Subito. Contact Leslie Reckler (lesmac@sbcglobal.net) if you'd like to be a sponsor or would be willing to volunteer.



Pancake Breakfast w/the El Cerrito High School Bands: Sun., 11/8

Everyone knows that the most important meal of the day is breakfast – accompanied by the mellow sounds from the ECHS student musicians! Friends of El Cerrito Music will sponsor a pancake breakfast to help raise funds to support student musicians in our local high school. School budgets may be pinched, but the enthusiasm and energy for playing music is not a diminished chord. Listen to the bands, talk to the teachers - Tiffany Carico (Symphonic), Keith Johnson (Jazz), Alan Peck (Marching Band) – and learn more about the ECHS music program. Everyone welcome. Kensington Community Ctr, 9-11:30am. Info/reservations: Laurie Schumacher 527-5297 or e-mail Shuhome@aol.com.

On a Clear Day You Can See...Kensington!

Having just recently graduated from the swing set to the jet set, this summer found Kensington resident, Kimiro Sautman, reading her Outlook in front of The Mermaid in Copenhagen. Kimiro spent six weeks traveling in Europe with her aunt - barnstorming in Berlin, dallying in Denmark, and finally alighting in Amsterdam. She's 8 years old and in the third grade at Kensington Hilltop School. Next year Kimiro has been invited to the Dalai Lama's palace in Dharamsala, India. The girl's got it goin' on! (What, no



press passes? Hello? Dalai?) For now, it's nice to have her back where she belongs.

First Yoga Class Free

Kensington residents, Kim and Tony Wolff, are offering yoga classes for all levels at White Magnolia Tai Chi School, 281 Arlington, above Young's Market. For those with at least 6 months experience: Tuesday & Thursday at 9am; Sundays at 10:30am. Six-week Beginners' Series (pre-enrollment required) starts Nov. 15th. Call 831-596-7170 or e-mail yogawolff@gmail.com.

Maybeck Estates Tour

Kensington residents shown at right take advantage of a photo opportunity on the second of Bob Shaner and Paul Grunland's KASEP-sponsored walking tours of the Maybeck Estates this past September.





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Neighborhood Notes

Last Month: Celebrating 50 Years of Free Speech

An enthusiastic crowd heard artist and Free Speech Movement expert, David Lance Goines, and authors, Mollie Katzen, Marissa Moss and Elisa Kleven read passages from some of their favorite banned books as the Kensington Library celebrated Banned Books Week on October 1st.



Richmond Food Pantry Needs Volunteers

The Richmond Emergency Food Pantry,

a 100% volunteer, non-profit organization, has provided food to those in need since 1971. With the present downturn in the economy, the demand, while still being met, has increased threefold. This larger operation requires more volunteers and more board members. Volunteers are needed at our site to pack and distribute food, and/ or help in the areas of bookkeeping, communications, and computer data entry. Spanish-speaking, bilingual volunteers are particularly needed. For more information about helping this valuable community service, call Robin Winton at 527-2783 or Joan Haber at 526-7205.

Too Late to Get Your Flu Shot at the Arlington Pharmacy?

Sophia Artis, age 11, did her civic duty last month by dropping into the Arlington Pharmacy to help keep those nasty flu bugs at bay. Due to the popularity of the program, at press time the company administering flu shots at the pharmacy had run out of serum and said it may not be able to provide shots in November as originally scheduled. Call Arlington Pharmacy at 526-6414 for an update on availability of these "seasonal" flu shots and those for H1N1.



Friends of the Library Art Exhibit: Cecilia Simi & Margaret Foster

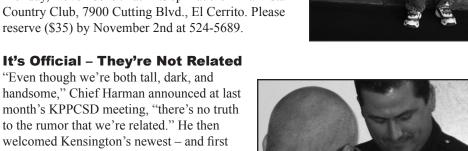
Two artists with two separate visions will be exhibiting at the Kensington Library. Cecilia Simi will be showing abstract paintings done with a variety of mixed media. Margaret Foster will be showing etchings and drawings with an interest in realism and the figure. 61 Arlington Ave., through December 31st. Please call the library for hours: 524-3043.

Otto Gullixson-Carver Wins Mechanics Bank Coloring Contest!

In conjunction with the Kensington Fall Festival and Parade, Mechanics Bank sponsored a Kids Coloring Contest. Otto won first place in his age group (4-6). Congratulations, Otto – way to go!

Kensington Republican Women's Club Lunch and Fashion Show

You can see what women are wearing this year (and also what they're eating) at the Kensington Republican Women's Club Lunch & Fashion Show on Monday, November 9th at 12:30pm at the Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito. Please reserve (\$35) by November 2nd at 524-5689.



It's Official - They're Not Related

handsome," Chief Harman announced at last month's KPPCSD meeting, "there's no truth to the rumor that we're related." He then welcomed Kensington's newest - and first Spanish-speaking officer – Juan "Manny" Ramos to the police force. Officer Ramos has experience with the Los Angeles and Hayward Police Departments. He is currently in the Field Training Program and is expected to be on solo duty in December. Con mucho gusto, Manny - Mazel Tov!



Officer Doug Medina Commended

Officer Medina received a Blue Commendation at the October 8th KPPCSD Board Meeting for his arrest of a burglary suspect in September. The arrest ultimately was responsible for removing another handgun from the streets. See *Police Update* on *Page 9* for details. Thanks for being out there, Doug-Good work! (Photos: Lynn Wolter)

In Memory of Annemarie Spiller

Thanks go out to Valborg Thomas for a generous donation toward improvements in Kensington Park, made in memory of Annemarie Spiller. Thanks, Val – your gift will be appreciated by generations!



• Experience Matters •



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Pet of the Month



Castle is a small, classically marked Dutch bunny boy. Unlike most bunnies, he is fur-ociously friendly and cuddly. He was found roaming the hills above the bay at the old Naval depot in Point Richmond and still pricks up his ears at the sound of the foghorn. He likes watching television and chewing books, and his favorite foods are parsley and dandelion greens. Please come and visit him at RabbitEARS Adoption Store, open 7 days a week, 377 Colusa Ave., 525-6155. or www.rabbitears.org

For questions, please call The Admission Office 415 - 454 - 3636

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OPEN HOUSE

for 8th graders and their parents

Sunday, October 25 -or-

Sunday, December 6 1:00-3:30 pm

Program begins promptly at 1:00.



39 Fernhill Avenue Ross, California 94957



Holiday Gift Fair

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009 • 12 to 7 p.m.

El Cerrito Community Center 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito

Participants Welcome

Artists, craftspersons, photographers, and providers of special services are encouraged to participate. Booth space for this indoor event is available from \$125 (for a 6x6-ft. table). This gift fair will be advertised locally. Free admission.

For more information or a vendor's application, please contact: Mark Scott (510) 705-1202 or Judy Pope (510) 525-7232. E-mail: ecfair@elcerritochamber.org



ElCerritoChamber.org

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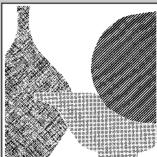
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THANKSGIVING WEEKEND OPENHOUSE FRI-SAT-SUN • NOV. 27, 28, 29 • 11-5

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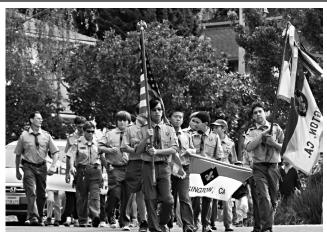
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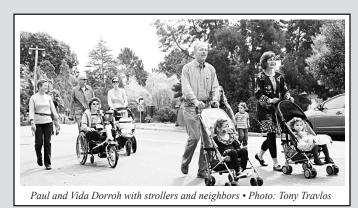
CALL US AT: 510-841-2185











And now, the Brownies! • Photo: Tony Travlos

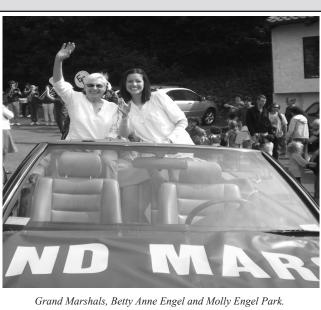
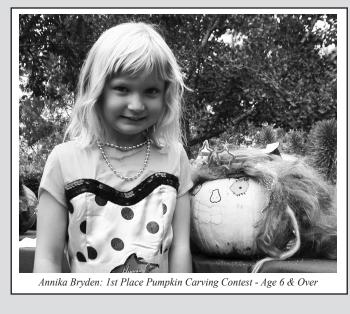


Photo: Paul Dorroh



Thanks to Tony Travlos and Paul De You can see more of Tony Travlos' ph http://triplering.smugmug.com/Events/Kensingto



Happy Thanksgiving!

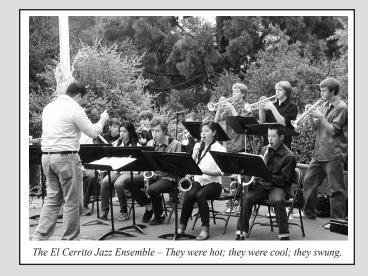
Sydney continues to thank Dr. Gayle Vial and all of the staff at Kensington Veterinary for their loving kindness.

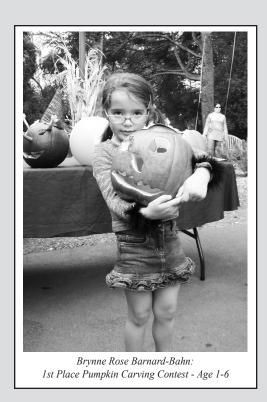


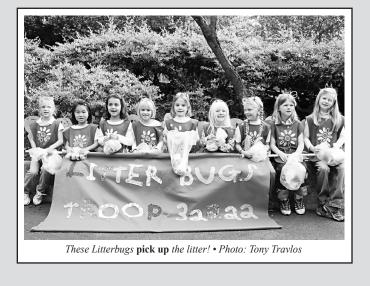


Can you find the beach ball in this picture?

Kensington Community Council FALL FESTIVAL and Paradel Sunday, Oct. 18th, 2009









orroh for the additional photos. otos of the parade and festival at n-Fall-Festival-2009 (Password: outlook2009)

DINNER



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-The San Francisco Chronicle

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-The Contra Costa Time

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INTERVIEW ____

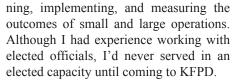
Nina Ramsey KFPD Board President

With all the talk about the possible consolidation of the Police and Fire Districts, we took an opportunity to sit down for a virtual Q & A with Nina Ramsey, the President of the Kensington Fire Protection District Board of Directors and get her views about the issues currently facing the KFPD and our community.

1. First, could you tell us a little about yourself? I've lived in Kensington for over 30 years. I raised my children here and they attended local schools. I joined

the Board approximately 9 years ago. This is my third term as the elected President. The Fire District elects a new president in December of each calendar year.

I came onto the Board with extenexperience sive in law enforceworking ment, with county governments, managemployees, ing developing and managing budgets, managing contracts, and allocating resources; I've also worked as a project manager designing, plan-



I believe strongly in small local government because it gives citizens the ability to participate in decisions directly affecting their community. Serving on the KFPD has given me the opportunity to give back to Kensington, which has provided so much for my family.

2. There's been some talk (courtesy of LAFCO) about consolidating the Fire and Police Districts. Where does the KFPD stand on the possibility of consolidation with the police district?

Consolidating the two boards would greatly endanger KFPD's ability to maintain the current level of fire and paramedic services to Kensington. Expenses for either District would not diminish and positions would not be eliminated.

The draft Municipal Services Review (report) on fire services in Contra Costa County presented to LAFCO listed consolidation of the KFPD and the KPPCSD as an option; however, based on the recommendation of LAFCO's Fire and Emergency Services Ad Hoc Subcommittee, on October 14, 2009, LAFCO adopted the position to *not* support this option. KFPD supports LAFCO's position.

3. The KPPCSD is facing almost a half a million dollar shortfall. Why is it that the Fire District has a surplus and the Police District has a deficit?

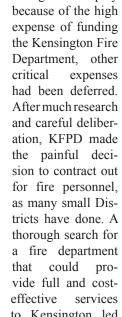
Currently the KFPD provides fire services for Kensington which, in addition to responding to fire emergencies, includes a paramedic and a defibrillator on all fire engines for medical emergencies, and an extensive vegetation management program in which the entire interface between Kensington and Tilden Park, as well as each and every property in Kensington, is inspected annually to reduce the risk to loss of our lives and those of our pets and our homes and businesses.

KFPD pays for the maintenance and upkeep of the Public Safety Building, purchases and owns the fire engines and equipment that support fire services, pays for the retirement and medical benefits of our former firefighters, and pays for other improvements, such as the upgrade of our water system and the addition of 32 hydrants.

In 1978 the tax rates for both agencies were set by Proposition 13. KFPD's rate was based, in part, on the high cost of maintaining fire services and the Public Safety Building.

In the mid 1990s, KFPD was in a similar financial situation to the one KPPCSD

> has currently publicly identified for themselves. only was the KFPD facing bankruptcy because of the high expense of funding the Kensington Fire Department, other critical expenses had been deferred. After much research and careful deliberation, KFPD made the painful decision to contract out for fire personnel, as many small Districts have done. A thorough search for a fire department that could provide full and costeffective services to Kensington led



KFPD to award the contract to the City of El Cerrito. The contract with El Cerrito requires 24-hour coverage of Kensington by firefighters housed in our Public Safety Building; EC Fire hired an additional 10 fire fighters to provide the coverage.

Nina Ramsey and Battalion Chief Michael Bond

grin and bear it at September's Tri-City Safety Day

KFPD held several public hearings to receive input and the community shared its views on the pros and cons of such a move. Once the contract was in place, all Kensington fire personnel were offered positions with either the Contra Costa Fire Department or the El Cerrito Fire Department at their current rank.

The decision to contract out for services proved to be fiscally sound and allowed for stronger fire protection due to the larger, well-trained, and experienced EC Fire Department. Because of the contract, KFPD was able to address obligations that had been deferred. KFPD added paramedics and medical defibrillators to all fire engines. We began extensive remodeling and seismic upgrade to the Public Safety Building. KFPD added 32 new fire hydrants and improved the system of delivery of water for fighting fires. We replaced the old, outdated and worn-out fire engines.

Because of the contract, KFPD is now able to fund the \$1.7 million retirement liability of the former Kensington firefighters. Our present fire engines will outlive their maximum capacity for efficiency within four to nine years and require replacing; current estimates indicate the cost for both will be over \$1.2 million dollars. Within the next few months we will begin another phase of needed repair of the Public Safety Building to correct structural failure to the west side, replace 30-year old siding, replace the ADA ramp, and to correct problems with the driveway to the back of the building for the Police vehicles. KFPD expects to spend approximately \$400,000 on this project.

4. When discussing this discrepancy, the question comes up for many people as to why the Police District should pay rent to the Fire District. Can you explain that from the Fire District's point of view?

No district may give money to another district. A lease for space used by the Kensington Police Department that charged no rent or a token amount would legally constitute a gift of money. Under the law, even a lease that deferred the rent for 2 years would require that the deferred rent be paid at a later date, in addition to the then current year's rent.

In several communications to the KFPD, the KPPCSD has indicated it expects to pay a fair and reasonable rent based on square footage. KFPD is sensitive to the current difficulties facing the KPPCSD and has offered a lease with a minimum rent that is far below market rate. This rental fee will go towards maintaining a small portion of the building's expenses.

5. Considering the widely regarded success of the Fire District, of what three accomplishments of the District are you most proud?

KFPD is proud of the contractual partnership we have with the City of El Cerrito and their Fire Department. This mutually beneficial arrangement provides Kensington with the best fire, paramedic and vegetation management programs available. KFPD is proud of the addition of the paramedic program and purchase of medical defibrillators that have improved the ability of the fire fighter/paramedics to provide advanced patient care. Over the last few years KFPD increased the water pressure and capacity of the water system in Kensington and added 32 fire hydrants; these improvements reduce our risk of a major conflagration coming from the wild land interface along Tilden Park.

6. What do you see as the greatest challenges facing the Fire District over the next five years?

Given the national and state economy, our focus is ensuring that we can continue to maintain and improve the services that we offer through careful planning and management of our funds and resources.

7. In what ways do you think the Fire District is misunderstood by the residents of Kensington?

Kensington residents are aware of the many services provided by the KFPD. In addition to responding to fires and medical emergencies, the Fire Department inspects every property in Kensington to provide guidance with vegetation management. Among the many fire services, we install smoke detectors, provide assistance to the elderly, inspect schools and business, visit with school children to educate them on fire safety, provide CERT training, first aid and CPR classes, and maintain a pharmaceutical drop-off to reduce medical emergencies.

8. What has surprised you most about being on the Fire District's Board of **Directors?**

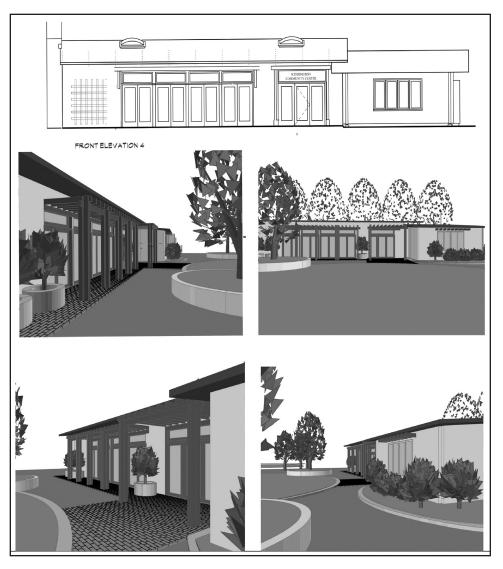
I'm continually pleased at the high level of commitment the firefighters have to the community. I have a renewed appreciation for the often difficult decisions made by elected officials as we work to provide the best services to all residents. Ensuring that Kensington has the best fire and paramedic services and that we manage our vegetation at home and on the interface with the EBRPD to reduce the risk to our lives, pets, homes and businesses is a critical responsibility. I'm proud and humbled to serve on the KFPD and it has increased my appreciation of our wonderful system of government.

Next month: Part II

Community Center Remodel

As a gift to the town, the Kensington Community Council is planning to have the Community Center remodeled. There will be a Town Hall Meeting in early December to give the community a

chance to review what's being planned for the space. The remodel is planned to take place over 10 to 12 weeks this coming summer. Here is one possibility of how it might look:



5 Views of Proposed Remodel of the Kensington Community Center (Youth Hut) Submitted by Architect Deborah Lane

From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From September 2009

•09-4075 On 9/2/09 at 0213 hrs., Officer Stegman responded to an alarm at a construction site on Stanford Ave., where a suspect tried, but failed to gain entry.
•09-4139 On 9/5/09 at 0125 hrs., Officer Stegman arrested a DUI at the check point on San Pablo Avenue.

•09-4276 On 9/15/09 at 0832 hrs., Officer Barrow took a stolen vehicle report from a resident on Highland Blvd.

•09-4378 On 9/22/09 at 1808 hrs., Officer Stegman picked up a prisoner at Santa Rita Jail and transported him to the CCC Jail. The prisoner was being held on Kensington case warrant.

•09-4483 On 9/29/09 at 1251 hrs., Officer Wilson took a residential burglary report on Edgecroft Rd. The home is being remodeled

•2009-4097 On 9-3-2009 at approximately 0634 hrs., Officer Martinez responded to a residential alarm and discovered an attempted residential burglary in the 100 block of Stanford Avenue. Officer Stegman responded to the same call for service the night prior (09-4081). A suspect was arrested in a separate residential burglary with a pry bar and screwdriver in his possession tools which corresponded the damage done to the Stanford Avenue property. •2009-4234 On 9-11-2009, at approximately 0443 hrs., Officer Medina noticed a normally locked gate open at a house under construction in the unit block of Eureka Avenue. Upon further investigation the officer located a burglar inside the residence. Due to Officer Medina's diligence no property was lost in this case, and an arrest was made.

•2009-4241 On 9-11-2009 at 2341 hours, Officer Medina took a missing persons report in the 200 block of Trinity Avenue. A resident reported his wife and two daughters missing. The trio returned home the next morning citing they spent

... KIC from page 1

This year's meeting will focus on the issues, options and possible solutions to financing difficulties affecting Kensington's special districts. Topics to be discussed include:

The fiscal status, both current and projected, of the Districts; Potential increased tax assessment for the Police District; Continuation of the Kensington Police department as an independent department; Contracting out for police services with another agency, city or department; Solving the fiscal crisis through cutting services, compensation, or other means; and the ramifications of consolidating the Police and Fire Districts.

Speakers will include Police Chief and General Manager, Greg Harmon, Chuck Toombs, President of the KPPCSD, fellow board member Pat McLaughlin, and a board member of the Kensington Fire Protection District. LAFCO staff member, Lou Ann Texiera, will be on hand to answer questions regarding special districts.

A representative from AC Transit has also been invited to discuss the proposed cuts in transit lines servicing Kensington. Other local leaders, including Kensington Librarian, Liz Ruhland, and a representative from KCC, will bring us up to date on their activities. KIC will provide coffee and light refreshments free of charge. All citizens of Kensington, and all members of KIC are welcome. A questions and answer session will follow the presentations.

the night at a friend's house in El Cerrito. (Say, honey, how's about leaving a note next time?)

•2009-4251 On 9-12-2009 at 1522 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a coroner's case in the unit block of Arlington Avenue. No foul play was noted so the decedent was released to the *Neptune Society*.

2009-4283 On 9-15-2009 at 2102 hours, Officer Medina responded to the unit block of

Kensington Rd. for a possible harassment case. A resident was being harassed by an ex-boyfriend who did not want to terminate the relationship. No further action was necessary.

•2009-4295 On 9-16-2009 at 2144 hours, Officer Medina responded to a report of residential burglary in 100 block of Willow Lane. An unknown suspect stole items from the interior of the house and the victim's vehicle.

•2009-4303 On 9-17-2009 at 1311 hours, Officer Martinez responded to the unit block of Rincon Rd. where new residents reported a residential burglary. An unknown suspect entered into a staged home for sale and moved several items, including a kitchen appliance, to the middle of the floor in preparation for removing them from the residence. The suspect/s apparently left the scene – with the items still inside the residence. •2009-4321 On 9-18-2009 at 1552 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of residential burglary in the 300 block of Yale Avenue. An unknown suspect entered into a home staged for sale by forcing entry through the front door. Several items were stolen.

•2009-4415 On 9-25-2009 at 1238 hours, Officers Martinez and Ramos responded to a "shot fired" call from the 1600 block of Ocean View Ave. An investigation revealed that Berkeley PD attempted to euthanize an injured animal. (Attempted? How's about hitting the range for some target practice, huh, guys?)





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Public Safety Council Wants YOU! Nov. 12

The Kensington Public Safety Council (KPSC) is a new community organization formed in 2009 to work with government and citizens on Disaster Preparedness.

The Council has two missions: to gather and disseminate information on all aspects of public safety, including public health, hazard mitigation, toxic waste, Neighborhood Watch, and disaster preparedness; and secondly to help bring Kensington into a state of readiness should a major event occur on the Hayward Fault.

Each member works on one of three committees: House and Property, Neighborhood Organizing, or Community Interface. Members gather information and engage in strategic planning, interfacing with local churches, schools and businesses, Contra Costa County and District One Board of Supervisors, neighboring towns, EBMUD, PG&E, and state and federal agencies.

A major goal of this group is to create incentives and visibility for CERT classes so every neighborhood eventually has a majority of people trained in emergency preparedness skills.

You're invited to come share your ideas and become more informed about how our neighborhoods will operate in the 5 to 7 days we'll be on our own, should the infrastructure of our town break down after an earthquake.

As hard as it is to keep such an exigency

See Public Safety, page 13...

Police Update

Officer Juan "Manny" Ramos Jr. was sworn in at the October 8th KPPCSD Board meeting. Officer Ramos is Kensington's first Spanish-speaking officer, and has experience with the Los Angeles and Hayward Police Departments. Officer Ramos is currently in the Field Training Program and is expected to be on solo duty in December.

Officer Doug Wilson has decided against moving on to browner pastures and will continue to man his post here in Kensington, rather than returning to his previous employer, Dyna Corp, and a deployment to Afghanistan. We're glad to have Doug back out on patrol.

We are completing the background process with four reserve officer candidates. It's hoped that the four will be ready to be sworn in at the November Board meeting

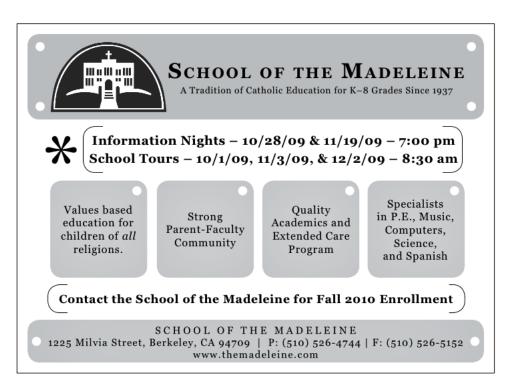
We are currently staffed at 9 sworn positions and are continuing our recruitment of both officer and reserve officer candidates.

Officer Medina received a *Blue Commendation* at the October 8th KPPCSD Board Meeting for his arrest of a burglary suspect in September.

Department Investigation #09-04 was initiated in April on an allegation that an officer was absent without leave for a period of seven days. This investigation has been completed and is under review.

Department Investigation #09-05 was initiated on August 20th on an allegation that an officer displayed an inappropriate screen saver on a department computer.

See Police Update, page 13...



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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Town Meetings

at the Kensington Community Center 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington (Unless otherwise noted)

Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays 7:30pm 525-0292 **November 2nd**

Friends of the Kensington Library 7pm at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue. 1st Tuesdays. November 3rd.

KPSC - November 9th Kensington Public Safety CouncilEQ & Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays, 6:30pm. 508-8163

KARO/ECHO - Nov. 9th Amateur Radio Operators

Provides assistance to community emergency response teams in the case of natural disasters. Actively soliciting new members interested in operating amateur radios as a community service. 2nd Mondays of odd months. 7:30pm. 524-9815

KFPD - Nov. 11th
Fire Protection District
2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD - Nov. 12th Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd Thursdays 7pm. 526-4141

KIC - This Month: Nov. 30th Kensington Improvement Club 7:30pm. 558-1123

KMAC - November 24th Municipal Advisory Council Last Tuesdays, 7pm. 273-9926

KPOA

Property Owners Association
One annual general spring memb

One annual general spring membership meeting; Board of Directors meets quarterly. 525-1709

Online Neighborhood Newsgroup http://groups.google.com/group/kensingtontips?hl=en

Kensington Signboard Coordinator: To reserve signboard space for your event, call Jaima at 525-8902.

Nov. 1 All Hallows Day Celebration, with a special performance by our *Spirit and the Arts Young People's Dance Theater and Choir.* Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave., beginning at 10am. 526-9146

Nov. 1 Day of the Dead Inter generational Service, 11 am. UUCB, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. 525-0302

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Young People's Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal. 8 years & up. Fireside Room, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 11:30am-noon. \$10/month. 526-9146

Nov. 1, 8, & 15 Personal Theology: Bill Garrett, JFK University Prof. of Religion and Philosophy on *Islam in Context*. UUCB, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. 10-11am. 525-0302, x 306

Nov. 2 "Castoffs" Knitting Group. All levels welcome, and help is provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free. 524-3043 (1st Mondays)

Nov. 3 Power of Myth at the Movies III: The Search for Meaning. Led by Richard Stromer 7:30-9pm. The movie for 11/3 is *American Beauty*. Please watch it before attending. UUCB, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Suggested admission: \$6. 682-6302

Nov. 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 31 First Yoga Class Free with Kim Wolff – pre-req: 6 months experience; Drop-ins welcome. 9am at White Magnolia Tai Chi School, 281 Arlington Ave., above *Young's Market*. 831-596-7170

Nov. 4 Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters meets to discuss local issues. 1:15pm at 28 Camelot Court. Guests welcome. Please confirm at 527-4240.

Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25 Wake Up To Al-Anon. 7-8am. Fireside Room, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue.

Nov. 4, 11, 18 Young People's Choir.

Come learn sight-reading, voice training, and the basics of music, in anticipation of performances Nov. 22 and Dec. 19. Small fee for participation, scholarships are available. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Avenue. 6:15-7pm. 526-9146

Nov. 5, 12, & 19 (not the 26th), Baby & Toddler Story Time. Stories, songs, & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Av. Two identical sessions 10:15 & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043

Nov. 5, 12, 19 Young People's Dance Theatre. This month the youth will be creating dances and songs on the theme *In Thanksgiving for Our Earth*, in anticipation of performances Nov. 22 and Dec. 19. Small fee for participation, scholarships are available. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Avenue. 6:15-7:30pm. 526-9146

Nov. 6 Fitness Friday Kickoff at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School: Walk to school with your children. Then meet kids, parents, & teachers on the upper yard for breakfast treats and coffee provided by *Espresso Subito* Please contact Leslie Reckler (*lesmac@sbcglobal.net*) to sponsor/volunteer.

Nov. 6 Live Rock w/*The Misconceptions* 6:30-8:30pm at The Arlington, 269 Arlington Ave., Kensington, 525-3900 or *www.269thearlington.com*

Nov. 6 Lawrence Lecture Series Presents Jack Kornfield: "Carrying the Lamp." Teachings, stories, practice, and conversation with Jack Kornfield, founding teacher of the *Insight Meditation Society* and *Spirit Rock Meditation Center*. 7:30pm, UUCB, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. 682-6302

Nov. 7 KIC Town Hall Meeting. 9:30am-Noon, Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Discussion of LAFCO and financing difficulties affecting Kensington. See *Page 1* for details, or call 558-1123 for info.

Nov. 7 Garden Party Fundraiser for Kensington Hilltop Elementary School. See *Neighborhood Notes* for details.

Nov. 7 & 14 Free Beginning E-mail Classes. Learn the basics. 10-11am. Call to register for either date. Free. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., EC. 526-7512

Nov. 8, 15, 22, 29: Yoga of Self Acceptance with Tony Wolff at 10:30am. Pre-req: 6 months experience; Dropins welcome. 831-596-7170 or www. yogaofselfacceptance.com

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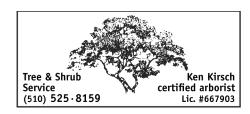
KENSINGTON CALENDAR

- Nov. 9 Kensington Republican Women's Club Lunch & Fashion Show. Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Bl., EC, 12:30pm. \$35. Reservations by 11/2 at 524-5689.
- Nov. 10 German International School, Bilingual K-5 Open House. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, One Lawson Road, Kensington, 6:30-8pm. Learn about GISSV's bilingual programs and find out about a unique educational experience for your child. www.gissv.org
- Nov. 11 Veterans' Day. Not just another day off! Many thanks to all who served/ are serving.
- Nov. 12 Country Joe's Open Mic Nite Sign-ups at 6:30pm. \$5-10 donation. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berk. W/C accessible. 841-4824 or www.bfuu.org
- Nov. 12 El Cerrito Garden Club Fall Fund Raiser. Raffle, silent auction, and gift drawings; plants for sale. Finger foods and desserts. National Garden Club judge, Cheryl Feuerborn, speaks on For the Love of Flowers. 9:30am-noon, EC Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Guests \$5 at the door. Info: Jackie Davids at 233-9365.
- Nov. 13 Live Jazz w/ "The Inside Men" 6:30-8:30pm. Fund raiser for El Cerrito Football Club – 20% the day's sales goes to Dragons Team. The Arlington, 269 Arlington Ave. 525-3900 or www.269thearlington.com. Plus: Outdoor Movie featuring Ratatouille for kids & adults, hosted by Frank Griffo Acupuncture; 267 Arlington Avenue.
- Nov. 13 Dance to Traditional Jazz played by the Gateswingers Jazz Band 33 Revolutions Record Shop & Cafe, 10086 San Pablo Ave. at Central, EC. No cover. 898-1836
- Nov. 14 Contra Costa Chorale: Vivaldi's Gloria at 7:30pm. St. Jerome Church, 308 Carmel Avenue, E.C. \$15/12 seniors. www.ccchorale.org
- Nov. 14 Rabbit Adoption Day. Meet rescued bunnies at RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. 1-4pm. 525-6155
- Nov. 14 Bryan Baker & Friends Present Serenade! - Piano, flute, organ, and vocal concert, including the music of Chopin, Schubert, Debussy, Liszt, and others; virtuoso show pieces for vocal soloists, and a variety of selec-

- tions for chamber choir. Dessert reception follows. Adm. \$15-20 suggested - no-one turned away. 8pm, UUCB, One Lawson Road, Kensington. W/C accessible. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org
- Nov. 15 Music of the Night An Evening in Song. 1st Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way. 7pm. \$15/\$12 studs/snrs & disabled. UCB studs \$6. 643-9645 or www.ucac.net
- Nov. 15 The Arlington Community Church Sunday School is collecting non-perishable food for the Richmond Emergency Food Pantry. Please bring food to 52 Arlington Avenue. For more information, please call 703-0108.
- Nov. 16 Cuba Travelogue presented by Ed Kinney. Slide show and talk. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043
- Nov. 17 Multi-Cultural Music from Around the World. Friends of the Kensington Library presents Peruvian ocarinas, Mexican maracas, an Australian didgeridoo, and much more. Don O'Brien and his son perform on instruments collected on their travels around the world and includes music from Irish, Latin American, and Navajo Indian cultures. Ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043
- Nov. 17 Berkeley Garden Club meets. Cynthia Tanyan of MOZAIC Landscape Design Group speaks on The making of a green roof. 2pm, Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berk. Free. 526-1083
- Nov. 19 Emerald Cities: Arts of Siam & Burma. Join Laurabeth Grieneeks Nelson, docent with the Asian Art Museum, for a slide presentation on this unique collection of stunning 19th century artworks from Siam and Burma. 7pm, El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., EC. 526-7512
- Nov. 19 CERT Certification Class: Terrorism & CERT Organization modules. Fire Station 72; 1520 Arlington Bl., 6:30-9pm. Call for pre-req's and reservations: 215-4450.
- Nov. 20 Live Folk/Rock w/Wolfe and LaRue plus Kensington Hilltop PTA Happy Hour honoring Volunteer of the Month, Jill Sprague. 6:30-8:30pm at The Arlington, 269 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 525-3900

- Nov. 21 Small Critter Adoption Day. Meet hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, and other rescued animals at RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. 1-4pm. 525-6155
- Nov. 21 Country Joe McDonald's Tribute to Woody Guthrie. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berk. 7pm. W/C accessible. 841-4824 or www.bfuu.org
- Nov. 22 Personal Theology: Ann Wiser Cornell, Dir. of the Focusing Institute, on Calm, Clear Decisions. UUCB, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. 10-11am. 525-0302, x 306
- Nov. 23 Book Club Discusses Dickens' Hard Times. Kensington Library, 7pm.
- Nov. 24 El Cerrito Democratic Club meets to discuss A Balancing Act -Defending our President Against Right Wing Attacks vs. Promoting Our Progressive Agenda. 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall, El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave., EC. Light refreshments available. 527-5953
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day Worship and **Potluck Dinner.** Turkey and trimmings provided; participants bring a side dish to share. Noon. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302

- Nov. 29 Personal Theology: Martin J. Verhoeven, author, Adjunct Professor of Comparative Religions, and former Buddhist monk on Fingers Pointing at the Moon: Reading Buddhist Parables. UUCB, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. 10-11am. 525-0302, x 306
- Dec. 5 Kensington Holiday Art Walk. Art, crafts, food, wine, live 50's music by Hot Rod Jukebox, and more in downtown Kensington, 2:30-5:30pm. Contact Tricia at the Chevron Station to participate or show your work.





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... Public Safety from page 9

in mind, we believe it's essential to be prepared, while getting to know our neighbors and community better. All interested parties are most welcome. We're a recently formed group and this is your chance to get in on the ground floor. All Kensington and El Cerrito CERT members are also especially invited to help build this group. Come and learn how to build a block group, how to protect your family and home during a severe earthquake.

The KPSC meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue. The next meeting is Monday, Nov. 12th. Call 526-4141 or 508-8163 for information.

More information at http://kensington-california.org/kensington-public-safety-council.

KPSC chairperson, Lindy Hough, contributed to this report.



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... Update from page 9

Sergeant's Summary:

Officer Medina's diligence and commitment to graveyard patrol-related duties resulted in the arrest of a burglar in the process of committing a crime. Assistance was provided by Officer Martinez and Investigator Barrow. Officer Martinez arrived for his day shift duties and continued the preliminary investigation at the scene of the crime while Officer Medina dealt with the arrested person. Investigator Barrow responded on his day off to prepare for further investigation, which yielded a person of interest. Investigator Barrow and Officer Martinez drove to several nearby cities and interviewed the person of interest. While no arrest was made, the suspect voluntarily gave the KPD officers a handgun. One more gun removed from the streets.

Sergeants Khan and Hull contributed to this report.

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