



— 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

NOVEMBER 2014

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 71 NUMBER 9



Standing room only at last year's live auction at The Garden Party, November 2013. Photo: Doug Diego



Fall Festival and Parade Grand Marshals, Sandy Thacker and Kimberly Wilkins, escorted by festival co-sponsor Marvin Gardens' Todd Hodson

KCC's Fall Festival and Parade

KCC volunteers went home last month exhausted but very happy with the success of the Kensington Community Council's October Fall Festival and

Parade.

As always, local organizations and groups participated, with some in the crowd wearing Halloween costumes in the parade that made its way up the Arlington to the Kensington Community Center. There, the party began in earnest with a delicious (and sold out!) BBQ lunch, and local music provided by *The Fred T. Korematsu Middle School Jazz Band* and the (adult) jazz combo, *The Inside Men*. Former community member, Joan Gallegos was honored briefly with an announcement of the impending installation and dedication of a bench in Kensington Park in her name.

The coloring contest, sponsored by Mechanics Bank had winners

The Garden Party is Nov. 22nd!

A fantastic evening awaits at the 31st annual Kensington Education Foundation Garden Party on Saturday, November 22nd, at the Mira Vista Country Club. Doors open at 5pm, and the music and dancing will continue until 11pm. The Garden Party is the place to see friends, shop, and dance the night away. It's also a vital fundraiser for the programs at Kensington Hilltop Elementary that make our local school such a draw.

The Kensington Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that makes it possible for Hilltop students to have art, library, P.E., vocal music, science lab, and computer lab, as well as reading and math intervention, accelerated math, and more, all within their school day. In one evening, The Garden Party raises nearly 40 percent of the funds needed to provide a year's worth of these essential programs.

This year's theme is *Passport to Celebrate*,

and the event will feature some fun new twists, including the opportunity to enter a raffle to win a *Party Passport* to many of the year's best shindigs. There will also be prizes for the lucky winners of games like *Heads and Tails* and *Pop the Balloon*. After the live auction, the floor will be cleared for dancing to live music.

You'll be welcomed with a cocktail, and, according to tradition, Hilltop alumni will pass hors d'oeuvres. There will be delicacies from around the world, and a chef's station serving heartier fare. Arlington Wine & Spirits and Berkeley's Trumer Pils Brewery are donating the wine and beer that will flow freely all night.

The real stars of the evening will be the outstanding silent- and live auction items. The Garden Party has become a favorite place for

see Garden Party, Page 6...

see Festival, Back Page...

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

KASEP classes are in full swing and everyone is focused – creativity flowing! **Heads up!** Winter KASEP brochures will be put into your child’s backpack from the homeroom teacher the week of November 17th. Online class information and schedule will be available for online viewing by November 13th. KASEP online can be found on the website: KensingtonCommunityCouncil.Org.

Circle the date: Tuesday December 2nd at 7:30pm for online Winter KASEP registration. Please validate your child’s grade (not age), and update parent’s email and telephone numbers in your family profile before the eve of registration. Our registration system edits on grade, not age of child.

Students who took Carpentry, Engineering, Pottery and Critters in Fall KASEP cannot take it again in Winter session. This opens the door to give a wider audience the opportunity of taking these highly desired classes.

The KCC Office will be closed and no KASEP classes held on Nov. 4th/Election Day, Nov. 10th and 11th, aligned with the school’s observance of Veteran’s Day, and Nov. 26-27-28, for the Thanksgiving holiday. *Happy holidays!*



*A hunting we will go
in Kinder Critters*

Real Tools - Carpentry



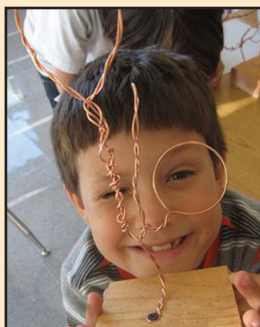
Silly Chefs in Kitchen Kids

Puppet Digital Theater



*Strumming my old banjo –
Kinder Class*

*Build it and Blast it –
Engineering Fun!*



*Wire Sculpture
Captures the Imagination*



Handstitch Success - Sewing



*Digital Photography
– Disguised!*

JAZZERCISE

JAZZERCISE
Monday-Wednesday-Friday,
8:15-9:15am • Ongoing w/Kevin

New JAZZERCISE
Classes Added • Ongoing
Tuesday-Thursday, 8:15-9:15am
Instructor Susan Brown

“If you want a wonderful start to your day, come to Kevin’s jazzercise class in Kensington. He is so much fun! He plays great music and we laugh and move our bodies getting in shape. I have lost 10 pounds. He is the best.”

– Student, Shari Sinclair.

BODY SCULPTING with Kevin
Tuesdays and Thursdays,
9:15-10:15am • Ongoing

Body sculpting is shaping your body to look leaner, more toned, and strengthened. Register at class. Come join the fun and get healthy. Just bring a mat and weights and we’ll get started!

Classes at the Kensington Community Center
Questions? Call Kevin at 486-2728

REGISTRATION

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

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

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

KCC FALL FUND DRIVE 2014

Additional Donors – Thank You for Your Generosity!

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Dick and Betty Bloomer
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Dale and Danielle Power
Susan Tatsuno

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Sally Woolsey
Ron and Susan Yourd

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Beverlee French
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Ernest and Jeanne Lageson
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Marion Miller

Rolf Muller
Helen Schulak
Charles and Janet Seim
Leonard and Elizabeth Sell
Nancy Sephton
Sigrid Stamps
Eugene Troy
Jim and Dorothy Walker
Michael and Robin Winton
Ines and Homero Yearwood

ACRYLIC ARTISTS

Wednesday, 9:45am – 12:30pm

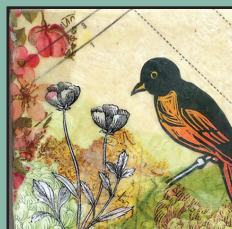
Open Studio, easels and tables provided. You bring your creativity and paints. Paint in community of other artists. The Community Center has lots of natural light and is spacious. Bring a lunch as the morning is spent painting, then lunch and time for optional critique. Questions? Call KCC at 525-0292.

BEESWAX COLLAGE

Elaine Chu, Instructor
Sat. Nov. 29, 1:30-4pm
KCC Office

\$28 per person + \$12 materials fee
Preregistration is required by calling KCC at 525-0292.

Join the magic of Elaine Chi in her use of beeswax to create beautiful collages (encaustics simplified). Elaine uses mulberry paper, sewing patterns, napkins and clip art to create a beautiful art piece on canvas. All materials are provided. Feel free to also bring your own small drawings. Each person will finish a project – a great keepsake or holiday gift!



Children accompanied by a parent welcome (min. 10 years or older).

ZUMBA GOLD®

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**New Class for Seniors, Age 55+
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How it works: The class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba® choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion, and coordination. Come ready to sweat, and prepare to leave empowered and feeling strong.

More Info: Contact Stacey Jennings at staceysavage@msn.com.

The GRUBB Co.

Market Update

◆ *Featured Listings* ◆

1246 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley
Enter level-in to this move-in condition Mid-Century home in a lush rustic setting with big Bay views. 3+BR/3BA.
Offered at \$1,025,000

326 Rugby Ave., Kensington
Expansive private site, features Sea Ranch style residence. Massive proportions for entertaining and every day living. 4+++BR/4+++BA.
Offered at 1,498,000

◆ *Sold* ◆

1063 Leneve Place, El Cerrito Hills
Enter level-in to this updated 3BR/3BA home with fantastic panoramic views.
Originally offered at: \$1,198,000

206 Yale Ave., Kensington
Updated Bee Renovated Mid-Century view home w/new finishes and systems. 3BR/3BA.
Originally offered at \$1,079,000

◆ *Coming Soon* ◆

226 Stafford Ave., Kensington
Stunning & updated Bee Renovated Traditional beauty! Unobstructed Bay views. 5BR/4.5BA.
Call for price

Considering selling? Time to start planning for the Spring Market! Strategically priced properties, beautifully presented and artfully marketed are my specialty. Would you like to know the value of your home in today's market? Call me. The appointment is both confidential and complimentary. It would be my pleasure to meet with you.

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

Neighborhood Notes

Cons, Scams, and Identity Theft - Nov. 6th

Cons, scams, and identity theft – crimes that target seniors are occurring in Kensington, just as they are in many other communities. The Kensington Public Safety Council will present an informative talk on *Cons, Scams, and Identity Theft* on Thursday, Nov. 6, at 7pm at the Kensington Community Ctr. Free. Info: 501-8165.

“Why We Should Give a Hoot” - Nov. 10th

The Kensington Library continues to host its Contra Costa Master Gardener Talks on Monday, Nov. 10th at 6:45pm: *Why We Should Give a Hoot: Successful Alternatives to Using Rodenticides in Our Communities*, presented by Master Gardeners Anna Frankfurt, Diane Gray, and Steve Potter. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers for the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE). Residents of Contra Costa County who have an active interest in horticulture, have taken the Master Gardener training offered by the UCCE, then share their knowledge with other members of our county-wide community. Certified Master Gardeners, Melissa Holmes Snyder and Anna Frankfurt will be on hand to discuss the training program with those who are interested in pursuing it.

Longest-Married Kensington Couple Sweepstakes

This month Jim and Vi Gallardo will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Introduced by family friends in Berkeley, they were married at the Northbrae Community Church and have lived in the same house since they moved to Kensington in 1958. *Congratulations!*



Clockwise From Top Right: Pastor Tony blesses Gretchen Gillfillan's "boys," Tor and Tus (or is it Tus and Tor?) – 27 years old and ten pounds each – at September's Blessing of the Animals; Last month's KIC/KPOA Candidate Forum, with moderator, Melissa Holmes Snyder; KCC's Fall Festival and Parade: Kensington's next generation; Fred T. Korematsu Jazz Band; The Inside Men; Marvin Gardens Real Estate co-owner, Todd Hodson and Mechanics Bank's Zehra White and associate, with winning coloring contest entries; Firefighters Tom McCullagh, Aaron Schwartzman, and David Cesmat at last month's KFD Open House; Girl Scouts thank KPPCSD for permission to install the garden they planted in March, around the grassy area in front of the Community Center. (See back page for more photos of the Fall Festival.)

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KPPCSD in Fiscal Crisis

...Letters, from Page 2

Dear Editor,
KPPCSD in FISCAL CRISIS
It's the Budget, Stupid! (So, which three to vote for?)

Of the eight KPPCSD candidates, I believe only Welsh should be disqualified; he's the incumbent and voted us into this crisis. (I believe Toombs and Gillette should resign. Well-meaning people do their best, but when they drive us over cliffs, it's time to pass mantles.)

Of the remaining seven, why not pick three you think best understand the roots of our fiscal crisis, are most knowledgeable, have useful skills (i.e., management, construction, accounting, contract negotiation), are willing to and capable of restructuring the police department, providing oversight, updating accounting/bookkeeping practices, cutting waste, maintaining assets, avoiding risk, keeping residents informed and including residents in decisions that directly affect us?

Still, defeating Measure V is our only chance to send a majority message to whomever we elect: stop reckless spending; institute remedies.

Cocotax has come out against "V." The Contra Costa County Democratic Party voted to take "no position" on Measure V; this election they've stayed out of Kensington altogether (no one wants to own any part of our melt-down). Even Supervisor Gioia, who endorsed "L," won't endorse "V," or any KPPCSD candidate.

Fix it First – No on "V."

Anna Shane

A Helping Community

Dear Editor:
As a mother I am trying to pass along what my mother taught me – help people in need, help when asked for help, many hands make light work, believe people have good intentions, and believe in yourself that you can accomplish what you set out to do.

My neighbor, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB), has asked for help in finding "an additional revenue stream...that will support the upkeep of [their] buildings and grounds" to avoid selling their open space for development.

UUCB is in a difficult position. They invite visitors to "view the breathtaking panorama of the San Francisco skyline, Golden Gate Bridge, Marin Headlands and Mt. Tamalpais" and were voted "Best God-Given View" by the East Bay Express. If lots were sold and developed they surely know it will negatively impact this treasure they hold.

Since research for development has begun – trenches dug, trees marked, and paths staked – I feel an urgency to let people know that we need help from the greater Kensington and El Cerrito communities. To get involved, email us at uucbneighbors@gmail.com.

I ask your readers to pass along this endeavor so that we can help as a community, so that we can maintain the beautiful open space, and so that we can demonstrate to all that we can work hard together to accomplish what we set out to do.


Thank you for your time,
Jody Lengyel

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Fresh Perspectives

Dear Editor,
Sadly, many of our residents are unaware that KPPCSD appears to be facing a spiraling fiscal crisis, which looks dire when long-term pension and other liabilities are factored in.

Luckily, Kensington residents have a remarkable opportunity to select among 8 candidates for 3 open seats on our District's Board; a majority of the 8 candidates bring fresh perspectives and new thinking.

Invest some time in our community, and consider picking the three individuals you think best understand the roots of our fiscal crisis, are most knowledgeable, have useful skills (i.e., management, accounting, contract negotiation), and are willing to consider some difficult but important choices and reforms for our District. Which candidates can provide much needed oversight, update our antiquated accounting/bookkeeping practices, cut waste, and keep residents informed? It's up to each of us to figure that out. Your engagement and votes will be critical in ensuring that we select the most qualified and open-minded District directors to lead us in a new direction. Please get engaged, so we can keep Kensington a wonderful place to live.

Garen Corbett

Thursdays in the Park

The Kensington Public Safety Council, and the KPPCSD Park and Recreation Committee would like to remind the community once again about the extremely high danger of wildfires that exists for Kensington.

They have their own little project going to strategically remove vegetation from the grounds surrounding the Community Center so that the danger of fire enveloping the Community Center will be minimized.

Residents are invited to attend one or more of the gatherings to:

HELP reduce flammable vegetation buildup around the Kensington Community Center.

LEARN some simple measures that you can take around your own home to reduce the chances of a fire spreading or intensifying.

ENJOY the company of other Kensington residents and park users.


EARN grant money for Kensington as each hour volunteers spend counts as "matching funds" for grants to cover those aspects of fuel reduction beyond the scope of volunteers.

Every Thursday, 2-4pm at the Community Center. Bring gloves and non-power tools if you've got 'em; some tools and gloves available. Wear clothes that protect from sun and brambles, and sturdy shoes or boots. Parental release required for minors. More info: Charlid@pacbell.net.

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Dwight Merrill • Alan Miller • Beatrice O'Keefe
(CURRENT STEGE BOARD)
Ray Barraza • David Jenkins
(FORMER KMAC MEMBERS)
Paid for by Jay Z. James

Our thanks to Ruth Frassetto & Grubb Co. Realtors for their generous support!


The 31st Annual GARDEN PARTY
A School Fundraiser
Passport to Celebrate
Saturday, November 22 at 5pm
Mira Vista Golf & Country Club
7901 Cutting Boulevard, El Cerrito
FEATURING
• Wine, Beer & Cocktails •
• International Hors d'Oeuvres & Decadent Desserts •
• Exciting Silent & Live Auctions •
• Amazing artwork provided by Masterworks Fine Art Gallery •
• Music & Dancing •
To donate or for questions contact Kim Keller at kellerkim19@gmail.com
Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$70 at the door.
Purchase your tickets and bid online at:
kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty
Benefiting The Kensington Education Foundation



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Kensington Kalendar



Russian-born UUCB Organist, Katya Kolesnikova performs Nov. 2nd

Nov. 1 Radio Mystery Theater. Listen to an old CBS radio mystery + two short comedy surprises. Refreshments provided. 7pm, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 401 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. Free.

Nov. 1 & 15 Read to Izzie the Dog. Izzie is a registered therapy dog and she loves to have children read to her. Sign-up at the door; first come, first served. Kensington Library, 2-4pm. Free.

Nov. 2 Author Steven Herrmann on "Spiritual Democracy." 10-11am. Free. UUCB, One Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

Nov. 2 Organ Recital: Katya Kolesnikova, featuring music by Bach, Vivaldi, and others. Free; donations accepted. 2pm, UUCB, One Lawson Road, Kensington. luminosityevents.org.

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Kensington Farmers Market. Live produce & live music Sundays, 10-2. Free. Colusa Circle.

Nov. 3 Kensington Library Knitting Club "The Castoffs." All levels welcome. Bring your own needles & yarn. Support, encouragement and help provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 Jazzercise. 8:15-9:15am, Community Center; on-going. No class on Thanksgiving Day, 11/27

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

(Schedule Subject to Change – Call to Confirm.)

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

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

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

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

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

KPPCSD - November 13th
Police Protection and Community Services District
2nd Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

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

KMAC (Tent.) - November 25th
Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia's office to confirm: 231-8691)

KPOA
Property Owners Association
Meets quarterly. 559-8232

Kensington Farmers' Market
Live produce & live music every
Sunday, 10am-2pm, Colusa Circle.

Nov. 4 The Power of Myth at the Movies:
A Room with a View (1985). View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7:30-9pm. First Tuesdays of the month; \$60/all, \$8/ea. UUCB, Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org

Nov. 4-6 Body Sculpting. 9:15-10:15am Community Center, ongoing; No class on Thanksgiving Day, 11/27.

Nov. 4, 18 & 25 Family Storytime. Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 5 Pre-registration Deadline for Volunteers for 11/20 Emergency-Preparedness Exercise, (See 11/20.)

Nov. 6 Cons, Scams, and Identity Theft – a talk presented by the Kensington Public Safety Council at 7pm at the Kensington Community Center. Free.

Nov. 6, 13, 20 Thursdays in the Park. Fuel reduction by Kensington residents/volunteers. 2-4pm, Community Center. More info: charlid@pacbell.net.

Nov. 6, 13 & 20 Baby & Toddler Storytime. Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 2 identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043

Nov. 7 Zumba for Seniors. 9:45-10:45am; on-going, No class Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Nov. 8 Mary Magdalene The Sacred Feminine Then and Now: An Intensive Day-long Seminar in History, Symbol and Theology led by Beverly Allen, Ph.D. 9am-4pm. Fee \$50. Bring a bag lunch. Info/Reg: contact Lonnie Moseley at 655-1444. UUCB, One Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302.

Nov. 9 Author Charles Tart, on "Science and Spirit, Scientific and Spiritual, Friends or Enemies, Back and Forth." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

Nov. 10 "Why We Should Give a Hoot – Successful Alternatives to Using Rodenticides in Our Communities," presented by Contra Costa Master Gardeners Anna Frankfurt, Diane Gray, and Steve Potter. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:45pm. Free.

Nov. 15 Legos in the Library. Join *Bricks 4 Kids* for construction fun with Lego bricks and blueprints. Ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 11am. Free.

Nov. 16 Rev. Craig Scott, on "Giving Thanks for Unitarian Universalism." 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd., 525-0302

Nov. 18 Berkeley Garden Club Lecture Program, noon-3pm, Albany Community Ctr., 1249 Marin Ave. Plant exchange, meeting, and lecture. All welcome. berkeleygardenclub.org.

Nov. 19 The Kensington League of Women Voters meets to discuss local issues. 1:15pm, 631 Parkside Ct. All welcome. Please confirm at 527-1266.

Nov. 20 Emergency-Preparedness Exercise – Volunteers Needed. Simulation of emergency response to a bioterrorism incident. 8am-noon. Free continental breakfast & lunch. Pre-reg. req'd by 11/5: Call Suzanne Larla at 215-4318.

Nov. 21 Muse Crossing: Album Release Concert. Eclectic acoustic arrangements and tight vocal harmonies of folk, popular, and classical songs. \$15-20/door or online at Brown Paper Tickets. 7:30pm, UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd. luminosityevents.org or 525-0302.

Nov. 22 The Garden Party. Mira Vista Country Club, 5pm. (See Front Page)

Nov. 23 Spirit Rock Meditation Center co-founder, James Baraz, on "Buddhism as a Path to Happiness." 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

Nov. 24 Kensington Library Book Club. Discussion of *The Quiet American* by Graham Greene. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Worship and Supper. Noon. \$20. Reservations required: 525-0302. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, www.uucb.org.

Nov. 28, 29, 30 Anne Stewart's Open Pottery Studio, 120 Purdue Ave., 11am-5pm.

Nov. 29 Beeswax Collage Art Workshop. 1:30-4pm. Call 525-0292 to reserve. Cost: \$28.00 plus materials.

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BACK PAGE

3 Coloring Contest Winners at Fall Festival

...Festival, from Page 1

in three age categories: Isabella Chan (ages 4-6), Sydney Quan (7-9), and Ahbi Farvid-Wright (10-12) – each receiving a \$25 gift card.

Artists at the 4Cats Art booth assisted burgeoning young artists with pumpkin decorating, and there was face painting and Halloween games for the kids.

Special thanks to our KCC Parade and

Picnic sponsors: Marvin Gardens Real Estate, Mechanics Bank, and 4Cats Art Studio.



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