

# Hart Resigns

...from front page

only 10 percent. The reality is that right now, today, what would that person do?"



Suggestions that among other duties, a GM would manage the Community Center's schedule, spearhead the committee responsible for the building's retrofit, and been the one to research the audio visual system gained scant reaction. "We're not a city, we're a police protection district," Hart said. "And here's the problem with a part-time GM. It's not a full-time job, but it's full-time responsibilities." (The split between the COP and the GM has CalPERS implications, as safety officers receive a higher percentage of retirement pay than would a general manager; readers are referred to speakers at the October 13 KPPCSD meeting and to the December issue of the *Outlook* for a more in-depth discussion.)

Hart feels a great group of people live in Kensington "who want to do what's right. There's a perception that there's a catastrophic problem. But sit here and show me the problem. I have attempted while here to provide leadership and right the ship. I've leveled that ship so we can make decisions to move forward. That's the reason I can leave, knowing that I was successful. I want to thank the significant number of people who've called and emailed to say that they're sorry to see me go."

In terms of unfinished business, Hart said that Officer Juan Ramos had been

served notice of discipline regarding the Cordova traffic stop (discipline was levied on the CLETs violation, not the stop itself), and Ramos is appealing that decision. The process will play out after Hart steps down. "That's the only time having a separate GM would have helped," Hart said. "That person could hold the hearing." Instead, another within-county chief of police will hear the appeal. If that person upholds Hart's proposed discipline, Ramos can appeal to the KPPCSD board.

Hart said that the biggest challenge for Kensington's police department moving forward is economic. "We're on the low end of the pay scale. We will struggle now and into the future to get qualified applicants. You have to want this environment. You're not going from call to call. The reward is that you serve the community. You respond to a call to make sure people take their meds or let dogs back into their backyard. I find it hard to believe that a contracted agency would provide those services. Our officers live in Gilroy, Daly City. . . They commute an hour or more to come to Kensington. They're here because they want to be here."

After a lengthy discussion at the October 13 meeting, it appears likely that an interim will be hired to fill both roles. Former Santa Clara assistant chief of police and interim chief Kevin Kyle was a finalist when Hart was hired; he was interviewed again in a closed session meeting October 1. As a retired annuitant, he can work no more than 960 hours per fiscal year, and he is not eligible for health or retirement benefits. In the meantime, the board intends to gauge community wishes around bifurcating the position and assessing the costs of doing so. The combined job, as required by law, is advertised on the district website.

# Fund Drive

...from front page

or for the continued success of our KCC programs. As you know, KCC provides many important services for our community: adult classes like body sculpting, new classes like positive posture and Tai Chi, the after-school education program (KASEP) with over 50 classes a session for kids from kindergarten through sixth grade, 10 weeks of KCC Summer Camp, the *Outlook*, Family Movie Night, and of course the Annual Parade and Picnic.

KCC maintains a separate fund for the Community Center renovation. If you would like your contribution committed to the renovation project, please mention "Community Center Fund" on your check. Your Community Center donation will be matched by KCC. The October *Outlook* contained our Annual Fund envelope. If you no longer have the preprinted envelope, please send your donation to Kensington Community Council, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA, 94707.

It is the many individual contributions we all make that collectively create this environment in which so many of us want to stay for decades. The KCC annual fund is just one of the many ways to support our community. Thank you!

Special  
Letters  
Section

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NOVEMBER 2016

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 74 NUMBER 9

# Election Season Yields Bumper Crop of Yard Signs



This election year found Kensington voters debating the issues, most focusing on the ad hoc committee's findings that were presented formally October 1 to the KPPCSD board. Residents placed signs in their yards, and (illegally) on telephone poles and the median strip. Some had signs stolen, and a lively discussion ensued on NextDoor about sign placement. What's most important about all this? Your vote. Vote November 8 if you haven't already sent in your absentee ballot. And remember to bring your absentee ballot to the poll with you if you decide to show up in person. Photos by Byron Kawaichi.

# Fall Fund Drive Chalks Up the Years

By Anne Forrest

President, Kensington Community Council

In California people are often transplants from other parts of the country or are likely to have moved many times during their lifetimes. Not in Kensington. We are unique!

Many times when I meet community members the first piece of information we exchange is how long we have lived in Kensington. It is not unusual for neighbors to have lived in the same house or on the same street for 30, 40, even 50 years! The Kensington Community Council (KCC) wants to tap into this longevity and commitment to Kensington, asking that when people make out their annual contribution to the Fall Fund Drive they give in increments of \$5 or \$10 multiplied by the number of years that they have resided in Kensington.

Your contribution, of any amount, will be gratefully appreciated. You have the option of earmarking your contribution for the renovation of the Community Center

[See Fund Drive, back page](#)

# Hart Steps Down as COP/GM

By Linnea Due

Early on a Thursday morning in October, three weeks before interim Chief of Police/General Manager Kevin Hart would bid Kensington good-bye, he sat in his office, waxing philosophic about his reasons for leaving. "It was not a sudden decision," he said, noting that he had told the board in September that he would not fulfill his contract, giving the directors October 31 as his end-date. "You have to make decisions that are right for you and for your family. I have four grandkids. There's no good time to leave an organization, so I am leaving on my own terms."

Hart said that a percentage of that difficult decision was the unknown in terms of Kensington's governance choices. "I'd like to see a permanent chief of police and/or a part-time general manager. I'd like to see them figure it out. The ad hoc committee delivered an outstanding foundation. Now we need vetting to figure out what's the best course forward."

Too much weight is put on the general manager function according to Hart. "The reality is that's not the weighted aspect. The weighted aspect is the chief of police. It's a police protection district, a law enforcement function, not a GM function. The budget reflects that—functions outside police protection are

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## Letters to the editor

### Complacency a Problem

Dear Editor,  
In 2010, a new special police tax passed with almost 69 percent of the vote—"rather decisively by an overwhelming majority of Kensington residents" as mentioned in a letter in the *Outlook*.  
However, voter turnout was 54 percent. So, it was actually approved by 37 percent of registered voters, disapproved by 17 percent, while 46 percent did not care enough to vote. As the saying went back in the '60s, "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem." Vote on November 8 and then make sure those who are elected fulfill their campaign promises.

A. Stevens Delk

### Why I Am Not Running

Dear Editor,  
I am writing this to explain why I am no longer a candidate for the KPPCSD board. I believe our board needs to increase our community's involvement in board decisions by ensuring that our community will be engaged in a constructive and positive manner. This can be best accomplished by actively listening to our community members' ideas and working together to deliver pragmatic, community focused solutions to address our current and future needs with accountability, creativity, and most importantly, openness and respect.

I believe that electing a new board majority is the key path to successfully implement these critical changes in our governance. Our new board must work to increase our community's involvement via more ad hoc type committees to research and recommend solutions for board action. I believe this new approach will help to develop and implement the strategies needed to address the unfunded liabilities threatening Kensington's long-term financial health. This new approach is also required to better manage our community-oriented police services, our community's assets, as well as our garbage service contracts and labor negotiations.

To better accomplish these goals, I have decided to withdraw my name as a KPPCSD board candidate in order to ensure that a new board majority will be elected.  
Simon Brafman

### Experience Needed for KPPCSD Directors

Dear Editor:  
After serving on the KPPCSD board for four years and having chosen not to seek re-election, I thought it would be useful to voters to share some thoughts on what it takes to be on the board. If I were to identify the skill most necessary to be successful on this board I would put knowledge of how it works at the top of the list. And yet in this election cycle, two of the candidates running for office have little to no experience with our board or our finances.

Both have attended only a few meetings; neither has been actively involved in any of our committees—not the finance committee or the park committee. That leads to a naïveté that becomes obvious from even a cursory glimpse at their campaign materials.

They promise to split the GM/COP without any idea of how to pay for that additional position; they think we should put the police services out for bid without knowing what services we would include and what costs we would incur in contracting out; they reject even a discussion of consolidation with the Fire District based on their clear misunderstanding of what that means, the pros and cons, or how it would be done.

This is not the time to have novices learning how to govern our community. We have real and significant issues that will impact the daily lives of our citizens that will come up in the first year that the next board sits. And many of these issues involve decisions that once made, cannot be redone.

Chuck Toombs and Dave Spath are immensely qualified, have done the hard work of

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

*KCC also provides a forum for all Kensington community groups to meet and coordinate their respective efforts toward the common good of the community.*

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

**PLEASE NOTE: Modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after all periods.**

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ADVERTISING MANAGER  
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PUBLISHER  
KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
59 Arlington Ave.  
Kensington, CA 94707-1307  
Published ten times a year by the nonprofit Kensington Community Council. (Monthly, except for the combined July/August and December/January issues.) Available online at [www.KensingtonOutlook.com](http://www.KensingtonOutlook.com), courtesy of [AboutKensington.com](http://AboutKensington.com).

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Letters

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familiarizing themselves with our board by actually attending and participating in board committee meetings (Chuck as a board member, and Dave as an interested citizen who has come to every meeting for the past several years not because he was running for office, but because he was interested in our community and committed to helping us move forward). Both Chuck and Dave are familiar with the difficult and critical issues and decisions our community is facing. They have the knowledge and experience to hit the ground running; there will be no ramp-up time. And that is why these are the candidates we need to elect.

The future of our community and what we value is at stake in this election. I hope you will join me in supporting Chuck Toombs and Dave Spath in this election for KPPCSD.

**Pat Gillette**  
Director, KPPCSD

**The Habit of Crisis**

Dear Editor,

When elected to serve on the KPPCSD, I could not have imagined the trials ahead for our community. In 2014, I believed that difficulties within Kensington government stemmed from lack of communication. Instead, I have found that our inability to move forward is built on the habit of crisis. By repeating patterns of exclusion and delving into side issues, we cannot seem to create consensus.

The KPPCSD routinely focuses on arguments rather than action. During the past year there has been little to no advancement on emergency planning, community outreach, clarifying policies and procedures or stabilizing our work environment. Since my term began, we have had to replace two GM/COPs, two law firms and multiple police officers.

When voting this November, I ask that you consider the tenor and tone of your local government. Are your representatives reflecting your priorities and creating positive change or are they content with the status quo? I can assure you that losing Kensington control of the KPD or being annexed to El Cerrito are arguments based on fear, not reality.

All this turmoil offers the KPPCSD the opportunity to move forward beyond old animosities. Please vote this November 8. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you.

**Rachelle Sherris-Watt**  
Director, KPPCSD

**Getting to the Root of the Problem**

Dear Editor:

Over the years, I have been acquainted with many of the elected members of both our fire board and our police board. As individuals, I have found that their honesty, intelligence, commitment and idiosyncrasies are on par with most of my Kensington neighbors, with little differences between the two governing bodies.

Why then is the monthly agenda of the fire board a relatively straightforward document outlining the ongoing discussions that keep our fire district efficient and financially

viable while the police district’s agenda is an exercise in reading tea leaves, deciphering the parliamentary maneuverings going on behind their increasing number of closed-door sessions? Why are disagreements on the fire board resolved without a majority/minority fissure while the police district continues to turn Kensington politics into a blood sport?

Could this disparity be the outgrowth of a police district driving itself crazy attempting to do an impossible job?

My doubts began a couple of years ago when a member of the KPPCSD board told me that he was quietly “mentoring” one of our police officers through his personal problems. “That’s nice,” I thought, “but not really what I elected you to do.”

The distasteful Kensington police antics in Reno increased my concerns, as did the events that followed. The long-delayed disciplinary action, the serious questions about who knew what and when did they know it, the discharge of one chief of police and the hiring of an interim chief of police who out-foxed the board into paying more for medical coverage than was originally negotiated, the purchase of a new car for the interim chief of police and his refusal to use the word “interim” on official documents without considerable community pressure on the board to perform its oversight duties—all of this amplified my apprehensions.

As I write this letter, word is coming out that the interim chief of police has unexpectedly resigned under a cloud of questions producing more closed-door sessions and new squabbling within the board about how and when we should hire another interim chief. I have a feeling that this dysfunction in our police district, which has been going on for some time, is not a temporary condition, and we had best get to the root of the problem.

Policing in 2016 is very different than when Kensington decided to establish its own police force in the late 1940s. The complexity of the state regulatory environment, the rapidly shifting fiscal condition of the CalPERS retirement system and the growing power of police unions are just a few of the factors that have outstripped the capacity of the KPPCSD to manage a free-standing police department without the professional support of a more sophisticated agency. If the KPPCSD wants to effectively oversee police services in Kensington, they need the support of a human resources department to assure that hiring, firing and career advancement is managed professionally. They need in-house attorneys who can help steer us clear of costly internal legal settlements. They need to be able to draw upon leadership in areas like training, compliance and unanticipated crime specializations that a small department like Kensington’s cannot afford without partnering with a more sophisticated agency.

For over 20 years, the Kensington Fire District has done quite well developing and managing an excellent contract with the El Cerrito Fire Department, a contract that keeps Kensington’s fire safety and emergency medical services smart and up to date. It is a model that works well, yet oddly the recent KPPCSD Ad Hoc Subcommittee studying police service alternatives didn’t even bother to sit down with the Kensington Fire District to learn about their contracting experience.

That’s not to say that the lengthy Ad Hoc Committee study on policing options was completely unproductive. It did clearly identify four neighboring police agencies—Albany, El Cerrito, Richmond, and the University of California Berkeley—who con-

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Nancy Toombs, Caitlin Toombs, Chuck Toombs, Colin Toombs

# Re-elect Chuck Toombs

for

# KPPCSD Board

Chuck has helped :

- Keep our police under local control, helping to make Kensington the fifth safest community in California.
- Ensure revenues exceeded expenses in 2015-16 by over \$220,000, with healthy projected reserves of \$1,288,000, and with an additional \$365,000 of committed funds set aside for rebuilding the Community Center.
- Negotiate a police officer contract with no new cost increase.
- Create a fair, long-term agreement with Bay View Refuse—meeting community desires and controlling costs.
- Initiate a citizen committee exploring new approaches for KPPCSD services.

**Based on Chuck’s results, his fact-based problem solving, and his commitment to include us in these crucial decisions, we trust him to help lead the District into the future.**

**Join us in voting for Chuck to continue excellent police and community services and to maximize the value of our tax dollars.**

Anthony Knight  
Patrick Schlesinger  
Eileen Kramer  
Karl & Gloria Kruger  
Ernie & Jeannie Lageson  
Chris Sorensen  
Peter Liddell  
Linda Lipscomb  
Jane McKelheer  
Pat McLaughlin  
Valerie Meyers  
Meredith Minkler  
Rick Waxman  
Susan Modavi  
Bruce Morrow  
Katie Gluck  
John Norcross

Lorraine Osmundson  
Jerry Peters  
Meryl Rafferty  
Andrew & Kay Reed  
Jaima Roberts  
Alan Siegel  
Tim Snyder  
John & Kathy Stein  
Beverly James  
Julie Stein  
Barbara Steinberg  
Eric & Becky Stephens  
Gayle Shortridge Tapscott  
Jack Telian  
Cathy Travlos  
John & Martha Vlahos  
Len Welsh

Bob & Marty Westby  
Michael & Mary Abraham  
Richard Karlsson  
Dr. Susan Kepner  
David Goldstein  
Rick Artis  
John & Lynn Price  
Cathy Bailey  
Carole Lloyd  
Betty & Ray Barraza  
Rodney & Sarah Paul  
Mark & Cara Bell  
Jennifer Berrian  
Jan Stensland  
Ted Blanckenburg  
Elizabeth (Betty) Brown  
Kris Cardall

Marcia Mathog  
Lisa Caronna  
Bill & Betty Webster  
Elena Caruthers  
Mary Olivella  
June Cheit  
Robbi Cook  
Russ & Gesine Cottleral  
Paul & Vida Dorroh  
Betty Ann Engel  
Michael & Roz Plishner  
Nancy Fenton  
Marian Gade  
Laurie Schumacher  
David & Susan Garfin  
Walt Gill  
Pat & Dane Gillette

Walter & Gretchen Gillfillan  
Tom & Diane Gould  
Tracy Green  
Jack Griffith  
Joan Haber  
Paul Haxo  
Esther Hill  
Melissa Holmes-Snyder  
David Karp  
Estelle Kent  
Neoma Kenwood  
Howard & Carol Kirk  
Sam Fishman  
Dagmar Friedman

Letters

...from page 3

firmed their interest in providing contracted police services to Kensington.

How Kensington votes in the current election will probably determine whether this encouraging opportunity is followed up upon.

Both Sylvia Hacaj and Eileen Nottoli want to take the essential next steps to explore contracted resources: Both understand that seeking competing bids from competing service providers is not the end of the discussion, it is the beginning. Only after we get to know the leadership of potential service providers, gaining knowledge of their policing philosophies and clarity on their services and costs can our community *begin* to have an intelligent discussion about this complex issue.

On the other hand, both the incumbent Chuck Toombs and his running mate David Spath, only pledge to be “thoughtful...fair-minded...fiscally responsible,” standing behind their simplistic “fifth safest city” claims; they show no inclination to engage in substantive talks with potential police service partners. In their comments at the candidates’ forum, they emphasized the need for “additional consultant studies that will be expensive” and “district-wide surveys to more clearly define community policing needs.” While every voter has to interpret political rhetoric in their own way, those phrases suggest to me that if elected Toombs and Spath will slow-walk the possibility of rethinking how we manage our police services right off the agenda.

This is a pivotal election for the Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District. It will determine whether a majority of Kensington voters are comfortable with business as usual or whether a critical mass of voters—after too many years of embarrassing dysfunction at the police district—is ready for change. This time we can elect board members open to learning from our fire district experience, ready to explore real options for professionalizing our police services and controlling our costs, board members who understand the difference between mentoring individual employees and managing a professional contract.

John Sullivan

We Are in Excellent Condition

Dear Editor:

I have lived here for over 57 years and have a good memory regarding our community. Not until NextDoor came along with all its complainers have I heard so many ideas from so many “experts.” Contrary to all that, the fact is that we are in excellent condition. We just finished the 2015-2016 FYE with a surplus. I just hope that no one decides to sue as they did in the past. Then they wonder why the bills from our attorneys ruin the budget

The Ad Hoc subcommittees did a great job. They provided more information about possible changes that some have advocated. Just for the record I will give my thoughts that possibly may coincide with others who are not very involved.

1. I prefer to keep our police right here. They know us, and they really are wonderful!
2. If we can manage to keep the COP/GM arrangement as we have these many years, great. If we can come up with the money, sure, hire a separate General Manager.
3. There must be a way to fix the Community Building. I remember when it was built. This is purported to be an affluent community. There has to be a way.
4. Vote for Chuck Toombs. He has generously agreed to run again. We need his legal smarts and his quiet manner.
5. Vote for David Spath. He is truly a find. He has the background for solving any financial problems.

Lastly, did you know that statistics show that we are the safest community in the East Bay? How did that happen? See number 1 above plus the work of the KPPCSD board.

Lorraine Osmundson

We Need a Change

Dear Editor:

Goodness, what does it take to get the attention of the Kensington electorate about the KPPCSD? While the no vote on Proposition L was a bright spot, the last eight years of the Toombs et al. KPPCSD was an unmitigated disaster (IMHO): two legal firms have decided to provide no further legal services for Kensington, there was the Reno incident that the board likely knew about when it happened but did not disclose until after the election, kept the information from the new board minority, and only came clean when the *Contra Costa Times* reported it. The GM/COPs was dismissed as a result of Renogate with only Mr. Toombs casting a dissenting vote, and now the replacement interim GM/COP has resigned for unknown reasons. I suspect Renogate will have further legal and financial ramifications for Kensington. The previous board also managed to increase our garbage rates far beyond that initially requested by BayView, and they defended against a Writ by citizens that could have been settled quickly at no cost. As a result our legal costs are about \$250,000/ year for these and other issues. The same folks who endorsed and supported Chuck Toombs during the last eight years are supporting him and Dave Spath this time.

Goodness, we do need a change, and Eileen Nottoli and Sylvia Hacaj are bright, highly motivated and more than qualified to help bring the required change to Kensington.

Andrew Paul Gutierrez

An Agenda to Contract Out

Dear Editor:

Kensington has recently been found to be the fifth safest community in the state of California. That’s right: in the *state*. Yet a vocal and relentless opposition group cries out for *change*. Along the way, the group condemns our police force and its (now several) chiefs, and condemns what the opposition group calls “majority” board members. The police force, the chiefs, and the “majority” board members are the ones who have produced this fine result! So what is the steady drum beat about?—an agenda to contract out our police services and maybe more, to El Cerrito, by driving away our police chiefs and police officers.

We already have experience contracting out to El Cerrito for our fire services, and it has resulted in Kensington paying nearly 30 percent of the El Cerrito fire department budget! Kensington pays for the fire house as well, pays a full year’s salaries in advance to El Cerrito, and has no control over the El Cerrito firemen’s contract increases which have amounted to 17 percent in the last couple of years. Plus, about 40 percent of the calls out of the Kensington station go to service El Cerrito residents. That is what we get

with contracting out!

I served on the KPPCSD board for four years and know what it takes. Chuck Toombs has served for eight years, and has contributed immeasurably to our exceptional standing in public safety. Dave Spath has chaired the ad hoc committee of the board. Both Chuck and Dave have the professional achievement, intelligence, and fortitude to weigh the facts. As long-term residents, they have the experience and commitment to Kensington and its quality of life for all of us. Don’t be fooled by the cry for change by the inexperienced and those with an agenda to contract out.

Linda Lipscomb

Time for a Change

Dear Editor:

The recent resignation of the interim chief of police /general manager has highlighted the pattern of mismanagement and lack of real oversight by our majority KPPCSD board members. The list of their failures is long and costly; excessive litigation, lack of long-term financial planning, poorly negotiated garbage contact, continuing police personnel problems, the Berkeley stop, the Reno fiasco to name just a few.

Two-term board member Chuck Toombs has stated that he believes the district is not broken. But folks, if you can’t even acknowledge the existence of problems, how then can you begin to remedy them? We need to move toward establishing a board with consistent transparency, accountability and better long-term financial planning.

Clearly, it is time for a change and an opportunity to restore our trust in the KPPCSD board. There are two candidates who have the passion, experience, and ability to do just that. Please join with me and vote for Eileen Nottoli and Sylvia Hacaj for the KPPCSD board.

John Gaccione

A Calm Look at the Issues

Dear Editor:

It is unfortunate that some candidates for the KPPCSD board have stated that they would contract out police services and/or split the chief of police and general manager role before thoroughly examining all the facts and consequences of such moves. Contracting out police services often results in decreased performance and reduced cost control...and it’s a decision that we could not reverse without tremendous cost. This is a drastic and unnecessarily risky action. And suggesting that ”we will find the money somewhere” to afford separate Chief and General Manager roles - but not specifying where - does not bode well for good governance.

There are two candidates for the KPPCSD board that are willing to calmly look at the issues and the related facts. They are Chuck Toombs and Dave Spath. Chuck helped form the ad-hoc committee to investigate district governance options and Dave was selected by community members to serve as the chair. I urge readers of the *Outlook* to get a copy of the recently released Ad Hoc Committee Final Report (on the KPPCSD website). Chuck and Dave are practical people who leave ideology and wishful thinking at the door and act realistically in the best interests of Kensington property owners. Let’s elect them to the board and let them work with all board members to manage the issues facing the police department and park.

Andrew Reed

Better Management—Not More Money

Dear Editor:

Priorities matter. When you cast your vote for KPPCSD candidates on November 8, I hope you will choose carefully. Our new board members will set the direction of our community’s police and safety services for the next decade. Early in 2015, I served on a committee that conducted a detailed review of the Kensington Police Department’s Physical and Data Security. I was impressed with the professionalism of the officers I met, and I got an up-close view of the department’s operations. If properly managed, the current \$3 million annual budget is enough money to provide Kensington with quality police and community services. KPPCSD needs better management—not more money.

The KPPCSD board should focus on efficient use of existing resources to police Kensington; rebuild community trust; manage risk; and create a culture of professionalism through good stewardship. These are the priorities!

Consolidation with the fire district is a dangerous diversion. Mr. Toombs’ claim that “Unification of the two special districts is crucial” [October Outlook] demonstrates a profound failure of judgment. The KPPCSD must seek and implement all available efficiencies to deliver police and community services within its budget before it raids the reserves of our well-managed fire department.

Attempting a hostile takeover of our fire board will lead to more years of animosity, drama, and expensive legal fees. I support candidates who prioritize stabilizing the department and providing robust police and community services with the resources already at hand.

Ryan Anderson

We Need to be Careful

Dear Editor:

We, as a community, need to be very careful and deliberate in considering a decision to contract out for police services. A decision to disband our Kensington Police Department and contract with another city/agency for police services is likely an irrevocable decision that we will have to live with forever. If such a decision is made, we will be putting our faith and fate in the hands of another city/agency to properly manage the cost and quality of our police services for the long term. We will no longer have direct control or influence over labor contract negotiations or day-to-day management of police operations.

I offer this personal opinion based upon my work as a member of the KPPCSD Ad Hoc Committee on Governance and the subcommittee that studied the feasibility of contracting out for police services. While our work identified that it may be possible to achieve current cost savings by contracting out, our work was not sufficient to confirm current or long-term cost advantages. Nor was our work sufficient to determine if we should trust the decision-making and management capabilities of potential city/agency partners more than our own, now and for the foreseeable future. More work is needed to identify the level of police services that we want as a community, even



before engaging in further discussions or requests for proposals from external cities/agencies. More work is needed to clearly identify and understand what the transition costs would be for shutting down our police department and starting up with a contracting city/agency. More work is needed to perform meaningful due diligence evaluations of potential city/agency partners to convince ourselves that we trust their capabilities to effectively manage both the cost and quality of our police services, both now and for the foreseeable future.

In the upcoming election, it is important that we elect individuals to the KPPCSD board who understand the importance of being very careful and deliberate in approaching a decision to contract out our police services.

Tim Snyder

Yes on T and Prop 55

Dear Editor,  
We are writing to urge the community to vote YES on Measure T and Proposition 55 in November’s election. Measure T is not a new tax. It is the renewal of an already existing local funding measure that supports programs in our schools. Measure T does not pay for school buildings and should not be confused with bond funds whose sole purpose is to do that. Measure T raises about \$9.8 million a year, and helps to pay for school programs, and in our case, school guidance counselors, school libraries and librarians and sports. Although the funding for this measure does not expire until the end of the 2019 school year, we’ve learned from the past that the best chance we have to renew it is to put it on a ballot during a presidential election. Spending of these funds is audited yearly by an independent accounting firm. An exemption is available to seniors. Measure T was endorsed by the East Bay Times.

Prop. 55, the state ballot measure, is also not a new tax. It continues the work of Prop 30, which passed in 2012, and radically restructured the way California’s public schools are funded. While far from perfect, the funds from Prop 30 have provided a more simplified and fair statewide school revenue stream, and given birth to the Local Control Funding Formula and the Locally Controlled Accountability Plan. Scores of organizations, including our own WCCUSD School Board and the California State PTA, have endorsed Prop. 55.

We’d also like to remind the community that California public schools still remain woefully under-funded. According to The California Budget and Policy Center, California now ranks 42nd in state spending (up from 49th). A 2016 report, “California’s Challenge: Adequately Funding Education in the 21st Century,” published by the California School Boards Association, estimates that “the amount of additional funding that would be needed to move California to the average funding level of the top 10 states is \$47 billion to \$56 billion, roughly a doubling of current state funding.”

In spite of this, we’ve made amazing progress. This year, 13 WCCUSD schools — including Kensington Hilltop Elementary—were awarded California Department of Education Gold Ribbon Awards for award-winning, innovative practices. As always, we are grateful for your unwavering support of our schools. Vote YES with us in November.  
Bhrett Lash, President, Kensington Education Foundation  
Christina Pollack, President, Kensington Hilltop PTA

Leslie Reckler, Vice President, Legislative Affairs, Kensington Hilltop PTA  
Derek Suring, Kensington Hilltop School Site Council

Over-inflating the Costs?

Dear Editor,  
I read Jim Watt’s letter to the editor in the October *Outlook*. What a distortion. I consider Jim a friend of mine. I met him during the 2014 election cycle. He knew I had been attending KPPCSD board meetings, was interested in financial aspects of the district and that I had served on the Finance Committee for some time. At that time he asked me to interpret the KPPCSD financial statements for him. That I did, spending a couple of hours with him and additional time on a couple of later occasions.

Now Jim wrote a letter about the annual compensation costs for our ten sworn officers. The problem is that he inflated the costs by more than \$1 million per year.

The finalized annual financial statements for KPPCSD ending June 30, 2016 (statements are available on our web site) show the annual cost for the ten officers, including all compensation to our Chief/GM, were \$1,674,112, or \$167,411 per officer. The amount includes all Salaries, Compensated Cash-Outs, Overtime, Uniform Allowances, Medical Insurance-Active, Disability & Life Insurance, PERS- District Portion and Workers Compensation. The amount equals only 73.7 percent of what Jim claims the district paid. What happened to honesty during election cycles?

Karl Kruger

Police Salaries Consistent with Other Agencies

To the Editor:  
I read with shock and dismay Mr. Watt’s letter to the editor in the October *Outlook*. Mr. Watt has disingenuously taken the bulk of the district budget and divided it by 10 to get a cost-per-officer that is deceptive and wrong. The truth is that the cost for Kensington’s police salaries is approximately \$170,000 per officer, not the \$270,000 Mr. Watt suggests. Our police salaries are not bloated but are consistent with comparable agencies.

The notion that another agency could take over the services currently provided by our police at a lower cost is simply not true. Our cost per officer reflects the minimum hard-dollar costs that another agency would assume if we contracted out current police services—no other agency will lose money on any contract with us. In addition to paying for contracted services, Kensington would continue to be responsible for all other costs, such as police equipment and vehicles, rent, retiree healthcare costs, past pension liabilities, and general district overhead.

If we contract out for services, we will lose control over future costs of police services. In fact, the service provider would have the absolute power to bargain with the police for raises and other contract costs without any input from our citizens or our board and without any regard for what Kensington’s budget can sustain.

Mr. Watt overlooks the important fact that this year the Police Officers Union accepted a contract (negotiated by Kensington’s counsel, who were focused on what our budget could support) in which modest raises are offset by employee payments for healthcare

See Letters, page 6

SPATH

Vote for me if you WANT.....

...Public Safety First and Foremost

...A Balanced Budget into the Future

...Well-Researched Fact-Based Decision Making

...A Track Record of Service to Kensington

...A Community Voice in Governance

Dave



Here’s what people who know Dave say...

"I am supporting Dave Spath because of his experience, temperament, and ability to get things done. I’ve often seen and heard Dave speak at Board and Ad Hoc Committee meetings. Even when he disagrees with the opinions expressed by others, his comments stay on target, his points are thoughtful, solution focused, and he is always respectful. That is the kind of person Kensington needs." —Garen Corbett

"Dave’s spent his career working for public agencies managing large budgets and coming up with solutions to gritty issues – like safe drinking water for California. He has practical working experience delivering critical services during tight budget years. His skills will serve us well." —Pat Gillette, KPPCSD Board Director

"As a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance, I can attest to the keen ability and tireless work ethic of Dave, who was selected by the 10 person Committee as Chair. He listened to all concerns, organized 20 public meetings, and navigated diverse opinions and deadlines to get the job done!" —Lisa Caronna

It would be my honor to represent you on the KPPCSD Board! Vote for

SPATH

For list of endorsers and more information on my positions go to my Facebook page: facebook.com/spathforkensington2016

Paid for and approved by: David Spath for KPPCSD Director 2016





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Market Update


◆ Featured Listings ◆

1355 Carlotta Ave., Berkeley

Sophisticated Northbrae bungalow tastefully improved with ultimate charm. Custom chefs kitchen. 4BR includes master suite, three new baths. All systems updated to today's standards. Ideal location just blocks to BART, Gourmet Ghetto and Solano Avenue.

Offered at: \$1,398,000





888 Craft Ave., El Cerrito Hills

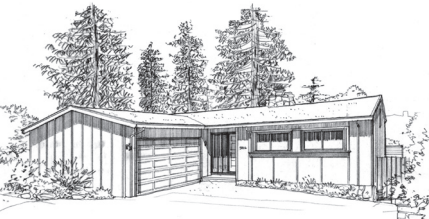
Bridge to bridge views in sought after El Cerrito Hills location. Great layout. 6BR/3BA Custom kitchen. Beautiful updates and rich hardwood floors throughout. Nice connection to garden and view. Private setting. A block to TransBay Express and BART direct Bus. Close to Kensington Hilltop school.

Offered at: \$1,398,000


5416 Zara Ave., El Cerrito

Superbly located Mira Vista home, minutes to BART, shopping and Wildcat Canyon hiking trails in Alvarado Regional Park. Level-in to this well-conceived floor plan. 3BR/2BA, lots of plus space and storage! Easy living and great for entertaining. Incredible creek side rural garden.

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Letters

...from page 5

and pension costs. The new contract creates no net cost increase to our community. By contrast, our Fire Department—with its negotiations controlled by El Cerrito—was forced to accept a labor contract with 17 percent raises offset by 12 percent give-backs, for a net increased cost to the taxpayers of Kensington of 5 percent.

We owe it to each other to be honest in what we say about our district and its expenses. Mr. Watt has failed miserably in that duty.

Chuck Toombs

KPPCSD Board Director

Fire District Missteps and Costs

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed to read Jim Watt’s letter in the October *Outlook*. While Jim and I agree on some issues, this is not the first time he has misrepresented the numbers to make a political point, and I feel compelled to comment as a result.

The unbiased Contra Costa County agency responsible for reviewing value and cost of public services, LAFCO, has shown that Kensington’s police service costs are near the middle of the pack of local departments. By contrast, they have repeatedly shown that Kensington’s fire service costs are easily the most expensive in the county—and just recently, that they are 32 percent higher than the next highest agency and 248 percent of the cost paid by the citizens of El Cerrito. Using Jim’s misleading mathematical approach, the equivalent cost of a Kensington firefighter appears to be around \$325,000. While I have recently become convinced that the most significant conflicts of interest and missteps in Kensington have been in the fire district and not the KPPCSD, even I do not think this is a fair representation of our firefighter costs (high though they are)—nor is this a reasonable way to examine police officer costs.

The community needs to have a serious discussion around the double standard regarding decision-making for KPPCSD and the more serious issues regarding the fire district (which the *Outlook* fails to cover, for some reason). We also need candidates for both districts who can think through our challenges in a credible way. I was distressed by the recent comments of two of the candidates running for KPPCSD board (Sylvia Hacaj and Eileen Nottoli), who endorsed requesting formal proposals for contracting out police services—without seeming to understand the economic pitfalls amply demonstrated by the fire district, much less waiting for the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee or for Kensington citizens to register what service priorities are most important to them. These times demand more serious and diligent efforts by those who seek our votes.

Rick Artis

Need to Nail Down Process

Editor:

In my opinion a bifurcated structure between two different individuals, a general manager and a chief of police, is essential for the health of Kensington financially and culturally.

At the last board meeting there was, in light of Interim DM/COP Hart’s resignation, a push from citizens for the KPPCSD board to implement a bifurcated structure now. I opposed doing that because I feel a reactive process has a lower chance of constructive outcomes than a considered process. However, I share part of what I believe made these well-motivated folks so anxious to get it started now. I don’t trust the “Old Guard” to do the bifurcation. And I don’t believe for a moment the argument put forth by Chuck Toombs and David Spath that incorrectly concludes that we can’t afford it. Considering the bungling caused by the structure advocated and administered by the Old Guard over the past eight years, I think we can’t afford *not* to bifurcate.

KPPCSD is hiring one of the runner-ups from when Hart was hired to be the new interim. The Old Guard is again doing the choosing in the tortured crisis-driven process that began with Harman. Hopefully after November 8 the Old Guard will no longer be in power.

In any event the KPPCSD owes it to Kensington, beginning now, to come up with a written-in-concrete date for a plan to begin the actual search and hire process, starting within the next four months, hopefully sooner.

Leonard Schwartzburd

Confusion about Closed Sessions

Dear Editor,

There has been considerable discussion about transparency between the KPPCSD board and the community. I believe that transparency is essential to maintain public confidence in our elected leaders. It is important the board keep the community well informed, particularly about those issues that increase costs such as the sources of the district’s legal fees.

Some have criticized the board for holding closed sessions, claiming that they lack transparency. It is important to recognize that the topics of closed sessions are extremely limited by law. Anyone familiar with public sector governance and the Brown Act understands that matters such as litigation, employee and employment matters and labor negotiations must be held in closed session to ensure confidentiality and allow the board to negotiate the best financial outcome for the district. That is the reason the board holds closed sessions. I believe that being transparent whenever possible is in the best interest of the community. Understanding the limitations of subjects for closed sessions will hopefully shed light as to when and why these take place.

Dave Spath

Troop 100 Reunion December 2

Dear Editor:

As the current Scoutmaster of the troop I wanted to let friends and family know that the date for the 60th anniversary of Troop 100 has been set for Dec 2. We will be holding the party at the Youth Hut (aka the Kensington Community Center) where the Scouts have always met. I know the *Outlook* still reaches many alumni and just as important, the family of alumni of Troop 100. Please take up the call and let former

See Letters, page 11



# Neighborhood News and Notes

## Fire Station Open House a Hit with Kids



Fire Captain Jeff Thomas gives a tour of the fire house to a couple of lucky visitors during the Kensington Fire Department Open House on Saturday, October 15. Photo by Elisabeth Cornu



## Kenyon Avenue Eruption



The morning of September 30, a fire hydrant on Kenyon Avenue decided it'd been bottled up far too long—so it ruptured and created this spectacular geyser. El Cerrito firefighters responded and put out the flood. Photo by Marcelle Dronkers.

## Political Rally on Arlington Avenue



Supporters of Sylvia Hacaj held a rally in front of the Public Safety Building on October 15.

### Happy Days

Anna-Maria and David Hertzner are delighted to announce the arrival of their first grandchild, Claire Elisabeth Hallowell, daughter of Emily and Steve Hallowell of San Francisco. Claire was born in San Francisco at 2:18pm on Tuesday, September 6, weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces, and measuring 21.5 inches. She is named for Emily’s maternal grandmother Claire, and Steve’s maternal grandmother Elisabeth. Mother and baby are doing well.

### Donate this Halloween to a Neighborhood Effort to Ease Hunger

Currently in its ninth year, Halloween for the Hungry collects non-perishable goods for distribution to those who are food-insecure. Kensington’s own Simone Hudson began the effort when she was still in high school. “I started this project nine years ago because I was eager to engage with my neighbors in Kensington around food insecurity, which is a major issue in the Bay Area and a consequence of our region’s extreme economic inequality,” she says. “Every Halloween, when we go door-to-door to collect non-perishable food, my family and I are blown away by the generosity of our Kensington neighbors.”

Simone says that despite the region’s economic prosperity, that rising tide has not lifted all of our East Bay community. In fact, housing costs have made food insecurity a chilling reality for many. “Our efforts have fed nearly 4,000 food-insecure people, and we look forward to connecting with our community once again this Halloween in an effort to contribute to the fight against hunger,” says Hudson. Please email Hudson at [halloween4thehungry@gmail.com](mailto:halloween4thehungry@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to donate non-perishable food.

## Perfect Movie Night for *Inside Out*



Thank you Marvin Garden Realty - Popcorn Chefs!



Family Movie Fun for Everyone!



Kensington’s New Children’s Librarian Joined Us - Welcome Mardi Veiluva



Snuggle for KCC Movie Night

By Anne Forrest  
We could not have asked for better conditions for our Kensington Community Council Movie Night this year! Instead of complaining about the heat wave, as residents of the Bay Area tend to do, we embraced it! Over 300 kids, parents, and grandparents enjoyed the warm evening air while watching Pixar’s *Inside Out* on the big lawn at Kensington Park. People brought blankets and chairs to lounge on while enjoying hotdogs and sausage dinners before the movie. Kids munched on popcorn and movie candy while playing with large beach balls provided by the Friends of the Kensington Library.

The KCC wants to thank all the people and businesses that made such a fun night possible. Marvin Gardens Real Estate and its enthusiastic staff were ever present as sponsors and participants. Our movie night raffle is always fun and thanks go to the local businesses who annually support the raffle: Nation’s Giant Hamburgers and Great Pies for the donation of delicious pies, The Arlington and Inn Kensington for gift cards, and to Arlington Wine and Spirits for donating a case of wine. We hope to see everyone again next year!

It’s time to rebuild trust

Sylvia Hacaj for KPPCSD Board

Vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>

We have the talent and resources to govern ourselves with civility and transparency.

I pledge to:

- address Kensington’s long-term governance and fiscal challenges
- work constructively with the Board
- rally our community around shared goals
- forge pragmatic, consensus-based solutions

@HacajforKensington2016

Sylvia4Kensington@gmail.com

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# K E N S I N G T O N

## Community Education

### KASEP

Our Fall KASEP classes are going along splendidly! Critter’s students are learning about the life cycle of butterflies and finding Monarchs in our own backyard. Pastel Art each week takes on a new art element - abstract, cubism, and dabbling in 3D designs. Moving and grooving with hip hop music, getting stronger and more flexible every week! KASEP teachers are amazing, incredibly inspiring with their creativity and enthusiasm--stop by and see what we’re doing!

**Mark Your Calendar:** Winter KASEP Online registration, Tuesday, December 6th at 7:30pm. KASEP Winter Brochures are heading home from Hilltop school (in your child’s backpack) the week of November 21st.

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, 11am-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.

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

### KCC ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Thank you generous donors!  
**\$300**  
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**\$100**  
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June & David Cheit  
Robbi Cook  
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Janet Messman  
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Glenn & Gloria Morrison  
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Lorraine Osmundson  
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Irene Stachura  
Gene Staus  
Beverly Thiele



Gymnastics friends



Cooking Creations--All Smiles!



Weaving Bracelets & Beads with Walmaria



Pastel Art--Come Create with Jeanne



### Jazzercise

JAZZERCISE--BEING FIT IS ALWAYS HIP!

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DANCE      FUSION      STRENGTH      CORE

Daily, Monday through Friday 8:15 – 9:15am Ongoing – bring mat and water. Low Impact

### BODY SCULPTING

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15-10:15am Ongoing; Community Center

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. Questions? Call Kevin at 486-2728; Location for both classes: Kensington Community Center.

### Acrylic Artists



Our Acrylic Artists make amazing art every Wednesday in the Community Center between 9:45- 12:30pm. Come on by!

### Positive Posture



9:30-11:00am Mondays, on-going, Community Center, \$10

Amy Aldrich is getting rave reviews from students who say their back pain is diminishing. Postural alignment plays a key role in how you hold your body, walk and exercise. Learn how to BE so you can be pain free.

### Tai Chi



9:30-10:30am Fridays, on-going, Community Center, \$10

Nobuo Nishi’s gentle spirit guides your body in the martial art of tai chi. The class is good for both beginners as well as those with prior tai chi experience.



Kids Can Save Planet--Welcome Veronica



# Kensington Calendar

**Low Impact Jazzercise**, ongoing, 8:15-9:15am Mon-Fri, Community Center.

**Positive Posture**, ongoing, 9:30-11am, Mondays, Community Center.

**Body Sculpting**, ongoing, 9:15-10:15am, Tues and Thurs, Community Center.

**Acrylic Artists**, ongoing, 9:45am-1pm, Wednesdays, easels provided, Community Center.

**Tai Chi**, ongoing, 9:30-10:30am, Fridays, Community Center.

**November 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 Family Storytime** Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

**November 3, 10 and 17 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.

**November 6 Carolyn West**, Director of Religious Education and storyteller at Northbrae Community Church; published poet and essayist; teaching of ongoing class on World Religions. “More Than a Hero.” 9:30am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

**November 7 Kensington Library Knitting Club** “The Castoffs.” All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new

friends. Meets on the first Monday of the month (second Monday this month due to holiday.) Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

**November 7 and 21 Kensington Library’s Digital Docent** will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1pm. This one-on-one 60-minute appointment assists people with eBooks and eReaders. Sign up onsite at Kensington Library Info Desk. Please bring your device. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Free. 524-3043.

**November 13 Dr. Bryan Baker**, director of UUCB’s Luminescence Choir; conducts for Masterworks Chorale and San Francisco Choral Society; teacher at College of San Mateo. “Finding a Shared Vision Through Collaboration.” 9:30am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

**November 15 Berkeley Garden Club Lecture** Program, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue. “ Winter and Spring Bulbs” by William R. P. Welch aka “Bill the Bulb Baron.” 12:30-1 Plant Exchange, 1-2 General Meeting, 2-3 Lecture.

**November 19 Project SEED.** American Association of University Women’s Elaine Yamaguchi will speak about American Chemical Society’s Summer Research Internship Program for Economically Disadvantaged Students. Christ Lutheran Church, 780 Ashbury St., El Cerrito. 10am. Free.

**November 20 Ray Nelson**, science fiction author and cartoonist; studied theology at the University of Chicago, spent four years studying in Paris; inventor of propeller beanie; longtime UUCBer. “What is Inspiration?” 9:30am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

**November 22 Drop-in Paper Craft: Thanksgiving Pies** Kids of all ages are invited for an after-school paper craft activity. Make a Thanksgiving pie to “share” with your family!! Best for ages 5 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 3pm. Free. 524-3043.

**November 27 Cordell Sloan**, Technology guru; dream expert; jazz musician and son of Rev. Cordell Sloan, Sr. “Putting Recent Brain Science to Good Use: Practical Tactics for Better Living and Smarter Aging.” 9:30 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org).

**November 28 Kensington Library Book Club** Discussion of *Mansfield Park*, by Jane Austen. Book Club normally meets on the 4th Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

**December 7 Kensington Unit of League of Women Voters** Join women in your community in learning about and discussing issues that affect us politically. All welcome. 1:15pm at 631 Parkside Court. Call 527-1266 to confirm attendance.

## Town Meetings

**Kensington Community Center**  
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

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

**FKL-November 1, Friends of the Kensington Library**, 7pm (at the Library) 1st Tuesdays

**KPSC-Nov. 14, Kensington Public Safety Council** Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

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

**KFPD-November 9**, Fire Protection District 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

**KPPCSD-November 10**, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

**KIC-Nov. 28**, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 524-7514.

**KMAC (Tent.)-Nov. 29, Municipal Advisory Council** Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s office to confirm: 231-8691)

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

# No Rain on My Parade



Even though the annual KCC parade and picnic was delayed a week from its usual mid-October date—and rain threatened for the following afternoon—Parade Day dawned bright and sunny.



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Letters  
...from page 5

scouts, leaders and families of Troop 100 know they should be prepared.

I know how important this organization has been and continues to be in shaping our kids into great adults. Troop 100 has introduced our youth to the outdoors, instilled skills as diverse as first aid and citizenship, promoted leadership and community service, taught boys the bowline. It is an organization in which I have great pride. I have the ongoing pleasure of meeting former scouts and families of scouts who tell me what a big part Troop 100 has played in their lives. Please touch base with us through the sources below so that I can compile a contact list and send out more specifics as we get closer to the big day.

Our troop email is [kenstroop100@gmail.com](mailto:kenstroop100@gmail.com) or Facebook at Kensington Troop 100.

Yours in scouting,  
**Thomas Sherris-Watt**

What Exactly is Yard Waste?

Dear Editor,

On September 25, I sent this letter (slightly edited for space) to Greg Christie, Supervisor, Bay View Refuse and Recycling and Kevin Hart, Kensington Solid Waste and Recycling Program General Manager.

*Hi Kevin and Greg,*

*The following sentence is from the website <http://kensingtoncalifornia.org/waste-management/> "Material must be Yard Waste Only. Trimmings, grass, leaves, flowers, pine needles, uncooked fruits and vegetable trimmings; Christmas trees." That sentence seemingly contradicts itself. Cuz uncooked vegetable trimmings are usually produced in the kitchen, not the yard, yes?*

Could you clarify? We have been placing uncooked (and possibly some leftover cooked) fruit and vegetable trimmings from our kitchen into our yard-waste container, but someone told us recently that a flier sent to Kensington households said only yard waste should be put in those bins.

This is unlike Berkeley, Oakland, El Cerrito and Richmond, which allow composting of all food scraps (fruit, veggie, and even meat) in their green waste bins. We would appreciate it if one or both of you would respond to this email directly...and perhaps you may want to edit that web page I cited above for clarity, as well as your PDF which uses the same wording but with an exclamation point for added emphasis....

Personally, as a former gardener who was always opening, using, and even climbing inside green bins (to jump on them and make more room), I hated it when first Oakland, and then Berkeley and Richmond and EC started allowing and even encouraging people to put mushy, disgusting, stinky, rotting food scraps in their green-waste bins. But, it is really the foul-smelling rotting meat and dairy they allow that is the worst offender. Veggie and fruit scraps aren't so bad...no different, really, than fallen fruit from a tree, or weeds from a garden bed. So I hope we will be able to continue to feel good about our—uncooked—kitchen veggie and fruit scraps becoming part of the cycle of entropy and new life by adding them to our green waste bin here in Kensington. Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

**Jessie West**

# CITIZEN FORUM

## Why I Believe Consolidation Is Wrong for Kensington

**By Chris Deppe**

As a member of the ad hoc committee, I've studied the issue of consolidating the fire district and the KPPCSD for many months—consolidation was the topic my subcommittee researched. There are many details involved in this process, but an essential point is that the only known way to consolidate our two districts is for the KPPCSD to force the dissolution of the fire district and take over fire protection services. (Technically this process is called reorganization, not consolidation.) That means our fire district as we know it must cease to exist. The reasons against this plan are many:

1. The greatest threat to our community is fire, and fire protection is a critical service for Kensington. Our fire department is an award-winning organization that enjoys the support of the vast majority of residents and dissolving it should not even be considered unless there were drastic circumstances.
2. The KPPCSD is already overworked and can barely address its agenda with two meetings a month. Adding the additional burden of managing a fire department doesn't make sense, and very likely the fire department, the police department, or both would suffer.
3. Special districts are set up for a very good reason. They offer targeted government of services, and allow communities with limited resources to provide these services in a responsible and accountable manner. This is especially true for finances. Having separate districts has forced both to at least attempt to live within their respective means. Combining the two districts would muddy the finances, thus further jeopardizing the delivery of fire protection.
4. We found no example in California of a Community Services District taking over a fire district, and in fact could not even find one CSD that provided both fire and police services. We would be flying blind, experimenting with a process and situation that is completely unknown.
5. Even if the above objections did not exist, it is critical that the KPPCSD solve its current problems before even considering dissolution of the fire district.

The proponents of reorganization have put forth many arguments, but they all distill down to three main points:


1. Cost savings due to elimination of duplicated services. Various areas have been suggested where savings could be realized, but there's no analysis or details to back this up, just wishful thinking to support the idea of consolidation. I've looked at this myself and can see no savings to be had, and in fact costs could go up due to more complexity in the larger organization.
2. The KPPCSD would gain access to the fire department's funds. This can only be seen as a positive in the narrow scope of putting more money in the hands of the KPPCSD. It's important to remember that the fire department reserves are needed for imminent upgrading/replacing the public safety building, as well as the periodic replacement of very expensive fire engines.
3. Governance would be streamlined due to just one combined meeting. The proposition that somehow three meetings a month could be condensed into one is pure fantasy and hard to take seriously.

There is no getting around the fact that to accomplish consolidation/reorganization the fire district must be dissolved, and the most likely path is for the KPPCSD to initiate the process. That means that candidates for the board should make it very clear where they stand, as they will potentially have the power to at least try to make this happen.

*Residents can send essays for possible inclusion in Citizen Forum to [editor@kensingtonoutlook.com](mailto:editor@kensingtonoutlook.com). Put Citizen Forum in the subject line and limit your essay to 650 words or less.*







# September Police Log

**September 1** DISTURBANCE, Kenyon Ave. Marital dispute. Advised/counseled both parties to options.  
THEFT, Colusa Ave. Theft of a military award on a veteran’s headstone.

**September 2** HIT & RUN, Williamette Ave. Unknown suspect in vehicle collided with two parked cars and left the scene without leaving notice to owners.  
HIT & RUN, Princeton Ave. Unknown suspect in vehicle collided with two parked cars and left the scene without leaving notice to owners.  
SUSPICIOUS PERSON, Kenyon Ave. Contacted the resident who described as the suspicious person. No problems found.  
MISCELLANEOUS, Colusa Ave. Resident reported a heart and intestines placed on a tree stump within the cemetery. We were able to determine that the heart was not human.  
WELFARE CHECK, Cowper Ave. Resident reported beeping coming from their bedroom. A fire detector’s battery was going dead. I changed the battery and the beeping stopped.

**September 3** FOUND PROPERTY, Colgate Ave. Resident turned in a wallet, and I was able to locate the owner. No Crime.  
DISTURBANCE, Kenyon Ave. Loud party, contacted homeowner who turned down the music.

**September 4** ABANDONED AUTO, Colgate Ave. Ongoing public parking dispute, caller was educated about the situation. No crime.  
SUICIDE, Coventry Rd. Resident committed suicide. Pending investigation.

**September 6** SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Colgate Ave. Resident saw a Chevy Impala driving slowly up and down the street. Gone upon arrival and unable to locate.

**September 7** DISTURBANCE, Avon Dr. Resident reported neighbor was upset she had tied up her dog in the front yard as coyotes could harm it.

**September 8** ABANDONED AUTO, Kenyon Ave. Unable to contact owner, advised contractor to contact him to move vehicle.  
DISTURBANCE, Coventry Rd. Resident reported what sounded like a dog yelping in distress. Unable to locate the animal.

**September 9** APS REFERRAL, Amherst Ave. APS referral due to senior status and living conditions.

**September 10** SUSPICIOUS PERSON, Windsor Ave. Resident reported someone ringing doorbell. I arrived and talked to a resident who lives several streets away. The resident was lost and confused. I drove resident home and family members were able to take charge.  
DISTURBANCE, Coventry Rd. Resident reported loud party. I arrived in the area and found the party had ended and people were leaving. No action taken.

**September 13** IDENTITY THEFT, Lexington Dr. Resident’s identity being used by unknown suspects. Pending investigation.

**September 14** ABANDONED AUTO, Arlington Ave. Resident reports vehicle abandoned in front of their house.  
VANDALISM, Highland Blvd. 2016 presidential campaign sign damaged.

**September 15** SUSPICIOUS EVENT, Colusa Ave. Resident reported a heart and intestines placed on a tree stump within the cemetery. We were able to determine that the heart was not human.  
EXTRA PATROL, Highland Blvd. Suspicious vehicle driving in the area. Unable to locate.

**September 16** THEFT, Colusa Ave. Theft from unlocked car the previous evening.

**September 17** IDENTITY THEFT, Arlington Ave. Unknown suspect(s) using victim’s information w/out permission.  
EXTRA PATROL, Arlington Ave. Provided extra traffic patrol in the area.

**September 19** ELDER ABUSE, Franciscan Way. Resident reports being abused by caretaker.  
MISCELLANEOUS, Coventry Rd. A discarded empty suitcase was discovered by the curb. Most likely part of the special trash pickup. I disposed of it.

TRAFFIC / MISC, Franciscan Way. Resident advised of speeding vehicles. I told them I would conduct traffic enforcement, and tell the COP and officers.

**September 23** THEFT, Arlington Ave. Medication taken from unlocked vehicle.

**September 24** THEFT, Yale Ave. Clothing and currency taken from unlocked vehicle.  
MISC, Arlington Ave. Propane tank reported in street. Area check done and was unable to locate.  
MUSIC, Sunset Dr. Birthday party music too loud. Contact made with homeowner who turned the music off.

**September 25** SUSPICIOUS EVENT, Coventry Rd. Unsecured vehicle entered. No damage and nothing taken.

**September 28** DISTURBANCE, Coventry Rd. Verbal family dispute. Were counseled. No crime.  
THEFT, Arlington Ave. Report of theft. Pending investigation.



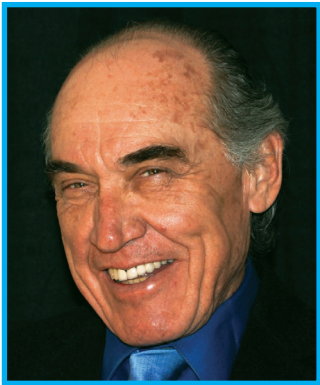
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