

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

OCTOBER 2008 A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL VOLUME 65 NUMBER 8

Library Renovation Gets Public Comment



Librarian Liz Ruhland explains the need for repairs and renovations.

The first public meeting to introduce possible changes to the Kensington Library netted public comments last month, with residents and frequent library users weighing in on what they think the library needs – and doesn’t need.

“I hear the architect saying, ‘This is 1965,’” said Mari Metcalf, of Arlington Lane, after a presentation by Alan Kawasaki, of Shah Kawasaki Architects in Oakland, the architect in charge of the remodel. “This might be 1965, but I think that looks great!”

The Kensington Library has gleaned \$1.4 million from county funds to retool the library’s footprint by making the bathrooms wheelchair accessible, for one. The presentation was supplemented by a slide show of high-end, modern libraries that have been converted from “old” to “new” in the past decade. On the table is a full plate: How to widen the rows between the books, preserve a public meeting place, and perhaps provide special coves for children or students who need private study time.

A main issue brought up in the discussion: the ventilation system, which now blows out and takes in at ground

level. For better air circulation the vents need to be higher up, say the architects. Overhead, modern tubes to house the ventilation system did not seem to go over well with the assembled crowd.

The Kensington Library, per capita, is one of the best-used libraries in the Contra Costa County Library system. The library itself is only 5,000 square feet, and was designed to hold about 20,000 items. It now holds 34,000 items. It holds about 18 programs per month, and on average, 126 people come through the door every hour the library is open. And that’s only 35 hours per week.

About 50 people attended the first public meeting regarding the renovation, and learned that:

- Annual circulation of library items has increased 35 percent in the last four years, and now turns over 104,900 items.
- DVDs are the highest-use item.
- Picture books remain the highest prize in the children’s book section.

More public meetings will be scheduled to continue to glean the community’s input into the renovation process.

Elections to Fill Local Positions

Even though much of the focus next month will be on the presidential race, races closer to home will make a big difference on local boards in Election 2008, as well as on the West Contra Costa County Unified School District and in the parks.

Two spots are open on the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District board, as well as the Kensington Fire Protection District. Two slots are open, as well, on the WCCCUSD.

Paul Haxo is stepping down from the KPPCSD, and three candidates will vie for two openings. Joan Gallegos, the incumbent, is in the race with attorney Chuck Toombs and former mayor of El Cerrito Cathie Kosel.

In an uncontested race, incumbents Leslie Michael and Don Dommer are running for re-election to the Kensington Fire Protection District.

For the school board, Kensington residents Charlie Cowens and Mark Woo decided not to run after pulling papers for candidacy. For two positions, all at-large, candidates include board president Karen Pfeifer, Richmond City Council member Tony Thurmond, and former bond oversight committee members Robert Studdiford and Antonio Medrano.

Also at issue of local concern is the East Bay Regional Parks District board of directors, where Nancy Skinner is leaving Ward 1 to run for the California Assembly. One of the primary issues for Kensington residents is maintaining a fire break in the wildfire zone. Two candidates are attempting to replace Skinner, attorney and Sierra Club activist Noman LaForce of El Cerrito, and activist Whitney Dotson, a member of the Board of Directors for Citizens of East Shore Parks. He lives in Richmond.

Profiles of the local candidates will be available starting mid-month at www.aboutkensington.com, as well as in the November edition of the *Outlook*.

Fall Event Nets Grand Marshals

Longtime resident William Ford, 92, will team up with Kensington Olympic contender Sayaka Matsumoto to jointly marshal the parade Oct. 19, sponsored by Kensington Community Center.

Ford has lived in Kensington since 1951. Matsumoto contended on the U.S. Olympic Judo Team in August. Plans for the annual parade and barbecue are still under way, but the main details are set: Parade participants will meet at Arlington and Amherst Avenues, and proceed to the community center. Festivities follow there, at 59 Arlington Ave.

The annual event is one of Kensington’s biggest celebrations. The parade starts at 12:30 p.m., with the park barbecue continuing until 3:30 p.m. A barbecue in the park will offer all the fixings, and an ice cream social at Arlington Community Church will commence at 2 p.m. A book sale by the Friends of the Kensington Library will coincide with the event in the parking lot across the street from the library.

Advance tickets for the barbecue to follow are available at Mechanics Bank through October 17. Forms also are available for the children’s coloring contest, and winners will take home a \$50 U.S. savings bond.

For another contest, pumpkins are available at Marvin Gardens, 289 Arlington Ave., for a 50-cent contribution to UNICEF. Carved pumpkins will be judged at the park during the festivities.

Annual Garden Party Set for Nov. 15

The Kensington Hilltop School’s annual fund-raiser has been set for November, with a work party by the Dads’ Club and a leather couch from Restoration Hardware among the most coveted items.

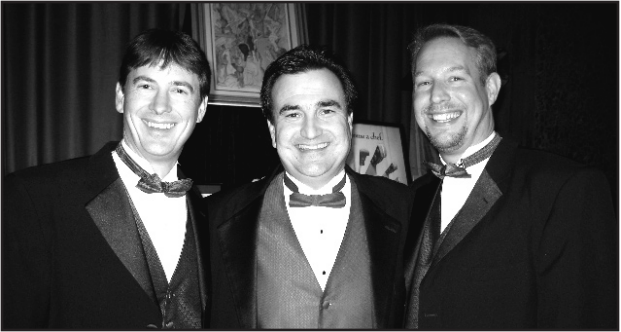
The party will start at 5 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Universalist Unitarian Church in Kensington.

The fund-raiser, now in its 25th year, entails a full evening of food, wine, beer, and live jazz. Hundreds of silent auction items are available, as well as a live auction, with Larry Polito returning as auctioneer.

The first Garden Party was held in 1984 at Blake Gardens (thus the name for the fund-raiser) in order for Hilltop parents to ensure that art and physical education programs could continue at the school. Over the years the need for more supplementation of curriculum has only increased. It has been held at the church since 1987.

The Garden Party now finances reading programs, a computer and science lab, oceans week, and much more.

To make donations to the live or silent auction, please



Paul Normington, last year’s Garden Party emcee, auctioneer Larry Polito and Jim Thomsen at last year’s fund-raiser.

contact Beth at 527-1319 or Nannette at 525-2835.

Tickets are \$50 in advance and can be obtained by calling Garden Party Chair Catherine Mercurio at 527-1297. They will be \$55 at the door.



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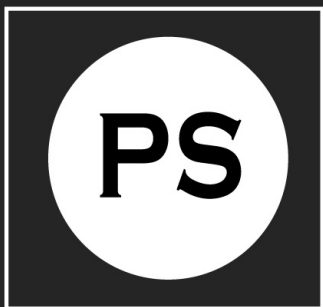
*Hey Kids! Pick up your pumpkin while supplies last!
 50¢ donations for UNICEF are requested per pumpkin.*



And then enter our Jack-o'-Lantern carving contest. Bring your carved pumpkin to the Kensington Park after the Parade October 19th! For details, call Laurie at 524.0800, or stop in and see her at 289 Arlington Avenue.



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KCC Launches Annual Drive

You are reading this newspaper because of your donations to the Kensington Community Council. But the KCC does much more than this – it provides many important services to our community. It operates the after-school educational programs (KASEP) and the Summer Day Camp for our children, provides adult education programs and brings the community together in annual events at the Community Center.

Our programs include the Fall Parade and Picnic and the Spring Celebration. We are still working toward providing public toilets in the park. Our administrator, Esther Hill, works every day to provide youth programs that are safe, fun and educational – all at an affordable price. Our Summer Day Camp remains popular and solid, while our after-school education programs continue to provide excellent classes and sports to our elementary school students.

We raise all of our income through contributions from the community. To continue with all these important activities, we once again appeal for your help. We would appreciate any contribution which you feel you can make to support the Kensington Community Council's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life in Kensington. Please use the enclosed envelope included in this paper to send us your donation today. Sincerely,

Bruce Morrow
 President

Kensington Community Council

**Support the
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Corrections

In an incredible bout of ineptitude last month, this Outlook editor misread her notes and put the Hilltop School fundraiser at Blake Gardens this year. Most of you know that it will not be there, but will be at the Unitarian Universalist Church, as usual. Details, thanks to Catherine Mercurio, are on Page 1.

Bob Amrhein

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Bound copies of the newspaper going back to the 1940s are available at the Kensington Library.

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Advertising

Classified ad rates are \$6 a line with a minimum of 2 lines at \$12. A line consists of 45 spaces or characters. An online ad form is available at: www.kensingtonoutlook.com at the bottom of the back issues listings. Send all display and classified advertising mail to:

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Deadlines

Advertising deadline October 8
 Editorial deadline October 10

Submission Guidelines

Kensington, this is your newspaper. Feel free to submit story ideas, obituaries, calendar items, letters to the editor, and announcements of weddings and births. E-mail your submissions to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com, or if you're not computer savvy, drop off or mail a hard copy to the Kensington Community Center at the address above. The only restriction is that your submission must be directly relevant to the Kensington community. Include the particulars: the who, what, why and when. Call the editor, Chris Lavin, at 925-376-5592 if you have questions. Remember to include your contact information in case we need to get back to you.

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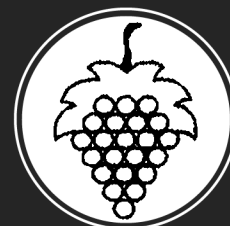
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New Sign Took Lots Of Volunteer Work

Dear Editor,
The renovation of the signboard area seems to bring out the best and worst of reactions by Kensington residents. It reminds me of the time that the owners of the Blakemont Garden (the Dept. of Landscape Architecture at UC) decided to remove a number of diseased trees. Suddenly there were hundreds of experts who vented their opinions.

A member of the KIC board volunteered to find a sign company who could come up with a sign announcing “Welcome to Kensington.” After seeing a nice sign in Montclair, she contacted the same sign company. She worked with him to come up with the new sign. She eventually moved away from the area but the plan moved ahead. It is probably not the same design that you or I would have made but it is bright and colorful and many like it.

The area in front of the sign was originally sketched as a fountain by landscape architect, Theodore Osmundson, (his contributions to Kensington have always been “pro bono.”) We hoped that we could just hire the work to be done, but found that it had to be completely handled by the county Department of Public Works. They hired a landscape architecture firm to draw up working drawings and put the work out to bid. Added to the complication was the fact that half of the area is in Berkeley. We had already secured the permission to encroach on Berkeley land, but again this had to go through by having a county-to-county agreement. Unfortunately the landscape architectural firm did not follow the original preliminary design and made the structure high enough to obscure part of the sign lettering. The sign has now been raised to improve the visibility of the letters.

Incidentally, when Ted Osmundson designed and supervised the installation of the Colusa Circle, he had people lean out of their car windows to shout that they hated it! A point that I am trying to make is that the area you see as you come up the Arlington is much improved. It has been brought about because a number of Kensington citizens volunteer time from their busy schedules to improve Kensington. Those who complain should pitch in and do their part, too. We are all proud to live in this great little paradise!

Lorraine Osmundson,
Member, KIC Board of Directors

Outlook Quality Sags, Needs New Editor

Dear Editor,
The *Kensington Outlook* editor needs an editor.

The September issue features a number of journalistic gaffes, including:
Key information buried in stories, not

part of the lead.
If this year’s Hilltop School fundraiser is going back to Blake Gardens after 23 or so years, that’s big news for our town and shouldn’t be the last paragraph of the story about back to school.

The explanation of the arrest of the Kensington bank robber – the news – was in the sixth paragraph of the story rather than in the lead.

Grammatical errors in the editor announcement and the corrections column.

Extreme use of passive voice.
The quality of the newspaper has been slipping for a number of months. I didn’t speak up until now because I assumed the KCC was in a transition phase with editors. However, if this issue is any indication of our new journalistic asset, I am alarmed. The journalistic standards are awful, even for a community newspaper. As a further disappointment, the paper’s entertainment element has vanished. “From the Case Files of the KPD” used to be fun as well as informative to read. It’s now dull and insulting rather than clever.

The newspaper fits our new sign and planter/fountain—awkward, hard to read, and out of place for Kensington.

Liz Guthridge

Outlook KPD Report Needs More Balance

Dear Editor,
Your first entry of the KPD files from the September issue says it all. Your report was neither funny, nor the least bit thoughtful of the people involved. Reading through the rest of the reports I found not one of them funny, and I appreciate good humor. Please refrain from editorializing in this section and just report the calls so we know what's happening in our community.

Eric Jonsson

Entrance Sign Shows Lack of Judgment

Dear Editor,
It is distressing to see the lack of judgment used by the people who made decisions about the Kensington sign.

The whole concoction is in poor taste, like the cheap print of a '50s house dress.

The planter plants obscure the sign. Has no one noticed?

And then, when your car gets more than halfway through the intersection, the sign is difficult to read because the letters are all in upper case. Upper case is three to four times more difficult to read than lower case – that’s why lower case was invented. What should we do? The first thing would be a show of hands – perhaps in the *Outlook* – about whether or not people like it or don't like it.

[See LETTERS on Page 4]

Amy Kurzer
Broker Associate
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amy.kurzer@prurealty.com
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Kensington Market Update

Address	Beds	Baths	List Price	Sold Price	Days on Mrkt
Arlington Avenue	2	1	\$399,000	pending	38
Trinity Avenue	2	2	\$729,000	pending	52
Coventry Road	3	2	\$732,000	pending	21
Kenyon Avenue	2	2	\$799,500	pending	40
Lake Drive	3	2	\$819,000	pending	77
Arlington Court	3	1	\$829,000	pending	26

This information is taken from public records and deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

• For additional information about the Kensington market, please give me a call.

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◆ LETTERS from page 3

Assuming the answer is overwhelmingly no, then we might find other city limits signs that we do like so we can suggest them. Use a digital camera and send it to the Outlook. We might even create a new one, but let's not get too weird here; we don't want it to look like the one that is there now. Then a volunteer group could put the new sign together. We could probably do the whole thing in a week and have something to be proud of.

Louise Lacey

Colusa Circle Article
Unfair, Unbalanced

Dear Editor,

I eagerly awaited publication of your September article ("Colusa Circle Development Winds Through County Process," Sept. 2008) on our proposed development at 401 Colusa, because you had assured me that it would be a balanced presentation, and not a hit piece. I was sadly disappointed. We had had a lengthy conversation about all of the issues surrounding the proposal, and you left that conversation with a complete understanding of our position regarding the merits of our design. Most significantly, we discussed its comparison to the approved Development Plan for the property, which is taller, bulkier, and much more impacting to the neighborhood than is our proposed Plan. I even sent you a comparative rendering of the approved Development Plan, so that your readers could see the difference. Not only did you fail to publish the comparative rendering, your article never once mentioned that there is an approved P-1 Development Plan.

We had also discussed its compliance with the County General Plan – no mention. The only comment you included from the development team was "Personally, I think the stacked parking will work well." (I was speaking to you professionally, and certainly did not say "personally.") Meanwhile, the opposition was given its voice to make unsubstantiated and unqualified claims of "totally out of character with the neighborhood...blocks views...too tall...causes parking problems." You made no mention that we propose to provide parking at double the capacity of two recently neighborhood-approved projects at the Circle, nor did you require any qualification of the other claims.

Here's the real meat of the matter, should you care to revisit the issue substantively. Our proposal as submitted for review is an undeniably reasonable modification to the approved P-1 Development Plan, with impacts comparatively reduced by every measure, and it fully comports with the County General Plan, including its "Policies for the Kensington Area." We have also worked with the community over the years, through the KMAC review process, to make substantial changes addressing neighborhood concerns regarding parking, bulk, traffic, and safety. If this is not enough for the neighborhood Association, then perhaps we need to ask them, "on what grounds?"

While you may not have intended your article to be a hit piece, your editorial work has added weightily to the damaging disinformation surrounding our proposal. I sincerely hope that your future articles on this and other matters will be more thoroughly informative to your readership.

Andrew Woolman
Architect for 401 Colusa Ave.

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Rare Tour Planned Of Maybeck Houses

Thirty slots are available for a rare walking tour of the Maybeck Estates on Purdue Avenue on November 2. From 10 a.m. to noon, participants will be escorted by Bob Shaner, an original and current homeowner, who will narrate the walk and share his personal experience of building his own home and working with the Maybecks.

To reserve a spot for the walk, call the Kensington Community Council office at 525-0292. The cost is \$10. Handouts will be provided to all participants.

The family of renowned architect Bernard Maybeck owned the large piece of property now known as Berkeley Highland Terrace in Kensington, and they subdivided it and built houses. One was for Maybeck’s daughter, at 135 Purdue Ave., a stunning house from the street with bay views and what was then an odd choice: a

galvanized roof to help prevent the house from catching fire.

The subdivision is on private property, so the walking tour is a rare opportunity to visit the historical tract. Shaner will be helped by Paul Grunland, the leader of several East Bay historical walks.

Maybeck, an architect of the arts and crafts style, served as a mentor to other architects, including Julia Morgan. Most of his work was done in the first half of the 1900s, and the First Church of Christ, built in 1910 in Berekely, is believed by some to be his finest work. He also designed the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, and was famous for combining various architectural styles in one building, including Mission, Beaux Arts and Craftsman.

Maybeck died in 1957 at the age of 92. He is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland.



This house, at 135 Purdue Ave., will be one of the houses on the tour of architect Bernard Maybeck’s work in Kensington. He built this particular house for his daughter, but the land was subdivided so many other homeowners were (and are) fortunate enough to benefit from his talent.

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

Celebrate fall with KCC’s Parade and Picnic—October 19th

We’d love to have you join us for the KCC Fall Parade and Picnic on Sunday, October 19, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Parade participants will gather at 12 noon at the corner of Amherst and Arlington Avenues and then march down to the Kensington Community Center for a barbeque picnic. Tickets for the barbeque will be sold at the community center.

Mechanics Bank is sponsoring a coloring contest and will award \$50 savings bonds to the winners in each age category: 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Marvin Gardens is sponsoring a pumpkin decorating contest and will award prizes at the picnic.

Maybeck Estates Historical Walk

Sunday, November 2, 2008

10 a.m. – 12 noon

\$10

In the subdivision named “Berkeley Highland Terrace,” the Bernard Maybeck family owned a large piece of property which they subdivided and where they began to sell individual lots after World War II. On this walk, the privately owned part of Purdue Avenue will be explored. An original and current homeowner, Bob Shaner, will narrate the walk and share personal experiences of building his own home and working with the Maybecks. Bob will be assisted by Paul Grunland, leader of several East Bay historical walks.

Handouts will be provided to all participants.

For more information and to register for the walk, please call the KCC office at 510-525-0292. Space is limited to 30 participants.

KASEP

Fall session began on Monday, September 22, but there may still be some spaces available in classes. Please call the KASEP office at 525-0292 for information. The fall KASEP brochure and forms are online at www.aboutkensington.com.

ADULT CLASSES

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

Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered Yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared

for in his or her practice of yoga. For more information about the class, please contact Nicole at 510-527-6443.

When: Classes are Tuesdays, 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Fees: For residents: \$15 for drop-in; \$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresidents please add 10 percent (\$16.50 per class/\$82.50 for six classes). To register, call the KCC office at 510-525-0292.

Where: Classes are held in the Community Center.

Thursday Hatha Yoga: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

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Fees for residents: \$12 for drop-in

One-month pass: (4 classes) for \$40

Non-residents: please add 10% (\$13.20 for drop-in and \$44 for month pass).

For questions about the Hatha Yoga class content, please contact instructor Claire Lavery at 681-3077.

For questions about registration or location, please call KCC at 525-0292.

Classes are held in Room A in the Recreation Building (Building E).

TENNIS



Kim Roots offers classes for youth and adults. To register, call Kim at 526-6730.

Adult classes: 5 classes/\$40 per resident; \$45 per non-resident

Youth classes: are \$12 each.

TENNIS COURTS

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Kensington Olympian Brings Home Gold

Jessica, or “Jessie,” Lorenz of Oak View in Kensington helped bring home the gold medal last month as a member of the USA Goalball Team in the Beijing Paralympics. The six-member team defeated China Sept. 13 after getting to the final match the day before in overtime against Denmark.

“Nothing is like standing on that medal podium and hearing our national anthem play,” Lorenz, 29, wrote on her Facebook page. “One oddity with having all visually impaired people on the podium was our challenge in finding the appropriate direction to gaze in to show the flag our respect.”

Goalball was one of 20 sports played by 4,000 disabled athletes at the games, which were not televised but broadcast over the Internet, and included swimming, rowing, wheelchair basketball and tennis, and lifting. Goalball was invented after World War II to help rehabilitate veterans who were blinded in the war. The object is to throw a ball over the goal line to score a point while players from the other team attempt to get between the ball and the goal. If a defender manages to get the ball, that team then goes for a goal.

Lorenz, who has been blind since birth, helped carry the Olympic torch through San Francisco before the Olympics began in August. She took up goalball in 1993 at a sports education camp at Western Michigan University. In less than 10 years, she has earned a World Championship title and numerous medals in the sport.

Besides her athletic endeavors, Lorenz is director of public policy for the San Francisco LightHouse for the



Photo by USOC
Jessica Lorenz played on the gold medal winning goalball team in Beijing last month.

Blind. She helped bring accessible crossing signals to San Francisco, she has led voter registration drives and has worked both locally and on the federal level to pass civil rights legislation. “When I consider what it is that sustains me, it always comes down to one thing – I try, with varying levels of success, to make a positive difference in my community,” Lorenz is quoted as saying on the official Paralympics website.

Guest Editorial

Keep Dogs On Leash Despite Sign Theft

By SYLVIA V. ELSBURY
Contributing Writer

Last month’s *Outlook* more than adequately covered a recent Kensington crime story: the theft of not one, not two, but all of the “Dogs On Leash” signs at Kensington Park.

This item caught my eye because the subject of dogs and their leashes has been on my radar for some time now. *The Journal*, that (sometimes) free local paper which may (or may not) land on your doorstep every Friday, recently announced an Albany community meeting on the subject, “Dogs In Our Parks: On Leash or Off?” And not long ago I joined a Kensington group on Facebook, the online social networking site, noting at once that the anonymous writer who charmingly described life in our little village says, “Everyone is friendly unless your dog isn’t on a leash.”

Media references aside, the real reasons for my fixation on off-leash dogs are my two daughters, ages 8 and 5. Their fear of dogs has been a well-established fact of life in our household for years. We do our best to cultivate warm friendships with dogs they know and trust, and their brother is fine with dogs, but so far his sisters are still wary.

Why are my girls afraid of dogs? Who knows, really. Maybe it’s because one of them is small enough that most of her life, she’s been closer in size to a fire hydrant than a full-grown human. But I have to say, last week I was tempted to lay the blame at the feet of the dog owner on Highland who allowed her agitated pooch to escape the garden and charge out into the street, barking as if possessed, at my tiny daughter walking by on the sidewalk. I scooped up the terrified child and we fled as the woman called after us, “He’s just a baby.” I couldn’t help wondering: if he’s such a baby, what is he doing in the middle of Highland Avenue? Letting an untrained puppy off leash is arguably no less irresponsible than letting go of a toddler’s hand while crossing the street.

The same issue came to mind last month when another “baby” dog got tangled up in my bike pedals before charging down the middle of busy Cedar Street

in Berkeley. That incident ended more happily than a previous run-in between my bike and dogs. A woman on Highgate couldn’t keep a handful of Yorkies under control and let them dash into my path, making me slam on my brakes and do a header over the handlebars. I landed on my hands and was effectively disabled for the entire weekend, highly inconvenient considering I was home alone with a human baby at the time.

Here in the “Dog is My Co-Pilot” Bay Area, one often sees off-leash dogs where, really, only people belong. During my son’s Albany Little League game, two of them tangled right behind first base – yes, a dogfight on the field – and the owner wandered around afterwards asking “anyone seen a chocolate Lab?”

Suggestions for the KPD: regarding the sign theft, look not to flea market vendors or scrap metal dealers. The perp is most certainly exercising his or her dog right now on the green lawn in Kensington Park. (That’s right, the lawn my girls must cross to reach after-school programs in the KASEP building.) Whether this prank was meant as a protest, or as a free pass to get away with off-leash behavior until the signs are replaced, I can’t say. But there’s no doubt in my mind about the ulterior motive. In spite of that Facebook crack to the contrary, Kensingtonians seem to me split at least 50/50 on the leash question. Fortunately we are blessed with police officers who actually respond to citizen reports of off-leash dogs in town.

I’m well aware that many people prefer the company of dogs to that of small children. But when was the last time a little kid --- and for the sake of a fair analogy, make that a kid as big as you --- charged you, barking, jumped up on you, and then stuck her nose in your crotch?

Folks often reassure us that their off-leash dog “just loves kids.” But dogs who “love kids” are even more likely than those who are shy of them, to approach my youngsters and deepen their terror. Another common disclaimer: “He’s really gentle, a sweetie!” A responsible parent cannot afford to take such a claim from a stranger at face value when her child’s safety is at stake.

Whether or not the crime is solved, the park signs will go back up eventually. In the meantime, in the park and all around town, keep the welcome mat out for your dog by keeping her in her safe and rightful place: on the end of a firmly held leash.

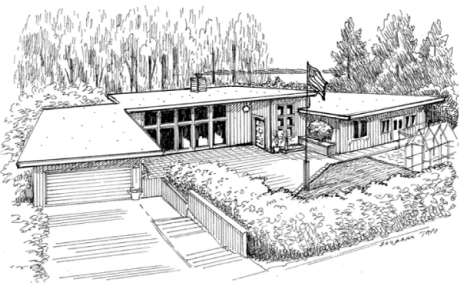
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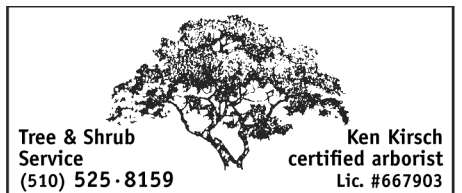
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Neighborhood Notes

Prevent Fires – Fire Station Open House

The Kensington Fire Department will hold an open house on Saturday, Oct. 4, from noon to 4 p.m. As part of Fire Prevention Month, the community is welcome to tour inside the fire station and talk with real-live firefighters, always popular with the under 10 crowd as well as people who have always been interested in all things fire truck. So stop in at the fire station, which is No. 65, at 215 Arlington Blvd., to see what’s new. A free child-safety seat check will also be provided, with smiles and helpful hints.

Bats, Bats, Bats

They look kind of like, no mostly like, mice with wings, but they’re really cool. The Kensington Library will present a bat show, with live bats, at 7 p.m. October 28 – but you need a ticket to go. The library will have 90 tickets for pick-up starting October 20, and you can call 524-3043 for hours. A slide show will start the program, which emphasizes bat conservation and the usefulness of bats in our ecosystems. Attendees must be at least 5 years old – but a Halloween-themed family story time at the library will coincide with the program for younger kids. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Kensington Library.

ECDC Sets Annual Dinner Meeting

Norman Solomon will be the speaker for the El Cerrito Democratic Club’s annual dinner at 6 p.m. October 18. He will talk about “End of an Error - Beginning of an Era: Achieving Our Goals in a Post-Bush America”. Solomon was an elected Obama delegate to the Democratic National Convention and is a national co-chair of the Healthcare Not Warfare campaign. He’s the author of many books including *War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death*. Space is limited and reservations are needed. Visit www.ecdclub.org, or call 375-5647.

‘Outdoor Classroom’ Volunteers Needed

The Outdoor Classroom is a new project at Hilltop School to help teachers develop and maintain garden facilities necessary to support hands-on learning opportunities. The focus is on growing edible plants, native and flowering plants, and environmental stewardship. Volunteers are needed to help shape and build this new learning opportunity for the children. Contact John Cain at jcain@n-h-i.org for more information or to volunteer.

KEF Fund Drive Under Way

The Kensington Education Foundation is monitoring funds coming in to the fall pledge drive, a direct request to parents for donations. The KEF raises funds to improve the quality of education at Hilltop School by providing enrichment programs. Funds go toward a variety of programs, including the science laboratory, art program, computer laboratory, the library, music, classroom materials, math help, and more.

Owls on the Prowl

Owls may be a symbol of wisdom or harbingers of doom and gloom, but children are invited to see for themselves what Harry Potter already knows when RabbitEARS de-creepifies Halloween on October 25. A representative from Native Bird Connections will be at the shop all afternoon to talk about owls, their habitat and mystery. Call 525-6155 for more information.

It Came From Berkeley Makes Kensington Debut

Dave Weinstein, author of the new book, *It Came from Berkeley: How Berkeley Changed the World*, will speak about Berkeley’s social history, and why it matters to the rest of the world, at the Kensington Library at 7 p.m. October 13. He also will show slides. In addition to the new book, Weinstein, of El Cerrito, also wrote the text for *Berkeley Rocks: Building with Nature, and Signature Architects of the San Francisco Bay Area*. For information call 524-3043.

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Stop by The Mechanics Bank Kensington office the week of September 15 to pick up an entry form. Have your child enter our Kid’s Coloring Contest for a chance to **win a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond!** (Details in our Kensington office.)



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Chuck has lived with his family in Kensington for 15 years. He served as the president and a director of the Kensington Education Foundation for nine years, managing its fundraising and wonderful enrichment programs. He is a business attorney and counsels private businesses and not-for-profit organizations. Chuck has served on the KPPCSD finance committee since inception.

Chuck believes that Kensington must retain an **independent** police force, improve its earthquake preparedness program and manage its budget!

Endorsements

- ☒ County Supervisor John Gioia, serving our District One
- ☒ Cindy Kimball, KPPCSD President*
- ☒ Paul Haxo, KPPCSD Director*
- ☒ Pat McLaughlin, KPPCSD Director*
- ☒ Bill Wright, KPPCSD Director*
- ☒ Lynn Wolter, past KPPCSD President*
- ☒ Joan Haber, past President of the Kensington Democratic Club*
- ☒ Carla Javits, executive director – not-for-profit
- ☒ Todd Hodson and Marion Henon, Marvin Gardens Realty*
- ☒ Glen Price, former WCCUSD school board trustee*
- ☒ Val Paola, Kensington Block Captain*
- ☒ David Fike, past President of the KPPCSD*
- ☒ Chris Sorensen, past President of the Kensington Education Foundation*
- ☒ Karen Shebek, Hilltop School Parent*
- ☒ Kathy Stein, Kensington Property Owners Association*

*affiliation listed for reference purposes only

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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Oct. 4 Beginner Internet Series, 10-11 a.m., El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Focus: How to Google or search the web. 526-7512.

Singing Workshop, "Congregational Singing and Listening," 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road. Led by Bryan Baker, designed to offer participants an opportunity to expand their appreciation of music and comfort with singing. Suggested fee \$10. To register, call Martha Helming, 528-3417.

Organ Recital, featuring Sandra Soderlund, 8 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road. Works by Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Franck and Herbert Bielawa. Suggested donation of \$15 general, \$10 for seniors, to benefit the church. Parking is free and plentiful. For directions, visit the church website at www.uucb.org or call 525-0302.

Oct. 5 Special Musical Service, 10 a.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road. Focus will be on music, with the angel blessing, hymn to the New Age, and instrumental and vocal solos. 525-0302, ext. 306, or www.uucb.org.

Blessing of the Animals, 12:30 p.m., terrace of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road. 525-0302, ext. 306, or www.uucb.org.

Tashlikh Service, 10-11 a.m., Emeryville Marina. Bring your own picnic. Especially for children. 428-1492 or www.kolhadash.org.

Oct. 5 Personal Theology Seminar, 10 a.m., with Karen Harris, "Journey to Tibet," Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. 525-0302, ext. 306, or www.uucb.org.

Oct. 6 Knitting Club, 7 p.m., Kensington Library. Beginners welcome. 524-3043.

Youth "World Traditions" Program, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Arlington Community Church, for people ages 7 to

14. This is the second year of weekly interfaith education, fun, community, and worship, continuing each Monday night. Activities will include music, song, dance, art, drama, and stories of community and friendship from many traditions. Learn ritual and spiritual practices and prayers and sacred texts from the great world religions and cultures. 526-9146.

Oct. 7 "Power of Myth in Movies II," a workshop class at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road, led by Richard Stromer, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Stromer will use eight contemporary films to explore mythic themes and archetypal characters: *Big Fish*, *Babette's Feast*, *Places in the Heart*, *The Mission*, *About Schmidt*, *Into the Wild*, *Iris*, and *Chocolat*. Fee is \$40. To register, call Martha Helming 528-3417.

Oct. 8 Yom Kippur Service, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Building, 1325 Portland Ave., Albany. Info at info@kolhadash.org or call 428-1492.

Oct. 11 Town Hall Meeting, a candidates' forum, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Sponsored by the Kensington Improvement Club. Appearing will be candidates for the Kensington Community Services District and the Kensington Fire District.

Plant Sale, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., 131 Ashbury, El Cerrito, sponsored by Berkeley Garden Club. Lots of locally grown plants that are drought-resistant, natives, and succulents. Gardening advice. 524-7296.

Oct. 12 Personal Theology Seminar, 10 a.m., with Barbara Hamilton-Holway, co-minister of Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, on Emily Dickinson, poet of the American Revolution, and *What Does It Mean to be the 'Bride of the Holy Spirit?'* At the church, 1 Lawson Road. 525-0302, ext. 306, or www.uucb.org.

Brunch With the Bands II, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., fundraiser for El Cerrito High

School's Music Program, at Downtown Restaurant, Berkeley. Gourmet brunch buffet to the tunes of El Cerrito High School student musicians. 525-2131 or Chrisswww@aol.com.

Oct. 13 "It Came From Berkeley: How Berkeley Changed the World," author talk at Kensington Library, 7 p.m. David Weinstein will discuss how Kensington's sister city became famous world-wide. 524-3043.

Oct. 15 Kensington Hilltop School International Night, 6 p.m., at the school. Organized by the English Learner Advisory Council, with music, discussion, and potluck. For more information and to volunteer: email crwiedeman@gmail.com.

Oct. 18 Fall Festival, School of the Madeleine, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 1225 Milvia, Berkeley. Food, games and crafts. Free admission. 526-4744.

"Sufi Peacemaking: A New Model of Mediation," 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., a workshop led by Nura Laird and Lynn Hammond in a day of practical and experiential teaching that will transform your life. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road. Suggested fee \$45. To Register call Lynn Hammond, 233-2666.

Annual Dinner, El Cerrito Democratic Club, 6 p.m., Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Speaker is Norman Solomon, with "End of an Error - Beginning of an Era: Achieving Our Goals in a Post-Bush America." Vukani Mawethu, a non-profit, multi-racial choir, will perform. Childcare [See CALENDAR on Page 9]

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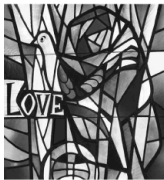


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Leaf Blowers Pollute, Alternatives Available

By LAURIE SWIADON
Contributing Writer

More and more cities are banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. Forty cities in California, including Berkeley and Piedmont, have banned them, and so have more than 300 cities in other states. That’s because they pollute, cause health hazards, and are often more trouble than they’re worth.

Leaf blowers were invented in Japan in the early ‘70s. Ironically, they were introduced to the United States in 1976 to address an environmental problem: drought in California. The City of Los Angeles originally mandated their use to prevent gardeners from using water to clean walks and driveways. But by 1998 anyone there using a gas-powered backpack leaf blower within 500 feet of a residence became subject to a \$270 fine. (Gas-powered units are almost exclusively two-stroke engines and are mostly used by professional landscapers and park staff. Electric leaf blowers are cheaper and quieter and make up the bulk of sales for home use.)

Are leaf blowers necessary? In three tests conducted by the L.A. Department of Water & Power involving gas-powered leaf blowers and battery-powered

leaf blowers, it turned out that a rake and broom wielded by a 50-year-old grandmother were as mighty as leaf blowers. On the other hand, most landscape industry estimates suggest that it takes at least five times as long to clean a typical landscape site with a broom and rake than with a leaf blower.

Damages

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) calculated that hydrocarbon emissions from 30 minutes of gas-powered leaf blower operation equaled about 7,700 miles of driving at 30 mph average speed. Hydrocarbon emissions form ozone – a significant component of smog. The board also found that monoxide emissions were equivalent to about 440 miles of driving. According to the American Lung Association, in the San Francisco Bay Area alone, leaf blowers account for 16 tons a day of smog-forming compounds and carbon monoxide. The same issue applies to gas-powered lawn mowers.

In addition to fuel exhaust, all leaf blowers, whether gas-powered or not, churn up clouds of debris containing animal droppings, lead, pesticides, bacteria, mold spores, pollen, brake dust, and more, spreading these though the air and onto gardens and sidewalks. Blower winds cause stress for plants, including dehydration, burned leaves, and the suspension of photosynthesis and other natural plant functions. Many workers do not wear respiratory gear when operating leaf blowers, an omission that may come with serious health risks considering the levels of allergens, airborne feces and particulates they are breathing in. As for the rest of us, the American Lung Association recommends that “passersby avoid blowers, if possible, especially if they suffer from respiratory problems.”

Biological Urban Gardening Services (BUGS), an international membership organization of primarily professional landscapers, has opposed the use of all leaf blowers for many years for a variety of reasons summarized below.

1. Natural openings in the leaves that allow for the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide are sealed shut.
2. Disease spores laying dormant on the [See LEAF BLOWERS on Page 10]

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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

provided. Space limited. To make a reservation, go to the ECDC website, www.ecdclub.org.

Bunny Adoption Day, 10 a.m., check out dozens of rescued bunnies from Bay Area shelters and get information on how to care, train and love your house rabbit. RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. 525-6155, or www.rabbitears.org.

Beginner Internet Series, 10-11 a.m., “All About E-mail,” El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

Oct. 19 Annual Kensington Parade and Picnic, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Parade participants gather at noon at Amherst and Arlington. For details see the KCC Recreation listings on Page 5. Ice cream social to follow at Arlington Community Church at 2 p.m.

Annual Book Sale, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the parking lot behind the library at 61 Arlington Ave. Sponsored by Friends of the Kensington Library. The “Bag Sale,” when customers can load a bag for one low price, will begin at 2 p.m. 524-3043.

Personal Theology Seminar, 10 a.m., with Bill Hamilton-Holway, co-minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, on “The Roots of the Unitarian Controversy: How Are The History and Issues That Gave Rise to Unitarianism in New England Relevant to Us Today?” 525-0302, ext. 306, or www.uucb.org.

Oct. 20 Guess the Pumpkin’s Weight, Kensington Library. The child closest (without going over) wins the pumpkin. Children through age 12 may enter. Through October 27. 524-3043.

Oct. 21 Garden Talk, 1:45 p.m., Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins, with Emma Connery, master gardener, speaking on “Managing Common Garden Pests.” 524-7296.

Oct. 22 Kensington Area Republican Women’s Club, noon, Mira Vista Country Club, 7901 Cutting Boulevard, El Cerrito, for meeting and lunch. Cost \$20. Reservations must be made by October 19 at 524-5689.

Oct. 23 “Eat at Bill’s: Life in the Monterey Market,” a documentary by Lisa Brenneis, 7 p.m., El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Bill Fujimoto, owner of this unique produce market, will show this documentary about the phenomenon that is the Monterey Market. 526-7512.

Oct. 25 Kensington Symphony, “New Worlds,” 8 p.m., Unitarian-Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road, with Geoffrey Gallegos conducting Narins, Doherty,

and Dvorak. Suggested donation \$15, or \$12 for seniors. 524-9912.

Oct. 25 “Hands-On Class: Make Box Sculpture,” 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., led by Emily Kuenstler, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road. An art history slide show precedes the class to show famous artworks that have used the box or found objects as their basis. Suggested fee of \$45 includes craft materials. To register call Emily at (415) 505-7827.

Spooktacular Small Pet Adoption Festival, 1-5 p.m. De-creepify Halloween by adopting a rat, guinea pig, mouse or hamster by coming for a trick-or-treat goodie bag. Photo op with new pet to raise money for Wild Things rescue fund. 525-6155.

Beginner Internet Series, 10-11 a.m., “Useful Websites,” El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512

Oct. 26 Harvest Celebration, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Kensington Farmers’ Market on Oak View. Pumpkin carving and other activities as well as seasonal produce. 524-5604.

Personal Theology Seminar, 10 a.m., with Sarah Lewis, teacher at New College and Graduate Theological Union, on “The Transcendent Supernatural: a Further Exploration of the Supernatural, Looking at Higher forms of the Supernatural.” 525-0302, ext. 306, or www.uucb.org.

Oct. 27 Book Group, Kensington Library, 7 p.m., Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky. 524-3043.

Oct. 28 Bat Show, 7 p.m., slide show with live bats at the Kensington Community Center. Attendees must be at least 5 years old, and need to have a ticket. Ninety free tickets are available, but must be picked up at the Kensington Library by October 20. Sponsored by Bat Conservation Fund. 524-3043.

Nov. 2 Maybeck Estates Historical Walk, 10 a.m. to noon. Walk will be narrated by Bob Shaner, an original and current homeowner, along Purdue Avenue. Pre-registration required. For more information or to register, call 525-0292. Cost \$10. See Page 5 for more information.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

All meetings are held at Kensington Community Center.

- Oct. 6 Kensington Community Council, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 8 Kensington Fire Protection District, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 9 Kensington Community Services District, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28 Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, 7 p.m.



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Trick-or-Treater Starts ‘Halloween for the Hungry’

Simone Hudson is 14 years old. One year, after a night of trick-or-treating, she got home with a full bag of candy and it dawned on her: What’s the point?

“I thought, why don’t I use this opportunity to help people?” said Hudson, who was born and raised in Kensington and has been a regular on the Halloween circuit.

So last year, she started a project, calling it “Halloween for the Hungry.” In advance of the big night, she sent a letter to her neighbors saying that she would be collecting canned foods instead of candy on the big night. And a bag no longer worked; she needed a shopping cart.

“It worked out really well,” she said. “On Halloween, I went trick-or-treating, rolling a shopping cart through the hills of Kensington.” More than 200 people contributed.

Hudson is continuing her exploits this year, from her house on Kingston near Ardmore, but would like some more help from like-minded trick-or-treaters throughout Kensington. Any kid who is interested in trading in their pursuit of candy for a pursuit of canned goods and food for the



Simone Hudson, 14, started trick-or-treating for the hungry two years ago, and she would like to expand her efforts.

hungry is invited to join her by sending her an e-mail at halloween4thehungry@gmail.com. If you must phone, call the editor at 925-376-5592, and your message will get forwarded. Hudson will coordinate the effort, and help get the goods to a nearby food bank.


Hudson has not yet decided on what she is going to “be” this Halloween. Last year was a tribute to flapper Jean Harlow – complete with a Charleston skirt – so who knows what’s next?

New Manager for Mechanics Bank



Not many bank managers must manage a bank robbery during their first month on the job, but that is what happened to Chris O’Brien, the new manager at Mechanics Bank on Arlington Avenue. O’Brien was working, as usual, when the July 15 robbery occurred. “Everyone did great,” he said of his staff.

O’Brien isn’t new to the bank. He began work on the floor in 1994, and worked his way through the ranks until bank officials sent him to management training last year. In July, he took the helm of the local branch, and lives nearby with his wife. “A lot of people have come by to say, ‘welcome back,’” he said. “It’s a great community.”




Pet of the Month

Meet Amos, a 1-year-old black and white smooth-coated guinea pig with an orange stripe under his eye. Amos has tried many professions in his young life (artist, line cook at Inn Kensington, taxi driver) but just never found his groove until a movie producer spotted him and offered him a part in the forthcoming movie entitled G-Force, about commando guinea pigs working for the government to stop an evil billionaire from taking over the world. Now would be a great time to adopt Amos because after the movie release, he’ll be in big demand and you’ll have to stand in long lines just to get his paw print. Open seven days a week, RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave, phone 525-6155 for future bookings.

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OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22

~SATURDAYS~
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I BELIEVE free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative have brought this nation opportunity, economic growth and prosperity.

I BELIEVE government must practice fiscal responsibility and allow individuals to keep more of the money they earn.

I BELIEVE the proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations and that the best government is that which governs least.

I BELIEVE the most effective, responsible and responsive government is government closest to the people.

I BELIEVE Americans must retain the principles that have made us strong while developing new and innovative ideas to meet the challenges of changing times.

I BELIEVE Americans value and should preserve our national strength and pride while working to extend peace, freedom and human rights throughout the world.

FINALLY, I believe the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government.

Paid for by KENSINGTON AREA REPUBLICAN WOMEN, FED.

◆ LEAF BLOWERS from page 9

soil or fallen debris are blown back onto plants where a little moisture can renew their cycle of infestation and damage.

3. Blowers effectively distribute disease spores, weed seeds and insect eggs throughout the landscape (as well as to neighboring landscapes).

4. A common practice by professional landscapers is to simply blow plant debris off the property and into the street. Vehicular traffic then blows this material onto neighboring landscapes or back onto the freshly blown site. Material is rarely moved into a pile where it can be collected and taken to a compost pile for proper recycling.

5. Blowers deprive flowers, shrubs, and trees of life-giving mulch. Without this natural blanket, erosion, water evaporation and the spread of disease all become problems. Mulch, when not blown away, creates a favorable growing environment for plants and beneficial organisms both above and below ground while adding nutrients to the plants root zone. When mulch is removed to the compost and renewed annually many soil borne diseases are kept to a minimum.

Alternatives

If you’re still going for the leaf blower, limit its use to large jobs only, and use a broom to sweep the patio and sidewalk, and a rake in landscaped areas. Ask your landscaper to rake, sweep or otherwise forgo the use of a blower.

If you’re making a new purchase, ask for the lowest-emission models available. The EPA and CARB began regulating leaf blowers manufactured after the year 2000, so be sure to buy a model that has either the EPA’s or CARB’s certification. Consider purchasing an electric-powered blower that is less polluting and less noisy. They are available at many local garden suppliers, including Home Depot in El Cerrito.

It may also be a good idea to require that your operators have some form of training to alert them to leaf blower issues and the impact of improper use. Some cities have gone so far as to require operators to be certified. Leaf blower noise in cities mandating quiet blowers has been reduced to where it no longer is an irritation. In the meantime, landscapers can perform their work efficiently using clean and quiet state-of-the-art power equipment.

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Montier Bound for South America

A Kensington local is off on an expedition to explore the dense jungles of Guyana in December. Charles Montier, 22, will be going to South America to attempt the first non-motorized descent of the Essequibo River from source to mouth. Throughout the expedition, which is expected to take 3 to 4 months, Montier will be accompanied by two Wai Wai guides, whom he will depend on for survival in a rainforest home to jaguars, anacondas and the goliath spider.

Travelling by open canoe, the team will have to overcome more than 2,000 miles of rapids and waterfalls before reaching the Caribbean coast in the north. Human habitation is scarce, so they plan to live off what they can catch in the river and hunt in the forest, using bows and arrows.

Montier, who came up with idea during a four-week jungle survival course in Guyana last summer, is preparing for his biggest challenge yet.

"I've wanted to undertake a jungle expedition for years," he said. "By going alone and placing my trust in the local Amerindians, I will learn to live much as one of them, using the same survival and hunting techniques that have ensured their continued existence for thousands of years."

Guyana, which was a British colony until 1966, is home to one of the largest outstanding and undisturbed rainforests in



the world. With thousands of square miles of uncharted jungle, its interior holds myths of giant snakes, lost tribes and legends of little people living in the giant silk cotton trees.

The expedition aims to attract enough attention to raise both money and awareness for Conservation International. In 2007, the Wai Wai, who are Guyana's most isolated tribe, worked with the government and Conservation International to declare their land a protected area. However, their traditional livelihood as hunter-gatherers remains threatened by illegal miners, poachers, loggers and narcotics traffickers. Conservation International continues to work closely with the Guyanese government and the Wai Wai to protect their natural environment and way of life.

For more information about the trip, e-mail Montier at charlesmontier@hotmail.com.

Scout Troop Renovates Kiosk

The Kensington Improvement Club has thanked Boy Scout Troop 100 for its work to renovate the notice kiosk at the corner of Amherst and Arlington in front of the drugstore.

Originally designed by Bart Jones, the local architect, the kiosk had become long overdue for work. Thanks to a generous and anonymous donation, the Scouts stepped up and completed the project for the community.

The Kensington Improvement Club would like to remind residents of the rules for the kiosk:

- Post only notices of interest to Kensington.
- Keep it clean: Use only thumbtacks, and not staples, nails, tape or glue.
- The area designed for "Meeting Notices" is reserved for that purpose only.
- Post only one copy of a notice, and do not cover other notices.
- Maximum size is an ordinary piece of paper, 8.5 by 11 inches.
- Notices must be dated. Undated ones will be removed.
- Any notice may be removed at the discretion of the KIC.

Kensington Symphony Comes Home to Begin New Season

After a decade of performing in other venues, the Kensington Symphony Orchestra will return home to open its new season this month, with Geoffrey Gallegos conducting. The first concert, a special program entitled "New Worlds," will be at 8 p.m. Saturday, October 25, at the Unitarian-Universalist Church.

This is the fifth season for Gallegos as music director of the symphony, and he will present two world premiers as well as Antonin Dvorak's beloved Symphony No. 9 in E minor, also known as "From the New World." The KSO, which most recently presented its concerts in El Cerrito, is "coming home" to the Kensington location where it performed in the mid-1990s.

The first world premier on the program is Tony Doherty's Anniversary Overture, a bright, rhythmically energetic piece commissioned by KSO to celebrate its 30th Anniversary season, 2007-2008. Doherty, who has an undergraduate degree in music composition, earned a graduate degree in music history from Princeton University. A Fulbright scholar, he has written chamber and orchestral works, including pieces for the Arlekin String Quartet and the Warsaw Symphony.

KSO member and Associate Conductor Mark Narins composed the next premier on the program, the dramatic and evocative Theresa Kren Suite. Narins' work, a suite from his opera Theresa Kren, is a 16-minute piece for full orchestra with

extra woodwinds and percussion. The opera tells a fictional story inspired by the grave of the actual Theresa Kren, a girl of 7, who died in 1876 and is buried in the Hebrew Cemetery in Graz, Austria. The action takes place on the day of the dedication of Theresa's headstone. Despite the tragic death of the young girl, the opera ends with an expression of hopeful acceptance and willingness to move forward in life.

Mark Narins, the founder and first conductor of City Opera of San Francisco, is not only an accomplished singer himself but also a member of the trombone section of KSO. Trained at the Mannes College of Music and the Eastman School of Music, Narins will conduct his suite on October 25.

Gallegos is also principal conductor of the San Francisco Concerto Orchestra and was recently appointed music director and conductor of the Golden Gate Opera Company. He holds a master's degree with high distinction from the Iowa School of Music.

The Kensington Symphony is comprised of professional musicians and highly accomplished local amateur players. The orchestra gives five concerts a year. The suggested donation for tickets is \$15 for general admission, \$12 seniors, and children are free. The Unitarian-Universalist Church is located at 1 Lawson Road, above Arlington Avenue. For tickets or information, phone 524-9912.

'Kensington Cares' an Ongoing Effort

A meal tree is set up in the front hallway at Hilltop School for local families in need of meals. Many school and other families sometimes need help getting that hot meal on the table, whether it's because of surgery or prescribed bed rest.

Cancer treatments and other family crises can wreak havoc on family traditions, including having home-cooked meals, eaten together as a family. The

meal tree is one way of making it easier on families who want to continue the tradition but have cause to forgo the stove. There are families in the community in need of our support.

Beth Thomsen, the chairman of Kensington Cares, is coordinating the effort to get meals to them. Contact her at jthomsen@aol.com to volunteer or to get more information.

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From the case files of the KPD

This report is based on the many reports in the police logs of the Kensington Police Department. The Outlook is responsible for its writing and editing.

Events of August 2008

■ A cherry bomb slid through the mail slot into a garage on Stanford Avenue, but burned out and didn’t detonate.

■ More graffiti at the park!

■ The sound of fireworks was heard on Highland Boulevard, and it had nothing to do with love.

■ Keep your voices down: Police were unable to find the people talking loudly reported to be doing so on Arlington Avenue

■ Creak: An open door on Beloit Avenue had to be closed.

■ Officer Martinez was summoned to Amherst Avenue, but alas, couldn’t find any noise.

■ A verbal dispute between husband and wife on an avenue not to be named – there could be so many, after all – was put into perspective at this writing by the recent reading of *The Shack*, by a guy named Young, a religious book read to keep up with popular culture (*New York Times* best-seller list.) Domestic arguments just don’t seem to be worth it, after that read.

■ Hawaii Five-O sounds (drums) heard on Ardmore Avenue.

■ Watch out for that mail: scam letter received on Kingston Road.

■ A homeless person was stopped and questioned on Highland Boulevard.

■ Probably not a great idea to leave electronics in the car, because a bunch were taken from one on Ocean View Avenue.

■ Everyone loses his or her keys once in a while. But when you lose them in the middle of Arlington Avenue? Good luck.

■ As usual, lots of false alarms.

■ This is taken directly from the police log for a home on Stanford Ave.: “Person reading Bible in front of home. No crime.”

■ So we’re just going to forget about the false alarms, because there are more.

■ Police towed a car on Purdue because its driver has a suspended license.

■ What did we say about false alarms? Oh, yeah, promise, that’s it.

■ Residents on Highgate Road became irritated that someone was going through the recycling at the curb.

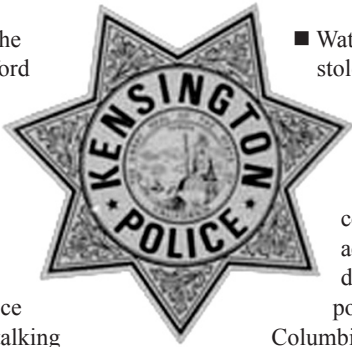
■ Glass broke loudly on Coventry Road, but police couldn’t find the cause.

■ Police helped out El Cerrito police when one of their suspects ran, fast, on Colusa.

■ An expired registration led to the towing of a car on Black Lake Drive.

■ Someone who had one too many promptly received a DUI on Arlington.

■ A water leak on Edwin Drive was referred to EBMUD. We wonder if this will put that bill into the penalty phase because of the drought.



■ Watch those laptops: One was stolen on Ocean View Avenue.

Given the electronics stolen from a car on the same street, could there be a connection?

■ You know you live in a great community when, after you accidentally leave the garage door open, someone calls the police. That’s what happened on Columbia Avenue.

■ Hit and run, Arlington Avenue.

■ Abandoned chairs on Highgate Avenue – literally on the street – were rescued before anything got hurt or lost a leg.

■ Someone on Highgate Avenue decided to call the police before answering a door to strangers.

■ And then again, someone on Rugby Avenue called when someone was actually trying to break in.

■ Yes, keys are indeed essential, but the police didn’t need them to help someone back into their house on Columbia Avenue.

■ A resident on Anson Way got advice on keeping a home secure. Those guys (and gals) in black are always glad to help.

■ Even the school had a false alarm. (Oh, we weren’t going to put those in any more.)

■ Someone lost their car to a thief on Arlington Avenue.

■ It used to be, “don’t forget to call your parents.” Now it’s “don’t forget to call your children.” Or else your son or daughter might sic the police on you, which happened on Avon Road. We can only hope the parents are shaping up.

■ A suspicious vehicle turned out to belong to gardeners at Avon Road and Camelot Court.

■ Burglars went through a home on Grizzly Peak Boulevard.

■ A great-grandson had the police check on his great-grandmother on Highgate Court, and it’s grand that all was OK.

■ Finally, not a hit and run but a hit and report it, which is what a driver did on Coventry Road after backing into a car trailer.

■ “Suspicious event” evidently includes finding a fire alarm in the garbage.

■ Some people just can’t win: Residents called about excessive noise when EBMUD came out to fix a water line break on Kingston Road.

■ Not included in this report are the unfortunate circumstances of medical emergencies, of which there are many. Don’t forget to hug those you love.

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