



— Bringing The Community Together —

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

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OCTOBER 2012

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VOLUME 69 NUMBER 8



Pumpkin Party October 21st! *Marvin Gardens Real Estate partners – and big Kensington boosters – Ron Egberman, Marion Henon, and Todd Hodson, and friends, at 2009's Fall Festival.*

KCC Fall Festival and Parade 10/21

As has been the tradition for so many years in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council will be holding the annual Parade and Picnic on October 21st from Noon to 3:30 p.m. As a token of appreciation of years of service to our community, the Grand Marshals will be Joan Gallegos and Gretchen Gillfillan.

The parade participants will gather at the ACE Hardware parking lot at Amherst and Arlington at 11:30am. After a quick march down the Arlington to the Community Center, the party will begin in earnest! As usual, local organizations and groups are invited to participate in the parade. Wear your Halloween costume and join the crowd as the parade makes its way down the Arlington to the Community Center.

Then, stay for live music by the Portola Jazz Band, led by Tiffany Carrico, and a delicious lunch. They will be followed by a coloring contest and pumpkin-decorating event for the children and more live music for the adults.

Tickets for the BBQ lunch can be purchased on site for sausage, hamburger, hot dog, or vegetarian burger lunches. If your organization is interested in participating in the parade please contact Marty Westby at 525-0292.

KPPCSD Board Candidates – The Interviews

This November's election has the potential to be a watershed for such issues as the maintenance of an independent police force, the retention of our Chief of Police, and the continued contracting with – and level of remuneration for – our waste management company. It could also be viewed as a referendum on transparency in government – and the definition of that term; the application of traffic laws, the role of the press in politics, appropriate curbs on freedom of speech, and the personalization of politics that has infected our community.

Two seats on the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, our primary governing body, are in play. The candidates who fill those seats will participate in making the decisions – and setting the tone of public

discourse – for four years, and beyond.

Excerpts of candidate interviews conducted in early September follow, edited for length and clarity. For a more complete picture, please see expanded versions of these interviews at www.KensingtonOutlook.com.

• **CHUCK TOOMBS** was elected to the KPPCSD Board in Nov. of 2008, served as VP starting in Dec. 2008, and has served as President since summer, 2009.

Accomplishments of the Board during your term of which you're most proud? 1. Passing Measure G; 2. Keeping the budget as balanced as possible; 3. Creation and approval

see Election, Page 5...

see Parade, Page 12...

Expanded Versions of the KPPCSD Candidate Interviews

Expanded versions of the interviews published in the October 2012 print edition of the *Outlook*, along with the Police Report, are appended to this document, following page 13. (The interview excerpts also appear, as published in the print edition, beginning on page 1, above.)

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Hey Kids! Come pick up your pumpkin after October 2nd while supplies last! \$2.00 donation for UNICEF is requested per pumpkin.

And then enter our Jack-o'Lantern contest. Bring your decorated or carved pumpkin to the Kensington Park after the Parade October 21st! For details, call us at 524.0800, or stop by at 289 Arlington Avenue.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Why I'll Vote for Pat Gillette and Chuck Toombs'

The KPPCSD Board is charged with governing our community's police, recreation, and garbage services. When the Board governs wisely and well, all Kensington residents reap the benefits: A police department that responds quickly and competently; a recreation program that provides challenging and enjoyable programs for children and adults alike; a safe and well-maintained park; garbage collection rates that are reasonable and fair.

Patricia Gillette and Chuck Toombs are devoted to keeping Kensington's police department strong and locally managed.

Patricia Gillette and Chuck Toombs understand the fiduciary obligations of Board Directors. When taxpayer dollars are at stake, they have the fortitude to make difficult decisions.

Patricia Gillette and Chuck Toombs work in a collegial manner, respecting the opinions of other Board and community members.

Patricia Gillette and Chuck Toombs are both very honest and hard working. They study the issues and attend committee meetings. They have the experience and background to evaluate and analyze the issues facing our community. They are thoughtful problem solvers with proven track records.

Please join me this November in securing the future of Kensington's community services by voting for Chuck Toombs and Patricia Gillette for the KPPCSD.

John Stein
Past Director, KPPCSD
Beverly Rd.

Accounting Procedures
a 'Cookie Jar'

Dear Editor,

I am Professor Emeritus in Ecosystem Science at the University of California at Berkeley, and a 25-year resident of Kensington. I largely avoided politics at the University and in Kensington despite the fact that I was seeing both institutions in decline due to maladministration and cronyism. However, after attending a few meetings in Kensington, and observing the rude gaveling-down of Board members Kosel and Metcalf when asking public interest questions, I decided to get involved.

The current board has no viable fiscal plan, the accounting procedure for fiscal and crime statistics are cookie jar in sophistication, and the oversight of the inherent conflict of interest of a combined Police Chief/Manager position is lax, and of course there is the question of high salaries and pension liabilities, etc. Kensington is not immune to the downturn in the economy, because if CalPERS revenues continue to falter (<http://www.calwatch-dog.com/2011/07/22/20570/>), we may end up paying for the police and fire pensions.

We need to reelect Cathie Kosel and elect Jim Hausken if the situation in Kensington is to be turned around. The alternative is to see more ballot initiatives to fund

maladministration. We need change – the group that has controlled Kensington for 20 years or more needs to be voted out of office.

Andrew Paul Gutierrez
Professor Emeritus IX

Garbage: Does Kensington Pay too Much?

Kensington's garbage contract is managed by Chief of Police/General Manager, Greg Harman. Every fourth year, a consultant who specializes in setting garbage rates evaluates the hauler's costs and recommends a rate increase that is in line with the hauler's legitimate costs. Under the current contract, the consultant's recommended rate must allow the hauler to make a 12% profit.

During the 15 years I've been observing these rate reviews as Supervisor John Gioia's appointed representative on the Kensington-Contra Costa County Solid Waste Coordinating Committee, the consultant's recommendation has invariably been adopted by the KPPCSD board. For each of the three years between rate reviews, the hauler is allowed to increase his rates in accordance with the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index.

As a result of the District's careful contract management, Kensington households pay garbage rates that are both reasonable and fair. Kensington rates are NOT the lowest in the County. Neither are they the highest in the County. Kensington garbage rates are somewhere in the middle of a field where comparisons are not so simple as you might think.

For example, many communities charge an extra \$9 to \$10 fee for backyard service. This extra service is available for anyone who cannot or chooses not to bring trash cans to the sidewalk on pick-up day. In Kensington, however, we ALL pay for backyard service – regardless of whether we need it, use it, or want it. This makes our garbage rates higher than that of many other communities.

Some communities with especially steep or narrow streets charge an extra fee to the residents of "difficult access" areas. No one in Kensington currently pays a "difficult access" fee. Some communities have unlimited greenwaste. Others charge for greenwaste in excess of the standard container size. Nearly all haulers today provide trash, recycling, and greenwaste carts. Kensington's hauler does NOT provide such carts. Some haulers collect food scraps; many do NOT.

With all these variables, the most reliable test of rates occurs every fourth year when the hauler's operating costs are independently evaluated by a qualified solid waste rate analyst. This process ensures that Kensington's garbage rates are reasonable and fair.

Kathy Stein
Beverly Rd.

Toombs' Performance;
Kosel's Record

I concur with those that believe Director Chuck Toombs has done an admirable job balancing the budget and building a good police force, particularly given the voting record and positions of Director Kosel. And to those who suggest new membership on the board allow me to suggest Pat Gillette – a well-respected community leader – in place of Ms. Kosel. In the last 4 years Ms. Kosel has opposed Measure G (to fully fund police), stormed out of a closed board session on the chief's performance evaluation, opposed the exten-

See Letters, Page 7...

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

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Kensington Community Council’s After-School Enrichment Program (KASEP) offers a wide variety of children’s classes for kindergarten through sixth grades. Classes are kept small so that our talented instructors can focus on each student, giving individual, as well as group instruction.



Fall KASEP classes started Monday, September 24th, and end Friday, December 14th. Winter KASEP Registration is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28th. To view a current list of classes and schedule, go to www.AboutKensington.com.

NEW KIDS’ CLASSES



New! **BANDWORKS** Classes a Part of KCC After-School Program

Fourteen years ago, musicians Steve Gibson and Jeremy Steinkoler founded *BandWorks*, an institution that has since helped countless kids, teens, and adults from San Rafael to San Jose live out their dreams of playing their favorite songs to audiences outside their own living rooms. Since *BandWorks*’ initial sessions in a single room in Berkeley, the program has expanded to 4 recording studios, 14 summer camp locations, and 15 after-school programs around the Bay Area.

KCC is very excited having *BandWorks* as part of its after-school class offerings. This first session runs until December 14th. Winter classes start in January. You can register for winter session by calling 843-2263. *BandWorks*, *School of Rock* teaches classes to students, grades 3rd thru 6th on electric guitar, keyboard, and drums.

BandWorks’ students learn music by making music. They start playing on the first day of the session by learning to listen with a critical ear, then improve as individual musicians and as a band. Each musician has an opportunity to expand his or her musical potential while having fun playing with other musicians.

KCC’S FALL PARADE AND PICNIC – OCT. 21ST

Join us for the KCC Fall Parade and picnic on Sunday, Oct. 21st noon-3:30pm. If your group is interested in marching in the parade, call the KCC office at 525-0292. Parade leaves downtown Kensington – follow the marching Boy Scouts, and walk to the community center for a BBQ picnic. Food tickets sold day of the event at the community center. Kid friendly activities – pumpkin decorating, live music, family affair!

ADULT RECREATION CLASSES

ACRYLIC PAINTING
Wednesdays, 9:45am - 1:30pm
\$32/month (\$36/nonresidents)
Community Center

Bring your paints, easel, canvas, and creativity to this experienced group of artists. These artists are supportive and provide community and conversation around art. To join this informal yet professional group of artists, call Stan at 533-3003.



Stan Cohen’s Wednesday Artists

MAYBECK ESTATES Historical Walk
Saturday, November 3rd
10am - 12 noon • Admission \$15
Starts at: Kenyon and Grizzly Peak Bl.



Walking tour of Bernard Maybeck Estates on Purdue Avenue returns with noted historical walk leader, Paul Grunland. On this walk Paul

will share some history of the Maybeck family and of Bernard Maybeck, renowned architect of the arts and crafts style. Original and current home owner, Bob Shaner, will share personal experiences of building his own home and working with the Maybecks.

Paul’s book, *The Maybeck Estate Historic Walk*, available for \$15 at the hike. Reservations at 525-0292. (Max 30.) Parking is limited – carpooling encouraged.

JAZZERCISE Offers New Class!
Starting on Monday, October 1st, Kevin Knickerbocker will offer Low Impact Jazzercise classes at 8:15am every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Kensington Community Center! Burn up to 600 calories in one fun and powerfully effective 60-minute total body workout.

Jazzercise instructor, Kevin Knickerbocker, has added this class to accommodate new participants and to provide current participants with a greater choice of convenient class times. The 60-minute Jazzercise class includes a warm-up, high-energy aerobic routines, muscle toning and cool-down stretch segment. Choreographed to today’s hottest music, Jazzercise is a fusion of jazz, resistance training, Pilates, yoga and kickboxing. Drop-ins, pay as you go, and monthly electronic funds transfer are available payment schemes. Join Kevin, bring water and your mat. *Check it out!*

REGISTRATION

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Building E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. E-mail: kccrec@yahoo.com. Telephone: 510-525-0292.

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

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




Kevin Knickerbocker leads Low Impact Jazzercise for Adults Now on Mon-Wed-Fri mornings

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Market Update

246 Amherst Avenue, Kensington



Classic Spanish design (c.1926), this home has been carefully restored without compromising the beauty of its original architecture. Featuring the best of today's amenities. Four bedrooms, four baths includes deluxe guest quarters, splendid Bay views and prime location. Located close to Kensington Village. Offered at \$1,395,000

208 Columbia Avenue, Kensington



SOLD: A simply beautiful Bee Renovated transformation with four bedrooms, three baths and an awe inspiring Bay view. Sold over the list price in eight days. Originally offered at \$998,000

Market Snapshot - From July 1 to date

•6 Available Listings •Average List Price: \$416. per. sq. ft. •Average days on the market: 46

•8 Pending •Average List Price: \$366.95 per sq. ft. •Average days on the market: 17

•11 Sold •Average List Price: \$401. per. sq. ft. •Average Sales Price: \$425. per. sq. ft. •Average days on the market: 21

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Neighborhood Notes

Books Books Books

Don't miss the *Friends of the Kensington Library* Book Sale, Sunday, October 21st, 11am-4pm in the library parking lot. \$3 for all the books you can get in a bag, from 2-4pm.

Path Repair Completed

After a nearly ten-year citizen effort, the roadway storm drain under Path #8 has been fixed and no longer threatens homes or the path itself. Stege Sanitary and the County have completed their work. The path can be explored from the intersection of Kenyon and Westminster. Please be respectful of the neighbor's privacy here: the long-term goal is to install screening for those neighbors who prefer the closed look. Ideas for plantings or improvements to make this path shine are welcome! Thanks to Rex at Stege Sanitary, to Julie Buren at the County, Police Chief Harman, to Supervisor Gioia and Kate Rauch, and all who helped move this project to completion. It took a village to pull this path back from the brink.

All Creatures Great and Small – October 6

Kensington will *Celebrate All Creatures Great and Small* at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Sponsored by the Arlington Community Church, UCC – with special thanks to volunteers, Katie Gluck and Masako Mizoguchi – the public is invited to bring all pets for a blessing by the Rev. Dr. Tony Clark, D.V.M., M. Div. Rescue organizations will have animals on display for adoption and ABC Dog Training will demonstrate behavior training. Low cost inoculations, microchips for dogs and cats, and county pet registration amnesty grants will also be available. If you're lucky – and have a carrot – Stetson the Kissing Horse might even give you a kiss! Info at 526-9146 or acc.staff@sbcglobal.net.



Threat Level Orange Returns to Circus Pub 10/13

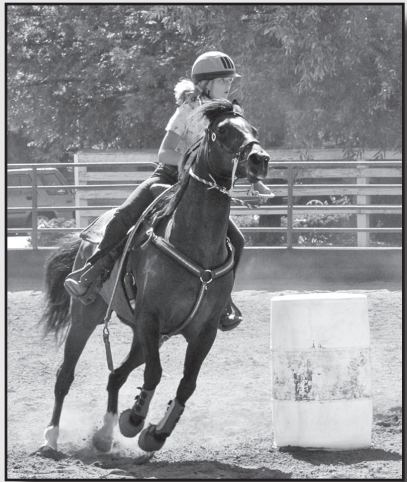
After its Summer World Tour 2012 (Orinda - Healdsburg - Berkeley), TLO is headed back home to its favorite venue. Lead guitarist, Bill Wright (former lead singer with KPPCSD) says, "Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 13th – 8pm. I've already checked; absolutely nothing else is happening that night."

Blue Commendation for Reserve Officer Foley

On Thursday, July 26th, off-duty Reserve Police Officer Ted Foley noticed a crying woman trying to flag down drivers on Castro Street in Point Richmond. He stopped and asked if she was alright. She pointed to a man crushed underneath a nearby pickup truck. The officer called for assistance from passersby and together they lifted the truck off the man and pulled him to safety. The officer contacted dispatch and provided emergency first aid to the victim until paramedics arrived on the scene. He then translated for the Spanish speaking victim. Officer Foley is to be commended for his initiative, training, dedication to duty, and the actions he took that led to the rescue of a seriously injured person. *Good work, Officer Foley!*

'Neigh'-bors Say Sofie's Got Horse Sense, Mainly

Barbara Brasfield has great news to share this month about her granddaughter. Sofie ten Brek and her horse, Bridges, worked hard all spring and summer performing *Gymkhana* at shows, and have now qualified for the right to compete at the 2012 CSHA Show of Champions, in October. (Gymkhana is a single horse and rider event which scores horse and rider through timed courses around barrels and poles.) Qualified competitors compete for the coveted California State Horseman's Association State Champion title and buckle. *Giddyup, Sofie!*



Logo Contest Winner

Sharp-eyed Kensington Resident, Micah Leibowitz, wins his own copy of *Kensington, Past and Present*, provided through the good graces of – and soon to be published by – the Kensington Improvement Club. Micah was one of only two Kensingtonians to correctly identify the location of our new lighthouse/lookout logo – photographed right here in Kensington, at the corner of Cowper and Arlington Avenues – on the grounds of Don Tieck and Linda Searls' home. (Curiously, Micah was the only contestant willing to reveal his name!) Congrats to Micah, and thanks to Don and Linda for sharing with the *Outlook* – and all of us here in town – their miniature landmark – now writ large – that so quaintly embodies our picturesque little corner of the world overlooking the bay. *And let's all continue to keep our eyes on the road when we go around that corner!*

...Election, from Page 1

of a resource assessment of the park buildings to determine the highest and best use of the buildings; 4. Negotiation of a fair and (fiscally responsible) contract with the police officers; 5. Increasing traffic safety. I'm quite proud of the zero tolerance policy.

Your top three priorities for another term? I have four: 1. To work with the officers on a new, sustainable, and fair contract; 2. Acquisition of the paths and renovation of park buildings; 3. Finding a reasonable accommodation on the garbage rates and preparing a new request for proposal for a new contract – and possibly a new contractor – beginning 2015; 4. Neighbors want to see power lines undergrounded and the Blakemount Slide area stabilized.

Why should Kensingtonians vote for you? I have proven management, the leadership skills, and the vision to accomplish the tasks that I believe a majority of this community wants to see happen. I go to every meeting I'm scheduled for. If you aren't prepared to attend the meetings – board and committee alike, and to take on a variety of public responsibilities in service to the community beyond your own personal agenda, you shouldn't have this job.

There have been complaints that you've infringed on the free speech rights of two of the Board directors, by gaveling them down and refusing to let them speak. Your response? I have the utmost respect for the First Amendment, but there are limits to it. The two directors (brought) up the contents of the personnel file of the COP, which are confidential under Calif. law. That privacy right trumps the right of directors to speak publicly about such matters.

Some residents are concerned that there has been too much dithering about decisions on the board, too many consultants hired, and not enough action – for instance, on the remodel of the community center. What do you say to those critics? We can't make intelligent decisions about what needs to be done with our assets and resources without the opinions of experts...it's not a question of dithering, it's a question of responsible stewardship.

Any truth to the rumor that you are spearheading a suit against Bay View Refuse? I am not spearheading any litigation against Bay View Refuse. BVR demanded arbitration and is leading the charge for legal action...They had failed to meet the contractual requirements for a rate increase in 2011 after we had just granted them a rate increase effective 1/1/2010. They asked for a COL increase that we granted in (late) 2011– 3.9% over the prior 2 years. In early 2012, they also asked us if we would do a rate review, equally share the cost and agree to abide by it. We said we'd be happy to consider that, and directed our lawyers to meet with them to work out the details, but...told them we didn't want them to ask for further rate increases unless (contractually) allowed. They rejected our offer, demanded retroactive rate increases of \$60K denied to them in 2011, and demanded the right to seek (add'l) rate reviews without any conditions.

Did the agency that did the traffic review recommend a zero tolerance policy for all of Kensington, or was that a unilateral action on the part of the Chief of Police? I think they made a recommendation on zero tolerance for a specific intersection, but the Board decided to expand the policy community-wide after hearing the concerns of our residents. The best way to control traffic safety is to ticket traffic scofflaws. We told the police officers...we want them to enforce the traffic laws as written – a unanimous Board decision.

On what District committees have you served during your time on the Board?

How many meetings have you missed? I serve as the Finance Committee chair and the chair of the Parks Bldg. Committee. I also attend the bulk of the Kensington Public Safety Committee meetings, and I served on the POA negotiating committee. I missed one or two public safety committee meetings, but I usually arranged for (a sub). I've attended virtually every other meeting, to the best of my recollection.

In the course of a Board meeting, have you ever suggested to a Kensington resident that he or she "get some medication?" Absolutely not. I know another board member did make such a slur to a resident and I find it incredibly disrespectful and shameful; I was embarrassed for her.

Anything else you'd like to add? This election is about what kind of management and leadership the community wants. We owe our citizenship the best possible leadership and respect for the law that we can give. If we can't do that we don't belong in public office.

• **CATHIE KOSEL has been a KPPCSD Director since January, 2009.**

Of what accomplishments of the Board during your term are you most proud? 1. Transparency. Toombs likes to stamp everything "confidential." It took a year and a half and a threatened lawsuit to force the District to reveal the employee compensation schedule. All public agencies must report to the people what their employees are being paid; 2. Encouraging dialogue regarding how the people's money is being spent; 3. I was the primary advocate for the park restroom.

Top three priorities if you are reelected? Transparency. Accountability. Doing the people's business in public, not behind closed doors.

You were selected by the KPPCSD Board to head the Solid Waste Committee. How many meetings have you attended?...The meetings were scheduled during my work hours so that I could not attend. (According to the GM, meetings were held at 10am. Dir. Kosel said that conflicted with her schedule and asked to meet at 2pm; after she missed three 2pm meetings in a row, meetings were changed back – Ed.)

When did you join the Kensington Park Building Committee?...How many meetings have you attended? I did not join it. I attended as a non-member. (Board President, Chuck Toombs says he appointed Dir. Kosel to the ad-hoc committee for the Annex, which morphed into the Kensington Park Building Committee. She is listed as an absent committee member in the minutes of the 8/9/10 mtg, and also in notes taken by John Stein at the 5/5/11 and 6/15/11 committee meetings. – Ed.)

How do you handle Board decisions with which you disagree?...You'd have to give me a specific example. As stated this question is too broad.

You've lobbied consistently for the hiring of a female police officer. Doesn't that fly in the face of laws prohibiting the consideration of gender in hiring? Don't be silly! We need a woman on the force...Modern police departments need female officers for many reasons, including avoidance of liability issues that can arise when a female suspect is frisked by a male officer...(See the online interview for a description of how this is handled currently. – Ed)

While running for the KPPCSD Board in 2008, you said you supported an independent Police Dept. This year, an informed source states, you told a Contra Costa Times reporter that you advocate contracting out with El Cerrito for police services. Could you clarify your position? Your informed sources are not informed. I support an independent police department.

see Election, Page 8...

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Kensington Election 2012

(Police Protection and Community Services District)

ON NOV. 6 VOTE FOR CHUCK TOOMBS AND PATRICIA GILLETTE

Community Leaders agree: *“The two most qualified candidates for the Board.”*

*Kensington deserves to have **qualified** Board Directors whose professional experience and **local** commitment reflect the values of our community. The past four years have shown us that qualifications for office do matter a great deal. Chuck and Patricia have those qualifications—AND—these are the **only** two candidates who campaigned for funding to sustain our local police department.*



About Chuck Toombs *(current Board President)*

Chuck is a practicing attorney working with commercial and non-profit clients, holds a JD from USF School of Law and a Masters of Law, Taxation from NYU.

In addition to serving as the current Board President, Chuck has served as chair of the finance committee and chair of the District Park Buildings Committee. During this time the District has returned to a fiscal surplus, negotiated a fair police labor contract passed unanimously by the Board, developed a master plan to renovate park buildings, passed a parcel measure to maintain police services and rejected premature proposals to increase residents garbage rates.

Chuck served as president of the Kensington Education Foundation and was a board member of the Kensington Community Council. He and his family have lived in Kensington for 19 years. Chuck has been endorsed for re-election by our Contra Costa County Supervisor, John Gioia.

About Patricia Gillette *(current Board Candidate)*

Patricia is a practicing attorney focusing on labor and employment. She is co-chair of the SF Bar Association’s NO GLASS CEILING INITIATIVE, is a national leader in increasing recruitment and retention of women in law firms and has served on numerous non-profit board and advisory committees. Patricia holds a JD from USF School of Law.

In Kensington, Patricia was a key leader in the successful passage of Measure G, thereby ensuring that local police services would continue to operate at existing levels of service.

Previously, Patricia was a member of the Kensington Education Foundation running the Hilltop School Carnival and helping lead the Garden Party. Patricia and her family have lived in Kensington for 34 years. Patricia has been endorsed by our Assemblymember for this district, Nancy Skinner.

Kensington community leaders endorse Chuck Toombs and Patricia Gillette.

Nancy Skinner, *State Assemblymember (D) 14th District (Kensington, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Richmond)*
Esther Hill, *Past President, Friends of Kensington Library & Kensington Education Foundation*

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Board Members

Pat McLaughlin, <i>Past President</i>	Bill Wright, <i>Past President</i>
Joan Gallegos, <i>Past President</i>	Tony Lloyd, <i>Current Vice President</i>
Paul Haxo, <i>Past President</i>	Linda Lipscomb, <i>Current Director</i>
Bruce Morrow, <i>Past President</i>	John Stein, <i>Former Director</i>
John Ream, <i>Past President</i>	

Other Kensington Residents

Mary Abraham, <i>Former Director, KCC</i>	Anne & Jon Forrest	Mary Olivella, <i>Former Kensington Hilltop Site Council</i>
Michael Abraham, <i>Former Member, KMAC</i>	Jan Forsberg	Lorraine Osmundson, <i>Director, KIC</i>
Dee Andronico	Gretchen Gillfillan, <i>Past President FKL, Director, KIC</i>	Rodney & Sarah Paul
Betty Barraza, <i>Past President, Hilltop PTA</i>	Walter Gillfillan	Glen Price, <i>Former Trustee, WCCUSD</i>
Ray Barraza, <i>Past Chair, KMAC</i>	Katie Gluck	John Price, <i>Past President, KEF</i>
Gordon Becker, <i>Former Member, KMAC</i>	David Goldstein	Lynn Price
Mark & Cara Bell	Tom & Diane Gould	Renee Ream
Terry Bennett	Jack & Peggy Griffith	Andrew Reed
Wendy Bergman, <i>Past President, KCC</i>	Joan Haber	Kay Reed, <i>Former Member, KMAC</i>
Ted Blanckenburg, <i>Past President, KCC</i>	Julie Hanamura	Jaima Roberts, <i>Director, KIC</i>
Caroline, Emily & Rosie Blanckenburg	Dennis Hartigan-O’Conner, <i>Co-President, KEF</i>	Gillian Ross
Jean Brown, <i>Past President, FKL & El Cerrito Democratic Club</i>	Judy Hardin, <i>Rabbit Ears</i>	Myles Schaller
Arlene Burbank	Nina Harmon, <i>Past President & Current Director, KFPD</i>	Patrick Schlesinger
Scott Burbank, <i>Former Director, KCC</i>	Anna-Maria Hertzner	Rudolf Schmid
Italo & Suzanne Calpestri	David Hertzner, <i>Former Director, KIC</i>	Laurie Schumacher
Chas & Chris Cardall	Janet Hittle, <i>Director, KIC</i>	Tim Snyder
Lisa Caronna	Todd Hodson	Chris Sorensen, <i>Past President, KEF</i>
Elena Caruthers, <i>Member, Finance Committee, KPPCSD</i>	Melissa Holmes-Snyder, <i>President, KIC; Member, KMAC</i>	Mary Jo Starkey
Robert & Jenny Chang	Helen Horowitz, <i>Former Administrator, KCC</i>	Kathy Stein, <i>Past President, KCC</i>
June & Earl Cheit	Irwin Horowitz	Jan Stensland
Mark Choi	Mollie Katzen	Becky and Eric Stephens
Vanessa Cordova, <i>KMAC Member</i>	Howard & Carol Kirk, <i>Former Directors, KCC</i>	Gayle Shortridge Tapscott
Gesine & Russ Cotteral	Mary Kirk	Cathy Travlos
Tom Dean	Anthony Knight, <i>Past President & Current Director, KIC</i>	Eileen Van Heut
Ed Detmer, <i>Former Member, KMAC</i>	Eileen Kramer	Richard Waxman
Burt & Ruth Dorman	Ernie & Jeannie Lageson, <i>Former Directors, KCC</i>	Betty Webster, <i>Director, KIC</i>
Paul & Vida Dorroh	Gloria Morrison, <i>Former Director KFPD; Former Director, KCC</i>	Marty & Bob Westby
Diane Egelston	Glenn Morrison	
Ron Eggherman, <i>Former Director, KFPD</i>	John Norcross	
Betty Ann Engel	Dan & Lynn O’Brien	
Anne & John Erdman		
David & Carolyn Day Flowers		

Also endorsed by:
Kensington Police Officers Association
Kensington Improvement Club

KPPCSD = Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District; KCC = Kensington Community Council; KEF = Kensington Education Foundation; KIC = Kensington Improvement Club; KFPD = Kensington Fire Protection District; KMAC = Kensington Municipal Advisory Council; FKL = Friends of Kensington Library; WCCUSD = West Contra Costa Unified School District
Partial List. Titles are for identification purposes only and do not imply organizational endorsement.

Paid for by Kensington Residents for Chuck Toombs and Patricia Gillette for Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District 2012 • FPPC #1348444

You can Vote for two directors. Please Vote for both Chuck and Patricia.

...*Letters, from Page 2*

sion of the chief’s contract, opposed the chief’s first raise in pay since 2008, that brought him up to a competitive wage, voted for the police officers’ association’s contract and then repeatedly disavowed it, abstained from accepting the master plan for the park buildings, and supported the garbage carrier’s attempt to break his contract with the District. These actions have cost the people of Kensington much in time and treasure. I am very grateful to Director Toombs and urge Kensingtonians interested in collaboration and good governance to vote him and Pat Gillette onto the KPPCSD board in November.

Andrew Reed

Kim Zvik Runs For KPPCSD Board

Dear Voters,

Thank you to 800+ of you who voted for me in 2010. I am back again and excited to be running this year! While it may be more difficult because there are 2 incumbents, I am not deterred.

The reason I believe we should have 2 new people is that:

- The incumbents have been locked in an active fight since before the 2010 election;
- They have had ample time to solve their differences and work together to lead our community;
- We cannot have a divided community where we doubt the efficacy of our police department.

For the past 2 years, I have served on KMAC helping advise the county on variance issues in our community. I am

impressed at how well we work together. Coupled with my work in Information Technology, parenting of 4 children, and active Hilltop Garden Party cashier manager, I would bring a unique set of skills and diversity to the board.

If elected, I would:

- Immediately seek to resolve the differences on the board, engaging a conflict resolution expert if needed;
- Enable KASEP parents to register on line to boost enrollment and revenue from this after school program;
- Work with the KIC to upgrade their accounting practices so we can work together on the community center master plan with open communication.

If you would like to get to know me better, I am happy to meet you and answer any questions you might have. I will also attending a candidate forum Saturday, September 22nd at 9:30am at the Kensington Community Center.

Vote Kim 4 Kensington Police Protection Community Services District (KPPCSD) November 6!

Thank you your support,
Kim Zvik
www.kim4kensington.com

Tolerating the ‘Zero Tolerance’ Policy

To the Editor:

The Kensington Police Department’s “Zero Tolerance” policy regarding traffic infringements was called “social engineering” by Anna Shane in the last issue of the *Outlook*. She advocated relaxing this enforcement and using more discretion in issuing tickets.

I must disagree. As a resident who lives near the Colusa Circle, I see numerous

instances each week of drivers who do not obey our stop signs or respect the pedestrian crosswalks. I have had several close calls as a pedestrian and can only believe that children walking on the Circle are at even greater risk. As Daylight Savings Time approaches, the chance that inattentive drivers will cause a serious accident with a pedestrian is very real.

I see no reason why drivers in Kensington should not be expected to obey all traffic laws 100 percent of the time. I brought these concerns to KPPCSD President Chuck Toombs two years ago, and he arranged for Police Chief Greg Harman to meet with me and other Colusa Circle residents to discuss this. Our reaction to the Zero Tolerance policy was, and remains, very enthusiastic.

I am grateful to Chuck for addressing our concerns about traffic safety and supporting the policy. It’s one of many reasons I favor his re-election and also enthusiastically endorse Pat Gillette.

Rodney Paul

Jim Hausken Runs For KPPCSD Board

I want to be a director of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services Board because the people have business that needs attention. We have fiscal responsibilities that are being ignored. We have seen public meetings become hours of rancor and personal attack. Too often the public’s business has been obscured or set aside, with names substituting for issues. Factionalism makes poor government.

I would like to direct our energies toward problem-solving. Our policy manual needs revision. The collection and uses of Measure G funds is a concern. Progress on the community center and path resto-

ration deserves even more energy. Honest dialogue between people should address these and other issues. I am frugal and want to consider long-range implications of policy, such as a long-term financial plan. I would promote increased community involvement in the work of our Board.

Kensington’s size can help. We should take advantage of our smallness to avoid problems inherent in “city hall” bureaucracies and avoid the personal feud potential of direct involvement. The keys here are transparency and accountability; the people need to know what the employees of the district and its Board are doing for the good of the community.

Jim Hausken
Norwood Avenue

Kensington Democratic Club – Real Club or Fan Club?

Dear Editor,

Earlier this summer I began my campaign for one of the two open seats on the KPPCSD Board. Along with the four other candidates I presented my case to our longstanding Democratic Club (El Cerrito Democratic Club), which has represented El Cerrito and Kensington for many years. Over 50 Kensington residents attended that meeting. I was honored to receive the endorsement of the Club. And it was an even greater honor to later receive the endorsement of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County and the California Democratic Party, again after all the candidates were interviewed extensively by their Endorsement Committee.

You can imagine my complete shock

see Letters, Page 8...



VOTE
KIM ZVIK
FOR
KPPCSD



Kensington Police Protection
Community Services District

Kim Is Qualified!

- John Gioia appointment to Kensington Municipal Advisory Committee (KMAC)
- Installed one-way traffic controls during school hours on Highland and Kenyon
- Researched escape routes with the American Red Cross
- Served on the Kensington Property Owner’s Association (KPOA)



ENDORSEMENTS

- Judy and Isaac Lieber
- Ilana Zimmerman
- Evan Appleman
- Nathalie and Erhan Lokker
- Chris Brydon, KMAC Member
- Elma Conley, former KASEP Registrar
- Kath Delaney
- Erik Johnson
- Hing Yee
- Ildiko Duckor
- Mc Claren & Mary Jordan
- Dr. & Mrs. Tihomir Novakov
- Derek Blevins
- Elain Chu, KASEP Instructor
- Jonathan Laba
- Dori Ahana, Deputy DA



Find Kim on Facebook!
www.kim4kensington.com

Kim Is Involved!

- Information Technology (IT) professional
- Expertise in troubleshooting organizational problems
- Kensington resident for 12 years
- Hilltop parent with 4 children ages 9 through 19 years old



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for K-6 grades for students attending Kensington Elementary School

...*Election, from Page 5*

ment. Toombs and his cohorts place us at risk of losing that because of their support of poor financial decisions regarding PERS and Bay View. Don’t underestimate the financial jeopardy the Board majority has placed us in.

Board Policy Manual rules state, “No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any District employee.” At the July 2011 Board meeting, you and Dir. Metcalf made allegations against the COP/GM regarding use of the District credit card, in violation of District policy and the Calif. Penal Code prohibiting public disclosure of personnel records of a police officer. That was not the only meeting at which you’ve raised this issue. Why should voters re-elect someone who repeatedly violates District policy and state law? Since when is spending the people’s money a personnel record? Joel, please stop repeating this slanderous statement against Metcalf and me. We made no allegations. We asked questions regarding the charges that appeared on the KPPCSD credit card statements. Listen to the tape. (<http://kensingtoncalifornia.org/kppcsd-board/board-meeting-recordings> –Ed.)

There have been multiple reports of you screaming during closed Board sessions; at the June, 2011 KPPCSD Board meeting you suggested to a Kensington resident that she “get some medication;” at the March 8th 2012 KPPCSD Board meeting

you threw documents on the floor that were submitted to you by a Kensington resident. Do you consider those actions appropriate behavior for an elected official? I don’t have a loud voice. I don’t scream. The screamer is Linda Lipscomb. I did not throw papers on the floor – Vida Dorroh dropped them there. (<www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSvITTaNV8w> 0:37:25 – Ed.)

At the January 2012 KPPCSD Board meeting you voted to approve a newly negotiated MOU with the KPOA. You’ve repeatedly claimed otherwise at subsequent Board meetings. What are residents to think when you vote in favor of a motion before the Board and then deny that you voted for it? I’ve been very clear and consistent about this. The failure of three members of this board to negotiate for the employees to pay their share of PERS puts KPPCSD at great financial risk...We’re the only agency in the county that pays (the) employee and employer portions.

What is your position on Bay Area Refuse? Kensington residents should have the lowest rates possible. How do you achieve that? The law doesn’t require a company to stay in business and lose money, so if BVR folds, what then? Piedmont pays about 40% more than we do for the same or equivalent service. I think this fight with BVR is irrational and driven by resentment that we lost greatly in our scuffle with BVR ten years ago. There are enormous risks involved in this arbitration with regard to legal costs. We risk

about \$220 per household to contest a rate increase of about \$2. That’s not smart.

Anything you’d like to add? What is your opinion of the supporters of Chuck Toombs and Pat Gillette who anonymously attack me and Director Metcalf using profanity and threats on blogs, YouTube, and in hate letters mailed to our supporters? What do you think about the level of discourse fostered by these hate mongers and by you in the *Outlook*?...(T)his campaign should only be about two issues: fiscal responsibility and open government.

• **KIM ZVIK has been a member of the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC) since January, 2011.**

Top three priorities if you were elected? I want to put the “C” (community) back into the KPPCSD, so that is my overarching priority. First, fix the divide on the Board so people don’t scream at each other; Work with KASEP to get registration online; Get the KCC books to be online and open. They’re now being done manually without digital backup or public access.

How would you fix the divide on the board? First of all, prevent future slates from getting on a board of only five members. Tony and Linda ran together and are friends with Chuck, which exacerbates the divide between them and the other board members. So don’t elect slate candidates. If the current divide can’t be resolved, bring in a conflict resolution specialist.

Why should Kensingtonians vote for you? Because I’m the moderate candidate who can balance this mess; I’m the only Kensington parent, and I have IT skills that the Board does not have. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation doesn’t give funding to boards that don’t have an IT rep. And I may be the only candidate that has gone through divorce mediation – and this board needs some intervention!

Why would anyone want this job? I like challenges; I troubleshoot challenges every day in my IT job. I view this as another troubleshooting opportunity. I learned only 17% of women are in politics, so I wanted to get involved – we’re 56% of the population. The other challenge is the half-baked women’s liberation movement – the working moms and the stay-at-home moms (criticize each other); I wonder why we don’t band together.

I’m serving on KMAC, I’m webmaster of the EC Youth Baseball Team, a KEF room parent, the head cashier for the Garden Party; I’m raising 4 children, I’m the major breadwinner for my family.

I think we should embrace what we have, living in such a beautiful place. There are a lot of lost revenue opportunities as well as lost enrichment opportunities, as far as subject matter in the KASEP program. Compare this to Orinda, which offers computer animation after school!

How long have been on the KMAC Board? I was appointed by Supervisor John Gioia in 2010. *How many meetings have you missed since then?* Three.

How do you handle decisions a board makes with which you disagree? I’ve also been on the boards of Orinda Horseman and Step One School. Orinda Horseman didn’t want to pay for a website in 2000, so I just went ahead and put one up at my cost. Either I would find a way to get what is needed to be done or wait for another board.

How would you characterize your feelings about the law? I think it’s necessary, but I think rules are made to be broken. Occasionally I speed, and yet I know it’s a privilege to drive. We need to work together

From the Files of the KPD
August’s Police Report excerpt is online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

...*Letters, from Page 7*

and bewilderment then, when I learned that a small group supporting two of my opponents had secretly formed another club calling themselves the “Kensington Democratic Club.” They recruited some like-minded members, held an endorsement meeting (on one week’s notice to the candidates) on a Friday evening at a private residence, and voted to endorse their two candidates. There were 13 people in attendance.

There is more at issue here than what an endorsement means. These kinds of tactics threaten our core values and our trust in the processes we rely on to assist us in the election process. So, regardless of what happens in the coming election in Kensington, I hope that for the good of the Democratic Party and our community, these kinds of underhanded campaign tactics abate.

Respectfully,
Patricia Gillette
Candidate for KPPCSD Board

Bill Wright, Former KPPCSD President, Endorses...

Dear Editor,

My neighbors (near Cowper and Highland) and other friends in Kensington have asked me if I am supporting any of the candidates running for the KPPCSD Board in this election. In short, I am.

When I served on the board, I worked closely with Director (now President) Chuck Toombs. He brought to our team many years of relevant legal experience, a sharp mind, and wisdom from a history of Kensington community leadership. Chuck’s countless hours working on Measure G helped keep Kensington in fiscal balance.

Since my time on the board, I have also come to know Patricia Gillette. Many of us who care deeply about our community had been hoping Patricia would step in and run for one of the two open spots. Her experience in negotiating employment contracts as a labor attorney, her professionalism, and her respect for the law will be an invaluable benefit to our small town.

It is therefore easy for me to tell you that I fully endorse Chuck Toombs and Patricia Gillette for the KPPCSD Board. We are all very fortunate that each has decided to commit their time to our Kensington. I hope (*Outlook*) readers will join me in voting for Chuck and Patricia in this election.

Respectfully,
Bill Wright
Former President, KPPCSD Board

see Letters, Page 9...

*“Arguments are to be avoided;
they are always vulgar and often
convincing.”* – Oscar Wilde

see Election, Page 11...

...*Letters, from Page 8*

Cathie Kosel Runs for
Reelection to KPPCSD

The KPPCSD campaign is about issues. Transparency. Accountability. Fiscal responsibility. Open meetings. Full disclosure. Advice and consent of our residents.

The KPPCSD board majority has placed us at financial risk and at risk of losing our valued independent police department. Their failure to heed the recommendation of the Contra Costa Grand Jury and the State Legislature to reduce agency exposure to pension obligations places us at risk of paying millions of dollars in pensions if PERS falls short.

Additionally, they have refused Bay View Refuse’s request for a modest rate increase of \$2+. We lost \$100,000 in legal fees and 3% of our franchise fee when we challenged Bay View 10+ years ago. The risk this time? Up to \$222/household in legal fees alone.

While they refused a modest increase for Bay View, they found the funds to grant a whopping 17% compensation increase to the GM/COP and a one-time “merit” award of \$22,000. Mr. Harman earns \$236,000. The average Kensington household earns \$121,000.*

We must think ahead and plan for a future that does not require our residents to continue granting more and more money to KPPCSD on measure after measure.

I was twice elected Mayor of El Cerrito and have experience in small town governance, standard accounting practices, oversight of contracts, police, fire, and public works.

I invite any resident who wishes to discuss the issues and/or my candidacy to contact me directly. Please reelect me in November.

Sincerely,
Cathie Kosel
ckosel@sbcglobal.net

**According to KPPCSD Compensation Committee Chair, Director Tony Lloyd, the \$236K figure appears to be salary (\$148,441 – or approximately \$27K/yr over the Kensington average) + benefits, including both employer and employee PERS contributions, medical, dental, vision, and uniform allowance. Director Lloyd reports the Chief’s merit increase – provided to him in lieu of the salary reviews to which he was entitled but never received for 2009, 2010, and 2011, and as called for in his contract – was \$16,754.*

Mabry Benson Endorses...

I recently started attending KPPCSD board meetings. I am very distressed & offended by the behavior I have seen.

At one meeting, when Cathie Kosel was trying to make a motion, the Chair, Chuck Toombs, interrupted her with his gavel, saying ‘I do not hear any motion.’ When Linda Lipscomb was asked to present the comparable data she used to support

a raise for the General Manager/Chief of Police, she replied that people could look it up themselves on the internet. Tony Lloyd used a CPI of 5% for 2012 in his justification for the raise for the COP; it has only averaged 2.3% so far this year.

Toombs allowed to pass by a 3/5 vote a motion to extend the meeting past 10pm. Board policies require a 4/5 vote for the extension. Toombs should have been aware of the policies, and if he was, then I think he was deceitful & unfair in allowing the motion to pass.

In Jan 2011 & Mar 2009, the GM/COP charged airplane tickets for his wife to the District credit card (these are Kensington public records).** Most employers this would consider this to be unacceptable behavior. Yet Toombs and 2 other board members gave the GM/COP an acceptable performance review.

The district has no short or long-term financial plan. Pension obligations are a growing concern, yet the Board has not initiated an analysis of our financial exposure. Our police contract is unique in the county since we pay both the employer and the employee retirement contributions. If PERS cannot meet these obligations, we will be liable. Yet the board passed a 17% raise to the GM/COP without considering these ramifications.***

While Kosel & Metcalf question these issues, the other board members obstruct them. They vilify Kosel & Metcalf as troublemakers. Kosel & Metcalf have even had to resort to California Public Records Act requests to get district records they want to see!...I urge you to vote for Cathie Kosel and Jim Hausken.

Mabry Benson

***According to GM/COP, Greg Harman, he reimbursed the District for the cost of his wife’s tickets at the time. She was accompanying him on District business on both occasions, and he had purchased her tickets at the same time he purchased his – with a District credit card. There has since been a District policy established where such tickets would be required to be purchased separately, or else to have the District reimburse the employee for the District’s share of tickets purchased on the employee’s card. – Ed.*

****Again, according to Director Lloyd,*

In Memory

Marianne Weigel

April 19, 1922 – July 30, 2012

Marianne died at home after a short illness. She was born in Germany and came to the US with her family when she was 15. She earned a BA and an MA in history at Cornell University.

She and her husband, Jack, settled in Kensington after WW II. Marianne became very involved in local politics and that interest culminated in her being a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1960, and, three years later, receiving an appointment to the Savings Bonds Division of the US Treasury, where she worked for over 20 years.

She was an avid reader, walker, traveler, and fan of the theatre and opera. She volunteered at Alta Bates Hospital, read to the blind on a San Francisco radio station, partnered with English learners through the Berkeley YWCA’s *English in Action* Program, and was active with the *Friends of the Kensington Library*.

Marianne was a good friend and role model for many people. Her daughters, Alice and Frances, are honoring her wish for no service. Donations in her memory can be made to the Berkeley SPCA.

“17% (6% of which is performance-based, not a fait accompli) is not an incorrect number but in this case it is being applied incorrectly. The COP raise averaged 3.4% a year for a proposed period of five years with some high-risk variables counter balancing...For 3.5 yrs he received nothing and this contract is an attempt to make him whole and recognize fully his value and contribution. Even at these numbers

he’s being paid below rate in a profession where \$160K is the mean – and also significantly undercompensated for his GM duties...90% of the workforce isn’t in a profession to commonly enjoy that kind of compensation, so they (might) tend to view it as particularly large or uncalled for.” – Ed.

see Letters, Page 10...



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Kensington Democratic Club – Public or Private?

On Aug. 25th, 85 members of the *El Cerrito* Democratic Club, which has represented El Cerrito and Kensington for 60 years, endorsed Chuck Toombs and Pat Gillette for the KPPCSD Board election. On Sept. 7th, an estimated 16 members of the newly chartered *Kensington* Democratic Club interviewed three of the five candidates, and endorsed Cathie Kosel and Jim Hausken.

The other two KPPCSD candidates, Chuck Toombs and Pat Gillette, did not attend the meeting, over concerns of the legitimacy of the club, and about its objectivity and

the last-minute nature of its appearance.

According to KPPCSD Board President and candidate in the upcoming election, Chuck Toombs, “This has all the trappings of a sham group formed solely to support and endorse Ms. Kosel and her running mate, Jim Hausken; it totally lacks the broad-based support of most residents of Kensington, who did not even know it existed and were effectively prevented from enlisting in it. Nor to my knowledge have they taken positions on any other issues of interest to Democratic voters. And they have effectively undercut the

representation of the El Cerrito Democratic Club in Kensington, a group that has existed to support El Cerrito and Kensington Democrats for over 60 years.

They invited Patricia Gillette and me to attend their endorsement meeting but we declined the invitation based on our feeling this whole exercise was a charade, totally lacking in transparency and without broad-based or public support.”

Lending credence to those concerns was the hostile reception given to a reporter by the meeting chairperson, and other attendees, with questions about how the reporter found out about the meeting, whether, as

it took place in a private home, he considered it to be a public meeting, and who invited him.

No response to a reporter’s e-mail request for the number of members of the club and how they were solicited for the club and notified of the member enlistment and endorsement meetings was received.

Questions remain about the nature of this club and its endorsements.

“It is never too late to be what we might have been.” – George Eliot

...Letters, from Page 9

Paul Dorroh Endorses...

Editor:

Some recent letters to the Editor of the *Outlook* have portrayed conflicting versions of the finances of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District. With the election approaching, it is timely to take a step back and look at the bigger picture.

Since the passage of Measure G, the District has the ability to balance its budget, and can do so for the foreseeable future. Although Kensington is certainly not immune from the fiscal and budgetary pressures confronting the State, our District’s financial position is sound, including prudent financial reserve funds.

This is exactly the goal that a supermajority of 70% of Kensington voters supported when they voted to approve Measure G – an adequately funded, independent Kensington Police Department.

It was my privilege to work closely with

Board candidate Patricia Gillette on the campaign for Measure G. I know that she strongly supports our independent police department, as does current Board President Chuck Toombs, who is running for reelection. Patricia and Chuck will bring an abundance of skill, talent and practical experience to the Board. In contrast, Cathie Kosel, incumbent and current candidate for reelection, opposed Meas. G.

Kensington voters have a clear choice on November 6. Those who believe we are well served by our own independent Police Department will choose to vote for Patricia Gillette and Chuck Toombs.

Paul Dorroh

Chris Sorenson Endorses...

Editor -

During the 25 years I have lived in Kensington, I have served on the board of the Kensington Community Council, campaigned to save the last piece of open space to create Kensington Park, and served as board member and Pres. of the

Kensington Education Foundation. I now volunteer as a WriterCoach at El Cerrito High School and am honored to be Kensington’s Woman of the Year for AD 14.

During these two and one-half decades, I, and my Kensington neighbors, have overwhelmingly voted to approve various parcel taxes to retain an independent police force, dedicated to serving Kensington residents. The current dissatisfaction with the Chief of Police, voiced by two members of the KPPCSD, has me puzzled. I have been unable to ascertain why such personal animosity is directed toward the Chief during each meeting of the KPPCSD board.

I am supporting the re-election of Chuck Toombs, current President of the KPPCSD, and the election of Pat Gillette. While my children attended Kensington Hilltop School, I first got to know Chuck and Pat as involved, reliable, and trustworthy parents who contributed hours in support of the school and the quality education of our children. I know that Chuck and Pat, as practicing attorneys, respect and abide

by the rule of law.

I appreciate the time and sacrifice made by all members of the KPPCSD board as they oversee the police department, Kensington’s stunningly beautiful park, and work to negotiate for fair contracts with the police officers, and Bay View Refuse and Recycling. By electing Chuck and Pat to KPPCSD, I predict that Chuck, Pat, and the three sitting KPPCSD board members can once again devote their full attention to these and other responsibilities.

Chris Sorensen

Deal Practically Sealed

Dear Editor:

It took a while, but the repair crew from CCC Public Works arrived yesterday and set to work grinding off a few inches of aged surface of our Arlington Lane culdesac and adding some fresh asphalt. Soon they’ll probably add a finish coating on top to seal it and we’ll be ready for the winter rains.

My personal thanks to all in the chain of progress and renewal.

Sincerely,
john jensen

KENSINGTON
VOTER GUIDE

The Democratic Party *and*
Kensington Democrats* endorse:

► West Contra Costa Unified School District

Measure E (School Bond Measure) ☒ YES

Measure G (Renew Local School Funding) ☒ YES

► Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (VOTE FOR TWO)



Chuck Toombs ☒



Patricia Gillette ☒

*The California Democratic Party
*The Democratic Party of Contra Costa County – representing Kensington • *El Cerrito Democratic Club – representing Kensington and El Cerrito for 60 years
*Assemblymember Nancy Skinner (D) representing Kensington • *Other Kensington Democratic members

KENSINGTON KALENDAR

Oct. 1 Jazzercise Low-Impact class. Kevin Knickerbocker instructor, will teach this on-going class Mon/Wed./Fri.; 8:15am, at the Community Center

Oct. 1 “Castoffs” Knitting Group. All levels welcome and some help provided. This group normally meets on the first Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Oct. 2, 9, 16, & 23 Family Pajama Story Time. Fun stories, songs & rhymes for young children and their families. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. Yoga at Arlington Community Church. All ages. 4:45-6pm. Bring balance to mind, body and spirit. Drop-ins welcome, small fee. Call Antonia Fokken at 381-0997.

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Potluck Community Dinner and Spirit and the Arts Program at Arlington Community Church. Potluck 5:30pm. Adult study, 6-7pm. Spirit and the Arts Program for children, 6-9 pm. Children’s choir, dancing and acting. \$50. 526-9146.

Oct. 4 Japanese American Internment: Lesser-Known Stories. Panel discussion of the forced evacuation and intern-

ment of Japanese Latin Americans to prisoner-of-war camps in the United States for future hostage exchange. 7pm, EC Library, 6510 Stockton Ave.

Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25 Baby & Toddler Story Time. Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15 am & 11:15 am. Free. 524-3043.

Oct. 6 RabbitEARS Presents “No Bunny Left Behind” Community Literacy Project Volunteer Training: Imparting simple ways to treat animals with kindness, while fostering literacy skills and cooperation through creative play. House Rabbit Society Int’l HQ, 148 Broadway, Richmond. 10am-5pm. 970-7575.

Oct. 6 Secret Agent Story & Craft. Come solve puzzles and create a special secret code of your own! For ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 11:30 am. Free. 524-3043.

Oct. 6 All Creatures Great and Small. Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Sponsored by the Arlington Community Church, UCC. Pet blessings by the Rev. Dr. Tony Clark, D.V.M., M. Div (with special thanks to Katie Gluck and Masako Mizoguchi). Rescue animals on display for adoption; behavior training, low cost inoculations, pet microchips, and county registration amnesties. 526-9146.

Oct. 6 No Bunny Left Behind Community Literacy Project Volunteer Training: Humane Education thru Art, Reading and Play. 10am-5pm, includes vegan lunch & snack. \$55, includes free refresher courses. Pre-reg. req’d. House Rabbit Society Int’l HQ, 148 Broadway, Richmond. 970-7575.

Oct. 6 CPR/1st Aid Class by KFPD at Arlington Comm. Church. CPR 9am-noon - \$27; 1st Aid: 1-4pm - \$27. Info and registration at 215-4450.

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28 Kensington Farmers’ Market. Live produce and live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm. Colusa Circle at Oak View Ave. 847-0801

Oct. 11 Women’s Fellowship at Arlington Community Church; 6:30 pm. Bring a dish to share. Info 526-9146.

Oct. 11 Japanese American Nurseries in Richmond. Discussion & documentary film recounting the struggle of local Japanese-American nursery growers forcibly removed to incarceration camps during WWII. 7pm, EC Library, 6510 Stockton Ave.

Oct. 12 Second Friday Concert Series at Arlington Community Church, in partnership with BACH (Bay Area Classical Harmonies). Tix: bayareabach.org.

Oct. 13 Sidewalk Sale: Arts and Crafts, and Bake Sale for the Bunnies. Proceeds go toward RE’s \$16K annual vet bill. Donations gratefully accepted. Free refreshments. 9am-5pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount, EC. 356-4233

Oct. 13 Fire Prevention Week Open House. Fire safety tips and handouts, 24-hr emergency kits, CPR hands-only demos, & refreshments. Public Safety Bldg., 217 Arlington, Noon-4pm. Free.

Oct. 13 CERT Boot Camp. Condensed, non-certified, 1-day Community Emergency Response Team training by KFPD. Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Bl., EC. 8:30am-5pm. Info and registration at 215-4450.

Oct. 13 Threat Level Orange Plays the Circus Pub, 8pm. Colusa Circle.

Oct. 14 Knitting at Arlington Community Church. 11:30 am. Knit shawls, hats, scarves, and mittens for those in need. Info 526-9146.

Oct. 16 Berkeley Garden Club “The Revolutionary Yardscape: Ideas for Repurposing” by Matthew Levesque. 2pm at Albany Comm. Ctr, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. berkeleygardenclub.org.

Oct. 20 Japanese American Internment Camp Panel Discussion. USF Professor, Brian Komei Dempster, and Japanese-American internment camp survivors share first-person accounts of WWII. 2 pm. Free. El Cerrito Library,

Oct. 21 Kensington Annual Picnic, Parade, and BBQ. Noon. *See Page 1.*

Oct. 21 Friends of the Kensington Library Book Sale, 11am-4pm in the library parking lot. \$3 for all the books you can get in a bag, from 2-4pm.

Oct. 21 Tevyn East’s Leaps and Bounds – The Dance of Exodus in an Age of Growth. A joint worship with Mira Vista UCC. Potluck lunch follows. Arlington Community Church, 11am.

Oct. 22 Book Club. Discussion of Anthony Trollope’s *The Warden*. Kensington Library, 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

Oct. 26 Bridge at Arlington Community Church. Potluck at 5:30pm. No exp. needed. All are welcome. 526-9146.

Oct. 26 El Cerrito High School Bands Fall Symphonic and Jazz Concert. 7:30pm, EC Performing Arts Center – El Cerrito High School.

Oct. 28 Kathryn Roszak’s Danse Lumiere presents a Benefit Open Rehearsal. 2pm, Osher Studio, Arpeggio Bldg, 2055 Center St., Berk. DLKdance.com

Oct. 30 Pajama Science. Short stories & science in your pajamas. Hands-on science experiments. Ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 6:30 pm. Free.

...Election, from Page 8

to change them and upgrade them, as need be. Laws, like people, evolve...and need to be looked at from different angles.

Some residents are concerned that there has been too much dithering about decisions, too many consultants hired, and not enough action – for instance, on the remodel of the community center. What do you say to those residents? I say that decisions take time, especially for a master plan, such as the Community Center – that’s not something that comes quickly.

What’s your position on Bay View Refuse? I think we should negotiate and not be in a lawsuit. And contracts are used for enforcement, not for relationships – which means we should be having a dialogue with (them) so we can figure out how to come to mutually beneficial terms.

And if that dialogue forthcoming on the other side? Then we have to enforce the contract; but that should be a last resort.

Anything else you’d like to add? I’ve been a Kensington resident for 12 years. I’m the only candidate who is a Hilltop parent, and the only one with solar on their house.

• **PATRICIA GILLETTE is a practicing attorney, focusing on labor and employment law. She’s a former member of the Kensington Education Foundation.**

Top three priorities if you are elected? 1. Restore collaboration and order to the way the work gets done; 2. Make sure procedures are in place to ensure the decisions we’re making are fiscally responsible; 3. Increase communication between the Board and the public about the rationale for decisions that are available for public review; and 4. Improve dialogue between the public and the Board.

Why should Kensingtonians vote for you? I bring specific skills we really need, (including) my background as a labor and employment attorney. A lot of the issues troubling the community relate to personnel matters and contracts. I also have a particular skill at problem solving, as one of the aspects of my current job is to bring people together. I’m a litigator. I’ve learned that it’s much better to try and find common ground than to fight. And, I have quite a bit of nonprofit board experience, which would be directly relevant to some of the issues the board is facing.

Why would anyone want this job? I want it because I love Kensington. I’ve lived here for 34 years and I feel like we’re at a difficult point in our development, like a lot of communities, because of fiscal restraints. I think we’re in danger of losing our core values, with the conduct of some of the members on the board, and thereby losing the public trust.

On what other boards and committees have you sat? Kensington Education Fund, when my kids were at Hilltop. Elsewhere, among many others, I’ve been on boards of Equal Rights Advocates, First Graduate (which identifies and mentors kids who could be first in their family to go to college), and College Preparatory School (CPS); I’m on the advisory board to the President for Occidental College, the Nat’l Assoc. of Women Lawyers, and the Youth Musical Theatre Co. I’ve been on these boards for the last four years – along with six or seven others.

How do you handle decisions with which you disagree that are made by the boards on which you sit? It’s my role during the debate portion on any issue to make my position as clearly and as strongly as I can – to persuade people to adopt my position; but once the board has voted, my job is to support the decision of the board. We are

see Election, Page 12...

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

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

**FKL - October 2nd
Friends of the Kensington Library,** 7pm (at the Library, 61 Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesdays

**KPSC - October 8th
Kensington Public Safety Council**
Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays 6pm. 501-8165

**KFPD - October 10th
Fire Protection District**
2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395

**KPPCSD - October 11th
Police Protection and Community Services District**
2nd Thursdays 7pm. 526-4141

**KIC - October 22nd
Kensington Improvement Club**
4th Mondays 7:30pm. 527-3062

**KMAC - October 30th (tent.)
Municipal Advisory Council**
Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s ofc to confirm: 374-3231, ext. 5)

**KARO/ECHO - November 12th
Amateur Radio Operators**
2nd Mondays of odd months
7:30pm. 524-9815

**KPOA
Property Owners Association**
Meets quarterly. 559-8232

**KFM – Every Sunday
Kensington Farmers’ Market**
Sundays, 10am-2pm. Colusa Circle at Oak View Ave. 847-0801 or KensingtonFarmersMarket.org

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...Parade, from Page 1

To enter the Mechanics Bank Coloring Contest, drop by the Kensington branch of the bank to pick up your coloring sheet, after October 1st. The deadline to return your masterpiece to the bank is Wednesday, October 17th. The prize for the winners this year is a new iPod shuffle for each age group: 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

Enter the Marvin Gardens Pumpkin Decorating Contest, too. You can pick up your pumpkin from the Kensington or El Cerrito office of Marvin Gardens after October 2nd. (There is a suggested \$1 donation to UNICEF for each pumpkin.) Prizes will be awarded in several age categories for best pumpkins.

Special thanks to the parade and picnic sponsors, Mechanics Bank and Marvin Gardens Real Estate!

“The only way of avoiding mistakes is doing nothing, and even this is not a guarantee.” – Petigo

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...Election, from Page 11

a board, not a group of individuals. That’s particularly true when decisions are made in closed session.

Some residents are concerned that there has been too much dithering about decisions on the board, too many consultants hired, and not enough action – for instance, on the remodel of the community center. What do you say to those residents?

It’s important to get outside consultants in areas we don’t have expertise, however consultants can become an addiction; so I think you do have to think carefully about what information you need. You have to manage the consultants so they are cost-effective and efficient, and you have to make sure they are focused on your particular goal. I don’t think the answer is always to hire a consultant.

What’s your position on Bay View Refuse?

There appears to be a difference in the interpretation of the contract between the District and Bay View. I believe the Board has acted consistently with its contractual obligations. I also understand that the Board offered BVR the chance to renegotiate a portion of the contract and the company refused. So I believe our obligation is to follow the terms of the contract and require the contractor to do the same.

Anything else you’d like to add?

We need to remember that we’re a community that cares about each other and cares deeply about the issues that affect our daily lives. To have a board with the responsibilities for such essential functions as our police, garbage service, and parks being constantly disrupted endangers our community.

It’s important to maintain our independent police force, ensure we have a garbage contract that is reasonable and competitive, maintain and fund our park, and a whole list of “wish we could do this” items. To get all this work done, we need a team in place that can vigorously debate issues and find workable solutions. I want to be part of such a vital and important team.

• **JIM HAUSKEN is a retired teacher.**

Top three priorities if you were elected?

Getting more people involved in the decision making process, especially, what needs to be done; more participation would increase transparency. A lot of people are confused about what’s happening. I think it’s important to plan ahead. We should err on the side of caution. We can’t assume the economy will always be healthy and that we’ll be raking in the taxes.

Why should Kensingtonians vote for you?

We need a new voice – someone who is not of multi-year vested interests. I started attending board meetings about 15 months

ago; and have been very concerned about some things. I bring a new outlook and a little bit different background to it – I’m an educator, which we don’t currently have on the board. I think I can help bring the board together, rather than separating into different factions. I’ve done a fair amount of work with groups of various types. I founded the Speakers Bureau for the Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club. I have experience working with a wide variety of people and organizing things.

Why would anyone want this job?

I felt that there are problems that were not being addressed. I wanted to become involved in solving those problems. I’d like to see more people involved with the paths group, for instance.

On what other boards or committees have you sat?

Berkeley Northeast Bay Chapter of the ACLU, since 1998; Medical Trades Inc., involved with regulating industries pertaining to the medical marijuana issue.

How do you handle decisions the boards make with which you disagree?

I go along with them. I abide by group decisions unless they cross my ethical boundaries.

How many meetings of have you missed?

Maybe one a year.

How would you characterize your feelings about the law?

We abide by the law in a sense of consensus agreement, and as our founding documents say, whenever the law becomes onerous we need to change the laws. Usually a person doesn’t have a moral right to disobey the law. Being forced to compromise one’s ethical beliefs, however, when they’re involved with life and death type issues, then it might become a decision where an individual needs to apply their own wisdom to the situation...I want to be careful about wholesale approval of every law that comes down the pike. Laws are made by people, and can be changed by people, but in the daily course of living it’s much wiser to abide by them.

Some residents are concerned that there has been too much dithering about decisions on the board, too many consultants hired, and not enough action – for instance, on the remodel of the community center. What do you say to those residents?

We need to make sure we’re doing it right by code. We can’t just charge off with “My brother is good with a hammer.” I question the word, “dither.” We want to do it in a timely manner. I don’t know exactly how long this has been going on. Sometimes a consultant can be valuable. Other times a consultant isn’t needed. I do think government agencies over rely on consultants.

Would you say that applies to the KPPCSD as well?

I’m not familiar enough to com-

see Election, Page 13...

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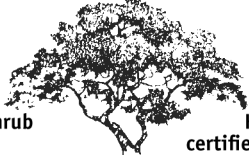


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...Election, from Page 12

ment on that. There's too much comment-
ing by people who don't know the facts.
If I would've been on the board when the
leak in the corner of the roof had first been
discovered, for instance, I would've gotten
up on the roof and taken a look at it to see
what it needs. We wouldn't have ended up
with a whole wall of dry rot.

What's your position on Bay View Refuse?
First, I think we get very good service.
The problems have been colored by the
animosity on the Board. I think we have
some very bad decisions by the Board.
It's quite possible this is going to end
up without trash hauling for the town.
I'm concerned about other companies
coming in at an unreasonable price and/
or not providing the same level of service.
I'm worried that we might be subject to
an arbitrator assessing financial penalties
against Kensington.

Anything else you'd like to add? I have a
fresh perspective to offer that I think can
help with the decisions that need to be
made. I want to see this municipality func-
tion smoothly.

See expanded versions of these excerpts at
www.KensingtonOutlook.com. *Director
Kosel declined to meet with the Outlook;
her interview was conducted via e-mail.*



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OCTOBER 2012

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 69 NUMBER 8

...Online Annex...

KPPCSD Candidate Interviews

These are expanded versions of the interviews published in the October 2012 print edition of the *Outlook*. The interviews were conducted in person in early September – except in the case of Cathie Kosel, who declined to meet in person and so was interviewed via e-mail. In the main, each candidate was asked essentially the same questions, with some additional questions tailored to the individual. Incumbents were also asked about their records, and were provided opportunities to set the record straight about

rumors circulating about them in the community. In instances where a candidate's statement was incongruent with information in the public record or that provided by another public official, it was so noted, and references supplied. The interviews are presented here in an order that took into account current rank on the KPPCSD Board, membership on other Kensington boards, and the order in which the candidates were interviewed. The interviews begin on the following page...

From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From August 2012

- 2012-5220 - On 8/05/2012, Officer Ramos responded to the 800 block of Coventry Rd. on a report of a vandalism.

- 2012-5222 - On 8/05/2012, Officer Ramos responded to the unit block of Arlmont Dr. on the report of a residential burglary.

- 2012-5223 - On 8/05/2012, Sergeant Hui responded to the unit block of Highgate Rd. on a report of a stolen vehicle.

- 2012-5234 - On 8/06/2012, Officer Ramos responded to the 100 block of Highland Blvd. on a report of a vandalism.

- 2012-5354 - On 8/13/2012, Officer Ramos responded to the 600 block of Coventry Rd. on a report of a homicide.

- 2012-5467 - On 8/20/2012, Officer Ramos responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. on a report of criminal threats. (*There's a penalty for threatening a criminal?*)

- 2012-5472 - On 8/20/2012, Sergeant Hui responded to the above address and arrested the suspect from incident 2012-5467 for criminal threats.



- 2012-5510 - On 8/22/2012, Sergeant Hui responded to the 100 block of Windsor Ave. on a report of a theft.

- 2012-5511 - On 8/22/2012, Sergeant Hui responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. on a report of a restraining order violation.

- 2012-5157 - On 8-03-2012, Officer Turner located a stolen vehicle with the suspect asleep in the 600 block of Oberlin Ave. nue. The suspect was taken into custody without incident (*or blanky*).

- 2012-5184 - On 8-03-2012, Officer Turner took a reported vandalism from the unit block of Highgate Road. The victim reported their vehicle's ignition and door handle broken.

- 2012-5343 - On 8-11-2012, Officer Turner and Sergeant Barrow responded to the unit block of Arlington Ave. for a reported vehicle accident. A vehicle had driven off the embankment and into the tennis court fence, causing major damage to the vehicle, hand railing, and fence. The vehicle was removed and the damage repaired. The driver and passenger were not injured.

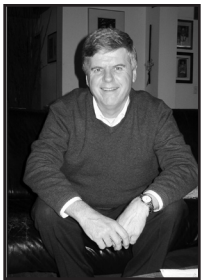
- 2012-5358 - On 8-13-2012, Officer Turner responded to the unit block of Highgate Court on report of an attempted identity theft. An unknown person(s) attempted to remove a large amount of currency out of the victim's account but the account manager detected the attempt and denied the transaction. (*And THAT'S how to manage an account!*)

- 2012-5531 - On 8-23-2012, Officer Martinez took an incident report of a bicycle colliding with a vehicle causing minor damage at the corner of Kenyon Ave. and Lake Ave. Neither party wished to make a formal report and no further action was taken.

- 2012-5600 - On 8-30-2012, Officer Turner and Sgt. Barrow arrested the passenger after a vehicle stop at Sea View Ave. and Eureka Ave. for a probation violation. The suspect was cited and released without incident.

- 2012-5677 - On 8-30-2012, Officer Martinez responded to a residential burglary in the unit block of Kenilworth Court. The front window was used as the point of entry and several items were stolen.

- 2012-5682 - On 8-30-2012, Officer Turner contacted seven people in a parked van who had been drinking and smoking marijuana at Terrace Dr. and Craft Ave., El Cerrito. A passenger was arrested for various misdemeanors and the driver was allowed to drive away, as he had not been partaking in the festivities. (*Partaking in festivities – Book 'em Danno!*)



CHUCK TOOMBS was elected to the Board in November of 2008. He served as Vice President starting in December 2008, and became president in the summer of 2009.

What are the accomplishments of the Board during your term of which you are most proud?

1. Passing Measure G is one of the signature accomplishments. 2. Keeping the budget as close to balanced as possible thereafter made me proud. 3. Creation and approval of a resource assessment of the park buildings to determine the highest and best use of the buildings, what it might cost to put them into a better state of repair, and what the community would like to see them used for. 4. The negotiation of a fair contract with the police officers that did not break the bank. Over three years we created two new officer ranks for a total cost of \$20K; we made no other changes to the salaries paid to the officers other than the creation of those two new ranks, which the board unanimously adopted. 5. Increasing and enhancing traffic safety and working with different neighborhoods to increase comfort and safety in their areas. I'm quite proud of the zero tolerance policy – we had a fair amount of notice for residents – if memory serves me, Chief Harman provided 6 months' notice of this new policy prior to its enforcement.

What would your top three priorities be if you were elected to another term?

CT: I actually have four priorities. 1. To work with the police officers on a new contract that's sustainable and fair. We'll have to abide by the new pension laws so much of that will be out of our hands however. Our current contract expires June 2013.

2. Acquisition of the paths and renovation of the park buildings. Both these projects require we look for new money and establish what kind of appetite the community has for providing/raising the funds for these projects. The buildings require \$700K to 2.5M.

3. Find a reasonable accommodation on the garbage rates and prepare a new request for proposal for a new contract and possibly a new garbage hauler beginning 2015.

4. Neighbors also want to see power lines undergrounded and the Blakemount Slide area stabilized.

Why would anyone want this job?

You do this job because you have a sense you can make a difference, you can improve the quality of governance and the quality of people's lives. It's an incredible return on your investment to see meaningful changes put into effect that improve people's daily lives and their community. You have to roll up your sleeves and do some heavy lifting and put other priorities and petty agendas aside. I believe I've made a difference and I believe I will continue to make a difference – that's why I want to do continue to do this.

Why should the people of Kensington vote for you?

I think I have proven management, the leadership skills, and the vision to accomplish the tasks that I believe a majority of this community wants to see happen. We need that kind of management. I go to every meeting I'm scheduled to attend.

I've missed one board meeting for my daughter's college graduation. If you aren't prepared to attend the meetings – board and committee alike and to take on a variety of public responsibilities in service to the community beyond your own personal agenda, then you shouldn't have this job.

There have been complaints that you have infringed, on more than one occasion, on the free speech rights of two of the board directors, by gaveling them down and refusing to let them speak. How do you respond to those allegations?

I have the utmost respect for the first amendment, but there are limits to it. The directors in question were bringing up the contents of the personnel file of the Chief of Police. Personnel files of any police officer are confidential and private under California law. That privacy right trumps the right of any director to speak about matters in a personnel file in public and the director can be held personally responsible for any damages caused by that illegal disclosure, as well as subject the District to liability for such disclosures. I have gaveled directors out of order when they persist in such knowing violation of the law because they risk subjecting the District and themselves personally to incredible liability. That is my duty as chair of the meetings.

Further, the directors may not disclose those contents to others in the community without violating the law. Members of the public do have more ability than a director to comment on such material although they may also be separately liable for damages to the affected officer for receiving and using confidential information improperly. I have cautioned members of the public that I cannot give them legal advice, and that they speak on such matters at their own peril.

Finally we can't selectively enforce the laws we like and choose to disregard the rest. We don't have a choice. We have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State of California. We can't violate the law.

Some residents are concerned that there has been too much dithering about decisions on the board, too many consultants hired, and not enough action – for instance, on the remodel of the community center. What do you say to those critics?

Without an architect I can't tell what needs to be done. We can't make intelligent decisions about what needs to be done with our assets and resources without the opinions of experts. I'm not going to gamble with people's money unless I have some idea on how it should best be spent. It would be irresponsible not to perform such investigations; it's not a question of dithering, it's a question of responsible stewardship. Every city in the country does it this way – they don't wing it, they spend some time and money researching their options before they do the work. I don't know of any community that doesn't do that. It would be irresponsible to plow ahead without any kind of forethought.

There is a rumor that you are spearheading a suit against Bay View Refuse. Is that true, and if so, what is the reason for the suit?

I am not spearheading any litigation against Bay View Refuse. Bay View Refuse demanded arbitration and is leading the charge for legal action. We didn't ask for arbitration – they did. They had failed to meet the contractual requirements for a rate increase in 2011 after we had just granted them a rate increase effective January 1, 2010. They asked for a COL increase that we granted in November or

December 2011– 3.9% over the prior 2 years. In the early part of this year, they also asked us if we would do a rate review, equally share the cost and agree to abide by it. We said we'd be happy to consider that, and directed our lawyers to meet with them to work out the details but that that would be their "last bite of the apple;" we told them we did not want them to ask for further rate increases unless specifically allowed in our agreement. They subsequently rejected our offer, demanded retroactive rate increases of \$60,000 denied to them in 2011, and demanded the right to seek further rate reviews without any conditions.

Is it true that the agency that did the traffic review did not recommend a zero tolerance policy for Kensington, and that implementation of that policy was a unilateral action on the part of the Chief of Police?

I think they made a recommendation on zero tolerance for a specific intersection, but the Board decided to expand the policy community-wide after hearing the concerns of our residents at a public board meeting. The best way to control traffic safety is to ticket traffic scofflaws. We told the police officers as a matter of policy we want them to enforce the traffic laws as written – a unanimous decision of the board.

How would you characterize your feelings about the law?

I have nothing but respect for it. It's not always easy but our legislators have made policy decisions that we are duty bound to uphold. But whatever the laws are, we're bound to enforce them as written, not to ignore them because they get in the way of what we personally may believe. If there's a law there, it's my responsibility to enforce it. I've been a practicing attorney for 28 years.

What District committees have you served during your membership on the board? How many meetings of each have you missed?

I serve as the Finance Committee chair and am the chair of the Parks Bldg. Committee. I also attend the bulk of the Kensington Public Safety Committee meetings for the District, and I served on the negotiating committee with the Police Officer's Association. I missed one or two public safety committee meetings, but I arranged for Director Lloyd to usually attend in my place. I've attended virtually every other meeting, to the best of my recollection.

How have you dealt with it when votes on the board have not gone your way?

I abide by them, like it or not. I cannot continue to campaign against any board decisions once those decisions have been made. That's disrespectful. Our policies and procedures manual says that board members are duty bound to respect the decisions of the board. We've made sure the actions we've taken are all legally defensible, and once the board majority takes action, that should be the end of the discussion – we cannot afford to constantly re-open matters previously acted upon.

Why have you not taken the opportunity to eject board directors who repeatedly violate the policies of the board in the course of the meetings, specifically, by making oral presentations including charges or complaints against District employees?

It's a fine line between enforcing the policies and throwing someone out of the meeting. I have told board members that if they continue to violate the rules of the board, I will ask them to leave and that usually suffices.

There have been reports of screaming during closed board sessions. Was that

you? What was the screaming about? Have you ever screamed at a board meeting? Under what circumstances would you anticipate behaving in that manner?

People do get heated during a discussion and that's all a part of the democratic process. I don't believe I've screamed in a private meeting. If I have, I apologize now.

In the course of a Board meeting, have you ever suggested to a Kensington resident that he or she "get some medication?" Under what circumstances would you anticipate making that suggestion?

Absolutely not. I know another board member did make such a slur to a resident and I find it incredibly disrespectful and shameful; I was embarrassed for her. I never anticipate making such a suggestion.

In the course of a board meeting, have you ever thrown documents on the floor that were submitted to you by a constituent? Under what circumstances would you anticipate doing that?

No. Serving on the board requires that you respect any opinion that is submitted to you. To show any level of contempt by throwing documents around is disrespectful of the democratic process.

Have you ever had to resign an office you held for any reason? Have you ever held an office in a town that had a residency requirement that you not meet?

No to both questions. If I live in a town, I'll run for that town's office. I'm not going to live in one town and run for or serve in office in another town.

Have you ever negotiated unilaterally, outside your official capacity, with a service provider who had business before the Board?

No. Nor have I had private meetings with any service provider with district business before us. If I have a committee with specific responsibilities, we deal with issues in committee and then make our recommendations to the board which then acts as it wishes. I can't imagine doing anything without full board approval ahead of time.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I think this election is about what kind of management and leadership the community wants. I only hope that they chose wisely. Democracy is messy, it's difficult and it does have sharp elbows. When we get it right we are all better for it. When we get it wrong, the public suffers. We owe our citizenship the best possible leadership and respect for the law that we can give. If we can't do that we don't belong in public office.

**Interviews
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CATHIE KOSEL was elected to the Board in November of 2008.

Of what accomplishments of the Board during your current term are you most proud?

Transparency. Toombs likes to stamp everything “confidential.” It took a year and a half and a threatened lawsuit to force the district to reveal the employee compensation schedule. All public agencies must report to the people what their employees are being paid. Encouraging dialogue regarding how the people’s money is being spent.

I was the primary advocate for the park restroom.

What would your top three priorities be if you were elected to another term?

Transparency. Accountability. Doing the people’s business in public, not behind closed doors.

Why should the people of Kensington vote for you?

If they want transparency, accountability, and responsibility.

Why would anyone want this job?

Public service is a duty that I have taken very seriously throughout my career. Because I love this community, I am happy to work in its best interests.

An announcement in the minutes of the Feb 18, 2009 meeting of the Solid Waste Committee stated that you had been selected by the KPPCSD Board of Directors to head that committee. How often does that committee meet? How many meetings have you attended?

Is this where the notion of “negotiating” with Bay View comes from? The meetings were scheduled during my work hours so that I could not attend.¹

When did you join the Kensington Park Building Committee? How often does that committee meet? How many meetings have you attended?

I did not join it. I attended as a non-member.²

On what other District committees have you served during your membership on the Board? How often do they meet? How many meetings of each have you attended?

(No answer given. – Ed.)

How do you handle decisions the Board makes with which you disagree?

There is generally a 3/2 split on the board decisions. You would have to give me a specific example. As stated this question is too broad.

At many Board meetings, you’ve lobbied for the hiring of a female police officer for the Kensington Police Dept. Doesn’t that fly in the face of laws prohibiting the consideration of gender in hiring?

Don’t be silly! We need a woman on the force. Period. Don’t you recognize the liability created by not having a woman officer? Modern police departments need female officers for many reasons, including avoidance of liability issues that can arise when a female suspect is frisked by a male officer. We don’t need more liability issues in Kensington – we need less.³

While running for the KPPCSD Board four years ago, you told voters that you supported an independent Kensington Police Dept., it’s officers, and its Police chief. This year, an informed source states, you told a Contra Costa Times reporter that you advocate contracting out with El Cerrito for police services. Could you clarify your position on contracting out for police services?

Your informed sources are not informed. I support an independent police department. Toombs and his cohorts place us at risk of losing that because of their support of poor financial decisions regarding Public Employee Retirement System and Bay View. Do not underestimate the financial jeopardy that the board majority has placed us in.

The District Board Policy Manual’s rules and regulations delineating proper conduct state that, “No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any District employee.” At the July 2011 District Board meeting, you and Director Metcalf made allegations against the COP/GM regarding use of the District credit card, in violation of District policy and the California Penal Code prohibiting public disclosure of personnel records of a police officer. That was not the only Board meeting at which you’ve raised this issue. Why should voters re-elect someone who repeatedly violates District policy and state law?

Since when is spending the people’s money a personnel record? Joel, please stop repeating this slanderous statement against Metcalf and me. We made no allegations. We asked questions regarding the charges that appeared on the KPPCSD credit card statements. Listen to the tape.⁴

Prior to that meeting, printed matter containing the allegations you made against the COP/GM at the meeting were placed in some mailboxes – it’s not known how many – in Kensington. Additionally, the El Cerrito Patch and the Bay Area Newsgroup were notified in advance about the allegations and apparently invited to the July meeting. The story was picked up by newspapers, statewide, and, despite the allegations of unauthorized use of the District credit card being found to be baseless by the District’s CPA, the Chief of Police’s name and reputation were smeared,

across the state. What was your part in distributing that information and inviting the press to that Board meeting?

No allegations were made. Questions were asked. The credit card statements are available to anyone under the California Public Records Act.

You’ve spearheaded investigations of the COP/GM regarding District credit card usage, use of District time, supplies, and personnel to advocate for Measure G, matters pertaining to payment of his life insurance premiums, and a workmen’s comp claim; all of these allegations have been found to be baseless by the bodies investigating them, including the District’s financial auditor, a forensic auditor (at a cost to the District of \$10,000), the Fair Political Practices Commission, and the District Attorney, respectively.

Some residents feel that by making such allegations, you’re costing the District thousands of dollars, wasting the Board’s time, the Chief’s time, and the time of those who attend the KPPCSD meetings at which one or more of these issues has been discussed, as well as leaving the District open to a potential harassment suit by the Chief. What do you have to say to those residents?

You have information that comes from a closed session. Who told you all these things?

I don’t make charges; I just ask questions. That is the job description of the Directors of this agency. In fact, none of these issues has been resolved, and investigations are ongoing. The 2011 annual audit is not complete. Why? It was due months ago. We still need to correct a chaotic accounting situation and establish adherence to standard accounting practices. We still do not have set limits for meals and expenses for district employees, and I have proposed that we address this at our the next meeting.

There have been multiple reports of you screaming during closed Board sessions; at the June, 2011 KPPCSD Board meeting you suggested to a Kensington resident that she “get some medication;” at the March 8th 2012 KPPCSD Board meeting you threw documents on the floor that were submitted to you by a Kensington resident. Do you consider those actions appropriate behavior for an elected official?

I don’t have a loud voice. I don’t scream. The screamer is Linda Lipscomb. I did not throw papers on the floor, Vida Dorroh dropped them there.⁵

At the January 2012 KPPCSD Board meeting you voted to approve a newly negotiated Memorandum of Understanding with the Kensington Police Officers Association. You’ve repeatedly claimed otherwise at subsequent Board meetings. What are residents to think when you vote in favor of a motion before the Board and then deny that you voted for it?

I have been very clear and consistent about this. The failure of three members of this board to negotiate for the employees to pay their share of PERS puts KPPCSD at great risk financially. Jerry Brown gets it. The state legislature gets it. The county gets it. We are the only agency in Contra Costa that pays both the employee and employer portions of PERS. Pension funding issues are crippling the nation. This morning’s NYT reports that experts anticipate that the Chicago teachers pension fund could collapse in the near future.

In your candidate statement/Letter to the Editor in this issue of the Outlook – and at a recent Democratic club endorsement meeting – you stated that you had twice been elected as Mayor of El Cerrito. The policy adopted by El Cerrito in November of 1990 for the “Election of City Council and Redevelopment Agency Officers” indicates that the El Cerrito mayoral position is allocated on a rotating basis to members of the City Council and is not, in fact, an elected position. How does that square with your statement regarding your election to that office?

It is not allocated on a rotating basis. The council elects the mayor. The post traditionally goes to the highest vote getter. That was me. They elected me.⁶

Were you forced to resign as Mayor of El Cerrito due to the fact that you didn’t meet the residency requirement for that position – that is, you lived in Kensington, and not in El Cerrito, at the time?

I was not forced to resign. Again, it is obvious that you are using this question session to attempt to slander me. I chose to move into my family home after my mom passed away, and I resigned on the day I moved back to Kensington.

At the February 2011 KPPCSD Board meeting you said, “I don’t care much for the law;” I think it gets in the way of a lot of things.” How do you square that with the Oath of Allegiance you signed when you filed your Declaration of Candidacy for the Board in December of 2008?

This is out of context. Briefly, the law deals with what is legal or not legal. It does not deal with ethics, with right and wrong. The death penalty is legal. I believe it is wrong. And so on. Frequently, lawyers get hung up on “legal” and ignore the broader ethical context.

Informed sources have reported that you negotiated unilaterally, outside your official capacity, with Bay View Refuse, a service provider having business before the Board. Is that true?

How could I possibly have done that? It makes no sense. In my opinion, the only person who negotiates unilaterally is Toombs. He fails to understand his position as “one among equals,” and he has led us into an expensive and perhaps disastrous legal tangle with Bay View. It takes three votes to make anything happen. I am

continued Next Page

¹GM, Greg Harman: “The Solid Waste meetings were always held at 10am but Director Kosel complained that she couldn’t attend because of her work schedule. So we changed the meeting time to 2pm so she could attend and she never did. After she missed three meetings in a row, the Committee voted to hold its next meeting back at the original 10am time.

² KPPCSD Board President, Chuck Toombs’ recollection is that he appointed Director Kosel to the ad-hoc committee for the Annex, which morphed into The Kensington Park Building Committee. She is listed as an absent committee member in the formal minutes of the 8/9/10 meeting, and also in meeting notes taken by John Stein at the 5/5/11 and 6/15/11 meetings of this committee. No record of her having attended a meeting of this committee after that date could be found. She appears to have attended one meeting of this committee.

³ According to the COP, the rules for frisking female suspects for weapons are the same as for males, and an officer of either gender can conduct such a search – which would typically take place upon a traffic stop, for instance, at which the presence of a weapon may be suspected. (A pat down check for weapons by opposite sex officers would be conducted with the back of the hand.) Any further search of a suspect would be conducted upon booking and admission to the jail, at which time a same-sex officer would do the search – for drugs, for instance. Should a female suspect need to be searched for any other reason, or under any other circumstances, a same-sex officer from another district would be summoned.

⁴See <http://kensingtoncalifornia.org/kppcsd-board/board-meeting-recordings>.

⁵See the video of the meeting at which Vida submitted papers to the Board, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSvITTaNV8w

[0:37:25]

⁶From City of El Cerrito; Agenda Item No. 7: ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OFFICERS Adopted: November 19, 1990 Revised: July 7, 1997:

“...Mayor Pro Tem will replace the outgoing Mayor.

Mayor Pro Tem will be the council member who has received the highest number of votes, compared to the other council members elected at the same time. This process continues until all council members elected in the same year have served as mayor...

Newly elected and re-elected council members are added onto the existing order of rotation in the order of the number of votes received, from the highest number of votes to the lowest. .The Council has the ultimate discretion to elect or not elect any council

member for any office.”

Document at www.el-cerrito.org/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1055.

⁷KPPCSD Board Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2009, show: “New Business #10 – Board Authorization to direct the GM to engage with District Counsel to review a proposed contract with Bay View Refuse. This contract proposed by Director Kosel would replace the District’s existing Bay View Refuse contract.

The Board expressed concern that Director Kosel was in negotiations with Bay View Refuse when she was never authorized by the Board to engage in these negotiations.”

Download 7/9/2009 Minutes at <http://kensingtoncalifornia.org/kppcsd-board/past-agenda-packets> [2009-08-13 agenda, p. 13]

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almost always on the short end of a 3/2 vote.⁷

What is your position on Bay Area Refuse?

Kensington residents should have the lowest rates possible. How do you achieve that? The law does not require a company to stay in business and lose money, so if Bay View folds, what then? Piedmont pays about 40% more than we do for the same or equivalent service. I think this fight with Bay View is irrational and driven by resentment that we lost greatly in our scuffle with Bay View ten years ago. There are enormous risks involved in this arbitration with regard to legal costs. We risk about \$220 per household to contest a rate increase of about \$2. That’s not smart.

At the April 2011 KPPCSD meeting, a constituent asked you about your prior association with Bay View Refuse’s owner, Lew Figone, and you said you “...did not really know Lewis Figone until only recently when [you had taken] a seat on the Board and begun asking around about him.”

Upon further questioning at the May KPPCSD meeting, you retracted your previous statement and said you had “...actually received a contribution of \$99 from Mr. Figone, while other candidates running against you (for El Cerrito City Council) had received \$1,000 each.”

A campaign disclosure form you filed when you ran for public office in El Cerrito in the late 1980’s stated, however, that a Mr. Figone actually made a \$500 campaign contribution to you during the election – well in excess of the amount you claimed he had contributed to your campaign at the May meeting. Records at El Cerrito City Hall did not show any other candidate having received a \$1,000 contribution from Mr. Figone, as you had stated.

When the *Outlook* asked you who the candidates were to whom you were referring, you said, “Oh that was thirty years ago – people don’t care about that,” and refused to corroborate your previous assertion.

How can residents trust what you say when statements you make in Board meetings can’t be corroborated?

In the November 2010 election, you reached back 40 years to impugn a KPPCSD Board candidate’s college records. What would you say to those who say you appear to hold your colleagues and rivals to a different standard than the one to which you hold yourself?

This is a contorted question with many inaccuracies. That makes it difficult to respond. I will say that publishing a resume that falsely states your educational and work achievements to voters is a serious matter. In my mind that constitutes an attempt to defraud the voters, but everyone seems to have forgotten about that problem.

Regarding the Figone campaign contribution I would refer you to the *El Cerrito Journal* dated October 4, 1993, page 3A. It puts the lie to your allegations. I have scanned it and emailed it to you. Agencies do not keep the records of failed candidates, only those of the electeds. So, to my knowledge, the city records of losing candidates no longer exist. That accounts for the misunderstanding. This article would be the only record that I know of.

Since the *Outlook* reported on the campaign contributions, you have refused to speak with an *Outlook* reporter either in person or by phone. In an email to

the editor of the *Outlook* on Nov. 2, 2009, however, you wrote, “Balanced, objective reporting and coverage. Thank you!”

This creates the impression in some minds that your willingness to interact with the press is dependent on the nature of the coverage that you receive. How would you respond to those who may have that impression?

There is the impression in the minds of many residents that the *Outlook* is a monthly “hit piece.” How would you respond to those who have that impression?

It is a tradition in this country that the job of the press is to serve as a “watchdog” of our elected officials. The Outlook does its best to uphold that tradition, and reports malfeasance, if and where it is found. – Ed.

At the April 2012 meeting of the Kensington Community Council, KPPCSD Director, Mari Metcalf threatened to “hold liable” the *Outlook* editor and the Board of the KCC – collectively and individually – if her name were to be mentioned in the *Outlook* again. Some took this as an attempt to intimidate the editor and board members, and an assault on the freedom of the press.

You and Director Metcalf frequently vote together on the KPPCSD Board, she appears to have acted as your attorney on occasion, and you appeared to have attended that KCC meeting together. What is your position on her demand that she, as a publicly elected official, not be mentioned in the *Outlook*?

(No answer given. – Ed.)

You are the only candidate for the KPPCSD Board who refused to be interviewed by the *Outlook* in person. Don’t you think you owe it to voters to give them the benefit of your candid, unvarnished thoughts on the important issues facing Kensington, without the remove to parse the questions and answers prior to responding?

See my response to the question (above, regarding the Nov. 2, 2009 email).

Anything you’d like to add?

What is your opinion of the supporters of Chuck Toombs and Pat Gillette who anonymously attack me and Director Metcalf using profanity and threats on blogs, YouTube, and in hate letters mailed to our supporters? What do you think about the level of discourse fostered by these hate mongers and by you in the *Outlook*?

In the final analysis, this campaign should only be about issues – two issues: fiscal responsibility and open government.



KIM ZVIK has been on the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council since January 2011.

What would your top three priorities be if you were elected to the Board?

I want to put the “C” (Community) back into the KPPCSD, so that is my overarching priority. First, fix the divide on the board so people don’t scream each other; Work with KASEP to get registration online; Get the KCC books to be online

and open. They’re now being done manually without a digital backup and public access.

How would you fix the divide on the board?

First of all prevent future slates from getting on a board of only five members. Tony and Linda ran together and are friends with Chuck, which exacerbates the divide between them and the other board members. So don’t elect slate candidates. If the current divide can’t be resolved in a meeting, then bring in a conflict resolution specialist.

Why should the people of Kensington vote for you?

Because I’m the moderate candidate who can balance this mess; I’m the only Kensington parent, and I have IT skills that the board does not have. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation does not give funding to any board that does not have an IT rep on their board. And I may be the only candidate that has gone through divorce mediation – and this board needs some intervention!

Why would anyone want this job?

I like challenges; I trouble shoot challenges every day in my IT job. I view this as another trouble-shooting opportunity. I learned that only 17% of women are in politics, so I wanted to get involved in politics – we’re 56% of the population. The other challenge is the half-baked women’s liberation movement – the working moms criticize the stay-at-home moms and the stay-at-home moms criticize the working moms; I wonder why aren’t we all banding together.

I’m serving on KMAC, I’m webmaster of the EC Youth Baseball Team, a KEF room parent, the head cashier for the Garden Party; I’m raising 4 children, I’m the major breadwinner for my family, and I have a horse hobby.

I think we should embrace what we have, living in such a beautiful place. There are a lot of lost revenue opportunities as well as lost enrichment opportunities as far as subject matter in the KASEP program.

I actually have a serious question about Kensington separating church and state, which I think is the heart of the problem. George Miller is holding an El Cerrito Democratic Club dinner in the United Church of Christ in Kensington, which makes me wonder. I represent the changing community, more people with kids that are moving here. People naturally want to vote for people who are like them.

Isn’t it strange that the Police Officers Assoc. didn’t invite all the candidates? And they have no business endorsing their bosses to begin with.

How long have been on the KMAC Board?

I was appointed by Supervisor John Gioia in 2010 to begin serving in the calendar year 2011.

How many meetings have you missed since then?

Two or three, maybe.

Why haven’t the minutes of the KMAC meetings been posted online since January of 2010?

We have to approve the minutes with the same people that were at the meeting at which the minutes were taken, and all the KMAC members are not in attendance at every meeting. It’s not a good system. I’ve got a better IT solution if anyone cares to hear it! The venue for posting the minutes may also have been changed.

(Following the interview, Kim provided the Outlook with a link to KMAC agendas, which are posted at a different site; there don’t appear to be KMAC minutes

posted online for meetings after January 2010. – Ed.)

How do you handle decisions a board makes with which you disagree?

I’ve also been on the Orinda Horseman Board and the Step One Schools Board. Orinda Horseman didn’t want to have a website, so I just went ahead and put one up anyway without compensation. Either I would find a way to get what is needed to be done or wait for another board.

Have you ever had to resign an office you held for any reason? No.

Have you ever held an office in a town that had a residency requirement that you did not meet? No.

Have you ever negotiated unilaterally, outside your official capacity, with a service provider who had business before a board on which you sat? No.

How would you characterize your feelings about the law?

I think its necessary, but I think rules are made to be broken. Occasionally I speed, and yet I know it’s a privilege to be a citizen and work all these laws out and change them an upgrade them as need be. Laws, like people, evolve over time, and need to be looked at from different angles.

I think I’m highly underestimated by the people in my community.

Some residents are concerned that there has been too much dithering about decisions on the board, too many consultants hired, and not enough action – for instance, on the remodel of the community center. What do you say to those residents?

I say that decisions take time, especially for a master plan, such as the Community Center – that’s not something that comes quickly.

What’s your position on Bay View Refuse?

I think we should negotiate and not be in a lawsuit. And contracts are used for enforcement, not for relationships. Which means we should be having a dialogue with the man so we can figure out to come to mutually beneficial terms.

And if that dialogue forthcoming on the other side?

Then we have to enforce the contract. But that should be a last resort.

Have you ever screamed at a board meeting? No.

Under what circumstances would you anticipate behaving in that manner?

No circumstances. It’s inappropriate. Perhaps if the building was on fire, an earthH-Quake maybe, or a mountain lion in the room.

In the course of a Board meeting, have you ever suggested to a Kensington resident that he or she “get some medication?”

Absolutely not, it’s completely inappropriate and non-professional to say that.

In the course of a board meeting, have you ever thrown documents on the floor that were submitted to you by a constituent?

Absolutely not, I would never do that. In IT we try to avoid paper documents (laughs).

Anything else you’d like to add?

I’ve been a Kensington resident for 12 years. I’m the only candidate who is a Hilltop parent and the only one with solar on their house.

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PAT GILLETTE is a practicing attorney, focusing on labor and employment law. She’s a former member of the Kensington Education Foundation (KEF).

What would your top three priorities be if you were elected?

To restore some type of collaboration and order to the way the work gets done;

To make sure we have the procedures in place to make sure the decisions we’re making are fiscally responsible;

To increase the communication between the board and the public about the rationale for board decisions that are available for public review; and

To improve the dialogue between the public and the board.

Why should the people of Kensington vote for you?

I bring specific skills that we really need. One of those is my background as a labor and employment attorney, and a lot of the issues that have been troubling the community relate to personnel matters and contracts. I think I bring a unique perspective, as well as an expertise, that we don’t currently have on the board. I also have a particular skill at problem solving, as one of the aspects of my current job is to bring people together. I’m a litigator. I’ve learned over the years that it’s much better to try and resolve things and find common ground than to fight.

Finally, I have quite a bit of nonprofit board experience, which I think would be directly relevant to some of the issues that the board is facing, both process and the group dynamics.

Why would anyone want this job?

I want it because I love Kensington. I’ve lived here for 34 years and I feel like we’re at a difficult point in our development, like a lot of communities, because of fiscal restraints due to the economic state of our country. I think we’re in danger of losing our core values, with the conduct of some of the members on the board, and thereby losing the public trust.

On what other boards and committees in Kensington have you been seated?

Kensington Education Fund, when my kids were at Hilltop.

Elsewhere? How many do you want?

Give us the top 5.

I was on the Equal Rights Advocates board, First Graduate (which identifies kids in junior high who could be the first in their family to go to college, and mentors and tutors them thru middle and high school), and College Preparatory School (CPS); I’m on the advisory board to the President for Occidental College, Nat’l Assoc. of Women Lawyers, and Youth Musical Theatre Company.

How many meetings of each have you missed?

I was on the boards listed above for the last four years, along with six or seven others. I’m on a lot of boards. I do a lot of work with women, that’s partly why.

I’ve missed fewer than ten on all my boards in four years. Only professional responsibilities have kept me from going on those occasions when I was unable to attend.

How do you handle decisions the boards

on which you sit make with which you disagree?

I believe it’s my role during the debate portion on any issue to make my position as clearly and as strongly as I can. My job would be to try to persuade people to adopt my position, but once the board has voted my job is to support the decision of the board. We are a board, not a group of individuals. That is particularly true when decisions are made in closed session.

Have you ever had to resign an office you held for any reason? No.

Have you ever held an office in a town that had a residency requirement that you did not meet? No.

Have you ever negotiated unilaterally, outside your official capacity, with a service provider who had business before a board on which you sat?

No. I don’t know how I could.

Have you ever screamed at a board meeting? No.

In the course of a Board meeting, have you ever suggested to an attendee that he or she “get some medication?” No.

Under what circumstances would you anticipate making that suggestion?

Never.

In the course of a board meeting, have you ever thrown documents on the floor that were submitted to you by a constituent? No.

Under what circumstances would you anticipate doing that? Never.

How would you characterize your feelings about the law?

I’m a lawyer, I believe we have to abide by the law and show respect for the restrictions that the law puts on us in our capacity as public servants.

Some residents are concerned that there has been too much dithering about decisions on the board, too many consultants hired, and not enough action – for instance, on the remodel of the community center. What do you say to those residents?

I think its important to get outside consultants in areas we don’t have expertise, however consultants can become an addiction, so I think you do have to think carefully about what information you need, I think you have to manage the consultants so they are cost effective and efficient, and I think you have to make sure that they are focused on your particular goal. I don’t think the answer is always to hire a consultant.

What’s your position on Bay View Refuse?

My understanding is that there is a difference in the interpretation of the contract between the district and Bay View. Based on what I’ve read in the contract, I believe that the board has acted consistently with our obligations as set forth in the contract. I also understand that the board offered Bay View Refuse the opportunity to renegotiate a portion of the contract and the company refused that offer. So at the current time, I believe our obligation is to follow the terms of the contract and require the contractor to do the same.

Anything else you’d like to add?

I think its really important going forward to remember that we are a community that cares about each other and cares deeply about the issues that affect our daily lives, and to have a board with the responsibilities for such essential functions as our police garbage service and parks being constantly disrupted endangers our community and keeps us from moving forward. I think one of the most important issues for us is the ability to maintain our

independent police force, and that is going to require us to work together toward a solution instead of wallowing in the blame game.



JIM HAUSKEN is a retired school teacher.

What would your top three priorities be if you were elected?

Getting more people involved in the decision making process, especially, what needs to be done; more participation would increase transparency. A lot of people are confused about what’s happening. We need to get some transparency about how things are functioning. I think it’s very important to plan ahead. We should err on the side of caution. We can’t assume the economy will always be healthy and that we’ll be raking in the taxes, or whatever.

Why should the people of Kensington vote for you?

We need a new voice – someone who is not of multi-year vested interests. I started attending board meetings about 15 months ago; and have been very concerned about some things. I made the decision to run for the board very recently because I spent 14 months investigating the situation, and I decided to run for the board. I bring a new outlook and bring a little bit different background to it – I’m an educator, which we don’t currently have on the board. I think I can help bring the board together, rather than separating into different factions. I’ve done a fair amount of work with groups of various types. I founded the Speakers Bureau for the Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club. I have experience working with a wide variety of people and organizing things.

Why would anyone want this job?

I felt that there are problems that were not being addressed. I wanted to become involved in the solving of those problems. I’d like to see more people involved with the paths group, for instance.

On what other boards or committees have you sat?

Berkeley Northeast Bay Chapter of the ACLU, since 1998; Medical Trades Inc., involved with regulating industries pertaining to the medical marijuana issue.

How do you handle decisions the boards make with which you disagree?

I go along with them. I abide by group decisions unless it seriously crosses my ethical boundaries.

How often does the ACLU Board meet? Every month.

How long have you been on that board? Since 1998.

How many meetings of have you missed? Maybe one meeting a year.

Have you ever screamed at a board meeting? No.

Under what circumstances would you anticipate behaving in that manner?

If we all agreed it was a group therapy session. (Laughs.) Screaming turns people off. I might whistle. When people start screaming I’m usually quiet and back off.

In the course of a board meeting, have you ever suggested to an attendee that he or she “get some medication?” No.

Under what circumstances would you anticipate behaving in that manner?

If I thought it was going to help the person who was sick, but not in the way of assuming that someone is “off their rocker.”

In the course of a board meeting, have you ever thrown documents on the floor that were submitted to you by a constituent?

No. I don’t think I’ve ever thrown documents on the floor.

Under what circumstances would you anticipate doing that?

If I had snapped. I would not normally do that. It would mean that things had reached a very serious impasse, where we needed to get everyone calmed down. I would do it if I didn’t have a gavel (laughs). I saw someone throw documents once at a board meeting – it ended in a glass of water and it was a mess. I wouldn’t do that.

Have you ever negotiated unilaterally, outside your official capacity, with a service provider who had business before the Board on which you sat? No.

How would you characterize your feelings about the law?

We abide by the law in a sense of consensus agreement, and as our founding documents say, whenever the law becomes onerous we need to change the laws. Usually a person doesn’t have a moral right to disobey the law. Being forced to compromise one’s ethical beliefs, however, when they’re involved with life and death type issues, then it might become a decision where an individual needs to apply their own wisdom to the situation... I want to be careful about wholesale approval of every law that comes down the pike. Laws are made by people, and can be changed by people, but in the daily course of living it’s much wiser to abide by them.

Some residents are concerned that there has been too much dithering about decisions on the board, too many consultants hired, and not enough action – for instance, on the remodel of the community center. What do you say to those residents?

We need to make sure we’re doing it right by code. We can’t just charge off with “My brother is good with a hammer.” I question the word, “dither.” We want to do it in a timely manner. I don’t know exactly how long this has been going on. Sometimes a consultant can be valuable. Other times a consultant isn’t needed. I do think government agencies over rely on consultants.

Would you say that applies to the KPPCSD as well?

I’m not familiar enough to comment on that. There’s too much commenting by people who don’t know the facts. If I would’ve been on the board when the leak in the corner of the roof had first been discovered, for instance, I would’ve gotten up on the roof and taken a look at it to see what it needs. We wouldn’t have ended up with a whole wall of dry rot.

What’s your position on Bay View Refuse?

First, I think we get very good service. The problems have been colored by the animosity on the Board. I think we have some very bad decisions by the Board. It’s quite possible this is going to end up without trash hauling for the town. I’m concerned about other companies coming in at an unreasonable price and/or not providing the same level of service. I’m worried that we might be subject to an arbitrator or a judge assessing financial penalties against Kensington.

Anything else you’d like to add?

I have a fresh perspective to offer that I think can help with the decisions that need to be made. I want to see this municipality function smoothly.