

Bringing The Community Together

K E N S I N G T O N

O U T L O O K

SEPTEMBER 2009

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 7



NAT'L NITE OUT!

Neighbors, and NNO Coordinator, Officer Doug Wilson, joined Jadyne and David Buchholz for a National Night Out potluck on the back deck of their beautiful Rugby Avenue home

On August 4th, Kensington joined 15,000 communities from all 50 states, US territories, and Canadian cities for the 26th Annual *National Night Out*, a unique crime/drug prevention event. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and

police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation. Last year, over 37 million people participated in this event. Local participation was up 30% over last year, due in large part to the efforts of local NNO coordinator, Officer Doug Wilson. (*Nice hats, Doug!*) Kensington residents celebrated this year with outdoor lights and front porch vigils, block parties and cookouts, along with visits from our local police and fire departments.

See Night Out, page 13...

Kimball Resigns – New KPPCSD Director Sought

Is there anyone who wasn't taken by surprise by the abrupt resignation of respected KPPCSD Director, Cindy Kimball, as of August 1st? Citing her frustration with the Board's lack of success at "finding common values and shared responsibility," and its failure "to demonstrate accountability in order to yield shared benefits for our community," Kimball cites the Board's inability to "move on critical fiscal and community issues," along with the trumping of "accountability and taxpayer value...by complacency, process, and politics" as reasons for her decision to resign before the end of her term in December, 2010.

(Her resignation letter is published in its entirety on *Page 3*.)

New Board President, Chuck Toombs (who recently replaced Bill Wright, who stepped down from the Presidency but retained his position as Director), said of Kimball, "She did a great job for this community and I'm sorry to see her go."

Rather than subjecting taxpayers to the cost of a new elec-

See Director, page 13...

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Candace Hyde-Wang 524.0800 951 Ventura Ave. Albany

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Susan Grant & Tim Scully 524.0800 40 Ardmore Dr. Kensington

Darling 3br bungalow with Bay views, built-ins and fireplace. Formal dining room, breakfast nook. Unfinished basement, large attic with potential to develop. Contact agents for price.

Sharon & Doris 527.9111 234 Amherst Ave. Kensington

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Ron & Todd 524.0800 23 Kingston Rd. Kensington

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Barbara Kaplan 527.9111 250 Los Altos Dr. Kensington

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Letters to the Editor

Editor,

There seems to be a lot of misinformation being presented about the sign we erected on the vacant lot at 401 Colusa Avenue. Some claim that it amounts to a claim of victory, however, it is better described as a fallback position of defeat. All throughout this process, we have been asking to build less than is currently allowed under the General Plan parcel’s zoning. We are simply sick and tired of banging our heads against the wall against a bureaucracy whose rooted interest is in doing nothing.

You see, we have spent a substantial sum of money—more than we paid for the land, in fact—trying to gain approval for a far more neighborhood-friendly mixed-use development. This property is currently zoned for a three-story all-commercial development like the picture on the sign, and what we have been proposing is a vastly smaller commercial presence with three residential units above. That is, we can construct the building pictured on the sign without any new approval from the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors because it is specifically allowed according to the 1982 plan.

But we don’t want to. Our proposed building is friendlier to the neighborhood in every way compared to the 1982 plan, generating less traffic, a smaller parking demand, and it’s more attractive to boot. It adds a valuable presence on Colusa Circle to preserve its continued commercial viability, while even adding some residents to the area to help support the businesses there.

In the past few years we have jumped through all the hoops demanded by the County, repeatedly satisfying all of them, and we still have no approval for our plan. Some unreasonably demand that we build only a two-story building, which is commercially unviable, given all the other requirements. It would be a tragedy if self-interested NIMBYs were allowed to derail our neighborhood-friendly proposal because they foolishly believe that blocking our proposal will block all development of the parcel.

If we are not allowed to proceed with our neighborhood-friendly proposal, then we will have no choice but to proceed with the building we are allowed to build, a three-story commercial building with parking underneath.

—Ed Crowley, Managing Partner,
The Circle Partnership

Dear Editor,

This is an open letter to Bruce Morrow and the community about various topics – improvements to the park, Community Center and current issues with The Kensington Police. The park has improved greatly in the last ten years. But, the current play structure and park installations really only serve to the age of 4 or 5. There really is not much for kids 5 and older to do. There is basketball and tennis, but there is quite an age gap before they can really take advantage of those sports. I therefore recommend the following improvements:

1. Construct a really fantastic play structure geared to kids 6-12. Please do not purchase another ubiquitous plastic structure, but search for something that is really unique that cannot be found in another playground elsewhere. Let your imagination run wild...treehouse, rubber tire climbing, spider web, lots of places to climb and hide...locally, you can look at Aquatic Park for some ideas.
2. Construct a sandbox or gravel pit. I have no idea why sandboxes have been eliminated from playgrounds. My kids actively seek out sites that supply them. As far as a gravel pit, I recommend you look at The Bay Area Discovery Museum for an excellent one. I can donate most of the trucks.

As far as improvements to The Community Center, I highly recommend you look to replace the heating system by the end of the year. There are very generous tax credits and rebates being offered right now provided through the Federal Stimulus Package, PG&E and local unions. I recently used *Atlas* in Oakland.

Finally, although not a popular subject, I have to say that I am now skeptical of claims of “hostile work environment” at The Police Department. In the beginning, it seemed possible because the whole situation seemed so bizarre and plausible. But now, several years have passed under two sets of what seems like competent management and we still have the same problem. The problem is either institutionalized, or, manufactured. I have to tell you that I am leaning towards “manufactured” at this time. I am not sure how to address this because we get such little information on the subject, but I am tired of my tax dollars being spent on this issue and I want it solved. Anything I can do to help you with it, please let me know.

— Leslie Reckler

See Letters, page 9...

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

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Love a Parade?

Who doesn’t? The 2009 *Kensington Community Council Annual Parade and Picnic* will be held on Sunday, October 18th. The parade will gather at noon at the corner of Amherst and Arlington Avenues. Led by the El Cerrito High School marching band, the parade will end at the Community Center, followed by a delicious picnic served by KCC.

A coloring contest and pumpkin-decorating event are planned for the children. As usual, local organizations and groups are invited to participate. Wear your Halloween costume, decorate a banner, and march down Arlington Avenue to the Community Center, where you can sample some great BBQ, listen to three bands – including *The Blues Daddies*, *Fortune Smiles*, and the *El Cerrito High Jazz Band* – and mingle with neighbors and friends!

If you or your organization would like to be part of the parade, please contact Esther Hill at 525-0292.

“What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

— Emerson

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Kimball Resignation Letter



Undated photo of former
KPPCSD Director, Cindy Kimball

KPPCSD President Toombs,

It is with regret that I write this letter. I am tendering my resignation from the KPPCSD Board of Directors effective August 1, 2009.

My desire to serve on this board has been founded on my beliefs that I can make a difference for the betterment of our community and that I can work with the Board and the public to build a successful district. I was honored to be elected by our community and I have represented those who voted for me to the best of my abilities. Successful communities, as Former President Bill Clinton said, are the result of “shared values, shared responsibility and shared benefits.” For over two years, members of the Board have been trying to find common values and shared responsibility. Despite enormous effort we have failed to demonstrate accountability in order to yield shared benefits for our community.

People expect, as a minimum, that

their government will spend public funds wisely in order to build a community where they can thrive. I have found, however, that both accountability and taxpayer value for their money are often trumped by complacency, process and politics. Simply put, we are stuck.

Specifically, for the last several months we have failed to move on critical fiscal and community issues, which include reviewing our budget for accuracy and the increased legal, consultant, and turnover costs, reviewing the General Manager/Chief of Police contract with a potential split of the position, exploring all options for exceptional police services, bringing the Annex Building back to a revenue producing status and evaluating the newest Bay View Refuse and Recycling proposal for District benefits.

Without some resolution on the issues stated above we, the taxpayers, will face higher taxes, but will not be getting any additional benefit or representation for those taxes. I have committed as much time and energy as I am able to in order to help move the Board forward on these issues. Regrettably, my efforts have not had the results I hoped for and I feel strongly enough about accountable and efficient government that I choose now to leave my position on the Board. It has been an honor serving the District. As part of the community, I hope to find new ways to continue to contribute in the future.

Thank you for your time and service.

Respectfully,
Cindy Kimball

Cindy served with distinction on the Board of Directors of the Kensington Police, Park, and Community Service District from December, 2006.

Fire at 268 Arlington

On Saturday, August 1st, at approximately 6:30am, there was a report of a fire at 268 Arlington Avenue. Kensington Engine 65, El Cerrito Engine’s 71 & 72, Richmond Engine 64, Richmond Truck 64, and the El Cerrito Battalion Chief responded to find the garbage bin area fully engulfed, with flames climbing the side of the building and the garage next door at 264 Arlington. Both are commercial buildings; 268 Arlington is owned by Bart Jones.



Chief Harman presented Officer Rodney Martinez with the Blue Commendation in front of Bart’s burned, blackened, and now boarded building

Officer Rodney Martinez was the first unit on the scene and assisted in evacuating two residents at 262 Arlington, as well as maintaining scene control at the fire.

Assistance was received from the El Cerrito Police Department, with an officer assisting with traffic control until the arrival of Ser-

geant Ricky Hull and Chief Greg Harman.

Preliminary indications are that the fire was started by spontaneous combustion of wood stain rags that had been discarded in the garbage bin area. The building was in the process of being stained.

Officer Martinez was awarded a *Blue Commendation* for his actions at the fire.

– Gregory E. Harman, Chief of Police

Burglary Arrest

On Thursday, July 16th, Detective Keith Barrow of the Kensington Police Department, along with officers from State Parole and the Oakland Police Department, conducted a parolee search at the Oakland residence of a 39-year old male, who was identified as a possible suspect in a Kensington residential burglary.

Over 5,000 pieces of stolen property were recovered at the residence and the suspect was taken into custody. A U-Haul truck was needed to transport the recovered property back to a storage shed that had to be rented to store all of the recovered property.

So far, three Kensington victims of residential burglary have been identified, as well as two victims from Berkeley. Detective Barrow is working with detectives from the Albany, El Cerrito, and Berkeley Police Departments in order to identify additional victims.

The suspect was booked into the Martinez Detention Facility and will be charged with burglary, possession of stolen property, weapons and drug charges, as well as parole violation.

– Gregory E. Harman, Chief of Police

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Festivities follow at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue.*



Stop by The Mechanics Bank Kensington office the week of September 14 to pick up an entry form. Have your child enter our Kids Coloring Contest for a chance to **win a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond!** (Details in our Kensington office.)



Purchase barbecue lunch tickets in advance, Monday thru Friday, September 14 to October 16, at The Mechanics Bank and receive **50¢ per ticket off** the regular Open House price.



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LAFCO Update

When we left our hero, Ken Sington, he was teetering on the brink of a cliff, about to be forced into the dreaded collective arms of a consolidated Fire- and Police District. The notorious LAFCO gang was hot on Ken’s trail. The fiery Nina pleaded with Ken to be careful not to fall. “Cool Hand” Bill was sure there was a way either around the gaping canyon Ken now faced – or through it.

The sons and daughters of Ken Sington got together and were able to hold off the black-hatted LAFCO gang, while Nina and Bill and their cohorts gathered around Ken to figure out what to do.

Pow-wows took place, and all parties agreed to a truce over the summer in the hope that soon, cooler heads might prevail.

Louann “Tex” Texeira, at the County Seat, agreed not to interfere – at least until an MSR (*Municipal Service Review*) could be completed, at which time she’d sit down with the LAFCO boys and decide if the Police District and the Fire District should each remain separate entities, or if—in order to best fight any fires that might threaten Ken Sington’s spread, and keep an eye on any suspicious strangers that might wander into town, the districts should be merged.

As summer comes to a close, on Sept. 9th, Tex’s posse will hold the first public presentation of the seven service district-MSR – including a report on the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District. (A report on the Fire District was presented earlier this year.)

LAFCO’s mandate is to review how efficiently and comprehensively fire- and police protection services are provided in each district and whether districts (or “departments”) should be combined – or even subsumed entirely by the County.

Public comment is invited at the September meeting. Two weeks after that presentation, the entire MSR will be released to the public. (www.contracostalafco.org)

Then, on November 18th, LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) will consider officially accepting the report and updating spheres of influence. (As far as Kensington goes, this most likely means they’ll *consider* recommending the combining of the Police and Fire Service Districts. Again, such a recommendation, if any, LAFCO Executive Officer, Texeira has repeatedly assured everyone, would be subject to local voters’ approval.)

These meetings are open to the public, and will be held at 1:30pm in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 651 Pine St., 1st Floor, in Martinez; the County Seat.

Neighborhood Notes

First Friday Art Walk - Colusa Circle/Arlington Avenue - Sept. 4th

Once a month on the first Friday, participating businesses in Kensington stay open from 6-9pm and greet residents with art, music, wine, and more. Beginning last month, the festivities expanded to include merchants along Arlington Avenue, as well as those on Colusa Circle. Hopefully, this month’s festivities will expand to include you! *Fresh Roast* (right) played at July’s event.

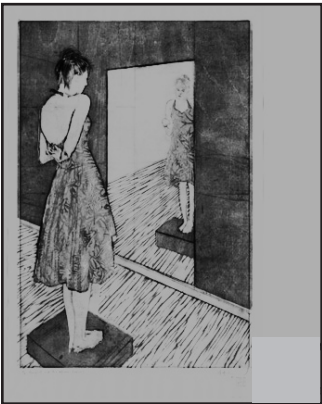


Ride to Defeat ALS

Linda Lettieri lived in Kensington for fourteen years. She was a member of KCC and served for a time as editor of *The Outlook*. Linda died in 2007, three years after a diagnosis of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig’s Disease). On September 19th, Linda’s husband, Paul, and daughter, Madeleine, will be co-captaining a team riding in the *Ride to Defeat ALS*, beginning in Yountville. All funds will be donated to The ALS Association, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to finding the cause and cure of this devastating disease. To ride or donate: www.FightALS.com, or 800-209-0433.

Ellen Heck – Fine Art Printmaker

Ellen Heck has recently graduated from the *School of the Art Institute* in Chicago and is currently living and working as a fine art printmaker in the Bay Area. An artist-in-residence at *Kala Art Institute* and artist-member of the *California Society of Printmakers*, her work is currently being exhibited in several cities in the United States – including ours! At the Kensington Library through October. Call 524-3043 for exhibit hours.



If Life Gives You Lemons...

Each August, York Street in Kensington hosts a two-day block sale for its neighbors. Barbara and Wendy Brasfield and their neighbors have a great time clearing the clutter but most of all, working and spending time together. One of the great things this year was a few of the kids from the block designed a lemonade stand and sold lemonade and popcorn for a great cause (the *Milo Foundation*, which rescues animals in need). They presented Milo with a \$100 donation check last week. Pictured from left to right are Sofie Ten Broek, Annika Duquet, Madeline Shean, Sophie Shean and Maya Simpson. *Go girls, for dedicating yourselves to a wonderful cause!*



Community Emergency Response Teams Training (CERT) Sept. 2

Don’t forget! The *Community Emergency Response Teams* (CERT) training series will be held in Kensington starting this month. You can receive the training FREE in just nine evenings at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue – Wednesdays, 6:30-9pm, beginning September 2nd. CERT is a national program run in all states, configured for local disasters, and supported by Homeland Security funds. Help your family, yourself, and your neighbors survive the 8-10 days we’ll be on our own following a serious earthquake. Learn first aid, fire suppression, and search & rescue basics. Register now to ensure a spot! ElCerritoKensingtonCERT.org, or 215-4450 for more information.



FEMA News Photo: Northridge, 1994

No Worries About Who’ll Do the Flowers

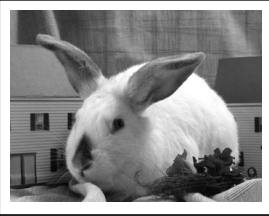
Sammy Jarvis and Micah Sager were married this past July, with the ceremony and reception held at *Trader Vic’s* in Emeryville. Sammy is the granddaughter of longtime Kensington resident, Marie Wiesner, and the daughter of Judy Pope, owner of *D’Jour Floral and Antiques*. The two lovebirds then took off for a romantic beach honeymoon in SoCal’s Oceanside. *Happy trails!*



The Kensington Library Needs You!

If you love libraries, enjoy learning new things, and can give just two hours a week, they’ll find the right volunteer job for you. *Early Bird Support*: As an *Early Bird* volunteer, help get the library ready for its busy day by tidying shelves, filling book displays, and helping library staff with other duties. *Library Sleuth*: Help others get the books they want quickly. Who know what treasures you’ll locate! *Shelving and Collection Maintenance*: By shelving books and other library materials you’re helping library users find what they’re looking for and making the library a more attractive, welcoming place. For more information, please contact Liz Ruhland, at lruhland@ccclib.org or 524-3043.

Pet of the Month



“Peanut” is a bouncing baby boy bunny and came to *Rabbit EARS* with his brother, Pumpkin, when he was only three weeks old. Even though Peanut is a California bunny, he loves Italian food. His favorite dinner is sweet peppers, basil, cherry tomatoes, and dark green leafy veggies. His goal in life is to improve the diets of bunnies all over the world by becoming the spokesbunny for backyard gardens. If you have a little garden patch and wouldn’t mind Farmer Peanut suggesting what to plant, please come visit him at *Rabbit EARS*, 377 Colusa Ave, 525-6155, www.rabbitears.org

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Neighborhood Notes

Kensington Gardens Awarded Top Prizes

Two Kensington gardens were recently awarded top prizes in the annual California Landscape Contractors Association’s (CLCA) Bay Area East competition. Jadyne and David Buchholz’s stunning grounds on Rugby Avenue won the *Sweepstakes Award* (over-all second best installation) and the exceptional Anderson garden on Yale Circle won the *First Place Large Residential Installation*. Both these oases were created by Goodman Landscape Design of Berkeley, the husband-wife team of Tim and Lisa Goodman, who were awarded plaques for their designs. Both gardens were also featured in the 23rd Annual *Secret Gardens of the East Bay*, Park Day School’s popular spring garden tour held April 25. The Bucholz garden is pictured above.



A Message from Trina & Shai Yerlick:

Hello old friends and neighbors! Hopefully you still remember us from all of those years of good food and conversation at Shai’s! It has been a little more than a year since we left the familiarity and warmth of Kensington for warmth of a different kind in our new home on Hawaii’s “Big Island”. Though we are having a great time and settling in nicely, we do miss our old customers and friends and hope you are all enjoying life and each other! We have always dreamed of owning our own bed & breakfast and now, after a lot of saving, planning and building, we are open for business again! We call our new place *Lilikoi Inn – Bed & Breakfast*. Lilikoi is the Hawaiian word for passion fruit and these delicious treats are found all over our three acres of Kona Coffee Trees. We would love for you to come visit us sometime and have a delicious breakfast – cooked by Shai – at the heart of Hawaii’s Kona Coast. A “Friends of Shai’s” discount will always apply! If you are interested in staying with us in Hawaii check out our website: www.LilikoiInn.com. We hope you can come soon! Best wishes and our warmest Aloha, Trina & Shai.



She Talks the Walk - Colusa Circle

Judy Hardin, owner of *RabbitEARS Pet Supply* on Colusa Circle is the person responsible for spearheading all the fun we’ve been having on *First Fridays’ Art Walk*. Shown here with Lucy – last month’s *Pet of the Month* – not everyone knows she doesn’t actually sell pets at her shop. She sells pet *supplies*, and provides rabbits and some various other occasional critters for adoption, only. (Now Judy’s not the kind of gal who would think of it, but didn’t *Gillette* make a fortune giving away the razors and selling the blades?) Judy is also behind the *Kensington Sister City Project* – pursuing Kensington, England (Beatrix Potter’s birthplace) as a Sister City for our burg here in (mostly) sunny CA. They may have *Peter Rabbit*, but we’ve got the weather – *and* Judy!



She Talks the Walk II - Arlington Avenue

Kensington Chevron Station owner, Tricia Grame, has taken the *First Friday* ball and run with it – right up Arlington Avenue. Last month she hosted Kensington’s own *The Blues Daddies* – yes, over there by the *unleaded* – plenty of room to dance! (Did you know that she is one of the minority of California service station owners to invest tens of thousands of dollars to upgrade their station’s pumps to meet new stringent air quality regulations – expected to cut smog by 40% – only to see the compliance deadlines subsequently extended? *Thank you, Tricia!*) Tricia is promising more of the *Daddies’* soulful sounds at September’s event. Not a one-note samba herself, by any means, she’s pictured here with her sculpture, *Woman in Stone*, at the *Mechanics Bank’s* art exhibit at last month’s bash.



Kathryn Roszak’s Dance Program for Children

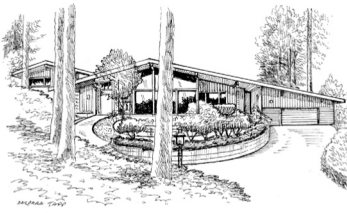
Fall classes are now beginning in Creative Movement/Pre-Ballet and Ballet (ages 3-10) Mondays & Wednesdays in Berkeley and Kensington – a popular dance program with a children’s *Nutcracker* presented at Kensington Community Center in December. A Kensington Hilltop mom, Kathryn Roszak danced for the *San Francisco Opera Ballet*, and her company *Danse Lumiere* will perform at Herbst Theater and the Lawrence Hall of Science, this fall. More information on kids classes is available at 233-5550 or www.dlkdance.com.



AC Transit Cutting Service to Kensington - Hearing Sept. 8th

George Iwamoto says service on lines 7, 65, and 67 is slated to be cut back. Public hearing at North Berkeley Community Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley on 9/8, 6:30-8pm.

Listing Update



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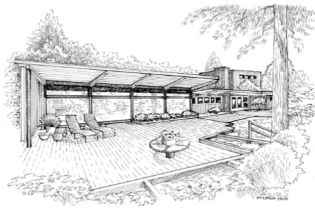
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KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue, the Kensington Community Council’s After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) fall session begins on Monday, September 21st. Fall registration is Wednesday, Sept. 9th at the Kensington Community Center (“Youth Hut”); 6:45pm for kindergarten students and 7:15pm for students in grades 1-6.

Brochures will go home with Kensington Hilltop students the first week of September. KASEP brochures and registration forms are also online at www.aboutkensington.com under *Children’s Services*.

Tennis Clinics

For Middle & High School Students

Instructor: Kim Roots
Location: Kensington Tennis Courts
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:50-5:10pm
Price: \$12 per class

In this clinic for 6th-12th graders, Kim Roots teaches the fundamentals of tennis, including strokes, tactics, and sportsmanship. Clinics consist of instruction, drills, and play. For information about racquets, please call the instructor, Kim Roots, at (510) 526-6730.

Students must register by the month for one or two days per week. Registration forms are available at the KCC office, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, or at www.aboutkensington.com.



Pilates Instructor, Ernie Adams

ADULT CLASSES

User-Friendly Pilates
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Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30pm
7-Class Series, Sept 16-Oct. 28

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



This is a mixed-level class, appropriate for those with experience and also for those who are just beginning. If you want to get stronger in a way that reduces the chance of injury, give this class a try.

Minimum of 7 students required for class; drop-in allowed only for first class on September 16. Kensington Recreation Building (Building E)

Cost: \$84 for seven classes for residents; nonresidents add \$1 surcharge. Please register with KCC.

Ernie Adams is a Pilates Instructor and Feldenkrais® Movement Educator, with an extensive background as a professional dancer. He presents a less stressful way of learning Pilates and has sixteen years experience collaborating with physical therapists to treat orthopedic, neurological, dance and sports related injuries. Ernie also offers private sessions at his office in Albany. For more information please call: (510) 619-9223, or email: adams@bodyinaction.com. Ernie’s website is www.bodyinaction.com

ADULT CLASSES

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

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

Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered Yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. For more information about the class, please contact Nicole at (510) 527-6443.

Fees for residents: \$15 for drop-in; \$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresidents please add a \$1 surcharge. To register, call the KCC office at 525-0292.

Classes are held in the Community Center (The “Youth Hut”).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

KCC Fall Parade & Picnic
Sunday, Oct. 18, 12:30-3:30pm
Please save the date!

We’d love to have you join us for the KCC Fall Parade and Picnic on Sunday, October 18, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Parade participants will gather at 12 noon at the corner of Amherst and Arlington Avenues and then march down to the Kensington Community Center for a barbeque picnic. A coloring contest, pumpkin decorating contest, and other activities are planned for children. We’ll have fabulous live music through the afternoon. Please mark the date on your calendar and consider organizing a group to march in the parade! We’ll also need volunteers to help with the BBQ—let us know if you have time to help. KCC’s office number is 525-0292.

ADULT CLASSES

Thursday Hatha Yoga
Thursdays, 5:45-7pm

Classic yoga postures and breathing practices for revitalization. Learn to listen to your body and your breath; explore and enjoy. In this class we’ll work in two distinct styles: on the second and the final Thursdays of the month, relax in a blissful Restorative practice; on the first and third Thursdays we’ll engage in a more active practice. All levels of experience and physical ability are welcome.

Fees for residents: \$15 for drop-in. One-month pass (4 classes) for \$50. Non-residents please add \$1 surcharge

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

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

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

COMING SOON!

Maybeck Estates Historical Walk
Saturday, September 26th
10am – Noon
\$10 by advance reservation

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

Handouts will be provided to all participants. Please wear comfortable walking shoes. For more information, or to register for the walk, please call the KCC office at 525-0292. Limited to 30 participants.

Registration

To Register for Classes: Please call the office at (510) 525-0292, unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits; those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

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

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

*Thank you to
The Walters Family
for their generous donation
of \$100 for improvements
in the park.*

50 Years of Free Speech

Kensington, CA – Throughout the country, most children are starting a new academic year. Teachers are sending out their lists of required readings, and parents are beginning to gather books. In some cases, classics like *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, and *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, may not be included in curriculum or available in the school library due to challenges made by parents or administrators.

Since 1990, the American Library Association’s (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) has recorded more than 10,000 book challenges, including 513 in 2008. (A challenge is a formal, written complaint requesting a book be removed from library shelves or school curriculum.) About three out of four of all challenges are to material in schools or school libraries, and one in four are to material in public libraries. OIF estimates that less than one-quarter of challenges are reported and recorded.

It is thanks to the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, and students that most challenges are unsuccessful and reading materials like *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *Slaughterhouse Five*, the *Harry Potter* series, and Phyllis Reynolds Naylor’s *Alice* series, remain available.

The most challenged and/or restricted reading materials have been books for children. However, challenges are not simply an expression of a point of view; on the contrary, they are an attempt to remove materials from public use, thereby restricting the access of others. Even if the motivation to ban or challenge a book is well intentioned, the outcome is detrimental. Censorship denies our freedom as indi-

viduals to choose and think for ourselves. For children, decisions about what books to read should be made by the people who know them best — their parents!

In support of the right to choose books freely for ourselves, the ALA and Kensington Public Library are sponsoring *Banned Books Week*, September 26 to October 3 – an annual celebration of our right to access books without censorship.

This year’s observance commemorates the most basic freedom in a democratic society — the ability to read freely — and encourages us not to take this freedom for granted.

Since its inception in 1982, *Banned Books Week* has reminded us that, while not every book is intended for every reader, each of us has the right to decide for herself what to read, listen to, or view. Kensington Public Library and thousands of libraries and bookstores across the country will celebrate the freedom to read by participating in special events, exhibits, and read-outs that showcase books that have been banned or threatened.

The Kensington Public Library will be hosting a read-out presentation by 38° North Publishing Group – *Celebrating 50 Years of Free Speech* with special guest David Lance Goines on Thursday, October 1st, from 7-9pm. David Lance Goines is best known in the Bay Area for his art posters, but his encyclopediac account of the Free Speech Movement in Berkeley in the mid-1960s is considered the standard sourcebook for the period. This event is free of charge and appropriate for all ages.

Banned Books Week is endorsed by *The Library of Congress Center for the Book*.

– This article was submitted by Judy Hardin, owner of Colusa Circle’s RabbitEars Pet Supply & Services.

Fire District Report

Because the District is in solid financial shape, the KFPD has decided not to levy the special Fire District parcel tax (\$83 per single family home) during this fiscal year. Should the financial position of the District change, it reserved the right to continue the tax in future years.

The FY 09-10 preliminary budget has been adopted: Total revenue is expected to be \$2,870,000, with operating expenses of \$2,993,000 – including building repairs to the Public Safety Bldg at 217 Arlington, scheduled engine replacement costs, and contributions to the CalPERS Trust to partially fund the District’s retiree benefit liability for previous employees. This puts the District’s budget approximately \$123,000 over revenue. The District has one year’s worth of the contract fee with the El Cerrito Fire Department set aside (twice the contractually required amount).

The ECFD contract fee for FY 09-10 increased by 0.72% (\$15,000) – the second smallest increase in the 14-year relationship between the KFPD and the ECFD. There has been a decrease in vehicle & equipment costs because the fleet is newer, but an 18% jump in fuel costs, and a 2% pay increase (balanced by other cuts made by the department).

Station 72 (1520 Arlington, EC) took delivery of a new Type III fire engine, which, according to Chief Lance Maples, “will enable the station to step up the level of support” it can send out. The Apparatus Division is in the process of conducting mechanical familiarization, equipment outfitting and staff training.

Maples also reassured the KFPD Board (once more) that El Cerrito is not interested in annexing Kensington.

Be on the Radio...Over!

Kensington Amateur Radio Operators/El Cerrito Ham Operators (KARO/ECHO) is actively soliciting new members interested in operating amateur radios as a community service – no experience or equipment needed.

In the event of a major earthquake or other similar disaster, it’s very possible that cell phone broadcast and reception would be non-existent.

The good news is, in such a scenario, there is a rudimentary network of ham radio operators that can pick up the slack. The bad news is, there are currently large holes in that system that need to be filled in order for it to be fully functional.

More good news: you don’t need any prior experience or technical knowledge in order to assist KARO/ECHO in filling the gaps in that network.

Kensington has six emergency *walkie-talkies* to provide communications links between neighborhood groups and service providers from the community and surrounding area during an emergency.

KARO/ECHO is looking for a few residents to spend an hour or two being shown how to use one of those radios – people who can commit to going to an assigned station near their home to operate a radio in the event of an emergency.

These volunteers will be an important link in the communication network – runners from neighborhoods will bring critical information to these outposts – a fire engine needed here, ambulance or rescue team there; volunteer radio operators will pass that information on to a central command post from which help (or at least condolences) can be dispatched.

For information about becoming a volunteer radio operator, please contact Marian Gade at (510) 524-9815.

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Hilltop School Update

Hilltop Elementary School is not immune to the current economic crisis of California. The recent \$6 million in cuts to the education budget in California have been passed along to our local school district, West Contra Costa County Unified School District. The WCCUSD school board voted to increase class sizes in 2009-2010 from 20 to 24 in kindergarten and from 20 to 28 in grade 3. Grades 1 and 2 will remain at a class size of 20. This decision enabled the district to cut costs but not lose all state funding for class size reduction. The WCCUSD board also cut all funding of 4th through 6th grade prep teachers, which means that computer and music for Hilltop's 4-6 grades will not be funded by the district. Kensington Education Foundation (KEF) is working with Principal Judy Sanders to fund some of the programs cut by the school district this year.

During the summer, the WCCUSD board voted to impose district health benefit caps on current and retired employees, effective January 2010. They also voted to give the school district authority to increase class sizes to as many as 31 students in grades K-3, remove seniority as a primary factor in teacher transfers, and keep pay at the same rate. The board also authorized the hiring of substitute teachers in order to provide an educational program for students during a possible strike.

On Thursday, August 20th, teachers from West Contra Costa Unified School District (United Teachers of Richmond/UTR) met and voted to allow their union leaders to call a strike if necessary in protest of the WCCUSD's contract imposed on the teachers. At press time, no decision had been made on when, or if, to call a strike.

This Hilltop School Update was submitted by Catherine Mercurio, Kensington Education Foundation President.

KMAC Opening

The *Kensington Municipal Advisory Council* is seeking applicants to fill a vacant position as an alternate.

KMAC is an appointed advisory body charged with making recommendations to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on land use, planning and zoning variance applications – a chance to have a dynamic impact on maintaining the residential harmony of Kensington – in congruence with the *Kensington Ordinance*.

This ordinance gives significant protection to existing homeowners; it was initiated by KMAC and passed by the Board of Supervisors with strong support from Supervisor John Gioia.

The Council's five members and two alternates serve staggered four-year terms. Members and alternates review cases in advance, interact with the community and the County Conservation & Development Department on issues that concern the Council – those related to land-use, planning, zoning, variance applications, code enforcement, and code changes. Alternates are expected to attend all regular council meetings and vote in place of regular members when required.

Applicants should be property owners and demonstrate knowledge of the community and its land use issues. There is a three-year residency requirement. Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.

Applications are available at the Library, by calling the KMAC message line at 273-9926, or from Kate Rauch of Supervisor Gioia's office, 374-3231. Completed applications should be received by Supervisor Gioia's office no later than Friday, October 17. Interviews will take place in November or early December, and the Board of Supervisors will make an appointment by the end of the year.

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Obituaries



AnneMarie Spiller passed away July 24, 2009, age 77 years. A much-loved 40-year resident of Kensington, she enjoyed many great friendships and happy days. She is survived by her loving husband, Edward A. Spiller; three devoted children: Shirley Spiller; Edward Spiller and his wife Cyndy; Mark Spiller and his wife Chen-Nee Chuah; two sisters, Marga Maehl and Kaete Steindl; brother-in-law, Karl Spiller and his wife Helga; four grandchildren: Luke Spiller, Alexis Spiller, Emma Spiller, and Annemarie Spiller; as well as many generous and caring friends and family members worldwide. Memorial services will be planned for a later date.

Obituaries are run on a space-available basis. Please email information and photographs to Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

NOTICE OF VACANCY AND INTENT TO APPOINT DIRECTOR TO THE KENSINGTON POLICE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a vacancy exists on the Board of Directors of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District. That vacancy was created by the resignation of Director Cynthia Kimball, effective August 1, 2009, and must be filled by appointment no later than September 30, 2009.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, in accordance with California Government Code Section 1780, the remaining directors of the KPPCSD intend to and will fill the vacancy by appointing a successor. The individual appointed will serve as Director from the effective date of appointment until a successor is elected and qualified at the next district general election in November 2010.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the District is seeking qualified individuals to appoint to its Board of Directors and fill the vacancy. Interested individuals should submit a letter indicating their interest and qualifications to serve on the KPPCSD Board no later than September 7, 2009. All candidates must reside within, and be a registered voter in, Kensington. For further information please contact District Secretary Stephanie Fries at the KPPCSD, 217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington CA 94707. (510) 526-4141.



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Barrie Engel, a Kensington resident for thirty-four years, and a longtime community volunteer, died June 18th, 2009, at the age of seventy-two.

Barrie was a KCC Director for many years and was a co-founder of the *Kensington Education Foundation*, a non-profit group that lends independent fiscal and community support to Kensington Hilltop School. Formed in 1983, KEF has served as a model for parental groups seeking to enrich their local schools, nationwide.

As a member of the *Dad's Club*, Barrie is remembered for his enthusiasm at many school carnivals. He also served on the Board of Trustees of Marin Academy in San Rafael. He was an avid fly fisherman and a member of the Tyee Club of British Columbia.

Barrie practiced tax law and estate planning for forty-six years in Oakland. He received his law degree from UC Berkeley's Boalt School of Law, and, after graduation, spent a year in Stockholm, Sweden, as a Ford Foundation Scholar.

Barrie is survived by his wife, Betty Anne, his son and daughter-in-law, Geoff and Meredith Engel of Olympia, WA, and his daughter and son-in-law, Molly and John Park of Los Angeles, CA.

Donations, by anyone wishing to honor Barrie, may be made to KEF, 90 Highland Blvd., Kensington 94708, or to UC Berkeley Boalt School of Law Alumni Center, 2850 Telegraph Ave., Suite 500, Berkeley 94704.

From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From July 2009

•09-3018 On 7/1/09 at 1928 hrs. Officer Stegman took a residential burglary report on Purdue Ave.

•09-3105 On 7/5/09 at 1823 hrs. Officer Stegman took a theft report of a license plate from a resident on Oak View Ave.

•09-3122 On 7/6/09 at 1955 hrs. Officer Khan impounded a vehicle on Stratford Rd. for expired registration.

•09-3247 On 7/13/09 at 1943 hrs. Officer Stegman impounded a vehicle on Arlington Ave. for having an unlicensed driver.

•09-3286 On 7/15/09 at 1145 hrs. Officer Wilson committed a mentally ill subject who was running in the area of Sunset Dr. and Highgate Rd.

•09-3362 On 7/19/09 at 1556 hrs. Officer Wilson took a graffiti case on Arlington Ave. *(Let's see, there was lots of chalk, and... well, that was about it. And a cute little case. The perfect gift for your back-to-schooler – a graffiti case!)*

•09-3377 On 7/20/09 at 1001 hrs. Officer Wilson took a vandalism report (slashed tires) on Oakview Ave. *(Please, Officer – no need to slash the tires; just take the report. I've got enough trouble as it is.)*

•09-3381 On 7/20/09 at 1600 hrs. Officer Wilson took an identity theft report on Camelot Ct. *(Or was it Chameleon Ct.?)*

•09-3384 On 7/20/09 at 1904 hrs. Officer Stegman took a battery on a child report and arrested a resident on Amherst Ave.

•09-3493/ 3494/ 3495 On 7/26/09 at 1141 hrs. Officer Wilson took the first of three vandalism cases to vehicles on Arlington Ave., Yale Ave., and Oberlin Ave.

•09-3516 On 7/28/09 at 1104 hrs. Officer Wilson took a residential burglary report from a resident on Franciscan Way.

•2009-3035 – On 7/2/09 at 0952 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of vandalism in the 00 block of Yale Circle. A resident found the windshield to his vehicle smashed, the front hood scratched, and the rear driver side tail light smashed.

•2009-3043 – On 7/2/09 at 1555 hours, Officer Martinez responded to an injury accident on Grizzly Peak Boulevard. A pedestrian was hit by a vehicle turning from westbound Beloit Ave. onto southbound Grizzly Peak Boulevard.

•2009-3066 – On 7/3/09 at 1131 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of identity theft in the 00 block of Anson Way. A resident noticed several hundred dollars was spent to purchase tickets to the Los Angeles Lakers basketball game on his credit card account.

•2009-3067 – On 7/3/09 at 1232 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of

identity theft in the 200 block of Arlington Avenue. A resident believed she lost her wallet that morning at *Togo's* restaurant in Emeryville. By noon her credit card had been used at several gas stations and *Best Buy* in Oakland.

•2009-3159 – On 7/8/09, at 1821 hours, Officer Medina responded to a report of petty theft in the 00 block of Sunset Drive. The resident went on an overnight trip and discovered that several tools had been stolen from his garage when he returned home.

•2009-3190 – On 7/10/09, at 1105 hours, Officer Martinez was flagged down and directed to a residential burglary in the 200 block of Los Altos Drive. Officer Martinez conducted a preliminary investigation and located several pieces of evidence that led to the identification of the suspect, who was later arrested by Investigator Barrow. Officer Martinez had the suspect identified and the suspect's photo, prior to going off duty. The suspect was later arrested at his residence in Oakland through a combined effort by Investigator Barrow, Oakland Parole Dept., and the Oakland Police Department.

•2009-3314 – On 7/16/09, at 1030 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of a residential burglary in the 600 block of Coventry Road. A resident left for 1-1/2 hours, then returned to find several items stolen from the residence.

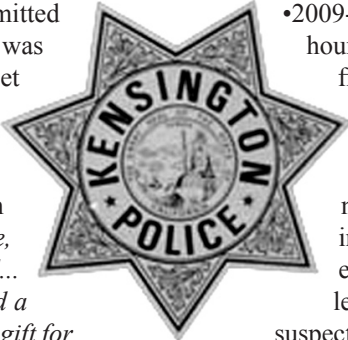
•2009-3326 – On 7/17/09, at 1127 hours, Officer Martinez was working traffic control at Beloit Ave. and Cambridge Ave. Officer Martinez stopped a vehicle for going 48mph on Cambridge Avenue. The driver was unlicensed, so he was cited and the vehicle was towed.

•2009-3327 – On 7/17/09, at 1140 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of vehicle burglary in the 300 block of Colusa Avenue. The resident noticed her car stereo had been stolen.

•2009-3342 – On 7/18/09, at 1320 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of petty theft in the 200 block of Kenyon Avenue. A resident discovered solar garden lights had been stolen from the front yard of the residence.

•2009-3408 – On 7/22/09, at 1000 hours, Officer Martinez took a copy of a restraining order from an El Cerrito resident who is often a visitor to the District of Kensington.

•2009-3431 – On 7/23/09, at 1013 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of a hit & run accident in the 00 block of Cowper Avenue.



... Letters from page 2

Editor--

I wonder if other Kensington residents experience difficulty because they share a zip code with Berkeley and Alameda County. I spend endless hours with companies such as *Verizon* that wants to charge me the Berkeley city utility tax, or with my HMO which has a higher premium in Alameda than it does in Contra Costa.

Short of petitioning the U.S. Post Office to assign Kensington its own zip code, are there other solutions?

– Pamela Riley

The Editor

Recently there has been much discussion and concern among Kensingtonians about the District Board's consideration of contracting our police services out to El Cerrito. The Board has publicly stated that this option is "on the table."

- Most residents that we have talked with strongly prefer keeping our own Police Department. Some believe that contracting out would be acceptable if it results in savings for taxpayers, and that the grassroots movement to require a vote of the citizens before contracting out police services is based on emotion.
- No discussion of this kind lacks an emotional aspect, but contracting with El Cerrito raises rational and objective concerns:
- the likely loss of direct input with our own police chief and officers;
 - the likely loss of dedicated 24/7/365 patrols in Kensington;
 - the possible loss of other valued police services like vacation watch and welfare checks on our most vulnerable residents;
 - the probable decline in our property values if Kensington loses its reputation as a safe community with its own independent police department.

We do not see any likelihood of meaningful cost savings by contracting out. El Cerrito and Kensington residents currently pay about the same amount per resident for police services, and both communities have about one sworn police officer for every 530 residents. The big difference is that El Cerrito has about twice the crime rate of Kensington, and many times the number of serious, violent crimes. How likely is it that El Cerrito would continue to provide the same level of dedicated, 24/7 patrolling in Kensington, when other areas in El Cerrito are in need of intensive police attention?

Any supposed "savings" from contracting out likely would come at the cost of reduced services to Kensington and its residents. We are finding that Kensington voters are very interested in this issue, supportive of their Police Department and want as much information as possible before any decisions are made. That is the purpose of the current petition drive: to put in place an ordinance which will require a vote of the citizens before the decision is made to contract out police services. We believe that when the issues are put before Kensington's voters they will make the right decision: to retain their independence.

– Paul Dorroh, Linda Lipscomb, and Gloria Morrison

EC Art Show

The El Cerrito Art Association's 33rd Annual Art Show will be held this year on Friday, Oct. 2nd through Sunday, Oct. 4th at the El Cerrito Community Ctr, 7007 Moeser Lane. The show opens on Friday night with a "Meet the Artists" reception from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres will be served. The show continues on Saturday, noon-7:30pm and Sunday, 10am-4pm, with an additional outdoor art festival in the courtyard both days – a chance to see the work of many creative El Cerrito artists all under one roof. Info: 685-4747.

Sergeant Escobar Resigns

Police Chief Greg Harman reports: "Sgt. Escobar has resigned, effective July 15th, to pursue other opportunities. As personnel matters are confidential, the District and its Board are unable to offer any further comments. We wish her well."


Background: Sergeant Angela Escobar was one of four officers who attended a KPPCSD meeting earlier this year and asked to address the board regarding officer grievances. It appeared that some officers felt they were unable to receive a satisfactory hearing in the context of the hierarchy of command and codified procedures for the handling of grievances within the police department, and wanted to have their grievances heard directly by the KPPCSD Board.

The Board of Directors felt it would be inappropriate to hear the officers' complaints at that meeting, and directed them to follow established grievance procedures, i.e., taking their complaints up the chain of command within the department.

As reported previously, rumor has it that Sgt. Escobar had a long-standing complaint of "hostile work environment," pre-dating Chief Harman's tenure. (Other similar allegations have recently been found "unsubstantiated" by the labor law attorney hired by KPPCSD to investigate such claims.)

Sgt. Escobar was a 10-year veteran of the Kensington police force. Neither she, nor Chief Harman, nor the KPPCSD board was available for further comment.

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Town Meetings

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

KCC - September 14th, 7:30pm
Kensington Community Council
This Month: Recreation Bdg, Rm C.
(Usually 1st Mondays) 525-0292

KFPD - September 9th
Fire Protection District
2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD - Sept. 10th (only)
Police Protection and
Community Services District
Now 2nd Thurs., 7pm. 526-4141

KMAC - September 29th
Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tuesdays, 7pm. 273-9926

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

KIC - September 28th
Kensington Improvement Club
4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 558-1123

KPSC (New!) - September 14th
Kensington Public Safety Council
EQ & Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays 6:30pm. 525-8163

KARO/ECHO - September 14th
Amateur Radio Operators
Provides assistance to community
emergency response teams in the
case of natural disasters. Actively
soliciting new members interested
in operating amateur radios as a
community service. 2nd Mondays
of odd months. 7:30pm. 524-9815

KPOA
Property Owners Association
One annual general spring member-
ship meeting; Board of Directors
meets quarterly. 525-1709

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

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Sept. 1, 8, 15, & 29 (skip 9/22) Family Story Time. Best for ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Sept. 1 - Oct. 31 Ellen Heck Fine Art Print Exhibit sponsored by "Friends of the Library." Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Call 524-3043 for exhibit hours. www.ellenheck.com

Sept. 2 Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters discusses local issues. 39 Stratford Rd. 1:15pm. Guests welcome. Call 525-5187 to confirm.

Sept. 2 Community Emergency Response Teams training starts at the Community Center, 6:30pm. 215-4450 or ElCerritoKensingtonCERT.org

Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Wake Up To Al-Anon. 7-8am. Fireside Rm, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. www.al-anon.alateen.org/english.html

Sept. 4 Kensington First Friday Art Walk. Enjoy summer nights at participating Colusa Circle and Arlington Avenue merchants offering refreshments, street music, gallery and sidewalk art. 6-9pm. 525-6155.

Sept. 4 "Film Based Photography and Completely Romantic in Spirit." Opening reception for photography professor - and former student of Ansel Adams - Jim Millett. Nan Phelps Photography, 398 Colusa Ave. 528-8845

Sept. 4 Gateswingers Jazz Band plays for listening & dancing at 33 Revolutions Cafe, 10086 San Pablo Ave., EC. 7:30pm. No Cover. 898-1836.

Sept. 5 Meet the Spirit of Rabbit through Shamanic Journeying with Suzanne Savage. Find out what *Rabbit as a Power Animal* has in store for you. Pre-reg. req'd: 525-6155 or fixpets@yahoo.com. 1-5pm, RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave.

Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 Farmers' Market. Sundays from 10am-2pm. Oakview Ave. at the Colusa Circle. 524-5604 farmersmarket@aboutkensington.com

Sept. 9 LAFCO Meeting. 1st public presentation of the *West Contra Costa County Municipal Services Review*, including Kensington and 6 other districts. Public comment will also be invited. 1:30pm, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 651 Pine Street, Martinez.

Sept. 9 Adult Choir Begins. Sopranos, altos, tenors and basses are welcome. Starts with selections from Handel's *The Messiah*. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 7:30-9pm. Free. 526-9146

Sept. 10 El Cerrito Garden Club. El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, EC. 233-9365

Sept. 10 Author Showcase. Join M.J. Ryan for a talk on her most recent book, "AdaptAbility: How to Survive Change You Didn't Ask For." 7 pm, El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., EC. 526-7512

Sept. 10, 17 & 24 Baby & Toddler Story Time. Stories, songs, & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043

Sept. 12 Rabbit Adoption Day. Meet Peanut and Pumpkin, Sylvie, Streetwise, and many more. 1-4pm, RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Avenue. 525-6155

Sept. 12 & 13 Friends of the El Cerrito Library Annual Book Sale. Sat 9am-5pm & Sun Noon-4pm. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. EC <http://friendselcerritolibrary.wordpress.com>

Sept. 12 - Oct. 17 Free Beginning Internet Classes at the El Cerrito Library. Saturdays, 10-11am. Info/Registration: 526-7512. 6510 Stockton Ave., EC.

Sept. 13 Solano Stroll. Over five hundred vendors, non-profit organizations, food booths and entertainers. 8am pancake breakfast at Veteran's Memorial Park, parade on Solano at 10am, then live music, dancing, kids' games, clowns, face painters, and more, until 6pm. Solano Ave., Berkeley/Albany.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

~WEDNESDAYS~
OCTOBER 7, 14, 21, 28
~SATURDAYS~
OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Sept. 14 “Castoffs” Knitting Group. All levels welcome and help is provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free. 524-3043. (Usually 1st Mondays)

Sept. 15 Berkeley Garden Club Meeting. “Winter Vegetable Gardening,” a talk by Bethalyn Black, Master Gardener, Contra Costa County. Epworth United Methodist Church, 2pm. 1953 Hopkins St., Berkeley. Free. 526-1083.

Sept. 16 Children’s Choir Rehearsals Begin. 7-12 years and older are invited to sing. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 6:15pm-7pm. \$20/month for cost of music and instruction. 526-9146

Sept. 19 ReUse/Goodwill Drop-Off. Recycle gently used clothing & shoes, house wares, books, games & toys, and, in working condition: small appliances, VCRs, radios, stereos, CD-DVD players, cell phones, CRTs, and TVs. Arlington Church//Kensington Library Parking Lot, 52 and 59 Arlington Avenue. 10am-1pm

Sept. 19 CPR/First Aid Class. CPR: 9am-Noon; \$24; CPR/1st Aid: 9am-4pm; \$48. Offered by the EC Fire Dept. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 215-4450.

Sept. 19 Pharmaceutical Drop Off. The KFPD will be accepting unwanted/ expired medications (except narcotics) through its Paramedic/EMT program, at the Public Safety Bldg., 217 Arlington Ave. Noon-4pm. Kensington residents pick up a free 24-hour Emergency Preparedness kit. Info: 527-8395

Sept. 19 Ride to Defeat ALS. Bike ride raising funds for The ALS Association, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to finding the cause and cure of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig’s Disease). www.RideToDefeatALS.com or (415) 904-2572.

Sept. 19 Hamsterama! Check out the largest selection of friendly, non-biting omnivores in the universe! 1-4pm, RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. 525-6155

Sept. 19 California Coastal Clean-up at Marina Bay Beach, 9am-Noon. Meet at Shimada Friendship Park in Richmond Contact: Kate Rauch, Office of Supervisor John Gioia, 374-3231 or kate.rauch@bos.cccounty.us

Sept. 19 Bag Sale of Remaining Books following the EC Library Annual Book Sale. 10am-4pm. (See 9/12 for details)

Sept. 20 Children’s Hand Bell Choir begins. Kids 8 years and up. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 11:30am-12pm. \$10/month. 526-9146

Sept. 21 Adult Hand Bell Choir begins. A good time for new ringers to attend this rehearsal. We’ll start from the beginning. Enter from Rincon Way. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Av., 7:45pm-9pm. 526-9146

Sept. 21 Save the Bay Program by Executive Director David Lewis. Slide program and lecture. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7 pm. Free. 524-3043

Sept. 22 Never Cry Wolf Rescue Program. Come meet real wolves that have been rescued by *Never Cry Wolf Rescue & Adoption*. Learn facts and myths about wolves and about the work to rescue abandoned wolves & hybrids. A unique opportunity to see wolves close up! Ages 4 & up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Av. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043

Sept. 22 El Cerrito Democratic Club Meets. El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave., EC. 6pm.

Sept. 23 Help an Adult Learn to Read. Contra Costa County Library adult literacy program offers tutor training for volunteer East & West County literacy tutors, beginning at the PSC office, 75 Santa Barbara Rd., Pleasant Hill, on Wed., 9/23, 6:30-8:30pm, and continuing Sept. 26 & Oct. 3, 9am-3pm. Register at ccclib.org/psc, or 925-927-3250.

Sept. 26 Maybeck Estates Historical Walk. KCC sponsors a guided walk exploring the privately owned section of Purdue Ave. 10am – Noon. \$10 advance only. Info/tix: 525-0292

Sept. 26 Tri-City Safety Day. Sponsored by the EC, Albany, and Kensington Fire Departments. Includes appearances by “Sparky” the Fire Dog, “McGruff” the Crime Dog, and “Smokey” the Bear. El Cerrito Plaza, 11am-3pm. 215-4450

Sept. 26-Oct. 3 Banned Books Week. 27th Annual celebration of our right to access books without censorship. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Free.

Sept. 26 Small Critter Vendor Fair. Meet the manufacturers and receive freebies and coupons for all of your favorite small animal food, toys and treats. 1-4pm, RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. More information at 525-6155.

Sept. 26 West Contra Costa Disaster Preparedness Fair. Hilltop Mall in Richmond, 10am-2pm, in front of JC Penney’s parking lot. Contact: Office of Supervisor John Gioia, 374-3231, or terrance.cheung@bos.cccounty.us

Sept. 27 St. Jerome Church Festival & Street Fair. Live music, dancing, singing, music, food, games, arts and crafts, wine tasting, silent auction, raffles, & more. Carmel and Curry Streets in El Cerrito. (1 block south of Fairmount St. & Fat Apples). Noon-5pm. 525-0876

Sept. 27 Beatrix Potter’s “Life in Town and Country” and Official “Burrow to Borough” Sister City Campaign Kick- Off (w/Kensington UK). Presentation and selected readings by Judith Hedgpath, library specialist and member of the Beatrix Potter Society about the woman (and scientist!) who forever changed the way we think and feel about small animals. RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave., 2-5pm, 525-6155 or www.rabbitears.org.

Sept. 28 Book Club: Discussion of *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner. Kensington Library, 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Sept. 29 Clarinet Thing performs Thelonious Monk, Carla Bley, Dizzy Gillespie, others. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 8pm. \$25 adm. HS students free; post-HS students \$10. Wheelchair accessible. www.berkeleychamberperform.org

Oct. 1 Celebrating 50 Years of Free Speech with artist and Free Speech Movement expert, David Lance Goines. Selected readings for the whole family, presented by 38° North Publishing Group, from books banned over the last 50 years. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Av., 7-9pm. Free. 684-6502

Oct. 2 Interview & Discussion w/local author, Concha Delgado Gaitan about her book, *Prickly Cactus: Finding Sacred Meaning in Chronic Illness*. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 526-9146.

Oct. 2 Kensington First Friday Art Walk. Check out the art, music, and refreshments offered by the merchants of Colusa Circle & Arlington Ave., 6-9pm. 525-6155

Oct. 2-4 El Cerrito Art Association’s 33rd Annual Art Show. EC Community Ctr, 7007 Moeser Lane, EC. See Page 9 for details, or call 685-4747.

Oct. 3 The Zen of Alice and White Rabbit Tea Ceremony. Book signing with author Daniel Silberberg, who uses the classic Alice in Wonderland as a jumping-off point for conveying American Zen concepts. RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave., 4-6pm.

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Kensington Outlook
Classified

To place a classified ad, please see page 2.

**Online Edition
Late-Breaking News**

AC Transit is considering cutting service to Berkeley, Kensington, and El Cerrito. See *Neighborhood Notes* for information on the public hearing on Sept. 8th!

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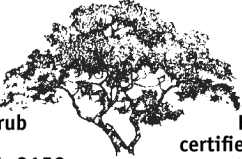
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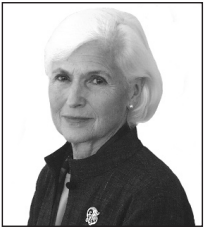
Total number of homes sold - 28

Highest sale - \$1,103,000


Lowest sale - \$477,000

Median price - \$699,400

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... **NIGHT OUT** from page 1

Thanks to the organizers and hosts of the 13 parties for this, Kensington's 6th year of participation: Lyle Ryan (Grizzly Pk.), Anne Forest (Lake Dr.), Chris Kafitz and Gesine and Russ Cotteral (Purdue Ave.), Larana and Jim McVay (Willamette Ave.), Jadyne and David Bucholz (Rugby Ave.), Matt Wyss (Highland Blvd.), Bill McNab (Windsor Ave.), Jenny Schaffell and Will Diego (Oak View Ave.), Marilyn Stollon (Eldridge Ct.), Karen Whittemore (Lenox Rd.), Anna-Maria Hertzner (Ardmore Rd.), Terri Alyami (Highgate Rd.), and Tricia Grame (Chevron Station on the Arlington); and to *The Blues Daddies* for a great show!

... **DIRECTOR** from page 1

tion to replace Kimball, the Board has decided to interview applicants and appoint a successor. Applications are due by September 7th. (See *Page 8* for information about the application process.)

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