



— Bringing The Community Together —

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

Available Online at [www.KensingtonOutlook.com](http://www.KensingtonOutlook.com)

SEPTEMBER 2012

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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**August's National Night Out** featured a record 23 events in Kensington, like the Coventry Group, above, hosted by Gretchen Gillfillan. Lots of good food, camaraderie, and visits from police and firefighters. A good time was had by all – except for the criminals, that is! Photo: NNO Coordinator, Officer Doug Wilson

## Kensington Community Council – Read All About It!

Have you heard that Kensington now has its own movie nights during the summer? When those who attended the first movie night were asked if they had a good time, they universally responded that this was a wonderful way to bring Kensington together. That is exactly what the Kensington Community Council is all about.

KCC sponsors such events as movie nights and the Fall Parade and Picnic as ways to bring us together with our neighbors and friends, but it also does so much more. With an eye on the future needs of Kensington, KCC was instrumental in providing funding for the new public bathroom in the park, and it is currently working with the District to help fund future renovations of the community center.

The Kensington Community Council provides many important services to our community, such as operating the after-school educational programs (KASEP), with over 45 classes for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade; it operates the KCC Summer Day Camp for a safe, fun, and educational summer experience – all at an affordable price; it provides adult education programs and sponsors community walks.

All these are publicized in the monthly *Kensington Outlook* – our window on what is happening in Kensington, delivered free to

*see KCC, Page 8...*

## Town Hall Meeting – Candidates Forum 9/22

Hear KPPCSD candidates, Chuck Toombs (current Board President), Director Cathie Kosel, Pat Gillette, James Hausken, and Kim Zvik; along with speakers, Supervisor John Gioia, Chief of Police/General Manager, Greg Harman, KFPD Board President, Janice Kosel, KCC Administrator, Marty Westby, and Kensington Librarian, Louise O'Dea. 9:30am-noon at the Community Center. Free. Free childcare provided by KCC (with advance reservation at 525-0292). Presented by the Kensington Improvement Club. See *Calendar, Page 11*, for additional details.

Kensington Community Council Presents  
**Kensington Fresh Air**  
**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**  
at the Kensington Community Center

 **Saturday, September 15th**  
Movie starts at 7:30 pm

Come early, bring a family picnic, blankets and jackets


Raffle tickets sold after 9/2 at the KCC office & the night of the event (5 for \$5 or 12 for \$10). Prizes include a KASEP class coupon, Nation's Pie-of-the-Month, and more! Winners announced at the movie.

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**FINDING NEMO**

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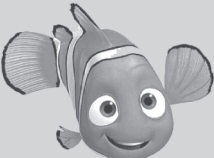
935 Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley

First time on the market in 50+ years! Spacious 4br/2ba home on large lot. Walk to Blake Estate and Kensington Library. Offered at \$1,075,000. Listing agents: Mark P. Choi & Kevin Tannahill




34 Kerr Avenue, Kensington

FINDING NEMO - FRESH AIR MOVIE NIGHT



Marvin Gardens is a proud supporter of the Kensington Community Council. We will be at Family Movie Night on September 15th selling popcorn and drinks to help raise money for KCC Community Projects. Join us. It's free!

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Oct. Advertising Deadline.....Sept. 8  
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The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of The Outlook, its editor, or the publisher, the Kensington Community Council. Residents are invited to submit letters on matters of interest to the community. Letters must be signed and include the author's address and phone number (address and phone will not be published). Publication is subject to space limitations. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. (PLEASE NOTE: Modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after all periods.) E-mail Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New Railroad  
in Kensington?

I think ‘we was railroaded’ over the issue of the salary increase for the Police Chief/District Administrator, voted for at the July 12 KPPCSD meeting.

I was very disturbed by the inadequate report of the committee charged with making a salary recommendation. A basic job of a salary review committee is to look at comparables. Director Lipscomb said that she had made a comparison of salaries with ten other similar jurisdictions. Yet absolutely no figures were given to the board nor the public. (At one point she said that these numbers were on the internet, that if she could look them up, that others could also.) If this was part of the basis for making the recommendation, as it should have been, we should have been given the relevant figures: at a minimum jurisdiction, population, city/district budget & staff size, police budget & staff size. We were just to accept Director Lipscomb’s word that that the recommendations were reasonable? This suggests to me that the figures might not have been so supportive of a salary increase.

I also think that major decisions should not be voted upon at the first meeting. The facts & opinions should be brought up and discussed at one meeting, and the question voted on at a later meeting. This gives the Directors and the public time to think over the various sides of the issue, hear other opinions, think of further questions and points, and perhaps change their position. Decisions made in a rush are often regretted later.

Mabry Benson

Pat Gillette Runs  
for KPPCSD Board

Keeping Kensington independent, financially secure, and safe is important to our community. In the past, we worked collaboratively on these issues to reach consensus. But I now fear the future of our police and community services may be in jeopardy.

As an employment lawyer for 30 years and as someone with significant non-profit Board experience – where budgets are tight and emotions run high – I understand the importance of challenging the status quo and encouraging constructive debate. But with that comes a responsibility to act respectfully and responsibly. Grandstanding and divisiveness have no place in our town or on our Board.

Our independent police department and the civility with which we treat each other make our community special. I want to protect these endangered community assets. And that is why I am running for the KPPCSD board.

I am honored to have been endorsed by four past KPPCSD presidents, and a majority of the current Board members, including Chuck Toombs, the current Board President.

Kensington has been our home for 34 years. So my ties run long and deep. My husband and I raised our two sons here. While they were at Kensington Hilltop, I ran the Carnival for 6 years, helped with the Garden Parties, and served on the

Kensington Education Foundation Board.

I now ask your support, and I offer in return my promise to be a responsible leader and to serve this community diligently, thoughtfully, and with respect for all perspectives.

Pat Gillette

‘Social Engineering’  
in Kensington?

Dear Editor,

Kensington residents live in a unique community, with only 2,200 homes and less than 5,000 residents in a city that covers about one square mile. We fund our own police department and so we have a higher ratio of police per resident than our neighboring communities. A traffic report in March of 2010 acknowledged our safe driving by noting we’d had no serious injuries or traffic fatalities, and by far the lowest number of traffic incidents among comparable cities.

In June of 2010 our City Manager/Police Chief, with dubious justification, informed his police officers that the board had passed a “zero traffic infraction policy,” which removed their professional discretion, meaning they could no longer choose to issue warnings over citations, a discretion all neighboring police forces retain. “Zero tolerance” is a policy generally reserved for the highest crime communities where it has been determined there is a pervasive culture of lawlessness.

I resent our police chief, who has recently been in the news for claiming his falsification of crime statistics was a simple mistake, for enforcing this social engineering policy on our already safe community, with neither prior public debate nor agreement from the community he serves. While funding our own police department likely enhances property values, funding our own CHP likely doesn’t.

Anna Shane  
Ardmore Road

Chuck Toombs  
Keeps Hat in Ring

For the past three years I have been asked by the Board to serve as its President. I accepted this honor because I am deeply committed to Kensington’s well being. With my strong support, our District generated a slight fiscal surplus for the most recent year, negotiated a fair police labor contract passed unanimously by our board, developed a master plan to renovate park buildings, installed a new park bathroom, passed a parcel measure to maintain local police services, focused on increased traffic safety, and rejected premature proposals to increase our garbage rates.

I am running for reelection because we must continue to support our local police department, create a sustainable and fiscally responsible pension and benefits system for our police officers, and negotiate reasonable rates for garbage services. I will continue to tackle these issues in a collaborative and responsible manner.

I am honored to have received endorsements from current and past members of our District Board, many distinguished residents of our community, and Supervisor John Gioia and Assemblymember Nancy Skinner. I look forward to continued service to our community.

Chuck Toombs  
Kenyon Avenue

See Letters, Page 6...



# 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.

The FALL KASEP Registration and catalog of classes are on our website, [www.AboutKensington.com](http://www.AboutKensington.com).

KASEP Registration night is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11th, starting at 6:45pm for kindergarten and 7:15pm for grades 1st - 6th. FALL KASEP CLASSES start Monday, September 24th and end December 14, 2012. Lottery slips are due at the office by 11:00am Monday, September 10th. Questions? For more information contact Marty Westby at KCC. E-mail [kccrec@yahoo.com](mailto:kccrec@yahoo.com), or call 525-0292.

PSSSSST take a look inside the Kensington After-School Enrichment (KASEP) brochure or check it out on-line at [www.aboutkensington.com](http://www.aboutkensington.com) for the new POKEMON class.

**POKEMON** – Grades 2-6  
Monday afternoons at 3:45

The goal of this class is to teach the basic rules of how to play the Pokémon TCG (Trading Card Game) as well as techniques for deck building and game strategy. Key points include: learning the terms of the game, following turn order, deck structure and balance, and most importantly sportsmanship.

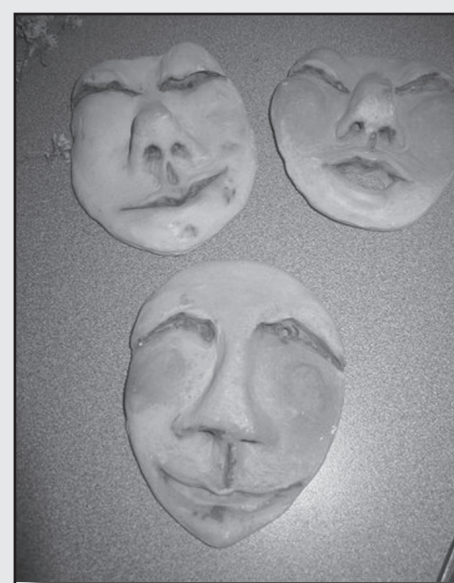
## ADULT RECREATION CLASSES

**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



**New! CERAMICS FOR ADULTS**  
Wednesdays, 10am-12:30pm  
6 Weeks: Sept. 19th through Oct. 24th  
\$20 per class, plus \$60 for clay, glazes, and firing costs  
Kensington Community Center

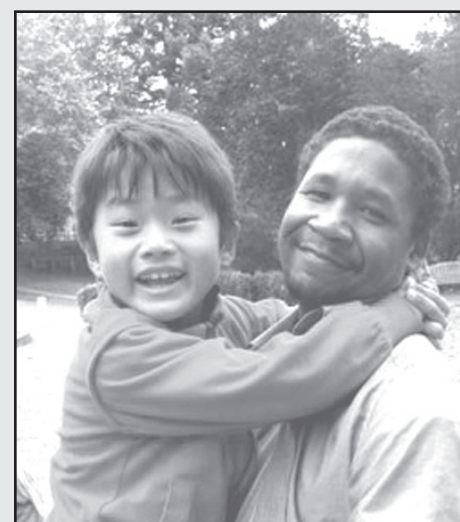
Teresa Altschul, native of Argentina and an artist with over 35 years experience, is a new member in our Kensington community. Teresa has built a reputation for her unique clay creations and is teaching a 6 week class to adults wanting to experience the joy and creativity of working in clay. Her goals for the class are for students to learn hand-building skills and sculpture techniques. Pre-Registration is required – call 525-0292.

## 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](mailto: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.



Trusted friendship created with Jacob Fong, KCC Head Camp Counselor, and camper, Tenzin

## NEW CHILDREN'S CLASSES

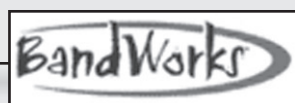
**New! LEGO ROBOTICS**  
Saturday Camp  
Grades 3 - 8  
5 Saturdays, 9am-Noon  
Sept. 29th through Oct. 27th  
\$160 for the 5-week session



This is an opportunity to build robots and program them to move, race, and compete. Each team of 2 students will use a laptop computer running LEGO Mindstorms 2.0 software. Students explore concepts in science, technology, and math by building and programming a self-designed project. No prior experience is necessary.

As an experienced, California credentialed teacher, Peter Margolis provides hand-on instruction for beginners and students new to robotics and programming. Last year, Peter taught LEGO Robotics in the after-school programs at both WCCUSD Harding and Fairmont Elementary Schools, and President's Week with KCC. To register, call KCC at 525-0292.

*Happiness is...KC Camp Counselor, Taylor Doty, and camper, Cade, at right*



**New! BANDWORKS SCHOOL OF ROCK COMES TO KENSINGTON!**  
Kensington After School Program  
Grades 3 - 6 • Two Classes:  
Fridays 2:45-3:40pm, or 3:45-5pm  
Sept. 28th through Dec. 14th  
\$200 for each 10-class session

The BandWorks after-school rock band program introduces kids to the exciting experience of playing in a rock band. We offer music that kids like to play and that is appropriate for their skill level, providing a supportive and positive environment to ensure that they will have fun and succeed. Most importantly, students learn to work together toward a common goal and be supportive of one another's efforts. For more information, visit [www.bandworks.com](http://www.bandworks.com). To register, call 525-0292. Limit: 1 drums, 1 bass, 2 keys, 4 guitars, 2 vocals per class; 10 students max. per class.



**New! KID'S CIRCUS CLASS**  
Kensington After School Program  
Grades 2 - 6 • Two Classes:  
Wednesdays, 1:50pm - 3:05pm, or  
Wednesdays, 3:10pm - 4:25pm  
Sept. 26th through Dec. 12th  
\$180 for each 12-class session

*Kids Circus* offers children the opportunity to learn a wide range of circus skills with an emphasis on juggling, unicycling, stilt walking, rolla bolla, hooping, and acrobatics. Students will also be introduced to theatrical expression, clowning, and creative movement. This is a great introductory to circus skills experience for young people new to the circus arts, and for those who want to build on skills they've already begun to develop. Register by calling KCC 525-0292. More info at [www.clownsnotbombs.com](http://www.clownsnotbombs.com).



Cara Beban and Ella Wayne, BFF's Best Friends Forever at KCC Summer Camp

**Thanks to Our KCC Donors!**

**Usha & Geeta Bhatt**  
**June & Melvin Kani**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### KCC Movie Night

Saturday, Sept. 15th, 7:30pm

Bring the family, your picnic basket, your jackets, and a blanket to sit on the grass outside the community center to enjoy an all-time family favorite, *Finding Nemo*, on a 12-ft inflatable screen. The movie starts at 7:30 pm. Come earlier to enjoy friends and community!

### KCC's Annual Parade and Picnic

Sunday, Oct. 21st, Noon-3:30pm

Join us for the annual *KCC Fall Parade and Picnic*, Sunday, October 21st from noon to 3:30pm. Parade assembles at noon at the corner of Amherst and Arlington Avenues, then participants march to the Kensington Community Center to enjoy live music, barbecue, and kid-friendly festivities. *Save the date to join us!*



Market Update



*730 Wellesley Ave., Kensington*  
4+BR/4BA. Versatile floor plan. Perfect for multi-family house share. Big San Francisco Bay views!  
Offered at \$950,000



*37 Lam Court, Kensington*  
Gorgeous remodel! 5BR/3.5BA. Prime location, elegant and very liveable updates!  
Offered at \$1,297,000



*1629 Julian Drive, El Cerrito*  
Fabulous 5+BR /4BA home. Gorgeous kitchen/family room & more! Path to Madera School.  
Offered at \$1,150,000



*864 Gelston Place, El Cerrito*  
Spacious 3BR/1BA cottage with a view.  
Nice big garden!  
Offered at \$450,000

Market Snapshot - From May 2012 to date

•6 Available Listings •Average List Price: \$407. per sq. ft. •Average days on the market: 49

•5 Pending •Average List Price: \$364. per sq. ft. •Average days on the market: 24

•23 Sold •Average List Price: \$415. per sq. ft. •Average Sales Price: \$439. per sq. ft. •Average days on the market:24

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# Neighborhood Notes

## Another Good Deed by Boy Scout Troop 100

Thanks goes out to the Boy Scouts of Troop 100 who, with sanders and stain, transformed the dilapidated bench outside the KCC recreation office into a beautiful place to sit and enjoy the park. Scouts who worked on this volunteer community service project were: Alex Nguyen, Bryant So, Aaron Stanek, Evan Streshinski, and Andrew Yamashita; with supervision from Scoutmaster Alan Stanek and Community Service Coordinator, Eddy So. High school student Zeke Sugarman-Chapler also provided an extra pair of hands in completing the project.

## Mountain Lion Alert

Jeanne Lageson and Denise Sangster want to let everyone know a female mountain lion and her cubs are apparently residing in the vicinity of the northeast corner of the UC campus. Hikers have reported several sightings in the past few weeks. So, if you are headed into the hills or the canyon, or planning to traverse the fire trail, please use extreme caution and make sure you have a cell phone with you, to call 911 – just in case. For info on what to do if you encounter a mountain lion, go to [www.angelfire.com/co/KlueLass/lions/ljohnson.html](http://www.angelfire.com/co/KlueLass/lions/ljohnson.html).

## Can Gretchen Gillfillan Throw a Party, or What?

Back in late July, Kensington hostess with the mostest threw a weeding/cleanup party at the Gore lot (the lot where the bus stops near the Chevron station). Invitations were to “Bring garden tools and a smile!” And, along with Gretchen’s husband, Walter, and daughter, Gayle, these civic-minded folks were happy to oblige: Geeta Bhatt, KIC President, Melissa Holmes Snyder and board member, Jaima Roberts, former KIC President, Janet Hittle, Russ Graham, Valerie Meyers, and Lorraine Osmundsen. 25 bags full – *Yes sir!*

## GISSV Moves from Kensington to Berkeley

The German International School of Silicon Valley, a Bay Area bilingual independent school accredited and supported by the German government, has moved its East Bay campus from Kensington to the landmark Hillside School in Berkeley. The German school has agreed to acquire the national landmark site after it had been owned by the public school system for the past 86 years. For more information about the GISSV and its bilingual education program go to [www.gissv.org](http://www.gissv.org), call (650) 254-0748. Join the school for its open house and Grand Opening of the new campus, 11am-1pm on Saturday, October 6th.

## From Alcatraz Paperboy to Kensington Lawyer

As documented in the recent publication, *San Francisco Childhood*, Ernie Lageson, successful attorney, four-time author, and former KCC legal advisor, began his work life as a paperboy for the prison island community of Alcatraz. Ernie and his wife (Berkeley school teacher and KCC volunteer), Jeanne, have been Kensington residents since 1961. The book recounts lives from previous eras, including those of Ansel Adams, Robert Frost, Isadora Duncan, Joe DiMaggio, Maya Angelou, and Jerry Garcia. Publisher, Grizzly Peak Press, is run by Narsai David’s son, Danny, and has its company office in Kensington. Ernie, delivering the *SF Call-Bulletin*, is on the cover.

## Logo Contest!

This month we add a logo to the *Outlook’s* nameplate. We’re sponsoring a contest to see who can guess the location of this Northern California landmark – the lighthouse/lookout pictured on *Page 1*. The Kensington Improvement Club has generously donated a copy of the upcoming edition of *Kensington Past and Present* as the prize. In case of multiple correct entries, the winner will be drawn at random; winner to be announced in the October edition. E-mail your guess of the landmark’s location, to [Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com](mailto:Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com) by Sept. 10th!

## ‘California Reads’ – Searching for Democracy

Explore what democracy means through author visits, discussions, films, and other cultural events at West CC County libraries, 9/6 thru 10/27. *See Calendar, Pg. 11:* 9/10, 9/13, and 9/20. Info at 524-3043 • <http://guides.ccclib.org/onebook>



# Neighborhood Notes

## Kensington – Best Place to Have a Heart Attack

A *HeartSafe Community* is a community where all elements of the *Chain of Survival* are in place and there is a focus on improving the cardiovascular health of the citizens. This improves the chances that anyone suffering a cardiovascular emergency (heart attack, stroke or sudden cardiac arrest) would have the best possible chance for survival...At the June Kensington Fire Protection District meeting, Supervisor John Gioia and Contra Costa County Emergency Medical Services Director, Pat Frost presented Fire Chief Lance Maples with the letter of designation... An important part of the designation is a community awareness campaign with an eye to increasing the number of citizen responders – those who know CPR and how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of natural death in the US, taking more lives each year than lung cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined. Acting in time saves heart muscle, brain tissue, and lives...People survive when 1) Someone witnesses the event, 2) Recognizes the emergency, 3) Decides to help, 4) Confirms that the victim is not responding, and 5) Calls 911; 6) Someone starts CPR immediately, 7) Someone arrives quickly with a defibrillator, and 8) Professional EMS personnel provide Advanced Life Support. *Got that? It could save the life of someone you know! Congrats & thanks, KFPD!*



KFPD Board of Directors (seated): Leslie Michael, Joe deVillie, President Janice Kosel, Helmut Blaschczyk, and Nina Harmon; with (standing) Fire Chief, Lance Maples, Supervisor John Gioia, County Emergency Medical Services Director, Pat Frost, and Pre-Hospital Care Coordinator, Pam Dodson



There was no cover OR minimum to hear Todd Hodson's band, 3-Drink Minimum play the Circus Pub one warm summer evening in June



CERT Program Coordinator, Dave Gibson had them rolling in the aisles (or was that rolling their eyes?) at June's KPOA Town Meeting

## Tim Goodman Show at Nan Phelps Photography

Celebrating the art of Film Photography, and the Silver Gelatin Print, Nan Phelps Gallery is pleased to announce the latest exhibition in its Art of Silver Gelatin Series, *Where The Land Begins To Rise; Foothills of the Great Central Valley*, prints by award-winning California photographer Tim Goodman. On view at Nan Phelps Photography, 398 Colusa Avenue from September 1st through September 30th. Artists' Reception, open to the public, Saturday, Sept. 1st, 4-8 pm. Exhibition open Thursdays and Fridays 12-4, Saturdays 10-4, and by appointment. Information at 528-8845, [nan@nanphelps.com](mailto:nan@nanphelps.com), or find Tim Goodman at [www.timgoodman.net](http://www.timgoodman.net).

## 'Finding Nemo' - KCC Movie Night September 15th

After the success of the Kensington Community Council's first Family Movie Night in June, the Community Council is making a splash on Sept. 15th with Pixar's *Finding Nemo*. The movie starts at the Kensington Community Center at 7:30pm, but come early and bring a picnic dinner, blankets, and jackets for the fog. Popcorn and waters will be sold + raffle with fun family prizes! Info: 525-0292.

## All Creatures Great and Small – Coming October 6

Kensington will *Celebrate All Creatures Great and Small* at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Sponsored by the Arlington Community Church, UCC, 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! More information at 526-9146 or [acc.staff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acc.staff@sbcglobal.net).



## Kathryn Roszak's Children's Dance Program Moves

After ten years, Kathryn Roszak's Children's Dance Program, which serves many Kensington Hilltop families, is moving to the Arpeggio Building (operated by the Berkeley Repertory Theatre), 2055 Center St., in downtown Berkeley. Classes will be offered for ages 3-teen, and the children will perform (including "Nutcracker") in the building's new Osher Studio Theatre. 233-5550 or [www.dlkdance.com](http://www.dlkdance.com).

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...*Letters, from Page 2*

Shedding Light  
on the Subject

My neighbors and I are extremely upset concerning the new streetlights that have been foisted on us with no warning. Many of the newer residents of Kensington may be unaware that thirty years ago we voted a special assessment to put in attractive streetlights that would enhance the beauty of Kensington.

PG&E has removed the lights that we paid for out of our own pockets and put in the cheapest, ugliest industrial lights they could find. No one in Kensington was consulted before this was done. Take a look down the Arlington. It's absolutely appalling. *(See photo, Page 12.)*

Most sincerely,  
*Jim Millett*  
Amherst Ave.

Data Disputed

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to an anonymous flyer denouncing a recent vote by the Kensington Police Protection & Community Service Board to give Police Chief/General Manager Greg Harman a salary increase.

The flyer, which was handed to me at the Colusa Circle Farmer's Market, is filled with misrepresentations. It states that Harman is given 59 paid days off a year when his contract states that he can receive no more than 25 annual vacation days.

The missive also faults the chief for failing to hire additional officers with funds from Measure G. But the purpose of this tax assessment, passed in 2010, was to

provide additional funding for the police department because past assessments had no provision for inflation. The measure did not include a mandate for additional officers.

The flyer purports to be from a group called "Kensington Residents for Fiscal Responsibility." But nowhere does it state the actual people behind these charges or a way to contact this mysterious group. We should place little stock in these anonymous attacks.

I am pleased with the work Chief Harman has done to address traffic issues and believe my Colusa Circle neighborhood is safer as a result.

I have been impressed with the public accounting he has given of Kensington operations. A moderate salary increase seems warranted to keep his able leadership in place.

And I have no problem associating my name with this view. Our community is ill served by others unwilling to do the same.

*Rodney Paul*

Kensington Being Served by  
'So-Called' Representatives?

Editor –

I would like to share my observations regarding the KPPCSD Board Meeting I attended on July 12, 2012. The majority of the meeting was devoted to discussion of a pay increase for Chief Harman.

1. No one asked the question, "How much of an increase can we afford to give the Chief?" I heard no discussion of how an increased salary fit into the budget. How is it that Kensington can afford to give a substantial (17%!) pay increase when public employees all over the state are facing layoffs, taking pay cuts and man-

datory furlough days?

2. In addition to Chief Harman, there were four other KPD officers in attendance. I would like to know the reason for their presence and whether they were being paid overtime.

3. Other than the fact that meetings are required by law to be public, does public comment ever influence the Board's decisions? It seemed to me that three members of the Board merely tolerate public comments, since they clearly have made up their minds in advance and react with hostility when their positions are challenged.

4. Board President Toombs is overly fond of using his gavel to silence critics and cut comment short if the comments don't suit him.

I do not believe Kensington residents are being well served by their so-called representatives. It feels like the board majority work for the police chief and not the residents.

*Eyleen Nadolny*

Indecent Exposure  
or Coverup?

During my attendance at the KPPCSD meeting (8-9-12), I stood up to speak during the citizen comment period. I was blocked from reading portions of my statement, so am submitting it in its entirety for publication in the Outlook.

I am a relatively new resident of Kensington, having transplanted from Atlanta, Georgia.

It feels important for me to say that my direct encounters with front line police officers in the area have always been very positive, and that I deeply appreciate the job our officers do in this community. My

comments below, however, reflect my profound concern about some extremely disturbing dynamics that have come to my attention, and which I believe should concern most of us.

As some of you already know, Cathie Kosel has consistently been one of the most outspoken members of the Board calling for accountability and transparency in the governance and policing of our community.

Perhaps, not coincidentally, she has been rewarded for her efforts by attempts to intimidate and bully her into silence, culminating in a humiliating and unsubstantiated accusation, I was informed, of "indecent exposure." If there had been merit to this kind of serious illegal act, the Kensington Police would certainly be obliged to provide a written report and to make formal charges.

Instead the rumor was floated, and Ms. Kosel asked to submit to an investigation. When she refused to be intimidated, and in fact, agreed to cooperate fully with reasonable guarantee of an independent, unbiased investigation and with legal counsel present, rights to which any American would be entitled, she was labeled "uncooperative," and the so-called investigation suddenly ceased. When she requested copies of any written police reports regarding allegations of indecent exposure, the Chief of Police responded that there were no police reports related to allegations of indecent exposure against her.

Though we should all be concerned when any individual is being mistreated, this is bigger than Cathie Kosel. The concern this exposes is whether this kind of dynamic is just the tip of the iceberg in the development of an overall climate

*see Letters, Page 7...*

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Response to COP/GM Compensation Flyer

**PRESS RELEASE - August 2, 2012**

Recently an anonymous group calling itself *Kensington Residents for Fiscal Responsibility* has circulated flyers filled with erroneous and misleading statements about the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District and its Chief of Police and General Manager. As the District Directors who served as the subcommittee of the Board charged with making a recommendation on the matters addressed in the flyers, we believe it is important to set the record straight. Here are the most important facts for Kensington residents to understand:

In July, The KPPCSD Board approved an increase in the COP/GM’s base salary from \$134,500 – a level that had been unchanged since 2008 – to \$148,441 (effective July 1, 2012), and a one-time cost of living and merit adjustment of \$16,754.

Leading up to that action, the Board conducted a thorough performance review of the COP/GM for the years 2009, 2010, and 2011, and concluded that his performance had been completely satisfactory. **Promised annual performance reviews were not previously carried out because of various unsubstantiated allegations made by a KPPCSD Director, that have proved to be without merit, despite expensive and time-consuming investigations that have revealed no wrongdoing.** (*Emphasis added – Ed.*)

The new base salary of the COP/GM was established after careful consideration and research and is the same amount that would have resulted from applying 3% CPI plus 1% merit adjustments in each of the years that the COP/GM did not receive the annual performance reviews promised in his contract.

The COP/GM’s new overall compensation, including base salary and benefits, is at the approximate midpoint among Chiefs of Police in comparable jurisdictions that were researched for this discussion, and none of those Chiefs of Police has the additional General Manager duties and responsibilities, which are performed by our COP/GM.

The Kensington COP/GM does not receive “56 paid vacation/holidays plus sick leave,” as one of the flyers claims. Under his contract the COP/GM cannot accumulate more than 25 vacation days. Sick leave is not a paid vacation. He receives the same court holidays that the District observes for all its employees, subject to being on call 24/7 as the Chief of Police.

*Richard R. “Tony” Lloyd, Vice President and Linda Lipscomb, Director Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD)*

...Letters, from Page 6

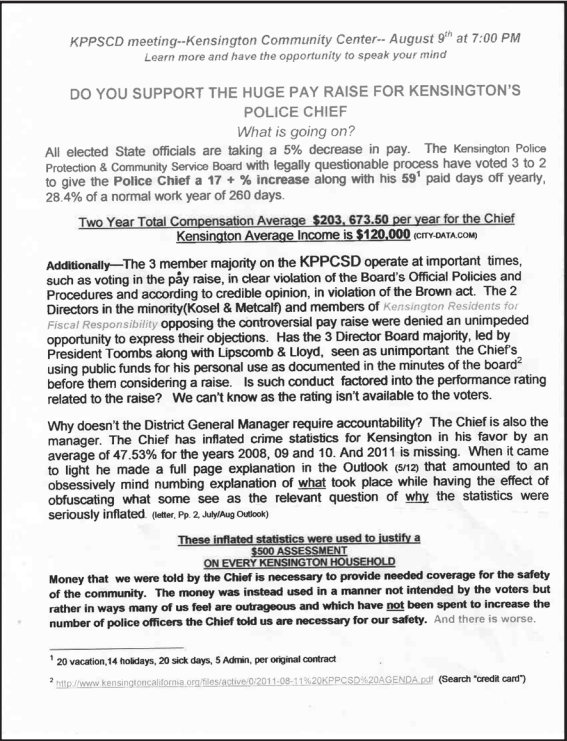
of control and intimidation in our governance. Why would anyone feel the need to resort to such an extreme and egregious distortion campaign in order to discredit an outspoken Board member? Who else is being treated this way? With due respect to Ms. Kosel, and begging the metaphor, what IS being covered up and what needs to be exposed?

Perhaps the concentration of too much power and the built in conflict of interest represented in the combining of Police Chief and City Manager functions under

2012 COP/GM Compensation – Analysis

At its July 12, 2012 meeting, the KPPCSD Board approved a salary increase for Kensington’s COP/GM for the first time since 2008. **(A 10% increase over 4 years.)**

The Board compared competitive salaries and trends in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to help determine the revised base-line salary, which brought the COP/GM’s salary close to the current competitive market.



*Two-page flyer distributed by the anonymous group, “Kensington Residents for Fiscal Responsibility.” Authorship was later claimed by Kensington resident, Leonard Schwartzburd. (For greater legibility, this document is available in pdf format, as part of the September 2012 edition of the Outlook, online at [www.KensingtonOutlook.com](http://www.KensingtonOutlook.com).)*

Additionally, in recognition of the COP/GM’s completely satisfactory performance rating, the Board agreed that he should be eligible for a merit compensation increase of 1% per year for each fiscal year from 2008 to 2012.

The Board then voted to increase his salary from \$134,500 (the level at which it had been since 2008) to \$148,440, with benefits of \$88,325 (this amount includes the District’s legally required PERS contribution of \$50,470), resulting in total compensation of \$236,765.

**Background**  
When COP/GM Harman was hired in 2007, his contract provided for:

- An annual base salary of \$130K;
- 10 days of sick leave for the first year, with the opportunity to accrue sick leave at a rate of 10 hours per month in subsequent years;
- 5 days of vacation, upon hire, with the opportunity to accrue vacation leave each year: 15 days the first year, and 20 days per year for the second and third years of employment, but not to exceed 25 days. Once 25 days have been accrued, no further vacation is accrued until the balance is reduced below 25 days, through the use of vacation;
- The 13 national holidays, including 2 days for Thanksgiving, plus one floating

our present system is costing us too much.

At the very least, it is up to us to elect enough members of our Board who will take seriously their responsibility to protect an open process and to provide oversight.

*Dairlyn Chelette*

*see Letters, Page 8...*

*“I’ve had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn’t it.”*

– Groucho Marx

holiday; and

- Up to 40 hours of administrative leave per year for professional development (continuing education and training).

Comparables

In 2007, Kensington’s Interim Police Chief Taylor determined that Broadmoor’s Police Chief’s position was most similar to the Kensington COP/GM position, and provided a similar total compensa-

BIG RAISE FOR KENSINGTON POLICE CHIEF!

While local government officials around the country are seeing their salary and benefits decrease, a 3 to 5 vote of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District (KPPCSD) Board recently awarded Greg Harman a 17 + % salary increase.

- His 2012 total compensation will be: \$199,925. In 2013, it will increase to \$207,422. (Average household income in Kensington is \$120,000).
- Annually, he receives 56 paid vacation/holidays plus sick leave; he is not required to contribute to his retirement pension.
- The 2-member KPPCSD board subcommittee provided no written justification for the salary increases in advance to other board members, or to the public. No long-term district budget impact analysis was provided to the public for this and other recent police salary increases.
- The Chief’s job responsibilities have not changed.
- There have been significant errors in crime statistics reporting over the past 3 years.

Kensington households already pay \$500/year for police and community services.<sup>1</sup> We cannot afford and should not tolerate such irresponsible Board actions. Kensington citizens deserve better governance and a more accountable District Board.

Doesn’t it seem absurd that a hamlet like ours needs a GM/COP that is paid more than Gavin Newsom, and just shy of Governor Brown’s salary?

**GET INVOLVED! LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!**  
Come to the KPPCSD meeting-August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Community Center to speak out.

<sup>1</sup> Measure G assessed Kensington households purportedly to fund the hiring of additional officers. No officers have been added.

tion package (salary plus benefits). Thus, the total compensation for the Broadmoor position was the benchmark used for Kensington’s 2007 COP/GM search. Currently, the salary for the Broadmoor Chief’s position is \$162,000. (Broadmoor was one of twelve jurisdictions used as comparables, which, in most of the cases, has the GM job filled by a second person, who is separately compensated.)

CPI

- At the end of the first year of employment (2008), the KPPCSD Board increased the COP/GM’s salary by 3.5% to \$134,500.
- Although the COP/GM contract stipulates that the Board is to review and evaluate the COP/GM annually, the Board did not do so from 2009 through 2011. Thus, the COP/GM received no salary increase

in the fiscal years 2009, 2010, or 2011.

- To address this deficiency, the Board calculated what the COP/GM’s current salary should be based on CPI at 3% for each of the four fiscal years since 2008.
- Based on the COP/GM’s 2012 performance evaluation, which covered the four years from 2009 through 2012, the Board determined that his performance should be rewarded with a 1% merit increase for each of these four years.

Conclusion

The newly approved KPPCSD Board COP/GM salary of \$148,440 is \$8,910 less than the amount yielded by a CPI/merit analysis and \$13,560 less than the salary of Broadmoor’s Police Chief.

Other Issues Raised in the Schwartzburd Flyer

Measure G

Measure G does not mention funds being set aside to hire additional officers. The measure was passed in the June 2010 election by a vote of 70.24% to 29.76%. The text of Measure G follows:

*Shall Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Ordinance No. 2010-01, which imposes a Supplemental Special Tax for Kensington Police Department services in an initial annual amount of not to exceed \$200.00 for single family residential parcels, subject to CPI, with amounts for properties in other use categories identified in the ordinance, commencing FY 2010/11, be approved and shall the District appropriations limit be increased by the amount of this voter-approved tax?*

Use of Public Funds

KPPCSD’s auditor, Lamorena & Chang, CPA, in its audited annual financial report, issued a “clean opinion” of the district’s financial records. A second audit at additional expense, demanded by Directors Kosel and Metcalf and approved by the Board, found no irregularities with respect to district credit card usage, and cleared Chief Harman of any wrongdoing.

Brown Act

Many residents expressed concern over the lack of advance notification of the findings of the KPPCSD committee headed by Director Lloyd – findings

*see Analysis, Page 8...*



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- 2012-3706 – On 6/04/2012, Ofcr Ramos responded to Westminster Ave. on a report of vandalism.
- 2012-3725 – On 6/05/2012, Ofcr Ramos responded to Franciscan Way on the report of an attempted burglary.
- 2012-4248 – On 6/24/2012, Ofcr Wilson responded to the 600 block of Canon Dr. on a report of a residential burglary.
- 2012-4277 – On 6/26/2012, Ofcr Ramos responded to the 100 block of Ardmore Dr. on a report of a theft.
- 2012-4292 – On 6/26/2012, Ofcr Ramos responded to the unit block of Marchant Ct. on a report of a theft.
- 2012-3640 – On 6-01-2012, Ofcr Turner took a reported nonjury vehicle accident in the unit block of Arlington Avenue. One of the involved parties did not believe the accident warranted being reported, as the damage was minor and that at some point new vehicles become damaged. *(This party also found obituaries to be unnecessary, as “everyone dies at some point.”)*
- 2012-3673 – On 6-02-2012, Ofcr Turner conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle in the 400 block of Sea View Dr. He contacted the female driver and determined she had a warrant out of Oakland for \$2,500. She was arrested and booked for the outstanding warrant.
- 2012-3741 – On 6-06-2012, Ofcr Martinez responded to Beverly Rd. and recov-

# From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From June/July 2012

ered a stolen vehicle out of Berkeley.

- 2012-3753 – On 6-09-2012, Sergeant Barrow responded to the 200 block of Lexington Ave. for a reported theft from an unlocked vehicle. Approximately \$20 in US currency was taken. *(About 12.75 pound sterling, or 24.58 euros.)*
- 2012-3820 – On 6-09-2012, Ofcr Turner and Sgt. Barrow responded to aid ECPD Officers with a disturbance at an EC High

school event. One subject was arrested.

- 2012-3832 – On 6-09-2012, Ofcr Martinez responded to Edwin Dr. for a reported identity theft. The victim was away on vacation and noticed charges on their account that they had not made. This case is under investigation. *(“Two tickets to Belize, hotel, car rental, meals, scuba*

*rental – hey, someone’s having a great ti – oh, wait a minute...”)*

- 2012-4202 – On 6-22-2012, Ofcr Turner took a reported hit and run vehicle accident from the 100 block of Highland Blvd. The victim reported driving the vehicle between 6-17-12 through 6-21-12 and not noticing the new damage to the vehicle, as it had been involved in another accident prior to his having taken ownership of it. *(That’s his story, and he’s sticking to it!)*
- 2012-4474 – On 7/03/2012, Ofcr Ramos responded to the unit block of Windsor Ave. on a report of a residential burglary.
- 2012-4606 – On 7/09/2012, Ofcr Ramos responded to Edwin Dr. on a report of an illegal dumping. *(Apparently the perpetrator was not aware that the new park restrooms had finally opened and were available for use.)*
- 2012-4717 – On 7/15/2012, Ofcr Ramos responded to the unit block of Rincon Rd. on a report of a vandalism.
- 2012-4743 – On 7/16/2012, Ofcr Ramos responded to the unit block of Highland Blvd. on a report of a vandalism.
- 2012-4797 – On 7/17/2012, Ofcr Wilson responded to the 200 block of Grizzly Peak Blvd. on a report of a residential burglary.
- 2012-4910 – On 7/23/2012, Ofcr Ramos responded to the unit block of Highland Blvd. on the report of an arson.

## ...Letters, from Page 7

### KPPCSD Meetings Kept Hopping

KANGAROO BOARD – I am informed by a party whose information has been substantiated before that KPPCSD Board President Toombs entered into an unannounced new contract with GM/COP Harman on July 25th regardless that both men had previously been informed that there is a challenge in effect, by two Directors, Metcalf and Kosel, to the validity of the vote that authorized the pay raise on the grounds that because the vote was taken at a time the Board was not legally in session due to Toombs knowingly or ignorantly contravening the official Policy and Procedures of the Board. Furthermore, there appears to be no record of open negotiations regarding the other very important clauses of such an agreement. Thus, this is a demand for Harman and Toombs to agree to immediately vacate such a contract formally on the grounds that it was executed under invalid conditions.

Leonard Schwartzburd

see Letters, Page 13...

## KCC, from Page 1...

every local home.

All of KCC’s income is raised through generous contributions from community members like you. In order to continue with all these important activities, KCC is again asking for your support. Your contribution, of any amount, will greatly assist the Kensington Community Council’s ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life in Kensington. Please use the envelope included in this paper to send your donation today. (If the envelope is missing, please send your donation to Kensington Community Council, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington CA 94707.) Thank you for your continued support!

Anne Forrest, President  
Kensington Community Council

## Murder in Kensington

On Monday, August 13, 2012, at approximately 1147 hours, KPD officers responded to a Kensington residence to conduct a welfare check. The responding officer located the resident, James Edward Durkin, Jr., inside his residence. Kensington Fire Department medics pronounced Mr. Durkin deceased at 1155 hours. It was concluded that the decedent had been stabbed to death. A person of interest, Diane Wyn Sydenham, was identified and subsequently arrested on 8/14/2012 at 0056 hours; she remains in custody under \$1M bail.

## ...Analysis, from Page 7

which were made available to the public and three other directors for the first time at the July 12th meeting – the same meeting at which the recommendation of the committee, to give the COP/GM a raise, was voted upon.

Many interpret the Brown Act as calling for advance dissemination of such findings, though District council opined that there was no Brown Act violation.

Director Lloyd, co-chair of the policy committee, cites the KPPCSD official Brown Act legislative briefing, which states “The purpose of the brief general description (provided in advance to the public) is to inform interested members of the public about the subject matter under consideration so (individuals) can determine whether to monitor or participate in the meeting of the body.” (§54954[a])... Legislative bodies are free to provide a more detailed description, but (are not required) to do so.”

Therefore, according to Director Lloyd, the noticing was in complete compliance

see Analysis, Page 9...

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# Property Owners Association Meeting

The Community Speaks Out About Local Issues

At the annual meeting of the Kensington Property Owners Association this past June, a community conversation was initiated to find out what issues Kensington residents think are important. The opinions and ideas that were raised by the over sixty residents who attended included improvements to services and infrastructure, as well as how we collaborate and communicate information. Comments fell into these categories:

## Pedestrian Safety

There was an interest in increasing visibility at blind intersections and installing flashing lights in cross walks for pedestrians – specifically at the Oberlin & Arlington intersection.

Walkers would like to see sidewalks along Franciscan Way by Sunset Cemetery and on Beloit near Grizzly Peak Blvd.

## Public Safety and Hazard Mitigations

Undergrounding power lines for public safety and unobstructed views remains a high priority for many. KPOA has held forums in the past on the process required and the potential costs involved.

Some felt that street lighting is not maintained sufficiently and the number of functional street lights needs to increase.

In an effort to reduce potential for hazardous conditions during or following an earthquake, many felt that there needs to be promotion of the installation of emergency gas shutoff valves. KPOA announced that we are looking into a program that may assist with funding.

Eliminating the oil drip-page of garbage trucks onto the pavement was mentioned, with hopes that KPPCSD can follow up on this with Bay View Refuse.

More guidelines on landscaping and vegetation control for visibility and fire mitigation were suggested.

## A Higher Level of Services

Concern about transportation for the elderly was raised. An example of Ashby Village, which provides volunteer services to keep people in their homes was men-

tioned as a possible type of solution.

There was an interest in uniform garbage cans (recycling containers) and in adding a composting service that would include food waste.

Allowing residents to make use of one of the Property Tax Assessment Programs for the installation of rooftop photovoltaics (solar electricity) was also discussed.

## Collaboration and Communication

With an eye on keeping property values high, someone suggested that we do a better job of marketing Kensington’s qualities as a great place to live by promoting a “Kensington Aurora.” Others disagreed, preferring that the town continue its “under the radar” status.

It was requested that we develop more cooperation and collaboration among K groups (and clarify what they do). Some felt there is a need to share resources more effectively among Kensington organizations (library, park buildings, school) for the benefit of all residents.

## Other Suggestions

- Continue an ongoing forum for community discussion of needs and priorities both through this type of meeting format or even on-line, through Google groups or other service.

- Develop a communication plan to improve the availability and currency of information about Kensington (websites, Outlook) – what should be reported?

Many communities are undertaking “civic engagement” activities like these that appeal to a broad group of residents, in order to build consensus and plan for the future. Sometimes these are about specific issues and sometimes more general. KPOA would like to further explore if this is a tool that would be beneficial in Kensington. What do people think about local communication and discourse, what are the Kensington issues that are important to individuals and the community as a whole, and what should we be doing so that we have good information and transparency?

The next community conversation is being planned. Look for an announcement in the next few months in the Outlook and at KensingtonCalifornia.org.

To add your voice to our list, contact KPOA President, Gail Feldman, at 559-8232.

Contributed by Gail Feldman

...Analysis, from Page 8

with the Brown Act.

## Time Extensions of KPPCSD Meetings

On Aug. 9th, at a public reading of the KPPCSD Policies and Procedures Manual as it refers to extending the meetings past 10pm, it was discovered that the Board, by extending the meetings on a 3-2 vote, as opposed to requiring a 4-vote mandate (and also by extending them in 15-minute increments, as opposed to a simple extension without a time specification), has been in violation of the procedures manual on many occasions for the past three years, at minimum. Some residents suggested that the vote to grant a raise to the COP/GM, taken after just such an extension, should be voided.


Further review of the manual appears to indicate that the issue with the extension of the July meeting may be based on a misunderstanding of Board policy #5010.51, which on its face requires a 4/5 vote to extend the meeting. (A) The policy says that the meeting must be adjourned unless there is a 4/5 vote to continue the meeting

past 10pm. Notes of the meeting reflect a 5-0 vote to continue it, at approximately 10pm. There is no need under the policy to refresh that vote every 15 minutes, and it appears there has been a misunderstanding of that in the past. (B) Moreover, no one objected to the vote on the grounds that the meeting was improperly extended; to the contrary, the two now-objecting directors voted against the salary raise, and only a week later objected to the vote on the grounds of the July 12 meeting’s having been continued. One legal opinion stated it’s likely the objection was waived by the two directors having participated without objection at the time. (C) Board policies regarding timing are for the convenience of the Board, and can vary without affecting the validity of the action taken. It’s not likely the Board would throw out several years of meetings based on the fact that it has met at 6pm or 7pm instead of at 7:30pm, as called for in the manual. Many meetings have been extended on a 3-2

see Analysis, Page 12...

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **WEDNESDAYS:**  
SEPTEMBER  
5, 12, 19, 26
- **SATURDAYS:**  
SEPTEMBER  
1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



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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)*  
Anne Forrest, *President, Kensington Community Council*

**Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Board Members**

- Pat McLaughlin, *Past President*  
Joan Gallegos, *Past President*  
Paul Haxo, *Past President*  
Bruce Morrow, *Past President*
- Bill Wright, *Past President*  
Tony Lloyd, *Current Vice President*  
Linda Lipscomb, *Current Director*  
John Stein, *Former Director*

**Other Residents**

- Mary Abraham, *Former Director, KCC*  
Michael Abraham, *Former Member, KMAC*  
Dee Andronico  
Betty Barraza, *Past President, Hilltop PTA*  
Ray Barraza, *Past Chair, KMAC*  
Gordon Becker, *Former Member, KMAC*  
Terry Bennett  
Wendy Bergman, *Past President, KCC*  
Ted Blanckenburg, *Past President & Current Director, KCC*  
Caroline, Emily & Rosie Blanckenburg  
Arlene Burbank  
Scott Burbank, *Former Director, KCC*  
Italo & Suzanne Calpestri  
Chas & Chris Cardall  
Elena Caruthers, *Former Co-Moderator, Arlington Community Church*  
Robert & Jenny Chang  
June & Earl Cheit  
Mark Choi  
Gesine & Russ Cotteral  
Tom Dean, *Co-Moderator, Arlington Community Church*  
Ed Detmer, *Former Member, KMAC*  
Burt & Ruth Dorman  
Paul & Vida Dorroh  
Diane Egelston  
Ron Egberman, *Former Director, KFPD*
- Betty Ann Engel  
Jon Forrest  
Jan Forsberg  
Gretchen Gillfillan, *Past President FKL, Director, KIC*  
Walter Gillfillan  
David Goldstein  
Tom & Diane Gould  
Judy Hardin, *Rabbit Ears*  
Nina Harmon, *Past President & Current Director, KFPD*  
Anna-Maria Hertzner  
David Hertzner, *Former Director, KIC*  
Esther Hill, *Past President, FKL; Past President, KEF*  
Janet Hittle, *Director, KIC*  
Melissa Holmes-Snyder, *President, KIC; Member, KMAC*  
Helen Horowitz, *Former Administrator, KCC*  
Irwin Horowitz  
Mollie Katzen  
Howard & Carol Kirk, *Former Directors, KCC*  
Mary Kirk  
Anthony Knight, *Past President & Current Director, KIC*  
Eileen Kramer  
Ernie & Jeannie Lageson  
Gloria Morrison, *Former Director KFPD; Former Director, KCC*  
Glenn Morrison  
John Norcross  
Dan & Lynn O’Brien
- Mary Olivella, *Former Kensington Hilltop Site Council*  
Lorraine Osmundson, *Director, KIC*  
Rodney Paul  
Glen Price, *Former Trustee, WCCUSD*  
John Price, *Past President, KEF*  
Lynn Price  
Andrew Reed  
Kay Reed, *Former Member, KMAC*  
Jaima Roberts, *Director, KIC*  
Gillian Ross  
Myles Schaller  
Patrick Schlesinger  
Rudolf Schmid  
Laurie Schumacher  
Tim Snyder  
Chris Sorensen, *Past President, KEF*  
Kathy Stein, *Past President, KCC*  
Jan Stensland  
Becky and Eric Stephens  
Gayle Shortridge Tapscott  
Eileen Van Heut  
Richard Waxman  
Betty Webster, *Director, KIC*  
Marty Westby, *Recreation Administrator, KCC*  
Bob Westby

**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.**



KENSINGTON KALENDAR

**Sept. 1-30 Works by Tim Goodman** at Nan Phelps Photography. Artist’s Reception, open to the public, 9/1, 4-8pm. 398 Colusa Avenue. 528-8845

**Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Kensington Farmers’ Market.** Live produce and live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm. Colusa Cir. at Oak View Av. 847-0801

**Sept. 4 “Castoffs” Knitting Group.** All levels welcome and some help provided. Kensington Library, 7pm. Free.

**Sept. 4, 11, 18, & 25 Family Story Time.** For young children & their families. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

**Sept. 6 & 27 Baby & Toddler Story Time.** Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library. Duplicate sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

**Sept. 8, 9, 15 Friends of the El Cerrito Public Library Annual Book Sale** at El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., EC. Sat., 9/8, 9am-5pm; Half Price Sale Sunday, 9/9, noon-4pm. A “Bag Sale” of remaining items on Sat., 9/15, 10am-4pm. Info: [www.FriendsElCerritoLibrary.Wordpress.com](http://www.FriendsElCerritoLibrary.Wordpress.com)

**Sept. 9 Personal Theology Seminar:** The Rev. Bill Hamilton-Holway, co-minister of UUCB, on “Congregations and Beyond.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. 525-0302 or [uucb.org](http://uucb.org).

**Sept. 10 Author, Delphina Hirasuna, speaks** about her book, *The Art of the Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps*, and the experiences of Japanese-Americans during World War II. 7pm, Kensington Library, 61 Arlington. Free.

**Sept. 11 KASEP Registration** at the Community Center, 6:45pm for kinder and 7:15pm for grades 1-6.

**Sept. 11 Citizen Academy Starts.** Intro to local police procedures. 8 weeks: 7-9pm. Community Center, Rm 3. Free. [dwilson@KensingtonCalifornia.org](mailto:dwilson@KensingtonCalifornia.org)

**Sept. 13 Effects of the Evacuation Order.** Personal stories documenting the impacts of Executive Order 9066

issued in 1942 requiring all persons of Japanese ancestry to evacuate the West Coast. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., EC. 7 pm. Free. 526-7512.

**Sept. 13 El Cerrito Garden Club meets** from 9:30am-noon at the EC Community Ctr, 7007 Moeser Lane. Tina Calloway of Urban Farm Girls of SF demos how to plant unique pottery items. Visitors \$3. 233-9365

**Sept. 15 KCC Movie Night:** *Finding Nemo*, outside on a huge screen. Bring family, picnic, & jackets. 7:30pm, on the Community Center lawn. Free.

**Sept. 16 Personal Theology Seminar:** Walter Truett Anderson, author and political scientist, on “Let Life Happen to You: Understanding Big History.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berk. 525-0302, [uucb.org](http://uucb.org).

**Sept. 17 Parenting Talk: Guiding Young Children w/Confidence and Honesty.** Tips for parents, caregivers & teachers to communicate w/young children – by author & parent coach, Tom Limbert. Kensington Library. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043 • [www.parentcoachtom.com](http://www.parentcoachtom.com).

**Sept. 18 Berkeley Garden Club meets,** featuring “Wild Life Habitat in the Garden” by athor, Nancy Bauer. 2pm, Albany Community Center, 1247 Marin Ave. [berkeleygardenclub.org](http://berkeleygardenclub.org)

**Sept. 19 Ceramics Class for Adults,** 10am-12:30pm; start of a 6-week class at the Community Center: hand building skills, sculpture techniques, and glazing of individual pieces. Pre-registration req’d, call KCC at 525-0292.

**Sept. 19 The Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters** discusses local issues. 1:15pm, 28 Camelot Ct. Guests welcome; confirm at 527-4240.

**Sept. 20 The Fred Korematsu Story.** Documentary film, *Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story*, about one of the few Japanese Americans to defy the 1942 U.S. Executive Order 9066 requiring all people of Japanese ancestry to evacuate the West Coast. His daughter, Karen, discusses his refusal & Supreme Court case. EC Library, 6510 Stockton Av., 7pm. Free.

**Sept. 22 The Kensington Improvement Club’s Annual Town Hall Meeting & Candidates Forum** w/KPPCSD candidates, Chuck Toombs, Cathie Kosel, Pat Gillette, James Hausken, and Kim Zvik and speakers, Supe. John Gioia; COP/GM, Greg Harman; KFPD President, Janice Kosel; KCC Admin., Marty Westby; and the library’s Louise O’Dea. 9:30am-noon at the Community Ctr, 59 Arlington Ave. Free. Reserve free childcare at 525-0292.

**Sept. 22 Legos in the Library.** *Bricks 4 Kids* brings lego bricks and blueprints to the Library for building. Age 3 & up. Kensington Library. 11:30am. Free.

**Sept. 23 Personal Theology Seminar:** Author, Linda Blachman, on “Choose Life! Making the most of Life Transitions.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berk. 525-0302

**Sept. 27 Book Club.** Discussion of *The Legend of Fire Horse Woman* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. Kensington Library, 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

**Sept. 28 Bandworks Class starts.** After-school rock band program introduces kids to the experience of playing in a band. [www.bandworks.com](http://www.bandworks.com). 525-0292.

**Sept. 28 English, French, German and Italian Baroque selections played** by MUSA at Arlington Community Church. 7pm. Tickets at the door. Info: [acc.staff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acc.staff@sbcglobal.net), or 526-9146.

**Sept. 29 Lego Robotics.** Start of a five-week class for grades 3-8. Build robots and program them. Sat.’s, 9am-noon. KCC Rec. Bldg. Pre-reg at 525-0292.

**Sept. 30 Amity Pierce Buxton, on “Reaching Out, Healing, Building Bridges.”** 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302 or [uucb.org](http://uucb.org).

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center  
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

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

**KPSC - September 10th Kensington Public Safety Council** EQ & Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays 6:30pm. 501-8165

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

**KCC - September 10th Kensington Community Council** 7:30pm • 525-0292 • Bldg E.

**KFPD - September 12th Fire Protection District** 2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395

**KPPCSD - September 13th Police Protection and Community Services District** 2nd Thursdays 7pm. 526-4141

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

**KMAC - September 25th (tent.) Municipal Advisory Council** Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s ofc to confirm: 374-3231, ext. 5)

**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](http://KensingtonFarmersMarket.org)


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### ...Analysis, from Page 9

vote, without objection.

**Directors Denied Opportunity to Express Certain Objections**  
Directors Kosel and Metcalf were advised (again) by Board President, Chuck Toombs, that any discussion of personnel matters, specifically in this instance, those of the COP/GM, was in violation of the law. The District’s legal counsel agreed that this is a correct interpretation of existing law, and it is the duty of the Board President to enforce existing statutes and case law relating to any public discussion related to the performance of District personnel – pre-empting, by law, the expression of free speech. (See <http://kensingtonoutlook.com/special/Disclosure.pdf>)

**Correction of Previously Reported Crime Stats**  
In the May, 2012 edition of the *Outlook* (p. 8), Chief Harman explained the nature of the mistake and the steps being taken to ensure the miscalculation doesn’t recur. Harman’s errors during his tenure have been few, readily acknowledged, and rectified quickly. Many residents seemed inclined to cut the Chief some slack in what appeared to be a bookkeeping error. Others have not been so forgiving.

**Alternatives**  
The KPPCSD Board formed a committee to evaluate the COP/GM’s performance and found it to be satisfactory, and also worthy of a merit pay increase.

It reviewed salaries for similar positions in comparable agencies, and determined that, to help ensure the Chief’s continued commitment to the position, a pay increase was advisable. (It was of the opinion that to attract another equally qualified candidate for the job, the pay would have to be at least equal to that offered to Chief Harman.) The committee’s recommendations were supported by extensive documentation (which Director Lipscomb offered to make available for anyone who

wants to see it.)  
The committee suggested an amount that brings the COP/GM’s salary to the low-to mid-range of the pay scale for comparable districts in the Bay Area. The Board approved the committee’s evaluation and recommendation for a raise for Chief Harman.

Previously, the Board had studied the possibility of contracting out to El Cerrito for police services and found that option to be more expensive for less comprehensive services and coverage.  
The salary data that has been collected suggests that splitting the COP/GM position into two separate jobs, as has been proposed by some, would most likely be more expensive than the current arrangement.  
Since contracting out is not a viable option, and attracting another COP/GM would likely be at least as expensive as the current arrangement, sound alternatives for police protection remain to be seen.

**Rashomon (Again!)**  
While everyone is not in agreement, there is a large contingent of Kensington residents that thinks Harman has done a great job creating an excellent, cohesive police force, amassing an impressive store of knowledge about the workings of county and state government – ultimately saving the District thousands of dollars by winning available grants for law enforcement and civic improvement – and saving the District additional money by essentially doing the job of two people – COP and GM – for the price of one.

One reliable source reported that Harman has been doing the same work at the state level as a lobbyist, for which Kensington previously had been paying \$8,000 annually, and that he also registered Kensington with FEMA, which qualifies the town for preventive measure grants and allows us to apply for financial assistance in the event of a major disaster – a potential windfall of millions of dollars in relief, federal services, and low interest loans, etc., at what would be a time of great need.

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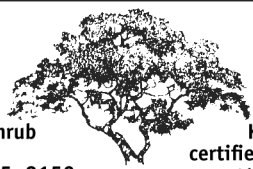
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...Letters, from Page 9

Harking Back to  
An Earlier Time...

To: The Editor

Our small community has never had so much interest in the KPPCSD board meetings as it has recently. In a way this is very good. Our citizens should not just expect the “K” groups to take care of our business but should volunteer to be of help and volunteer their help and ideas wherever possible.

We are so fortunate to have our wonderful police chief and his very competent officers. I am sure that we are the envy of our neighbors. As far as I am concerned, it is embarrassing to have Chief Harman having to attend and hear such bickering about his salary and every little detail that directors, Metcalf and Kosel can complain about. I have lived here since 1959 and I remember some of the previous police chiefs. By comparison, we now have the best, and I hope it stays this way for a long time.

I would also like to commend Chuck Toombs for his level demeanor as he conducts the KPPCSD meetings. Directors Lipscomb and Lloyd did a fantastic research and presentation on the salaries of comparable police chiefs to support their recommendations that were then approved. Most of us don’t seem to realize that Chief Harman actually has two jobs. As our General Manager he also keeps the community humming with his work with KCC and KIC, the park, and our connection to the county. Of course the City of Berkeley is much larger but their City Manager earns over \$220,000.

The next time you see Chief Harman, be sure to thank him.

Lorraine Osmundson

Please See Next Page for More Letters



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SEPTEMBER 2012

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 69 NUMBER 7

## ...More Letters...

### Flyer Author Steps Forward

When I delivered the following statement at the KPPCSD meeting on August 9th, I had become deeply angry with the way Director Toombs had treated my wife Dairlyn, on top of the basic issues being addressed. I want my thoughts below to be available without any distortions due to my expressions of anger.

I, Leonard Schwartzburd, am the principle author of the flyer Directors Lloyd and Lipscomb correctly criticized as anonymous. Unfortunately my capitalization of Kensington residents for fiscal responsibility incorrectly suggested that we are an organization rather than the group of individuals who have come together around our shared values, in the present case around fiscal responsibility. I have distributed a corrected version of the flyer here which I stand by (sic).

I am alarmed by changes in the culture of our community.

People I know are afraid of the Chief and you can read in the *Outlook* about neighbors being nasty to one another in the meetings of this Board, another manifestation of how fear has the effect of intimidating those who would oppose the way this Board operates. I personally have witnessed this and at the last meeting of the Board its President engaged in conduct that I regard to be disqualifying for the position given the responsibility for the well being of our community that the office requires.

Actually I'm scared too, but as a law abiding citizen of the United States of America, I refuse to let my fear drive me into helplessness. I won't betray the values of the family that created me. I thank G-d that I live in the United States. A little of my personal history going back to my father and grandfather in The Ukraine under the Czar will help folks to understand where

I'm coming from with respect to our own community.

When I was about 21, having dropped out of school, a serious felony for a Jewish kid I was casting about for something to justify my existence and I decided to become a Los Angeles Police officer.

That was one of the two times in my life I thought my father might actually kill me, but he calmed down when I backed off from my desire for that direction of what I saw as an honorable and interesting life.

I did eventually become an LA County Deputy Probation Officer, a sworn peace officer in California, authorized to carry a gun though we didn't. Probation Officer is how I found the path to becoming a clinical psychologist. And I've always been comfortable around and tended to like police officers and I have treated many of them. The only former officer I continue to treat was shot in the head while on duty in Oakland. To me they are people.

So I found out why my father became enraged with me when I told him I was going to apply to the Police Department. When my father was 11 he greatly admired his father, a builder who worked directly for the Duke as a sort of contractor building infrastructure. My grandfather's brother was arrested for making wine in his cellar. The official family story was that it was for his own use, but my other Ph.D. cousin, the not always reliable daughter of my father's older sister said he was a wine moonshiner. I prefer the moonshiner version.

My grandfather, a man of substance went to get his brother out of jail and was beaten so badly that he died just after dragging himself home. He was a proud Jew and it cost him his life and until recently I didn't know it but my father's police traumatized amygdala though previously unactivated was passed onto me.

That's why I'm thankful that I'm an American right now instead of a Ukrainian.

I feel proud to have been part of a process with my fellow Americans who, as I see it, want to take back the control of our local culture. I am grateful for the legal advice available to help me remove anything that could give anyone the ability to use any of it to harass me unless they were somehow blinded to their vulnerability were they to do so.

The nature of the governance of our Kensington community by this Board has permitted and more basically shared responsibility for the creation of a highly dysfunctional system. While the Chief bears his responsibility, the dysfunction goes back at least to the former chief, suggesting to me that as other individuals were involved on the Board that we have a structural problem. So in every sense we the people and tax payers of Kensington own the problem and it is our responsibility and ours alone to cure it through our actions to promote responsible government and to elect officials who will act with the interests of the community as their primary concern.

*Leonard Schwartzburd, Ph.D.*

### Overfunding Government Services?

Dear Editor:

We think that Kensington should give a vote of thanks to C.R. Wood and the crew who has been working so hard and long to improve the Kensington School Path. They have made the path more usable and beautiful, as well as decreasing the fire hazard to the Kensington community.

Sincerely yours,  
*Barbara & Henry Nelson*

### Overfunding Government Services?

At a recent board meeting, I suggested that next year's Measure G assessment be reduced from the current level of \$179 per household. Current economics being what they are, it is prudent to encourage the same 'belt-tightening' attitude that many of us are no doubt imposing on our own households. My suggestion was to reduce the assessment to an even \$100 per household.

Unfortunately, Board candidate Pat Gillette saw that suggestion as an opportunity to personally insult me, sneering as she labeled my suggestion 'irresponsible.'

We have now learned that there is a \$143,000 surplus for next year's budget, and by refunding this to the taxpayers (something our excellent Fire Board did with their own tax levy when it was appropriate), the assessment on a per household basis should go down to \$114. Another budget line item ripe for reduction is the amount we spend on legal fees. With just a bit more restraint, we could easily reduce the assessment to \$100 per household. Just this month, our current Board President saw fit to utilize our attorneys to craft a legal "opinion" that would justify a violation of the Board's Policies and Procedures Manual – is this the kind of expenditure that Kensington residents envisioned when Measure G was passed?

Kensington residents have a clear choice this year: do we want to elect board members who think we should overfund government services and use fear tactics to intimidate those who dare suggest otherwise, or elect those of us who are focused on fiscal responsibility? I urge you to vote for Jim Hausken and Cathie Kosel.

Sincerely,  
*Mari Metcalf, KPPCSD Director*

*This month was the first time in at least three years that we received more letters than we could accommodate in our print edition, and so we've posted the overflow here on our website. These were the last three letters received for the September edition. – Ed.*