

BACK PAGE

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Fundraiser for Prabesh Is Great Success

By Steve Pelly

When Prabesh Amatya, 25, began working as a clerk in Young's Market, he didn't expect much excitement. Sure, a few of the town's residents were famous authors and scientists. But how exciting is cleaning vegetables in a small-town grocery?

Then one of his regular customers, Candace Capogrossi, the retired executive deputy director of the Santa Clara County Housing Authority, began talking with him about the welfare of his family back in Nepal. In April, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake killed over 9,000 people and injured 23,000. According to Reuters News Service, over half a million homes were destroyed.

Amatya told her that his hometown of Bhaktapur (eight miles from Kathmandu) was destroyed, his aunt had been killed, his extended family's home was uninhabitable, and his parents and ten-year-old brother were living in a tent on the street. Amatya had to take on another job at a Peet's Coffee in downtown Oakland, so he could send his family as much money as he could.

Capogrossi, who moved to Kensington three years ago but who knew few people in town, decided to post online on NextDoor Kensington, asking for donations for Amatya's family. Two days later, she had a committee of talented people who helped organize a fundraiser held at the Community Center on July 19. "I just had the idea," says Capogrossi. "It was all the people who came together who did it."

Continued on Page 6

Bringing the Community Together KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

SEPTEMBER 2015

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VOLUME 72 NUMBER 7



Candace Capogrossi spearheaded the fundraiser for Prabesh Amatya, raising thousands of dollars—and a roof over the heads of Prabesh's family in Nepal. Story on Back Page.

KCC Extends Fund-Matching

By Anne Forrest
President, Kensington Community Council

It was exactly at this time last year that I wrote about KCC's offer of a matching gift challenge to help raise funds for future renovations of the Kensington Community Center (Youth Hut). I am happy to report that during the year community members generously pledged over \$8,000 expressly for the Community Center. These donations have been matched dollar for dollar by KCC, but we can do so much more.

This year, we're again matching community center fund contributions, and we hope that everyone will step up! Your contribution of any amount is gratefully appreciated. You can earmark your contribution for the renovation or for the continued success of KCC programs. KCC provides many important community services: adult classes like body-sculpting, the after-school education program (KASEP) with over 45 classes a session for kids from kindergarten through sixth grade, 10 weeks of KCC Summer Camp, the Outlook, Family Movie Night, and the Annual Parade and Picnic.

KCC maintains a separate account for the Community Center renovation. Write "Community Center Fund" on your check and mail in the included envelope. If the envelope is missing, send to KCC, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA, 94707.

Ad Hoc Committee Chosen

By Linnea Due

Smiles, handshakes, even an offer of champagne (though new committee members worried that revelry might violate the Brown Act until Randy Riddle, the board's attorney, reassured them that they could quaff freely so long as they didn't discuss business). The ponderously named Ad Hoc Committee for Governance Structure Options gained its ten members at a public interview process before the board of the Kensington Police Protections and Community Services District August 11. The applicants, 24 in all, couldn't all

make the meeting, but many did, and the board members praised each for relevant talents and civic generosity.

The job will not be easy. The committee is expected to begin by defining the type of policing Kensington residents want, level of services recommended for a community our size, and what service is fiscally sustainable with our tax base. Members will convene a forum to gather information and present an initial report during December.

see Committee, Page 2

KENSINGTON MARKET UPDATE



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Committee

...from front page

Then the real work begins: The committee will investigate the pros and cons of contracting out to another department or city; consolidating with the fire district; and bifurcating the general manager and chief of police position. According to the framework put forth by board members Chuck Toombs and Vanessa Cordova, these tasks are time-based—the consolidation discussion would begin in July 2016, bifurcation in October 2016, and final recommendations issued in November 2016.

That schedule was debated before the applicant interviews began, with speakers pointing out that Chief of Police Kevin Hart's interim appointment ends before the committee would reach the issue of bifurcation. Toombs said during the meeting that the committee will set its own schedule, and that it is a citizens' effort—he and Cordova will not sit on the committee or even necessarily attend meetings. Later, in an email, he reiterated this point: "We want this committee to have flexibility and to be able to decide the order of events, or as was suggested last night, to begin deliberation on all of the issues at once and move forward on parallel tracks from there if that works."

Toombs, noting that he was speaking as one board member, addressed Hart's interim contract in the same email: "My strong personal preference, expressed at our committee selection meeting... is to have no decision made on a permanent position or permanent change of any kind until the committee completes

its work—any other outcome would make the committee's work valueless which no one wants or even contemplates."

The applicants took to the podium one by one—and proved that Kensington is blessed by a wealth of accomplished individuals with a broad range of interests and abilities. Many expressed concern about the financial health of the district, and most were experienced in governance and investigation.

At the end, each board member chose two committee members from the pool in a "snake" format, familiar to anyone who has ever drafted a fantasy football team: Cordova went first, with picks one and ten, while Sherris-Watt went last, with picks five and six. Committee members are Miki Tal, who has served as a public defender and a DA; Garen Corbett, who works for the office of the president of University of California systems; Rick Artis, a chemist who "brutally scrutinizes data" and notes that you must listen to your findings, even if it's not what you want to hear; Kensington Property Owners president Gail Feldman, financially adept and detail-oriented; Moody's employee Lori Trevino, whose interest is good governance; Chris Deppe, an Apple employee concerned about community splits; Lisa Caronna, most recently deputy city manager of the City of Berkeley; Dave Spath, a public health administrator; management consultant Tim Snyder; and attorney Charles Reichman, a half-time lecturer at Boalt Law School.

The committee's first order of business? Attending a two-hour training about the requirements of the Brown Act. Hold the champagne.

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

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

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

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

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KENSINGTON

Community Education

KASEP Kensington After-School Enrichment Program

Welcome back parents to a very exciting start of FALL 2015 KASEP classes. At the end of last year, we were sad to say good-bye to many retiring teachers, some after 20 years of teaching in our KASEP program. Fortunately, we live in a creative community with resources at our fingertips. It is my joy to welcome and introduce you to the new classes for FALL KASEP:

- Skyhawk Basketball skills & strategy, for boys and girls, two classes Tuesday
- Lacrosse, beginning for boys and girls, Thursday
- Strength Training for Girls, Tuesday
- Kids' Yoga, Tuesday
- Macramé and Knots to Know, Monday
- Theatrical Puppet Craft & Storytelling, two classes, Wednesday
- Master Chef, new cooking class, Thursday
- Knit, Stitch and Weave, Friday
- Beginning Sewing, Friday
- Circus Arts, two classes, Wednesday
- Artful Animals for Kindergarten, Wednesday
- Art Exploration for Kindergarten, Friday
- Spanish through the Arts, Kindergarten, Friday

Online registration starts on Tuesday, September 8 at 7:30pm. To register, log onto the website, www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org. Don't wait until the last minute to make sure your family record is created or updated on our website—they can be completed before registration night. FALL KASEP Classes start Monday, September 21 and end Friday, December 18.



Changes in Routine—New News

Starting September 2015 Neighborhood School will no longer provide escort services to and from KASEP class, **except for continuing to pick up kindergartners from their KASEP Kindergarten classes.** Please be aware that all KASEP Children, grades 1-6, will be walking down the hill directly from their school classrooms to their KASEP classes. If you plan to have your students at Neighborhood School that day they will be signed into Neighborhood after their KASEP class. This means that all children enrolled in KASEP classes, grades 1-6 should be instructed by parents to walk independently, as soon as they are dismissed from school, down the hill to get to their KASEP classes, starting at 2:25pm for grades 1-3 / 2:45pm for grades 4-6 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

On Wednesdays, children walk down straight from school (bypassing pizza sales) to get to their Wednesday KASEP classes starting at 1:50pm for grades 1-3 / 2:10pm for grades 4-6. If you are taking any of the classes that begin right after school such as jewelry, cooking, pottery, carpentry, drama, gymnastics, karate, basketball, and circus classes, to name a few, head on down the hill to class.

Because this may be new for first and second graders, KCC staff will meet your child at the school's FLAG POLE, beginning Monday, September 21. KCC will direct young students down to their KASEP classes, easing the transition for the first two weeks.

Registration

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg E (across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. E-mail: kccrec@yahoo.com, or call 525-0292. M-F, 10am-4pm
Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am. Call the KCC office for info. Court Fees: 45-min. singles reservation: Residents: \$2; Nonresidents: \$5.
Kensington Community Center Rental Info: Please call KPCCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 510-526-4141.

End of Class and Back to Neighborhood School—KCC Staff Has Taken Up the Baton!

Families who enroll in both Neighborhood School for after-school childcare and enroll in KASEP for after-school enrichment classes should know that KCC staff has taken up the baton and will get your child from KASEP back up to Neighborhood School grades 1-6. At the end of each of the KASEP classes, KCC staff will provide the escort service for getting your child up to Neighborhood School after KASEP classes are over, for both the early and the later classes (3:40pm and 5:00pm, Wed. 3:05 and 4:25) In addition, KCC will, with your permission, bring your child down to the second KASEP class starting at 3:50pm.

We have our eyes on your child

KCC continues to check who is absent from each of our classes. If your child is absent from KASEP class and was not absent from school, parents will be notified. If you are going on an extended vacation, to a doctor's appointment, or off on a playdate and not planning to be in class, we appreciate your letting us know before the start of class.

Thank you for your patience and support during this important transition period. We have been working with Principal Sanders to come up with a solution to ensure that your children are well looked after as they transition from school to KASEP and KCC classes.

Bye -Bye KCC Summer Camp

Thank you families for your support of the KCC Summer Camp Program. A special shout-out to this year's camp leadership team: Ethan Houser, Emiliano Carrasco Zanini, and Jacob Fong. They did an excellent job this summer making sure camp was fun and safe. Camp games and traditions continued with a well organized and smooth delivery. Mark those new calendars on February 2016, when summer camp 2016 registration begins.



Jazzercise

September Special Deal

If you come to Jazzercise and/or Body Sculpting in September and sign up for one year, the month of September is FREE; you will be charged a monthly fee of just \$40 per month, starting in October. The processing fee of \$49.00 is waived. Enjoy a combined savings of \$98!

Jazzercise Instructor Kevin Knickerbocker
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Jazzercise

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- 4 Pending • Average List Price: \$492 per sq. ft. • Average days on the market: 23
- 5 Sold • Average List Price: \$507 per sq. ft. • Average Sales Price: \$574 per sq. ft. • Average days on the market: 16

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Neighborhood Notes

Carolyn Walen: A Special Person

Longtime Kensington resident Carolyn Walen passed away with loving family members present May 12, 2015. She was age 90.

Carolyn and her husband Bob, a UC Berkeley planning analyst who died in 1997, moved to their home on Kingston Road in 1958, where they raised three daughters, Erica, Eva, and Lisa, amidst music, art, and an active social life.

Although as a young woman Carolyn was very shy, she overcame this to advocate for children with neurological handicaps. She spoke at PTA meetings, conferences, and to government subcommittees during an era when these children could be excluded from school services. She helped develop special education classrooms, even painting stripes on materials to identify them if they were misplaced. Whenever the phone rang with a call from a distressed parent, Carolyn took the time to offer comfort and resources. In later years, she helped teach adult literacy in classrooms in the Kensington area and also used her financial skills to aid nonprofits and friends with bookkeeping.

Carolyn was active in the community, helping at the schools, the library, and in community events. She played tennis with the Kensington Irregulars several times per week for many years, even into her ninetieth year, with particular enthusiasm for the after-parties at Inn Kensington. Her card-playing skills were legendary among the Manipulators, a bridge club.

Neighbors may miss seeing Carolyn on her walks. Most days she put in about three miles walking in the neighborhoods, chatting with her many friends along the way.

Arlington Community Church hosted Carolyn's memorial, with purple banners and flowers reflecting her frequent choice of purple clothes. Friends and family were present, including her grandchildren, Ben, Jake, and Rebecca. We will all remember her sense of humor and her natural kindness.



New Resident High on Kensington

Since film editor Eric Pomert moved to Berkeley from LA in 2008, he wanted to live in Kensington. "I went to France every summer growing up, and when I came to Kensington to visit friends, it just felt very European," he says. "Small in scale, no big-box stores. People told me, 'You'd love living here, but good luck, 'cause nobody leaves.'" Pomert finally got his wish this spring, when he found a downstairs apartment large enough for a living space and an editing studio on St. Albans Road.

Pomert has worked as a film editor on feature films and commercials—"I did pretty much every Kleenex commercial on TV, here and internationally," he says. But what he really likes to do is tell stories. When gay marriage was legalized in New York, two men who'd been together for a quarter-century wanted to document their wedding. "I did an interview and got some hilarious footage, and it really captured their tenderness and sweetness," Pomert says. "I love working on stuff that has a real personal meaning, like telling a story about my grandfather or a small business trying to raise money on Kickstarter."

As predicted, Pomert couldn't be happier now that he's found his way to Kensington. "It's like a time capsule," he says, "in a very good way."

Get Rid of that Old Can of Oven Cleaner

Not to mention the aerosol wasp killer you bought in a moment's weakness, or those gallon jugs of used engine oil your nephew thoughtfully left in your garage. Good news—Kensington residents no longer need permits to dispose of household hazardous waste. Just head out to 101 Pittsburg Avenue in Richmond on Thursdays or Fridays, where you can also shed electronic waste, including televisions and old computers. If you're over 60 and need assistance, a mobile unit will even come to you! Call 888-412-9277 or Google Richmond household hazardous waste for more information. Thanks to Bill Johnston for asking the question—and Vanessa Cordova for searching out the answer.

Happy Parents

Christine and Arlin Peters of Yale Avenue are delighted to announce the marriage of their daughter Michelle Mae to Nicholas Zappas, son of Elias Zappas of Corfu, Greece and Elise Zappas of Madison, New Jersey. Both the ceremony and reception were held in the gardens of the Campovida Winery in Hopland, California on May 9. Shelly attended Kensington School, Adams Middle School, and El Cerrito High School (Class of 1997). She received her BS from UC San Diego and a second BS, masters, and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees from the Columbia School of Nursing in NYC. Shelly and Nick reside in Manhattan.




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Kensington Hosts a Graceful National Night Out

Newly anointed Police Chief Kevin Hart (only one day out from his swearing-in as chief) wanted to hit Kensington's sixteen National Night Out sites August 4. The event, which connects law enforcement officers with the communities they serve, started in 1984. Kensington Police Sergeant Angela Escobar introduced the concept to Kensington a couple decades later. Besides building relationships between citizens and police, the idea is to reinforce crime-prevention tactics, such as locking cars and houses. KPD Officer Doug Wilson says that it's amazing how often he comes across cars with doors standing ajar, dome lights on. Our neighborhoods may be safe, but there's no need to issue a "neon" invitation.



This year, the force's newest officer, three-year veteran Stephanie Wilkens, helped area hosts organize gatherings. Each officer (except Sergeant Keith Barrow, who covered the streets during the event) was assigned three parties at which he delivered a spiel about everything from identity theft to vacation notifications. Hart and Wilkens set off to drop in at each location.

Lake Drive came first and proved the downfall. The Lakers provided delicious food, demonstration backpacks filled with emergency equipment, a laminated map of all houses including gas shutoffs, and a congenial spirit. The next six locations also greeted the chief and his young officer as if the two were honored guests at a host's home. With their generous welcomes, Kensington residents, despite being embroiled in months of controversy, demonstrated both resilience and solidarity.

Hart answered questions at each stop, most concerning his background (31 years with the Alameda County Sheriffs Department, retiring as division commander, 7 years with the state, the last job managing five mental hospitals—"Perfect training for Kensington!" was a common rejoinder to that news). What amounted to a stump speech anticipated concerns: "The problems here weren't created overnight, and they won't be solved overnight," Hart said. "We have to be transparent and responsive to the community. I can tell you that there are no smoking guns. We're not going bankrupt. We're no better or worse off than most special districts. Can we improve? Yes. We'll learn from the past and move to the future." He also took the opportunity to announce the August 22 barbecue, meant to be a town hall type airing-out of community concerns.

When asked later about Barrow's assignment, Hart said that he had made the decision based on circumstances: "[Barrow is] certainly aware of the sentiment of the community. I'm not trying to exacerbate the problem. I'm trying to fix the problem."

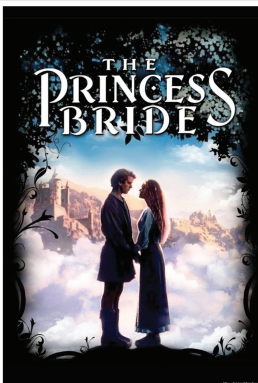
As Hart and Wilkens wended their way back to the station near 9 pm, Hart said he was disappointed that they hadn't hit all sixteen stops. "It was that first one," he said. "We spent too long at the first one."

Bring Your Beach Chair—It's Family Movie Night

It's a rare movie that's as good as the original book; some would call it inconceivable. Those people haven't seen *The Princess Bride*. This movie promises sword fights, giants, pirates, miracles, true love—and it delivers on all fronts. The Kensington Community Council (KCC) is excited to show *The Princess Bride* at the Annual Family Movie Night on Saturday, September 19 on the big lawn by Building E in Kensington Park.

The movie starts at 8:00 pm, but come at 7:00 with a picnic dinner or purchase food at the show. This year KCC will be selling hot dog or sausage dinners, popcorn, movie candy, bottled water, coffee, and hot chocolate. Bring everything you'll need to be comfortable in the evening air, especially jackets, blankets, and beach chairs.

A raffle will be held before the movie with fun and delicious prizes, including popular Nation's pies. Raffle tickets will be sold at the KCC office from September 14 through September 19: 5 tickets for \$5, 12 tickets for \$10. For more, call Marty at the KCC office at 525-0292.



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Continued from back page

The fundraiser, held on a hot Sunday evening, was packed with over 200 people, bidding on over 180 silent auction items. Kensington residents and merchants are a generous bunch. For instance, "Patricia Shinn donated items that were priceless," Capogrossi said. Merchants donated services and meals, two bands played, and Annika Duquet performed a classical Indian dance.

Capogrossi's goal was \$3,000. So far, the fundraiser has made over \$18,500. "It takes about \$20,000 to rebuild in Nepal, so this is significant," said Capogrossi. Send checks to Capogrossi, 69 Kingston Road.

Amatya seemed stunned by the

turnout. "I got the job at Young's Market on my second day in California," he remembered in a short speech to the crowd. "There are so many people here that I've known from Day One. I really appreciate it." He hugged Capogrossi—to glistering eyes all around.

The earthquake had another consequence for Amatya—his part-time job at Peet's has been upgraded to a supervisory position with benefits, so he will leave Young's and is able to go back to college. And Capogrossi has her own happy ending. "I hardly knew anyone in Kensington," she says. "Now I've met such wonderful people."



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Forum: Two Views on Contracting Out Police Services

You Won't Write the Playbook
By Doug Gist

I grew up in Kensington, the son of Walt Gist, a Kensington police officer who became Kensington's chief of police before he retired due to a disability. He told me later that he would have stayed if he physically could have given you his all. He loved the community, loved leading a police agency small enough and in a community quiet enough to allow officers to know the citizens they served. He always said that his board of directors supported him and his efforts to bring the community the service they deserved. My mother made her home in Kensington beginning in 1929, so you could say my family had history and commitment, even though we moved away after dad became ill.

Now again I see an effort by some to dissolve your own police department and contract out to an adjoining agency for services. This is not new thinking. Do you truly believe your lives will be somehow easier, less expensive, or better by outsourcing policing? I am here to tell you absolutely not. And if you give that control away, you will be hard-pressed to ever bring it back!

You may think you can write the playbook if you give control to El Cerrito or Richmond. But the fact is both cities are hard-pressed to meet the needs with the officers they have, and response to priority calls is mandatory. Don't believe for a minute that they won't use your designated officers to respond to calls in their city because that is simply the way it works, everywhere.

I retired from a command position in a large law enforcement agency with a varied socioeconomic makeup, and with some twenty-plus cars on the street, it was not uncommon for us to have an entire end of the jurisdiction without police coverage because the other end, a lower-income, high-crime area, resulted in officers responding out of their assigned areas to keep up with violent and critical calls for service. This is just the way it works. Officers must respond to critical issues, and they will!

It is time for the residents of Kensington to make it known that their police department is important to them, and it truly is your police department. I know there have been issues recently, but the fact is, police officers are human, and you cannot and do not want to take that out of the officer. They make mistakes, and leadership needs to lead, make policy, and hold those not working within policy accountable. If this is done, the bumps in the road will be less frequent, but there will still be bumps. Kensington residents can provide oversight, provide your police department with your support, and praise them for taking care of you. Most of all, don't give up on what has been a fine tradition of providing you with protection since May 1, 1947, with more than 68 years of service.

Forum stories are op-eds, bylined by the author, with long-range views and reasoned approaches. Submit to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com with "Forum" in the subject line.

Will Contracting Get a Fair Shake?
By Marilyn Stollon

Often, crisis brings change to government. So perhaps the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District—with its tabloid-friendly Renegade scandal, the departure of Greg Harman, and the ongoing depletion of our financial reserves—is finally ready for change.

But can the new KPPCSD Ad Hoc Committee for Governance Structure Options produce this progress?

The last time KPPCSD considered policing options was in 2009. Facing growing deficits, a suggestion to identify cost savings from LAFCO, and considerable turmoil within the police department, the board brought back former interim police chief Brown Taylor to conduct a "feasibility study for outsourcing police services." Board member Chuck Toombs had already approached the City of El Cerrito, bringing back preliminary estimates that contracted services could annually save Kensington \$301,000.

But then the board appointed a "project steering committee" to oversee the Brown Taylor feasibility study. Soon, this committee, along with the board, began altering the contracting criteria.

A provision was slipped into the guidelines requiring that any bid include the full \$200,000 salary plus benefits then paid to Chief Greg Harman. They also insisted that the \$74,000 salary plus benefits paid to Kensington's full-time detective, Officer Keith Barrow, be incorporated into the scope of work even though an earlier Brown Taylor report made a strong case that Kensington's low crime rate did not require a full-time detective. Finally, ignoring the fact that El Cerrito's bid had included payroll management and other administrative functions, the board stipulated that any outside contract had to include two administrative staff positions. After the El Cerrito estimate was put on the table, the board redefined the contracting criteria, effectively eliminating any possible savings.

With that accomplished, Brown Taylor, at the November 2009 board meeting, called for retaining, "in the same capacity," the General Manager/Chief of Police and all current staff. The board then asked Chief Harman to determine how much additional tax assessment would be needed to sustain current and future police operations. At its December meeting, the board accepted a request from the Chief for a raise.

Chief Harman's contract was extended. Then, based on Harman's financial projections for the police district, the board placed Measure G on the 2010 ballot as a supplemental special tax on homeowners to provide "a stable financial foundation" for Kensington's police operations.

Every year since it passed, Measure G has brought the district an additional \$450,000 in new tax money. Yet, during that same period, the district's financial reserves have shrunk from \$1.7 million to \$1.3 million.

Let's hope that Kensington's recent crises will inspire the board's new committee to seek bids for contracting police services in an unbiased, thorough, and transparent manner.

Kensington Calendar

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

September 1-4 Jazzercise (8:15-9:15am) daily, ongoing; Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave.

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 CERT Community Emergency Response Training Please contact El Cerrito Fire Department for enrollment. 6:30pm (510) 215-4450

September 2 Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters WCCC—bring brown bag lunches to meet at a picnic table in Kensington Park at 12:30pm to discuss local issues. Guests are welcome. Please call 524-6071 to confirm.

September 3 Women's Fellowship Monthly potluck supper and program for ACC women and guests. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Open to all.

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington
(Schedule Subject to Change – Call to Confirm.)

KCC - August 31
Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 7:30pm.
525-0292

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

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

KARO/ECHO - September 14
Amateur Radio Operators
2nd Mondays of odd months, 7:30pm. 524-9815

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

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

KIC - September 28
Kensington Improvement Club
4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 527-3062

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

KPOA
Property Owners Association
Meets quarterly. 559-8232

Kensington Farmers' Market
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September 3, 8, 10 Body Sculpting, Tuesdays and Thursdays (9:15-10:15am) ongoing; Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave..

September 5 Read to Izzie the Dog! Izzie is a registered therapy dog, and she loves to have children read to her. Fifteen-minute appointments can be booked; walk-ins welcome to remaining time. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 10:00am to noon. Free. 524-3043.

September 6 James Hilgendorf, filmmaker and author of nine nonfiction books, co-producer of The Tribute Series, several of which have appeared on PBS and international television. "Waking Up to Who We Really Are: Ideas from Some of the World's Great Thinkers." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

September 8
KASEP Online Registration, 7:30pm. Online reservation for kindergarten through 6th grade for Fall Session opens at 7:30pm. Website: www.KensingtonCommunity-Council.Org

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

September 11 ACC Concert Series Visit www.acc-ucc.org/concert-series to learn more about this season's music. 7:30pm. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

September 13 Knitting Ministry Group meets to knit and bless shawls, etc. 11:30am. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

September 13 Robert Fuller, past president of Oberlin College; author and speaker. "Why Does Racism Persist?" 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

September 14 Kensington Library Knitting Club "The Castoffs" All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We

will provide support, encouragement, and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. Normally meets on the first Monday of the month (meeting rescheduled to second Monday due to Labor Day closure September 7). Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm, free. 524-3043.

September 15 Berkeley Garden Club Lecture Program, 12:30-3:00pm. Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Lecture: Exceptional Plants for Dry Times by Susan Handjian, Garden Consultant. 12:30-1 Plant Exchange, 1-2 General Meeting, 2-3 Lecture. Details at www.berkeleygardenclub.org. Public welcome!



Fifth Annual Blessing of the Animals
By Nina Harmon

One of the most charming events in Kensington comes to the community center on Saturday, September 26, 11-3. At noon, Pastor Tony, M.Div., D.V.M. will offer a spiritual blessing for pets and owners. It is amazing to see over thirty cats, dogs, and a horse stand in silence as he offers blessings (although Gretchen Gilfillan's tortoises ignore him).

There will be presentations from Guide Dogs for the Blind, Service Dogs, and the El Cerrito K-9 Police Dogs. Gretchen will let us pet her two blasé land tortoises, and Contra Costa Animal Control will provide low-cost inoculations, microchips, and registration with amnesty. A veterinarian will be on hand, and our local scouting troops will sell snacks and drinks. We hope for snakes, lizards, chickens, and bees in addition to our usual beasts.

Don't have a pet to be blessed? Animal rescue organizations will have homeless cats, dogs, birds, and rabbits for adoption or fostering. Bring your hearts, offer a good home to a helpless creature, and enjoy a wonderful day in the park.

We are collecting donations for our raffle and, of course, money is always needed. Send raffle items and money to the church. Checks should be made out to ACC or Arlington Community Church with Animal Fair on the memo line. All money and raffle donations go to our local animal rescue organizations, and you'll receive a donation letter for your taxes. For more information call Nina Harmon at 510 579-4634 or nina.harmon@gmail.com.

September 15 Fratello Marionettes' "Carnival of the Animals." This unique puppet show where the puppeteers remain in full view depicts three classic fairy tales: "The Three Little Pigs," "The Tortoise and the Hare," and "The Ugly Duckling." Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

September 15 SOUPER Lunch- Prepare and serve lunch at the GRIP Souper Center. Volunteers needed! Meet at 10:00am. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

September 19 Kensington Community Council Outdoor Family Movie Night, FREE. Raffle, food, The Princess Bride starts at 8, but come early for raffle and food. See story in Neighborhood Notes. On grassy field at Kensington Park.

September 20 Dr. Jeanne Foster, author and prize-winning poet; professor of English at St. Mary's College. "Favorite Heartfelt Poems Embodied." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

September 20 Singing Disney! All-ages sing-along of the great variety of tunes from Disney musicals and movies including The Lion King, Frozen and The Little Mermaid! 12:30pm. Free. Costumes welcome! Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

September 21 First day of FALL KASEP classes (12 week session ends December 18)

September 21 Memoir Group Monthly memoir writing group hosted by Ruth Robinson, 10am, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

September 27 Rev. Greg Ward, UUCB Interim Minister; graduate of Pacific School of Religion; travel adventurer. "Buen Camino – A Pilgrim's Journey." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

September 28 Kensington Library Book Club 6:30pm. Discussion of *The Orphan Master's Son* by Adam Johnson. All are welcome; sign up for email alerts and reading group discussion questions. The book club normally meets on the fourth Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Free. 524-3043.

September 25 Bridge Night Monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACC'ers and guests. 6:00pm. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

October 18 Kensington Parade and Picnic Save the date.

November 1 Maybeck Estates Historical Walk, 3:00-5:00pm. Meet at corner of Kenyon and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Kensington. Led by Paul Grunland, leader of various historic walks. He will share history of the Maybeck family and of Bernard Maybeck, renowned architect of the Arts and Crafts style. Original homeowner Bob Shaner will share experiences of building his home and working with the Maybecks. To reserve the walk, call KCC at 525-0292. Limited to 25 participants. Cost is \$15.00. Heavy rain cancels.

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The following stories and letters
appear exclusively on the website
due to space constraints
in the print issue.

Recall Off for Now

On July 9, before the regular meeting of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, three directors—board president Len Welsh, Pat Gillette, and Chuck Toombs—were served notices of intention to recall, each signed by ten citizens. Reasons cited included inadequate oversight of the police department, more than a million dollars spent on lawyers and consultants, the police district's depleted reserves.

Deadlines must be met for a recall to go forward. The directors responded to the recall notice by their deadline—Toombs several days before Welsh and Gillette—and the proponents then had ten days to file petition language with the county's elections staff to either approve or send back for changes. According to Contra Costa County election services specialist Olga Hernandez, the proponents did not file petition language by the deadlines. The recall, she said, would have to be started again at the beginning.

Despite repeated requests, proponents were mum about why deadlines were missed or whether a recall would restart.

Dear Editor,

At this writing there is yet no audit for 2013/2014.

At the July 10, 2014 KPPCSD board meeting, where the 2014/2015 budget, with a projected deficit of \$268,436, was approved, finance chair Karl Kruger said, according to the minutes of that meeting, that “he didn't think the budget was an honest assessment. He said the police department should be reduced by one officer, which would reduce expenses by \$110,000, and that legal expenses should be reduced from \$150,000 to \$75,000....”

“President Welsh responded that taking an officer off the street was not on the table. He said GM/COP Harman’s approach was realistic and that the District may need to increase taxes in the future.

“Mr. Kruger said he thought Measure L indicated the community would not approve any tax increases. President Welsh disagreed, saying he thought the community would approve funds needed to adequately fund police services. Mr. Kruger responded the ‘No on Measure L’ people had been effective in saying the District should have gone with Option 2, even though the District didn't have the \$750,000 that Measure L opponents said it had.”

At the last finance committee it was reported that legal expenses for 2014/2015 actually reached \$250,000.

If the KPPCSD didn’t have \$750,000 a year ago, how much did they have?

How much is in the KPPCSD reserves now? How much of that is legally designated for retirement benefits funding? How much is in cash reserves and how much are valuations of district assets?

Anna Shane

Think Before You Chop

Dear Editor,

Walking around the Kensington Hills, I was sorry to see that so many stands of wild fennel have been cut down—apparently because people consider it to be a noxious weed. I wonder how many of them know it is the main food source for the anise swallowtail. If you like to see big yellow butterflies flying around, you need to leave something for their caterpillars to eat.

Sincerely yours,

Willard Bohn