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How to Receive Emergency Notifications

By Brenda Navellier, KFPD
The Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS) is an effective all-hazard public warning system available to Kensington residents and businesses. The CWS can alert Kensington residents that are impacted by, or are in danger of being impacted by an emergency. You can receive information about incidents and what specific protective actions (shelter in place, lockdown, evacuate, etc.)

are necessary to protect life and health. To register your cell phone or email with CWS, visit www.cwsalerts.com. In addition, the state of California provides Reverse 911. Reverse 911 is emergency notification provided over a landline. This includes landlines from both telephone utilities and cable providers. Both listed and unlisted numbers are included in the database used for emergency notification. Reverse 911 does not require prior registration. This month, the Kensington Fire Protection District is adding the Nixle alert system to its communications.



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Bringing the Community Together

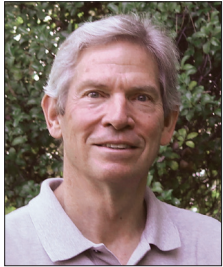
KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

SEPTEMBER 2018 A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL VOLUME 76 NUMBER 8

Three Director Seats Up for Grabs in Each District

Candidates for Police Protection and Community Services District Director:



Christopher Deppe



Mike Logan



Dakota McKenzie



Cyrus Modavi



Rachelle Sherris-Watt



David Spath

Candidates for Fire Protection District Director:



Joseph deVille



Paul Dorroh



Janice Kosel



Kevin Padian



Julie Stein

Six vie for the Police Protection and Community Services District (far left), five for the Fire Protection District (left). Photos courtesy of candidates.

KCC Puts on Free Family Movie Night



By Anne Forrest, KCC President
The Kensington Community Council (KCC) is proud to present Disney-Pixar’s *Coco* at this year’s Annual Family Movie Night on Saturday, September 22. Marvin Gardens Realty and Mechanics Bank sponsor this always entertaining event. The movie will start at 7:30pm (dusk), but we’re encouraging families to come at 6pm with a picnic dinner. Or purchase food at the show and join neighbors and friends for the fun.

This is an outdoor showing on the lawn at Kensington’s park (past the library and Community Center), so be sure to bring everything you’ll need to be comfortable in the evening air, especially jackets, blankets, and beach chairs. KCC will sell hot dog and sausage dinners, popcorn, movie candy, bottled water, and coffee or hot chocolate. Before the movie, a raffle that benefits KCC will award fun and delicious prizes. Raffle tickets are sold at the KCC office (same location) from September 17 through the night of the event. Five tickets go for \$5, but you get twelve tickets for \$10. For more information, call the KCC office at 525-0292.

Kensington residents get a rare treat with contested seats for the KFPD as well as the KPCCSD. You’ll vote for three people in each contest—and since two incumbents chose not to run, you’re guaranteed at least one new face on each board. In the October issue, expect a brief interview with every candidate, candidate statement, and if space, a Q&A about the issues with responses from each. Be sure to attend the candidates’ forum on September 29. This popular event, sponsored by the Kensington Improvement Club, starts at 10:15am, following the annual town hall. For more, see page 4.



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Marvin Gardens' own rock band, "Little Marvin and the Gardeners" has raised over \$200,000 dollars for YES. The concert this year is on Saturday, September 8th, in Kensington. For more information about the event and the program please visit www.rockintheredwoods.com.

COMING SOON

Eldridge Ct, Kensington ~ 3/2
Amherst Ave, Kensington ~ 3/2
Hilldale Ave, Berkeley ~ 2+/3
Northside Ave, Berkeley ~ 4/2
Indian Rock, Berkeley ~ 3+/3
Cragmont Ave, Berkeley ~ 4/2+



Woodmont Ave, Berkeley ~ 3/2
Euclid Ave, Berkeley ~ Fourplex
Devonshire Dr, El Cerrito ~ 3/2

We have been busy working on some beautiful homes that are coming on the market in September. Whether you are thinking of buying or selling, Marvin Gardens can help you.

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At Prospect Sierra, our whole focus is to help your children become successful students and caring people who strive to build a better world. Come see how we're different.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION DAYS

Elementary School (K-4)
Tapscott Campus
November 11, 2018
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Call: 510.809.9018

Middle School (5-8)
Avis Campus
November 4, 2018
12:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Call: 510.809.9025

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Letters to the Editor

Hearing “No!”
Dear Editor:

I can’t resist putting my thoughts on paper regarding the August 9 KPPCSD board approval of a plan to restructure the administrative, “non-sworn” staffing of our police force. I was stunned at what a deaf ear the board turned toward the community that it was elected to serve. We heard dozens of thoughtful and articulate expressions of concern from long-term, respected residents of Kensington who have followed community governance for decades and participated in it. I have rarely seen such unanimity among the audience at a board meeting.

We also had feedback from two lawyers on the legal problems raised by the measure as well as feedback from representatives of the Kensington Improvement Club, the Kensington Property Owners Association, and the Kensington Police Officers’ Association. There was overwhelming concern regarding the adoption of the measure as presented. Only two citizens stood up to speak in its favor. It surprised me greatly that in view of such strong opposition the board did not choose the obvious tactic of tabling the matter until it could gain support. Instead, as fifty residents watched in disbelief, the board brought the measure to a vote, approved it, and directed the General Manager to begin implementation.

I am afraid that the board has a misguided view of its role. Directors justified their unpopular vote by hammering at how necessary they felt it was to accept it. This is a disturbingly paternalistic attitude. It reflects the behavior of a parent, secure in his or her superior “wisdom,” lecturing a child for not having a mature perspective on an issue. It was clear that residents did have a clear understanding of the measure. However, they were not ready to accept it—not without giving more thought to its ramifications.

Almost all Kensington residents in attendance said “No!” loud and clear—and in a representative democracy the vox populi needs to be given far greater respect than this board is demonstrating. Please watch the meeting on video and then speak up. If the board cannot hear the message “No!”, perhaps it can hear “Hell, no!”

Anthony Knight

We Paid Them, Let’s Listen to Them
Dear Editor,

Most of us long-term Kensington residents know that our police department over the last several years has not performed as well as it could. Issues can be connected to supervision, proper training, and follow-up. The present KPPCSD board authorized a substantial expenditure during the last fiscal year for the general manager to hire consultants to guide the district to a more sustainable management/administration staff.

The consultants scheduled two well-attended public meetings, interviewed district staff as well as the district board. They produced a Police Service Analysis in May with general recommendations, none of which have been acted upon to now. In July the Management Strategies Group presented a Proposed Administrative Reorganization proposal. At the August 9 board meeting senior consultant Bob Deis answered questions and explained the four new part-time positions including their pay scales. The cost of the new positions seems legit (\$180,200), though some savings (\$170,000) deserve to be challenged.

Residents should have questioned the need for these changes and additional costs connected with the staff changes. However, the meeting quickly turned into a free-for-all, with people questioning whether a long-term Kensington resident who also works in the district office should be burdened with having to change her position, her job description, or even lose her job. Not good when merits of the restructuring are mostly ignored.

We started reorganizing staff, we hired and paid for the consultants’ recommendations, why would we not follow them in total or in (substantial) part? Our community deserves a good police force.

Karl Kruger

See Letters, page 6

OCTOBER 2018 DEADLINES:

Advertising Deadline ❖ SEPTEMBER 8 Editorial Deadline ❖ SEPTEMBER 10

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.

Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers and do not reflect the opinion of the Outlook, its editor, or the Kensington Community Council. Letters must be signed and include the resident's phone number and address (which will not be printed). Letters 350 words or under will appear in the print edition (space permitting). Any letter over 350 words will be printed in the online edition only. Publication of letters and articles is subject to space and the editor's discretion. Obituaries of Kensington residents are printed without charge. All material must be received by the 10th of the month preceding issue date; submit by email to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com. No press releases or PDFs; Word documents or text in the body of an email are acceptable. Use one space, not two, after all periods.

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

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K E N S I N G T O N

Community Education

KASEP Kensington Afterschool Enrichment Program

Welcome back families! Fall KASEP is here and we are very excited about the FALL KASEP line up of afterschool classes.

- Tuesday, September 4th at 7:00pm for Kindergarten and 7:30pm for Grades 1-6 for online registration at <http://kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org>
- The class schedule and brochures went home in student's backpacks from school the week of August 27th. There are extra copies available at the KCC office and at the Kensington library
- Classes start the week of September 17th
- A complete listing of fall classes and class schedule are available for viewing online on the KCC website. KCC office is closed August 20 - September 3th for deep cleaning and shifting operations from summer camp to KASEP.

KCC Website: www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org

Don't get shut out of a class because the system says "too young" or "too old" - make the change on your child's profile to reflect this year's grade at school.

At the end of last year, we were sad to say good bye to KASEP teachers: Pascale Roger-McKeever (cooking/drama) as she will be focusing on her acting career and Jeanne Rehrig (clay/pastels) is taking a leadership role at Neighborhood School. In addition, KCC Director, Rowena Cerri moved out of the area. We will miss her and her cheerful presence. We wish her well in her new endeavors and hope she comes to visit as often. Her daughter (Hilltop graduate Sydney) starts college at University of Hawaii Manoa, we know one place she might be headed. Aloha Rowena!



Renee Hoyer-Nielsen



Eileen McNally

Welcome Renee and Eileen!

After many years, the stars have finally aligned at KASEP and starting this Fall, Renee Hoyer-Nielsen will be our new KCC Recreation Director and Eileen McNally will be our new KCC Recreation Office Coordinator. We are excited to have them aboard.

Renee has an extensive background in the field of recreation, starting with a full basketball scholarship at UCLA. She was the recreation supervisor for the City of El Cerrito for many years as well as a Physical Education teacher at Kensington Hilltop School. A longtime fixture in the community, her husband Rune Hoyer-Nielsen is a fire captain with the Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Dept. Renee's children attended Kensington Hilltop school. Renee and her family train puppies through Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Eileen, a Kensington resident for 20 years, has a background including office managing a holistic healthcare clinic and a professional vocational school in Oakland and more recently at her husband Peter's commercial real estate office. She was very involved in children's school programs and became a writer coach for students in the middle school grades. She is looking forward to assisting Renee kick off the fall season of KASEP.



Bindy, Gymnastics Instructor - classes for grades K-6



Introducing Jan Jones, KASEP keyboard teacher for grades 1-3



KASEP artist in action

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, 11:30am-5pm.
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 Andrea at the KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 510-526-4141.

Farewell KCC Summer Camp 2018

Thank you families for your support of the KCC Summer Camp Program. A special shout-out to this year's new director Joe McGinnis and Marshall Doty as head counselor. We had an outstanding staff of college age, recent high school graduates, and high school students. We can't forget about CIT's- our next generation of awesome counselors! They each made the summer full of fun, magic and memories. The campers enjoyed a smooth running camp by this dedicated staff.



KCC Family Movie Night

Saturday, September 22nd-It's a family affair, bring your picnic, blanket and pajamas and join us on a free movie night in the park. This year's movie is Pixar's awarding winning COCO. A vibrant tale of family, fun and adventure, a favorite for all ages. Movie starts at dusk.

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

In the United States, it has been recommended by the Arthritis Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for its effectiveness in bringing pain relief, improving balance, and significantly reducing falls. This class is suitable for all people, regardless of physical condition. It is however, especially helpful for people who may be experiencing some health difficulties. The exercises incorporate all the health enhancing benefits of regular tai chi, but focuses on movements that are safe and relatively simple to do.

For further information, contact Nobuo at: nnishi50@gmail.com or 510-495-4860

Acrylic Artists

Wednesdays, 9:45-12:30pm, Community Center, \$9

Open Studio, lots of natural light. Come paint with other artists. Easels and tables are provided. Bring your canvas, paints, and creativity. Friendly group!

Tai Chi Chuan

Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

A gentle martial art, tai chi is a safe, rewarding activity for people of all ages and all levels of health. Tai chi incorporates both mind and body. Nobuo Nishi, instructor, has been teaching for 18 years.

Art For Adults

Wednesdays 9:50-12:10pm- 6 weeks and ongoing. Sept.19,-Oct.24 2nd session-Oct. 31-Dec.7. Drop in \$30.00 materials included

Art Journal Stew- Anyone can do this class - this workshop is open to beginners, artists, or non-artists alike. I believe we are all artists. We study and apply new techniques: make a piece of art or a fun and simple visual art journal. This class will give you a chance to try new materials: water-colors, colored pencils, markers, inks and papers. You will learn techniques; create wonderful backgrounds: resist painting, work with writing/ fonts, tissue paper graffiti, gesso and lots of collaging. You will receive one on one instruction and you can create your book of dreams. You will leave each session feeling inspired to create art and make additional books on your own. Students need to bring a thin tip sharpie and a white sharpie pen. Also, any pictures, fine papers, or photocopies of your own to class. I have a material fee to cover supplies of \$20.00 paid to instructor the first meeting-less if you bring your own mixed media art journal pad. The class is payable to Kensington-@135.00 for 6 classes. Class is ongoing. Come join the fun with our local artist-Jamie Aberegg

What to bring

White sharpie, black fine tip sharpie, theme, imagination and \$20.00 material fee due at the first meeting. Pics, memorabilia, fine papers/collage mag. pieces, art bits for small embellishments, (optional). \$15.00 material charge if you bring your own mixed media art journal. Canson-XL mixed media pad.

Art is in the Cards

Mondays 9:30-10:45 am. 6 weeks ongoing. Sept. 24-Oct. 29th 2nd session Nov. 5-Dec. 10. \$125.00 for 6 classes. \$5.00 fee paid first day to instructor

It is Mail Art. This is a class to try out new art techniques and create postcards, artist trading cards or mini masterpieces. It is a way to put creating art in your life! You can do the index card challenge, or just send a cheery note to a friend. We use index cards and recycled materials to make postcards, journaling backgrounds, Mail Art to be seen by others when sent. It is an easy and fun way to create and try new collage and mediums. Anyone can do this class - this workshop is open to beginners, artists, or non-artists alike. Put art into your life! Jamie Aberegg is also teaching "Art techniques & Mixed Media Workshop" in Albany Community Center. (Tues.)

June Park Party Launches Fund Drive for Community Center Renovation

By Anne Forrest, KCC President

On Sunday, June 24, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) and the volunteer group Kensington 360°, along with event sponsors Marvin Gardens and Mechanics Bank, threw a party to celebrate ownership of Kensington Park. The party was timed to honor Kensington volunteers who worked so hard 25 years ago to secure the park for the community. This was also an opportunity to inform partygoers about the upcoming two-year-long renovation of the Community Center.



Photo by Mark Altenberg

Over 120 friends and neighbors enjoyed music by the Recyclists, a delicious array of food, and Sterling the Bubble-smith, who entertained with life-size bubbles, encasing children and adults brave enough to take the challenge. This was a truly a community effort, with beautiful flowers donated by Julie Moore of Circle Salon. Chris Hall of the Kensington Farmers’ Market sponsored the band, and Arlington Wine and Spirits supplied the wine.

Many of the volunteers from the Emergency Committee to Save Kensington Park (ECSKP) were recognized for the campaign they launched nearly 25 years ago, when owning the parcel of land, then known as the Jefferson School site was just a dream. Chris Sorensen and David Fike, ECSKP members, shared their memories of the campaign. Many of the “newcomers” who use the park daily had no idea of its history, of the acquisition struggle, or that Kensington’s ownership is relatively recent. David Fike remarked that during the campaign there was much concern that the Kensington community would not be willing to simultaneously support a bond to buy the park property and a bond for additional police funding. After a lot of grassroots work and worn shoe tread, both measures passed with wide margins, proving that Kensingtonians were willing to fund both the park and the police.

With the community’s thanks and much applause for the original park volunteers, KPPCSD board director Sylvia Hacaj and I brought the audiences’ attention to the current project of renovating the community center. Farhat Daud of Glass Associates, Inc. exhibited plans for the renovation and answered questions. There are a number of goals in the remodel—first and foremost to ensure the safety of all who use the building, especially children who spend the most time there. Considerable seismic upgrades are planned to meet current standards. The proposed renovation will bring the building up to the standards of the Americans with Disability Act and reflect our civic values to have a fully accessible building. The renovation will reduce the carbon footprint with increased energy efficiency.

Sylvia and I asked the partygoers to donate to the renovation campaign. Already \$1,200,000 has been secured through state grant money, KPPCSD reserves, and generous donations from KCC and KIC, but an estimated \$365,000 is needed to complete the project. True to the can-do spirit of Kensington, over \$9,000 was paid or pledged at the party!

If you wish to help fund the renovation, visit the website Kensington360.org for more information and to donate online. To donate by check, mail a check made out to Kensington Community Council to KCC, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington, 94707. Please note “community center renovation” or Kensington 360° on your check. All donations are tax-deductible and will be held by KCC until renovations begin.

Meet the District Director Candidates

By Lisa Caronna, KIC president

Every fall season the Kensington Improvement Club (KIC) holds an Annual Meeting and Town Hall. This year’s event, on Saturday, September 29 at 9am at the Community Center, features three guest speakers—County Supervisor John Gioia, KPPCSD General Manager Tony Constantouros, and KFD Battalion Chief Michael Pigoni. This is a good primer for issues that will be debated at the candidates forum immediately following the Town Hall at 10:15am.

At the forum, community members can meet and hear from those running for district office. In the recent past, this forum focused on the KPPCSD candidates since the KFPD typically included those running unopposed. This year a number of candidates are running for each special district board—both the KPPCSD (Police) and the KFPD (Fire). The forum is the best face-to-face opportunity to learn who are the candidates, their priorities for the district, and what skills they bring to the position.

Co-sponsored by KIC and the Kensington Property Owners Association, the forum invites all candidates running for both districts to participate. The Town Hall and Candidates Forum is free to the public. With the help of KCC, free childcare (3 years +) will be provided in Building E, enabling parents to attend this important meeting. To reserve a childcare spot call (510) 525-0292. 24 hours advance notice required.



Charlie McLaughlin holds a banana for Nike, a playful omnivore at the library’s wildlife education evening.

Alligators on the Arlington

By Linnea Due

What could entice over 150 residents to come to the Kensington Library on the last Tuesday evening in July? Kinkajous, lemurs, and alligators, oh my.

On a slightly chilly evening, Gabe Kerschner, from Conservation Ambassadors in Weimar, put on a show for kids and adults that combined conservation, a lesson that wild animals are not pets, and a look at several animals many had not seen up close.

Little kids got to sit on a carpet carefully arranged on the ground in front of the chairs—and most managed to stay in their criss-cross positions for the duration of the hour-long event. Kerschner, whose peripheral vision has been trained by decades of dealing with antics on the part of his scaled and furred partners, was adept at waving the few restless children away from the rattlesnake’s diamond head and the alligator’s jaws.

In a preshow interview, Kerschner said that he does the presentations nearly every day with a selection of animals. Each animal was either injured or someone’s misbegotten pet and cannot be released into the wild. He had just come from a presentation at the California State Fair, sponsored by the California Coastal Commission. “I’m not that far removed from the kids,” Kerschner said, “so it works out well.” The Friends of the Kensington Library sponsored this popular event.

The animals came out one by one, emerging from behind a green folding screen that hides their kennels. Ringo, the lemur, refused to leap, but Nike, the kinkajou, daintily ate an overripe banana held by volunteer Charlie McLaughlin. More familiar animals included a red-tailed hawk, an opossum, and that rattlesnake. Last out was a hundred-pound alligator that perched on a library table and allowed every kid that wanted to feel his skin.

In keeping with Kensington’s unique talent base, Kerschner looked surprised when the little kids instantly guessed that Nike was a kinkajou—and that his tail is prehensile.

POLICE LOG	
June 1	IDENTITY THEFT. Reported at station—report taken.
June 5	CODE VIOLATION. Coventry/Edgecroft rds. Bedding and chair discarded.
June 6	HIT AND RUN, property damage. Columbia Ave. Construction/paving truck hit reporting party's truck.
	VEHICLE THEFT. Norwood Ave. Report taken.
June 7	VANDALISM. Grizzly Peak Blvd. Reporting party hit a parked vehicle that was parked awkwardly. Questions what she needs to do now. Report taken.
June 10.	VEHICLE ACCIDENT. Santa Fe Ave. Assistance given to outside agency.
June 11	IDENTITY THEFT. Rincon Rd. Credit card fraud.
	VEHICLE ACCIDENT. Arlington Ave. Vehicle vs. pedestrian.
June 13	BURGLARY. Grizzly Peak Blvd. Auto via window smash.
June 15	VEHICLE ACCIDENT. Arlington/Wellesley aves. Swerved by center divider.
June 17	VEHICLE ACCIDENT. Franciscan Way/Eureka. Car drove off road, needs to be towed.
	HIT AND RUN. Yale Ave. Vehicle hit parked car, male fled location.
June 20	PETTY THEFT. Willamette Ave. Garage door left open overnight, bike, computer and camping gear taken.
	PETTY THEFT, Kenyon Ave. Open garage door. Prius and Subaru broken into, tools taken from garage.
June 21	ENTER AND OCCUPY PROPERTY W/O CONSENT. Coventry Rd. Trespassers.
June 22	PETTY THEFT. Highgate Rd. Auto.
	VEHICLE ACCIDENT. Trinty/Kenyon.
June 25	HIT AND RUN. Cambridge/Willamette. Damage to tire & scraped driver side bumper & body.
June 26	VEHICLE ACCIDENT. Arlington Ave. DUI collision, solo.
	VEHICLE ACCIDENT, Coventry Rd. Reporting party heard car hit street sign.
June 27	BURGLARY. Coventry Rd. Entered through screen to bathroom. Left through back door. Four handguns taken.
June 28	PETTY THEFT. Arlington Ave.
June 29	PETTY THEFT. Vassar Ave. Package opened and purse stolen from it
July 3	VEHICLE ACCIDENT. Kensington Chevron. Two parked vehicles hit by truck and driver did not have insurance.
July 4	CODE VIOLATION. Kensington Hilltop Elementary. Fireworks.
CODE VIOLATION. Back of Unitarian Church. Fireworks.	
CODE VIOLATION. Coventry and Ardmore. Fireworks, reporting party witnessed “impressive” fireworks. Officer arrived to find smoldering fireworks moved to sidewalk in front of RP’s home.	
July 7	
IDENTITY THEFT. Avon Rd. Reporting party left for Europe and upon return noticed her name had been used on a purchase she didn’t make. Purchased item delivered to Southern California.	
July 8	
PETTY THEFT. Yale Cir. Front and rear license plates stolen and replaced with different plates.	
July 9	
CODE VIOLATION. Stanford Ave. Complaint about construction.	
July 14	
VANDALISM. Kensington Hilltop. Racist graffiti on bathroom doors.	
July 20	
VEHICLE ACCIDENT. Berkeley Park Blvd. One car ran into another, no injuries.	
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE. Coventry Rd. Friend four years ago had left her alone but has now resurfaced and liked one of her FB posts. RP wants to now how to obtain a restraining order.	
July 21	
DISTURBANCE OF PEACE. Coventry Rd. Loud party.	
July 24	
REQUEST FOR EXTRA PATROL. Arlington/Amherst aves. White car is running stop sign consistently between 6:40-6:45am regularly.	
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE. Colusa/Valley Rd. WMA, thirties, dark clothing. Last seen getting into red station wagon. Subject hit dog while he was in vehicle and drove off towards Fairmount. Unable to locate.	
July 25	
FRAUDULENT USE OF CREDIT CARD. Kerr Ave. CC used to purchase airline tickets.	
DISTURBANCE OF PEACE. Willamette/Purdue. Loud music for about an hour.	
July 26	
ANNOYING TELEPHONE CALLS. Occurred at Kensington PD.	
July 26	
PETTY THEFT. Highgate Ct. Registration and proof of insurance missing from car.	
HIT AND RUN. Eldridge Ct. RP’s parked vehicle hit while he was working an estate sale.	
July 27	
VANDALISM. Willamette Ave. Window smash.	
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE. Columbia Ave. People in vehicle all day for a couple of weeks, has UT plates.	
July 28	
PETTY THEFT. Willamette Ave. Package stolen from front porch.	
July 30	
BURGLARY. Arlington Auto Shop. Cold case.	
PERSON SEEKING ADVICE. Norwood Ave. Received a call saying she had outstanding warrants & local authorities would be coming to pick her up. Aware it’s a scam, but has questions about what the KPD can do to make the public aware of these scam calls.	
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE. Edgecroft Rd. Alarm activated, two unkwn race males, one bigger than other, wearing all black.	
July 31	
DUMPING ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY. Beloit Ave. Subjects dumping concrete in canyon area. 3 to 4 males using shovels to off load concrete from black truck.	

Neighborhood News and Notes

Pat Gillette Receives ABA Award

Pat Gillette, a forty-year-resident of Kensington, is one of five women in the country to receive the American Bar Association’s Margaret Brent Award for 2018. This award is the highest honor given to women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence and paved the way to success for other women.

This is not the first time Gillette has been recognized for her work to advance women. Among her other honors are the ABA’s Golden Hammer Award, the Transformational Leadership Award as a Top Woman Rainmaker, the California Women Lawyers’ Fay Stender Award, and the San Francisco Barristers Club Award of Merit. The award ceremony, attended by 700 people, took place in Chicago August 5. Gillette is one of the country’s experts on gender and diversity issues and speaks around the country on issues of leadership and power. Her newest book, *Rainmakers: Born or Bred*, came out in 2017.



Happy Times

Anna-Maria and David Hertzner of Ardmore Road are delighted to announce the arrival of their second grandchild, Theodore John Hallowell, born to Emily (nee Hertzner) and Stephen Hallowell of San Francisco. Teddy, who weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and measured 20 inches when born on August 2, 2018, has a big sister Claire Elisabeth who will be 2 years old in early September.

Passings

Nancy Anstine Peer passed away on June 13, at age 67. Nancy was raised in Boulder, Colorado, where she spent her youth hiking and camping the front range of the Rocky Mountains. She studied at Colorado State University before earning her BA in history from Northern Illinois University. She married in 1971 and moved to San Francisco in 1977, where she worked as a paralegal.

Nancy had a daughter, Katherine, in 1981, and a son, Jeffrey, in 1983. Nancy committed many years to raising her children, working as a stay-at-home mom and volunteering extensively at Kensington Hilltop Elementary, where at one point she became president of the PTA. Nancy later found her calling as an elementary school teacher, a profession that allowed her to share her profound love of learning. At Kensington Hilltop, she worked in the Periscope reading program (1993-1995), and taught first grade (1996-1997). In 1997, she began teaching fourth grade at J.O. Ford Elementary School in Richmond, where she remained a beloved teacher for over two decades. She had a passion for teaching American and California history, for leading field trips and introducing young people to the stories and beauty of their state. After retiring in 2014, she worked at Ford as a substitute teacher.

Nancy lived in the East Bay since 1983, looking out on the water from the hills that she loved so much. She moved into the Colusa Circle neighborhood of Kensington in 1994, where she resided until her passing. She will be remembered for her infinite kindness, her generosity of spirit, her sparkling smile and her sweet laughter.



Meeting to Address Traffic Issues

By Chris Deppe, KPPCSD board director

KPPCSD directors Chris Deppe and Eileen Nottoli will host a community traffic meeting Thursday, September 20, from 7-10pm, at the Community Center. Attending will be Contra Costa County’s senior traffic engineer, Monish Sen; interim Chief of Police Rickey Hull; and possibly a representative from County Supervisor John Gioia’s office.

Board members are often asked about traffic issues, and sometimes it’s not clear who or what agency is responsible for a particular problem. This is a chance to voice your concerns and ideas about traffic, as well as get a better understanding of which roles the various agencies play in traffic-calming efforts.

This is not a KPPCSD board meeting and will be fairly informal. All members of the public are welcome. Questions and comments are encouraged, as are good ideas. Please come and talk about traffic!

Unpopular Vote Emerges from KPPCSD Meeting

By Linnea Due

On the pleasant evening of August 9, over fifty people gathered for the regular KPPCSD meeting. On the docket was the proposed Administrative Support Reorganization plan, formulated by Management Strategies Group senior consultant Bob Deis. Deis has been active in Kensington consulting; he participated in the search for a general manager and was asked to examine the district’s administrative support structure.

This story, along with more letters, is continued on kensingtonoutlook.com.Space limitations prevented us from printing an interview with Pastor Tony Clark, who is leaving in September for a position in Ohio. That interview will be printed in the October issue.

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Letters

...from page 4

Staffing the Force
Dear Editor:
There is constant complaining by folks and some police officers that the police force is not fully staffed, and they are accusing the KPPCSD board of not filing the vacancies. Those vacancies exist because in a very short period two officers left on disability and one retired. These vacancies cannot be scheduled in advance. In this employment climate it is extremely difficult to hire officers, particularly with our below average pay scale and limited advancement opportunities. All departments locally are short-staffed. Chief Hull has been actively recruiting, but it is not easy to attract candidates. On August 9 he reported that two candidates are in background check, and another expressed interest.
Also note that our crime stats remain at the level they were at full staffing, suggesting that it is not the number of officers that keep crime down. I have always maintained that it is our narrow, convoluted street system and the buffer of El Cerrito that deters burglars.
And this short-staff situation is a major risk of a very small department such as ours, with no deep bench that can accommodate such vacancies. This is a major reason to have a larger department with adequate staff and supervision to provide our policing.
Mabry Benson

An Appreciation of Len Schwartzburd
Dear Editor:
Len Schwartzburd was an energetic member and supporter of the Kensington CERT group. Len spent many hours working on behalf of the community, which he cared deeply about. Whether or not you agreed with him on all points, you had to respect his passion for and dedication to our mission. He could always be counted on to speak his mind, but more important, he was always willing to work with others who did not share his views.
Trained as a clinical psychologist, Len recently traveled to Israel to study a new, innovative, and effective procedure for treating PTSD victims in disaster situations. He used his expertise in this area to contribute to the CERT training workshops for Kensington residents. His passion and hard work in emergency preparedness will continue to be valued by his friends and neighbors, especially the people he worked alongside of who shared his dedication to the goals of CERT and the safety of our community. We admire his accomplishments and thank him for his contributions. We will miss him.
Members of Kensington's CERT Area 6

Paths Vital to Our Safety
To the Editor:
As our state faces another devastating fire season, Kensington residents should focus on the need to resolve the status of our network of walking paths, which have been in a legal state of limbo since they were designated by early land developers over 100 years ago.
The paths make our community more walkable and are a pleasant and useful way to get around on foot. But they are, most importantly, vital security corridors in the event of a disaster, particularly wildfire. As our narrow, winding streets became congested, the paths provide critical escape routes for residents and would be used to move fire hoses and equipment.
Currently, Contra Costa County, KPPCSD, and the KFPD do not have ownership or authority over the paths. Although there is clear documentation on their historical use as pedestrian pathways, the lack of public ownership is problematic. First, it's nearly impossible to improve these paths without clear ownership. Additionally, in order to apply for grants and funding for improvements, ownership by a public agency is needed. Several years ago, a person tripped on the Ardmore path and sued a group that included the Kensington Improvement Club, which has overseen work parties to weed and sweep the paths. Although these lawsuits are rare, it's untenable for volunteer groups and individuals caring for these paths to be held liable for this community-wide resource.
The Berkeley Path Wanderers Association has successfully worked to improve their paths with these needs in mind. It recently conducted a large-scale survey to set priorities for making evacuation and safety-related improvements: tinyurl.com/y97r36wn.
We are working together to build consensus in our community to resolve the status of the paths. We provided public comment at the August 9 KPPCSD meeting and plan to do so at an upcoming KFPD meeting. We invite you to join us and have provided contact information on our website at www.kensingtonpaths.org.
Public ownership of the Kensington walking paths is badly needed as we face the threat of wildfire. Please join us in making this a priority for our community.
Rodney Paul

Coffee with a Cop
Dear Editor:
The Kensington Police Department is pleased to announce the start of the Coffee with a Cop program. We will start this program on National Coffee with a Cop Day, the first Wednesday in October. The goal of this program will be to meet and greet the men and women who protect and serve the district's law enforcement interests as well as other Kensington residents.
The majority of law enforcement contacts with the public occur during emergencies or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship-building with the community. Coffee with a Cop aims to break down barriers and allow for relaxed interaction.
This is not a platform for agendas or speeches, but we want to offer our residents the opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, and know your police department and its members better.
I believe in community-oriented policing and have always wanted a stronger police department and community relationship; this is a step in that direction.
All community members are invited to attend.

Location: Inn Kensington, 293 Arlington Avenue
Date: October 3, 2018
Time: 1pm
iCOP Rickey Hull

Letters are continued at kensingtonoutlook.com

Kensington Calendar

Locations:

Arlington Community Church (ACC), 52 Arlington Ave., 526-9146
Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., 525-0292
Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 524-3043
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB), 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

Ongoing:

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10
Acrylic Artists Wednesdays, 9:45-12:30, Community Center, \$9. Self-directed artists come together to paint. Easels and tables provided. Friendly group.
Tai Chi Chuan Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10
Jazzercise with Kevin Knickerbacker ACC, Mondays-Fridays, 9am \$20 class or \$55 unlimited per month. ACC.
Mindful Yoga with Wendy Beckerman Tuesdays, 9:15am, bring yoga mat. \$18 drop-in or discount for series. ACC.
Israeli Folk Dance Wednesdays, \$6, lessons/beginners 8pm, request dance party starts at 9pm. ACC.

September
September 2 Rev. Dr. John Buehrens, author of *Transcendentalist Disciples*. He will discuss “The Transcendentalists: Roots and Wings. Part 1: What You Don’t Know You Don’t Know About the Transcendentalists.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

September 4, 18 & 25 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

September 5 Kensington Unit of League of Women Voters will meet at 1:15pm at 21 Camelot Court to discuss local issues. 527-1332

September 6, 13, 20 & 27 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs, puppets, shaky eggs, and loads of fun! Kensington Library, Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free.

September 6, 13, 20 & 27 Read to Dogs Each week one to three calm & gentle therapy dogs will be at the Kensington library, waiting for kids to read to them (or parents of younger kids can do the reading). Call or drop by to schedule an appointment. Drop-ins often also work. 2:30-3:30pm. Free.

September 6 Everybody’s Fellowship 6pm, ACC. Free Monthly potluck supper and program for ACC members and guests. Open to all.

September 9 Rev. Dr. John Buehrens, (see bio above.) Part 2: “The Forgotten Female Transcendentalists.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

September 10 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. 6:30pm. Free.

September 10 & 24 Digital Docent will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1pm. This one-on-one 60-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign up at Kensington Library Info Desk. Please bring your device. Kensington Library, free.

September 11 Ventriloquist Steve Chaney and Corny Crow Steve

Chaney and “Corny” are here to entertain you with a variety of puppets, juggling and a dash of magic. Find out why 6-year-old Jason at the Alameda County Fair said, “I laughed so hard I thought my brains fell out.” Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

September 13 Garden Tour The three gardens that won the 2018 Sundar Shadi awards will be presented. Meet at 9:30am in the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane in El Cerrito. Members are free, visitors \$3. Presentation begins after a short business meeting and a refreshment break. 510-237-4654.

September 15 Tech Trek Girls The Tech Trek Girls will speak at the AAUW West Contra Costa Branch meeting. Come hear about their experiences at the Tech Trek Science and Math Camp. Meeting at: Christ Lutheran Church, 780 Ashbury St., El Cerrito. 10am. Free. All are welcome.

September 16 Cordell Sloan and Karen Voorhees discuss their take on what the future is likely to hold for us. Karen brings her knowledge of Big History (PhD, cultural history) and spirituality (36 years as a meditator). Cordell brings his knowledge of UU history, his background in tech and his own deeply grounded spirituality. “We Have Seen This Movie Before: Reasons for Optimism About the Future in Spite of Today’s Headlines.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

September 16 Art Exhibit and Reception, 683 Oberlin Ave., 2-5pm, celebrating the work of longtime Kensington resident Rip Matteson. Paintings, drawings and cartoons will be exhibited.

September 17 Memoir Group 10am, ACC. Free Monthly Memoir Group led by Ruth Robinson in the Fireside Room.

September 17 Create Cool Creepy Crawly Bugs Use all sorts of materials from nature—seeds, pebbles, leaves, twigs, nutshells & more to make your one-of-a-kind bugs. Ages 3 through elementary school. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.

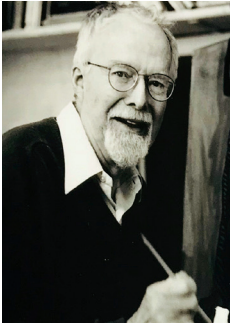
September 17 Seed Saving Seminar with Anne Fletcher of Orta Kitchen Garden Design. Join us for a presentation by local gardener Anne Fletcher on best practices for saving seeds, from collection and storage to propagation. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

September 18 Painting with Light Come to the library to paint dazzling patterns of colored light into the VERY AIR ITSELF! Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.

September 22 KCC Free Movie Night. Movie starts at 7:30 but come at 6pm for hot dogs, popcorn, and a great raffle. Kensington Park lawn above library and Community Center. See story this issue.

September 23 Carolyn West, Associate Minister for Worship and Director of Religious Education. “Wisdom Traditions Respond to the Soul’s Human Cry.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

September 24 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward. Book Club is open to all. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.



September 28 Bridge Night 6pm, ACC. Free monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACCers and new guests.

September 29 KIC Town Hall Meeting and candidates forum. Hear from local representatives at 9am followed by candidates forum at 10:15. Meet those running for special district director seats. Kensington Community Center.

September 30 Ron Campbell, multiple award-winning theater artist, poet and Cirque du Soleil clown. “Clown Knows: What the Lessons of a Lifetime of Performing Can Teach Us About the Pitfalls (and Pratfalls) of

Becoming a Better Human.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

September 30 The Joy of Book Clubs. Fundraiser for the Friends of Kensington Library at the home of Jane and Clif Taylor, 4 Sunset Terrace, 3-5pm. Maggie Sokolik, PhD, creator and instructor for online book clubs and writing program administrator and teacher at UC Berkeley, will speak. \$25 advance; \$30 at the door. Space is limited! Please make checks to FKL. Checks may be given to library staff or mailed to the library.

Help Our Kids by Donating to the Garden Party

By Joy Dey
Preparations are underway for the annual Garden Party, to be held Saturday, November 3, at the Berkeley (formerly Mira Vista) Country Club. This annual benefit raises funds for the Kensington Education Fund (KEF), which supports Kensington Hilltop Elementary. “The Garden Party is truly a community event that brings together parents of Kensington students and members of the surrounding community for a mutual goal.” says KEF President Kerry Sylvester. “This one event raises 40 percent of the funds that are used to provide students with hands-on essentials that the school district has cut.” These essentials include computer classes, a science lab, a real PE curriculum, art and music classes, and a library that’s open every day. “The parents of Kensington students are committed to providing their kids with a solid educational foundation,” Sylvester continues. “Doing so sets each child up for long-term success that not only provides personal benefit, but that elevates their community as well.” KEF also supports every teacher at Hilltop with a budget for buying classroom supplies, so that they don’t have to stock their rooms out of their own paycheck.

Kensington Hilltop parents donate a lot of the money for KEF — parents have already been asked to donate to the KEF Fall Drive, which raises half the annual budget for KEF. The Garden Party is an opportunity for the larger community to show its support for a school that bolsters our town (and our property values) in a major way.

How can you get involved? The Garden Party Committee is actively seeking donations for the Garden Party’s live and silent auctions. Individuals and local businesses donate all kinds of goods and services to the auction: beauty treatments, exercise classes, home services, restaurant and store gift certificates, movie passes. Stays at a family vacation home or timeshare are always a big hit at the auction, as are unique experiences like a day sailing on the bay.

It’s easy to contribute; email Garden Party Chair Brenda Lee or Design Chair Joy Dey at kefgardenpartyauction@gmail.com or go to <http://kensington.schoolauction.net/gp2018/>. Donations will be gratefully accepted until October 5. Give your business greater visibility by sponsoring the Garden Party! Ruth Frassetto of the Grubb Company, Arlington Wine & Spirits, Mechanics Bank, Derek Suring—New Leaf Realty, El Cerrito Martial Arts, Kensington Vet and the Berkeley Country Club have been key supporters of the Garden Party for years.

Another very fun way to show your support is to buy a ticket and join the party! Buy your tickets at <http://www.kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty>.

Town Meetings		Kensington Community Center 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington
KCC-SEPTEMBER 10, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 6:30pm. 525-0292	KIC-SEPTEMBER 24, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30. 524-7415	
KPSC-SEPTEMBER 10, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165	KPPCSD-SEPTEMBER 13, SEPTEMBER 27, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141	
KARO/ECHO-Amateur Radio Operators, 2nd Mondays of odd months, 7:30pm. 524-9815	Kensington Farmers’ Market Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm, Colusa Circle	
KFPD-SEPTEMBER 12, Fire Protection District 2nd Wed., 7pm. 527-8395		

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Unpopular Vote Emerges from KPPCSD Meeting

By Linnea Due

On the pleasant evening of August 9, over fifty people gathered for the regular KPPCSD meeting. On the docket was the proposed Administrative Support Reorganization plan, formulated by Management Strategies Group senior consultant Bob Deis. Deis has been active in Kensington consulting; he participated in the search for a general manager and was asked to examine the district’s administrative support structure.

In that November 16 report, Deis found that job responsibilities were assigned informally with much falling through the cracks, including key duties, some of which board directors picked up, some the general manager. Deis was charged with devising a model that would be more efficient and not depend upon directors or others. Deis delivered that new model July 11, to be discussed at the July 17 meeting. That meeting had to be cancelled, however, because notices were not posted within the time limit at the Arlington kiosk or Colusa Market. Then in an odd twist, the materials for the cancelled meeting were removed from the district website and not returned until the agenda was again posted for the August 9 meeting. At that point, Deis’ study and General Manager Tony Constantouros’ response were returned to the site.

Perhaps this backdrop contributed to the meeting that followed, which focused little on Deis’ study (except for pro forma compliments from many speakers) and much on how the recommended changes would impact District Administrator Lynn Wolter and Police Specialist Andrea Di Napoli. Constantouros began by noting that the internal organization of the district is invisible to the general public, yet that is the foundation of an organization. “Kensington does not have that excellent foundation,” he said.

Deis said that a successful organization is based on successfully navigating three tasks: conducting its business transparently and ethically; running the business itself; and incorporating innovation and plans for the future. The general manager should be most concerned with items one and three, yet Constantouros, Deis said, is consumed with minutia during his part-time hours. Deis pointed out that the recommended changes are to make the district professional, not directed at “employees who are doing the best they can with an inefficient system.”

Lynn Wolter’s district administrator position would be eliminated in favor of several part-time, no-benefit jobs, while Di Napoli’s Police Services Specialist position would lose some administrative support duties and be reduced approximately 20 percent. The new positions would be a clerk of the board, who would assist the board with taking minutes, compiling and posting agendas, central filing, and other tasks. Wolter, directors, and Constantouros have tag-teamed on these in the past. An office assistant would be hired to answer phones, greet walk-ins, respond to emails, schedule community center rentals, tasks now shared by Wolter and Di Napoli. A district finance and business manager would develop and control budgets, do long-term fiscal forecasting and deal with CalPERS among other financial work. Deis pointed out that this position should reduce consulting costs. Some of these tasks are done ad hoc by the GM or not at all.

Director Len Welsh, who would be the sole vote against adopting the recommendations, seemed to try to head off the criticism that followed. He complimented Deis on the report and said he was all in favor of not getting lost in minutia, but asked if this was about replacing people. Deis said that he would not participate in a project that tries to get rid of people. “This is about making the district better,” he said. Welsh asked if current employees would qualify for these positions, and Deis answered that he would encourage them to apply and added that district employees had been very helpful and forthcoming with his investigation of how the district did business.

After this opening, Sacramento attorney Ted Wolter, representing his mother Lynn, challenged the validity of possible action on the item, saying that it would amend the budget, which needs a first and second reading. Further, the policy and procedures manual would need to be amended, which also needs two readings and a 4/5 vote. He also asked that Director Chris Deppe recuse himself, charging that Deppe was retaliating against Wolter for dropping the dime regarding looking into a box of petitions that should have been destroyed years earlier.

Board attorney Ann Danforth scotched these shots across the bow, and the meeting continued with public comment. Many questioned the timing, the vagueness of the financial impact (Deis thought it would raise the budget around \$10,000, but others pointed out that these estimates ignored contracting fees and other costs). Some questioned where new hires might sit in the overcrowded Public Safety Building, others argued against a big-city approach to management. And some asked why institute such changes now when the issue of contracting out remained unsettled. Two or three people mildly supported the idea, while everyone else opposed it or argued for more time to consider it. (Please watch the video on the district website for the blow-by-blow and many succinct remarks.)

In the end, the question was called, and the board voted to approve the recommendation and begin recruitment. In an interview later, director Eileen Nottoli said that “with the present system, things can’t be done efficiently.” Among other problems, Nottoli described the current payroll, which is done manually, as “a Rube Goldberg system.” When things are changed or corrected, CalPERS payments are impacted month by month. As to why these changes should be made now, with contracting out still an issue, Nottoli responded, “Whether we contract for police services or not, we have to transition to a more automated system.”

Those objecting to the reorganization agreed with much of this—but not the timing or oversight. The moderate increases forecast in the budget came in for criticism, as it was unclear where savings would come from. Wrote Johanna Ferman via email, “There was no rigorous assessment of the costs, with unexamined and undisclosed expenses mounting as add-ons each year. Some outsourcing, for instance payroll, makes absolute sense... What would be far more ideal would be a more comprehensive plan including a budget that would prioritize all of this, with citizen input including the recognition that yes, we need to improve the infrastructure.”

This seemed the crux of the argument—that problems were real (some speakers, attempting to support Wolter and Di Napoli, described a system that relied entirely on institutional knowledge), but the manner in which the board chose to address the matter ignored the sentiment in the room. Welsh, in voting no, said, “The report is excellent. People are in a bit of denial about what it takes to run an organization. There’s a lot of management by crisis. However, the report came out with very short notice to the community, and there is concern about finances.... I would like to see more time spent on this report.”

More Letters

Vote Out Fire Board Incumbents

Fire season now runs year-round. Our Kensington Fire Protection District board (KFPD) is charged with reducing risks of conflagrations, but its lack of action jeopardizes lives and property.

Kensington has no evacuation plan. Would you know which streets to use? In the mailer from CalFire called “Kensington Community Evacuation Plan,” there’s none. That’s deliberate: the KFPD claims it doesn’t know where a major fire will come from. Directors know Tilden Park is the main threat, a major earthquake the other. How can they justify not developing options? The board also shows no leadership in getting the East Bay Regional Parks District to clear firebreaks on its west ridges.

Kensington’s many narrow, dead-end blocks orient cars toward the end. Neighbors will have to turn around or back up while embers are showering. The board should demand that the county modify parking to avoid disaster.

Residents have implored the directors to install sirens that could warn and tell us which direction the threat is coming from. We have no effective emergency phone system. A robot may call your landline, but it won’t tell you where the threat is. Cell phones? The county system is mostly silent. NIXLE? In last year’s North Bay fires, NIXLE warnings were slow and misinformed. Technology can alert people within 1/10 of a mile. Kensington has no emergency radio notification guidance. We are told to listen to KGO/KCBS or rely on ham radios.

The fire board just spent \$200,000 of your money on plans for a huge new \$12M Public Safety Building. But directors didn’t do their homework. A geologic report showed seismic fissures on the current site. The plans are unusable.

This board resisted requests to better publicize its monthly meetings and implement an email signup list. The board president said twice (May meeting) that it was “not a priority.”

I urge you to support my candidacy and not re-elect directors Kosel, Harmon, and deVille. We thank them for their service, but we need new blood. Your lives and property may depend on it.

Kevin Padian

Help Out the Hungry this Halloween

Dear Editor:

Halloween is right around the corner! As you begin to plan costumes and social gatherings, we hope you will also consider volunteering for Halloween for the Hungry. We started this Kensington project eleven years ago because we were eager to connect with our neighbors around food insecurity, an issue faced by many in our community and one that is only worsening with the widening economic inequality in our region. Every Halloween, we go door-to-door to collect non-perishable food and are blown away by the generosity of our Kensington neighbors. Our efforts have fed over 5,000 food-insecure people.

Thank you to all our neighbors on Kingston and Ardmore roads for your generous participation in the 10th annual Halloween for the Hungry food drive! This past Halloween, we collected 625 lbs for the Alameda County Food Bank—enough to feed 520 people. More importantly, we had almost 100 percent participation, which we greatly appreciate. Even one can makes a difference to a hungry person.

We hope that you are willing to contribute again this year. If anyone in Kensington is interested in participating in a food drive in your vicinity, please let us know and we will be happy to assist. Contact Simone at halloween4thehungry@gmail.com or Jan at mollmone@aol.com if you’d like to learn more. Thank you!

Jan Schreiber