

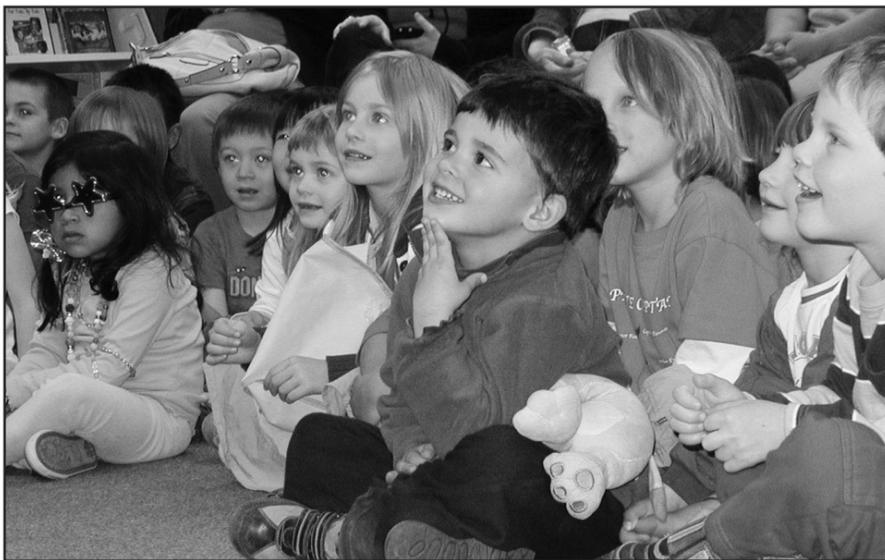
Bringing The Community Together

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

MAY 2010

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 67 NUMBER 4



It was a night of magic at April's Puppet Art Theatre presentation, The Tale of the Dragon's Tail, featuring fantastic king, dragon, princess, and wizard puppets – all at the Kensington Library. [Photo: Maggie Resnick]

Last Month's KIC Town Hall Meeting on Police Tax

Early one overcast Saturday morning last month, KIC President, Janet Hittle, chaired the *Kensington Improvement Club's* Town Hall Meeting regarding the upcoming police tax assessment increase scheduled for the June ballot – *Measure G*.

KPPCSD President, Chuck Toombs, Director and Finance Committee Chair, Bill Wright, and NBS consultant, Sara Mares gave an informative presentation on the subject and answered questions from the many Kensington residents in attendance. Here are some of the high points:

Inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the current parcel tax for police services – set at \$300 sixteen years ago. This has led to deficits in KPPCSD's budget, estimated at \$364,000 for FY 09-10. Measure G proposes a supplemental police parcel

tax of *up to* \$200/yr. per residential parcel, adjusted for inflation. (If the entire amount is not required in any one year, the assessment will be adjusted by the Board.)

While KPPCSD also administers the park and solid waste management, the largest slice of their budget, by far, is for police services. After thorough investigation, neither contracting out for police services nor consolidation with the Fire District was judged to be a money-saving alternative. Raising additional revenue or eliminating officer shifts are the two remaining choices.

The KPPCSD board, as a whole, and Police Chief and KPPCSD General Manager, Greg Harman, are in agreement that if Measure G does not pass in June, some patrol shifts will be eliminated.

Kensington Property Owners Assoc. Meets

The *Kensington Property Owners Association* will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, May 1st from 10am-Noon at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. The agenda will include:

Kensington Fire and Police District Consolidation – LouAnn Texeira, Executive Director of LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) will provide insight into the two reports that recommend consolidation of the Fire District with the Community Services District, and update us on what could come next.

The Great Tax Debate – a participatory event for both sides on the issue of whether Kensington needs another property tax assessment for Police Services – moderated by the *League of Women Voters*.

Second Units in Kensington – The County is proposing changes for permitting second units in homes. Patrick Tahara, Chairman, *Kensington Community Advisory Council*, will speak on the matter.

County Issues Pertaining to Kensington. Supervisor John Gioia will update us on County matters and answer questions.

The annual meeting is open to all Kensington property owners and residents. The KPOA Board of Directors is dedicated to informing the membership on Kensington issues. If you have an interest in participating and would like to get more information, please call the president, Gail Feldman, at 559-8232.

**KPOA Meeting
Saturday, May 1st, 10am-Noon
Community Center**

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Todd & Ron 524.0800

1004 Park Hills Road Kensington
Tranquil 3-bedroom, 2-bath home near Tilden Park. Family room, large garage converted to an office. Beautiful gardens.
Celia Concus 524.0800



Beautiful remodeled 3br/2.5ba Gutterson-designed home on Maybeck's famed Rose Walk. Stunning Craftsman interior w/vaulted beamed ceiling, hardwood floors, fireplace, and period details. Close to Rose Garden and U.C.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR =

Why I'm Supporting Measure G

Funding restrictions have historically threatened the ability of Kensington to maintain a fully functioning independent police department. Sixteen years ago, to mitigate the effects of Proposition 13, Kensington residents voted to maintain police coverage by setting the supplemental police tax at \$300 annually per household, or approximately \$680,000 for Kensington as a whole. As homeowners, we're continuing to pay this same amount today. I certainly wish I were paying for college tuition at 1994 rates!

Since then inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the dollar so that over \$1 million is needed to match the original voter-approved \$680,000. This shortfall, combined with flat property tax revenues, has given rise to budget deficits, with an estimated shortfall of \$364,000 for fiscal 2010. To fund current deficits, the District is now using up previously generated reserves. Our District cannot do so forever.

Because long-term budgets are notoriously difficult to predict, the Measure provides for a supplemental parcel tax of up to \$200 per household per year, adjusted for inflation. By inserting the up to language, the tax may be set lower than \$200 by the District Board if the fiscal picture is better than anticipated in any given year.

Before putting this measure on the ballot, the District Board had studied other deficit-bridging options including the outsourcing of the police function. An independent in-depth study determined that the cost of outsourcing was close to, and in some cases higher than, retaining our own, locally controlled Kensington Police Department. Without the proposed measure, the only option to bridge the deficit would be to shrink the police department and eliminate patrol shifts.

There are no easy answers. Many unincorporated districts in the Bay Area rely on distant and expensive County Sheriff departments to provide law enforcement protection. Let's continue to support our locally controlled Kensington Police Department.

That's why I'm supporting Measure G.
Bill Wright, Kensington Resident

He's an Eggs-istentialist

Dear Neighbors,
There is a resurgence of Americans wanting to reconnect with the community, traditions, plants, animals, fertile soils, and waters that produce our food. Change is happening in our food system locally and nationwide, for which we have many in our area to thank, including Alice Waters and Michael Pollan. Many families are replacing lawns with butterfly and vegetable gardens, and there is increasing interest in urban farming, with chickens and bees.

We have converted a small amount of our back yard to raise vegetables. We would like to have fresh, home-raised organic eggs and fresh, raw honey from our

own beehives. The current Contra Costa County zoning rules don't allow these beneficial creatures in unincorporated, residential areas like Kensington.

I've heard of some interest among Kensington neighbors in allowing laying hens (not roosters) and bees. I'm reaching out to you, my neighbors, for your opinions. If there is enough interest, we can look into the procedure to amend the *Kensington Overlay Ordinance* to allow a small coop and/or hive.

Please contact me with your thoughts.

Russell.Brent@gmail.com
510-647-8781 home • 415-577-4262 cell

Too Many Cars?

Editor,

It is with great concern that I notice that more and more unregistered cars are clogging the streets of Kensington. Every day, my wife and I take a little walk – about two miles. In that short distance there are approximately six cars with expired registrations parked on Kensington streets. There is one car parked on my street, Ardmore Road, which has been parked in the same spot for the last two years. By allowing cars like this to litter our streets, the Kensington police are allowing people to violate the law and to deprive properly registered auto owners of parking spaces. Part of what our police do should include ticketing and arranging for tow away of cars with expired plates. There is no excuse for them not to do this.

Robert L. Frankfurt

More Letters, Page 6...

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

EDITOR
JOEL KOOSÉD

ADVERTISING MANAGER
ALMA KEY

PUBLISHER
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KENSINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Located in the East Bay hills, at 59 Arlington Avenue, the spring session of the Kensington After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) continues through Friday, June 4. KASEP classes will not be held on Memorial Day, May 31. If you're interested in looking at the current list of classes, please go to <http://www.aboutkensington.com/kasep.html>.

We can be reached at 525-0292 Monday-Fri., 10 am-4pm, or kccrec@yahoo.com.



KASEP's Mandarin Class – Apparently, you not only need to learn to speak, but you also need to learn calligraphy. Yikes!

KCC SUMMER CAMP

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in Fall 2010.

The camp runs June 14 through August 20, 2010, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Campers may enroll on a weekly basis. The price for one week of camp is \$205 (except Week 4, July 6-9, \$160).

Our camp has a maximum of 62 children per week. We employ one director, a head counselor, eight counselors, a tennis instructor, and a "specialty consultant" each week to work with the campers.

The camp director and head counselor also provide extended day care 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 5:00-5:30 pm for an additional fee of \$7 per day.

Each week the campers will enjoy:

Field trip by private bus to points of interest around the Bay Area such as *Scandia*, *Water World*, the *Exploratorium* and the *Jungle*; Special activities such as carpentry, drumming, dance, cooking, and golf; Tennis instruction three days per week; Games, arts and crafts, hiking, and fun!



*Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances. Registration continues during office hours, 10am-4pm, in the KCC office in the Recreation Building (just beyond the tennis courts in Kensington Park). For further information, please call Esther Hill at the Kensington Community Council office at (510) 525-0292 or kccrec@yahoo.com. Forms are available online at <http://www.aboutkensington.com/kccdaycamp.html>.



Happy Mothers' Day!

Maybeck Estates Walking Tour Returns

In the subdivision named *Berkeley Highland Terrace*, the Bernard Maybeck family owned a large piece of property which they subdivided, and where they began to sell individual lots after World War II. On this walk, the privately owned part of Purdue Avenue will be explored. An original and current homeowner, Bob Shaner, will narrate the walk

and share personal experiences of building his own home and working with the Maybecks. Bob will be assisted by Paul Grunland, leader of several East Bay historical walks.

Please contact the KCC office at 525-0292 to reserve a spot for the walk. Walkers will gather at the trailhead located at the end of Grizzly Peak Rd.

Saturday, May 22, 10am-Noon • \$10

ADULT CLASSES

User-Friendly Pilates with Ernie Adams

Pilates is designed to stretch and strengthen your body in an intelligent way, and engages your deepest core abdominal, lumbar, breathing, and pelvic floor muscles. Developing core strength gives you greater power and precision in movement, and helps protect your body from injury. Pilates can help you discover how to feel more powerful, age more gracefully, and move with more rhythm and flow. These classes are mixed-level, appropriate for those with experience, and also for those who are just beginning.

CURRENT CLASS SERIES

• Level One

Get Stronger Without Getting Hurt

WEDNESDAYS, 7:30-8:30pm,
April 14 – June 2 (Eight Classes)

*\$100 Residents, \$101 Non-residents.
(\$15 drop-in) • Mats provided

*Special Discount: Take Level One & Two together for \$160 (\$10/class)

Level One is about becoming aware of deep supportive core muscles, learning how to release tight muscles, stretching and strengthening in a way that reduces the chance of injury.

• Level Two

Endurance – Increasing the Challenge

TUESDAYS, 7:30-8:30pm
April 13 – June 1 (Eight Classes)

*\$100 Residents, \$101 Non-residents.
(\$15 drop-in) • Mats provided

*Special Discount: Take Level One & Two together for \$160 (\$10/class)

Level Two is about building endurance and increasing power and control of movement. It is a little faster paced and more challenging than Level One, yet involves many of the same principles.

Ernie Adams is a Pilates Instructor and Feldenkrais® Movement Educator, with an extensive background as a professional dancer. He presents a less stressful way of learning Pilates, and has sixteen years experience collaborating with physical therapists to treat orthopedic, neurological, dance and sports related injuries. Private sessions are also available. Adams@bodyinaction.com, or 510-619-9223. www.bodyinaction.com.

To register for the class, contact the KCC office at 525-0292. 7-student minimum. Classes are held in the Kensington Recreation Bldg ('E'), 59 Arlington Ave. During the summer months, our Pilates class will move across the street to the Arlington Community Church.

Yoga for Health

Tuesdays 9:15-10:30am
(Last day of class is Tuesday, 5/25)

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

Classes held in the Community Center.

Fees for residents: \$15 for drop-in; \$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresidents please add \$1 surcharge. To register, call the KCC office at (510) 525-0292.

Acrylic Painting

Wednesdays, 9:45am-1:30pm
(No classes will be held during the summer months)

Stan Cohen (533-3003) leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning adult artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting, with assistance available. Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Enrollment is limited. Instructor approval required.

Fees: \$32/month (\$36 for non-residents)
Held at the Community Center.

REGISTRATION

Class Registration: Please call the office at 525-0292. Some classes have enrollment limits; those registering will be notified if they can't be accommodated.

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

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

59 Arlington Avenue, Building E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707
kccrec@yahoo.com • (510) 525-0292

Annual Picture of High School Seniors in Kensington

Each June, the *Outlook* publishes a picture of Kensington students who will be graduating from high school. Please note that the picture will be taken in Kensington Park on Sunday, May 2, at 3pm in the afternoon. Please contact the KCC office at 525-0292 if you're a parent who can help with this event.

Sunday, May 2nd • 3pm



Kensington Farmers' Market
Open Sundays
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Oak View Avenue at the Colusa Circle



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Neighborhood Notes

Hilltop School's Annual Spring Carnival – May 8th

Join the festivities! Kensington Hilltop Elementary School's PTA and the Dads' Club are hosting the school's 63rd Annual Spring Carnival on Saturday, May 8th, from 11am to 3pm. The Carnival will include fun games for all ages, a great selection of prizes, a *White Elephant Sale* filled with treasures galore, a superb lunch cooked by Dads' Club chefs, delicious treats from the bake sale, and a quilt raffle featuring *The Kensington Spirit Quilt*, designed and crafted by self-described "Closet Quilting Queens," Romy Douglass, Rachele Sherris-Watt, and Marie Plette Streshinsky. Given the recent state budget cuts to education, community support is needed more than ever before. Hilltop Elementary has been able to provide a top-notch education for years thanks to the generosity and involvement of our entire community. Revenue generated by this tremendous fund raising event will support Kensington Hilltop's educational programs and provide much needed school and classroom supplies. Info: 526-5670 or felicia@alumni.ggu.edu.



Circle 'R' Boys Circle Up at The Arlington

The crowd listened up and chowed down one Friday evening last month, as the *Circle 'R' Boys* sang and played some mighty fine bluegrass, backed by the warm glow of the setting sun filtering through the windows. Trish McDermott and her partner, Marc Lajoie, present a wide variety of live music frequently on Fridays at the Arlington Cafe in downtown Kensington. Check it out at www.269thearlington.com.



Home Composting Workshop - Saturday, May 15th

According to a recent California study, an average of over 37% of the waste from households is potentially compostable (yard and food waste). Toward reducing that waste, a free *Home Composting Workshop* will be offered at the Kensington Community Center on Saturday, May 15th, from 9-11am. Participants will be given hands-on experience in making, maintaining, and harvesting a compost pile, including worm composting (*Vermicomposting*) as a means of turning kitchen scraps into compost. High-quality compost bins be available at a discount. Reservations at 800-750-4096 (press 2). More info at www.cccrecycle.org.



Gads, Grads! Ready for Your Close-up?

Each June, the *Outlook* publishes a picture of Kensington students who will be graduating from high school. This year's photo will be taken in Kensington Park on Sunday, May 2, at 3pm. Please contact the KCC office at 525-0292 if you're a parent who can help with this event. *And most importantly, don't forget to wake up your graduating senior in time for the photo!*



Last Year's Graduating Seniors

Kensington Art Walk is Back! - Friday, May 7th

The Blues Daddies perform oldies and rhythm & blues at Arlington Avenue's Chevron Station, 5:30-8pm. Mother's Day Special featuring a variety of creative artists showing their art, including a broad selection of gifts for that special woman in your life – be a good kid and get your mother a present! For more information call Tricia Grahame at (925) 820-1183.



The Blues Daddies perform Friday, May 7th

Smart and Green Day at the Kensington Farmer's Market

Rising Sun Energy Service, 511.org, *Save the Bay*, and *City CarShare* present free torchieres, lightbulbs, and bicycle maps, a mercury thermometer exchange, and more, on Sunday, May 16th, from 10am to 2pm. Oakview Ave. at Colusa Circle. You can download the flyer at www.WhatDoWePutHere.net, or call 528-7215 for more information.

Preparing to Make End-of-Life Decisions – Thursday, May 13th

Nate Hinerman, PhD., a professor of Nursing/Theology and Religious Studies at University of San Francisco, will speak at the Arlington Community Church Women's Group on Thursday, May 13. Hospice services, palliative care, the importance of advance care planning and advance care directives, such as the *Five Wishes* form, and the *Physician's Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment* will be covered. Many often find this part of life difficult to talk about, but discussion and planning help the patient, caregivers, friends, and family know what to do. The group begins to gather at about 6 pm for a potluck dinner at 6:30. Plan to bring salad or casserole or dessert for six. The program will begin around 7:30. Please call the church office at 526-9146 if you are planning to attend. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue. Wheelchair accessible.

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Neighborhood Notes

Annual Wildfire-Safe Vegetation Management

Every year the rapid growth of noxious weeds and vegetation create an extreme fire risk to our community. To help reduce that risk, beginning in mid-May, the Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Department will be conducting fire hazard inspections of all Kensington properties. These inspections will be based on the Fire District's *Vegetation Management Standards*. Properties that have been identified as creating a fire hazard upon inspection will be notified and be subject to the 2010 fire hazard abatement process.



The Fire District asks that you begin your spring pruning, weeding, and cutting prior to their inspections. Guidance in resolving the fire hazard on your property is at www.kensingtonfire.org, or 215-4457. Kensington residents may have as much green waste as they cut picked up by collecting the cuttings in a large green waste paper bag and placing it on the curbside on green waste days. For additional green waste pickup methods call *Bay View Refuse and Recycling* at 237-4614. Remember, "You Make the Difference" in keeping your neighborhood "Wildfire Safe!"

Still Young's After All These Years

This summer, Chalad and Naz Sultan celebrate their tenth year as owners of *Young's Market* in downtown Kensington. Theirs is a spacious and airy store, with wide aisles, sparkling, well-stocked shelves, and beautiful produce at very competitive prices. "We can never be Costco or Wal-mart, but we do our best to keep our prices low," says Chalad. Young's is open from 9am to 8pm, Monday through Saturday, and Sundays, 10am to 7pm, and it doesn't get much more convenient than that!



Same Owner, Chalad Sultan – 10 years, this summer!

Just inside Young's, you'll find *Kensington Fine Foods*. Owners, Larry and Jessica Lefebvre, have been making plans to expand their selection to include an even wider selection of prepared chickens, ribs, vegetables and side dishes to accompany their broad assortment of no-hormone/no antibiotic meats and fresh fish daily from the Monterey Fish Market. They're currently waiting for final approval from the County building department, which they're hoping to receive this June.

These are challenging economic times for many neighborhood businesses, and Young's provides our town with a great community service. Just think what Kensington would be without its market! *We invite all Kensington residents to stop in this month and let the Sultans know how much we appreciate their business on this, the occasion of their 10th anniversary. They can use our support!* (And while you're there, give Larry's Turkey Special sandwich a try, for lunch – delicious!)

Around Town

After three years at the helm, this month Chevron Station owners, Tricia Grahame and her husband pass the baton to new owner, Jason Simms. Jason has been working with Cowden Automotive in SF for the past seven years, and working on cars since before he could even drive. He specializes in "doing good work and providing great service to my customers." Jason says, "I'm here for the community, and I'm here to stay." Drop in for a fill-up and meet the man who can fix your car while you relax nearby, at home!



New Chevron Station Owner, Jason Simms

Meanwhile we bid a fond adieu to Tricia, who has been a huge community booster during her time on the Arlington, spearheading last year's *First Fridays* on the Arlington, and contributing in myriad ways to Kensington events and fundraisers. We'll miss you, Tricia!

Detective Keith Barrow and Officers Doug Wilson and Juan 'Manny' Ramos, received commendations at last month's KPPCSD meeting for their actions on March 15th, during the investigation and arrest of two residential burglary suspects.



Officer Doug Wilson (left) receives his commendation from acting Police Chief, Rickey Hull. [Photo: Lynn Wolter]

And speaking of which, was that our own tall, blonde singer spotted in L.A. trying out for *America's Got Talent*?...KFPD is donating \$2,000 to the David L. Garret Memorial Scholarship Fund, in memory of the El Cerrito firefighter who died in the line of duty last year. And while they're at it, the Fire District is ponying up \$10,000 for the KCC-led renovation of the Community Center... And the Kensington Improvement Club is also chipping in ten large for the remodel. A few more donors like these and let the building begin! Who's next? Contact KCC about making a donation to the Community Center remodel, at 525-0292.

• Experience Matters •

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Saturday May 8th, 2010

11am - 3pm

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT KENSINGTON HILLTOP SCHOOL

• THANK YOU GRUBB CO. REALTORS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT! •

... Letters from Page 2

Measure G

Dear Editor,

Over the years, the Kensington Police Protection Community Services District (KPPCSD) has prudently accumulated reserves. It is now utilizing those reserves to fund operating deficits, which are the result of inflation, rising cost of living, and declining property tax revenues. The District's reserves will soon run out. Without a tax increase, our present level of dedicated police services will have to be cut.

On the upcoming June 8 ballot, *Measure G* proposes to increase the annual supplemental police tax by \$200 (about \$17/month for a residential parcel). If Measure G does not pass, some patrol shifts will have to be eliminated. The exact amount of the budget shortfall will determine the number of shifts cut.

Are there viable alternatives to a tax increase? A detailed study prepared by a police management and operations consultant concluded earlier this year that it does not make financial sense for Kensington to contract out for police services

at this time.

It has been suggested that consolidating the Fire and Police districts would eliminate the need for a tax increase. As a concept, consolidation has some potential merits. At a practical level, however, it poses huge hurdles. Although the Police District board is open to studying consolidation, the Fire District board opposes it. It will likely take several years to resolve this community issue. Whatever benefits consolidation may or may not bring, one thing is clear: consolidating the two districts will NOT eliminate the need for a tax increase. In fact, a combined district could actually have less total revenue than the two existing districts, which would compound the problem.

If we wish to continue to enjoy the benefits of the 24-hour a day/7day a week neighborhood police patrolling that has helped our community to enjoy significantly lower rates of serious crime than neighboring El Cerrito and Berkeley, I encourage Kensington residents to vote YES on measure G.

Sincerely,
Kathy Stein

A Word from the Kensington Police Officer's Association

The Officers of the Kensington Police Department have served this community with devotion and honor since the District's creation in 1947. The faces of the officers serving you may have changed over the years, but the Department's commitment to this community has remained resolute.

Unfortunately due to rising costs and decreasing revenues the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District is currently in the grips of a deficit budget. As many already know the last new tax for the police department was passed by Kensington voters over 15 years ago. Due to the fact there was no provision in the tax to address inflation it would be an irrational expectation to believe the 1995 tax would fund the police department indefinitely.

In 2009 Kensington Police Officers responded to over 3,200 calls for service which does not include other proactive activity such traffic stops and security checks which raise the total incidents KPD was involved in to nearly 5,900.

It is our concern that staffing may be cut if the tax is not passed in June and unfortunately as staffing levels go down response times naturally go up. In 2009 Kensington Police Officers responded to 112 medical emergencies (more than any previous year on record). KPD Officers are trained in emergency medical care, and are nearly always the first responder on scene at a medical call. The importance of a quick response time cannot be overemphasized during a medical emergency. Most doctors agree in a non-breathing patient, an elapsed time of more than four minutes will likely result in brain damage.

Police response times and staffing also impact your lives in another way. Crime analysis surveys have repeatedly show Kensington is a safer place to live than surrounding areas such as the Berkeley Hills, El Cerrito Hills, or Richmond Heights. Criminal activity is much higher in these neighboring communities, which are regularly patrolled by only a single officer. What is not widely known is constant police presence is rarely achieved in these areas of adjacent cities. Officers in other departments who are assigned to the areas adjacent to Kensington are frequently called to other sections of their larger cities city to help other officers. When KPD is fully staffed we are able to minimize our response times, and for most of the day have two officers actively patrolling, and they only patrol the District of Kensington.

KPD and its Officers have always maintained what can only be identified as a partnership with the community. Partnership is term many police departments are quick to throw around but very few can righteously claim such a relationship. In addition to offering the highest level of personal service, KPD currently offers programs which would be unheard of in most other jurisdictions, such as the resident key program and the vacation watch list.

An alarming but true fact is that without a tax increase the KPPCSD will have no choice but to make one drastic change or another to address the budget shortfall. If the proposed tax does not pass in June, most of the contingency plans call for a cut in police service by one means or another. In light of these facts, the Kensington Police Officers Association urges you to make it possible for us to continue to protect your quality of life the way we have for so long. Please vote YES in June on the Police Tax Assessment.

Eric Stegman, President
Kensington Police Officers Association

"An Audacious Proposal"

At a time when so many in our country demand public services and don't want to pay for them, perhaps it is time for some of us in Kensington to consider an audacious proposal: voluntary taxation. By this I mean going beyond voting for the police tax increase on the June ballot by also pledging to make an annual voluntarily contribution to the KPPCSD to be used to support the police budget. If forthcoming in sufficient...and I would claim appropriate...amounts, these contributions would allow the KPPCSD to set a parcel tax increase of less than \$200. Why do I think such a voluntary tax is appropriate for some of us and who are those I am referring to? The households I am suggesting as voluntary taxpayers are the ones who, due to Proposition 13, are paying far less property tax than their neighbors and can afford to pay more. On my street alone the range of property tax assessments is from \$13,285 to \$1,605 for essentially similar properties. Wouldn't there be a sense of

see Letters, Next Page...

WE'RE VOTING YES ON MEASURE G — HERE'S WHY

We're voting for MEASURE G to maintain an adequately-funded Kensington resource: our POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The existing parcel tax for police services was established in 1994 at \$300 per year per household. After sixteen years of inflation that \$300 is only worth about 2/3rd of what it used to be. This has led to deficits in the District's budget, estimated at \$364,000 for this fiscal year.

The District is using accumulated reserves to fund the deficits. IT CAN'T DO SO FOREVER.

- The District Board carefully and thoroughly evaluated cost-saving measures, including outsourcing police services, and found no economically viable alternatives that would preserve our present level of dedicated police services.
- The only alternatives available to the District are to raise revenue, or reduce the size of the Police Department by eliminating patrol shifts.
- **MEASURE G** establishes a supplemental police parcel tax of up to \$200 per year per residential parcel, adjusted for inflation. The Board can set the tax lower than the maximum for any given year, if future circumstances permit.
- We believe the Kensington Police Department is an invaluable community asset, providing security for our families, enhancing Kensington's reputation as a safe community, and supporting our property values. We are voting "YES" on **MEASURE G** and urge all Kensington voters to do likewise.

For more information, visit <http://kensingtonelection.blogspot.com>.

Bob & Janet Amrhein
Michael & Amii Barnard-Bahn
Gail Bateson & David Rempel
Mark & Cara Bell
Wendy Bergman
Chendra & Helmut Blaczik
Gerry & Sheila Brody
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13 Questions for Chuck Toombs, KPPCSD President

THE INTERVIEW

The KPPCSD has been at the center of a political whirlwind this past year, fending off threats of consolidation with the Fire District by the County (LAFCO), the resignation of the previous President, Bill Wright – from whom Chuck Toombs took the helm prior to his recent election to his own term, and the current budget deficit and pending tax increase to address the shortfall, scheduled for the June ballot. Last month we sat down for a little Q and A with Chuck in his historic Kensington home.

1. How long have you lived in Kensington?

We moved here in 1993 because my daughter was starting kindergarten and we wanted her to be at Hilltop School. It's such a great community of parents. The school is a huge magnet bringing people to Kensington. When I first moved here, my neighbors were all professors, on staff at Cal, or parents at the school.

The biggest single social networking in Kensington comes out of the school. KEF, PTA, Dad's Club – you meet friends you're going to keep for a lifetime. If you want a great public school, that's the place to go.

2. How long have you been a member of the KPPCSD Board?

I ran for the office in 2008 and was elected in November 2008 for my first term. I'd been involved in community activities for quite some time before that. I was active in the KEF for many years, and served on KCC for 2-1/2 years. We put together the park's master plan during my tenure.

3. Now that you've been Board President for more than eight months, what's surprised you most about the position?

I've had a lot of experience working with people so the management part came quite easily. What surprised me was how detailed local community rules and regulations really are. Bill Wright had done an excellent job of running things. The *Police Officers' Bill of Rights* gives officers a lot of rights, which the Board needs to be very careful about. I'd been on the finance committee for two years before I became president; I knew the financial part, but I didn't understand all the ins and outs of the legal aspects. I had no idea what it takes to manage a police dept.

... Letters from Previous Page

fairness in having the major beneficiaries of a misguided tax law step forward and voluntarily pick up some of the local tax burden from their overtaxed neighbors? It really wouldn't be much of reduction in the total burden of the overtaxed but it is one over which we have some control. I encourage the KCC or another of our local institutions to get behind a voluntary tax scheme to augment the Police Tax Assessment.

David Pyle

Do We Really Need More Police Protection?

As a homeowner, resident of Kensington for 50 plus years, I am really concerned about our need for more police "protection." I can fully understand the need to add a cost of living clause to the Kensington officers' yearly contracts, but I cannot agree with the need for an additional officer(s) – and the substantial increase necessary for us to support the upcoming initiative that will be on the June ballot. As I understand, our community is not growing in size. My hope is that we can all continue to support both the fire department

4. What was it that prompted you to want to be on the board?

All politics is local. If you want to make an impact you start in your own backyard. The KPPCSD was suffering from organization pains and needed some clear visions on how to manage the organization and be more effective in doing the people's business. I'm used to managing processes and getting everyone to collaborate and come up with a project they can be proud of. I like working with people and getting the best out of them for the common good.

For every hour of meeting, there are 4-6 hours of work behind the scenes. I have no future political plans, and I like what I'm doing right now.

5. What's surprised you most about your experience on the board?

The very strong opinions people have in the community. I don't mind hearing different opinions if they're tempered with respect, civility and come with good will. There have been some difficult times at the meetings – it's a fractious mosh pit of different ideas coming together, but I really believe our entire board deserves the respect of our community for having to make hard choices and do what they think is in the best interests of our community. However, I was always surprised and sometimes saddened about the comments we suffered from some people who felt it was their privilege to be both offensive and abusive.

I like the current mix of board people. I think you make your best decisions by having a group with lots of different opinions. I respect the differing opinions each of our board members brings to the issues at hand, and we learn from each other.

6. Have you seen any change in that abusive environment recently?

Yes. It's tapered off dramatically. I think people realize we are trying to make a difference on the board. They realize we're doing our best. That's important. I want to make sure people feel comfortable being

and the current police staff. Case in point, I did not need 'protection,' I needed help when I called 911, as others may have experienced. I had a physical emergency and needed the KFDs and KPDs incredible help and expertise, which I receive at home in less than 15 minutes, thanks response teams!

Mary, Kensington Resident

What About the Obesity Tax?

Dear Editor,

I just recently read an article about an excise tax to be levied on non-diet sodas. I have heard this same proposal referred to as *The Obesity Tax*. I am astounded. If the premise of this tax is to fund education aimed at reducing and controlling obesity, and promoting good health, then it should be levied on all soda, not just non-diet soda. Studies have shown conclusively that human bodies process sugar and sugar substitutes in precisely the same way.

What about orange juice? Our bodies process fruit juice in just the same way as soda, regular or diet. What about pasta?

see Letters, Next Page...

out in public. I want to encourage everyone to express his or her opinions and to give them a forum where they can do that, provided they are civil, respectful, and fair.

7. There's been some talk of consolidating the Fire and Police Districts. Where does the KPPCSD stand on that issue?

We haven't taken a position. At one point we thought this might be a solution to our budget problems – they have a large reserve and a large income stream. But the Fire District really specializes in fire service and prevention, and policing and fire prevention are two totally different areas of expertise. Consolidation looks tempting on paper because of the chance to merge the cash flows and reserves of two districts into one, but then you have the difficult management issues of, "will it really work?" And there is a still structural deficit in the Police District that will not be cured by gaining access to the Fire District income; sooner or later the deficit will rear its head and we'll still face revenue shortfalls. We spent a long time looking at ways to solve the budget problem of our district but our feeling is the community doesn't seem to want a single district – they want two separate districts. I am not convinced now that consolidation will ultimately work, although it bears further study by our board as a whole.



KPPCSD President, Chuck Toombs

At this time, we are more concerned about both of the districts being subsumed by the county. We think that's a very bad idea.

8. Of what three accomplishments of the District are you most proud?

Continued police coverage through some very difficult times. We didn't skip a beat. The public engagement and involvement in the public affairs is fantastic.

We're making progress, getting things done. The board is pulling together as a board to make things happen. The board members are all committed public servants and they all work very hard. I appreciate their contributions, incredibly.

9. If you could explain one thing about the KPPCSD to the residents of Kensington, what would you explain?

The district doesn't just manage the police dept. It manages the community park, waste management, and the police dept. It's a lot to ask one person to manage – in effect we expect our police chief to also be a de facto city manager. That is a tall order. I think it generally is managed effectively and efficiently, however.

10. What are the current terms of the lease between the Police and Fire Districts?

We have a 5-year lease, and we pay \$28K/yr, plus our share of utilities. I think it's probably a reasonable amount to pay. Under the old lease we were paying \$17K on a 10-year lease – in effect repaying our share of the renovation costs incurred to date. The current lease payment is a fair price to pay for the building. You can call it whatever you want, but I view it as

see Chuck Toombs, Page 13...

GOIN' TO A GARDEN PARTY?

New *Garden Party* Chair, Beth Thomsen, is looking for volunteers to help make this year's Garden Party – the annual benefit for Kensington Hilltop Elementary School – another huge success.

While the party is a relaxing and entertaining event, it takes a lot of hands to make it happen! Even an hour or two of your time will contribute to the success of the evening. Do you have an interest in a specific area? Do you have a special talent? There are volunteer opportunities in every category!

Thanks to parent and GM, Ralph Freightman, this year's party will be at the beautiful Mira Vista Country Club, on Saturday, November 13th.

Please contact volunteer coordinator, Becky Stephens, at 525-4808, or beckystephens1@mac.com; or Beth Thomsen at beth.thomsen@gmail.com.

Thanks!

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Thanks KCC Donors!

Many of our generous community members helped support March's KCC-sponsored *Spring Celebration* fundraiser by donating auction items for the event.

KCC would like to thank Patricia Shinn and her husband, James, who donated a lovely tea set that had been presented to them when James served as the International Affairs Director for the city of Dallas. Thank you Patricia and James for your generous support!

(Of course international affairs aren't what they once were since South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford got caught "hiking the Appalachian trail" with his Argentinian soul mate!)



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... Letters from Previous Page

Studies have shown that whole-wheat pasta is better for you than white pasta. Should nuts, salad dressing, mayonnaise, ketchup, or any other foods have an excise tax levied on them based on whether or not they are deemed healthy? Any food when not eaten in moderation could be unhealthy.

If promoting good health is one of the objects of this proposal, then it ignores the facts that artificial sweeteners can be bad for you. Remember saccharin? Now what about Aspartame? Aspartame is known to cause 92 different sides effects, most common among them, headache. Will NutraSweet or Cyclamate be the next artificial sweetener to be deemed unsafe by the FDA? Is it really healthier or safer to use artificial sweeteners that sugar? I do not agree.

It seems to me that this proposal is unwise and poorly thought out. If the purpose is to educate the public about healthy eating habits, and the dangers of obesity then it surely misses the mark.

Equally important in my mind, is the question of who is going to judge a person's behavior and decide which portion of the behavior is unhealthy and how much tax should be applied for how long?

Sincerely,
Julia Lojo
Lenox Road, Kensington

HOW TO PLACE AN AD IN THE OUTLOOK

The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to publication.

For display advertising, please contact Alma Key at (510) 508-3241 or email: advertising@KensingtonOutlook.com.

Classified ad forms can be found on page 12, herein, and online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com.

Classifieds are \$6 a line with a minimum of \$12. A line consists of 45 characters or spaces.

Send check made payable to KCC with a completed classified ad form to: Kensington Outlook Classified, 18 Kingston Rd., Kensington, CA 94707.

Payment is due prior to publication. The Kensington Outlook does not accept credit cards for payment.

June Advertising Deadline: May 8

Thanks!
We appreciate your support.

Proverb Still Rings True

"Waste not, want not." I thought of what my grandmother used to say, last summer when I filled up half my kitchen trash with watermelon rind. That, and the assertion I'd recently read that a head of lettuce takes 100 years to biodegrade in a landfill. How long, then would the thick outside of a watermelon take? 300 years? 500?

What could I do instead of throwing away my watermelon rind? Naturally, I thought of composting.

Instead of sitting in a landfill until our grandchildren have grandchildren, composted food is turned – within months – into nutrient-rich soil that plants and gardens love. Composting is happening all around us – in our neighbors' gardens, in nearby municipalities, and even in the disposable diaper industry.

My next-door neighbors feed their vegetable garden with homegrown compost they make in their backyard. We're a little too urban for an open compost pile, so they use a specially designed plastic bin filled with worms. The little wrigglers work non-stop to process fruit and vegetable scraps into compost. My neighbors had healthy plants and a bountiful harvest last year.

It's even easier to compost food waste if it's collected with the garbage. Residents of Berkeley, Oakland, and Albany have kitchen waste recycled as part of their regular curbside service. They put fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, and food-soiled paper in their green waste can for pickup each week. We're not yet that inclusive in Kensington, but we can put fresh, uncooked vegetable and fruit scraps in our green waste bins. The technology is there for Kensington residents to recycle the full range of food waste. All it will take is community demand.

In the meantime, one Kensington business

is reducing its waste by composting. Trish McDermott of *The Arlington* restaurant works with UC Berkeley's *Blake Gardens* to incorporate the restaurant's uncooked fruit and vegetables and coffee grounds into the garden's composting program.

Ironically enough, disposable diaper composting has gone curbside in Kensington before food composting. A new company, *Earth Baby Diapers*, picks up *Nature Baby Care* brand disposable diapers from its clients' homes and takes them to a composting facility.

Diaper-free Kensington households will have to wait a little longer for curbside composting. Until our community jumps on that bandwagon, people who want to reduce their waste can currently put uncooked fruits and veggies in their green waste bin, or try out backyard composting.

This article was contributed by Kensington resident, Emily Bruce.

According to Lorna Thomson, of the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation & Development, curbside composting would be an expensive proposition, and a processor with a permit to accept that type of waste would be needed. Bay View Waste Management, the company currently picking up solid waste in Kensington, would also have to change its collection system; which, due to the prohibitive cost, is a step the company is not currently prepared to take.

West Contra Costa County Integrated Waste Management Authority has a permit in the pipeline – applied for but not yet approved – to receive food waste from other waste collection companies in West County, though Kensington is not among the areas that would be served. As curbside composting comes online in more communities, the costs will come down and eventually everyone will be doing it!

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE KENSINGTON POLICE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO LEVY AND COLLECT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE KENSINGTON PARK ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011

The Board of Directors of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (hereafter referred to as the "Board of Directors") does resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors previously completed its proceedings in accordance with and pursuant to the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972, Part 2, Division 15 of the California Streets and Highways Code (commencing with Section 22500) (the "Act") to establish the Kensington Park Assessment District (the "Assessment District"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has retained NBS for the purpose of assisting with the annual levy of the Assessment District, and the preparation and filing of an Annual Report.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED, AND ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Intention: The Board of Directors hereby declares its intention to levy and collect assessments within the Assessment District to pay the costs of the Improvements for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011. The Board of Directors finds that the public's best interest requires such action.
2. Improvements: The improvements within the District include, but are not limited to: the operating, maintaining and servicing of all public landscaping improvements, consisting of landscaping and grass. Operating, maintaining and servicing include, but are not limited to: personnel, materials, electrical energy and water. Services provided include all necessary service, operations, administration and maintenance required to keep the improvements in a healthy, vigorous, and satisfactory condition.
3. Assessment District Boundaries: The boundaries of the Assessment District are as shown by the assessment diagram filed in the offices of the Secretary, which map is made a part hereof by reference.
4. Annual Report: Reference is made to the Annual Report prepared by NBS, on file with the Secretary, for a full and detailed description of the improvements, the boundaries of the Assessment District and the zones therein, and the proposed assessments upon assessable lots and parcels of land within the Assessment District.
5. Notice of Public Hearing: The Board of Directors hereby declares its intention to conduct a Public Hearing concerning the levy of assessments in accordance with Section 22629 of the Act. All objections to the assessment, if any, will be considered by the Board of Directors. The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday May 13, 2010 at 7:00 pm or as soon thereafter as is feasible in the meeting place of the Board of Directors located at 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA. The Board of Directors further orders the Secretary to publish notice of this resolution in accordance with Section 22626 of the Act.
6. Increase of Assessment: The maximum assessment is not proposed to increase from the previous year above that previously approved by the property owners (as "increased assessment" is defined in Section 54954.6 of the Government Code).
7. PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District on Thursday the 8th day of April 2010, by the following vote: AYES: 5 • NOES: 0 • ABSENT: 0.

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Excerpt From March 2010

•10-860 On 3/1/10 at 1022 hrs., Officer Ramos took an auto burglary report from a resident on Norwood Ct.

•10-876 On 3/2/10 at 1350 hrs., Officer Wilson took an identity theft case from a business owner on Arlington Ave.

•10-902 On 3/4/10 at 0200 hrs., Officer Stegman recovered a stolen vehicle from Berkeley on Willamette Ave.

•10-951 On 3/7/10 at 0830 hrs., Officer Ramos took a hit & run accident report from a resident on Willamette Ave.

•10-957 On 3/8/10 at 0907 hrs., Officer Wilson took a residential burglary report on Purdue Ave., where two bicycles were stolen.

•10-961 On 3/8/10 at 1805 hrs., Officer Ramos recovered a stolen vehicle on Kenilworth Rd.

•10-1050 On 3/14/10 at 1051 hrs., Officer Wilson took a vandalism report (graffiti to a street sign).

•10-1067 On 3/15/10 at 1100 hrs., Officers Wilson, Ramos, & Barrow, with the assistance of Chief Harman, took two residential burglars into custody. They also recovered almost \$10,000 in stolen property.

•10-1068 On 3/15/10 at 1652 hrs., Officer Khan took a report of grand theft from an unlocked vehicle on Coventry Rd.

•10-1096 On 3/17/10 at 0014 hrs., Officers Stegman and Tyler arrested a suspect for public intoxication on Coventry Rd.

•10-1119 On 3/18/10 at 0106 hrs., Officers Stegman & Hui stopped a car for a vehicle code violation and seized a small amount of marijuana.

•10-1172 On 3/21/10 at 1531 hrs., Officer Wilson took a report of brandishing a firearm from a teenager on Coventry Rd.

•10-1173 On 3/21/10 at 1629 hrs., Officer Khan took a residential burglary report from a resident on Purdue Avenue.

•10-1195 On 3/23/10 at 0806 hrs., Officer Wilson took a residential burglary report from a resident on Highland Blvd.

•10-1278 On 3/28/10 at 1348 hrs., Officer Ramos took a residential burglary report on Yale Circle, where property was stolen from an unlocked, garaged vehicle.

•10-1295 On 3/29/10 at 1314 hrs., Officer Ramos arrested a subject on Highgate Road for a no bail warrant.

•10-0903 – On 3-4-2010, at approximately 0652 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of a stolen vehicle on Kenyon Ave. A resident's vehicle was stolen from the roadway in front of his home. This vehicle was recovered by CHP on 3-22-2010 in Contra Costa County.

•10-0911 – On 3-4-2010, at approximately 1257 hours, Officer Martinez responded to the unit block of Franciscan Way to a reported suspicious event. A resident found the door of her vehicle ajar and the contents of the glove box on the floor. The resident only wanted to report that this incident occurred and wanted no further action or assistance from KPD.

•10-0915 – On 3-4-2010, at approximately 1511 hours, Officer Martinez located a stolen vehicle in the 100 block of Kenyon Avenue. Officer Martinez recovered two fingerprints from the interior of the stolen vehicle, which were sent to the crime lab for examination.



•10-1138 – On 3-19-2010, at approximately 1254 hours, Officer Martinez took a report of a stolen bicycle from the 200 block of Amherst Avenue. A resident left an expensive mountain bike unsecured in the front yard and discovered it had been stolen the next morning.

•10-1140 – On 3-19-2010, at approximately 1831 hours, FTO Medina and Reserve Officer Colon responded to the unit block of Arlington Ave. to a report of a hit & run collision. It appears the suspect vehicle sideswiped the victim vehicle while it was legally parked in the lane of Arlington Avenue.

• 10-1257 – On 3-26-2010, at approximately 2031 hours, FTO Medina and Reserve Officer Colon responded to the unit block of Kingston Rd. to a report of identity theft. A resident suffered a few thousand dollars of fraudulent debt and several thousand more attempted fraudulent debt. The fraud is mainly associated with airline tickets. *(That's right, officer – I knew something was wrong when they tried to charge me for my carry-on bag. Everyone knows you don't have to pay extra for carry-on luggage! Those vultures – charging for carrion!)*

Department Personnel
The Kensington Police Department is currently staffed at 9 sworn positions. At the February KPPCSD Board meeting, however, the Board authorized Chief Harman to hire a 10th officer with the 2009/2010 COPS Grant funding. One of our 6 reserve officers is to be hired as full-time paid staff – awaiting reception of the second COPS Grant allocation.

For police NON-emergencies (**any non-life-threatening event or in-progress crime**): **Contact the Dispatch Center at 236-0474** and *not* the KPPCSD business line (526-4141), which is only monitored 6 hours a day during the week and should not be used to report police matters.

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- One-Week Musical Theater Production based on the themes of Peace, Kindness, Community, Gratitude, and Forgiveness.
- Monday through Friday: 9–1 each day with a culminating show at 7 p.m. on Friday. Morning snack and lunch included.
- Artist Instructors:
~ Lisa Klein (Visual Art and Puppets)
~ Michael Mansfield (Acting and Dancing)
~ Shanti Moorjani (Singing and Music)
- \$150 For the Week
- Children ages 8–14 are welcome

Applications and information available at the Church office.

Arlington Community Church
August 2–6, 2010 • 9:00 am–1:00 pm
Visit our website www.acc-ucc.org
or call us at 510-526-9146 for more information.

KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Town Meetings

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

KCC - May 3rd
Kensington Community Council
7:30pm • 525-0292 • 1st Mondays

FKL - May 4th
Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm at the Library, 61 Arlington Avenue. 1st Tuesdays.

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

KARO/ECHO - May 10th
Amateur Radio Operators
Provides assistance to community emergency response teams in the case of natural disasters. Actively soliciting new members interested in operating amateur radios as a community service. 2nd Mondays of odd months. 7:30pm. 524-9815

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

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

KIC - May 24th
Kensington Improvement Club
4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 965-1345

KMAC - May 25th
Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tuesdays 7pm. 273-9926

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

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

Kensington Signboard Coordinator: To reserve signboard space for your event, call Jaima at 525-8902.

May 1 The Kensington Property Owners Association meets, 10am-Noon at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. All Kensington residents and property owners welcome. (See Page 1 for details.)

May 2 Annual High School Seniors Photo. Every June, the *Outlook* publishes a picture of Kensington students who will be graduating from high school. That picture will be taken in Kensington Park today at 3pm. Info: 525-0292.

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Farmers' Market. Sundays 10am-2pm. Oakview Avenue at the Colusa Circle. farmersmarket@aboutkensington.com or 524-5604

May 3 "Castoffs" Knitting Group. All levels welcome and some help provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

May 5 The Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters meets to discuss local issues and ballot propositions at 1:15pm, 21 Camelot Court. Guests welcome. Please call to confirm: 527-1332.

May 5, 12, 19, 26 Young People's Choir. Learn sight-reading, voice training, and the basics of music. Small fee. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave. 6:15-7pm. 526-9146

May 6, 13, 20, 27 Young People's Dance Theatre. Ages 7-14 create dances and songs. Small fee. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Avenue. 6:15-7:30pm. 526-9146

May 6 CERT Certification Classes are offered to those community members who have completed and been certified

through the Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team (NEAT) program & want to be certified in CERT. This one-night class will consist of the *Terrorism & CERT Organization* modules. Fire Station 72, 1520 Arlington Blvd., 6:30-9pm. Free. Reserve at 215-4450 or www.ElCerritoKensingtonCERT.org

May 6 Forgotten Math for Parents: Teachers from the *Sylvan Learning Center* will help refresh your memory on the math skills that your children are learning in school. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave, EC. 559-1400, or director@sylvanelcerrito.com

May 6 & 27 Baby & Toddler Storytime. Stories, songs, & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions at 10:15am and 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

May 7 Kensington Art Walk. *The Blues Daddies* perform oldies and rhythm & blues at Arlington Avenue's Chevron Station, 5:30-8pm. Mother's Day Special featuring a variety of creative artists showing their art, including a broad selection of gifts for that special woman in your life – get your mother a present! Info: call Tricia Grahame at 925-820-1183.

May 7-23 Premiering the Art of Silver Gelatin Series at Nan Phelps Photography Studio will be Jim Stipovich's *Landscapes of California and the West*. Reception 5/7, 5-9pm. Show: 5/7-23. 398 Colusa Avenue, on Colusa Circle.

May 8 Rabbit Adoption Day. Meet Liam and Pinky, Kate, Flip and more! 1-4pm, RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. 525-6155

To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring. – George Santayana

May 8 CERT Boot Camp is designed for those who cannot commit the required 20 hours of training for certification. This non-certified, one-day training is a condensed introduction to CERT programs. 8am-5pm at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Building E. Free. Reserve at 215-4450 or ElCerritoKensingtonCERT.org.

May 8 & 9 Friends of the Kensington Library's Annual Spring Book Sale. CDs, DVDs, video and audio tapes, well stocked tables full of 6000 donated books organized by topic, including rare, 1st additions, signed books, and more. Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Sat., 9am-4pm & Sun. 11am-4pm. (*Bag Sale* Sunday, 2-4pm.) 524-3043.

May 10 Armenia Travelogue and Culture Program. Presented by Kensington resident, Mala Mahlebashian. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

May 10 Eye Music: Translating Sound into Color, Shape and Line, presented by the El Cerrito Art Assoc. 7:30pm EC Community Ctr, 7007 Moeser Lane. 237-3457, or www.elcerritoart.org

May 11 Short Attention Span Circus. Jean-Paul Valjean juggles, balances, jokes, and contorts in this one-man show. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

May 13 Preparing to Make End-of-Life Decisions, a talk by Nate Hinerman, PhD., professor of Nursing/Theology and Religious Studies at USF, at the Arlington Community Church Women's Group meeting. 6pm; potluck dinner at 6:30. Please bring salad or casserole or dessert for about 6 people. Presentation at 7:30. Arlington Community Church 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington 94707. Wheelchair accessible. Free. Please reserve at 526-9146.



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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

May 14 Live Jazz with "The Inside Men." 6:30-8:30pm at The Arlington, Arlington Avenue.

May 15 Small Critter Adoption Day. Meet Thelma and Louise, Dottie, Whiskers and more! 1-4pm, RabbitEARS 377 Colusa Ave. 525-6155

May 16 Smart and Green Day at the Kensington Farmer's Market. FREE...torchieres, lightbulbs, and bicycle maps, thermometer exchange, and more. 10am-2pm, Oakview at Colusa Circle. *Rising Sun Energy Service, 511.org, Save the Bay, City CarShare* participating. You can download the flyer at www.WhatDoWePutHere.net.

May 16 The History of Camp Herms – A talk and tour by George Fosselius, presented by the El Cerrito Historical Society. 2pm at The Lodge at Camp Herms, 1100 James Place, EC. Free.

May 21 Kensington Karaoke hosted by KPD's own Officer Doug Wilson from 6-10pm, at *The Arlington*, Arlington Ave., downtown Kensington.

May 22 Maybeck Estates Walking Tour of the privately owned part of Purdue Ave. with original and current homeowner, Bob Shaner, and East Bay historical walk leader, Paul Grunland. 10am-Noon. \$10 by advance reservation. 525-0292. (See Page 3 for info.)

May 22 Hot Rod Jukebox plays 50's music at the Catahoula Coffeehouse Car Show, 12472 San Pablo Ave. Richmond. 10am-2pm. Free. 235-0525 or www.HotRodJukebox.com

May 22 Kensington Fire Protection District Forum on the potential earthquake damage to local homes and businesses. Experts will speak on geotechnical and seismic conditions, structural upgrades, and the impacts of – and methods for – executing additions and strengthening existing buildings. Question-and-Answer session, a chance to meet the panel of experts, and coffee, drinks, and pastries follow. 10am-Noon at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue. Free. Please call 527-8395 for more information.

May 24 Book Club. Discussion of *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

May 25 El Cerrito Democratic Club meeting, with co-founder and National Coordinator of *U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW)*, Michael Eisenscher, speaking on "Why Are We in Afghanistan?" 6:30pm., Fellowship Hall, El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave., EC. panterazero@gmail.com or 527-5953

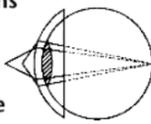
May 26 Kensington Republican Women's Club lunch. 12:30pm at the Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Bl., EC. Bill Mayer speaks on National Security. \$25. Please call to reserve: 524-5689.

May 28 Live Folk/Rock with "Ashkon" from 6:30-8:30pm at *The Arlington*, Arlington Ave., Kensington.

May 27 Kensington Hilltop Elementary School Open House and Science Fair. 90 Highland Blvd. Please call for times and details: 231-1415.

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PAGE 13

... Chuck Toombs from Page 7

paying our share for the upkeep and renovation of the building. In a perfect world I'd like to see the two districts buy a new building that's not on a fault. There are no other locations available right now however, and the best we can do is to retrofit and maintain the existing structure.

11. Contracting out for fire fighting and prevention services appears to have been a good financial decision for the Fire District. The KPPCSD Board gives the distinct impression that it doesn't feel a similar choice would be good for the police department. Why not?

The money doesn't make sense. When I first went down this road it looked like we could really save \$300-400K a year – before the Brown Taylor report we commissioned showed that it just doesn't make sense. We might save about \$150,000 a year, initially, but then those savings would likely evaporate in the face of pay raises that would be given to the officers in other jurisdictions whom we would hire. Also, the start-up costs of making the change made any savings moot. And then you lose control of the police dept.!

12. Do you think residents are going to approve the tax increase?

I go back to the notion that you get the type of government, level of services, and the type of community you pay for. We know that over the next 3-4 years, the deficit is going to be \$3-4K/yr. Fully 85% of our expenses pay for police salaries and benefits. If you want to close the financial gap you either cut coverage or you increase income. Consolidation is a long process, and you end up with an over-taxed board while not necessarily solving the financial deficit. So you either raise the revenue to cover the shortfall and pay the police a good living wage or you start cutting shifts. It's up to the community to decide what level of police service and coverage it wants. It won't be a decision

by 13 people at our monthly meetings, but a decision by the 2,500 to 3,000 registered voters in town, and that's the decision we'll all live with.

The reality is that Kensington faces what every community in the country is facing – a shortfall in revenue to cover community services. No one's wasting money running the police department as it is. We have nine sworn officers and the chief – one officer short of being fully staffed. We're covering that shift by having existing officers working overtime, which is not fair to the officers to continue.

13. What would you like to see for Kensington in the near future?

The Police and the Fire District have agreed to co-sponsor a joint emergency preparedness committee and to work together and come up with a consensus-building process for disaster preparedness. Based on our respective expertise, we can tell the community, this is what YOU need to be ready to do in an emergency. We also hope to work with the Kensington *Public Safety Committee*, a new community-based organization currently being developed by our citizenry to educate and organize all of us about disaster preparedness.

I'd also love to see more people come to the (KPPCSD) meetings. There are big issues coming up and we welcome their attendance and their opinions. I need the people to tell me what they would like to see happen.

Getting so many disparate people to work collaboratively even though they disagree is always a challenge. I think I'm good at it and I like having people feel like their opinions count, and that they're being listened to.

The *Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District* meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm. Next meeting: May 13th. The *Kensington Public Safety Council* meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30pm. Next meeting: May 10th. (Each at the Community Center.)

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