

Bringing The Community Together

K E N S I N G T O N

OUTLOOK

OCTOBER 2009

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 8

Image excerpted from a photo by Cyrus Modavi



Kensington Community Council

FALL FESTIVAL

and Parade!

Sunday, Oct. 18th, Noon-5pm

The 2009 Kensington Community Council Annual Fall Festival and Parade will be held on Sunday, October 18th, from noon to 5pm. Led by Grand Marshalls, Betty Anne Engels and her daughter, Molly, along with the El Cerrito High School marching band, the parade will gather at noon at the corner of Amherst and

Arlington Avenues and end at the Community Center. It will be followed by a coloring contest and pumpkin decorating event for the kids, live music for the adults, and food for everyone – our kind of party! As usual, local organizations and groups are invited to partic-

See Festival, page 7...

Voters to be Surveyed on Keeping Police Local

According to Chief of Police, Greg Harman, due to the current budget shortfall, KPPCSD has three choices regarding the police department: 1) Continue running at less than full staffing with commensurate diminution of service coverage and increased officer risk, 2) Increase the police tax to cover the costs of bringing the department

up to full staffing, or 3) Contract out police services to El Cerrito.

These are among the possibilities currently being considered by the KPPCSD Board of Directors – a fourth option being a possible Police District merger with the Fire District to take advantage of

See Police Tax, page 9...

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A lovely home with an expansive, beautiful backyard. Three+ bedrooms, one and a half baths. Offered at \$699,000.



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*Hey Kids! Pick up your pumpkin while supplies last!
A \$1.00 donation for UNICEF is requested per pumpkin.*



And then enter our Jack-o'-Lantern carving contest. Bring your carved pumpkin to the Kensington Park after the Parade October 18th! For details, call Laurie at 524.0800, or stop in and see her at 289 Arlington Avenue.

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more personal back-channel, such as talking to my neighbors.

— Bill Tilden

In answer to your questions, No; Not sure; It has a surplus; and, Not necessarily. Yes, please do talk to your neighbors! (But tell us, are the jokes as good in Izvestia?)

— Ed.

401 Colusa

In his letter to the editor in the September Outlook regarding the property at 401 Colusa Avenue, Ed Crowley omits a key fact in making the case for the building he and his partners seek to erect.

While it is true that the County approved plans for a 3-story building in 1982, that plan included a parking structure on the adjoining property, which is now 411 Colusa. But this property was subsequently sold off and is not owned by Mr. Crowley and his partners. Throughout the planning process, the County has consistently maintained that the 1982 approval does not apply because it lacks this critical element of the plan.

Mr. Crowley wants to build the portion of that plan that brings maximum profit to his partnership while neglecting the parking that was intended to mitigate the impact of the original 3-story structure on the surrounding residential community. Although he calls his plan “neighborhood friendly,” Outlook readers should know that the Colusa Circle Improvement Association has submitted a petition to the County with the signatures of more than 450 residents who oppose the scale of this development.

We concede that if the partnership were to acquire the adjoining property and build the parking structure, they would indeed be entitled to construct a 3-story building. But barring those actions, their plan requires zoning modifications before it can go forward. While the sign states that the building will be constructed in 2011, they currently lack the legal right to do so.

Although Mr. Crowley claims that opponents seek to block construction on his parcel, our group is on record supporting development there. We have worked successfully with other commercial property owners on the Circle to reach agreements on their development plans. If he and his partners seek to advance a project that takes into account the parcel’s limited space, its proximity to nearby residences and potential impacts on the surrounding community, our group will be happy to work with them.

— Rodney Paul; Chair,
Colusa Circle Improvement Association

KMAC

Thank you for including information on Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC) openings for 2010. At this time it appears the Council will have two openings to be filled, and I would like to stress some of the qualities needed.

KMAC needs candidates with a strong sense of evenhandedness when evaluating the impacts of proposed building

See Letters, page 5...

**KCC
Launches
Annual Drive**

You are reading this newspaper because of your donations to the Kensington Community Council. But the KCC does much more than publish this paper – it provides many important services to our community. It operates the after-school educational programs (KASEP) and the Summer Day Camp for our children, provides adult education programs, and brings the community together in annual events at the Community Center.

Our programs include the Fall Parade and Picnic and the Spring Celebration. We are still working toward providing public toilets in the park. Our administrator, Esther Hill, works every day to provide youth programs that are safe, fun, and educational – all at an affordable price.

Our Summer Day Camp remains popular and solid, while our after-school education programs continue to provide excellent classes and sports to our elementary school students.

We raise all of our income through contributions from the community. To continue with all these important activities, we once again appeal for your help. We would appreciate any contribution that you feel you can make to support the Kensington Community Council’s ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life in Kensington. Please use the envelope included in this paper to send us your donation today. (If the envelope is missing, please send your donation to Kensington Community Council, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington CA 94707.) Thank you!

Bruce Morrow, President
Kensington Community Council

**KENSINGTON
OUTLOOK**

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Advertising Deadline.....October 8
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**Letters to
the Editor**

Cryptic Subtexts?

I have always prided myself on my ability to deconstruct the most cryptic and hidden subtexts, but, as a relatively (sic) newcomer to Kensington, I find the Kensington Outlook’s recent articles and letters on local public issues as challenging and impenetrable as reading Izvestia. Perhaps, you can help me out:

Does providing “taxpayer value” mean outsourcing police services to El Cerrito? Is “complacency” a code word for an in-grown in-group? How can the KFPD be in “sound financial shape” and implement a one-time \$83 tax cut if expenditures exceed revenues by \$123,000? Does the very detailed police blotter signify that the need for full-time officers is justified or that the reported crimes are insignificant compared to those of neighboring communities?

My wife and I are charmed by Kensington and feel blessed to live here. Our community has carved out a unique cultural identity for itself, with lower taxes than Berkeley and a higher quality of life than El Cerrito, but the local politics seem to be just as intricate and byzantine. Perhaps, as in any small town, I will need to supplement my understanding of what is really going on by opening a less circumspect,

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Neighborhood Notes

The First Shall Be Last: Final First Friday Art Walk of the Season

On October 2nd, participating businesses in Kensington will greet residents from 6-9pm with art, music, wine, and more. Check out the live music at Tricia's Chevron station on the Arlington; then stop in at Kensington Cobblers on Colusa Circle on this, the last First Friday, and see owner John Greene's first last! (Art Walks resume in the spring.)



Business is blooming at the flower stand in front of Arlington Pharmacy on First Friday Art Walks.

Kensington Hilltop Garden Party Fundraiser - Saturday, Nov. 7th

Each November, parents, teachers, and friends of Kensington Hilltop Elementary School throw a big party with a big purpose: the annual school fundraiser to benefit the Kensington Education Foundation (KEF). The Garden Party raises critically needed money for programs not provided by the district – including physical education, art, music, the Read Naturally and math club enrichment programs, computer lab, science lab, the school library, and more. This adults-only event is held at the First Unitarian Church hall, transformed for the occasion into an elegant party venue with twinkling lights, fresh flowers, delicious food, live music, and an open bar. An auction of fantastic donated items is the main event at the Garden Party, including fine art and student art, a home-improvement work party provided by the Dads' Club, weekends in vacation homes, merchandise and gift certificates from local merchants, and more – all available at both silent and live auctions... \$50/adv. or \$55/door. Info: 525-2835 or 527-1297. To make a tax-deductible donation, call Beth Thomsen at 527-1319 or Julie Molkenbuhr at 527-2636.



KPPCSD Secretary, Stephanie Fries, Officer Rickie Hull, Chief Greg Harman, and Detective Keith Barrow receive petitions to keep our police force local. (See story on Page 1.)

Do you have access to a Russian River hideaway, a Stinson beach rental, a condo in Hawaii, a Tahoe cabin? Donate a weekend at your getaway as a Garden Party auction item. Contact Jackie Lucas (528-1613 or jackie@hyerarchitecture.com) to discuss your tax-deductible donation. Volunteers and program advertisers are also needed!

International Walk to School Day: Wednesday, October 7th

International Walk to School Month brings together more than 40 countries in recognition of the common interest in walking to school. In 2008 – its 12th year, U.S. participation reached a record high with more than 2,800 events nation-wide. With little fanfare, more than 60% of our students walked. This year, (with fanfare) organizers think they can get 75% of our kids to walk to school – about 420 students. Supervisor John Gioia and representatives from The Kensington PD and El Cerrito FD will be on hand to greet walkers. Photo opps, stickers, and refreshments. Wed., Oct. 7th, 7:55-8:30am. Students and interested parents will leave from Ace Hardware on The Arlington at 8am.

KPPCSD Board Seat Filled

The seat on the Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District recently vacated by Cindy Kimball has been filled by the Board with longtime Kensington resident, John Stein. John works in the healthcare field and has a Masters Degree in public health. He and his wife, Kathy, have lived in Kensington for 27 years. John has been a constant presence at the monthly KPPCSD meetings, and his management and budgetary expertise are enthusiastically welcomed by the Board. John will be sworn in on November 8th.



Creative Play Day at Blake Garden: Friday, October 9th

Blake Garden has a new feature – the Create-With-Nature Zone where the public is invited to use provided stones, branches, flowers, pine cones, bamboo, and more to create temporary sculptures. The resulting interactive 1000 sq. ft. sculpture garden changes constantly as garden visitors of all ages modify or add to existing sculptures, or recycle older works into new ones. Environmental artist Zach Pine hosts a Creative Play Day in the Zone, 2-4pm, Oct. 9th. All ages. Free. 70 Rincon Road, Kensington. Information/RSVP (required for this event) at www.naturesculpture.com (More photos at <http://bit.ly/blakezone>).



Halloween for the Hungry – Help the Alameda Food Bank

Started three years ago by Simone Hudson, right here in Kensington, Halloween for the Hungry is looking for trick-or-treaters or Halloween-loving adults to help collect canned foods instead of candy on Halloween night. All proceeds are donated to the Alameda Food Bank. To help, contact Simone at halloween4thehungry@gmail.com or call 912-0294. Last year, over 350 people received meals through this project. Your help is greatly appreciated!



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KENSINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue, the Kensington Community Council's After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) fall session began Monday, Sept. 21, and continues until the winter break. Winter registration will take place on Wednesday, December 9th. If you have questions about classes, please call the office at 525-0292.

Visit www.aboutkensington.com for a complete list of our class offerings.

ADULT CLASSES

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

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

Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered Yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. Info: Call Nicole at 527-6443.

Residents: \$15 drop-in or \$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresidents please add a \$1 surcharge. Registration at 525-0292.

Classes are held in the Kensington Community Center (the "Youth Hut").

ADULT CLASSES

User-Friendly Pilates *Get Stronger Without Getting Hurt* Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30pm 7-Class Series, Sept 16-Oct. 28

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.



A mixed-level class, appropriate for beginning and experienced students. Resident: \$84 for 7 classes; \$1 surcharge for Non-res. 7-student min. Kensington Recreation Building ('E').

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 16 years experience collaborating with physical therapists to treat orthopedic, neurological, dance, and sports-related injuries. Private sessions in Albany also available. 619-9223 or www.bodyinaction.com

ADULT CLASSES

Thursday Hatha Yoga Thursdays, 5:45-7pm

The practice of yoga can bring a sense of calm and mental and physical well being. This early evening class presents two different ways to relax the body and renew the mind. On the first and third Thursdays we have a more active class, using classic Hatha Yoga poses to stretch and strengthen. The second and final Thursdays are restorative classes that systematically and gently relax every part of you. All levels of experience welcome.

Claire Lavery, MA, RYT, incorporates poses, breathing techniques, and alignment from several styles of yoga (including ashtanga, Iyengar, integral, vinyasa, hatha and yin) with traditional ayurveda principles. She's been teaching yoga since 2000 and practicing since 1989. A Master's swim coach as well as a teacher of yoga for people with disabilities, she has extensive experience with different body types and conditions.

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

Questions about class content: Call Claire at 681-3077. Registration & location info: Call 525-0292. Classes are held in the Recreation Building (Building E).

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 94704
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Pilates Instructor, Ernie Adams

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Parade assembles at noon and starts at 12:30 p.m., Arlington & Amberst Avenues. Festivities follow at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue.



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



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



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From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From August 2009

•09-3610 On 8/3/09 at 1953 hrs. Officer Stegman took a vandalism report from a business on Colusa Ave., where a suspect who threw a rock through the front window of the business was captured on surveillance video.

•09-3742 On 8/11/09 at 1454 hrs. Officer Wilson took a Hit & Run report from a subject on Highland Blvd.

•09-3973 On 8/24/09 at 1521 hrs. Officer Wilson took a petty theft report about money taken from an unlocked vehicle on Coventry Rd.

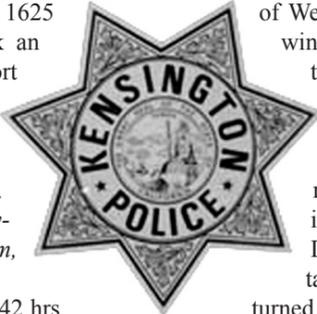
•09-3975 On 8/24/09 at 1625 hrs. Officer Stegman took an annoying phone call report from a business on Colusa Ave. The caller is known and has caused problems at the business in the past. *(These calls may be annoying, officer, but without them, you'd be out of a job!)*

•09-3983 On 8/25/09 at 2042 hrs. A Kensington resident witnessed two juveniles involved in marking up a utility box on Arlington Ave. He immediately called KPD. Officer Stegman, Chief Harman, and Officer Khan checked the area for the suspects. Chief Harman located the suspects, detained them, and arrested the responsible party. *(But officer, I only marked it up 10%!)*

•09-3990 On 8/26/09 at 1205 hrs. Officer Khan took an auto burglary report from a visitor to the Blake Estate on Rincon Rd. The victim had left items that, while locked in the car, were in plain view.

•09-3640 8-6-09, at 0801 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of vehicle theft in the 00 block of Arlington Ave.

•09-3657 On 8-7-09, at 0131 hours, Officer Medina responded to a Hit & Run accident at Arlington Ave./Oberlin Avenue. A vehicle turned from southbound Arlington



Avenue onto eastbound Oberlin and then collided with a stop sign at the northeast corner of this intersection. The responsible driver fled the scene. *(You call that responsible?)*

•09-3663 On 8-7-2009, at 1007 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of theft from an auto in the 00 block of Highland Boulevard. The victim's vehicle was left unlocked. *(How many times have we told you to lock the door when you're done stealing?)*

•09-3665 On 8-7-09, at 1547 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of theft from an auto in the 700 block of Wellesley Avenue. The driver's window was left rolled down by the owner.

•09-3805 On 8-14-09, at 2331 hours, Officer Medina responded to a report of theft from an auto in the 100 block of St. Albans Drive. The victim is uncertain if he locked the doors or turned on the vehicle alarm system.

•09-3873 On 8-19-09 at 1202 hours, Officer Martinez responded to a report of petty theft from a garage in 200 block of Purdue Avenue. A resident reported tools stolen from his garage after the garage door had been left up.

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Obituaries



SHEILA B. LITTLEJOHN
 Born in Croydon, Surrey, England on June 21, 1930, Sheila Hageman Littlejohn died at her home in Kensington on September 4, 2009.

Educated in London, she worked as an editorial secretary for London newspapers before moving to the U.S. (while remaining a loyal British subject) in 1959. She was working as a Harvard secretary when she met graduate student and tutor, David Littlejohn. They were married on June 10, 1963, six weeks after their first date.

When David was offered a position at UCB, they moved to Berkeley, and then Kensington, where they lived in the same house on Coventry Road for 42 years.

Their daughter, Victoria, born in 1965, now lives with her two children, Isabella and Liliana, in Burbank, Calif. Their son, Gregory, born in 1967, his wife Meagan, and their daughter, Chase, live in Nevada City. Both children, Meagan,

Chase, Sheila's wonderful caregiver Vasati Vaoleti, and many good friends helped see Sheila through her final days.

Thanks to sabbaticals, fellowships, grants, and long vacations, David and Sheila were able to spend years with their children in England and France, and traveled extensively throughout Europe. On one trip, Sheila – an accomplished photographer – took hundreds of photographs of stately homes, fifty of which were used in David's 1997 book, *The Fate of the English Country House*.

After studying photography in Berkeley, Sheila concentrated on intimate landscapes and historic buildings, and had several exhibitions. Other favorite occupations were fine cooking, giving great parties, and maintaining her handsome garden. Her husband's work as a critic meant that they saw hundreds of plays, operas, concerts, ballets, and art exhibitions, and made many friends in the art world – a world she greatly enjoyed.

She played tennis, and worked for several years as a volunteer for the hospice and bereavement programs at Alta Bates Hospital. Her greatest pleasures were her children and grandchildren, her house and garden, giving and attending good parties, and her many dear friends.

There will be no funeral or memorial service; instead, a party in celebration of Sheila's wonderful life, to which these dear friends will be invited. Her body was donated to UCSF's *Willed Body Program* (415-476-1981).

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... Letters from page 2

construction or expansion upon adjacent neighbors. KMAC has been described as a quasi-judicial body, and the Kensington Planning Ordinance (*providing guidelines for such things as size, privacy, light, and view protection - ed.*) is a very powerful tool for its use in encouraging expansions which minimize impact upon neighboring property values. KMAC's recommendations are taken very seriously by the County's professional planners in evaluating planning entitlement applications.

To apply, contact Kate Rauch at Supervisor Gioia's office: 374-3231.

– Ray Barraza
 KMAC Vice-Chair

Misleading E-mail Re: KPPCSD?

Recently someone forwarded to me an email looking somewhat official, and purporting to summarize the proceedings of the KPPCSD Board meeting of August 13, 2009. The email ... was sent to hundreds of people. It is seriously misleading. I know that, because I attended that meeting. The email evinces a bias against our Police Chief and General Manager and unfairly represents what occurred. It makes it look like the Police Chief & General Manager did not do his job. That is nonsense. While I can discuss each of the points "reported on" in the email, time and space limit me to taking the first as an example of the distortions presented by that email.

In connection with salary negotiations for the next police officers' contract, one of the Directors has several times advised that Kensington use the so-called *Ralph Anderson Similar Cities Study* of comparative salaries to get a benchmark. The Director has stated that El Cerrito used that study in order to set highs, lows, and aver-

age salaries for their public safety employees. In the email report... of that meeting it states: *Ralph Anderson Similar Cities Study - Determining fair compensation for our police officers(; GM supporting documents not available. No action taken.* This statement implies that the Police Chief General Manager did not get the supporting documents for the agenda item. But that is not what happened at that meeting.

What happened is that the Police Chief General Manager discovered that there is no extant *Ralph Anderson Similar Cities Study*. He found that out because he attends virtually all meetings of public groups and K-groups, and had attended the same Fire District board meeting that I attended the night before the police board meeting. At that meeting, the directors stated they would use, or did use, the Ralph Anderson study to set salaries for the fire department members. The next day, the Chief called the Fire Board to find out where he could get a copy of that study. The Chief was told that some years ago, the City of El Cerrito commissioned a special study of comparative compensation of fire safety officers from Ralph Anderson. This was an expensive custom study. Since that time, the El Cerrito Fire Department (with whom we contract for fire services) has used the same old study and updated it with some increased cost factor for cost of living, increased costs of benefits, and the like, and set benchmarks for salaries for Fire Department officers.

So what did Police Chief/General Manager Harman do about that? Rather than order an expensive study for Kensington, the Chief/GM said he would obtain reports (memoranda of understanding) from neighboring cities which are similarly situated; and when he had done so,

See Letters, page 7...

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Town Meetings

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

KCC - October 5th, Kensington Community Council
1st Mondays 7:30pm 525-0292

Friends of the Kensington Library
7pm at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue. 1st Tuesdays. **October 6th.**

KPSC - October 12th Kensington Public Safety Council
EQ & Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays, 6:30pm. 525-8163

KFPD - October 14th Fire Protection District
2nd Wednesdays 7:30pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD - October 8th Police Protection and Community Services District
2nd Thursdays 7pm. 526-4141

KIC - October 26th Kensington Improvement Club
4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 558-1123

KMAC - October 27th Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tuesdays, 7pm. 273-9926

KARO/ECHO - November 9th 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



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(follow signs from Arlington & Moeser)

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

Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 Baby & Toddler Story Time. Stories, songs, & action rhymes for kids and their caregivers. Two identical sessions 10:15 & 11:15. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Free.

October 1, 8, 15, 22 Young People's Dance Theater: *In Thanksgiving for Our Ancestors*, ages 7-14, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 6:15-7:30pm. 526-9146

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

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

Oct. 2 First Friday Art Walk. See *Neighborhood Notes* for details. 6-9pm; Free

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

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Saturday Flu Shots. 10am-2pm. \$25. Arlington Pharmacy

October 4, 11, 18, 25 Young People's Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal. 8 yrs and older, in the Fireside Room. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 11:30am-12pm. \$10/month. 526-9146

Oct. 5 "Castoffs" Knitting Group. All levels welcome, and help is provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free. 524-3043. (1st Mondays)

October 6, 13, & 20, Family Story Time. Best for ages 3 and up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free.

Oct. 7 International Walk to School Day. Parents & kids walk to Kensington Hilltop School from downtown. Meet at Ace Hardware by 7:55am. Free

Oct. 7 CERT Training: Search and Rescue. Kensington Community Ctr, 6:30-9:30pm. Reservations: 215-4450

Oct. 7 The Kensington League of Women Voters discusses the *Beacon Hill Village Plan* & local issues. 21 Camelot Ct., 1:15pm. Guests welcome. Please confirm at 527-1332.

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28 Wednesday Flu Shots. 10am-2pm. \$25. Arlington Pharmacy

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28 Wake Up To Al-Anon. 7-8am. Fireside Rm, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

October 7, 14, 21, 28 Young People's Choir Rehearsal, Ages 7-12, up. Arlington Comm. Church, 52 Arlington Ave., 6:15-7pm, \$20/mo. 526-9146

Oct. 10 Community Emergency Response Team Boot Camp. Condensed, non-certified 1-day training introduces you to all program areas of CERT. Kensington Community Ctr, 8:30am-5pm. Reservations: 215-4450

Thanks to Barrie and Betty Anne Engels

Many parents of the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School community were involved in the creation of the *Kensington Education Foundation* more than 23 years ago, but not everyone knows that one parent, Barrie Engels, was instru-

mental in making KEF a reality. As a co-founder, Mr. Engels prepared the legal documentation to establish KEF's non-profit, tax-exempt status and served many

see Engels, page 9...

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

~ WEDNESDAYS ~
OCTOBER 7, 14, 21, 28

~ SATURDAYS ~
OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Oct. 10 School of the Madeleine Fall Festival. Games, food, music, used books, haunted house, and more. 11am-3pm. 1225 Milvia, Berkeley. Free

Oct. 14 CERT Training: Disaster Psychology. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue, 6:30-9:30pm. Reservations: 215-4450

Oct. 17 Kensington Symphony's New Season Opens w/Halloween-inspired program. 8pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Suggested donation: \$15/\$12 seniors & students; children free. 524-9912

Oct. 17 CPR/1st Aid Certification Class. CPR: 9am-noon; 1st Aid: 1-4pm. \$24/class or \$48/day. Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Dept., Station 72, 1520 Arlington Bl., EC. Info/Registration: 215-4450

Oct. 18 Kensington Community Council Annual Festival & Parade. Noon-5pm. Arlington Ave./Community Ctr.

Oct. 18 Friends of the Library Annual Fall Book Sale. Come see the well stocked, not 'picked over' books organized topically for easy viewing. Parking lot behind the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 11am-4pm (Bag Sale 2-4pm). 524-3043.

Oct. 19 Emerald Cities: Arts of Siam and Burma, 1775-1950. Presented by The Asian Art Museum, Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free.

Oct. 20 Bat Show by the Bat Conservation Fund and Family Story Time.

Slide- and live bat show emphasizing the importance of bats. Free adv. tix (req'd) avail. beginning 10/13 at the library. For kids 5 & up, at the Community Ctr. Simultaneous Halloween-themed *Family Story Time* at the Kensington Library, for kids under 5 and bat show overflow.

Oct. 21 CERT Training: Terrorism Awareness. Kensington Comm. Ctr, 6:30-9:30pm. Reservations: 215-4450

Oct. 26 Book Club: Discussion of *Enchantress of Florence* by Salman Rushdie. Kensington Library, 7 pm.

Oct. 28 Kensington Republican Women's Club Lunch at the Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Bl., EC, 12:30pm. \$20. Reservations 524-5689.

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...Festival, from page 1

ipate. Wear your Halloween costume, decorate a banner, and march down Arlington Avenue to the Community Center, where you can buy a delicious lunch, listen to fabulous music, and mingle with friends and neighbors. There's still time for you or your organization to be part of the parade! Please contact Esther Hill at 525-0292.

Join the parade: Gather at noon at Amherst and Arlington Avenues, then march to the Community Center at 59 Arlington Avenue. Or, come see your neighbors and community organizations strut their stuff along The Arlington, starting at 12:30pm.

Enter the Mechanics Bank Coloring Contest: Drop by the Kensington branch of Mechanics Bank to pick up your coloring sheet. Then drop it off at the bank by Thursday, Oct. 15th. There's a \$50 savings bond prize for each age group: 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

Enter the Marvin Gardens Pumpkin Carving Contest: Pick up your pumpkin from the Kensington or El Cerrito office of Marvin Gardens after Oct. 5th; Bring it to the picnic; Prizes awarded for best pumpkins in several age categories. (Suggested \$1 donation to UNICEF for each pumpkin. No-one turned away.)

Have Lunch: Choose from sausage, hamburger, hot dog or vegetarian burger, with salad, chips, cookie, fruit, & drink: \$7.

Hear Live Music: The *El Cerrito High School Jazz Band* plays at the Community Center at 1:30pm; Kensington's own *Blues Daddies* plays 50's & 60's rock 'n roll at 2pm, and *Fortune Smiles Jazz Ensemble* plays Latin, funk, Brazilian and modern jazz at 3:30pm.

Special thanks to festival sponsors, *Mechanics Bank* and *Marvin Gardens Real Estate!*

...Letters, from page 5

he would present them to the Board so it would have a reference point for negotiating the next police officers' contract. ... (T)his is far from the implications of the email's one sentence reference to the matter. One can hardly call it reporting.

I urge all citizens to attend the meetings of the KPPCSD Board to see for themselves what a hard-working Police Chief and General Manager we have, and what he has had to put up with from the troubled department he inherited. On the bright side, the last KPPCSD meeting that I attended before writing this letter was well run, and fruitful. Tape recordings of the meetings are available promptly after meetings on the town website, and citizens can check out what really happened, rather than relying on emails such as the one (I received), which has NO OFFICIAL SANCTION and appears seriously slanted.

— Sincerely,
Linda Lipscomb

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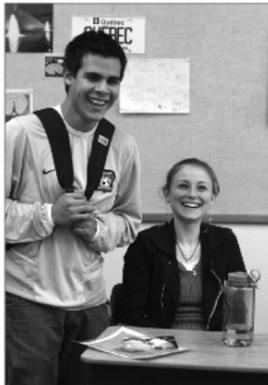
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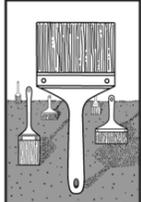
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Foreclosures in Kensington?

The upside down sloth is happy - he's asleep. He owes more on his house than it's worth and is in for trouble. He could be headed for foreclosure. Kensington, where property values remain high, has had some foreclosures - but not many!



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What's the difference between an upside down sloth and an upside down homeowner?

... Police Tax from page 1

putting the entire tax base under the control of one joint fire-police protection district, as suggested by LAFCO (*Outlook May 09*).

The current \$300 police services parcel tax was last increased over 10 years ago, and has not been adjusted for inflation. The 2010 operating budget shortfall of approximately \$300,000 has been further increased by the State's "borrowing" of about \$100,000 of property tax revenues that would normally have gone to the District.

Almost 1,000 Signatures on Petition

The possibility of having Kensington police services contracted out to El Cerrito is such a concern to many residents that, despite the stated intention of the KPPCSD Board to put the matter in front of Kensington voters before taking any action on this critical matter, a number of residents, headed by Paul and Vida Dorroh and John Stein, banded together last month to gather over 950 signatures on a petition proposing the adoption of an ordinance which would maintain *an independent police department employed directly by the District* (the current status quo)...to ensure that no action can be taken to disband or eliminate the District's independent police department, or to subcontract, assign, or delegate the District's police protection and law enforcement responsibilities, without prior voter approval.

The petition, presented to the Board at the August 27th meeting, requested that the Board submit such a proposal to the voters *for their adoption or rejection at a special election to be called immediately for that purpose*.

Two concerns of having police services contracted out to El Cerrito include the increased possibility of Kensington being annexed by El Cerrito, and the possibility that an El Cerrito police force charged with covering Kensington would be pressured to put officers where the most crime is – leaving Kensington with less coverage than it has currently, using its own force.

While the Board took no immediate action in response to the petition, on its agenda for that night was a proposal to hire a consulting firm to poll residents' preferences for raising the police tax vs. continuing at reduced police coverage, or contracting police services to El Cerrito. That survey was estimated to cost at least \$15,000. When a motion to retain such a firm failed, several residents volunteered to conduct a survey at no cost.

And so, this month a volunteer group will be conducting a random telephone survey of registered voters in Kensington – its purpose to determine voter opinion on maintaining an independent Kensington Police Department, and a parcel tax increase to close the current budget gap.

The survey should take no more than two minutes, according to John Stein, a leader of the volunteer effort, who asks residents who are contacted: "Please don't hang up. We're your neighbors and this is important." Residents who are interested in helping to conduct the survey can contact Vida Dorroh at 527-3169.

Paul Dorroh contributed to this report.

... Engels from page 6

years on the KEF Board of Directors, including a period of time as President.

KEF provides funding for art, computer lab, library, science lab, vocal music, PE, *Read Naturally*, and *Math Club* – as well as providing teachers with additional funding for classroom supplies.

Even after their children graduated from Kensington Hilltop School, Barrie and Betty Anne remained involved in the school community

During the summer, I learned of Barrie's passing from Betty Anne. Betty Anne had requested that family and friends consider a donation to KEF in Barrie's memory. At press time, close to \$2000

has been donated to KEF by Barrie's family and friends. KEF is very thankful to Betty Anne for remembering us in her time of loss, and grateful for the many years of support to our local school.

*Submitted by KEF President,
Catherine Mercurio.*



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