

Bringing The Community Together

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

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

MARCH 2012

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 69 NUMBER 2



Watercolor by instructor, Marge Essel. Check out her Adult Beginning Watercolor Class on Page 3.  
Presented by Kensington Community Council's Adult Recreation Program. (You should see it in color!)

## Gas Shutoff Valves Save Homes – and Lives

*Disaster Preparedness Tip from The Kensington Public Safety Council*

During an earthquake, appliances that use natural gas may move, stressing or cracking the gas pipes connected to them. The resulting leak will significantly increase the risk and severity of a fire. There are several steps a homeowner can take to reduce the effects of a gas line break.

Ensure that gas appliances are secured so they cannot move during an earthquake. Water heaters should be strapped to the wall. Stoves and furnaces should be fixed so they cannot move. All gas appliances should have a flexible pipe connection to the rigid gas line.

Every house should already have a manual shutoff gas valve. When a neighborhood organizes to deal with natural disasters, residents should share the location of their gas, electricity, and water shutoff valves with their neighbors. If a resident is absent during a disaster, a neighbor can shut off these utilities if needed.

Note that the gas should not be shut off unless there's a reason to do so. If turned

*see Shutoff Valves, Page 3...*

## KMAC 2011

Last month's *Outlook* included a description of the duties of the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC). (*Rashomon – The Driveway, Feb., 2012.*)

To review, KMAC is appointed by the Board of Supervisors in an advisory capacity to County agencies, including the Board. It helps to ensure compliance with the Kensington Design Review Planning Ordinance and gives residents the chance to have their projects reviewed locally, rather than in Martinez. According to President Patrick Tahara, KMAC's recommendations are adopted in approximately 90% of the cases it hears.

Below is a recap of the projects that came before KMAC over the past year, and the actions taken by the Board.

### January 25

#### 44 Ardmore (VR10-1040)

Applicant requests approval for a variance to allow for an addition that is creating a 3-story condition and allowance of reduced setback of 2'-5" and 2'-9" where 5' minimum is required. It is a sub-standard lot per R-6 zoning standards. *Recommended approval on the project. Variance conditions met.*

### February 22

*No projects submitted.*

*see KMAC, Page 8...*

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**SOLD!** 80 Kensington Rd  
Listing agent: Kevin Tannahill  
Office phone # 510.527.9111



**PENDING!** 80 Rincon Road  
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Please give us a call if you would like to discuss pricing, home preparation, buying a home or income property, or anything at all regarding the local real estate market.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Contra Costa County Building Department**

Dear Editor:

The article *Rashomon – The Driveway* in the latest edition of the *Kensington Outlook* caught my interest because of a somewhat related situation that my wife and I are in. A year and a half ago we purchased the house at 127 Arlington Avenue, which had been completely rebuilt from the ground up, excluding one wall so it could qualify as a remodel rather than new construction.

The owner of this company also owned the property during the time of construction. Prior to buying the house, we were told by the builder and his real estate agent that he was a licensed contractor and architect who built the house using only licensed contractors. We bought this house based on these claims and merits that they implied. However, not long after moving in, we began to discover significant problems with the house, including a leaking roof, severe mold and mildew problems, a fallen retaining wall that had been hidden by new plantings, etc. The number and costly nature of these problems prompted us to investigate the builder. We have since learned that he is neither a licensed contractor nor an architect, and that he used mostly unlicensed workers to build the house.

We now have a list of over 50 examples of shoddy workmanship, some of which appear to have no solution.

Because of a long list of fraudulent claims, failures to disclose, and instances of shoddy workmanship, which we are both ethically and legally obligated to disclose, we would never be able to sell this house. For this reason, we are suing the builder for rescission of sale.

We recently contacted the Contra Costa Chief County Building Inspector, Jason Crapo, who's quoted in the article *Rashomon – The Driveway*, to let him know that, despite the fact that his inspectors approved the house, it fails to meet code in several respects. He had one of his employees respond to us, who explained that it was not their concern that the house passed inspection despite serious code violations. Once an inspection is complete, they are done, she asserted, even if mistakes were made. Obviously, we found this response shocking and hardly in the spirit of an organization that was established to protect homeowners. To make sure that this employee was properly representing the department's position, I wrote once again to Jason Crapo, a letter to which Mr. Crapo never responded.

In multiple instances, we have encountered a failure of public institutions to provide the support that they were established to provide. We recently submitted a complaint to the California State Licensing Board about the builder to report that he was illegally operating without a license, but so far it has said that, even though the builder falsely claimed that he was a licensed contractor and continues to do so to this day, it has no jurisdiction to do anything unless a complaint is filed by someone who directly entered into a construction contract with him.

Because the builder designed and built the house while owning it and we bought the finished house from the builder, we did not enter into a construction contract with him, so the contractor's licensing board may not take action in response to our complaint.

While we spin our wheels seeking justice and attempting to prevent others from becoming victims of this builder, he continues to illegally operate here in Kensington and surrounding communities. In other words, while we're spinning our wheels in vain, the wheels of government and justice remain still.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Few  
127 Arlington Avenue

**Thank You Note**

To the Editor:

I write to express appreciation to all those who requested and supported placement of a waste receptacle at the intersection of Kenyon and Grizzly Peak. This will ease the task for dog walkers who conscientiously pick up after our pets and perhaps provide an incentive for others to do so. We all have a stake in maintaining the cleanliness of our beautiful trails.

Thanks!  
Marilyn Boxer, Columbia Ave.

**Kensington Paths**

*KPPCSD Director and Paths Committee Chairman Thanks the Community and The Committee For Their Contributions.*

At the January Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District Board Meeting, the Board-appointed Path Ad-Hoc Committee presented its finding on the reasonability and feasibility of transitioning the paths from the County Asset inventory to Kensington.

After months of detailed review and analysis, the committee presented its findings to the Board, which responded by putting a motion on the table to proceed with the path transition. That motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Beginning February 2012, a plan has been developed to begin the transition of these paths, in cooperation with Supervisor John Gioia's office, his staff – represented by Kate Rauch – and various members of the Contra Costa County organization. Supervisor Gioia and staff have been very cooperative strategic partners in this venture.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my board colleagues for their support and votes of confidence. I also want to thank the community for putting its trust in our ability to deliver the final solution. Most importantly I want to thank the members of the ad-hoc path committee for their efforts and contributions in making this transition possible. For me, you provided a rich and rewarding experience in community leadership and teaming. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with each of you, and have been the beneficiary of an amazing amount of knowledge, energy, civic pride, and creativity. What has been most impres-

*see Letters, Page 5...*

*The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributors. They do not necessarily represent the opinion of The Outlook, its editor, or the publisher, the Kensington Community Council. Residents are invited to submit letters on matters of interest to the community. Letters must be signed and include the author's address and telephone number. Publication is subject to space limitations. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. (Please note that modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after periods.)*

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Taxes, Probate,  
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at UC Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall)  
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**KENSINGTON OUTLOOK**

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Published ten times a year by the nonprofit *Kensington Community Council*. (Monthly, except for the combined July/August and December/January issues.) Available online at [www.KensingtonOutlook.com](http://www.KensingtonOutlook.com), courtesy of [www.AboutKensington.com](http://www.AboutKensington.com).

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Classified ad rates are \$6 a line (45 spaces or characters), with a 2-line minimum. Online ad forms are available after the back issues listings at: [www.KensingtonOutlook.com](http://www.KensingtonOutlook.com)

Display and classified advertising:  
Please mail to Kensington Outlook, 18 Kingston Rd., Kensington, CA 94707. Other mail to: 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707. Thank you!

April Advertising Deadline.....March 8  
April Editorial Deadline.....March 10

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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BERKELEY**

**Easter Sunday Celebration  
April 8**

9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. Egg Hunt  
10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

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# K E N S I N G T O N C O M M U N I T Y E D U C A T I O N

## KIDS AFTER SCHOOL

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue, the Kensington Community Council's After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) winter session began January 3rd and continues thru March 16th. Spring KASEP begins on Monday, March 19th and continues until Friday, June 1st.

**Save the Date:** Spring Registration is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7th, 6:45pm for kindergarten and 7:15pm for grades 1-6. Lottery slips are due Monday, March 5th, by 11:00am. You can drop them off earlier in the drop-box by the KCC Office.

### Summer Camp

Kensington residents and Hilltop families: Be the first to sign-up for KCC Summer Day Camp. Registration for Kensington is Tuesday, March 13th, 7:00pm at the Community Center. Registration for the general public begins at the KCC Office, Thursday March 15th. Registration forms, brochures are available in the KCC office and on the website [www.aboutkensington.com](http://www.aboutkensington.com).

KCC office hours are Monday – Friday, 10am – 4pm. We can be reached at [kccrec@yahoo.com](mailto:kccrec@yahoo.com) or by calling 525-0292.



Bay Bridge Carpentry Creation by Paul Petersen, 2nd Grade

## KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP 2012

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering 1st through 6th grades in the Fall 2012. The camp runs from June 11th through August 17, 2012, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Campers may enroll on a weekly basis. Cost is \$225 per week/per camper. 5% Sibling discount. Extended care 8:00 – 9:00am and 5:00 – 6:00 pm is available for an additional fee.

Children create fun-filled summer memories by discovering art in jewelry making, animal prints; enjoy new friends while playing non-competitive sports, and join in the fun learning to play tennis. Each week, you explore new sights in a seat-belted private bus. Create hands-on magic with afternoon classes in carpentry, cooking, engineering, hip hop, and gymnastics. Call (510) 525-0292 to register. Registration forms are online at [www.AboutKensington.com](http://www.AboutKensington.com).

### ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

- Week 1** June 11– June 15  
Carpentry with Sandy  
The Jungle
- Week 2** June 18 – June 22  
Print Making with Allyson  
Oakland Zoo
- Week 3** June 25- June 29  
Engineering w/ Lance Akiyama  
Adventure Playground/  
Fishing Berkeley Pier
- Week 4** July 2 – July 6  
Golf with Aida Wong  
Camp Closed on 4th /Short Week \$190

## ADULT RECREATION CLASSES

**ACRYLIC PAINTING**  
Wednesdays, 9:45am - 1:30pm  
\$32/month (\$36/nonresidents)  
Community Center

Stan Cohen 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. To join this creative group, contact Stan directly at 533-3003.

### BEGINNING WATERCOLOR

Marge Essel, Instructor

*New Date and Time:*

Fridays, 9-11am

Recreation Building, Room A  
**\$50.00 per month for Kensington residents, or \$54.00 for non-residents. Drop-ins are welcome.**

Start your day with creativity in a relaxed artful setting. Marge will teach basic drawing skills and help you develop your technique. Call KCC Office to register at 525-0292.

## CLASS REGISTRATION

**KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Building E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. Email: [kccrec@yahoo.com](mailto:kccrec@yahoo.com). Telephone: 510-525-0292.**

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

*(Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances)*

**Week 5** July 9 – July 13  
Gymnastics with Judy Baker  
Lake Anza/ Little Animal Farm

**Week 6** July 16 - July 20  
Cooking with Vicky Brodt  
Bladium-Alameda: Soccer/  
Rock Climbing

**Week 7** July 23 – July 27  
Hip Hop and Break Dancing  
Scandia-miniature golf

**Week 8** July 30 – August 3  
Sports & Games with Kim Roots  
Lake Temescal / Baskin Robbins

**Week 9** August 6– August 10  
Jewelry Making for Everyone w/ Shelly  
Angel Island Picnic and Exploration

**Week 10** August 13 - August 17  
Cooking with Vicky Brodt  
Bladium-Alameda: Rock Climbing /  
Inflatables

### Graduating High School Seniors

Each year, *The Outlook* publishes a picture of Kensington students graduating from high school. The annual picture-taking event is scheduled for Sunday, May 6th at 3pm at the Recreation Building. (Pssst – Seniors from Berkeley, Albany and El Cerrito who attended Hilltop Elementary School, come join us!)

**Sunday, May 6th, 3pm at the Recreation Building.**



Zoo Art - Kindergarten Owl Creations

**\$100**  
Robert and Lynn Sullivan

**\$25-\$40**  
John W. Card  
William and Gloria McNab  
Cynthia and Robert Wantland

**Additional Donors**  
Robert Lezman, D.D. S.

**Many Thanks to More of Our Generous KCC Annual Fund Drive Donors!**

### ...Shutoff Valves, from Page 1

off, it should be restored only by PG&E, a plumber, or other qualified professional.

In addition to the manual gas shutoff, for new or remodeled residential buildings, the current Contra Costa Building Code requires an additional valve that shuts off the gas automatically. There are two types

of valves available. One senses excessive gas flow and the other senses shaking due to an earthquake.

An *Excess Flow Gas Shutoff Valve* is triggered by gas flow that exceeds the amount required by all the gas appliances in the house. It is not sensitive to shaking. For a list of certified Excess Flow gas shutoff valves see the CA State Architect page

at [www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/gas\\_shutoff/EFVGAsValveCert\\_9-10-08.pdf](http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/gas_shutoff/EFVGAsValveCert_9-10-08.pdf)

An *Earthquake Sensitive Gas Shutoff Valve* is triggered by shaking. It will shut off the gas to the house whether or not there is a leak. For a list of list of certified Earthquake Sensitive gas shutoff valves see the CA State Architect page at [www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/gas\\_shutoff/](http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/gas_shutoff/)

[List\\_of\\_Cert\\_ESV\\_rev10-27-08.pdf](#) Both valves have benefits and risks that need to be evaluated by the individual homeowner.

Once a valve type has been chosen, contact a professional plumber to perform the installation. Many plumbers give discounts

**see Shutoff Valves, Page 7...**

*Featured Listing*



*29 Latham Lane, Berkeley*  
Mid-century Modern with Bay views.  
Three bedrooms, two baths.  
Offered at \$755,000

*Coming Soon*



*Beautiful Spacious Tudor in Kensington*  
Panoramic Bay views. Gorgeous kitchen and baths. Close to Village shops.  
Three-plus bedrooms, three baths with in-law potential. Inviting, level garden.  
Price Upon Request

**State of the Market**

If you are considering selling this is an excellent time. Buyers are out in force. They are qualified and ready to purchase. Open houses are very busy and homes that are priced right are selling with multiple offers. This is a window of opportunity!

Considering selling or just wish to know the value of your home, call me.  
The meeting is confidential and complimentary.

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# Neighborhood Notes

**Officer Doug Wilson Saves a Life – All in a Day's Work**

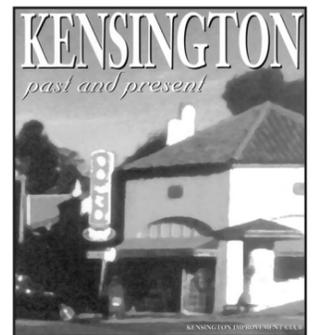
As reported in the February edition of The Outlook, (“Hey Chief”), Doug took steps above and beyond the call of duty when investigating what appeared to be a malfunctioning carbon monoxide detector, but, due to his diligence, was discovered to be a perfectly functioning detector – pointing to a malfunctioning gas heater! At last month’s KPPCSD Board meeting, Chief Greg Harman sang Officer Wilson’s praises and presented him with a *Blue Commendation* for what appears to have been his life-saving work. “You are to be commended for your initiative, dedication to duty, and actions you took that more than likely saved a life.” Way to go, Doug!



Chief Greg Harman and Officer Doug Wilson  
Photo: Anthony Knight

**KIC Celebrates Kensington Centennial w/New Edition**

After 12 years, *Kensington Past and Present* is definitely in need of being brought into the Present. In honor of Kensington’s Centennial, the Kensington Improvement Club is working on a complete update of this tome about our beloved community, and they’re looking to all Kensingtonians for help. One new chapter is going to cover those Kensington residents and business owners, past and present, whose claim to fame extends beyond our geographic borders. The club has begun a list that includes Nobel Laureates, architects, chefs, artists, authors, etc., and they invite your suggestions of those whom you think should be included. Please email your suggestions of categories and/or people to [kicpresident@gmail.com](mailto:kicpresident@gmail.com).



**Vote for Your Favorite Farmers’ Market!**

In a little over a year the Kensington Farmers’ Market has grown from a 7-vendor market to one that has over forty stalls filled with everything from range-fed beef to over 100 linear feet of non-stop organic produce and greens. It is a true demonstration of our community’s support of a great place to meet our neighbors every Sunday, as well as a statement about Kensington’s commitment to sustainable agriculture. Many Kensington residents vote with their feet by coming out to our community market every Sunday. Now you can also cast an e-vote for your favorite farmers’ market (hint, hint!) at <http://sf.cityvoter.com/best/farmers-market/food/the-bay-area>. It takes a great community to build a great market – thanks Kensington! Log on, place your e-vote, and show ‘em some love. And we’ll see you at the market!



Customers get a taste of Socola Chocolatier’s unique chocolate truffles at the Kensington Farmers’ Market.

**Made it, Ma – Bottom of the World!**

You never know whom you’ll run into – or where you’ll run into them. Cheryl Katz and Bruce Sherman ran into each other recently – in Antarctica, and they’ve got pictures of penguins to prove it. Here they are on Wiencke Island, off the western Antarctic Peninsula. Cheryl and her husband, Mark, live on Trinity Avenue. Bruce grew up on Edwin Drive. He and his wife, Susan, now live in Southern California, but his mother, Barbara Steinberg, is still a Kensingtonian. Close enough!



**KFPD Repeats as ‘Department of Distinction’**

For the second time, the Kensington Fire Protection District has been named a *District of Distinction* by the Special Districts Leadership Foundation, for the years 2012-2013. KFPD’s accreditation is only the second in the state awarded to a fire district and demonstrates KFPD’s commitment to good governance, and to ethical and sound operating practices. President, Janice Kosel proudly accepted the award on behalf of KFPD and said it reflected the dedication of the Board to provide the highest service to the residents of Kensington... Meanwhile, EC/Kensington Fire Chief, Lance Maples announced KFPD’s participation in the new East Bay Regional Communication System – a two-county radio system incorporating cutting-edge technology to let 39 member agencies over 30 cities and 5 special districts, across two counties, including police, fire, ambulance, public works, BART, and other agencies, to communicate with each other in the event of emergency (replacing the current system, which had that capability only between Kensington, El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo, Pinole, and Hercules). El Cerrito put together an 80% FEMA grant to pay for the radios, for a savings of \$365,000. Well, all right!



KFPD Directors Leslie Michael, Nina Harmon, (Administrator) Brenda Navalier, Helmut Blaszczyk, Janice Kosel (President), Joe deVille, and Fire Chief Lance Maples

# prospect sierra

HEART • MIND • COMMUNITY

A K-8 SCHOOL IN EL CERRITO

**Madeleine Rogin**, kindergarten and dance teacher extraordinaire, loves to engage her students in song, dance, games, plays, and nature walks in Canyon Trail Park.

“The students are alive in their learning. I love teaching at Prospect Sierra because I feel the same support and encouragement that the students feel. It helps me bring out the best in myself as a teacher.”



Please call the school for more information.

**Elementary School (K-4)** 510-236-5800  **Middle School (5-8)** 510-528-5800

WWW.PROSPECTSIERRA.ORG

# From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From January 2012

- 2012-0057 – On 1-12-2012, Officer Turner responded to the unit block of Lam Ct. to a report someone shooting a pellet gun.
- 2012-0121 – On 1-4-2012, Officer Ramos responded to the 300 block of Arlington Ave. to a report of counterfeit money.
- 2012-0123 – On 1-4-2012, Officer Ramos responded to the unit block of Stratford Rd. to a report of an injury accident.
- 2012-0189 – On 1-8-2012, Officer Turner responded to the unit block of Arlington Ave. to a report of identity theft.
- 2012-0228 - On 1-10-2012, Reserve Armanino responded to the 300 block of Colusa Ave. to a report of attempted commercial burglary.
- 2012-0229 – On 1-10-2012, Reserve Armanino located a stolen vehicle ECPD was following and lost.



- 2012-0235 – On 1-10-2012, Officer Turner responded to the 200 block of Princeton Ave. to a report of vandalism.
- 2012-0262 – On 1-11-2012, Sgt. Hull, Det. Barrow, Officer Ramos, and Officer Turner responded to the 700 block of Coventry Rd. to serve a felony possession of firearms warrant out of Richmond Superior Court.
- 2012-0350 – On 1-15-2012, Officer Turner conducted a traffic stop and issued the driver a citation for driving with a suspended license.
- 2012-0402 – On 1-16-2012, Officer Stegman responded to the 300 block of Ocean View Ave. to mediate an ongoing civil landlord tenant dispute.
- 2012-0577 – On 1-23-2012, Officer Turner made a warrant arrest issued by the City of Berkeley.
- 2012-0578 – 1-23-2012, Officer Stegman and Reserve Foley responded to the 200 block of Lexington Ave. to a report of residential burglary.

## ...Letters, from Page 2

sive has been the group's ability to stay focused and keep our "eyes on the prize." Individual path personalities, development requirements, and overall standards are still in need of ongoing attention. The plan is to place the paths under the Kensington Parks and Recreation department inventory. Once under that umbrella, the ongoing work will begin in earnest.

It is important at this point for us all to thank committee members Gloria Morrison, Gretchen Gillfillan, Chris Schelling, Ray Barraza, Nicki Kaiser, and Bryce Nesbitt personally for their contributions and the role they played in making this venture a success.

Thank You!

Tony  
Richard (Tony) Lloyd  
Vice President - Director  
Kensington Police Protection Community Service District

## John Stein: 'KPPCSD Board Needs to Hear From YOU'

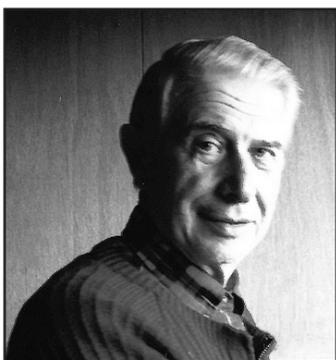
With what appears to be personal and hidden agendas, two members of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District (KPPCSD) Board, Cathie Kosel and Mari Metcalf, are actively preventing the Board from addressing very important issues. To help the Board stay focused on maintaining the very special services that Kensington citizens enjoy today, the Board urgently needs the active presence of local residents at its monthly meetings

In my opinion, the Board needs to prioritize its attention as follows:

1. Support the District's Police Chief and General Manager, Greg Harman. In many ways, the General Manager is the heart and soul of the district. Not only has he trained an outstanding Police Department, he is also responsible for the park property and the Refuse Collection contract. At

see Letters, Page 9...

## In Memory...



**Bruno Kavalier**

May 11, 1916 – January 29, 2012

Born in Vienna Austria, Bruno escaped the Nazis and came to New York City in 1938. He helped many of his relatives emigrate to America just before the outbreak of World War II.

He attended the University of Wisconsin,

studied economics with Milton Friedman, and then served in the U.S. Army for nearly five years. After the war, he became a security analyst and stock broker, and in 1958, moved his family to Kensington, where he lived for 54 years.

Bruno raised three children, two of whom are successful computer entrepreneurs, and one of whom is head of the Science Department at Berkeley High School. He was also very proud of his six grandchildren, three of whom are current University of California students.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, to whom he was married for over 60 years.

For those who wish to honor his memory, a donation to an agency that helps U.S. Military Veterans would be greatly appreciated.



**Amy Kurzer**  
Broker Associate  
510.387.0723  
amykurzer@marvingardens.com



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**• KENSINGTON MARKET UPDATE •**

	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	BR/BA
• Eureka	\$750,000.	\$710,000.	4/2
• Arlington	\$699,000.	\$699,000.	3/2
• Beverly	\$630,000.	\$600,000.	3/1
• Highland	\$629,000.	\$600,000.	3/2

**Current Pendings: 8**  
Source: EDRDI MLS—information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

*If you are thinking of listing your home or would simply like information about the housing market, please let me know.*

THE BEST OF TWO WORLDS  
LEARNING IN GERMAN AND ENGLISH



Meet us on March 5, 2012  
GISSV Berkeley Campus  
4 to 7pm - German Family Karneval  
with traditional German food & beverages, games & prizes, fun for the whole family



German International School of Silicon Valley  
MOUNTAIN VIEW, BERKELEY & SAN FRANCISCO

- Growing Preschool/K-5 campus in Berkeley
- High-standard bilingual concept fostering holistic and individual development
- Safe and nurturing learning environments at three locations in the San Francisco Bay Area
- Enriching Afterschool Program

GISSV Berkeley Campus | 1 Lawson Road | Berkeley, CA 94707  
Phone: 510 558 0436 | Web: www.gissv.org | Email: office@gissv.org



## Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ  
52 Arlington Ave. • 526-9146  
Rev. Tony Clark, Pastor  
www.acc-ucc.org

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

### Join Us for Lent and Easter

Arlington Community Church has a series of events planned for Lent and Easter. Come worship with us during this season.

**• LENTEN THEME: "Renewed Living" •**

**Join us Tuesdays in March at noon for Faith Forum. Bring a lunch and renew your faith!**

- **Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28 •**  
Renew your Spirit with Community Potluck Dinner 5:30 p.m., and meditative prayer 7-8:30 p.m. in the Pastor's Study.
- **Palm Sunday, April 1, 10:00 a.m. •**  
Renew the Story with our joyous Procession of the Palms.
- **Maundy Thursday, April 5, 6:00 p.m. •**  
Renew the Past with a ritual dinner and worship.
- **Good Friday, April 6, 12-3:00 p.m. •**  
Renew the Passion of the World through meditative worship.
- **Easter Sunday, April 8 •**  
Renew your Relationship with God in our 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service on the Patio, or 10:00 a.m. Worship with Children.

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# KENSINGTON KALENDAR

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**Office Phone 510 236-5901**  
email neighborhoodschool@comcast.net

*We are located on the kindergarten yard at Kensington Elementary School*

Neighborhood School also offers before and after school care for K-6 grades for students attending Kensington Elementary School

**March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Baby & Toddler Story Time** Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 2 identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15 am. Free. 524-3043.

**March 3 Third Annual German Family Karneval**, hosted by the German School of Silicon Valley (GISSV) – Berkeley. Live music by Slim Jenkins, parade, dancing, kids' arts and crafts and games, traditional German food and drink for sale, and a silent auction. All proceeds benefit the Berkeley campus. 4-7pm, Unitarian Universalist Church at 1 Lawson Road, Berkeley. Info: 558-0436, or www.gissv.org.

**March 3 Celebrate Bulgarian National Liberation Day** and Bulgaria's spring tradition, *Martenichki*, at the Arlington Community Church. Dance and crafts workshop for children and families, 4-6pm; Dinner with Bulgarian wine, beverages, and goodies available for purchase, 6-10pm. Traditional music with the Orchestra Nestari, The Antika Bulgarian Folk Dance Ensemble & Martinichki Family Dance Group, and Vechna Maldost Senior Theater. \$15 at the door. Info: 666-7701

**March 3-4 Cat, Kitten, and Puppy Adoptions and Vendor Fair.** Meet new rescued kitties and Guatemalan puppies needing forever homes. Lots of manufacturer giveaways on foods, treats and toys. 11am-4pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount, EC. 356-4233.



*Pianist Natasha Kisenko performs works by Beethoven, Debussy, and others at the Arlington Community Church. Monday, March 12th, 7:30pm*

**March 4 Personal Theology Seminar:** Cynthia Josayma's personal reflections "on a life infused with sacred music from Tibet to Morocco." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302 or www.uucb.org.

**Mar 4, 9, 11 Mozart's The Magic (Manga) Flute**, a new English adaptation by David Scott Marley. Free pre-performance lecture 45 minutes before curtain. Sun., 3/4: 3pm; Fri, 3/9: 8pm; Sun., 3/11: 3pm. Performing Arts Theater at El Cerrito High, 540 Ashbury Ave. www.berkeleyopera.org, or 510-841-1903.

**March 5 "Castoffs" Knitting Group.** All levels welcome and some help provided. (Note date change from usual 1st Mondays.) Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

**March 6, 13 & 20 Family Story Time** Fun stories, songs & rhymes for young children and their families. Meet new children's librarian, Jackie Overlid. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

**March 7 The Power of Myth at the Movies: The English Patient (1996).** View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer. \$7. From 7-9pm at Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302.

**March 7, 14, 21, 28 Yoga at the Arlington Community Church.** All ages. 4:45-6pm. Drop-ins welcome; small fee. Info: 381-0997.

**March 7, 14, 21, 28 Potluck Community Dinner and Spirit & the Arts Program** at the Arlington Community Church. Potluck for everyone; 5:30pm. Spirit and the Arts Program for children from 6-9pm. Children's Choir with Shanti Moorjani, dancing and acting with Rev. Dr. Michael Mansfield. \$50/materials. Info: 526-9146

**March 8 Unitarian Universalist History 101: Meet Your Spiritual Ancestors.** 1st in a series of 4 Thursday classes led by Helene Knox from 3:30-5:00pm. \$40. Registration required: Helene hknox@juno.com or 654-1667. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302.

**March 8 El Cerrito Garden Club meets,** 9:30-noon, EC Community Ctr, 7007 Moeser Lane. Jessie West of Organic Garden Restoration, Cultivation and Care speaks. Visitors \$3 /door. 233-9365

**March 8-29 Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT)** A program to help residents to be self-sufficient in the event of a disaster. Free. 4 Tuesdays, 6:30-9pm at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd. fire@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 215-4450.

**March 8 & 15 Learn About Your New e-Reader.** Library Staff will help you learn your new device and download library eBooks from the library's website. Bring your device and library card. 4/8: the Nook and Sony Readers 4/15: Amazon Kindle and iPad. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 4:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

**March 10 Bunny Adoption Fair.** Meet rabbits looking for forever homes. Bring your bunny in for free grooming and speed dating with available bunnies. 1-4pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount, EC. 356-4233

**March 11 Knitting** at the Arlington Community Church. 11:30am. Knit shawls, hats, scarves and mittens for those in need. We pray over each item before giving it away. Info: 526-9146.

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# KENSINGTON KALENDAR

**March 11 Personal Theology Seminar:** Psychologist and neuroscientist, David Presti, on "Are Questions about Consciousness and its Potential of Surviving Death Addressable by Science?" 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org)

**March 12 Berkeley Repertory Theatre Docent talk.** Discussion of Moliere's "A Doctor in Spite of Himself." Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043

**March 12 An Evening of Classical Music** Bulgarian violinist, Chavdar Parashkevov, and pianist, Natasha Kislenko, perform. 7:30pm at the Arlington Community Church. \$15 at the door. Info: 666-7701

**March 15 Men's & Women's Fellowship,** 6pm, Arlington Community Church. Corned beef and cabbage dinner. Info: 526-9146.

**March 17 Kensington Improvement Club leads a Kensington path cleanup,** 10am-noon. Ardmore Path (Upper and Lower). Park on the Arlington, take stairs, meet on Ardmore. All welcome. Bring your own gloves; rakes, clippers, or brooms to share.

**March 17 CPR/1st Aid Class** presented by the Kensington/EC Fire Dept. 9am-4pm at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. \$26 CPR or \$52 CPR/1st Aid. [fire@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:fire@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or 215-4450.

**March 18 Personal Theology Seminar:** Alex Pappas on "Ageless Wisdom and the Teachings of George Oshawa." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org)

**March 20 Berkeley Garden Club's "Plants and Polinators"** by Charlotte Torgovitsky, 2pm at the Albany Community Ctr, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 526-1083 or [berkeleygardenclub.org](http://berkeleygardenclub.org)

**March 23 Bridge at the Arlington Community Church.** Potluck at 5:30pm. No experience necessary. 526-9146.

**March 24 Guinea Pig & Hamster Adoption Fair.** Learn all about guinea pigs and hamsters before adopting Owl and Bullet, Stanley Bear, or Pooka. 1-4pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount, EC. 356-4233

**March 25 Personal Theology Seminar:** Alex Pappas. "Ageless Wisdom and the Teachings of George Oshawa, Part II. 10-11 am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org)

**March 26 Book Club. Discussion of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** by Mary Ann Shaffer. 4th Mondays. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

**March 27 Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party.** Join the Kensington Library staff for a birthday party in honor of the great Dr. Seuss. Read one of Dr. Seuss's lost stories, test your Seuss-knowledge with trivia, sing silly songs, say silly rhymes, and create Seuss-ish crafts to take home. Ages 3 and up. 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

**March 31 Bunnies at the Library.** Join the fun when the bunnies return to Berkeley Public Library for holiday story time. Deaf interpreters and petting zoo. 10:30am-noon, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 981-6223

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**Town Meetings**

Kensington Community Center  
 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

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**KCC - March 5th**  
**Kensington Community Council**  
 7:30pm • 525-0292 • 1st Mondays

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

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

**KPSC - March 12th**  
**Kensington Public Safety Council**  
 EQ & Disaster Preparedness  
 2nd Mondays 6:30pm. 501-8165

**KARO/ECHO - March 12th**  
**Amateur Radio Operators**  
 2nd Mondays of odd months. 7:30pm. 524-9815

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

**KIC - March 26th**  
**Kensington Improvement Club**  
 4th Mondays 7:30pm. 527-3062

**KMAC - March 27th**  
**Municipal Advisory Council**  
 Last Tuesdays 7pm.

**KPOA**  
**Property Owners Association**  
 Meets quarterly. 559-8232

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**KFM**  
**Kensington Farmers' Market**  
 Sundays, 10am-2pm. Colusa Circle at Oak View Ave. 847-0801 or [KensingtonFarmersMarket.org](http://KensingtonFarmersMarket.org)

*...Shutoff Valves, from Page 3*

for simultaneous installation at multiple homes in the same neighborhood. Additional information on the two types of valves is available at: <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/residents/natural-gas/>.  
 Submitted by Peter Lidell, President. KPSC meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30pm at the Community Ctr.

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*"The intelligence of any discussion diminishes with the square of the number of participants."*  
- Adam Walinsky

*...KMAC, from Page 1*

**March 29**

**45 Stratford (VR11-1005)** Request for approval of a variance to allow for a proposed new deck in front of an existing residence to allow 12' - 7" front setback where 20' minimum is required, and allow 14'-7" front setback for front entry remodel, where 20' minimum is required *Recommended approval on the project.*

**April 26**

**1. 1 Sunset Drive (MS11-0002)** Request for approval of a minor subdivision to divide a single 13,075 SF parcel into 2 new parcels. Parcel A: 6,616 SF and Parcel B: 6,459 SF. *Recommended approval on minor subdivision for 2 new parcels. Plan for the off-street parking will need to be reviewed by the County.*

**2. 72 Stratford Rd (VR11-1006)** Request for a variance to expand a breakfast nook towards the side property line to be 4.5' (where 5' is the min.) with a 9.75' aggregate where 15' is the minimum. *Recommended approval on expansion.*

**3. 409 Boynton (VR11-1007)** Request to allow a 0' front setback where a minimum 2' is required to allow one street parking spot to include removal of a code protected tree. *Recommended denial for parking spot and removal of code-protected tree.*

**May:** *Agenda and minutes not available.*

**June 28**

*No quorum - rescheduled for July 5th.*

**July 5**

**1. 248 Cambridge (VR11-1010)** The proposed project is a variance request for addition to an existing garage that will create a 490 sq. ft. detached garage. This request includes a variance for a 2'-3" front setback (where 20' is required). *Recommended approval on the project.*

**2. 254 Amherst (DP11-03012)** Continued hearing. Applicant requests approval for a Development Plan to propose a total gross floor area of 2891sq. ft. where the maximum allowed gross floor area is 2200sq. ft. This includes a variance to construct a 1308 sq ft. three-story addition where two and one-half stories are allowed. *Recommended approval on the project.*

**August 30**

**126 Highland (DP11-3017)** Request for Development Plan review to exceed the gross floor area threshold standards, a design review of an expansion of the building envelope, and a variance for an expansion of a third-story residence. *Recommended approval on the project.*

**September 27**

**124 Kenyon (DP11-3020)** Request for Development Plan review for an addition at the rear of the property for a bigger bedroom, bath and deck. *Recommended approval on the project.*

**October 25**

**1. 257 Arlington (DP11-3020)** Request for Development Plan review for constructing of two retaining walls at a maximum height of 3' in the side yard setback. *Action minutes not available.*

**2. 3 Highgate (MS11-0005)** Request for approval of two minor subdivisions associated with a new residence, for a setback and average lot width variances, and a tree permit to allow the removal and alteration of code-protected trees. *Action minutes not available.*

**Nov/Dec:** *No meetings held.*

*KMAC Agendas and minutes are available online for meetings through January, 2011 (only) at: <[www.aboutkensington.com/kmac.html](http://www.aboutkensington.com/kmac.html)>. KMAC meets the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm, at the Community Center. Everyone is welcome.*

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*...Letters, from Page 5*

each meeting, Board members should ask Mr. Harman how they can support him.

2. Support our outstanding Police Dept. Directors Kosel and Metcalf are methodically undermining police morale with spurious accusations. Recent statistics show the Department's response times are the best in the County. During Chief Harmon's tenure, local property crimes decreased 60%.

3. Kensington Park is the biggest real property asset we own. Its buildings need extensive repairs. The Board will need to determine how to finance the work.

4. The Board recently approved a resolution to work with Contra Costa County and impacted neighbors to accept ownership of the paths in Kensington. This process will necessitate unknown legal costs and undetermined path improvement costs. If the Board is truly serious about taking on a project of this magnitude, then it must develop a detailed plan that will include finding a way to pay for it.

In order to appreciate what is important to residents, the Board needs to hear directly from individual citizens. KPPCSD meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm at the Community Center.

*John Stein*



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