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KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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MARCH 2016

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VOLUME 74 NUMBER 2

Awards

...from front page

Marvin Gardens also participates in Earth Day and was the first green-certified realtor in Contra Costa County. “We lead the way in terms of our commitments,” Henon says. Hodson was honored for his work with YES, or Youth Enrichment Strategies, which is changing its name to the more descriptive Nature to Neighborhoods. This program also arose from the real estate firm. Hodson says, “Many years ago, Diane Mintz, from Marvin Gardens on Solano, started volunteering in inner city Richmond schools. She realized that many kids had never been out of their neighborhoods. She took one or two on a trip to Tilden, and pretty soon a bunch of kids were clamoring to go.” Mintz began booking stays for inner city youth at camps all around Northern California. “We supported her for years,” Hodson continues, “so YES started from Marvin Gardens.”

Hodson now puts on a fundraising concert for YES in Kensington each fall, Rock in the Redwoods, at which Hodson and Henon play with their band, the Marvin Gardeners. “We’re working on the third one,” Hodson says, for September 10. The money funds camp scholarships for youth; the organization rents space in ten established camps, such as Camp Winnarainbow in Mendocino County. YES sends its own counselors and provides its own programming.

Henon emphasizes that Marvin Gardens leads by example. “We have high ethical standards, and we believe in giving back to the community,” she says.

Sharing Space

...from front page

site nearby and had puppies. The human perception is that the population of coyotes has exploded. But the juveniles disperse in the fall, and the parents generally move on, so you might not see coyotes there again for years.

“It’s very hard to say that [an influx] is drought-related,” Fox continued. “The media likes to make that corollary, but we have no definitive proof that this is what’s going on in the Bay Area.”

Coyotes are native to the East Bay hills, and Fox’s Project Coyote aims to educate people about predators. “Often the first predator we see is a coyote,” said Fox. “We’re not used to seeing them, so there may be a fear reaction. Public education is so important. April to September is pupping season, and that’s when most coyote/pet interactions happen. That period is when people need to be particularly careful of their pets.”

Foxes, said Fox, are considerably smaller, hardly larger than a house cat and low to the ground. If the animal has a white-tipped tail, it is a red fox. If it has a black-tipped tail, it is a coyote or a grey fox. Coyotes have larger ears and a longer snout than grey foxes. Thick-furred coyotes can look larger than they are—they range in weight from 15 to 35 lbs, while both grey and red foxes, which go after mice and small rats, weigh much less.

Project Coyote was the lead organization that advocated for the recent ban on recreational and commercial bobcat trapping in

California; it also successfully campaigned to halt wildlife-killing contests. Still, said Fox, a coyote is killed every minute in the US, about 500,000 annually.

If a coyote is in your yard (and it is not pupping time), you can convince it to leave by “hazing.” Says a Project Coyote brochure: “Hazing can be as simple as removing attractants (passive) or asserting yourself by yelling and waving your arms above your head as you walk toward a coyote (active). The aim is not to harm or harass the coyote. Passive hazing involves removing attractants to create less welcoming habitats for animals. Examples include using motion activated lights or sprinklers, not feeding pets outside, cleaning around bird feeders and BBQs, and thinning vegetation where coyotes may den. Active hazing involves reacting to the inappropriate presence of a coyote so that he is frightened or startled and leaves the area... Make and maintain eye contact. Wave your arms, a stick or jacket over your head; jump up and down, yell, or throw objects toward, not at, the coyote. Be persistent until the coyote ‘gets it.’”

Don’t haze if the coyote is at a reasonable distance (they are well adapted to suburban/wild interfaces such as Kensington), appears sick or injured (call a wildlife rehabilitation center such as the Lindsey Museum) or if it’s April through July (pup-rearing season). In that case—and it’s your yard—investigate to see if the coyote has a den site close by. Coyotes may try to steer you away from a den. For more information on how to coexist peacefully with predators or to donate, see www.projectcoyote.org.



Marion Henon belts it out while husband and business partner Todd Hodson wails away at last fall’s Rock in the Redwoods benefit. Photo by Mark Bauer, Bauer Studios.

Marvin Gardens Realtors Awarded for Giving Back

By Linnea Due

Kensington’s own Marvin Gardens realtors, Marion Henon and Todd Hodson, were honored recently at the officers’ installation meeting of the Oakland/Berkeley Association of Realtors. The City of Oakland declared January 15 Marion Henon Day, though Henon jokes that it would have been nice to learn about it before 8pm, when she had only a few hours left to celebrate. Henon’s husband, Todd Hodson, also was awarded for his public-spirited efforts on behalf of disadvantaged youth.

The couple’s philanthropic spirit started early on. Henon says, “When we opened

our office in 1989 in El Cerrito and in 1994 in Kensington, we felt that the way to build our company was to be involved in the community. All of our donations have been local.” For instance, Marvin Gardens’ realtors contribute a percentage of commissions to Youth Arts, which funds art enrichment programs in Berkeley, El Cerrito, Albany, Oakland, and Richmond. “The Richmond Art Center submits a proposal, and we give them money every year,” Henon explains. “Our late partner Ron Eggherman founded the fund, and we’ve been major donors.”

See Awards, back page

Sharing Space



By Linnea Due

Beginning last January, and continuing through the wee months of 2016, coyotes have been spotted on Kensington streets, on Colusa Circle, Coventry Road, and along the Arlington. Unfortunately, the number of missing cats rose in tandem, along with frantic lost-cat postings on NextDoor and Craigslist.

“We need to protect our domestic animals and not let them roam,” said Camilla Fox, the executive director of Project Coyote, a Larkspur nonprofit that works nationally to educate people about coexisting with wildlife, including apex predators such as bobcats, coyotes, and wolves. “Keeping cats indoors and dogs under voice control are good conflict prevention measures. Often dogs start the conflict by chasing or trying to play with coyotes.”

Fox rejected the idea that the drought has forced the coyotes in from Tilden or Wildcat Canyon—and that they will soon be heading back to their old haunts. “This last year in San Francisco, coyotes were seen in Stern Grove. Does this mean their population is exploding? No. The likelihood is that a pair established a den

see Sharing Space, back page



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EAST BAY MARKET UPDATE



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Letters to the editor

Raiding Fire District Treasury Is Not Good Government

Dear Editor,

Paul Dorroh's letter to the editor, "Time to Consolidate," in the February 2016 *Kensington Outlook* advocates a "single government body" for Kensington. In other words, he wants to eliminate the Kensington Fire District and turn the management and resources of Kensington's emergency medical and fire services over to the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD). Given the source, the proposal is particularly concerning.

In 2010, Mr. Dorroh was a leader of the campaign for Measure G, a supplemental tax put on the ballot by the KPPCSD board to increase taxes on each Kensington homeowner by an additional \$200 per year for the purpose of supporting police services. An *Outlook* ad for Measure G, signed by Mr. Dorroh, threatened that failure to pass the new tax would force the police district "to shrink the police department and eliminate patrol shifts," requiring the community to rely on a "distant and expensive County Sheriff Department."

At that time, Measure G proponents strongly rejected consolidation of the fire and police districts, writing in their ballot statement that "there is no assurance that a single combined district would receive as large an allocation from the County of general property taxes as the two, separate districts now receive."

What has changed since the stern warnings of the Measure G campaign? Very little. KPPCSD continues to experience serious financial and managerial problems even though in the last three years its coffers have been enriched with over \$1.5 million of new Measure G monies. Given this infusion of new tax dollars, shouldn't we be concerned that during the same three years KPPCSD's reserve balance has been depleted by over \$300,000?

Rather than raiding the fire district's treasury, Mr. Dorroh should urge KPPCSD board members—three of whom appointed Mr. Dorroh as their campaign treasurer—to stop their profligate spending, control their expenses, and begin to seriously explore real options for getting the KPPCSD's house in financial order.

Meanwhile, if Mr. Dorroh's opening salvo is an accurate indicator, Kensington residents should be ready for a slick, well-funded pro-consolidation campaign centering on the themes of efficiency and good government. Between now and November, expect to see mass mailings and full-page ads promising that consolidation and only consolidation can solve the police district's problems.

The reality is that consolidation will threaten the high quality services of our Kensington Fire District, a district that assures us a quick response when we have a medical emergency, and services that might let us survive the fires that someday will come roaring out of Wildcat Canyon.

John Sullivan

Fire Board Responds to Consolidation Plan

To the Editor:

In a letter published in the February 2016 *Kensington Outlook*, Paul Dorroh proposes to dissolve the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) and transfer funds for fire and emergency medical services to a general fund administered by the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD). The five elected members of the Kensington fire board unanimously oppose Mr. Dorroh's proposal and hope that all Kensington residents will vigorously resist this dangerous and destabilizing effort.

Many Kensington residents may be unaware that in 1995, the Kensington Fire Protection District was almost bankrupt. After studying all options, the KFPD's board contracted with the City of El Cerrito to provide Kensington with specific fire and safety services. This contract that has served us well over the past 20 years is reviewed and renegotiated annually by the Fire Board. It has enabled your fire district to get its financial house in order while building a strong, locally focused fire and emergency medical services team.

Our contract with El Cerrito stipulates that the El Cerrito Fire Department will staff the Kensington fire station with nine firefighters/paramedics, and that three of them per shift are stationed at the Kensington fire station even if there are vacancies in the El Cerrito

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Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ
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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: "Connect with the Divine"**
Regular Sunday worship service at 10:00 a.m.
- **Palm Sunday March 20, 10:00 a.m.**
God's Justice Found in the Joyous Procession of Palms
- **Maundy Thursday March 24, 7:00 p.m.**
A Contemplative Worship Centered on the Last Supper
- **Good Friday March 25, 7:00 p.m.**
Sycamore Congregational Church, 1111 Navelier St, El Cerrito
- **Easter Sunday, March 27**
7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

At Arlington Community Church **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



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

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

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

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

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April Advertising Deadline March 8
April Editorial Deadline March 10

K E N S I N G T O N Community Education

KASEP Spring Session

KASEP SPRING SESSION IS COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR VERY SOON - Circle Tuesday, March 8th at 7:30pm for online registration. Class schedule and brochures went home in Hilltop student's backpacks Feb. 25th. There are extra copies in the library and KCC Office. All the information can be viewed online at <http://kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org>

News this month, Sandy Thacker, KASEP carpentry teacher of 32 years is on a well-earned sabbatical. She is taking off this spring session and will be returning for summer camp, Week 1 and KASEP FALL Session 2016. When you see her, be sure to say Bon Voyage!

A Big Wow Factor is coming to KASEP Spring 2016! We have an incredible line-up of new classes.

1. Fly Fishing 101 for Kids;
2. Two Computing Innovation classes: Storytelling with animated characters using SCRATCH, JR. software; And for older students, design/build your own video gaming program;
3. Block Printing -carving out unique designs using different mediums;
4. Storytime Reading for kinder - an artful way of keeping memories of favorite kinder books;
5. GIRL'S ONLY Self Defense Class - help girls understand how to stay aware of their surroundings, not putting oneself into risky situations;
6. SkyHawk Sports -flag football and basketball and a kinder sports class;
7. Advance Jewelry learning new wire wrapping techniques and making duct tape wallets;
8. LEGOS FUNDamentals with Playwell Technologies - a child's dream come true!
9. Art+BookMaking with Elaine Chu, a returning KASEP teacher, not to be missed class!



KCC Summer Camp - join us!

KCC Summer Camp is here!

Online registration starts Tuesday, March 1st. You can go online now and take a look at the schedule and information about how the days are structured and activities planned each week. The cost for one week is \$265 which includes all snacks, field trip entrance fees, transportation, carpentry instruction, gymnastics, circus arts- all the specialty teachers, LEGOS as well as SkyHawk Sports coaches plus a free camp T shirt! Camp is limited to 65 campers per week. You can enroll by the week; extended care is available for an additional fee.

Check out our summer schedule below! Camp hours are 9:00am - 5:00pm. Camp is for children entering 1st grade through children entering 6th grade as of Fall2016. To register, go to our website: <http://kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org>

Week 1	June 13- June 17 • Specialty: Carpentry • Field Trip: Scandia Miniature Golf/Laser Tag	Week 6	July 18-July 22 • Specialty: Gymnastics • Field Trip: Bladium/ Rock Climbing & Soccer
Week 2	June 20- June 24 • Specialty: Gymnastics • Field Trip: Adventure Playground/ Berkeley	Week 7	July 25-July 29 • Specialty: Fiber Fun • Field Trip: Tilden Park: Jewel Lake & Animal Farm; Karaoke Friday
Week 3	June 27- July 1 • Specialty: Circus Arts • Field Trip: Oakland Zoo; Balloon Animals	Week 8	August 1-August 5 • Specialty: OLYMPIC WEEK • Field Trip: Lawrence Hall of Science
Week 4	July 5-July 8 \$220/ Closed July 4 • Specialty: SkyHawk - Sports Week! • SPIRIT WEEK -	Week 9	August 8-August 12 • Specialty: Block Printing • Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool Party
Week 5	July 11-July 15 • Specialty: Cooking-Pizza Specialties • Field Trip: Lake Anza • Karaoke Friday!	Week 10	August 15-August 19 • Specialty: Legos-Playwell Technologies; End of Summer Air Bouncer and Jousting tents and Home-made ice cream

KCC Summer Camp Counselors

We are hiring counselors for summer 2016. Must be 18 years of age, need to be flexible, and have experience working with children. Application can be downloaded from the KCC website. Questions - call KCC at 510-525-0292.

Spring Break

Gourmet Cooking Camp for Kids -- April 4-8

Kensington Community Center Kitchen Cost: \$243 + \$30 for food/materials
TIME: 9:30am - 12:30pm, M-F AGES: 8-13 years

No cooking experience necessary! Kensington resident Eric Pomert guides young adventurers in the playful art of cooking food that inspires your taste buds. Cooking in teams, you will learn essential techniques as well as how to recognize the basic tastes by themselves and in much-loved recipes using wholesome ingredients. You will dive into the food experience and carry a sense of choice, confidence, and culinary curiosity into your lives. The key is to Try New Foods while learning to cook! Enroll online, <http://kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org>.

Chef Eric's camps have been running in the East Bay since 2009. For more information, please contact ChefEric@LittleSpoonsCafe.com; www.LittleSpoonsCafe.com.



Friends Helping Friends

Jazzercise

Strength, tone, dance - come see what you are missing. 8:15am - 9:15am, Monday - Friday. Drop-ins are welcome. Community Center. Instructor is Kevin.

Body Sculpting

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15-10:15am ongoing; Community Center. Body sculpting is shaping your body to look leaner, more toned and strengthened. Register at class. Come join the fun and get healthy. Just bring a mat and weights. Questions? Call Kevin at 486-2728. Location for both classes: Kensington Community Center.

Acrylic Artists

Wednesdays, 9:45am - 12:30pm Open Studio, lots of natural light. Come paint in community of other artists. Easels are provided, bring your canvas, paints and creativity! The mornings are spent painting, bring a lunch and relax. Community Center, ongoing.

KCC Annual Fund Drive THANK YOU GENEROUS DONORS!

- \$50 Richard Carll Trust
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Photos by Marty Westby

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Neighborhood Notes

Marie A. Roth Feb. 14, 1918 - Jan. 11, 2016

Five weeks shy of her 98th birthday, longtime Kensington resident Marie Roth recently passed away in her beloved Lenox Road home.



An East Bay native, Marie was born on Valentine’s Day. She graduated from Oakland Technical High School and began her post-business school career working in San Francisco, commuting daily by ferry. She and her late husband, Stan Roth, initially lived in many places around California before settling in Kensington in 1950. For many years, both Marie and Stan were active members of the Kensington community, involved in the PTA, Arlington Community Church, Hillside Club, Dad’s Club, Boy Scouts, Improvement Club, and the Kensington Community Services District.

Marie was a lifelong learner, as curiosity was part of her nature. She loved to travel and dance with her adored dance partner, Stan. Marie was hard-working, enthusiastic, engaging, and ever optimistic. She approached her aging and passing as she lived, with dignity and graciousness.

Marie has been interred in the Sunset Cemetery next to her cherished husband of 53 years. She is survived by her three children: Diane (Oakland), Robert (Novato), and Vic (Santa Cruz).

David Littlejohn (1937-2015)

Longtime Kensington resident David Littlejohn, at the time of his death, was professor emeritus at UC Berkeley’s Graduate school of Journalism. Littlejohn taught 29 years at the J-School after spending his first years teaching at Berkeley’s English Department. He was an opera reviewer and contributor as critic-at-large to the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Times of London*. He published numerous books and hundreds of critical reviews and also hosted a television show on public television.

His wife Sheila died in 2009. Littlejohn died at home at age 78.

Orthodontist Shows Off New Digs



Dr. Claire Ferrari (red sweater) with her staff at the new orthodontia office at 291 Arlington Avenue. Photo by Lauren Crew

You may not associate dental work with mindful repose, but that’s what you get with Dr. Claire Ferrari. Ferrari practiced in Berkeley before she rented the space on the Arlington. The build-out of her new offices took a year longer than anticipated, due to extensive seismic work. Now the office is a green and gray oasis of exposed brick, cast concrete countertops, concrete floor, skylights, and artwork. Ferrari puts an emphasis on sustainable materials, so the glowing cabinetry is reclaimed wood.

With all those solids and angles, Ferrari wanted puffiness where it counts: in the dental chairs. “Each chair is stuffed with memory foam,” she explains. “I wanted an area of soft holding.”

Ferrari’s attention to orthodontia is just as precise. She uses a process of 3-D imaging that shows the leading and trailing edges of teeth and their position within the jaw in a manner that 2-D images cannot approximate. The new imaging also gives off far less radiation than conventional X-rays. And with 3-D images, Ferrari can map out the treatment on her computer screen. “It’s way more accurate and efficient, so the treatment is shorter,” she explains. “It’s now the standard of care for me. I can’t do it any other way.”

If your memory of orthodontia is teeth-pulling and braces, techniques have come a long way. Ferrari explains that around seven is the ideal age, when all that is needed is an acrylic retainer that can be painlessly adjusted to help the jawbone fit the child’s teeth. Another advantage of the 3-D imaging is that it clearly shows the patient’s airways, and Ferrari says that in some cases, retainer work alone can make those airways thirty percent larger. “It can be life-changing,” she says. Older children and adults benefit from orthodontia as well, and Ferrari has a large percentage of adults in her practice. She also trains other orthodontists in the new method of imaging.

Stop by to see the office and to meet Ferrari, who is as passionate about sustainability and beautiful surroundings as she is about the best methods of dentistry.

—Linnea Due



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What's Beautiful and Convenient?

Though Kensington sixth grader Tristan Schonfelt-Aultman doesn't have a dog of his own, he thought it might be pretty fun to build a box to hold those all-important doggie bags. KASEP coordinator Marty Westby suggested the project, and she and Schonfelt-Aultman designed it together. "Marty helped me with the wood-burning," Schonfelt-Aultman says. "It took about a day to build the box, some more time to do the wood-burning"—he had never before used a wood-burning tool—and then came the hard part. "It was kind of hard to mount it," he admits.

The box is fittingly stationed on a pole at the head of the park, so dog owners can pick up a bag or leave bags for others. And while the box will stay behind, doing its job, Schonfeldt-Aultman himself is off to Korematu Middle School. What subject does he like best? "Science," he says, adding that he's looking forward to this next phase of his education. And he puts in a plug for the afterschool programs at KASEP: "They're cool," he says. "They're unique." —Linnea Due

Tristan Schonfelt-Aultman shows off the doggie bag dispenser he made for Kensington's dog walkers and their canine companions. Photo by Marty Westby.

Letters

...from page 2

Fire Department. El Cerrito also provides us with our Fire Chief, the highly respected Lance Maples, a team of fire investigators, uniforms and fire gear that is extraordinarily expensive, all training costs, internal affairs, human resources support and legal support. Annual costs for this contract range from \$2.1 million to \$2.4 million.

The savings that grow out of our contract with El Cerrito have given the Kensington Fire Protection District sufficient financial reserves to invest in mandated and necessary services that would otherwise be impossible for our community. These reserves allow us to own and maintain two fire engines, other essential equipment and our own Public Safety Building. Over the last decade, the Kensington Public Safety Building has required seismic and structural repairs costing over \$1 million. Because of reserves the KFPD has built up, the district has been able to make these capital investments in a timely manner without taking out loans and without asking voters to raise their taxes.

These reserves also enable Kensington to upgrade the community's water system to meet the fire flow needs along our community's wild land interface, our greatest threat for conflagration. Through this capital project, Kensington's water flow pressure has been increased by adding over 8,000 feet of pipeline and 31 additional hydrants throughout the community. These capital projects have brought Kensington high safety ratings from the Insurance Services Office that in turn lowers insurance costs for homeowners.

Unlike many other special service districts throughout California, the employee retirement obligations of the KFPD are fully funded. All five directors take training on ethics, harassment, and the Brown Act to give us a working knowledge in these areas. For the last several years we have been awarded a Certificate of Transparency. We have been declared a District of Distinction by the California Special Districts Association for having clean audits and continuing to educate ourselves on critical areas of district leadership and management.

Kensington's firefighters provide fire protection, onsite medical triage, search and rescue, extraction from vehicles, and protection from water main floodings and threats of hazardous materials such as chemicals and natural gas. The Kensington fire operation is the primary responder and the controlling operation in the likely occurrence of an earthquake, fire or disaster.

Because of our location in the Kensington hills, separated from areas of high crime, with our demographics, high levels of education, and income, we have very low crime rates. But our location guarantees Kensington's highest threat is from fire, making it imperative that we have the highest level of fire protection services. We are fortunate to have our own fire station serving 1 square mile and 5,000 people.

While your elected representatives on the Kensington Fire Board have often reached out to cooperate with the KPPCSD, and in recent years have waived the police district's rent for using the Public Safety Building that we own, we are unanimous in our determination to vigorously oppose any effort to entangle the fire safety and medical emergency services of Kensington, services the entire community relies upon, with the finances, management, and politics of the KPPCSD.

Consolidation will yield no cost savings—it is simply a way to raid the reserves of the fire district. We hope our community will support efforts to maintain an independent Kensington Fire Protection District.

Don Dommer, President, Kensington Fire Protection District
Nina Harmon, Director

Bayou Law

Dear Editor:

As a newly arrived resident in Kensington nine years ago, I was shocked by the venomous level of rhetoric and the lack of civility over the issue of outsourcing our police services, particularly by those who only wanted to reduce our tax rates. However, the time has come to come together as a community. If it is rationally and economically feasible to consolidate our police and fire service districts and/or outsource them to another district, let's just do it. The fact that two Kensington police officers, one of whom apparently was off-duty, cited a member of our police safety board for a minor traffic violation in another jurisdiction is outrageous and transcends any partisan differences among us. Kensington is not some rural parish in the bayou where the sheriff makes his own law. Let's transfer our police services to a jurisdiction that will provide these services in an economical and professional manner and stop these bitter divisions among ourselves.

Bill Tilden

Cost-Cutting Can Happen Now

Dear Editor,

As a member of both the KPPCSD's Finance and Park's Building Committee, I have a good grasp of the district's financial affairs. Unfortunately, my review suggests that a lack of financial oversight by the board and no clear financial directive to the interim GM, as required by his contract, leave us on a course that may have unsustainable financial consequences.

Although the board has created an Ad Hoc committee to look at governance options, no effort has been directed into looking at the cost/benefits of existing police services with the view of reducing police costs, although police services represent almost 90 percent of the district's budget. Here are examples of areas worth studying.

Do we need 7 police vehicles and 2 motorcycles when data obtained over the last six months shows one vehicle was not driven and two others were driven less than 900 total miles apiece? As for the 2 motorcycles, one was not driven and the other just 100 miles.

Do we need 9 officers (excluding the chief) when we have effectively operated with 8 officers or less over the last several years? Should replacement officers be drawn from a pool of part-time, retired, trained officers who cost less than hiring a full-time officer? Are we overstaffed with senior officers (corporal and above)? Do we need a detective, or should we contract out?

Do we need to have 2 officers on duty 24/7 or could we reduce coverage to one officer during 8 nighttime hours? Should officers be working a 12-hour shift with occasional overtime or should regular hours be reduced? How many hours a week should we devote to traffic control? Should we pay a sergeant to operate our video equipment at board meetings?

Do we need to pay a chief \$200,000/year with benefits? Do we need a chief or would a captain/lieutenant suffice? Why are we not planning for the expiration of the current chief's contract in June 1, 2016? Do we need to send our chief to a chief's conference in Tennessee when cost control should be the mantra? Why are we not getting reports on

See page 6

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Investigation Concludes, PLG Ponders

By Linnea Due

On February 18, interim Chief Kevin Hart said that he had received the long-awaited report on the Vanessa Cordova out-of-jurisdiction traffic stop from the Richmond Police Department's Internal Affairs department. "It's an extensive report," Hart said, noting that he'd had it for two days and had not finished reading it. "It has interviews, documents, attachments."

Hart said he could not reveal anything about the report—yet. "I've told the board that I'm asking our legal counsel to review the report," he explained. "They will make a determination of what can legally be released to the public." The district's counsel, the Public Law Group, will examine the report.

"I want to be as transparent as possible," he said, "but there are legal protections of the complainant and of the officers." When asked, Hart said that he thought he would be able to release the names of the witnesses, but he declined to do so before he consulted PLG. "It is my desire to answer questions as much as possible, but I just can't at this point. I believe I'll be able to answer some of the questions the community has been bringing up"—he said, in response to a question about who had authorized Sergeant Keith Barrow to ride along with Officer Juan Ramos—"but I have to go by what the law firm says. It'll take some time. It's a lengthy written document."

Hart explained that in general, these investigations do not make recommendations but do make findings. "For instance, they can say, 'We believe that this is a violation of your policy.'" Hart determines if it is in fact a violation of policy and what discipline that such a violation warrants. Hart noted that the complainant, in this case, KPPCSD director Vanessa Cordova, is given notice first of actions that may arise from the investigation. "She is my priority," Hart said, adding that he had filed her traffic ticket nearly a month ago.

The board will not see the report, Hart said, at least not initially. "Remember that they are the appellate body," he explained. "If discipline is recommended by me and that discipline is appealed, they are the appeal board." The fact that Cordova, the complainant, is one of the directors, complicates a potential appeal process.

Letters

...from page 5

the value of these meetings as required by our policies?

Why did the GM put in a request for the purchase of new handguns and bulletproof vests when independent research suggests they could be obtained for one-third the price? Why did we buy a new police vehicle for \$33,000 when we have so many vehicles? Why do improvements in Kensington park always take short shrift to police needs; like fixing the broken drinking fountain, painting the buildings, and setting aside a proper reserve for the required Community Center seismic and ADA upgrades?

Jim Watt

The Not-on-the-Agenda Card

Dear Editor,

The KPPCSD Board President, General Manager, and Legal Counsel have all at times interjected during Public Comment that no question can be asked and the matter cannot be commented on because it is not on the agenda. The Policy Manual says "the Board shall not discuss or take action on such matters at that meeting." This comes from the Brown Act that says "no action or discussion shall be undertaken"; but it continues, "except... a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed."

It seems that by not including the rest of Brown, KPPCSD's policy can be used to suppress dialogue by playing the "not-on-the-agenda" card. The purpose of Brown is to prevent local legislative bodies from passing ordinances without prior public knowledge and input, not to restrict the people's right to know what officials might think.

An overall problem with the Policy Manual (and Brown as well) may be that ubiquitous, favorite legal word shall. There are 5 different meanings in Black's Law Dictionary. Its editor, Bryan Garner, published a great article in *ABA Journal*, "Shall We Abandon Shall?" He revised Federal rules, purging them of every shall because "lawyers as a group cannot realistically master the semantic subtleties of the word." But the congressional committee restored one shall because members could not decide if the rule was "mandatory" or "permissive" and left it to the courts to decide what Congress meant!

Garner's article also points out a problem with using shall in combination with a negative, such as no or not. Assume shall is defined to mean a mandatory action and replace it with "is required to." Then "shall not" means "is not required to"; thus, the Board is not required to but "could" discuss a non-agenda item and pass an ordinance, although it would be in violation of the intent of the Brown Act.

A. Stevens Delk

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Highlights from the January Kensington Police Log

January 1 ASSAULT, Franciscan Way. Arrest made for assault on a peace officer. Officer Stephanie Wilkins explains that the investigation in this case is still ongoing so no more information can be shared. **VANDALISM**, Ocean View Avenue. Scratch marks to the passenger side of victim's vehicle by unknown suspect(s).

January 3 THEFT, Beloit Avenue. Theft of "Baby Jesus" nativity porcelain figure.

January 5 HIT & RUN, Lawson Road. Unknown suspect broke tree branch and left the area. **ARREST**, Lawson Rd. Subject arrested for domestic violence.

January 16 MISCELANEOUS Highland Boulevard. Homeowner was advised to cut tree before causing damage to neighbor's house. Homeowner was compliant.

January 21 DISTURBANCE, Arlington Avenue. Person was asked to leave the library but refused. Police arrived and the person left without incident. **HIT & RUN**, Kenyon Avenue. Unoccupied parked vehicle hit.

January 22 RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY, Highgate Road. Unknown suspect(s) entered unlocked residential window and took property.

January 23 SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Colusa Avenue. Male subject upset that his grandfather's grave was damaged. **VANDALISM**, Colusa Avenue. Gravestone was damaged by unknown means.

January 24 SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Amherst Avenue. Taxi (Lyft) driver resting before next fare. **SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE**, San Fernando Way @ Eureka Avenue. Subject sleeping in van (loitering) on public right-of-way. Advised to move.

January 25 SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Yale Circle. Call cleared by Chief Hart. Officer Stephanie Wilkins explains: "This just means that Chief Hart took care of the call. This may happen if the officer on duty is already on a call and something potentially dangerous (like a suspicious vehicle) needs to be handled."

January 30 ACCIDENT, Arlington at Wellesley avenues. Two-vehicle minor injury collision. **MISCELLANEOUS**, Arlington Avenue. Resident advised he is able to cut neighbor's tree up to the property line in his backyard.

Kensington Calendar

Ongoing Low Impact Jazzercise, 8:15-9:15am, Mondays through Fridays, Community Center.

Ongoing Body Sculpting, 9:15-10:15am, Tuesdays and Thursdays, Community Center.

Ongoing Acrylic Artists, Wednesdays 9:45-12:30pm, Community Center. Paint in Open Studio. Easels provided.

March 1 KCC Summer Camp online registration starts today. kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org, 510-525-0292, KCC office.

March 1 Best of Myth at the Movies Pleasantville. View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7-9:15pm. \$8. Info: Richard Stromer, (510) 682-6302; registration: Lonnie Moseley, (510) 655-1444 or lonniemoseley@hotmail.com. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

March 1, 8, 15, and 22 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

March 5 Read to Izzie Izzie is a registered therapy dog and she loves to have children read to her. Fifteen-minute appointments can be booked; walk-ins welcome to remaining time. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 2pm-4pm. Free. 524-3043.

March 6 Bill Garrett, past professor of religion and philosophy at JFK University and UC Berkeley; now teaches through the Osher Lifelong Learning Program. "Jonathan Haidt's 'The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion?'" 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302.

March 7 Three Jewels of Rome: Raffaello Stanze at the Vatican Museum. Join local artist and art historian Michael Stehr for part two of his three-part art lecture series, Three Jewels of Rome. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

March 7 Kensington Library Knitting Club "The Castoffs" All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. Meets on the first Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

STEAM Wave Comes to the Library

The Kensington Library serves up Science, Technology, Engineering, Artsy, and Mathematic programs for the after-school crowd this semester! Sign up now (participants must register for March and May) for these fun and educational workshops! Limited space for each event.

March 15 Create a comic strip Want to learn how to draw Snoopy? Presenters from the Charles Schultz Museum will lead children in creating their own 4-panel comic strip, on paper and museum iPads! Sign up now online or at the desk for a spot in the Peanuts gang. 3-5pm. REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

April 19 Engineer and create your own toy machine Lawrence Hall of Science educators will walk patrons through choosing a motion, designing your project, and making a working automata machine that you get to take home. 3-4:30pm.

May 9 The Force Awakens in this advanced engineering course for young Jedi! Discover key engineering concepts such as gear trains, worm drives, pneumatics, and eccentric motion. Build LEGO X-Wings, AT-ATwalkers, Pod Racers, Star Destroyers, Cloud Cities, Settlements, Fortresses, and other complex machines and structures from a galaxy far, far away. 3-5pm. REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

March 8 KASEP Spring Session online registration at 7:30pm. kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org, 510-525-0292, KCC office.

March 8-April 12 Six-Week Dream Workshop led by Jeremy Taylor. 6 Tuesdays, 7-9:30pm. Suggested donation \$150, limited enrollment. Contact: Lonnie Moseley (510) 655-1444 or email lonniemoseley@hotmail.com. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

March 10 El Cerrito Garden Club meeting and guest speaker. El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, 9:30am. Idell Weydemeyer, Rare Fruit Tree Growers Association, believes that life is too short to eat boring fruit. Her hillside garden contains many varieties not available in stores. Program begins after a short general meeting. Members free, guests \$3. For questions visit www.elcerritogardenclub.org or call Bonnie (510) 237-4654.

March 12 March of the Stuffed Animals Come in your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animals to this special

math-themed Storytime event! We'll count the animals in our census, read math-themed stories, and send you home with a few fun surprises! Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 2:00pm. Free. 524-3043.

March 13 Bill Garrett (see Mar 6). Research on the intersection of dog evolution with the story of humanity. "The Human/Dog Story: a Tail with a Heart." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

March 14 Master Gardener Series: Caring for Apple and Pear Trees. Join us for part two of our three-part Master Gardener Series. Have you ever wanted to grow an apple or pear tree, but didn't know where to begin? Do you have an apple or pear tree and aren't sure if you are properly caring for it? Join MG Darlene DeRose who will cover the basics. You will learn how and where to pick out the right tree, how to plant it once you get it home, and how to care for and maintain it over time. Join us for tips on growing trees in small spaces. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

March 14 and 28 Digital Docent Kensington Library's Digital Docent will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1:00 & 1:30pm. This one-on-one 30-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign-up onsite at Kensington Library Info Desk. Please bring your device. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Free. 524-3043.

March 15 Berkeley Garden Club Lecture Program, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Avenue. "Soil, Compost & Mulch: Gardening Success from the Ground Up!" by Stephen Andrews, Soil Scientist and Natural Resources Educator, UC Berkeley. 12:30-1 Plant Exchange, 1-2 General Meeting, 2-3 Lecture.

March 15 Create Your Own Peanuts Comic Strip! See box, this page. Best for 3rd through 6th graders. Free. 524-3043.

March 17, 24, and 31 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

March 19 Heartfulness Meditation: An Introduction Learn to Meditate with Dr. Som Soni from the Shri Ram Chandra Mission Meditation & Retreat Center. Dr. Soni and his wife Gita will answer ques-

tions and lead a beginner's guided heartfulness meditation. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 12pm. Free. 524-3043.

March 19 Lunafest East Bay film festival by, for, and about women includes opening film by Kensington native Anna Schumacher. Her film, *Finding June*, was one of only six short films selected from more than 950 entries. 7:30pm, El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater. \$20 general, \$10 seniors, \$5 students, teachers. See lunafest.org for more information.

March 20 Matthew Fox, internationally acclaimed spiritual theologian, Episcopal priest, activist, author and professor; founder of University of Creation Spirituality. "Sins of the Spirit, Blessings of the Flesh: Lessons for Transforming Evil in Soul and Society." 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

March 21 Shaky Egg Craft Rock, rattle, and roll with musical egg shakers that are easy to make yourself. Decorate these special eggs with us and take them home to enjoy the whole season. This after-school craft will continue until closing while supplies last. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 3pm. Free. 524-3043.

March 24 El Cerrito High School Speech Showcase 7pm. \$15 adults/\$6 students. Performances by speech and debate team members, many on their way to the Tournament of Champions. ECHS auditorium, 540 Ashbury Ave.

March 26 Human Enhancement To Gain the World or Lose Our Soul? Workshop led by Dr. Bill Garrett. 1-4:30pm. Suggested donation \$20. Contact Lonnie Moseley, (510) 655-1444 or email lonniemoseley@hotmail.com. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org.

March 28 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Derr. Book Club normally meets on the fourth Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Town Meetings

For times and dates of regularly scheduled town meetings and the weekly farmers' market, see kensingtonoutlook.com

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Town Meetings

(Schedule Subject to Change – Call to Confirm.)

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

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

FKL-March 1, Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm (at the Library) 1st Tuesdays

Ad Hoc Committee-March 3, 7pm, Community Center. 1st Thursdays

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

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

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

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

KIC-March 28, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 524-7514.

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

KPOA
Property Owners Association
Meets quarterly. 559-8232

Kensington Farmers' Market
Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm, Colusa Circle.