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Measure G Required to Be on Ballot

By Randy Riddle, Renne Public Law Group

At the November 6 election, Kensington voters will be asked to approve Measure G, establishing an “appropriations limit” for the KPPCSD for the next four years. Measure G does not increase any tax or fee. It merely allows the district to continue to spend revenues the district already receives so that it may continue to provide the same level of protection and other services to residents.

The district was required to place Measure G on the ballot because of Article XIII B of the California Constitution. That provision restricts government spending by setting an annual spending limit, also known as the “Gann limit.” The constitution authorizes voters to change this appropriations limit for a maximum period of four years at a time. Unless the voters do so, the district may not be able to spend all of the revenues it receives. Kensington voters have on several occasions in past years approved measures increasing the Gann Limit for the district, most recently in 2014.



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Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

OCTOBER 2018

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 76 NUMBER 8

Strut Your Stuff at the Kensington Annual Parade and Picnic

By Anne Forrest

As has been the tradition for so many years, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) will be sponsoring this year’s Parade and Picnic on Sunday, October 14 from noon to 3:30pm.

As part of our community outreach effort before the Community Center renovation begins, the architectural firm of Glass Associates, Inc. has again been invited to the picnic to display its drawings and answer any questions.

Parade participants are asked to gather at the ACE Hardware parking lot at Amherst and Arlington at 11:30am. Our Grand Marshal this year will be our retiring Fire Chief, Lance Maples. As usual, local organizations and groups are invited to participate in the parade. So, join the crowd as the parade makes its way up the Arlington to the Kensington Community Center! Then stay for the delicious BBQ lunch and local music. Tickets can be purchased on site for sausage, hamburger, hot dog, or vegetarian burger BBQ lunches. The amazing Fred T. Korematsu Middle School band under the direction of Tiffany Carrico will provide music. And Sterling the BubbLsmith is back by popular demand to share his bubble wizardry.

Awarding of prizes for the coloring contest follows entertainment. To enter the Mechanics Bank Coloring Contest, drop by the Kensington branch of Mechanics Bank to pick up your coloring sheet on or after October 1. The deadline to return your masterpiece to the bank is Friday, October 12. The prize for the winners this year is a \$25 gift card for each age group: 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

Don’t forget Marvin Gardens’ pumpkin decorating! Drop by Marvin Gardens Kensington office, which will be turned into a pumpkin patch as it has every year since 1994 when they first opened their Kensington office. You can pick up your pumpkin from their Kensington office on or after Monday, October 8 (there is a suggested \$2 donation to UNICEF for each pumpkin). Trick or Treat for UNICEF has been a national tradition since 1950, and has raised \$7.2 billion by children for children worldwide since its inception in 1947.

Special thanks to our KCC Parade and Picnic sponsors: Marvin Gardens and Mechanics Bank. If your organization is interested in participating in the parade please contact the KCC Office at 525-0292.



Try Your Luck at Hilltop Elementary’s Fundraiser

By Joy Dey

Bring your lucky charms on the evening of Saturday, November 3 to Kensington’s Garden Party. This annual benefit for the Kensington Education Foundation (KEF), which supports Kensington Hilltop Elementary, is the biggest party of the year, and the entire community is encouraged to come. Doors open at 5pm at the Berkeley Country Club (formerly Mira Vista Country Club).

A band of talented Hilltop parents will set the mood for all the gamblers in the house. Kensington’s own Ruth Frassetto of the Grubb Company, Arlington Wine & Spirits, Mechanics Bank, Derek Suring—New Leaf Realty, El Cerrito Martial Arts, Kensington Vet and Dr. Ching—Children’s Dentistry, Marvin Gardens, Trumer Pils Brewery, and Nathan Phillips Photography have been key supporters of the Garden Party for years. In a time-honored tradition, Hilltop’s newest alumni, now braving seventh grade, will work the room, passing hors d’oeuvres, selling raffle tickets, and finally getting a glimpse of this event their parents have been dressing up for since they started kindergarten.

As the evening progresses, bidding in the silent auction heats up, as people get serious about nabbing artwork created by each classroom of kids, vacation stays donated by parents, and unique experiences such as

See Fundraiser, Page 4

Eleven Candidates Vie for Six Seats: Special Election Section pages 5-9

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A big THANK YOU to all our colleagues, friends and neighbors for making "Rock in the Redwoods 2018" an astounding night! Over \$100,000 was raised for "YES Nature to Neighborhoods."

PICK UP YOUR PUMPKIN...

at our Kensington office from Oct 3rd, as always with a donation to UNICEF, while supplies last.

Or pick one up after the Kensington Parade and decorate it at the event. You may win a prize!



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Letters to the Editor

Fall Fund Drive Vital to Programs

Dear Editor,

It is hard for me to believe that another year has come full circle. I am writing all our neighbors to alert everyone to our annual Kensington Community Council Fall Fund Drive. Please look for the small green donation envelope in your *Outlook*. Your contribution, of any amount, will be gratefully appreciated. These funds help the KCC to provide important services for our community: adult classes like Tai Chi and Acrylic Artists, the after-school education program (KASEP) with over 50 classes a session for kids from kindergarten through sixth grade, 10 weeks of Summer Camp, the *Outlook*, Family Movie Night, and of course the Annual Fall Parade and Picnic.

After many years of fundraising, the KCC has donated over \$400,000 towards the Community Center renovation project. As one of the main users of the building, we look forward to its improved accessibility, greater energy efficiency, and increased safety for our KASEP families and everyone who uses this very public building. During the renovation, the KCC will work with the community to maintain the KCC/KASEP classes for our active student and adult population.

Our Annual Fund Drive envelope is enclosed in this month's *Outlook*. If you no longer have the preprinted envelope, please send your donation to Kensington Community Council, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA, 94707. This is just one of the many ways to support our community. It's contributions like this that make Kensington a special place to live. Thank you!

Anne Forrest, KCC President

Measure G Not a Tax Increase

Dear Editor,

Kensington voters—the November 6 ballot will ask you to approve Measure G, to establish an updated "appropriations limit" for the KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District).

Please relax, this is not a tax. The KPPCSD is required to place this measure on the ballot because of appropriations limits required by Proposition 4 (1979) that added Article XIII B to the California Constitution. The "Gann Limit" prevents local governments from spending beyond 1978-79 levels adjusted for inflation. The district must come to the voters for approval periodically to increase its allowable Gann Limit because of inflation. Should this measure fail, the district could be prevented from spending the amounts needed to provide the current level of police and community services. We would have collected the revenue, we just could not pay salaries. To learn more, please contact the KPPCSD or go to <https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3800>.

Please vote. And please vote yes on Measure G.

Rachelle Sherris-Watt, KPPCSD President

Help Out the Hungry this Halloween

Dear Editor:

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

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

See Letters, page 3

NOVEMBER 2018 DEADLINES:
Advertising Deadline ❖ OCTOBER 8 Editorial Deadline ❖ OCTOBER 10

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

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

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

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Call: 510.809.9018

Middle School (5-8)

Avis Campus
November 4, 2018
12:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Call: 510.809.9025

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Letters

...from page 2

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

Jan Schreiber

Stabilizing Local Government

Dear Editor,

The major threat Kensington faces is fire, and we are fortunate to have an award-winning scandal-free non-litigious fire district, albeit contracted out to the city of El Cerrito. In contrast, our in-house police department (KPD) has a checkered scandal-ridden litigious past under previous KPPCSD boards and general managers/chiefs of police (GM/COP). We are not privy to the details of the litigation because of the California Police Officer Bill of Rights and legal constraints. However, litigation costs during 2012-2016 averaged about \$200,000/year, but these legacy costs are now decreasing under the current KPPCSD board, ably advised by a professional general manager who oversees the KPD headed by an interim COP.

Despite this history, some old guard citizens would like to keep the current KPD structure and openly oppose exploring options that might provide a better fit for the community. For months, lawn signs have been displayed saying, "Keep Our Kensington Police Independent"—this before the KPPCSD-funded Matrix analysis was completed that explored economically sustainable options for the same or better KPD service.

The Kensington Police Officers Association (KPOA) has a history of influencing KPPCSD politics. In 2010, the KPOA made endorsements and, in 2012 donated \$990 and handed out fliers at a community meeting supporting their two successful candidates, who later negotiated an enriching compensation package for the KPD. KPOA representatives often attend KPPCSD meetings and offer unsolicited commentary (e.g., 8/9/2018). The *East Bay Express* (June 27-July 3, 2018) reported that in nearby Richmond, the RPOA paid for "hit fliers" targeting local progressive government officials. Kensington residents received three expensive poorly written alarmist fliers (i.e. Kensington Independent) without attribution of authorship or funding; warning ... "We ... could lose our police department". The fliers were likely not illegal but were unsavory, and the pictures and messaging were clearly designed to influence the upcoming KPPCSD elections. But who authored and funded these fliers?

The current KPPCSD board is moving forward on many fronts to establish good governance, and they need to be reelected to finish the job—Kensington cannot continue to be dysfunctional.

Andrew Paul Gutierrez

All But One Reject Contributions from Bayview, Police and Firefighters

By Gail Feldman, President KPOA

All six candidates running for the Kensington Police Protection and Services District (KPPCSD) and four of the five candidates for Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) have signed a pledge to reject all political contributions from the district's waste hauler, Bayview Refuse & Recycling and affiliates, Kensington Police Officers Association, the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa Local 1230, its membership or any agent of the membership and any KPPCSD or El Cerrito Fire Department employees, including donations offered prior to or following the November 6, 2018 election. The signed commitments were made in response to an appeal to the candidates by the Kensington Property Owners Association in August.

Signing the campaign contribution pledge are Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District (KPPCSD) candidates: Chris Deppe, Michael Logan, Deborah Dakota McKenzie, Cyrus Modavi, David Spath and Rachelle Sherris-Watt; and Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) candidates: Paul Dorroh, Janice Kosel, Kevin Padian, and Julie Stein. Joe deVille did not sign the pledge.

Kensington has a number of critical service and financial issues that elected district directors will grapple with over the next few years. The KPPCSD is studying options for restructuring police services, including options for contracting with another city, negotiating pay and benefits with the police officers association, and considering changes to waste services.

The KFPD is considering building a new public safety building and will address the expiring fire services contract with El Cerrito. Newly elected or re-elected KPPCSD and KFPD board directors must approach these discussions in a manner that is fair to our police officers, firefighters and our community.

Property taxes are the only significant source of revenue available to pay for police and fire services, and Kensington property owners now pay over an additional \$600 per parcel in special taxes to maintain levels of service for police and fire, in large part due to salary and benefit cost increases.

In asking candidates not to accept political contributions from the franchise waste hauler, police and firefighters, the KPOA seeks to promote a local election process that eliminates uncertainty as to whether money or in-kind support influenced the people elected to negotiate salaries and benefits and the future direction of how services are provided.

KENSINGTON VOTER ALERT

You will soon be receiving your ballot information for the midterm election on Tuesday, November 6th. You will be asked to vote for three new Directors for the Community Service District.

Decisions by the current directors have generated alarm and a wave of opposition from many residents. Issues include ongoing efforts to dismantle our local police services, the excessive use of expensive outside consultants, a lack of transparency in board decision-making, and a marked and recurring tendency to push ahead with its agenda and ignore the wishes of much of this community.

At recent meetings, comments by Kensington residents indicated overwhelming support for keeping an independent police force. In 2009 nearly 1,000 residents signed an initiative measure stating that, "the District, may not eliminate its independent police department or contract out its police protection...without voter approval."

In 2015 when the current Board began seriously looking at eliminating the Kensington police department they solicited a legal opinion from the law firm of Renne Sloan Holtzman Sokai, who advised the Board that the initiative measure was probably unenforceable.

At their September 14th 2017th meeting KPPCSD approved the new General Manager's recommendation to issue an RFP to evaluate contracting out, which they awarded to The Matrix Consulting Group.

For the people of Kensington the most important measure of our police protection is the quality of our police services. The crime rates in our community are low and residents have always approved tax increases to fund police services. There are currently 5 vacancies for police officers, putting our existing patrolmen and the safety of residents at risk. This board has further undercut police services by failing to hire a fully qualified Chief of Police. The Board also recently voted to eliminate the police department staff positions of the District Administrator and the Police Specialist by hiring three part-time people to do their jobs, which would actually cost us taxpayers more.

We are asking Kensington voters to hold accountable the two board members, President Rochelle Sherris-Watt and Christopher Deppe, who are running for re-election. Please consider voting instead for three of the new candidates Dakota McKenzie, Cyrus Modavi and David Spath.

—Douglas and Hoda Perry, Nancy Fenton, Kensington Residents

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Tim Holton for an evening of inspiration on The Art of Framing
Thursday, October 11, 2018 • 7-8:30 p.m.

Tim Holton has been a local picture framer for over 40 years, 25 of those years as owner of Holton Studio Frame-Makers. Located in West Berkeley, the shop provides custom framing on a unique business model, designing and making all of its frames on the premises. Using hardwoods and tried and true joinery methods (no nails or other metal fasteners), its mission is to restore real woodworking techniques to picture framing. The shop is also an art gallery featuring Northern California landscape painting.

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Endorsed by Kensingtonians Ray Barraza, David Jenkins, Janice Kosel, and Ciara Wood, and by Stege directors Dwight Merrill, Alan Miller, and Beatrice O'Keefe

Visit me at facebook.com/jamesforstege Paid for by the candidate

Come See Our Drone

It's not set in stone—but it's likely that the demonstration of the Kensington Fire Department's heat-sensing drone will be November 3 in the grassy area next to Building E, at Kensington Park (above the tennis courts and library). No time yet; put the date on your calendar and check out the November *Outlook* for more information.

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Kensington Calendar

Locations:

Arlington Community Church (ACC), 52 Arlington Ave., 526-9146

Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., 525-0292

Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 524-3043

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB), 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

Ongoing:

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

Acrylic Artists Wednesdays, 9:45-12:30, Community Center, \$9. Self-directed artists come together to paint. Easels and tables provided. Friendly group.

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

Jazzercise with Kevin Knickerbacker ACC, Mondays-Fridays, 9am \$20 class or \$55 unlimited per month. ACC.

Mindful Yoga with Wendy Beckerman Tuesdays, 9:15am, bring yoga mat. \$18 drop-in or discount for series. ACC.

Israeli Folk Dance Wednesdays, \$6, lessons/beginners 8pm, request dance party starts at 9pm. ACC.

October 1 Kensington Library Knitting Club "The Castoffs" All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. 6:30pm. Free.

October 2, 9, 16 & 30 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

October 3 Kensington Unit of League of Women Voters will meet at 1:15 pm at 44 Beverly Road to discuss local issues. 524-6071

October 4 Everybody's Fellowship 6pm, ACC. Free Monthly potluck supper and program for ACC members and guests. Open to all.

October 4, 11, 18 & 25 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs, puppets, scarves, shaky eggs, and loads of fun! Kensington Library. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am.

October 4, 11, 18 & 25 Read to Dogs Each week one to three calm & gentle therapy dogs will be at the library, waiting for kids to read to them (or parents of younger kids can do the reading). Call or come by to schedule an appointment. Drop-ins often also work. Kensington Library, 2:30-3:30pm. Free.

October 7 James Baraz, founding teacher of Spirit Rock Meditation Center, co-author of *Awakening Joy: Ten Steps to Happiness*, and guiding teacher of Insight Meditation Community of Berkeley. "Equanimity: Finding Balance in Difficult Times." UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

October 8 & 22 Kensington Library's Digital Docent will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1pm. This one-on-one 60-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign up onsite at Info Desk. Please bring your device.

October 11 Soul Flower Farm co-owner Maya Blow will describe the El Sobrante urban farm's philosophy, programs, and products at the El Cerrito Garden Club. Maya is an herbalist, organic farmer and homeopath, and her herbal creations will be for

sale. 9:30am, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Visitors \$3.

October 13 Fire Prevention Week Open House at the Public Safety Building, 10-2.

October 13 Human Flow Free screening. 5:30pm, art-making, storytelling. UUCB. Free but tickets required through eventbrite.com.

October 14 Rabbi Harry Manhoff, PhD, Congregational Rabbi at Temple Beth Shalom in San Leandro and lecturer at St. Mary's College. "Politics and Prayer: The History of the Siddur (Jewish Prayer)." UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

October 14 Fall Book Sale The Friends of the Kensington Library will hold its annual Fall Book from 10am-4pm in the lot behind the library. This year we are literally over-spilling with books for children and young readers, thanks to a collaboration with West County Reads.

October 15 Memoir Group 10am, ACC. Free Monthly Memoir Group led by Ruth Robinson in the Fireside Room.

October 15 Obi Kaufmann author of the California Field Atlas The Kensington Library welcomes Mr. Kaufmann to discuss his Atlas, based on decades of experience exploring the Golden State, and which blends science and art to present a unique look at the myriad topographies and ecologies of California. 6:30pm. Free.

October 16 Obnoxious Noise Makers Come and make some really obnoxious noise makers with the children's librarian. Your parents will hate them. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.

October 20 Mystery Writers Three Sisters in Crime mystery writers will introduce their books at the AAUW West Contra Costa Branch meeting. Susan Shea's *Love and Death in Burgundy* is a French village mystery. Simon Wood's *Saving Grace* is a crime or procedural fiction. Margaret Lucke's *Snow Angel* is a Jess Randolph mystery. Christ Lutheran Church, 780 Ashbury St., El Cerrito, 10am. All are welcome.

October 20 Bryan Baker and Friends recital. UUCB, 7:30pm. Tickets at the door: \$20 general, \$15 senior/student.

October 21 Rev. Christian Schmidt, UUCB's Senior Co-Minister, mystical humanist. "Living in Anxious Times." UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

October 22 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky. Open to all. 6:30pm.

October 23 NorCal Bats Corky Quirk of NorCal Bats will give an interesting and informative presentation on bats, their characteristics and the harmful misconceptions that many people have about them. Bats are awesome and fascinating, and if you don't believe it come and find out for yourself. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

October 26 Bridge Night 6pm, ACC. FREE monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACC'ers and new guests.

October 27 Fall Shredding Event at the north end of the Community Center parking lot, 10-2.

October 27 Pharmaceutical Drop-off at the Public Safety Building. Sponsored by KFPD and KPPCSD, 10-2.

October 28 Deborah Schmidt, former UUCB Board of Trustees President and volunteer coordinator. She teaches music and writes memoir, family

history and poetry. "This Singing World," a poetry reading celebrating nature, human connection, love, and music. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

October 29 Spaghetti Skeleton Halloween Craft! Glue all kinds of pasta to

black paper to create a snazzy skeleton. Maybe even learn a little human anatomy! Ages 3 through elementary school. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.



Learn About the Community Warning System

By Katie Gluck, KPSC

On Saturday, October 20 at 10am at the Kensington Community Center, the Kensington Public Safety Council (KPSC) will host a two-part presentation. Heather Tiernan, from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, is the county's community warning system manager. She gave a summary at the September 12 fire board meeting and is the expert in emergency notifications for Contra Costa County residents. She will provide information about how you can register, what type of alerts you might receive, and what tools are used to alert the public of an emergency.

Also on the program is Janiele Maffei, Chief Mitigation Officer, California Earthquake Authority. Maffei will speak to us about CEA earthquake insurance and the Brace & Bolt program, which will be accepting applications in October. The Brace & Bolt program (EarthquakeBraceBolt.com) offers grants of up to \$3,000 to homeowners to retrofit their houses to make them more resistant to earthquake activity. Come and find out more.

Bring your friends, neighbors and questions. This presentation is free and open to all. Please RSVP to kensingtonpsc.org so that we may have an idea how many will be attending.

Fundraiser

...from page 1

a day of sailing on the bay. Teacher Treasures, donated by Hilltop's beloved teachers, always see a competitive burst of bidding. Art lovers won't want to miss the chance to nab a real masterpiece donated by Masterworks Fine Art. While you're placing silent auction bids, be sure to also add your name to the guest list of parties hosted by Hilltop parents. It's a great way to populate your social calendar for the year in one swoop.

All eyes will turn to the stage for the live auction, when paddles pop up for special events such as a private tour of Pixar HQ and "Principal for a Day," when the child of the winning bidder gets to shadow Hilltop principal Judy Sanders for a behind-the-scenes day at school. Another hot item is the mighty Dads' Club work party, when a team of handy Hilltop dads descends on the winner's home to tackle a formidable home or yard project.

Join the exciting casino games at this event for some extraordinary prizes, spend an evening with your friends, and enjoy some delicious food and beverages. You don't want to miss out to try your lady luck! Advance tickets are on sale now for \$70 at kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty/, or you can pick them up at the door for \$85.

While you wait for the big night, don't forget to shop the online auction Oct. 24-31, when a whole list of goods and services donated by local businesses, such as beauty treatments, exercise classes, home services, movie passes, and restaurant and store gift certificates, will be open to bidding. You needn't be present at the Garden Party to shop online, so if you can't come dance the night away, be sure to shop the online auction at kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty/.



Longtime Kensington Amateur Radio Operator (KARO) volunteers, Marian Gade and Jerry Michaels, are shown receiving recognition from the KFPD Board of Directors at their September 12 meeting. Photo by Brenda Navellier.

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

KCC-OCTOBER 1, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 6:30pm. 525-0292

KPSC-OCTOBER 8, 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-OCTOBER 10, Fire Protection District 2nd Wed., 7pm. 527-8395

KIC-OCTOBER 22, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30. 524-7415

KPPCSD-OCTOBER 11, OCTOBER 25, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

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

Meet the Candidates

KPPCSD Director

Chris Deppe (incumbent)

Chris Deppe wanted to be a rock musician—“Everyone my age was in a rock band as a kid”—but he soon realized that classical music was his real calling. After college, he applied to the Royal Conservatory in the Hague. “There’s a movement focused on playing baroque music on the instruments of the time. And I wanted to play with the best in the world. That meant Europe.” He lived in Amsterdam for ten years as a freelance musician. His instrument is bass—but in the world of early instruments, he plays the violone, a low-pitched viola da gamba. “I got to play with most major groups,” he says, “but I missed California.”

Deppe grew up in Sacramento—“I took a roundabout way to get from Sacramento to Kensington.” He moved to Kensington in 1996 with his wife, whom he met while he lived in Europe. “It’s hard to maintain a relationship when you’re gone for a month or two at a time,” he explains. While living in Europe, Deppe also maintained a software business, fulfilling contracts with firms in Silicon Valley, including Apple. It made sense to return—first to Microsoft, then to Apple, where he ran a department. He left there eighteen months ago and now maintains his own firm. “It’s a labor of love,” he says. “My partner and I vowed to keep some quality of life. Our friends and family are our first order of business.”

On that front, Deppe and his wife enjoy walking their two rescue Bernese mountain dogs at Point Isabel. He also plays golf and tennis. And of course he continues to play music—even occasionally a gig or two with a rock band.

Mike Logan

Mike Logan and his wife Sally moved to Kensington in 1997. They’d been living in San Francisco but wanted to start a family. “The City’s not too kid-friendly,” Logan says. Sally Logan said she knew the perfect place to raise children—Kensington. Mike liked her description. They found a place on Kingston, and moved that December.

At the time, Logan was working as a special effects artist. “I worked on *The Terminator*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and others,” he says. “It was a lifelong dream to work on special effects.” He was also fascinated by finance, and he thought financial planning could be a second career. He segued into that second career sooner than he expected. “The [film] industry is changing a lot. It’s more international, and I ended up traveling a lot. I was spending more time in LA and elsewhere than I was at home. I missed a couple of years of my kids growing up.” Logan now is a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch.

The Logans have two daughters, both of whom attended Kensington Hilltop. “We’ve been empty nesters for less than a month,” Logan says. In his free time, he rides his bike around Tilden; he also loves to scuba dive, most recently in the Cayman Islands. “And I read whenever I can. I’m a history buff, especially military history. “ Logan also recently became active in CERT after taking the trainings this past spring.

Dakota McKenzie

Dakota McKenzie grew up in Kensington, attending Kensington Hilltop, Portola, and El Cerrito High. Her mother was the director of Kensington Nursery School, her father a mathematician at UC Berkeley. Her parents bought their house in 1972. After gaining a BA in literature from UC Santa Barbara, McKenzie lived in Oakland as the onsite property manager of a 36-unit apartment building and returned to Kensington 13 years ago. “I loved that in moving back here I run into people that I went to school with,” she says. A big focus as a youth was dance—“I participated in dance classes at the Temple of Wings in Berkeley.”

She now is an entrepreneurial consultant specializing in empowering women; she runs leadership seminars in New Mexico and Colorado. She also writes—“I’m working on a novel set in prehistory,” and paints large abstracts in acrylics. “I have some weird habits,” she admits. Her grandfather, she says, had a law library. “I sometimes fall asleep reading Oliver Wendell Holmes.” She also loves to garden—and she still loves to dance.

Cyrus Modavi

Because Cyrus Modavi’s dad worked for Exxon Mobil, he enjoyed an international childhood: “We lived in Norway for awhile, and I did high school in the Emirates at a Canadian school. But I have family here, so I was here a lot.” Modavi started on an undergrad degree in bioengineering, focused on plant biology, at UC Berkeley in 2008; his parents bought a house in Kensington in 2009. Now he works in synthetic biology. “We look for novel antibiotic discoveries,” he says. “We use samples from other laboratories—but I like to isolate bacteria around town to see if they have interesting antibiotic activities.” His field, he explains, is one of the newer areas of science: “It’s a result of people realizing that specialized disciplines can’t capture everything. Interdisciplinary fields can sometimes bridge those gaps.”

Modavi likes to do close-range photography of flowers and insects. And he reads a lot. “Mostly nonfiction, history of science or general history,” he says. He writes for work—“but I also like to write fiction, short stories. For a lot of us, writing is something we learn to be good at. Writing is how we store our memories so that it’s not forgotten in time.” Modavi lives at home with his parents and his sister, who is a lab manager at UC Berkeley—“Our house is in layers, so we all have private spaces.”

Rachelle Sherris-Watt (incumbent)

“I worked at the Kensington Nursery School for a summer while I was in college,” says Rachelle Sherris-Watt, who grew up near Portland and graduated from the University of Oregon. She ended up at the nursery school that summer because her then-boyfriend and now-husband Thomas Sherris-Watt grew up in Kensington. “After college, we lived in Oakland first and then bought a house in Kensington in 2003,” she says.

After graduating from college in English and theater, Sherris-Watt worked as a director of high school and community theater productions. She also advocated for patients who needed advanced medical equipment. “It makes you not a fan of certain medical insurance companies,” she says. Later she worked for AT&T. She left work after their second child was born. “And now we have five children,” she says. “The oldest is 19, the youngest 4. So we have a sophomore in college and a preschooler.”

In her spare time (“what free time?”), Sherris Watt likes to hike and go to plays and museums. She reads contemporary fiction and history, especially military history—she just returned from a trip to Gettysburg. And she is active in her church. “I’ve been a Sunday school teacher for years,” she says.

David Spath

These days, David Spath spends more time cycling than he does working. Before he retired in 2006, Spath worked for the state health department for 33 years, running the program that regulates public drinking water systems. “I was considered the state’s drinking water administrator,” he explains. That program now falls under the state’s water control boards, and Spath works for them as a retired annuitant.

At the moment, he’s updating the state’s drinking water plan, upon which he served as lead in 2015. He’s now formulating the 2020 version. Spath also is chair of the legislative advocacy committee for the California Public Health Association. That advocacy covers a broad range of health concerns, from soda drinks to fertilizer pollution in Central Valley drinking water. “Climate change is a big issue now in terms of impacts on public health,” he says.

And then there’s cycling. Spath rides his bike four to five times a week. He also gardens and putters around the house, doing projects such as attempting to keep varmints away from his espaliered apple trees. He’s lived in Kensington since 1982—and just installed his own gray water system. “I try to keep the strawberries alive,” he says.

KFPD Director

Joe deVille (incumbent)

Joe deVille’s parents bought his house on Cambridge in 1950. His mother said that they got the house, built in ’47, for the view: “She said it looked the same as the view from her family home in Maui,” he explains. “I grew up here, went to Kensington Hilltop and El Cerrito High. I’ve been here almost all my life.”

DeVille went to UC Berkeley after high school, earning a BA in criminology in ’73. He joined the Richmond police force in 1974 and worked as an officer there for thirty years. He lived in Richmond but moved back to his family home 25 years ago, five years before he retired. His wife Gina still teaches preschool for the Oakland school district: “The district runs about 35 preschools around Oakland,” he says. Since his retirement, he’s worked one gig that he truly enjoys: seasonal work as a car attendant on the Fun Train to Reno. “I really like trains,” he says. “We’d go to Reno a couple times a week during the winter season. It’s just the best job in the world.”

He bicycles a few times a week, follows baseball and travels as much as he can. “I still have family in Hawaii,” he says, “so that’s big on our list.” And he’s done a lot of work on his house. “It’s pretty cool to be living in the house you grew up in,” he says. “Hopefully with all the work I’ve done now we’re in maintenance mode.”

Paul Dorroh

Paul Dorroh and his wife Vida moved to Kensington in 1973, shortly after he finished law school at Boalt. Dorroh joined a large firm in San Francisco, practicing securities and corporate law. “Then I got my feet wet in the insurance industry,” says Dorroh, who went on to forge a business career specializing in medical and legal malpractice insurance. He retired in 2013 and is active in Kensington governance issues and in a Maui homeowners’ association where the Dorrohs own a condo. “We spend quality time in Maui every year,” he says.

He describes himself as a “challenged photographer” and says that he and Vida have “grand pets,” meaning that their two granddaughters recently adopted a pair of kittens. He reads history of all periods—his favorite book this year was David McCullough’s *Truman*. “I never realized how much trouble we could have been in when Roosevelt died, when Truman stepped in completely unprepared and made some of the most consequential decisions of the twentieth century.”

Janice Kosel (incumbent)

Janice Kosel has lived in Kensington her entire life, with a brief sojourn to Davis for college before she transferred to UC Berkeley. She graduated with a degree in political science and then enrolled at Boalt. She practiced law for three years at a big firm in San Francisco, where she specialized in corporate law and municipal bonds. She left when she “realized there was nobody there I wanted to be.” She sent out her resume to Bay Area law schools. When someone broke a teaching contract, the job at Golden Gate was offered to Kosel: “We agreed to a one-year contract, and I taught there for forty years.” She also began teaching at Boalt, where she still teaches one course a year. She’s taught commercial law all over the world, in Armenia, Paris, Barcelona.

A three-time cancer survivor, Kosel is convinced that “the only thing that keeps me here is exercising a lot.” Her Cavalier spaniel enjoys a lot of walks by the bay. She is also a big-time Elvis fan. She says Elvis Week at Graceland is a trivia extravaganza: “They ask questions that I bet Elvis and Priscilla couldn’t answer.”

Kevin Padian

Paleontologist Kevin Padian has taught for 39 years at UC Berkeley. His department of Integrative Biology covers ecology, evolution—“the history of life,” Padian says. He is curator of the Museum of Paleontology, housed in the Life Sciences building. “We’ve never had any funding for a big exhibit hall,” he explains. “The fossils are scattered around—and it’s true that about five floors of the Campanile are filled with our fossils.”

Padian moved to Kensington a week before the 1989 earthquake—and was happy that his house, built in the ’20s, proved structurally sound. Although he says that academics are always working, when he manages to tear himself away, he likes to play music with friends. He is also an aficionado of Thomas Hardy, who, he says, “understood what Darwin was trying to say better than most scientists of his day.”

Julie Stein

Julie Stein got her PhD in mechanical engineering at UC Berkeley; she moved to Kensington on New Year’s Eve 1990. She managed a program that partnered UC faculty with companies to help grow industry in the state, so “the benefits could flow more directly to society,” she explains. Now she’s executive director of a company that advances a research partnership between UC and the government of Singapore. “We research energy-efficient tropical building and other projects, such as solar energy, all focused on sustainability.”

Stein raised two children, who attended Kensington Hilltop and El Cerrito High. The kids came with her on antiquing trips around the area—Stein collects vintage Japanese pottery and peanut butter glasses. She and her daughter also keep bees: “We’re not really doing it to harvest honey, it’s more to give bees back to society. Our bees are happy here on Ardmore”—as are her two dogs and cat. She also serves as a lead on NextDoor Kensington. “I just got my three-year badge,” she reports. Although NextDoor does not require it, Stein has curtailed her lead role for the course of the campaign.

Q&A with the Candidates



There are many upcoming decisions facing KPPCSD board directors. How would you prioritize these decisions—and how would you move them forward?

Dave Spath: Five significant decisions facing the board are: 1) whether to contract for police services; 2) how to fund the Community Center seismic upgrade; 3) how to prepare for a natural disaster; 4) whether to consider building a new Public Safety Building in the park; and 5) whether to go forward with Food Waste Composting.

The most critical decision will be whether to contract out police services. Upon the completion of the police services study and possible proposals from contracting agencies, this community will have to evaluate the options and decide the best way forward. The board should hold public forums informing the public of the options and allow the public to express its preference by vote.

A decision requiring immediate attention is securing funding for the Community Center upgrade. Early renovation estimates indicated a significant funding shortfall. However, additional funding should not come from district budget reserves. Concurrently, the board needs to place a high priority on preparing for and responding to natural disasters such as wildfires and earthquakes. Since police services are critical during and subsequent to such events, the board needs to work with the General Manager to develop a district Emergency Operations Plan.

The remaining issues, Public Safety Building and Food Waste Composting, require more public engagement working towards community consensus. I would work with board members to ensure the public is fully aware of the available options and their consequences, to address the public's questions and to allow for ample public discussion prior to any decision.

Rachelle Sherris-Watt: Over the past two years, the KPPCSD board has taken deliberate steps to professionalize and modernize our community services (police, parks and sanitation) while keeping our fiscal house in order. The natural progression for the board is to clarify our administrative functions, continue on capital/other improvements already in motion, evaluate future costs and decide on how we can develop and maintain excellent standards in public safety.

In August, the board approved new job descriptions for the administrative side of the KPPCSD. Filling these positions will ensure that we meet government standards and can provide information to the public in a timely manner. Changing our budgeting documents will help residents see where their dollars go and create a dialogue for future goals.

Next, the KPPCSD will continue our progress in remodeling the Community Center to make it safe and functional. We will be adopting a new Policy and Procedure Manual and completing Special District transparency certification. The board and the KFPD will work in tandem to make sure that the Public Safety Building protects our first responders.

Working diligently and without rancor, the KPPCSD must next look for ways to ensure quality police staffing and provide opportunities for police in training and community-building. Following up on the Matrix (police staffing study) results will require making tough choices. A willingness to explore options and think of creative solutions by a nimble group of directors will ensure we get the most for our money.

Chris Deppe: The most critical decision in the near future will be how best to provide police services. The district retained Matrix to evaluate how we currently provide police services, make recommendations to bring the department up to current standards, and evaluate alternative ways of providing police services. The first phase of the study identified a number of needed improvements, some of which exceed our current budget. The second phase will evaluate options for having some or all of our police services provided by a neighboring agency. Once both phases are done, the board can then look at all the information presented and decide on future action.

Another big decision will be the final plan for renovating the community center. It must be upgraded for earthquake safety as well as complying with ADA standards. The board will need to decide, with community input, what other, if any, extra improvements can be done.

While upgrading the public safety building is the responsibility of the fire district, the fate of that building is of great concern to the KPPCSD. It is important to work together with the fire district to find a cost-effective solution to meet the needs of both agencies and the community.

Dakota McKenzie/Cyrus Modavi: Yes, there are many issues. The top three are:

(a) The police and our vote. Ensuring quality police services is a major function of the KPPCSD. We've seen no coherent justification to disband our police force and outsource police services. Should the evidence point in that direction, such a historic decision must go to the voters.

(b) Having the two boards (KPPCSD and KFPD) work together, e.g., financing the Community Center seismic retrofit. Currently, the KPPCSD Board says we are short funds to finance the retrofit. We are not. The voters were asked to pay for a \$2 million bond three years ago (Measure L) and refused to approve it. Their choice was correct: no extra dollars from the taxpayers were necessary—all the two boards needed to do was pool their funds based on their spending authorities. The same is true now. Both boards have been acting as if they represent two different towns, which they do not. Their purpose is to serve one town, with priorities they need to march in lock step on to efficiently address.

(c) Disaster preparedness. Kensington faces threats from wildfires and earthquakes. To be prepared, we must plan together. The two boards must coordinate with each other and the CERT groups, so that we are prepared and don't find ourselves in a free-for-all when disaster strikes. All critical players must come to the table to create an integrated framework for effective action in the event of an emergency.

Mike Logan: There are some very important decisions for the board in just the next year. The biggest one is how we are going to structure our police department to continue to feel safe in our neighborhood while creating a sustainable fiscal structure. Currently, we can't attract enough officer candidates to even fill vacancies let alone have a diversity of applicants. The police services and (yet to be released) alternatives studies (Matrix consulting) together provide important data points for addressing police staffing and other issues. I look forward to hearing from residents during the campaign on their pri-

orities in the context of those recommendations.

The second priority is the seismic upgrades and functional improvements on the Community Center. There are still some construction decisions, and I want to hear from as many people as possible as to where we steer our money. Like any project, we can't have everything, but with the generosity of funds that have been secured so far, we can make the Community Center a building that we can be proud to use for years to come.

Another looming project is what to do regarding the obsolescence of the Public Safety Building. We need to get all the options in front of the community, so we make informed decisions that ensure our first responders are in the best position to protect our community.

What do you think are the main issues regarding operating a small police force and how would you address them?

Cyrus Modavi/Dakota McKenzie: The three main challenges of operating a small police force are: (a) Officer staffing. We can address staffing shortages when they occur by drawing on what has worked well in the past—maintaining a reserve-officer contingent to fill in as needed. We can also explore contracting for the capability to temporarily draw on officers from neighboring towns when there is a shortage. This town is a very attractive place for officers who want to work for and with a small community. This gives us a recruiting advantage relative to other jurisdictions.

(b) Maintaining strong community policing and ensuring the officers become part of the community. If we emphasize this as we recruit, we can attract the kind of officers we want who will value serving as an appreciated part of the community.

Like other police departments, we can continue to explore contracting out for certain support functions or specialized services that supplement our basic, day-to-day policing. We have already successfully adopted this "hybrid" approach by contracting for dispatch services.

(c) Morale. Officer morale is of utmost importance, because individuals have a higher impact on the functioning of a small department. Historically, we've had very high morale because of the community's appreciation of the dedicated service our officers give this town. We can and should keep this level of morale by ensuring they have the proper infrastructure, support functions, and leadership in place.

Mike Logan: There are several issues that stand out, and I will address the two biggest ones that I see. The first is proper police coverage in the community. With a force of 10 officers, it only takes an unforeseen absence to put a heavy strain on the remaining force. Our struggle to fill even the budgeted positions has shown us how hard it is when the numbers are down. I'm glad we're still a safe community, but let's not tempt fate.

A second issue with a small force is that there are administrative functions that don't scale down efficiently. Operations such as background checks and payroll could possibly be done elsewhere. Another example is the evidence room. Do we need to dedicate personnel and space for this function, or can evidence be checked and stored at another station? Continuity and oversight of evidence are important considerations to protect our legal process.

We need to make this small force work. Let's improve both the police payroll and training budget to stay totally independent, or let's find more creative ways to keep our costs in check.

Dave Spath: The main issues regarding operating a small police force include: 1) maintaining adequate staffing levels; 2) providing competitive salaries; 3) recruiting, particularly against larger agencies; and 4) finding individuals interested in working in a low crime environment.

Small police forces such as Kensington's are more sensitive to staffing issues than larger agencies that operate with tens to hundreds of officers. With a small police force, multiple vacancies require existing officers to work overtime to provide adequate coverage, which can take a physical toll on officers and reduce important policing activities such as patrolling and traffic control. Recruiting new officers takes time. To alleviate the immediate impact on officers, the board should task the General Manager to work with the Interim Police Chief to develop a plan to increase the number of reserve officers.

As pointed out in the Matrix Phase I Report, neighboring police agencies pay higher salaries (25 percent more), making it difficult for Kensington to retain officers as well as recruit new ones. While we may not match the salaries of surrounding agencies, the board should provide reasonable increases in salaries while maintaining the district's fiscal integrity.

In addition, I would seek board concurrence to task the General Manager and Interim Chief of Police with developing a recruitment strategy consistent with the approach described in the Matrix Phase I Report, which recommends a marketing approach that promotes Kensington's low crime environment to attract officer candidates who prefer service as "guardians of the community" and problem solvers.

Chris Deppe: There are significant challenges in managing a small, independent police force. The main issue is economy of scale, or more specifically, the lack of economy of scale. There is a minimum overhead to running a standalone police department, and because of our size our officers are less efficient (non-policing functions take up a larger percentage of officer time), and a small department is proportionally more expensive. The accepted minimum standard for police departments is to always have a supervisor on duty. In Kensington, this would mean one supervising officer for every regular officer, a significant cost compared with a larger department in which several officers report to a supervisor.

Another problem is that if an officer is not able to be on duty, we either make up the absence with overtime or we go without. We've had times where three officers are out, which even at full staffing levels, is 30 percent of our force.

Addressing those issues is one of the main focus points of the next phase of the Matrix report. There may be options for contracting functions such as training, HR, evidence room, etc. which would give the officers more time for community policing.

Finally recruiting has been a challenge. A small department does not have the same possibilities for learning and career advancement, making it more difficult to attract and retain officers. We can and should come up with creative recruiting strategies, hoping to attract officers interested in community-style policing within the constraints of our budget.

Rachelle Sherris-Watt: Running a small police force is tough because of restrictions on revenue, recruiting and requirements. With a community of Kensington's size and small sales tax base, we will not see dramatic increases in our revenue. We have had great leaps in property values, but the KPPCSD cannot base budgeting around that paradigm. That means that as pension and healthcare costs rise, we must prepare to make up the shortfall.

The second difficulty is in recruiting. Our small size offers few opportunities for promotion. And while we love our low crime rate, it means that officers must have outside

training to become proficient in specialized investigative units. An officer who hopes to work to prevent gang activity or drug use, who likes working with canines or on a bicycle does not have that opportunity in Kensington. The third issue is the ever-increasing list of demands placed on police departments. More tools are becoming standardized (body and dash cameras, tasers, etc.) that require selection, training of the officers, and technological support by staff to maintain.

The solution is an evaluation of current professional standards. The KPPCSD has authorized such a study that is currently in its second phase. Once the findings are in, the board will need to seek partnerships where it proves to be helpful to our residents and our employees. Partnerships for policing will ensure that we can promise great opportunity and great safety.

How will you handle transparency—the requirement for nondisclosure and privacy around legal and employee issues versus the right of the public to know about concerns impacting the community?

Mike Logan: I know the frustration I feel when there is dead silence regarding important issues that come up in board meetings. We want to be informed about the status of contract negotiations and other matters. That being said, there are rules of privacy and nondisclosure that not only need to be followed but are integral to the process. I intend to follow those rules even though there might be information that the public wants to know but legally can't be divulged. I understand that even pushing the envelope on what I might say could either hinder an ongoing negotiation or get the district in a legal bind or both.

This is nothing new to me. I function in the highly regulated financial industry, and confidentiality is required at every level. My clients expect and receive complete privacy regarding all matters. With rampant information leaks and technology security breaches, the protection of people's privacy is even more paramount.

I want Kensington residents to have confidence in the board when working behind closed doors. If elected as director, I would be as open and transparent as the rules allow while working to secure Kensington's financial future.

Rachelle Sherris-Watt: In the past year, the board has taken significant steps to improve communication with residents and access to public information. We created a bi-annual newsletter, *The Kensington Update*, built a new website that is searchable and tracks our progress towards transparency certification. We have also invited our consultants into our meetings so that they can present their findings directly to residents.

The challenge is complying with codes and regulations that constrain full transparency. What I would like to know as a private citizen and what I am allowed to share as an employer are different. As a board member, I am working to build a team that protects the interest of residents. This began with the hiring of Public Law Group and the exceptional Jon Holtzman, retaining Ann Danforth as our knowledgeable General Counsel, and the splitting of the General Manager/Chief of Police position. Now that we have a team with years of management experience, I rely on their good advice. I would rather not share a fact than cost you money. Most of the challenge in serving is not in being transparent, but in finding the proper channels for communicating the information the board would love to share with all the members of our Kensington community.

Dakota McKenzie/Cyrus Modavi: We support the maximum level of transparency the law will allow. The Police Officers' Bill of Rights imposes rigid restrictions in California on the release of police personnel-related information, which is an issue routinely confronted by every local government in the state. Our commitment is to work with our citizens, our officers, and our counsel to make available the most information we can on any police issue that affects the community.

We will advocate and work toward ensuring that Kensingtonians have prompt access to any information under our control they seek. However, we are bound to honor the law, and we will do so in full recognition of our obligation as public servants. This can be a delicate balance to strike, but we will do our absolute best to find the ideal balance, which is fair and takes into account the rights of all concerned.

That said, the best solution to the potential conflict between transparency and disclosure of personnel-related information is to keep our police properly managed and to maintain high morale as responsible employers. A highly functioning work force yields effective service and a minimum of conflicts that result in clashes between those who seek information and those who are protected from disclosing it.

Dave Spath: Transparency is a critical element in local government operations. The public has a right to be involved and informed about the actions and decisions of the board. At the same time, the statutory requirements limiting nondisclosure of certain employee information whether about police officers or other district employees must be upheld. Furthermore, legal proceedings must remain confidential in situations where release of such information could injure the district's legal position. I would work with district counsel to provide as much information as possible to the public including brief explanations of legal issues with which the board is dealing.

The Brown Act is the body of law that defines how local government shall provide open public access to its proceedings. Even within those constraints, I believe the board can be more responsive and transparent to the public in key ways:

1. When a controversial issue is on the agenda for the first time with clear interest by the public, the board can delay a hasty decision on that topic to a subsequent meeting, which allows for more information, reflective thought and full public discourse.

2. When questions are raised at public comment for items not on the agenda, I would briefly respond to those questions when possible. The Brown Act allows for brief responses.

3. When important issues are raised by the public and are not on the agenda, I would look for opportunities to place them on the agenda for further discussion at a subsequent meeting.

Chris Deppe: This is always a balancing act, and the current board tries very hard to get it right. While public agencies have a duty to be open and transparent, agency employees (and in particular the police) have privacy rights. In addition the Brown Act places limits on how directors can respond to items that were not noticed on a meeting agenda, which can be frustrating to members of the public. We try to be as open as possible. We have asked our General Manager and the Chief of Police to give status updates at our meetings.

We initiated two ways to improve communications—the semi-annual newsletter and our new website. The website has all recent agendas, minutes, and most associated documents in textual form online. This facilitates much easier reading and searching of information. We also now have a section on the website dedicated to a transparency certificate. We're not there yet, but we are making progress and are being very open about where we are in the process.



THE KENSINGTON FARMERS' MARKET

A CALIFORNIA CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET

SUNDAYS

10:00A.M. – 2:00P.M.

KENSINGTON, COLUSA CIRCLE

Halloween Harvest Celebration Oct. 28!



Costume parade with **PRIZES**, pets included!

Photo by Mark Altenberg

Pumpkin carving demo!

FREE pumpkins for the kids!

Animal show hosted by Kensington Vet!





Search for the witch at many Kensington Colusa Circle merchants!

Photo by Nan Phelps Photography

Join the Fun Sunday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.!

Sign up for our newsletter online: KensingtonFarmersMarket.org

Join us at the KCC Parade & Picnic



Sunday, October 14

12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Kensington Community Center

Mechanics Bank Kids Coloring Contest

Stop by and pick up your coloring sheet at the Kensington office, and return it to the bank by Friday, October 12th.

Prizes (gift cards) for each age group: 4–6, 7–9, and 10–12.



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Where Relationships Matter

BOOK SALE

Friends of the Kensington Library

Sunday, Oct 14
10am-4pm

In the lot behind
Kensington Library
61 Arlington Ave
Kensington, 94707



- Thousands of books!
- Hardbacks \$1.00 (or so)
- Trade paperbacks 50¢
- Pocket paperbacks 25¢ (or 5 for \$1.00)
- Movie DVDs and Audio CDs: \$1/disc
- \$3.00 Bag Sale 2pm-4pm
- "Better books" priced accordingly

***This sale only:**
Hundreds of titles in **art and drama**
from the collections of two accomplished local artists*

Q&A with KFPD Candidates



Some call for sirens, evacuation plans, clearing the edge of Tilden Park, altering parking regulations. What should the board be doing with an eye to residents' safety?

Julie Stein: The fire district board needs to heed the call and develop a clear strategic plan to carry out the disaster prevention aspect of its mission. Its strategic plan needs to cooperate with the police board and engage with Kensington residents. Neighboring communities are far ahead of Kensington in establishing siren warning systems, evacuation routes, and community education on fire preparedness and prevention.

The district has accumulated a healthy surplus from our tax dollars, as high as \$965K in 2017 alone. In FY 2016-17, the board budgeted \$79,450 for Community Service Activities, including public education, CERT kits, sheds, and preparedness, yet it invested close to \$41,612, only 52 percent of its potential. In FY 2017-18, a \$93,650 budget yielded an investment in community service close to \$41,098. The board should actively use these resources and redouble efforts to educate and prepare the community for disaster, heed the call.

A truly active fire board would put our resources to work, innovate to save our lives, and do it with a sense of urgency. They should convene a joint police-fire committee on evacuation routes, hire a grant writer to apply for federal grants, as intended by the 2017 El Cerrito/Kensington Community Wildfire Protection plan, and hire a technical communications specialist to help the district and residents connect to emergency warning networks and produce materials to explain this bewildering maze of systems. Please elect actively committed candidates to our fire board.

Janice Kosel: We maintain state-of-the-art firefighting apparatus. This fiscal year, we will take delivery of a new engine specially engineered for fighting wildfires and for our narrow streets. Our new heat-sensitive drone can monitor an extinguished fire to ensure it does not reignite—the cause of the Oakland hills fire.

We are investigating installing a siren to notify the community of an emergency. We already have systems in place to notify residents by landline or cell phone, text or email.

We have a new automatic aid agreement with the Berkeley Fire Department, and we work with other local agencies, including the Diablo Fire Safe Council and the East Bay Regional Park District, to reduce the fuel load. We have established CERT (community emergency response team) training and funded six sheds stocked with emergency supplies throughout the community.

We are developing a fire-resistant, drought-resistant demonstration garden in Kensington Park opposite the Community Center. The garden will educate residents about attractive alternatives to hazardous plants—like junipers. Residents can apply for grants from the fire district for fire-safe planting.

Rather than establish fixed evacuation routes, we have encouraged residents to identify and practice several evacuation routes from their homes. Emergencies can be fluid, and we hesitate to designate fixed routes that may not be navigable or send people into danger. We are happy to work with the KPPCSD, the lead agency, on revising parking so that residents' cars are pointed toward a thoroughfare rather than a dead end.

Kevin Padian: The board should be doing something, but they're doing virtually nothing. Residents began to call for sirens in the district more than a year ago, but nothing was done. The board is finally asking the Fire Chief to look into it, just before an election.

Every house should know its evacuation routes, so that people can exit safely and not impede our wonderful firefighters. The board tells us that we cannot have evacuation plans because we don't know where a major fire will come from. But they know a major fire will most likely come from Tilden Park, which has not burned for over a century. Surrounding municipalities are developing evacuation plans. Our board ignores the lessons learned from the North Bay fires, where my neighborhood burned to the ground last year. Our emergency notification systems (phone, radio, text, etc.) are outdated and behind the curve.

Recently, Lake Drive residents implored the board to help them negotiate brush clearing with East Bay Parks. The Fire Board President's response was "good luck with that." Parking configurations are insane in Kensington: on many blocks, cars face the dead end; on Coventry and Ardmere, narrow multi-block stretches of cars face each other. This is a disaster in waiting. In response to concerns, the board said that they had written a letter to the county but got no response. If they wrote another letter, would that satisfy us? Actually, no. And this is why we need a change. We need a proactive board.

Paul Dorroh: The board should be moving ahead expeditiously on all these and more initiatives to make Kensington safer. Warning sirens for Kensington are a crucial part of an effective alert system, with the ability to reach the entire community, supplementing other warning systems based on cell phones or landlines, which may not reliably reach the whole population in time. Other communities have them, they work, and we need them here in Kensington. The board's current position not to publish evacuation routes defies common sense. Every home in Kensington should have its evacuation options posted on the refrigerator door. Our labyrinth of narrow, crooked streets, some affording only one traffic lane, can baffle even longtime residents. Parking on our narrow cul-de-sacs is a recipe for gridlock when all cars must park facing into the dead end, and there is no room for two cars to pass, let alone fire engines. Fuel reduction must be a priority not only on the interface with Tilden Park, where the risk is obvious and severe, but also around our homes, including focusing on the removal of juniper and other highly flammable plants.

The Kensington Improvement Club issued a report in 1992, following the catastrophic Oakland Hills fire, proposing a number of strategies for making Kensington more fire-safe—including all of the steps mentioned above. Yet none have been implemented in the ensuing 26 years. It is time for the board to wake up.

Joe deVille: Every decision the board of the KFPD makes is with the safety of the residents of Kensington in mind. Our board sponsors several programs with the goal of reducing fire hazards and preparing for disasters. Specifically, the Fire Department runs a very active CERT program, not only providing training for residents to help themselves and others in case of a disaster, but providing sheds containing supplies to the



Happy Birthday Mike!

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To Varun: a friend, lover, athlete*, and software engineer.



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*he has run the Boston Marathon



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More From the Candidates Online

Due to space limitations, the *Outlook* regrets that we could not print the candidate statements.

These statements were written especially for the *Outlook*—they are not the same as those in the California voters' pamphlet. They can be found at www.kensingtonoutlook.com.

Technical difficulties prevented running August's police log. It will be printed with September in the November issue.

area CERT groups. We have a very viable fire prevention program which involves not only business inspections, but our Fire Marshall inspects and monitors residential properties in search of hazardous conditions and ensures that property owners are in compliance of local ordinances. We actively work with the East Bay Regional Park District and the WCCUSD to mitigate fire hazards and reduce the fuel supply and the threat of fire along our border with the park and school property.

We have a strong relationship with the Diablo Fire Safe Council to identify and reduce hazards, including sponsoring grants for residents to remove hazardous vegetation. Our board has worked with EBMUD to upgrade water mains and provide extra fire hydrants in Kensington in an ongoing effort to ensure that if necessary, our fire units have access to sufficient water to deal with any problem that arises. The department responds to far more medical calls than anything else, and we have worked with the county to provide defibrillators in strategic locations. Additionally, we sponsor, with the Police Department, prescription drug drop-off events during the year.

Are you in favor of consolidating with the KPPCSD to form one district? What are the advantages and disadvantages of consolidation?

Paul Dorroh: I once leaned toward consolidation as a way of unifying our community's finances and governance. After more thought, I've concluded that consolidation would create a divisive distraction from the underlying problem, lack of consultation and cooperation between our two boards. This is where we need to focus.

Two examples: Our police district owns the community center, which is in pressing need of renovation for safety, but is several hundred thousand dollars short of funds. Meanwhile, our fire district has nearly \$2 million tax dollars "in the bank" for a new public safety building that may not be built anytime soon, and over \$6 million of invested cash. Using our tax dollars more efficiently should be a shared priority of our district boards.

This year, the fire district is planning to spend \$30,000 for a demonstration garden of drought- and fire-resistant plants to be created in Kensington Park, which is owned by the police district. A "demonstration garden" is a nice idea, but is this a wise use of our tax dollars when funds for education and outreach, path clearing and other pressing safety needs should be increased? The community center is about to undergo renovation near the proposed garden site, and the demonstration garden goals could be accomplished at lower cost with a virtual garden website.

We need to establish regular, transparent and accountable consultation and cooperation between our two boards. Designated district representatives should meet regularly and publicly, seek community input, and develop concrete proposals for action.

Julie Stein: I have never been in favor of this. But I fully support the need for cooperation between the districts to achieve "one Kensington." Having a separate board for each district enables Kensington to elect a greater number of residents with varied skill sets who can focus on the issues particular to the essential services provided by each board.

Even without consolidation, our two districts can work closely together to bring tremendous advantages to Kensington. There are many opportunities in public government to form cooperative agreements with other boards, municipalities, and county and state agencies to achieve mutual goals. The districts could partner to share administrative services, such as payroll capabilities and our newly acquired video-recording system. Sharing payroll services would allow the fire district to hire its own specialized employees, such as a grant writer and a technical communications specialist, for the direct benefit of Kensington and outside the contract with El Cerrito.

The districts could also establish joint committees to study specific issues that are synergistic to both districts, such as evacuation planning, disaster preparedness, and an overall unified plan for Kensington's public safety. The bottom line is that the two districts should cooperate, not consolidate. It is far simpler this way, but both boards have to make the effort. Our fire board is charged with our emergency services plan, and our police with implementing it. We can't do the latter without the former. Our fire board must take the lead. Vote for me and I will.

Kevin Padian: Absolutely not. Consolidation would be impractical for structural reasons alone. The fire board is banking \$900,000 this year, even after paying all contractual and pension obligations and saving for new engines and equipment. In contrast, the police board seems perennially challenged financially. Some say that it's the result of lawsuit costs and overly generous pensions to the police, but this is misleading. The fact is that the state gives districts different pots of tax money, and these are not equitable. Neither are they fungible: if the boards merged, you could not divert fire-fighting monies to police services or legal expenses. Or vice versa.

What we need are sound financial plans. The police and fire boards should cooperate, not combine. It's impractical in our town (although it works elsewhere), if only for historical reasons, to merge the two boards, because you'd have a large, unwieldy group of people interested in very different issues. There's no reason for fire board members to vote on police and parks issues, and vice versa. Besides, our LAFCO counsel says that it ain't gonna happen unless all parties agree. And they won't. Consolidation is not an issue in this election, and no one should pretend that it is. This election is about public safety, and nothing else. Not money, not power: public safety. And our present fire board has abrogated its responsibility on this. The boards need to work together on common safety issues, not consolidate. The stakes are too high to entertain distractions like "consolidation."

Janice Kosel: I am opposed to consolidation of the fire and community service districts. I am not aware of any significant cost savings or efficiencies that would result from consolidation. Therefore, I believe consolidation is simply a ploy to transfer funds from the fire district to the community services district. I believe that is extremely unwise as the greater threat to the community is fire, not crime.

Joe deVille: I am totally opposed to consolidating the two districts. The police and fire departments have totally different purposes and focuses and should remain separate. The fire department is responsible for the Public Safety Building and the trucks and other equipment necessary to supply department staff. I do not see any benefits to consolidation. To consolidate the two departments would dilute the focus of both agencies and jeopardize their budgets.

What would you do about the Public Safety Building now that we know that it cannot be replaced on its present site but can be remodeled?

Janice Kosel: There are no easy or good answers as to what to do with our public safety building. It is nearly fifty years old and is functionally obsolete and seismically

challenged. A geotech study in 2009 confirmed a fault line in front of the building. An update in 2017 revealed for the first time a likely fault behind the building as well. That means that it may be impossible or at least impractical to renovate or rebuild the existing building. In either event, it may be unwise to house emergency services on an ultra-hazardous site.

Yet there are few alternatives. It is not clear that a public safety building can legally be constructed in Kensington Park. And, even if it is legal, many community members are adamant that the park be used only for recreation. We are still in the process of gathering information and welcome the input of community residents on the future of the public safety building.

Let's think outside the box. Perhaps we can turn the existing site into a park and build in Kensington Park, leaving the total recreational space in the community intact?

Kevin Padian: What do we really know? We lack a comprehensive study of what Kensington needs to house fire and police. It's like the Community Center. You have to update its seismic rating and make it ADA-compliant. After that, what's your plan? It can only be what the community wants and is willing to pay for.

It's the same for the PSB. We contract our fire services to El Cerrito, but our priority should be to adapt our resources to our needs, which are not the same as theirs. Our emergency services have a great response time, and 60 percent of our Kensington responses go to calls from El Cerrito. That's part of the "mutual aid" agreement. Our terrific first responders need the facilities and equipment to do their jobs.

But building along the Arlington is fraught with problems, because it's squarely on the Hayward Fault. Our current fire board just spent \$200,000 of your tax money on plans for a much bigger building on the present site. The plans included expanded facilities that may or may not be useful, depending on what the police district will need in future. But they didn't provide a variety of architectural options that would have been responsive to community needs. They also didn't do their geological homework first: it turns out that the site is seismically unstable and can't support a huge rebuild. So \$200K of your money just went down the drain. If you want to sustain this kind of management, vote for the incumbents.

Paul Dorroh: The current board made an unforced error when it commissioned drawings for a new public safety building on the current site, before determining whether the site is seismically suitable for an enlarged building. Over \$200,000 later, we know we can't put a larger building on that site.

The decision to pursue a completely new and enlarged PSB was premature in other ways. For example, depending on the results of the police district's ongoing study of Kensington's police department, some or all police services may eventually be outsourced. That would change how the police department occupies any renovated or new PSB. But the commissioned drawings only considered a significantly enlarged footprint. As with the seismic study, the cart came before the horse.

At present the board admits that it's back to square one. It should conduct a new and thorough study of the possibility of remodeling, but only after our community decides on the future of the police department. The pros and cons of remodeling should then be explained to residents, along with an analysis of any realistic alternatives, potential sites for a new building, and their associated costs. Obviously there are basic safety and functional needs that must be met in a new or remodeled PSB, but the board should canvass the community to find out what it is willing to pay above and beyond the basics.

Joe deVille: Ideally, my plan is to build a new fire department-only building on the property next to the library on the Arlington. In turn, I would give the current Public Safety Building to the police department to retrofit and redesign as they see fit. The current building is entirely too small to fit the needs of two agencies; it would be ideal to house the police department by itself. A new building on the Arlington for the fire department could be built and designed to fulfill the needs of the department for many years to come.

Julie Stein: As the *Outlook* noted, the June 24, 2017 forum on the Public Safety Building (PSB) left "more questions than answers." We know now that a fault line under the existing building prevents a larger replacement on site, but not its renovation. Furthermore, the fire board's plan did not consider possible future modifications in police services, which could alter drastically the proposed footprint of a renovated PSB. In fact, the fire board originally obtained four potential plans for renovating the PSB, but they elected to present to the public only the most elaborate one, which could cost us \$12M. Our residents should have the opportunity to examine all these possible plans and provide input. So should the police board, which does seem to have been effectively engaged. Obviously our first priority is public safety. Beyond these requirements, Kensington residents should have their say about further possible elaborations.

I would initiate a joint ad-hoc committee between the KPPFD board and the KPPCSD board that includes resident representation and has clear goals with a mutually agreed upon timeline, subject to Brown Act transparency. But such a committee could do no work before the police board decides whether and to what extent it may outsource its services. This is entirely in the hands of the KPPCSD board. Only then will the fire board understand how to plan a new Public Safety Building. I want to eliminate this lack of communication, and plan strategically, and so I ask for your vote.

Pastor

...from page 12

situations. It's identifying what's needed for clergy as they're going through the ordination process."

Clark's husband, who is a surgical technician, is able to transfer as well.

"He grew up in northern Minnesota near Lake Superior," Clark says. "For the first few years here, we really missed snow. One thing we're looking for going back to Ohio is to have the seasons more radically presented to us." Since Clark grew up near Cleveland, the family also will be close to relatives and friends.

Clark muses, "Some people in Kensington have been in their homes fifty and sixty years, and we have members who grew up in this church. Their houses were relatively modest. Now some are land-rich but not personally rich. It creates an interesting mix of humility and financial means.

"I've enjoyed watching from the sidelines the conversations that occur between a place that was on the outskirts fifty years ago and now is in the middle of the urban conversation. Cell towers, street life, what do we do in these modern days even though we remember an older, simpler time? How do we honor those traditions and move into a modern space? That's mirrored within our congregation in how we address the changing needs of our building and our congregation, yet retain the sense that we are connected to a 2,000-year-old tradition."

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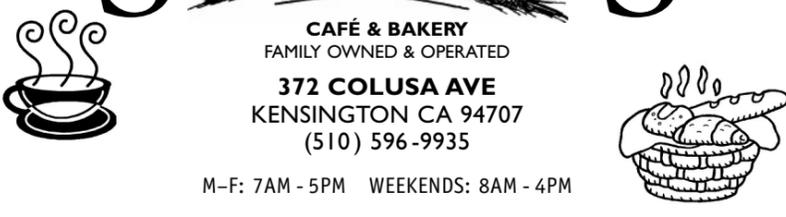
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As in the past, KASEP teachers are picking up Kinders directly from their classrooms and bringing them to the KASEP world for instruction. When KASEP class is over, Kinders enrolled in Neighborhood School (NS), will be escorted up to NS by KCC staff.

Our KASEP classes started on September 17th and run through December 14th.

Save the Date: Winter KASEP Registration is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4th at 7:00pm for Kinders and 7:30pm for grades 1-6

Save the Date!

KEEP THE TRADITION GOING-KCC FALL PARADE AND PICNIC, Sunday, October 14. March in the parade and join the family fun. We are celebrating our Grand Marshall, Fire Chief Lance Maples and wishing him well on his upcoming retirement.

Give the KCC office a call at 510-535-0292.

IMPORTANT KASEP DATES

KASEP is closed on the following holidays:

Thursday, November 1 (Elementary Conference Day)

Monday, November 12 (Veteran's Day)

Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23 (Thanksgiving Break)



Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

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

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

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Come join the fun with our local artist- Jamie Aberegg. Drop in \$30.00 materials included

What to Bring

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

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2nd session-Oct. 31-Dec.7,

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The class is payable to Kensington-@125.00 for 6 classes. \$5.00 fee. is paid first day to instructor: Jamie Aberegg. Times: 9:30-10:45 am

Mondays- 6 weeks ongoing. Sept. 24-Oct. 29th 2nd session Nov. 5-Dec. 10

Jamie Aberegg is also teaching "Art techniques & Mixed Media Workshop" in Albany Comm. Center. (Tues.)

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg. E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. E-mail: kccrec@yahoo.com, or call 525-0292. M-F, 11:30am-5pm.

Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am. Call the KCC office for info. Court Fees: 45-min. singles reservation: Residents: \$2; Nonresidents: \$5.

Kensington Community Center Rental Info: Please call Andrea at the KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 510-526-4141.



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ACC's Reverend Tony Clark Takes Position in Ohio

By Linnea Due

Sometime this month, Reverend Tony Clark, pastor of the Arlington Community Church, leaves his Kensington ministry to take a post at the United Church of Christ's national headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio. Known for his annual Blessing of the Animals and a thriving ministry, Clark took a few moments from a busy schedule to talk about his time in Kensington.

Clark grew up in southeastern Ohio and attended Ohio State, taking a degree in microbiology and then veterinary medicine. He practiced as a vet for a number of years before heeding a call to the ministry after the death of his mother in 2000, which provoked a soul-searching that led him to the Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. In 2010, he and his partner Darrell moved to Kensington so Clark could minister at the ACC.

Although Clark says that he missed the seasons, has never gotten used to the traffic, and is, as he puts it a flatlander—"I still get out of breath at anything over 800 feet"—he found much here to like. "What I've appreciated about Kensington are some of the lovely quirks. It's so endearing. We butt up against Berkeley, but we are decidedly *not* Berkeley." His laugh is infectious. "We want to maintain that integrity."

Clark says that he enjoys the close size so that he can walk down and have lunch at the Arlington shops. "Blake Gardens and the green spaces above us, Tilden and Wildcat Canyon, are so accessible."

Clark also appreciates not only Kensington's diversity but "how open to diversity people are. We rub shoulders with a variety of races and religions and cultures. We've done the animal blessing every year. That's been a great way for the wider community to see me publicly. It's wonderful to see how much people love their pets and how much they appreciate the blessing."

Of course, Clark, with his DVM degree, is particularly suited to connect with people around their pets. When asked why he switched professions, his answer goes beyond the obvious. "It was very rewarding, but I came home very dirty every day. I do miss getting to play with puppies, and I learned much from the gentleness with which we performed death. It's given me an insight into how, as a minister, we deal with death. I didn't often ritualize the death as a vet, and as a minister, I find that ability very powerful. We're invited into people's lives when they're very vulnerable. Those rituals and words and prayers that we say to help people through those times are so powerful. That was not as available to me as a vet. It was a good profession—and I'm glad I made the switch."

At the national headquarters, Clark will be dealing with policy issues, especially around training and ethical questions. "This is the only position that I would want at the national offices. Specifically it's going to look at how we support clergy and train people how to think about ethical

See Pastor, page 9



Rev. Tony Clark blesses and pours water for a baptism in a worship service at Arlington Community Church United Church of Christ. Stephanie Sanders-Badt stands ready to receive the sacrament. Photo by Allan Gardiner.



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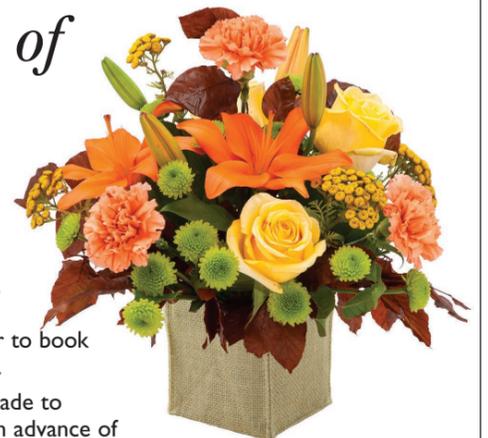
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Candidates' Statements

Chris Deppe (incumbent)

Since the new KPPCSD board was put in place, progress has been made toward fixing long-standing problems. The General Manager and the Chief of Police are now separate positions, plans were created for upgrading the community center and improving the administration of the district, and board meetings are now conducted with respect and civility.

Since I was appointed to the board over a year ago we've made even further progress. I used my expertise and experience to create a new website for the district that meets new legal requirements, we're now crafting a much-needed social media policy, and I continue to find solutions to traffic issues.

Most importantly we've commissioned a study on how best to deliver police services. The analysis, performed by Matrix consulting group, is the first comprehensive and independent study into how we currently provide police services, and what the possible alternatives are, without any preconceived notions on what those alternatives might be.

Decisions should be made by thoroughly gathering the facts and thoughtful analysis, all the while keeping an open mind as to the final outcome. Once the information is there it's important to act and make decisions based on facts.

If elected I plan to continue working on the issues that are important to all of Kensington, maintain the civil and professional atmosphere on the board, and be ready to make the decisions necessary to keep Kensington moving forward.

Mike Logan

I am running for the KPPCSD board to advance the major issues in front of us and to make Kensington financially secure. I have attended board meetings when I could for more than twenty years and regularly the past year because I felt I should dedicate more of my time and effort to this community. Kensington has been moving in the right direction with both the splitting of the chief of police and general manager positions and also hiring a professional consultant to provide direction on how we can restructure the Kensington Police Department. The current financial situation cannot be sustained as future costs will outstrip what our budget can handle.

While resolving the police services issue is by far the top priority, we are also about to undergo a major seismic retrofit and upgrade to the Community Center. My work as a financial advisor and financial planner requires gathering all available data, running hundreds of "what-if" scenarios to ultimately arrive at strategies that will succeed for the long term. To find solutions, I collaborate with many of my colleagues, and I am confident that this same approach would be successful on the board.

My wife and I have lived in Kensington for 21 years. We looked at many communities in the Bay Area and decided that Kensington was the best fit for our family. We have raised two daughters who attended Kensington Hilltop Elementary. I enjoyed my years of volunteering at the school, especially with the Dad's Club. I am a volunteer with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and we have become good friends with many of our neighbors and fellow parents. We love living in Kensington and intend to stay here for years to come.

I have been knocking on doors to talk to as many Kensington residents as I can before the election because I want to hear what people are thinking. I am moved by how interested and informed our community is and how neighbors want to give me their opinion and also hear mine. I would be honored to serve this wonderful community of Kensington. I respectfully ask for your vote on November 6.

Dakota McKenzie

I am running for KPPCSD director with the endorsement of the California Democratic Party, and I am prepared to dedicate myself to serving this community. As an entrepreneurial consultant, I stand for true leadership as opposed to business as usual and bring big picture understanding to bear on the potential of our resources.

We enjoy a rare and precious quality of life here created by many generations, which our police have helped guarantee by keeping us one of the most crime-free towns in the state for over fifty years. I will do everything I can to safeguard this.

Choosing whether to keep our police force our own, fully under our control, or to disband it and outsource, may be the most important decision this town has ever faced. I do not believe most see value in risking our long history of success on a contracting gamble. I also believe any decision to do so must be up to the voters, not the board.

Outsourcing would hand our control of the police over to outside officials who answer to their own voters, not us. There will be no guarantee after the first contract period that we'll have bargaining power to secure ongoing acceptable terms. If the experiment fails, bringing back our police will be near impossible.

Without a vote, a board of five people (and possibly a majority of three) will make that historic decision by itself. A decision with those risks belongs to the voters for their scrutiny and approval.

I will bring fiscal responsibility to managing district expenses, including funding the seismic retrofit of the Community Center, which the current board has been unable to pay for because they've ignored the possibility of partnering with the fire board. In addition to working with the fire board on projects like the Community Center, I will focus on implementing effective disaster prevention and preparedness, traffic control, and affordable and ecologically sound waste management.

I will work vigorously to restore transparency and responsiveness to attendees at board meetings and promote effective communication with citizens who want to engage with us.

Cyrus Modavi

I am running with the endorsement of the California Democratic Party for a position on the KPPCSD board to support the Kensington tradition of maximum citizen participation in government. My goal is to preserve the beauty and character of this unique community for the next generation.

I believe in keeping our Kensington police force fully staffed and locally controlled through sensible fiscal policy and sound management. Currently, the board is considering disbanding our police and outsourcing police protection. We have a track record of over fifty years of successful crime prevention and community policing that is unmatched by almost all communities in the entire state, and I believe any proposal to alter what has worked so well for so long needs very careful scrutiny. Such a monumental change as outsourcing police protection is not for a board of five individuals to decide on all by themselves. That decision belongs with the people.

I've resided on and off in Kensington since I was born, living permanently here since 2009, when I attended UC Berkeley to begin my college career. There I earned my bach-

elor's degree and PhD in the multidisciplinary field of bioengineering. I am currently employed at UCSF as a scientist and researcher. My work requires solving complex problems through gathering, analyzing, and interpreting facts. Such experience has taught me the value of solving problems through teamwork and objective analysis of the available data.

Kensington faces challenges impacting both its fiscal status and social fabric. Our police and the long overdue community center seismic retrofit are top priorities, as well as the need for coordination between the police and fire boards on issues like the seismic retrofit project and wildfire and earthquake preparedness.

If elected, I will bring the same scientific and teamwork-oriented approach to working with my fellow board members, the Kensington Fire Protection District, and the community at large. I ask for your vote so I can serve the town through synergizing the best of everyone's knowledge into long-term solutions that will support our community.

Rachelle Sherris-Watt (incumbent)

If re-elected, I promise to continue our progression towards greater transparency and accountability. Over the past four years, I have served as director, vice president and president. Creating and maintaining a California Special District that adopts and integrates the best ideas in public safety, solid waste collection, and providing community services is my ultimate goal.

We have made big strides forward. A new website, a newsletter and in-depth studies of our administrative and police services are just a few of the changes since 2016.

After incivility and divisiveness amongst board directors and the community, I am proud to chair meetings that can have differing viewpoints without hostility. It takes bravery to speak publicly and the KPPCSD wants to welcome and reward your civic engagement with thanks.

By splitting the General Manager/Chief of Police position, a task not thought possible in 2015, the board has created more checks and balances and defined areas that need further improvement.

In 2015, I began chairing the Park Buildings Committee and set in motion a process to get seismic and ADA upgrades to the Community Center. As chair of the Finance Committee, I have welcomed changes in budgetary documents, long-term financial planning and forecasting, and voted for professional expertise to guarantee that the community understands and feels confident in our fiscal oversight.

I respectfully ask for your vote to safeguard Kensington's future.

David Spath

I am running for the KPPCSD board because there are serious issues requiring important board decisions. I believe my experience managing public sector programs, my demonstrated ability to work effectively with individuals with different perspectives, and my understanding of district issues make me well prepared for working toward consensus-driven decisions as a member of the board.

As chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance, I am pleased that the board has made progress in moving the district forward based on the committee's report including the hiring of a separate General Manager and engaging a law enforcement consultant to evaluate police services. However, the critical decision, whether or not to contract out police services, is still ahead. I would bring analytical skills and an open and transparent public process to this critical community decision. The board must also determine how to provide the additional funding needed for the Community Center renovation without reducing the district's budget reserves.

Law enforcement has a critical role in responding to natural disasters, and yet the board has done very little to address the district's emergency preparedness and response responsibilities. I would make this a priority and bring my state experience to develop a community-wide emergency action plan.

Further, the board has to better coordinate with the fire district on the future of the Public Safety Building. There are questions as to the need for a new building, the fiscal implications to the district and locating a new building in our park, which is the fire district board's preference. I am opposed to building in the park and giving up precious public open space and would seek other options.

Lastly, the board needs to address the near- and long-term issues facing the district. I would work with our experienced General Manager and the full board to develop a strategic plan that will ensure the district maintains fiscal integrity while providing the highest level of services for our community.

This community faces important decisions going forward, and I hope that you will allow me to help lead that process.

KFPD Candidates' Statements

Joe deVile (incumbent)

I have been a board director since 2011.

Paul Dorroh

Our firefighters provide excellent service, and they deserve the support of a dedicated board. I am running for the Kensington Fire Protection District Board because the board needs to change the way it does business. I am a 40-year Kensington resident, a retired businessman and attorney, and I have closely followed our civic affairs for many years. I am honored to have received the endorsement of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County.

The devastating fire seasons of 2017 and 2018 are not the first wake-up calls we have received in Kensington. The Oakland hills fire of 1991, in terrain like ours, destroyed over 3,000 homes and took 25 lives. It prompted a 1992 study by the Kensington Improvement Club with a series of recommendations for improving fire safety in Kensington, including the installation of warning sirens and publication of evacuation routes. In the intervening 27 years, none of those recommendations have been implemented.

In 1996, Kensington's fire chief submitted a memorandum to the board outlining the shortcomings of the Public Safety Building. Despite ad hoc fixes in the intervening years, it was only twenty years later that the board decided to propose replacement of the building with a new, larger facility on the same site. But only after spending some \$200,000 on drawings did the board decide to investigate the site's seismic suitability for an enlarged building, and discovered it cannot be done there.

Our community's risks and challenges have, if anything, become more critical, and the current board has not done enough to address them.

Our residents also expect our two districts to work together for our safety and security, but there are no existing procedures or protocols for our two boards to consult and

cooperate with each other. What limited cooperation has occurred has been sporadic, and focused on side issues.

I am committed to working with other directors to move forward quickly on sirens, evacuation routes and other priorities to make Kensington safer, and to create an open and enduring practice of consultation and cooperation between our two districts.

Janice Kosel (incumbent)

I have served as a director of the Kensington Fire Protection District since 1994. During that time the district: operated one of the lowest cost fire departments in the Bay Area; has one of the fastest response times in the county; made significant water system improvements, adding 33 new hydrants throughout the community and 8,180 feet of new pipe; this led to an improvement from a 4 to a 2 in the community's fire safety rating by the insurance industry; established CERT (community emergency response team) training and funded six sheds stocked with emergency supplies throughout the community; worked cooperatively with other local governmental agencies, including the Diablo Fire Safe Council and the East Bay Regional Park District; established an official automatic aid agreement with the Berkeley Fire Department; fully funded its pension and health insurance obligations to retirees; replaced outdated fire equipment with state-of-the-art fire fighting apparatus; initiated the first engine-based paramedic program in West County and has at least one trained paramedic on each shift; initiated new projects including grants to homeowners who remove hazardous vegetation and replant fire-safe gardens, and a demonstration garden in Kensington Park that is in the process of development; was named a District of Distinction and received a Certificate of Transparency from the California Special Districts Association; established a community outreach program including bi-annual newsletters and an informative website; initiated the popular semi-annual community shredding event and pharmaceutical drop-off; installed infant car seats in automobiles and smoke alarms in the homes of senior citizens; and regularly conducted first aid and CPR training for residents.

Please allow me to continue this record of achievement.

Kevin Padian

I've been a biology professor, curator, and administrator at UC Berkeley for 38 years. I did a Masters' project on fire ecology many years ago, when the field was just getting started. We're in a climate cycle of hotter, drier weather, and the East Bay hills are ripe for a major conflagration. Last year fires destroyed my neighborhood in Glen Ellen, and I've worked with neighbors, fire officials, and government officials in Sonoma to rebuild the community and install better protections for our residents. We need those protections here.

Sadly, these lessons have not been learned in Kensington, but we face the same risks. Our fire board members have been in office 8-24 years, but we have no evacuation plan in case of a major conflagration. And that's deliberate: the fire board says we can't know where a fire will come from. But of course we know, and they do too. Tilden Park hasn't burned in 125 years, and it's full of tinder that the fire board should have been demanding be reduced by the East Bay Parks. But they've accomplished nothing. Disaster preparedness and avoidance is handled almost entirely by citizen volunteers.

What roads will you use in case of a disaster? You may know, but your neighbors may not, so you could wind up going head-to-head on our narrow streets. Residents have demanded sirens to warn us of the direction of danger. Parking on many of our cul-de-sacs is oriented toward the dead end, not away from it—a recipe for disaster. But the fire board has accomplished nothing.

Because we don't have sirens, we have no warning system. The fire board says to listen to KGO/KCBS or ham radios. We have no emergency radio, no WEA "Amber-alert" system, and even if your landline is robo-called you won't know where to go or what to do.

The fire board is moving too slowly or not at all on critical safety issues, and it's time for a change. A disaster can strike at any time. We need change now, and I ask for your vote.

Julie Stein

I'm a COO for a nonprofit company owned by the University of California that serves as an intellectual hub for research, scholarship, entrepreneurship, and student training. I am running for Kensington Fire Protection District director because I seek to bring innovation and a fresh perspective on public engagement to this district's board. It is time for the fire board to emerge from conducting its business in isolation, spearhead concrete cooperation with the police board, and use its resources to prepare Kensington for a major disaster before disaster strikes.

I have lived in Kensington for 28 years. I am a Kensington Property Owners Association board member and now serve as its secretary. As a Lead on NextDoor, and regular attendee of police and fire board meetings, in person or remotely, I feel deeply involved in and committed to our community.

The fire district is severely challenged in delivering essential disaster preparation and alert services. We must have plans in place ahead of time to safely get people out of harm's way in a wildfire. Residents have been calling for emergency sirens, fuel abatement in Tilden Park, and a clear disaster preparedness plan, including well-delineated evacuation routes and corrections to long-standing parking patterns that will hinder orderly escape from impending disaster. Our Public Safety Building, which houses our firefighters, police, and administration, suffers from seismic problems that could render it useless in a major earthquake. Solutions will be costly, but the resources are there, and we have to use them.

The KFPD board has to involve the community actively to address these challenges before disaster strikes. The board needs to reach out and encourage meeting attendance, include residents in committee membership, and formalize the roles currently carried out by volunteers. But the fire board has failed to develop programs to utilize its budgets for education, outreach and emergency training. Instead, rather than redouble their efforts, they're reducing the budgets for these essential efforts.

I seek your vote to bring my diversity of public management experience to the Fire Protection District Board and a fresh perspective on active community engagement before disaster strikes.