This year’s Kensington Education Foundation Garden Party is being held at the fabulous Mira Vista Country Club on November 13th. As always, it’s a party not to be missed – everyone is welcome.

You’re also invited to check out the Garden Party auction website. The entire catalogue for this year’s Garden Party is there. Not only can you browse what’s available, but also you can bid on items during the online auction occurring now, until November 11th. This is an opportunity to get some wonderful prizes. (http://auctions.readysetauction.com/thegardenparty/home)

More auction items are being added to the site every day. All the categories that you’ve come to expect from the Garden Party are there.

• Bidding in the online auction began on October 29th and goes until

see Garden Party, page 8...

November’s Garden Party – Live and Online!

Saturday morning, October 16th, still early – couldn’t have been noon yet. I’d slept in after the previous night’s Parcheesi party. Must’ve been 10:37pm before I fell off to sleep – way past my usual bedtime. Shouldn’t have had that last lemonade. Stumbled outa bed and down three stairs to get the paper. So bright I had to flip down my clip-on shades to make it back to the house. Checked the obituaries to make sure I wasn’t in ‘em and had breakfast – my usual a.m. ritual. Don’t feel human ‘til I’ve had my jolt of peppermint tea.

Removed my mechanical pencil from the ol’ pocket protector and, before making the usual daily entry in my journal – it’s quicker if I do it in the morning, first thing (sample entry: June 10, 1974. Just got up. Nothing’s happened yet) – checked this date last year to find that on 10/16/09 it was shorts (Bermuda), socks (black), and sandals (Birkenstock) weather – and today was shaping up to be no different. (Glad to have finally been able to ditch the garters; found some cotton socks with enough elastic...
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cathie Kosel Endorses...

Dear Friends,

I write to express my hope that the resi- dents of Kensington can move towards a vision of the future that solves the chal- lenges of our current situation. Maintaining status quo is not enough to do this.

Currently, there is a traditional system of agreements that the KPPCSD Board of Directors uses to react to challenges that only maintains the status quo. It is a con- sensus reality built around a past glory of superb schools, excellent police services, and high property values. We need to rec- ognize the truth of our current situation: we no longer have a middle school for our children; our highly paid police force is mediocre; our property values have plum- meted; many families with children have moved out of Kensington, and more than 50 of our neighbors have suffered distress sales of their homes this year. I sincerely hope that the conversation that surrounds the upcoming election can push outside the traditional and meaningless power struggles surrounding the board and the small number of followers that have held it captive for years. There are lots of prob- lems to solve here in Kensington. We really must stop the traditional bureau- cratic thinking and move thoughtfully for- ward to our vision with choices that create vitially needed solutions to our challenges. Let’s leave Lala Land behind.

I believe that Mari Metcalf and Eyleen Nadolny are the best candidates to take us into the future. Respectfully,

Cathie Kosel
Cathie is a current Director of the Board of the KPPCSD – Ed.

Bill Wright Endorses...

As my term ends on the Board of the Kens-ington Police Protection and Community Services District, I am writing with one last message.

When I was elected four years ago, I was excited and honored. And I thought it was a done. Why did it take previous boards to do what they should have been doing? I pretty much knew how to get things done. Why did it take previous boards to do what they should have been doing?

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To Register: Please call the KCC office at 525-0292 or e-mail kcrec@yahoo.com. For more information about the class, please call Kaye at 919-2783 or e-mail kayecrcv@hotmail.com.

New Class!  
CLASSICAL GUITAR
Thursdays 7-8:30pm
October 21 - December 16 (No class 11/25) • Ages: 16 to Adult • Kensington Recreation Building (Hildegard Room) • $96 for 8-classes (879 for nonresidents)

Do you wish to read and play music for the guitar? Learn to play a melody, understand rhythm and where notes are on the guitar. Bring your guitar, preferably with nylon strings, and join in. The class is designed for all levels with an emphasis on introducing the guitar to novices. We will break into small groups so that everyone is comfortable and has support at his/her own level. Text: Classic Guitar Technique, Volume One by Aaron Shearer (available from the instructor at a cost of $18.50, or bring your own copy).

Instructor Claude Sprague has been teaching classical guitar through the Mt. Diablo Adult Education Program for 16 years and has also taught at the Albany Adult School and the Santa Rosa and Sonoma Community Centers. Claude studied with George Sakellariou at the SF Conservatory of Music, as well as privately for ten years. He has also performed in Master Classes taught by John Duarte.

For questions about the class, please contact Claude at claude@theGuitarInstructor.com. To register, please come by the KCC office, or call 525-0292.

New Class!  
HOOP POWER
Weekly Morning Hoop Dance Class
Monday Mornings, 8:30 – 9:30am
Eight-Week Session, Oct. 25 - Dec. 13
Kensington Community Center (Youth Hut) • $10 or for eight classes (minimum of 6 students enrolled) • $15 for drop-in

Fun and fitness, movement and meditation are all found in hoop dance. We will start with basic waist hooping, moving on to more intermediate moves both on and off the body, all while discovering your own dance in a hoop-flow and the soothing, meditative aspects of hooping.

No hoop experience necessary. This is a beginning class. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring water. Hoops provided for class and will be available for purchase.

About the teacher: Kaye Anderson is the founder and lead hoopster of Hoop Power. She is also a clinical social worker who has been working with children, teens, and families for over 15 years. A lifetime student of music and yoga, and a lover of dance, Kaye discovered hoop dance in 2007. A certified hoop-dance teacher through Hoop-Oh!, Kaye teaches both children and adults in Berkeley and beyond.

KIDS AFTER SCHOOL
The fall session of the Kensington After School Enrichment Program began September 20 and will continue until December 17. Winter registration will take place on Wednesday, December 8. If you’re interested in looking at our current classes, the fall brochure is posted at the www.aboutkensington.com website, under “Children’s Services.”
Disaster Preparedness Training - Thursday, Nov. 4th - Free!
Presented by Pam Grossman, volunteer trainer with the Berkeley Fire Department’s Office of Emergency Services, and sponsored by the Kensington Public Safety Council and the Kensington Police Department; this one-night workshop will help prepare you for major disasters, such as earthquakes and exploding natural gas pipes running under-neath your house. Thursday, November 4th at 7:30-9:30pm, at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Please call or email in advance to reserve, or for more information: Officer Doug Wilson at 526-4141, ext. 38, or dwilson@kensingtoncalifornia.org

Legend of Sleepy Hollow Puppetry at the Kensington Library
Kids were anything but sleepy at last month’s spooky Halloween puppet show, based on Washington Irving’s tale of ghosts and local superstitions, sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.

7th Annual Holiday Coat Drive
Local resident, Hannah Kessel, reminds us that the annual coat drive, in conjunction with local Brownie Troop 93222, with bar-rels at the police/fire station, EC Station #71, the school, and the library, continues through November 11th. You know what to do!

Geminus Guitar Duo Will String Us Along at Arlington Church
The Geminus Guitar duo from Portland, Oregon, will perform at the Arlington Community Church on Sunday evening, November 7 at 7:30pm. Guitarists Foti Lycouridis and Hideki Yamaya will perform a program rich in originality, rarely performed composi-tions and transcriptions by composers such as Haydn, Mertz, Cimarosa, Mompou and Kounadis, on a wide array of period stringed instruments. 52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. Admission: $15. Information: 526-9146.

KARW’s Fashion Fling – Coming Tuesday, November 9th
The Kensington Area Republican Women’s Club will be holding its annual Luncheon-Fashion Show fund raiser, A Fashion Fling, at 11:30 a.m. at the beautiful Mira Vista Country Club. Cold Water Creek of Walnut Creek will be providing the fashions. This event, held yearly for more than 40 years, raises funds to provide donations to food pantries, libraries and schools in our community. Be sure to have your friends and family mark their calendars for another lovely afternoon of food, fashion, and fun! Tickets: $35. Reservations by Friday, November 5th; please call 237-4192.

Change Your Smoke Alarm Batteries Sunday, November 7th
Daylight-saving time ends Sunday, Nov. 7, and marks the 23rd anniversary of the Change Your Clock/Change Your Battery® program, created by the Energizer company and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, which reminds people to check and change the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors during the fall time change. According to the National Fire Prevention Association, 40% of fatal fire injuries occur in homes without working smoke alarms, while 23% occur in homes in which at least one smoke alarm is present but fails to operate.

Arsonist Strikes Building ‘E’ Twice • Inn Kensington Burglarized
It’s easy for us to get lulled into a perhaps false sense of security, here in our hillside enclave, far removed from the hustle-bustle, hurly-burly world. Apparently we are not as far removed as we may like to think. Last month, two fires were set outside the KASEP office, in the same spot, one day apart. While quick intervention kept damage from the first fire to a minimum, the second fire broke a window. In an apparently unrelated incident, a burglar smashed Inn Kensington’s glass door and stole $150. The restaurant’s door has been replaced, Bldg. E security lighting and police patrols beefed up, and Kensington’s Finest is investigating both incidents.

It All Adds Up: Math is Fun – We Had No Idea!
On October 5th, Kensington Hilltop School was the first school in the West Contra Costa Unified School District to host the California Math Council’s Math Festival. This was a wonderful success made possible with enthusiastic parent and grandparent volunteers. Every class had the opportunity during the day to explore 14 separate math activities in the Multipurpose Room. In the evening the program was opened to the greater school community so that the students could return to show their families all the discoveries they had made during the day. In the words of one student, “Wow, math is so much fun. I had no idea!” It was a great opportunity to share the fun of math with the whole family and perhaps the beginning of an “addition tradition” at Kensington Hilltop.
Neighborhood Notes

Atlases Hugged
Last month Kensington Chevron station mechanic and entrepreneur, Jason Simms, along with local corporate representative, Julie Goldstone, had the privilege of presenting to Ms. Nichols’ third grade class, 30 brand new atlases. Chevron had allotted one million dollars to Alameda and Contra Costa County stations to distribute through DonorsChoose.org. (For every 8-gallon+ fill up at a station in these counties $1 was donated to the local school.) Jason’s station earned $4,202 for Hilltop Elementary. October’s atlas distribution was the latest in a number of such donations that have taken place. The kids were pretty excited, which is a good sign in itself. Kids excited about atlases? What are they putting in the water up there at Hilltop? Let’s bottle it!...In a tangential note, Kensington resident and former US Poet Laureate, Robert Hass stopped by Jason’s station the other day to have his valves adjusted. Working on a book of haiku, it seems his valves kept tapping out iambic pentameter, and it was beginning to interfere with his work. (What does he drive, you ask? A Catalexist!)

Berkeley Path Wanderers Invade Kensington
An all-day walk, sponsored by the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association in collaboration with Oakland Urban Paths, the Kensington Improvement Club, and the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers began at 9am on Oct. 10th at Rockridge BART with 64 eager participants. OAP’s Paul Rosenbloom handed the baton to Jen English of the BPWA at the Oakland/Berkeley border. Jen led the group to Live Oak Park, then continued on to the Kensington border, where the group was greeted at Arlington Blvd. by Lorraine Osmundson of the KIC, who showcased several of Kensington’s most prized paths. The group then continued to the El Cerrito border, where they were greeted by ECTT’s Joseph Nichols and Lisa Martinengo, who revealed some of El Cerrito’s hidden paths, and led the tired but buoyant group to end the 13-mile, 7.5-hour trip to Fat Apples, with 23 of the original hikers still standing (or staggering, as the case may have been). The Path Wanderers will be back in Kensington on Saturday, November 20, when Paul Grunland of BPWA and Berkeley Historical Society leads a walk of Kensington’s paths, leaving from the corner of Grizzly Peak and Kenyon Ave. at 10am. For more information, call 520-3876, or log onto www.berkeleypaths.org.

Kim 4 Kensington
KPPCSD candidate, Kim Zvick threw a get-to-know-you party, with hors d’oeuvres, wine, desserts, and all the live music you could hear last month at The Arlington. Supporters and those interested in finding out a little more about Kim the Candidate turned out for an enjoyable early evening, featuring the Berkeley High Jazz Band and some great food and wine. People couldn’t help but enjoy Kim’s “Party” platform! (There are a number of dedicated and highly qualified candidates running for the Board – though no one but the candidates knows why anyone would want the job?) At right, Kim shares an exchange of ideas with Joan Gallegos and an unidentified Kensington resident.

EDITORIAL

Unicorns in Kensington?
There have been repeated concerns voiced at recent KPPCSD meetings – both from one of the Board’s directors and by members of the public – about the “fact” that Kensington doesn’t have a female officer; speaking to the problem Kensington would have by not having an appropriate officer to frisk any female suspects that may need frisking (even though Officer Doug Wilson has gallantly volunteered to fill such a need should it arise), and also alluding to the inherent sexism in such a hiring decision (were it to actually exist).
First, it should be noted that it is illegal for the Police Department to discriminate by gender in its hiring practices, so even if it wanted specifically to go out and hire a female officer, it is legally constrained from doing so.
Second, there are actually two female reserve officers on the force, pictured above with Chief Greg Harman – Officer Suzanne Tyler and Officer Jill Chandler. Hopefully the revelation of these relatively rare and previously-believed-to-be-mythical creatures will lay to rest such concerns...
(And thanks again, anyway, Doug!)

Experience Matters

- Alexandra Crisafulli
- Vivian Fendel
- Linda Gerson
- Jennifer Jonak
- Estelle Kent
- Linda Lipscomb
- Stuart Marson
- Lorraine Osmundson
- Gene Millstein

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Visa/MC Accepted

Kensington Hilltop School Fundraiser

The Garden Party 2010
Saturday, November 13th 5:00 p.m.
Mira Vista Golf & Country Club
7901 Cutting Boulevard, El Cerrito

• Hundreds of Silent Auction Items •
  • Live Auction •
  • Light Fare. Wine. Beer and Cocktails •
  • Lavish Desserts •
  • Live Jazz •

To make donations to the live or silent auction contact Nathalie van Linder (510) 522-4990
Tickets are $50.00 in advance and can be obtained by contacting Beth Thom森 at beth.thomason@gmail.com
Tickets will be $60.00 at the door

Thank you Rath Jarrett & Gubb Co. Realtors for your generous support
Tough Job: Ron Egherman and Marion Henon had to judge Marvin Gardens’ Pumpkin Carving Contest.

As shown here, in joint efforts, participants evidenced a devil-may-care attitude.

This was the last year for Gretchen Gillfillan’s Cat-in-the-Hat Mobile!

Why yes, now that you ask, it WAS raining cats and dogs!

Grand Marshals, Dee Andronico and Pat MacLaughlin ride with Ron Egherman, of festival co-sponsor, Marvin Gardens Real Estate.

Mechanics Bank, co-sponsor of the annual celebration, has no apostrophe!
Kensington Community Council
Fall Festival and Parade!
Sunday, Oct. 17th, 2010

Why yes, now that you ask, it WAS raining cats and dogs!
Two hearty souls who turned out to watch the parade.

Mechanics Bank’s Pumpkin Coloring Contest Winners, including two pictured here: Age 4-6: Lily Van Linder; 7-9: Rei Shimoni; 10-12: Reya Borbridge. Plus Office Favorite: Larkin Barnard-Bahn

Master of Ceremonies, Todd Hodson, introduced the Boy Scouts for the flag raising ceremony.

Two little bunnies up to the section of the Girl Scout Law that says “Scouts should be courageous and strong!”

Pumpkin Carving Contest Winners: Brynne Barnard-Bahn - 5 yrs; Larkin Barnard-Bahn - 8 yrs; Ella Brydon - 11 yrs. Shown: 7-yr old Genevieve Quinn’s Pumpkin Parasiticus (Editor’s Choice)

Two beauty souls who turned out to watch the parade.

Arlington Community Church
- SUNDAY -
  8:45 Bible Study
  10:00 Morning Worship
52 Arlington Avenue • Kensington, CA 94407 • 520-9140 • www.acc-ucc.org

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BAKING WITH PRIDE SINCE 1984

OPEN HOUSE
for 8th graders and their parents
Sunday, October 24
or
Sunday, December 5
1:00–3:30 pm
Program begins promptly at 1:00.

For questions, please call
The Admission Office
415-454-3636
For directions to the campus, please visit www.branson.org
From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From September 2010

• 2010-4440 - On 9/6/10 at 1641 hours, on the 200 block of Lake Dr., Officer Hui took a report of vandalism of a tree.

• 2010-4424 - On 9/6/10 at 2037 hours, on the 00 block of Windsor Ave., Officer Wilson took a report regarding theft of a unit block of Kensington Road.

10 midnight, November 11th.

The online auction will be exclusively for services and certificates. These items range from gift certificates to your favorite restaurant, to a fun day at Great America, to tickets for a Cal basketball, and more. (These items will not be available at the Garden Party event on November 13th.)

“1D” items, including Kids and Teacher Treasures, “Class Baskets,” jewelry, “Live Auction” items, and “Parties and Getaways” will be on the online site for viewing but are excluded from the online auction.

Garden Party from Page 1

• 2010-4920 - On 9/27/10 at 1544 hours, on the 00 block of Anson Way, Officer Hui took a report of a missing person.

• 2010-4396 - On 9-4-2010, Officer Martinez responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. to a civil dispute between neighbors. (The officer asked them to call him when things become less civil.)

• 2010-4408 - On 9-5-2010, FTO Medina and Reserve Trainee Affeld arrested a Kensington resident who had a $65,000 warrant for Health and Safety Code violations from San Francisco.

• 2010-4528 - On 9.11-10, Officer Martinez took a report of a vehicle collision at KPD. The collision occurred in the 100 block of Colusa Avenue.

• 2010-4388 - On 9-23-10, Officer Martinez took a report of a missing person from the unit block of Kensington Road.

• 2010-4788 Fraud. On 09-25-10, a resident reported she had received a telephone call from Jamaica telling the resident she had won money from a sweepstakes and only needed to pay the tax on the winnings. The resident paid the money after receiving fraudulent checks in the mail.

The mail. The officer who took the report is still investigating.

• 2010-4311 Residential Burglary. On 09-01-10, a resident reported she had been the victim of a residential burglary. Officers found no sign of forced entry, as the residence was unlocked. A checkbook was the only thing taken.

Gardening tips:

• 2010-4800 - On 9/21/10 at 1122 hours, on the 200 block of Cambridge Ave., Officer Myrick and Sgt. Portman took a Coroner’s case. There were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death. (And once again we ask that if you are the Coroner’s case, the entire matter can be laid to rest.)

• 2010-4800 - On 9/21/10 at 1746 hours, on the 300 block of Berkeley Park Blvd, a resident spotted a mountain lion or similar animal, walking out of the East Bay MED property. Officers Barrow, Hui, and Ramos responded and conducted an extensive search of the area. They were unable to locate the animal.

The online auction is going on right now (Oct. 29-Nov. 11). Check out the site, and be part of the action and fun!

Come and enjoy the festivities at the Garden Party on November 13th at the Mira Vista Country Club Too. There’s going to be fabulous food and great items for you to bid on there as well. You may purchase tickets and RSVP at the online site. (http://auctions.readysetauction.com/thegardenparty/home.) Submitted by Paul Tokumuk

(Kot that? Questions or info: contact Beth Thomsen at beth.thomsen@gmail.com.)

Obituaries

Charles Kenneth Jackson (“Jack”)

January 19, 1923–July 29, 2010

Our dear father “Jack” died July 29, 2010 from Parkinson’s. A lifelong advocate for justice, tolerance, and cooperation, Jack was the “strong, silent type,” a quiet observer with a dry wit and strong convictions, who generously supported the causes he believed in and actively worked for a better world.

Jack grew up in Oakland and Turked, worked in the Richmond Shipyards, and joined the Merchant Marines in 1943. He was Chief Radio Officer for several ships from 1944-1946, and from 1949-1951, serving his country during both World War II and the Korean conflict. He was a Banned Bio-Operator, call sign W6KMD, and a member of many local radio associations. He was the founder of the Red Oak Victory Amateur Radio Club. He attended UC Berkeley from 1946-1949, was a member of Delta Phi Epsilon, the Professional Foreign Service Fraternity (Epsilon Chapter, Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland. Memorial contributions to the El Carrito and Mrs. McPh (Samantha) Sager of Oakland, Steve and Barbara Faye of Oakland, niece Victoria B. Gay of Oakland, and nephews Paul A. Slater of Berkeley and Geoffrey P. Gray of Modesto. Services were private with interment in Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland. Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army or the El Carrito Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund.

We can’t count on the weather for our pleasure. Whether our day will rain or shine is for us to say. – Paul Trawitzki

Looking for the Right Job?

Need help with Your Resume? Searching for a New Career?

Stressed about your upcoming interview?

Stop by the Kensington Career Night and get free help from coach and career counselor Eric Riess, and Mary Puerninger, recruiter for Greentank Talent.

• Tuesday, November 16, 6:00 p.m. •

At the Arlington Cafe • 269 Arlington Avenue • Sign up at www.ericriess.com

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October Town Hall Meeting

Last month, the Kensington Improvement Club (KIC) held its annual meeting and, in conjunction with the Kensington Property Owners Association, presented a Candidates Forum, introduced by KIC’s Melissa Snyder and chaired by League of Women Voters’ Deborah Melbuck. Speaking were the current crop of candidates for three KPPCSD Board seats being vacated by retiring Directors, Bill Wright, Pat MacLauglin, and John Stein.

KIC President, Linda Lipscomb, led the meeting in a vote, which approved Anthony Knight and Jaime Roberts as continuing Directors of KIC. She also reported that KIC has pledged $10K to Kensington Community Council for the remodel of Community Center.

KPPCSD Board President, Chuck Toombs thanked the three retiring directors for their outstanding service, and reviewed the critical issues that the Board has recently faced – a new parcel tax, major traffic safety concerns, and the impending negotiation of a new contract with Kensington police officers. He noted that KPPCSD and the KPOA had agreed to contract for preparation of a new parcel taxation survey, to compare our officers’ salaries and benefits against comparable cities, to be used as a tool to negotiate an equitable contract.

He noted that the District has a zero tolerance policy for traffic infractions, with significant improvements in traffic safety and control having been made along the Arlington, including a soon-to-be-installed traffic safety signal sign. The District is currently investigating improvements to control traffic on the Colusa Circle roundabout.

Construction of the new park restroom is expected to begin this spring, at a cost of $150K-$175K, paid for by grants from East Bay Parks Measure WW bond funds. The District also plans to arrange for a resource study to discuss future use of its buildings in the park and how public and private monies can best be spent for their improvement.

KPPCSD GM and Chief of Police, Greg Harman informed the crowd that KPPCSD has received $102K of COPS grant money, which has been used to hire a tenth officer for the force. Additionally, the Chief thanked everyone for passing the grant money, which has been used to hire a tenth officer for the force. Greg reported that serious crimes were down in 2009 over 2008, and reported that, even though they’d recently hired a 10th officer, the force is again staffed with just 9 officers, due to Sgt. Khan’s being out on a workman’s compensation claim. Sgt. Khan is expected to return, and will probably not return. Luckily, there are currently four reserve officers in the wings, from which an additional officer will be chosen, should Sgt. Khan’s retirement come to fruition.

In other news, new rates are being considered as per a request from Bay View Refuse. The District is planning to start a Senior Watch program soon; the Ken and Vacation Watch programs are ongoing. Information about KPPCSD, the Police Department (including monthly reports), waste management, and more is available at www.kensingtoncalifornia.org.

Nina Harmon, Board President of the Kensington Fire District, reminded everyone that the District provides prevention and education to kids in schools and to residents, regarding vegetation management. She said that paramedics are now available on every engine that goes out, and that the District has recently purchased two state-of-the-art defibrillators – one for each engine. The paramedics are helping with advice or low cost supplies. Timbers for the project will be supplied by the Berkeley Public Parks. Fire District training is being held at the Diablo Fire Council to clear brush along the Tilden interface.

The Fire District is supported by property tax assessments and a supplemental tax of approximately $83 per parcel. It owns two fire engines valued at about $500K each. Kensington residents need to be special ordered because of our (narrow) streets – and the need to fit in our firehouse.

Due to the contract with El Cerrito, the District has been able to act on some issues of deferred maintenance, including keeping young boys, pilots, and engines up-to-date. It has recently been involved in bringing a ramp into ADA compliance, fixing the driveway, and shortening up the foundation of the Service Building. Unfortunately, the contractor who had been chosen for the project declared bankruptcy last month, just before work on the project was slated to begin. The new contractor is expected to be chosen quickly to bring the project back on track.

Kensington Librarian, Liz Ruhlman informed us that our library has the highest circulation per capita of any library in the County. The library remodel, however, has been on hold for the past year, due to the County being too short of funds. There is any interest in fundraising coming from Kensington itself, the library has an old furnace and its bathroom are not ADA-compliant. The County is going to have new next month, so nothing is expected to happen with the

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KCC Continues Paths Reclamation Project

KCC spent the better part of the past decade researching the history of the paths, and attempting to purchase and bring the County in taking over direct management. The legal status of the paths has always been complicated, according to Paul Grunow, a local historian and KIC President. The paths were offered for dedication to the County when the subdivision maps were recorded in the early 1900’s. At that time, pedestrian access to these paths was commonly included in hillside developments. It appears that the County did not accept the dedication, and has generally avoided management of the paths. Some paths were clearly designed to shorten walking distance to the #7 streetcar, which traveled up the Arlington. Some corridors have sewer and sewer lines, and utility companies have periodically dug up and replaced those lines. It appears no one is paying taxes on the paths. KCC wants to keep these corridors. Some paths are passable now, but many need development, including building steps and clearing vegetation, to make them walkable. "The paths can provide wonderful and interesting walking routes, beautiful bay views, and a potential escape or access route in case of emergencies," Linda said.

Submitted by resident, Bruce Nesbitt and KIC President, Linda Lipscomb.

KCC Administrator, Esther Hill, reminded everyone that 2011 will be Kensington’s 100th anniversary, and that this year is KCC’s 50th.

She reiterated that KCC also sponsors adult classes in addition to summer- and after-school programs for children – with classes in yoga, Pilates, hoop dancing, and guitar. Esther also reported that, in a unique inter-agency cooperative venture, that she, KCC’s Janis Roberts, Arlington Community Church’s Tony Lloyds, and librarian Liz Ruhlman have been working together to promote Race to Nowhere, a documentary about the pressures faced by American schoolchildren and their teachers in a system and culture obsessed with achievement, competition and the pressure to perform, shown recently at Hilltop Elementary School.

In answer to some of the audience’s questions, it was revealed that 1) There's no disaster evacuation route established for Kensington, due to the lack of knowledge of the direction from which a fire, for instance, may be coming; 2) There is, however, an alarm system in place. In the event of an emergency, Chief Harman or his representative will make a call to the County and then the County will call every land line in Kensington and tell residents what they may need to know in relation to a potential evacuation, or other directives to help residents prepare. 3) There is currently only one police officer on the Kensington force who lives locally. There is a state-wide policy in force that, in case of public emergency, directs those officers who can’t get to the districts in which they work, to report to the districts in which they normally work. KIC has free 72-hour emergency kits available to its residents; 5) The Fire District provides main routes to evacuation for its residents twice a year; 6) As there is a stunning $56 charge to KPPCSD for individual hazardous waste drop offs, GM Greg Harman encourages residents to meet each other at their neighbors instead of going to the hazardous waste disposal individually. Fifty-five pounds of controlled substances were collected by the Police Department at the local controlled substance public drop off on September 25th; 8) There have been 21 internal police department investigations since Greg has been chief of police – some small, some big, all of which were investigated. There has been only one such incident this year.

The KPPCSD Board candidates restated their positions (see last month’s Outlook). KIC President, Linda Lipscomb, answered questions from the audience.
KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Adult Bell Choir, Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave. 7:45pm. 526-9146

Nov. 1 “Castoffs” Knitting Group. All levels welcome and some help provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 Spirit and the Arts Young People’s Dance Theater Company. Dance and theater training with values. Grades 3-8 (8 1/4 years), 6-7:30pm, Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 673-5150.

Nov. 2 Power of Myth at the Movies IV: “The Hours” led by Richard Stomner. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 7:30-9pm. Suggested fee: $5.75 per class. Please watch the film before class. Info: 682-6302; Reg: 528-3417.

Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24 Youth Choir. Ages 7 and up. 6-6:45pm at the Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Free. 526-9146

Nov. 4 Disaster Preparedness Training presented by Pam Grossman, volunteer trainer with the Berkeley Fire Department’s Office of Emergency Services. 7:30-9:30pm, at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Please call or email in advance to reserve, or for more information: Ofcr Doug Wilson at dwilson@kensingtoncalifornia.org or 526-4141, ext: 38.


Nov. 4 Reading Garden Book Club for grades 1-3 meets monthly on the 1st Thursday of the month. No registration required. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 4pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 6 Historical Tour of the El Cerrito Recycling Center by co-founder, Gregg Cook. Begins at 2pm at El Cerrito City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. and continues with a tour of the recycling center at the end of Schmidt Lane. 524-1737 or davidwinston@yahoo.com


Nov. 7 Halloween and Day of the Dead Intergenerational Service. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 9am and 11am. Free. 525-0302.

Nov. 7 The Geminus Guitar Duo performs rare and silly fun for ages 3 and up. Sponsored by co-founder, Gregg Cook. There will be magic and juggling packed in a comedy. The show begins with an explanation of how a circus clown gets ready—by putting on his makeup in front of the children. The children then create “the reading circus,” with wild animals (the children), jugglers (the children), acrobats (the children) and magicians (the children). Lots of silly fun for ages 3 and up. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 Young Bell Choir. Ages 9 and up, by permission of the director. Arlington Community Church, UCC, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington, 11:30am. 526-9146

Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 The Kensington Farmers Market 10am-2pm at Colusa Circle. kensingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com or 717-6918.

Nov. 7 Local Author/First Responder/ Knitter, Rachael Herron weaves her magic with a new book How to Knit a Love Song: A Cypress Hollow Yarn, a compelling story about land-grabbing, claim jumping, knitting and romance. Enjoy a quiet, down-home afternoon of hot chocolate, reading, yarn and fiber spinning, and fun, 3-5pm, RabbitEARS, 7523 Fairmount Ave., EC 356-4233

Nov. 8 Scrabble Club. All levels welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 7 pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 8 Author Helen Betts discusses her first novel of the same title, which tells the story of her family’s flight from wartime Vienna, by permission of the director. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 3:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 8 El Cerrito Art Association Social and Art Show. Includes mini art show of member’s work and a group critique led by Charlotte Britton. Garden Room, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moezer Lane, EC. 7:30pm. Free. Bring finger food for the buffet. Info: 234-5028 or artelcerritoart.org

Nov. 9 Boswick the Clown – Enjoy the antics of a former Ringling Brothers Circus Clown. The show is a fun way to introduce kids to the joy of reading. There will be magic and juggling packed in a comedy. The show begins with an explanation of how a circus clown gets ready—by putting on his makeup in front of the children. The children then create “the reading circus,” with wild animals (the children), jugglers (the children), acrobats (the children) and magicians (the children). Lots of silly fun for ages 3 and up. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.
Nov. 9 The Kensington Area Republican Women’s Club annual luncheon fashion show/fundraiser, “A Fashion Fling.” (Details on Page 4.)

Nov. 12 El Cerrito Garden Club Meeting and Fall Fundraiser. EC Community Center at 700 Moeser Lane, EC. Refreshments, raffle, silent auction, drawings, and plants for sale. $5. 233-9363.

Nov. 13 The Garden Party, Kensington Hilltop Fundraiser, 3pm, Mita Vista Golf & Country Club. (Details Pg 1.)

Nov. 13 Thanksgiving Small Critter Adoption Day. Toy and treat-making for old and young alike to show appreciation for all the small shelter critters. 2-4pm. RabbitEarS, 7523 Fairmont Ave, EC. 356-2222


Nov. 14 University of California Alumni Chorus performs favorite selections from 25 years of programming in its 25th Anniversary Silver Jubilee Concert. 10-12pm. UC Berkeley, UC Wind Quintet. $12. 510-643-6550.


Nov. 16 Free Career Counseling Workshop with coach and career counselor Eric Riess, and Mary Pueringer of Greenback Talent. For local residents who are either looking for a job, or trying to make a career change. The Arlington, 269 Arlington Ave. in Kensington, CA. 6-8pm. http://www.ericriess.com/events

Nov. 17 Craft Corner for grades 1-3. Come create a fun craft to take home with you. 3rd Thursdays of every month. No registration required. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 3pm. Free. 524-3043.

Nov. 18 Personal Theology Seminar: Bill Garrett, Professor of Religion and Philosophy at John F. Kennedy University. “Evolution and its Anxieties”: Accelerating the processes of natural selection; rethinking self interest; integrating the human and the technological. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. 10-11am. Free. 525-0302.


Nov. 21 Thanksgiving Worship and Potluck Dinner, Turkey and trimmings provided; bring a side dish to share. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. Noon. Reservations req’d 52-3502.


Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Worship and Potluck Dinner, Turkey and trimmings provided; bring a side dish to share. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. Noon. Reservations req’d 52-3502.

Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Worship and Potluck Dinner. Turkey and trimmings provided; bring a side dish to share. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. Noon. Reservations req’d 52-3502.


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Saturday Nov. 6:
Karaoke with Officer Doug Wilson • 6-10:30pm
Friday Nov. 12:
Rock w/Brian Scott • 6:30-8:30pm
Friday Nov. 19:
Folk/Rock with Wolfe n LaRue • 6:30-8:30pm
Ongoing Sundays (except 12/5):
Hawaiian Music • 11am-2pm
Friday Dec. 3:
Rock w/Room 13 • 6:30-8:30pm
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KENSINGTON CALENDAR
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in ‘em to stay up by themselves. As they say, ‘Clothes make the man!’ Crossed my mind – don’t know why – that at least we wouldn’t have to worry about rain for Sunday’s parade. Who knew? Shoulda checked the weather instead of the obits!

Sunday, October 17th – Parade Day. Uh-oh. Stashed my ride near the Community Center and ambled toward Amherst on foot, with camera and trusty bumber-shoot, only to bump into Paul Dorroh on his way to rendezvous with the lovely Vida, their two grandkids, and our two Grand Marshalls, Dee Andronico and Pat MacLaughlin, all dryly ensconced at a window table at The Arlington. A quick hi, how are you, nice to meet you with D.A., then down to the corner to see whether there were enough groups to even have a parade.

The flashing red and blue lights from the black and whites reflected in the rain-slicked asphalt and made the intersection by the pharmacy look like a crime scene. “Don’t they issue you a hat?” I interrogated a bareheaded Chief of Police, who knows enough to come in out of the rain but on this day, for obvious reasons, didn’t. (“I’m sure his mother would be dismayed to hear that, on a day like that, he didn’t even wear his hat. But don’t worry, Chief – your secret is safe with me!”)

A few soggy photo ops a la The Umbrellas of Cherbourg, and Parade Master, Ted Blankenberg shakabooked me to retrieve the two Grand Marshalls back at the cafe, for their (shower-) curtain call. In the end, Kensingtonians showed the world what they’re made of, with a parade down ‘Main Street,’ a flag-raising between the raindrops, and a rockin’ party featuring live music by The Blues Daddies and Fortune Smiles, with KCC volunteers serving up burgers, dogs, salad, and dessert inside the Community Center, as if they’d planned it that way all along. And you know, I think they just might have!

Thanks again to festival sponsors, Mechanics Bank and Marvin Gardens Real Estate – and to everyone who turned out for a wet and wild afternoon! – Ed.

Happy Thanksgiving!