

# General Manager November 2010 Report

## Kensington Park

### **Park Restroom**

The volunteer restroom group reviewed the District's legal counsel's bid documents and returned the documents to me on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The group made corrections which it believes need to be made to the document. These documents need to be amended by counsel and returned prior to being approved by the KPPCSD Board meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> for final approval.

### **Community Center & Annex**

The second grouping of the Park Building Committee held their first meeting Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> to begin the process of identifying a consultant for the KPPCSD Board to hire. This consultant will facilitate community input and make recommendations to the KPPCSD Board regarding the best use of the park buildings. The second meeting of the committee is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Emergency Preparedness

We now have the agenda and the minutes of the Public Safety Council posted on the KPPCSD web page for review.

The next meeting of the Kensington Public Safety Council will take place Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM at the Community Center Room #3.

Pam Grossman, a volunteer with the Office of Emergency Services at the Berkeley Fire Department, gave her presentation on "**Disaster Preparedness**" to the Kensington community on **Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM**, in the Community Center Main Room. Pam's presentation to the 60 people in attendance was excellent and those of you that would like more information regarding Pam's presentation should contact Officer Doug Wilson at [dwilson@kensingtoncalifornia.org](mailto:dwilson@kensingtoncalifornia.org).

## Other District Items of Interest

### **Solid Waste**

Bay View Refuse has indicated that their request for a supplemental surcharge to cover "extraordinary" costs that occurred this year which they contend will reduce their profit margin below 12% will be postponed until next year.

The November 16<sup>th</sup> Solid Waste Coordinating Committee meeting was canceled due to lack of agenda items. The next meeting date is yet to be determined.

### **Street Sweeping**

Street sweeping began in Kensington in January and will be provided at no cost to Kensington by the Contra Costa County Public Works Department. On the first Friday of every month, the County will sweep the streets of Arlington, Coventry, Ardmore, Edgecroft, Lenox, Kingston, Stratford, Beverly, Berkeley Park, Ocean View, Oak View, and Colusa.

Residents are being asked to help by moving their vehicles, garbage and recycling cans from the street, clearing large debris and obstructions from the gutters, trimming back vegetation along the curb and sidewalk, and not piling leaves or green waste in the roadway.

If we all do our part we can keep Kensington streets clean and help keep pollutants out of our waterways.

### **District Secretary**

We have held several sets of interviews of candidates for the position of District Secretary and have not been able to successfully hire anyone at this time. Anyone interested in learning more about the position or would like to submit a resume, please contact me at [gharman@kensingtoncalifornia.org](mailto:gharman@kensingtoncalifornia.org).

### **Website**

The Board packets, monthly reports, and minutes and recordings of the KPPCSD Board Meetings are available for review on our website at:

[www.kensingtoncalifornia.org](http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org).

### **Traffic**

Traffic and parking issues are still the number one issue in the community. This was brought to the attention of the KPPCSD Board at the last board meeting held on November 11<sup>th</sup>, when a complaint was received regarding my enforcement of the 72- hour parking issue on Highland, in addition to requests made by the neighbors of Norwood & Arlington Court and Franciscan Way, to address their concerns regarding speeding vehicles.

As far as an update on the current traffic issues:

**46 Arlington-** The County has made several street and signage changes along the Arlington, including restricting parking in the area, new street markings, new pedestrian signage, as well as changing the light cycle at the traffic signal. We are still waiting for the County to install the solar powered traffic speed radar sign the District purchased with last years COPS grant funding. Jerry Fahy reported to me that the problem as been the County has not been able to successfully secure a contractor to complete the work.

**Colusa Circle-** The County has recently improved the pedestrian crosswalks in the area and installed additional pedestrian warning signs in the Circle area. The County also painted the Colusa Circle curb red in an attempt to stop trucks from using the curb as a loading zone.

**North Gate of Kensington School-** After our meeting of November 4<sup>th</sup>, the County has restricted traffic flow on Arlmont Road and during school commute, restricted parking on Highland during school commute, and painted new red zones.

**Norwood and Arlington Court-** I have met with the neighbors in the area as well as Jerry Fahy to discuss possible solutions. I am currently trying to set up another neighborhood meeting to follow up on the earlier discussions before moving forward.

**Franciscan Way-** The issue of speeding vehicles here is an old one and in 2009, the County agreed to change the street and traffic signage to try and address the problem.

At the November 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, a request was made to have the police department place their portable radar sign in the area. This sign is currently not working and is being sent back to the manufacturer for an estimate on the repair. This portable radar sign is not the preferred way of trying to reduce speed because it needs to be attached to a running (and unoccupied) patrol car. So depending on the cost of repairing the portable unit, I may be requesting the Board purchase a radar trailer in the coming months.

In the mean time, the Kensington Police Department has increased traffic enforcement in the community by all personnel, not just our Traffic Officer. As people have commented to me, they have appreciated the increase in enforcement but have mentioned that due to the narrow streets and street design of the community, drivers can easily spot officers in black and white patrol vehicles conducting traffic enforcement, especially along Franciscan Way and 46 Arlington.

I have been able to secure a donation of a Harley Davidson police motorcycle to be used by our Traffic Officer from the Pleasant Hill Police Department. I will be presenting a request to the KPPCSD Board at our December 9<sup>th</sup> Board to accept this generous donation and to allow me to begin the process of starting a motor unit for our community in an effort to increase traffic and pedestrian safety.