



# Kent Woodlands Journal

Newsletter #239

September 2015

The monthly newsletter of the Kent Woodlands Property Owners Association

## President's Report

Hello, everybody! Our grand Kentfield Fire Department, its fine Chief Paul Smith, and his highly skilled and professional fire fighter team, as well as a great Board of Directors, are a wonderful and necessary part of our community!

Recently I was honored to be appointed as a director, and have the opportunity to get a close look at this well-oiled machine that serves and protects us! Immense amounts of training is given to every employee as well as having the latest in equipment to meet our every emergency! We are very fortunate to have such a splendid group to protect us! They all deserve a big round of applause!

And lastly, everybody, we have changed the format of our board meetings in that the public members will be able to speak about agenda items as they come up, however your message must be to the point and contain salient information. Hopefully this will facilitate a helpful dialog at our meetings! We always look forward to member input, so please put our association meetings on your calendar and come on down!!!

— Barry Evergettis, President

## Home Safety Tip

Here is your monthly fire safety tip:  
**"SLINGING ROCKS"**

Another monster that dwells in your garden is the mighty weed wacker! Wonderful in its performance, it reduces everything in its path to small pieces and causes "SLINGING ROCKS"!! Sometimes these missiles break windows, dent cars or worse, strike a person or child!

So when a weed wacker is working on your property, guard against "SLINGING ROCKS" — keep everyone away and avoid possible serious injuries!

— Your Fire & Safety Committee

## October 3 Fire Evacuation Drill

As announced in the June newsletter, this year's Woodlands fire evacuation drill will take place on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 9AM. It will encompass about 100 properties along Kent and College Avenues, Woodland Road from the Woodlands entrance to and including Acorn Way, Vineyard, Orchard, Laurel Way, North Ridgewood, Goodhill, Diablo and Buckeye. It will last about an hour.

The evacuation meeting place will be in the COM parking lot opposite the Woodlands entrance. Those of you in the drill area and those of you who were unable to participate in prior years' drills are encouraged to meet there for refreshments and to meet old and new neighbors and friends, as well as the professionals who will help us in the event of an actual disaster.

The drill will provide an opportunity both for Woodlands residents and fire district and sheriffs personnel to prepare for the all too real possibility of a major fire in our neighborhood. Your participation is voluntary, but strongly recommended — for their benefit and yours.

You will be receiving additional information about the drill by mail, personal contact by Committee members and the Boy Scouts later this month, and TENS messages from the Fire District shortly before and at the time of the drill.

If you have not already prepared for that fire, we strongly recommend you do so NOW. That fire won't respect our drill timetable or your delay.

— YOUR FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

## Defensible Space News

KWPOA owns and maintains several small properties throughout the Woodlands. All of them are unbuildable and maintain separation of various homeowners' properties. Once such property near Hillside Drive, Rock Road and Buckeye was recently cleared of vegetation through a grant from PG&E and administered by FireSafe Marin, our Kentfield Fire Department, and KWPOA. We are very appreciative to all involved who made this important work happen, which eliminated a very dangerous fire hazard! Thank you all!

— Barry Evergettis, President

## Before Kent Woodlands Was Born: The Kents

Most of us know that the Kent family bought the land on which we live many years ago and that the family was involved with the early history of Kentfield. But few of us other than the long time residents know much more about how Kent Woodlands came to be what it is today. In the next few newsletters, I will try to amuse you with that story. The account is based largely on documents and recollections contained in the Kent Family Collections in the California Room of the Marin Public Library, with the invaluable assistance of its librarian, Laurie Thompson, plus the help of a few of those long timers, other bits and pieces of information, and memory.

It all started with Albert and Adaline (not Adeline) Kent. Albert grew up in Connecticut in the 1830s and 40s, and went to Yale (all the Kent men did). According to his son William's account, after graduation he was "extremely poor", "owning nothing but a college education and a dress suit." But he was an attractive and ambitious young man, with a "brilliant mind" and considerable charm (In his later years he was noted for his unshakable honesty and integrity.)

After a financial setback while still in his 20s, he wired his fiancée: "Have lost everything. Will you marry me at once?" Three days later Albert and Adaline were married. They lived together for over 40 years.

Many adjectives have been used by her niece and daughter-in-law to describe Adaline – impulsive, independent, sociable, outspoken, sometimes a bit blunt and overbearing, but gracious, warm, wise, and with a fine sense of humor. Even in his later years, she "could always amuse Albert" – and get her way.

By the time Albert was 40, they were a wealthy couple. Albert owned the largest meat packing plant in Chicago, and had a number of other business interests. But about that time, he suffered what was called a "breakdown", an "obscure malady", "never understood by any doctor." It left him a semi-invalid, rather gloomy, and with "a dread of meeting people."

On the advice of his doctors, he started travelling to the West to find a more suitable climate for his health – a favored medical treatment in those days for certain untreatable ailments.

Albert was in California on one of those trips when he learned of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. He sent for Adaline and their young son William (their first-born son had died at the age of two), and they moved into temporary quarters in San Rafael to look for a suitable new home.

One day, while on a carriage ride in the surrounding countryside, Adaline came upon what later became Kent Woodlands. The property was on the edge of a bottom land stretching a few miles to the Bay. It led into a narrow valley extending for about a mile, flanked by slopes on either side, then ascending through wooded hills all round to a ridgeline overlooking Mount Tamalpais and miles of pristine wooded canyon and valley.

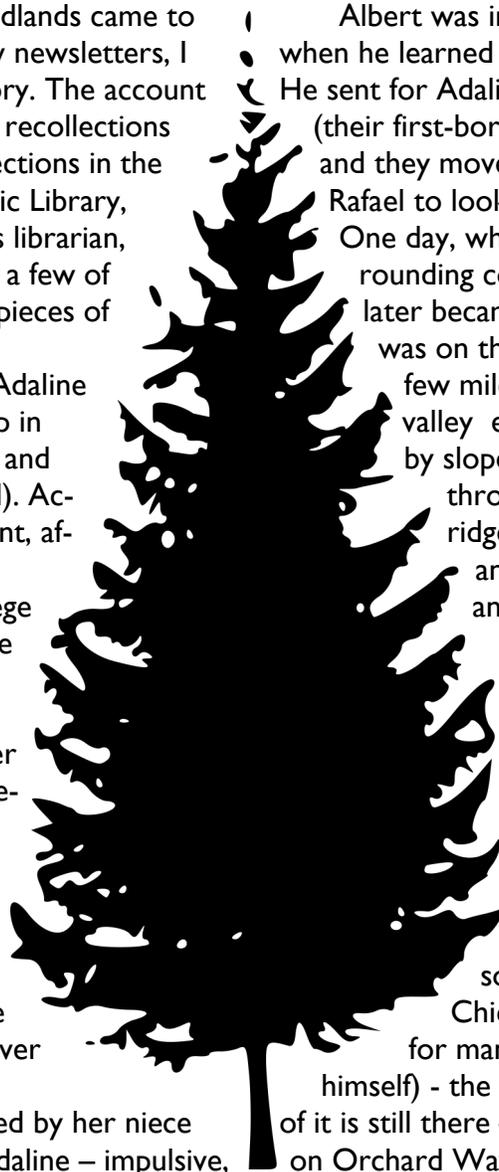
Of course, Adaline saw only a bit of that wonderful scenery from her carriage. But it was enough. On her return home, according to family legend she told Albert she had found "paradise". Albert promptly bought 13 acres of that land, and later over 800 more.

In 1872, Throop Richardson, Albert's Superintendent at the Chicago plant and his loyal employee for many more years, built a house (for himself) - the first house in the Woodlands. Part of it is still there – a section of a lovely, gabled house on Orchard Way. A year or so later, Albert and Adaline moved into their home at what is now 200 Woodland Road, also built by Throop (a talented man).

The Kents – Albert, then his son William, then his son Roger, together with their families, lived in that house (with a number of additions and renovations) for over 100 years.

— by Paul Homrighausen

*(Originally appeared in our October 2012 Newsletter as part of a series on the history of Kent Woodlands.)*



## **Architectural Applications: September 2015**

**Please note:** This newsletter is your **official notice** from the KWPOA regarding property improvements submitted for approval by the Architectural Committee. Please review this section very carefully as some planned development may affect you. Note that Architectural Committee actions are not final until ratified by the Board of Directors. Architectural Committee **Agendas** and **Results** are posted on our web site at [www.kwpoa.com](http://www.kwpoa.com) under "Design Review".

### **SEPTEMBER ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW MEETING: SEPTEMBER 15**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Property Address</b>	<b>Category/Project Description</b>
<b>New Applications for September</b>		
Newsom	11 Rock Rd	C4: - Minor remodel and 964 sf addition on 2 floors. Addition to include family room, bedroom and bathroom
RMDG, LLC	115 Woodland Rd	C3: - Preliminary review - Addition and renovation of existing home. Reduction of existing detached structure and addition of 3 car garage.
<b>Applications Approved in August</b>		
Mulcahy	421 Crown Rd	C2: Minor Addition - Two bay additions @ 17 sf each, new doors and windows, new siding, new metal roof and new landscaping
<b>Exempt Applications</b>		
Van Ness	61 Ridgecrest Rd	Repaint house, replaster pool
Roddy	27 Evergreen Rd	Tree Removal
Gossett	1 Spring Rd	Tree Removal

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**ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE:** Jim Schafer (Chair), Anne Barr, Trina Lavigna, Bill Riley

**AC COORDINATOR:** Michael Barber

**MEETINGS:** Held at the KWPOA office at 1010 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., #200, Kentfield, CA on **the 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** To be noticed in the newsletter and placed on the agenda, **COMPLETE** applications must be received by the 21<sup>st</sup> of the preceding month (or the Friday prior if the 21<sup>st</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday). All calls concerning Architectural Committee matters should be directed to Michael Barber at the KWPOA office at 721-7429 or [mbarber@kwpoa.com](mailto:mbarber@kwpoa.com). Materials and applications may be mailed to P.O. Box 404, Kentfield 94914, or delivered to the office by appointment only.

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Kent Woodlands Property Owners Association  
PO Box 404  
Kentfield, CA 94914

## Board Meeting Agenda

**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015 - 6:00PM  
**Location:** 1010 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. #200

- Call to Order
- Public Comment
- Approval of August 27 Meeting Minutes
- AC Report and Ratifications
- Design Review Fees
- Appointment of New Committee Members
- Fire Safety Committee Report
- Officer Reports
- County Update
- Administrator's Report
- Next Meeting Agenda
- Adjourn and Reconvene in Executive Session

### Executive Session Agenda:

- Call to Order
- Approval of August 27 minutes
- Litigation Report
- Personnel
- Adjournment

*This is a preliminary agenda. The final agenda will be posted in the KWPOA office window no later than 96 hours prior to the meeting.*

## KWPOA Contact Information

**Mailing address:** PO Box 404, Kentfield 94914  
**Physical address:** 1010 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. #200  
**Phone:** 415-721-7429  
**Fax:** 415-532-1487  
**Web Site:** [www.kwpoa.com](http://www.kwpoa.com)  
**Email:** [info@kwpoa.com](mailto:info@kwpoa.com)  
**Office Hours:** Mon - Thur, 9:00am - 2:00pm

## Board Members and Staff

Barry Evergettis, President	<a href="mailto:bevergettis@kwpoa.com">bevergettis@kwpoa.com</a>
Bitsa Freeman, Vice President	<a href="mailto:bfreeman@kwpoa.com">bfreeman@kwpoa.com</a>
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