

Mountain Folks gathered at the Fire House/Community Center the first weekend in December to close 2015 with two long-standing, favorite events. First up, The Wreath Making event sponsored by the KM Garden Club offered up greenery, ribbons, treats and a morning of creative fun with neighbors as everyone prepared festive decor for the holidays.

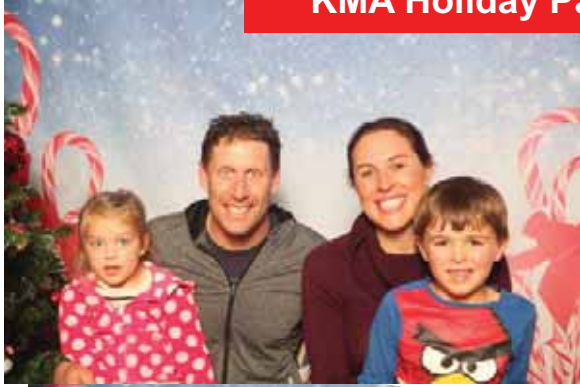
A pot luck feast with plenty of food, drink and good cheer followed the next day at the KMA Holiday Party. Santa & Mrs. Claus made a special stop to hear holiday wish lists from a plethora of adorable Kings Mountain kids. They were ably assisted by neighbor Jan Lundburg of A-ListPhotos.com, who set up an on-site studio to provide a souvenir memory of the fun. Kids big and small whispered their wishes in Santa's ear, taking home a photo proving that Santa got each message.

Here is a collage of good times from both events. Big thanks to all the neighbors who planned and worked on these events for the enjoyment of all. Special thanks to Marguerite Kaufman for photos of the wreath making festivities and to Jan Lundburg for the holiday party photos printed here and the ones provided to party goers.

KMA Holiday Party - December 6 2015



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KMA Holiday Party - December 6 2015



Garden club wreath making in early December



Plant Sale



Look for Garden Tour announcements in the Spring

Thanks to Bill Goebner for the photos of our Fire Department in action on December 17th at an accident on Kings Mountain Road. We hope everyone came through the December wind and rain storms unscathed. We are fortunate that members of our community make huge volunteer time commitments for the training and emergency work that enhances our personal and property safety. As we prepare for El Nino events expected to buffet our unique community in 2016, your neighbors extend grateful thanks to all Kings Mountain Fire Department volunteers.



Kings Mountain fire fighters Pat Jones, center (tallest) and Ann Flory wearing a helmet to his left.

Are you a member?

It's time to join or renew your 2016
KMVFB membership!



Annual membership dues are \$35,
any additional donations are encouraged.

Please address check to:
Kings Mountain Volunteer Fire Brigade, Inc.
13889 Skyline Blvd
Woodside, CA 94062

Or use PayPal:

Donate with **PayPal**

Please use PayPal link at
www.kingsmountainonline.com/kmvfb

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Kings Mountain Elementary School News

December was a busy month at KMES. As the daylight hours grew shorter, the students prepared for the Winter Solstice concert, which took place on Wednesday, December 9th. Each class (K/1, 2/3, and 4/5) sang songs with themes of peace, equality, the environment, and friendship. Favorites included "Oats, Peas, Beans, and Barley," "Big Yellow Taxi," and "Colors of the Wind." Families contributed to a potluck by bringing dishes that reflected a variety of cultures, traditions, and heritages.

There was extra energy in the air through the month of December as students anticipated their upcoming classroom holiday parties, family holiday celebrations, and, of course, a nice, long winter vacation. School begins again Tuesday, January 5th, 2016.

A Holiday factoid about Kings Mountain Elementary School

Few schools of any size have a "school song" that so perfectly describes the ambience and spirit of the place. The words & music were written by songwriter/producer Bob McGilpin. At the start of 2016, we share those words that so capture the essence of our three room public elementary school.

At Kings Mountain School High upon a hill

We learn about the world and the future we can build

We always do our best in everything we do

We live, love, and learn at Kings Mountain School.

Boom de a ya ya Boom de a ya ya; Boom de a ya ya Boom de a ya ya

At Kings Mountain School, we're one big family

Hoping for a world where every one is free

We all join together and give our best to you

We live, love, and learn at Kings Mountain School

Boom de a ya ya Boom de a ya ya; Boom de a ya ya Boom de a ya ya

Don't forget to make your annual donation to KMAP!



KINGS MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
COMMUNITY DONATION FORM

Please fill out this form if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support educational development at Kings Mountain Elementary School (KMES). The money raised by KMAP pays for: two instructional aides, the science specialist and program, the music teacher and program, the writing specialist and program, site director, technology, office/computer supplies, classroom and library books. Your donation to this California distinguished school is appreciated!

Name of Donor(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Method of Payment:

Check made payable to KMAP:

Mail or deliver this completed form and payment method to:

KMES -Attn. Treasurer

211Swett Rd, Woodside, CA 94062

Credit Card: Go to the school website at <http://www.cabrillo.k12.ca.us/kingsmountain>, open the KMAP page, click DONATE NOW next to COMMUNITY DONATION and follow the instructions.

Contact the kmap-executive-board@googlegroups.com with questions.

Kings Mountain Associated Parents is a registered 501c3 organization.

You will receive a receipt for your tax -deductible gift within six weeks of your donation.

Thank you for your support.

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL. (Optional) _____

E-MAIL (Optional) _____

ANNUAL Fee: \$10 per Household



Make checks payable to KMGC

Send completed form and fee to:

12520 Skyline Blvd.
Woodside, CA 94062-4541

Call Peter at 747-9239 for more info.

We close this issue with a salute to long time Kings Mountain resident, **Lee Pitt**, who passed away on November 16, 2015 of natural causes. Lee was an active volunteer and friend to many people, but few were aware of the many personal and professional accomplishments of this modest man. Lee's awards included the 1956 "Story of the Year" for all media, including radio, TV, newspapers and magazines, presented by California Governor Goodwin Knight. The award recognized Lee's coverage of the Charles E. Taylor Story and its life changing consequences for the inventor of the Wright Brothers engine. The Echo is privileged to reprint a 2010 story about Lee Pitt and his award-winning story.

The Story of Lee Pitt's Link to the Wright Brothers



Lee Pitt

helped save the homeless, destitute "Creator of Aviation's First Engine," which was used by the Wrights at Kitty Hawk. Lee covered aviation for the independent Los Angeles newspaper, *Mirror News*. His article, "The Charles E. (Edward) Taylor Story," appeared 2 December 1955. At the time, Taylor, with both of the Wrights deceased, was ill and alone in the General Hospital Charity Ward at age 87. For ten years, he had depended upon Mrs. Izelle C. Shafer, his friend, to shelter him, but she had become ill and had to move. He lived on \$800.00 a year from a fund left by Orville Wright and needed to be in a sanitarium for his asthma (among other afflictions). His only comfort was the fact that, in 1902, he built the first successful and practical aircraft engine.

Lee Pitt's article draws on the subject's memories, with confirmation by sources. Taylor met the Wrights in 1898 and later went to work for them at \$18.00 a week repairing bicycles while they worked on gliders. Their success sent them in the direction of powered flight, and they wrote to a dozen automobile companies asking that a 12-horsepower engine be built. Most didn't reply; others said it couldn't be done; some called them crazy. Taylor, though he had never built an engine before,

asked if he should try. The brothers sketched on brown paper. Taylor made a crankshaft from a steel block and used homemade tools, a lathe, and a drill press to complete the engine in six weeks. When the Wrights went to Kitty Hawk, he stayed behind in Ohio to man the bicycle shop.

The Manager of the Western Region of the Institute of Aeronautical Science, E. W. Robischone, confirmed that Taylor developed the type of engine used in the first military airplane purchased by the government and that Cal Rodgers also used one on the first transcontinental flight (1911). Taylor followed Rodgers "by train to help rebuild the ship and maybe the engine at the end of each day's flight"; it crashed a number of times on its way to the West Coast. As a token of his appreciation for the article that "rediscovered" him, Taylor presented Lee Pitt with a small, signed piece of the Gin Fizz fabric from the wing of that airplane, and he still has it. Robischone summed Taylor's work this way: "The entire billion-dollar aviation industry today is based on the engine that Taylor built." Col. Warren S. Eaton, Vice-President of the famous Early Birds, called him "a living monument to aviation."

Lee Pitt's revelation of Taylor's plight created an outpouring of support from the aircraft industry, phone executives, and the general public. The Aircraft Industries Association (AIA) suspended its business at an annual session in Phoenix to honor Taylor and announced that it would pay his expenses. "Let's Help Our Own" became the rallying cry of Military Air Transport members throughout the Pacific Coast region. The result was a room for Taylor in a private sanitarium in the San Fernando Valley to live out his life in peace and the knowledge that his part in history had been appreciated.

The power of the press indeed, especially in the hands of a Lee Pitt, who was born in the Bronx to Russian immigrants and was an aviation cadet in World War II, later earning double degrees in news reporting and radio at the University of Missouri-Columbia in two years. While there, he became a Fencing Master at Stephens College and qualified for the Olympic tryouts. Prior to the *Mirror News*, he was, variously, foreign correspondent, editor, and reporter for the *New York Daily News*, *Guam Daily News*, *UPI*, *New York World Telegraph & Sun*, *Houston Press*, and *San Francisco Examiner*. He served nine years as head of the Aerospace Division of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, often timing world aviation records, including the supersonic B-58 bomber flight from Tokyo to London. He founded the Wright Brothers Banquet in Los Angeles to honor US aviation achievements and met, as a result, Douglas, Lockheed, and Gen. Doolittle (as well as Jimmy Stewart, Lana Turner, and Clark Gable). At Hughes Aircraft, he was the Public Relations manager for Howard Hughes himself, though he never met him! After the Hughes acquisition of Air West, Lee was sent to San Mateo where, for a decade, he helped get it "off the ground." He attended Harvard's Advanced Management Program and was sent again to Los Angeles, where he met Cindy

January 2016 Kings Mountain Community Calendar

Today ◀ ▶

January 2016

Month
Week
Day

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:00am - 10:00am Astanga Yoga 10:30am - 11:45am Gentle Hatha Yoga	28	29 4:30pm - 5:45pm Pilates-All Levels	30	31	1	2
3 8:00am - 10:00am Astanga Yoga 10:30am - 11:45am Gentle Hatha Yoga	4 Cleaning	5 4:30pm - 5:45pm Pilates-All Levels	6	7 7:00pm - 9:00pm Fire Dept. Training	8	9
10 8:00am - 10:00am Astanga Yoga 10:30am - 11:45am Gentle Hatha Yoga 3:30pm - 5:00pm Art Fair Marketing and Advertising Team meeting	11 6:00pm - 10:00pm Kings Grove BOD	12 4:30pm - 5:45pm Pilates-All Levels 7:30pm - 9:00pm KMFVB Board	13	14 7:00pm - 9:00pm Fire Dept. Training	15	16
17 8:00am - 10:00am Astanga Yoga	18 Cleaning	19 4:30pm - 5:45pm Pilates-All Levels 7:00pm - 8:00pm KM Park Water Board	20 7:00pm - 10:00pm KMAP Meeting	21 7:00pm - 9:00pm KMA Board 7:00pm - 9:00pm Fire Dept. Training	22	23
24 8:00am - 10:00am Astanga Yoga	25	26 ECHO Deadline 4:30pm - 5:45pm Pilates-All Levels 7:30pm - 10:30pm Art Fair Board Meeting	27	28 7:00pm - 9:00pm Fire Dept. Training	29	30
31 8:00am - 10:00am Astanga Yoga	1 Cleaning	2 4:30pm - 5:45pm Pilates-All Levels	3	4 7:00pm - 9:00pm Fire Dept. Training	5	6 KMFD Fire Academy 5:00pm - 7:30pm Art Fair Chairman Meeting

Kings Mountain Volunteer Fire Brigade
13889 Skyline Blvd
Woodside, CA 94062

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