

K E N S I N G T O N O U T L O O K

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Town hall meeting



Kensington Police Chief Barry Garfield addressing the town hall community meeting

Crime, preparedness, county events, hazardous waste, and under-grounding discussed

The annual Kensington Property Owners Association town hall community meeting was held on April 29 in the Community Center. As usual, this informative and well-run meeting was organized by KPOA president Gail Feldman.

Kensington Police Chief Barry Garfield reported on local crime, with particular emphasis on armed robberies. The soon-to-be new police Web site will post the complete police log each week at www.kensingtonpolicecsd.org.

Dr. Leonard Schwartzburd, of the Clinical Institute of Behavioral Medicine in Berkeley, recommended reacting subserviently to robbers if you are ever held up, since you're dealing with someone with power issues. He also talked about the trauma of such events, and how to best overcome it.

John Gioia said that while West Contra Costa County has only 20% of the county's population, it has 70% of the homicides; yet Kensington is one of the safest communities in the county.

For emergency preparedness, he suggested that households fit automatic gas shut-off valves, an inexpensive fire prevention tool in the event of earthquakes. He wants to make fitting one a prerequisite for selling homes in the county. He also suggested that people should have adequate emergency supplies for four days of post-earthquake survival. Visit www.72hours.org for details about preparing and provisioning for emergencies. Gioia also said he hoped that a new defibrillator site would be located in Kensington soon. The only one in Kensington is located in the library.

Gioia warned that Contra Costa County, like others, is not prepared for an outbreak of Avian Flu, since there is not enough vaccine available. Hospitals are organizing locally and are not getting federal help.

when disaster strikes. The county has recently given permission to start posting signs where these groups are located; the signs will be appearing soon.

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)

CERT trains people to handle emergencies offering such skills as dealing with first-aid in disasters, local search and rescue, damage assessment, and how to turn off utilities. If training is done in conjunction with a Neighborhood Watch or other community group, it is likely to be much more useful, since tasks can be shared. The training is available for everyone, but happens infrequently. The next training starts in September, but fills up quickly. If you would like to register for the next CERT training, call the El Cerrito Fire Department at 215-4450. The training is free and will be held at Arlington Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd., El Cerrito. See details at www.el-cerrito.org/fire/neat.html

Household safety

The Kensington Police are happy to come and advise you about securing your home; they will give advice about locks,

He stated that the Doctors Hospital, the major emergency room on this side of the county, is not doing well financially. Shutting down the burn unit, although unpopular, meant enough money was saved for the hospital to stay open. The county is looking for other ways to save money that do not present a hardship on the community. One plan involves closing the pharmacies at the out-patient clinics, saving \$1.5 million a year, since patients are still able to get the same prices at local pharmacies.

Bryn Samules, of the CCC Community Development Dept., explained the new toxic waste disposal procedure, and Jay James of STEGE Sanitary District, explained how property owners are responsible for the upkeep of the lateral sewers that take the household waste to the main sewer. Having these laterals in good condition prevents rainwater from going through sewer treatment facilities. The more they are leak-proof the less rainwater goes through the system. About 75% of laterals need repair. The cost of repairs ranges from \$600 to \$6,000 depending on length. A list of registered contractors can be found at www.stegesd.dst.ca.us/Plumbers.pdf.

Linda Lipscomb talked about the progress of the under-grounding initiative. She said that it is a safety issue as well as an aesthetic one. Residents will be surveyed to assess interest in participation. Kensington may issue a bond to be repaid by homeowners over 25 or 30 years. Each home will be assessed by an engineer on the effect of the under-grounding on that home. The average cost will likely be \$1,000 to \$2,000 per household per year. This may be done community-wide or locally in smaller districts.

alarms, outside lighting, and other security issues. The police encourage residents to participate in the Key Program, where residents can leave a copy of their front door key with the police to be used in case of emergency.

By dialing the Kensington police office number, 526-4141 ext. 940, citizens can reach the Kensington Police Safety Taskforce.

Local group organizing

During the April KPOA town hall meeting, Chief Garfield asked for volunteers to become block captains to help organize their community into Neighborhood Watch groups and emergency preparedness training. About ten people signed up, and the first Police Community Committee met in the Community Center. The meetings are for those wanting to start groups, have on-going groups, or simply get more information. At present, the meetings are monthly, but will be less frequent when the programs get established and lines of communication are set up. The next meeting is scheduled for June 12 at 10 a.m., in the Kensington Community Center. All residents are welcome to attend.

Uniforms ok'd, K-8 ko'd

In April, the West Contra Costa Unified School District passed a mandatory school uniform policy, to be implemented in the 2006-07 school year. The California Education Code states, "The adoption of a school-wide uniform policy is a reasonable way to provide some protection for students," and, "Many educators believe that school dress significantly influences pupil behavior. ... Schools that have adopted school uniforms experience a 'coming together feeling,' greater school pride, and better behavior in and out of the classroom." A committee of parents, board members and staff was formed to study the need, and reported to the School Board that uniforms were indeed a good idea. The uniform will be white shirts with collars, and dark blue trousers, skirts, jumpers, or knee-length short pants. Individuals can opt-out.

On May 17, Board President Charles Ramsey was the deciding vote that put an end to the move towards further K-8 schools in the district. A report was presented to the School Board after an estimated 3,000 hours of work by volunteers including students at UC Berkeley. Over twenty members of the public, including Kensington PTA members, spoke on the subject; a large majority of the public speakers were in favor of change. David Brown and Glen Price voted for, and Charles Ramsey, Karen Pfeiffer, and Karen Fenton against.



National Night Out

Once again Kensington is gearing up for the National Night Out, which is a coordinated national event where communities get together to discuss crime and safety awareness, support or take part in local anti-crime programs, strengthening neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The National Night Out usually entails block parties and visits from police officers. It promotes a good neighborhood spirit. These gatherings often entail BBQs, potlucks, and other refreshments. They are a good way to meet neighbors, and kids can have fun designing and posting posters for the event, and getting a chance to play with each other.

If you would like to organize or help organize an event in your neighborhood, talk with your neighbors and then have Officer Martinez and Sergeant Escobar over to give you information to get you started. You can contact Sergeant Escobar and Officer Martinez at the Public Safety Building, 217 Arlington Ave., 526-4141.

Public safety

Programs, services, and preparedness. How you can help.

The Outlook recently interviewed Chief Garfield, Sergeant Escobar, and Officer Martinez of the Kensington Police about community safety and emergency preparedness and how the community and individuals can become better informed and prepared. Below are these options:

Neighborhood Watch

There are at present about 10 Neighborhood Watch groups in Kensington; each organized locally. Sergeant Escobar and Officer Martinez of the Kensington Police can help anyone learn more, or help organize local communities to assist each other in case of an emergency. Groups can be comprised of one block, a whole street, or a small neighborhood, especially important if you have older people in your area, or those with disabilities or serious medical conditions who are dependent on their community and neighbors for help

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Built in 1930, this lovely home has a dramatic open-beamed living room, a formal dining room and an updated kitchen, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. The downslope site is uniquely park-like thanks to the open yard shared by the rear neighbors. Call for price.



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LETTERS

Local hero

Editor—At home on March 30th, I saw a flash out of the corner of my eye. I didn't investigate immediately, but I had an unsettled feeling, so after a few minutes I checked out the house and returned to my office, walking past the fire that was flaring up behind closed doors. I thought I smelled smoke, but couldn't tell where it was coming from. I ran to get Jason Eakle, a young man who lives with us. It was his day off, and he happened to be home. He's a paramedic and a trained firefighter. By chance, two of his buddies, also paramedics trained as firemen, were visiting him.

We ran down to investigate. A light smoke was filling my bedroom, but we couldn't see a fire. Then, I noticed a glowing through a narrow crack in the closet doors. Jason shouted for me to get my fire extinguisher. I don't know if there are others like me out there, but I didn't know where it was. Luckily, Jason ran for the one that was in his part of the house. The extinguisher did put out the fire on the floor, but flames had already ignited the clothes hanging above it. By the time I brought a bucket of water, the entire bedroom was engulfed in thick black smoke and there was only a foot of clear air left at floor level. That's when I called 911. Perhaps 4 to 5 minutes had passed since I had alerted Jason.

Using our garden hose, Jason worked heroically as the flames rolled across the ceiling in the bedroom and ignited the curtains. He knew he only had seconds before the flames got through the ceiling and could then travel throughout the house. By the time the fire department arrived, Jason, with the help of his buddies, had put out the fire.

With hindsight I see where I made my mistakes. Maybe others could use a gentle reminder. Despite preparedness training classes, and neighborhood disaster-preparedness meetings, I was unprepared. It didn't occur to me to immediately to call 911. I didn't have a fire extinguisher handy, and my smoke-detector batteries were dead. Perhaps there is a lesson for others like me, who forget that preparedness means being ready for a possible disaster at a moment's notice.

Luck was with me that day, but I put Jason in harm's way. He's the hero; even the Fire Chief told me this. We'll have some damage to repair, but without Jason, we would have lost so much more.

Amy Berg

Fundraising

Editor—For the past few years, one of our neighbors, Danny Scher, has been hosting occasional and successful fundraising events in his spacious back yard for the benefit of charitable service organizations and schools, such as Seva Foundation, Jewish Film Festival, Berkeley Jazz School, Bentley School, and MoveOn.org at no cost to them.

After imposing fines in an effort to stop him from hosting such events, West

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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Advertising

Please call for advertising rates, space availability and size specification. Rates and an online ad form for the classified section are at: www.kensingtonoutlook.com at the bottom of the back issues listings. All mail pertaining to both display and classified advertising should be sent to: Kensington Outlook
18 Kingston Road
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Deadlines

Advertising deadline June 8
Editorial deadline June 10

The *Kensington Outlook* welcomes letters to the editor and reserves the right to edit for clarity and length.

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Contra Costa County lost an expensive legal battle with Mr. Scher. I understand that the County spent well over \$100,000 in bringing their case against him.

I am outraged as a tax payer, and as someone who sees the extraordinary benefit of having a neighbor like Mr. Scher who is willing to host fundraisers at no charge for the use of his beautiful venue, sharing his ideas and expertise as a former concert promoter. Local police and fire departments claim these events haven't caused any nuisance or broken noise ordinances, despite some complaints and harassment from a small group of neighbors. I am a neighbor who applauds his efforts.

As a former president of the Kensington PTA and the Kensington Education Foundation, I am certain that the money spent trying to close down Mr. Scher's magnanimous contribution would have been much better spent putting on a fundraiser for one of our desperate schools. I have a feeling that Mr. Scher would have welcomed this idea.

Nancy Brigham Blattel

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Hilltop classes filled

Editor—In response to your May article, "Hilltop classes filled," this community has been tremendously supportive of the Hilltop School, and the entire district. We have helped to pass all recent bond measures, and have approved several property-tax increases. We recently spent \$17 million on completely renovating the Hilltop School. I believe the community gives generously to the parent groups and supports carnivals, fundraisers, etc. All this financial attention has certainly paid off. Hilltop is the top elementary school in the district. We are lucky to have it.

The under-capacity issue of 2006 is a wake-up call for the school and the entire community. The school and the district were unprepared. This issue, with 20/20 hindsight, was entirely predictable. Hilltop is a prime draw for new residents. Often Kensington real estate ads boast of the Hilltop School. It's a major reason we bought our house in 2000. It was, and still is, extremely appealing to me to be able to send my children to a newly refurbished, top-quality public school within walking distance of my house.

The community and the school need to come to grips with the possibility that there are more kids living here than anticipated. Both short-term and long-term plans need to be developed—both with some urgency.

It would probably not be a bad idea to take a survey of all residents immediately. The survey would very simply ask some basic demographic questions to get a feel of who lives here, what kind of home sales we might see in the future, and the likelihood of children attending Hilltop in the future. We live in the kind of community where we would probably get a decent response rate. If that doesn't work, it would not be difficult or expensive to offer a summer job or internship where someone could go door to door to collect the information.

We also need to look immediately at

what we can do to keep more kids at Hilltop and not transfer them to other schools in the district. The current transfer procedure is clearly not viable: imagine being the parent of a wait-listed student, and having to wait until the fifth day after school commences to figure out where your child is going.

There are several things to consider. Short-term plans that will create flexibility in 2006 could include: hiring additional staff or increasing class size. As I understand it, kindergarten does not have to have 20 students. A major class-size reduction reform was implemented in 1996 for grades K-3. I am not denying the value of this reduction; increasing achievement in reading and math is certainly ideal. However, it gives schools a financial carrot to limit class size, but is not mandatory. These programs are voluntary incentive programs in which districts decide whether and how much to participate.

In fact, kindergarten average class size is not to exceed 31 students—no class larger than 33; grade 1-3 average class size not to exceed 30 students—no class larger than 32.

In the past, school districts that incurred a class-size penalty were able to submit waivers to have the penalty adjusted. But these, as well as hiring teachers, are options that may need to be explored.

This comes when there is talk of adding full-day kindergarten. This issue affects the entire community in addition to incoming kindergarteners. Will families have one child at Hilltop, and other children at other schools in the district? Will realtors no longer be able to promote the school? Will it affect property values because Kensington may not now appeal to the widest audience? Since so many ties are made at school, will we damage our sense of community if our children are forced to attend other schools? I encourage the community to care about what happens at Hilltop and to stay involved in the discussion that is about to unfold.

Leslie Reckler

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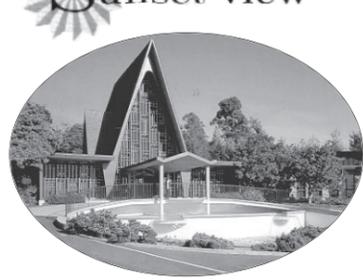
Carlo Anderson, 95, a 55-year Kensington resident

Carlo Anderson passed away of natural causes at the age of 95 on April 13th in Albany. Carlo and Eleanor Anderson purchased their home in Kensington in 1949. He worked for Standard Oil of California for forty years, about three of those spent with the Army's 543rd Amphibious Engineers in the South Pacific during World War II. He volunteered time to the Friends of the Kensington Library, for Boy Scout Troop 100, and participated in Kensington's Block 9 Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team. He was also active with

the East Bay Astronomical Association. People may remember Carlo and Eleanor taking their evening stroll, hand-in-hand around Kensington. Eleanor died in 2004. Carlo is survived by his three sons, Carl, Laurence, and Bruce; his daughter-in-law, Faris; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was buried at Sunset View Cemetery on April 19th with two pieces of chocolate, his glasses, a book, and a Cal tie.



Sunset view



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Neighborhood Notes



Dad's club

Hilltop highlights

The Kensington Dads' Club elected officers for the next academic year:

Rodney Dunican Co-President
Stephen Godfrey Co-President
Walt Gill Vice President
Mike Barry Treasurer
Rob Dunn Secretary

Jeffrey Douglass Marketing & Outreach

The 2005-06 officers did an impressive job, and the school and the PTA say they have been very happy working with them.

The PTA also has new 2006-07 officers:

Katherine Meurer President
Lisa Brodsky VP: Membership
Alison Roberts VP: Carnival
Pamela Gilbert Snyder Secretary
Open Treasurer

Thank you—Hilltop School would like to thank Neighborhood School for the donations of traffic signs that are helping organize traffic at the back of the school.

New kitchen—The West Contra Costa School District has approved the installation of new heating or warming kitchens for many schools in the district. The new kitchen at Hilltop, for use by parents and other groups, will be located to the right of the stage in the Multipurpose Room.



Carnival—The Hilltop PTA and Dads' Club Spring Carnival on May 13th was the first

Spring Carnival since the school has been renovated. There were many fun activities and games for the kids, and plenty to keep the adults amused. Plentiful meats were grilled on the new barbeque made by the Dads' Club, and a large White Elephant sale included unclaimed recovered bikes donated by the Kensington Police. The quilt was raffled, and the whole event generated about \$15,000.

The success of the Carnival was due in part to the tireless efforts of organizers Alison Roberts of the PTA and Walt Gill of the Dads' Club. Other donations came from Ruth Frassetto of The Grubb Company. Victoria Curtis of Prudential Realty paid for the printing of tickets and other miscellaneous expenses. Michael Borbridge from Bridge Painting supplied paint for the booths, which all got sanded and repainted by the Dads' Club, and Carl and Lisa Brodsky of the Tile Shop supplied all the tiles for beautiful new barbeque.

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Fire Department report

In March the Kensington Fire Department had 25 incidents, including 11 EMS calls and one serious house fire, on Kerr, which was caused by an electric shoe buffer left on. Property damage was estimated at \$2,500 and \$5,000 worth of contents were destroyed. Of their 20 Kensington calls in April, eight were EMS related.

Charles Cowens awarded

Kensington resident Charles Cowens received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund. Mr. Cowens, a technical writer, has been volunteering in the district since 2001 and is the president of the Bayside Council of PTAs.

Musical arts camp

Arlington Community Church is sponsoring a musical arts camp for one week in August, preparing for the staging of the musical "Peace Child." This was written to bridge the gap between different countries, cultures, and conflict. Children between the ages of 7-13 will sing, act and create set designs. All children are welcome. Contact Christy at the church for details. A \$50 materiel fee is due by June 23.

Breakfast at the Bistro

Lynn Sullivan and her sons, Quinn and Lynn, who run the Kensington Bistro at 1568 Oak View Ave., have started serving weekday breakfast this month. They are featuring their famous #9 breakfast: bacon-and-potato pancakes with poached eggs covered in watercress hollandaise sauce. As usual, all their meat is Neiman Ranch and all their cookies, muffins and other baked goods are home made.

New board members

The Kensington Community Council welcomes Patty Coluse and Anne Forrest who have both joined the KCC board, and are already organizing on-going projects.

Portola wins awards and loses Keith Johnson



Portola Middle School took home an armload of trophies at the 44th Annual Reno Jazz Festival. Portola Middle School received 3rd Place, Outstanding Middle School Combo, and 6th Place, Outstanding Middle School Band. Portola's Malachi Whitson was named Outstanding Middle School Performer, Rhythm Section.

The success of the Portola Jazz Band has been greatly aided by their skillful leader, Keith Johnson, who has been the Jazz Band Director at Portola Middle School for three years. He is returning to San Jose State in the fall to complete his degree in music. He attended Castro Elementary School, Portola Middle School, and El Cerrito High School and is a classically trained trumpet player. Apart from being a very gifted musician and teacher, he garnered the Portola Middle School Jazz Band the California Music Educators Association Jazz Festival unanimous Superior rating for both 2005 and 2006; a Command Performance at the 2005 and 2006 Santa Cruz Jazz Festival; and placed among the top three Northern California schools at the 2006 Folsom Jazz Festival.

Tough shoes to fill.

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(both sessions available) or 1–3 p.m.

Clinic includes stroke instruction, play, ball-machine practice, refreshments and prizes. For information about racquets, call, Alex Brown, 524-5495.

Children are registered on a first come first served basis in the KCC office, 59 Arlington Ave. Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Emergency card, registration and waiver forms must be tendered prior to the beginning of the session. For further information or to request an application, please call the KCC office at 525-0292.

\$80 /session (Kensington resident)
\$88 /session (non-resident)
\$150 for all day enrollment in Session 6, Aug. 21–25 (\$165 for non-resident)
Minimum of 4 students per class;
Maximum of 8 students per class.
At the Kensington Tennis Courts

Kensington Community Council SUMMER DAY CAMP

Located in the Kensington Park, KCC summer camp runs June 12–August 18, for children entering first through sixth grades in Fall 2006. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. A few spaces may still be available. Campers may enroll on a weekly basis. For more information, contact the KCC office 525-0292, or www.aboutkensington.com.

KENSINGTON AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (KASEP)

Office hours—10 a.m.–4 p.m., Monday–Friday.

Esther Hill, *Director*—525-0292, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Elma Conley, *On-Site Supervisor*—525-0292, during class hours

Sandy Thacker, *Curriculum Coordinator*—482-1258

Sessions—The spring session of KASEP ends on Wednesday, June 7.
The fall session of KASEP will begin in mid-September.

KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (KCC)

Esther Hill, Administrator, 525-0292 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Monday–Friday. Building E is located across the grassy field from the tennis courts in Kensington Park.

To register for class—Call the office unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits; those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

Tennis court reservations—Reservations are for weekends and holidays only; the earliest is for 9 a.m. Fees are: \$2 per hour for Kensington residents and \$5 per hour for others. Call Esther Hill at 525-0292 for classes and tennis court reservation information.

Community Center rental—For Community Center rental information, call Helen Horowitz at the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, 526-4141.

ADULT CLASSES

Tennis

Alex Brown, USPTA tennis pro, offers classes to a minimum of four students. To register, call Brown at 524-5495.

5 classes/\$40 per resident;
\$45 per non-resident
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9–10 a.m.
At the Tennis Courts (West Court)

NEW CLASS!! Hatha Yoga

Enjoy a hatha yoga practice that will calm, restore, and revitalize you each Monday. Classic yoga postures and quiet attention to the nuance of movement help create a satisfying personal practice. This class draws on the instructor's knowledge of dynamic yoga styles (such as ashtanga or vinyasa) and subtly challenging yoga styles (like Iyengar, Integral and yin yoga) to help students find their own perfect balance. Yoga postures, breathing techniques, and philosophy are covered. All levels of experience welcome.

Instructor Claire Lavery has been practicing and teaching yoga since 1988. She focuses on breathing, alignment, and adjustment to help students enjoy the journey. To speak with Claire about the class, please call 681-3077. To register, call the KCC office at 525-0292.

Monday, 5:30–6:30 p.m.; begins June 5
Fees for residents: \$12 for drop-in
One-month pass (4 classes) for \$40
Non-residents please add 10%.
Classes are held in Building E, the Recreation Building.

Yoga for Health

Harmonize your body, mind, and spirit. This class involves basic Yoga poses, correct body alignment, breathing techniques, and relaxation. Develop strength, flexibility, endurance, and grace. Therapeutic concerns such as wrist, knee, neck and back pain, and stress reduction will be addressed. No prior experience required—all ages welcome. Please bring a mat to the class.

Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered Yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. For more information about the class, contact Nicole at 798-8148.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15–10:15 a.m.
Fees for residents: \$12 for drop-in;
\$40 for 1 class per week for 4 weeks;
\$80 for 2 classes per week for 4 weeks.
Nonresidents please add 10%.
To register call 525-0292.
At the Community Center.



Mike's bench

Irish Mike Driscoll spent years lovingly caring for the Community Center grounds. His wife, Margaret, and three generations of extended family came together to dedicate a bench to him in front of the Center. Also, to shade the bench, a tree was planted nearby. His son Kevin read a poem, and Chief Barry Garfield dedicated the bench.



The Driscoll family

SF police pay respect

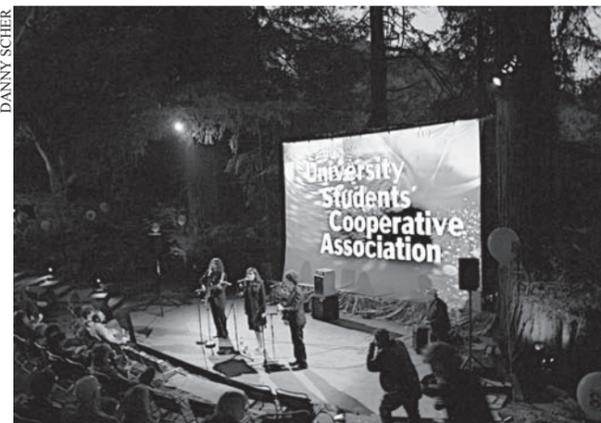
On May 5, a large contingent of San Francisco police gathered together for a formal funeral at Sunset View Cemetery for SF police officer, Sergeant Tsujimoto, who died of a heart attack while conducting training for fellow officers. Sergeant Tsujimoto, 41, was in the U.S. Marine Corps before joining the police force. He was the Supervisor of the SFPD Canine Unit. A memorial was held at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium.

Fundraising film takes viewers back to the 60s

On May 13, approximately 200 people gathered in the outdoor amphitheater on Coventry Road for dessert, wine, musical performances and a showing of the new film "Berkeley". The film, which stars Henry Winkler, premiered earlier this year at the Mill Valley Film Festival. The benefit supported the University Students' Cooperative Association (USCA), which provides low cost housing to students in 20 co-ops near the Berkeley campus. Food and wine expert Narsai David (who lived in the student co-ops while at UC Berkeley) served dessert and held a wine tasting accompanied by music from Stevie Barsotti and former Hilltop student, Will Sparks. Kensington resident Nancy Blattel, introduced Bobby Roth, upon whose life his film is based.

The film depicts the social and political life of a 1968 student at Berkeley. While the film played on a large screen, a fireworks display over the Bay, put on by a local radio station, provided a Vietnam war-like backdrop.

This was the first event put on by Danny Scher since the new Contra Costa County Temporary Events ordinance has been imposed. The organizers were required to pay fees for permits and spend considerable time complying with legal postings, and attending appeal hearings to get the permit.



The county had a person monitoring sound levels at the event, instead of having them at neighboring residences, where the measuring sound levels would have been more pertinent. Until the week before, the organizers were in court getting fees to hold the event reduced from \$2,860 to just \$60. Contra Cost County is the only county that has restrictions on holding non-profit and political fundraisers in private homes.

A neighbor complained to the police about cars parked on Coventry, and a person phoned to complain about the loud fireworks, which she assumed came from the event. Attending council officials and members of the police had only favorable comments on the organization and the event as a whole; the music was inaudible from the front of the house and the night was orderly and well managed.

Proceeds from the event will benefit scholarship programs for co-op students.

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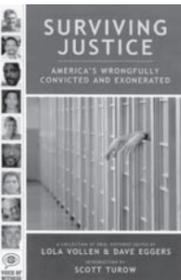
Photo exhibit by photographer Fran Ortiz, whose work has appeared in *Life, Time, Sports Illustrated, Harpers Bazaar, The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune,* and the *San Francisco Examiner* will be on display from June 12 until September 1, at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. Presented by The Friends of the Kensington Library. Above: Wildcat Canyon

Friday, June 2
Mini Concert. Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble (WAVE) conducted by Cindy Beitmen with Alto Sonora, a Renaissance wind ensemble, Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music, 8 p.m. Tickets \$15, \$10 (seniors), \$2 (under 16) Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

Wednesday, June 7
Fall auditions for young singers ages 7 to 12 for the Arlington Children's Choir, 2-4 p.m. Call Shanti at 843-7745 for information and time.

Thursday, June 8
The El Cerrito Garden Club's 50th anniversary. Includes history and highlights, followed by lunch, 11:30 a.m. El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. 526-2976.

Sunday, June 4
Sunday Forum:
 Dr. Lola Vollen, author of *Surviving Justice*, discusses her work with prisoners after they are found innocent. Aaron Owens, an exonerated prisoner, will join her, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.



Saturday, June 10
Annual Arts and Crafts Fair at Live Oak Park. Music by Berkeley's Jazz School and others, artists, jugglers, and comics, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Live Oak Park, 1301 Shattuck Ave. 898-3282.

Talk to the Animals! Magic and giant puppets with ventriloquist Tony Borders as part of the Kids' Summer Reading Program "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales," 11 a.m. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

Monday, June 5
Beginning computer classes for adults. Topics based on student's needs can include: use of a mouse, internet searching, using the library's catalog or databases, Microsoft Word, and using online medical information. Sign up at the library or call 524-3043. Limited to 3 students, 6-7 p.m. Kensington Public Library, 61 Arlington Ave.

Jeremy's Shafer's One Man Show. Featuring giant transforming origami, juggling, magic, comedy, unicycling, and more. Free. For grades 6-12, 12 noon. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

The Castoffs Knitting Group, 7 p.m. Kensington Public Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Kensington Community Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 525-0292.

Tuesday, June 6
Friends of the Kensington Library meeting, 5:30 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.


Kensington Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Geoffrey Gallegos, honors Schumann. Soloist, pianist Daniel Glover, 8 p.m. Suggested donation \$15; seniors/students \$10; children free. Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave. El Cerrito. 524-9912.

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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Sunday, June 11

Sunday Forum: Pierre Laboissiere, Haiti Action Committee discusses Haiti, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Annual Arts and Crafts Fair. See June 10.

Monday, June 12

KASEP Summer Camp first day. Kensington Park.

Fran Ortiz photo exhibit opens. See above.

Beginning computer classes. See June 5.

The Castoffs Knitting Group. See June 5.

Fall auditions for young singers. See June 7.

Tuesday, June 13

Desert Dave and some of his highly original pets. Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales, 6:30 p.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

ACLU/BARK+ present *The Exonerated*, a movie starring Danny Glover and Susan Sarandon, followed by a discussion with Natasha Minkser of the ACLU and Barbara Becnel, and exoneree Aaron Owens. Free. Richmond Public Library, 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond. 525 9223.

Wednesday, June 14

Kensington Fire Protection District meeting, 7:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 527-8395.

Saturday, June 17

First annual dog wash for Spay/Neuter! Get a full chassis, warm-water hosing and drying. Donations for CCC spay/neuter center, 12-4 p.m. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. 525-6155.

Berkeley Garden Club Plant Sale. Bargain prices, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 547 Grizzly Peak Blvd. Berkeley. 524-7296.

Spring recital for Arlington Children's Choir, 7 p.m. Free. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

Sunday, June 18

Sunday Forum: Loni Hancock, State Assemblywoman, on Reforming Campaign Financing, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road.

Monday, June 19

Beginning computer classes. See June 5.

The Castoffs Knitting Group. See June 5.

Wednesday, June 21

Fall auditions for young singers. See June 7.

Thursday, June 22

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District meeting, 7:30 p.m. Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 273-9926.

Friday, June 23

Fourth Friday Bridge Play and Potluck, 6 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

Saturday, June 24



Guide Dogs for the Blind. Jan Robitscher and her seeing eye dog, Christmas, 2 p.m. Kensington Public Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Sunday, June 25

New farmers market. 10 a.m.-2p.m. Ace/Rabbit Ears parking lot.

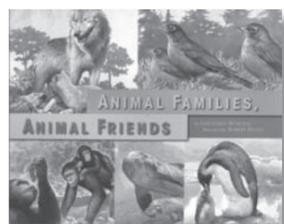
Sunday Forum: Dr. Theodore Roszak, political ecologist and author of *America Beware*, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Monday, June 26

Beginning computer classes. See June 5.

The Castoffs Knitting Group. See June 5.

Tuesday, June 27



Storytime with author Gretchen Woelfe reading from her book, *Animal Families*,

Animal Friends, 7 p.m. Kensington Public Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Kensington Municipal Advisory Council meeting, 7 p.m. Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 273-9926.

El Cerrito Democratic Club features Supervisor John Gioia, 7:30 p.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave. El Cerrito. 526-4874.

Friday, June 30

Mini Concert: Bay Area Classical Harmonies (BACH), Andrew Chung director, Greek and Russian vocal music, 8 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

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From the case files of the KPD

This report is based on the many reports in the police logs of the Kensington Police Department. The Outlook is solely responsible for the writing and editing of this report.

Events in April

■ An Acura was stolen from Lam Court and later found in Richmond. On Highland Blvd., a stolen Acura was found outside the home of people who had previously had three cars stolen.

■ The police saw a parked car on Beloit Ave. that was so filled with white smoke it was hard to see the occupants. After knocking on the window and talking to two men, police arrested them for possession of marijuana for sale. Seems they were consuming their potential profits.

■ Someone attempted to steal a car by trying to start it with the end of a pair of scissors. They left with a \$20 Walkman.

■ Police were called to investigate a shed that was attracting the family's large dog. Upon opening the shed door, a 30-40 lb raccoon jumped out and bit the dog, then ran off.

■ Someone found their AOL address being used to sell a truck online. Police were not sure if this was fraud or a typo.

■ A couple had an argument while moving. The scuffle ended with the man grabbing the woman and breaking her cell phone. She decided not to press charges.

■ On Highland Blvd. thieves smashed the window of a Lexus and stole possessions including Ray-Ban sunglasses and tapes of the Beatles and country music.

■ While returning home driving into her driveway a woman saw a strange car with a man behind the wheel parked outside her home. She backed out of her drive way and drove off. The suspicious car sped off.

■ A 9-year-old boy was bitten on the arm by an uncontrolled Labrador-mix dog at Hilltop playground. The boy's father called the police, and the dog's owner decided she had to get home quickly. The father prevented the canine's owner from leaving before the police arrived.

■ Police were called to a home on Ardmore Rd. because a dog was barking at a squirrel.

■ A construction site on Coventry Rd. was the scene of a theft of construction equipment and wine together valued at \$1875. Another construction site on Purdue Ave. lost an extensive array of expensive power tools. The owner of the second haul had all the serial numbers of the tools, so he may well get them back.

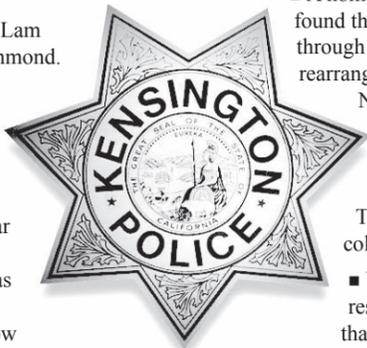
■ A resident on Los Altos Dr. found a special delivery envelope in the mail box already opened.

■ Irate neighbors on Stratford Rd. got into an argument that was serious enough for someone to call the police.

■ A Kensington resident informed the police that someone she did not know had left a message on her cell phone voice mail.

■ Two young men stopped while driving down Arlington Ave. were found to be in possession of marijuana. The herb was taken and will be disposed of.

■ The driver of a Ford pickup truck locked their self out while the engine was running.



■ A homeowner on Highgate Rd. found that someone had sliced through her kitchen screen door, and rearranged items in a garden shed. Nothing was taken.

■ A Tommy Hilfiger bag was found by the good folks at Young's Market. The grateful owner came to collect it.

■ Upon hearing strange noises a resident of Beloit Ave. thought that either an animal or a person was sleeping under their home. Police found signs of occupancy but no evidence as to the species of a possible intruder.

■ Ten different cars had windows shattered in one night on Coventry Rd., Ardmore Rd., Berkeley Park Ave., Stratford Rd, Lenox Rd., Beverly Rd. and Beverly Ct. Police suspect Kensington kids to be the perpetrators. Do you know where your kids go in the evening?

■ A car stereo was taken from a car on Yale Ave.

■ People complained to the police about kids playing hide-and-seek and using skateboards on Lake Dr.

■ Police joined the Highway Patrol and a helicopter as they assisted El Cerrito police search for two men who robbed a child at knife point. They did not find the suspects, but did find someone carrying a gun.

■ An SBC truck was double-parked and blocking traffic on Arlington Ave. The driver was not found, so the vehicle was towed.

■ The police answered three calls concerning elderly Kensington residents. In each case the person involved was in the hospital.

■ A woman in a Honda was pursued by a man in a blue Jaguar, because he thought she was driving badly while trying to overtake him. The woman drove to the police station, where the male driver asked the police to book the woman for dangerous driving.

■ A resident saw a teenager, dressed all in black, open their car door and then run off.

■ The police assisted the fire department after a person on Los Altos Dr. reported smoke emanating from their clothes dryer.

■ A pedestrian on Arlington Ave. claimed contractors caused them to step off the sidewalk to get around the work.

■ A vandal broke a Toyota pickup window. A Volvo was broken into and the radio was stolen.

■ A thief opened an unlocked Ford, and made off with the jack, lug wrench, and the owner's manual.

■ A solicitor, apparently collecting for the homeless, got angry with a resident, who would not open the door, screaming that they should have a sign posted saying "No Solicitors" if they did not want him to knock on their door.

There were 13 mistaken 911 calls, at least 12 instances when Kensington police assisted other services, nine false alarms from burglar alarms, and they checked on nine peoples' welfare.

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