

# KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

MAY 2007

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 64 NUMBER 4

## Recent Kensington burglaries

### Spate of thefts eases by mid-April

During the months of January through March of this year, there were half as many house and car burglaries as there were in the first six months of last year.

So far this year there have been 11 home burglaries, six cars stolen, one theft from a garage, nine burglaries from cars, 11 petty and grand thefts from cars, and three malicious mischief or tampering with cars. Although the car thefts mainly happened in the first two months, all but three of the house burglaries happened in March and the first two weeks of April, as did the car burglaries.

The house burglary perpetrators are suspected to be several men who pose as door-to-door solicitors. When they find no one home, they go to the back of the house and force an entry, or occasionally smash in the front door. Some times thieves have removed valuable jewelry and electronic items, and at

other homes, Xbox games. It is thought that these people work in teams, one going in and collecting items, the other driving up to collect them. The thieves appear to have a preference for jewelry, electronics, and cash. Most of the break-ins have been during the day, and have taken place all over the community.

This spurt of crimes has somewhat subsided toward the end of April, but the police still would like to be informed if strangers knock on your door during the day, especially if they do not have a license. If you are unsure of someone who knocks on your door, the police recommend that you don't open the door, ask them who they are, and give the police a call. If you don't let them know you are there, they may think the house is empty and try to break in.

If you see solicitors walking the street, please inform the police. If they come to your house, immediately ask for a Contra Costa County license; if they don't have one, call the police dispatch number, 233-1214.

## Arlington sidewalk woes

### County demands residents fix sinking sidewalks



Recently someone tripped over an irregularity in the sidewalk while walking on the west side of Arlington Ave. This accident prompted Contra Costa County Public Works Department to come and investigate. They found a lot of unevenness in the sidewalk, partly caused by the previous undergrounding of cables on Arlington Ave. When the undergrounding was done many years ago, the county cut open a narrow section of the sidewalk, buried the cables, and covered up the trench with new concrete. This paving has settled at a slightly different rate from that around it and, along with growing tree roots, has caused unevenness in the sidewalk. The county tagged most of the houses on the west side of the 100 and 200 blocks of Arlington Ave. for sidewalk repairs. The residents are responsible for the sidewalk in front of their homes, and they were given about one month to get permits and make repairs. The areas affected are from just a few square feet to almost the full width of the property being tagged for repair.

The *Outlook* contacted Supervisor Gioia's office and the Public Works Department, who said the time period could be extended for several months. The residents have organized themselves so as to address these issues as a group. Local resident Liz Guthridge, with the help of Gail Feldman of KPOA and Bill Wright of KPPCS, arranged for a meeting of those residents who are affected by the repairs to meet in the

Community Center. Residents of 12 different homes attended the meeting, and 5 others expressed interest, but were unable to attend due to the short notice. They formed a subcommittee to work with county representatives and people connected to the utilities that are undergrounded in that area, most importantly PG&E. Another subcommittee was delegated to work with contractors. These people will talk to residents of Westminster Avenue who have dealt with a

similar problem. Prices of \$25-28 per square foot were mentioned, but Feldman said she knew of less expensive repairs being conducted in Berkeley. In a letter from a county representative, it was stated that the cost of permits and inspections would be considerably reduced if this work was done by one contractor as one project.

All or part of the cost of resurfacing the sidewalk may be covered by the residents' homeowners insurance policies. Marvin Gardens realtor Celia Concus told the meeting that they should consider the repercussions of claiming against their insurance. She said that claims are tracked and may increase the cost of coverage in future years. If the claim is less than five years old when a house is sold, it must be disclosed at the time of sale.

Some residents were unhappy with having to repair what they consider to have been substandard workmanship done by the county at the time of the undergrounding. Others pointed out that there are many irregular sidewalks in Kensington, and some questionable areas of this span of Arlington Ave. were not tagged by the inspector. One resident complained that the one-month notice was too short, but Mr. Yee of the Contra Costa Public Works Department said the law mandates only a two-week notice, and Contra Cost County would extend the period somewhat to accommodate the residents.

## KPOA townhall meeting to discuss disaster preparedness and local issues

Kensington Property Owners Association (KPOA) will hold their annual meeting on June 2 at 10 a.m. at the Community Center. This year the agenda items include Earthquake and fire: Is Kensington prepared?, as well as green homes, and

greenhouse gas reduction. Supervisor John Gioia will talk on county issues pertaining to Kensington and undergrounding utility lines. Also up for discussion will be possible changes taking place with Bay View Refuse and Recycling, our garbage

collection company. The owner, Lewis Figone, wants to retire and hand the business over to his children. The present contract with Bay View Refuse expires in 2015, and the Figones have asked that Kensington extend their contract for a

further fifteen years, with an option for yet another fifteen years. The annual meeting is open to all Kensington residents. The KPOA encourages all households to become members. Annual dues are \$5.

After the meeting, KPOA and the KPPCS will have a dedication ceremony in the park, in honor of John Osborn, a former president of KPOA.

## \$mart and Green Day

### Many free items to make your home green

The May 20 Farmers' Market will feature a special Smart and Green Day, organized by Kensington resident Kay Reed. At the Smart and Green booth you will be able to exchange torchiere halogen lamps for more modern, safer, and more efficient fluorescent ones. These halogen lamps have been known to start fires. The fluorescent alternatives use the same amount of energy as a 65-watt fluorescent bulb. Bring up to three lamps, and they will be exchanged for brand new ones. The lamps must be 300 watts or above, and you will also need to bring a copy of a recent electric bill showing your address; this copy will be kept when you make the exchange. You can also sign up for a free home energy assessment, which includes free installation of energy efficient lamps, showerheads, sink aerators, and clotheslines. You can do this between 10 a.m. and noon.

This initiative is sponsored by California Youth Energy Services, who provide the service in order to alleviate energy costs for East Bay residents. Employing 16-to-24-year-olds, CYES offers free services to make homes more energy-efficient and save residents money on their utility bills. The energy specialists will come to your home and replace your traditional light bulbs with more efficient fluorescent lamps that use 66 percent less energy. They will also install efficient-flow showerheads that conserve both water and energy, while still providing a satisfying shower. Kitchen and bathroom aerators are also replaced to decrease water and energy usage. CYES even offers retractable clotheslines to those who want to eliminate operating costs of their dryer. All of these products and services are free.

You can also exchange your old mercury thermometer for a free digital thermometer at the May 20 market. Bring your mercury thermometer (one per household) sealed in two zip lock bags. The mercury in one thermometer can pollute 5 million gallons of Bay water. This exchange is sponsored by Save The Bay, EBMUD, and Kensington Girl Scout Troop 24.

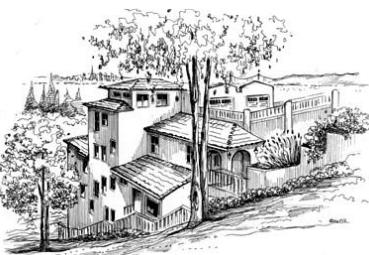
Ace Hardware is giving away one free compact fluorescent light (GE 60-watt equivalent) to the first 40 households who come by the booth. They will also be demonstrating the latest energy-efficient compact fluorescent lightbulbs.

511.org will be giving a free East Bay bicycle map to members of the first 50 households. PG&E will also be on hand to provide information on other energy efficiency programs and rebates.

# marvin gardens

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## SELECT LISTINGS



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Hodson/Egherman      524-0800



5 Alamo Avenue      Berkeley

**Classic Mid-Century Home** near the Village. Three bedrooms, two baths and a den. Closed escrow in twelve days. Listed at \$750,000.

Celia Concus      527-0800

**289 Arlington Avenue, Kensington • 524.0800**

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1532 Summit Road      Berkeley

**Enchanting Home** with abundant views of the Bay. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, gourmet kitchen, beautiful family room. Listed at \$1,095,000.

Catherine Krueger      527-9111



213 Arlington Ave.      Kensington

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### What happened to the mural at Colusa Circle?

**Editor**—I've really been amazed at how many people have approached me about the demise of the mural at Colusa Circle—far more than those that have inquired about the modifications to my development plan. I just want to assure everyone that if there was any way to have saved the mural, I would have.

The entire south wall of the building at 372-80 Colusa Ave. was dry-rotted and rebuilt top to bottom about 11 years ago. So you can imagine my surprise, after Doug Greene vacated his shop at 380 Colusa and the interior walls were stripped, to find that the south wall had rotted again. Apparently in rebuilding the wall, there was a construction defect that allowed moisture penetration and water to be trapped inside the walls.

To forestall a recurrence, I engaged an architect to do some forensic testing and provide detailed specifications to rebuild the wall and keep the mural intact. After several months that turned into a couple of years, the only way I could get any assurances that the wall would be watertight was to rebuild from top to bottom again. This was a painful decision for me—not only the matter of the cost to build the wall, but for reasons beyond that.

Very few people know the story about how the mural came into being. The mural over Angel Court, as the patio has come to be known, was actually the inspiration of and a special gift from a friend, Carol Chisholm. I had a significant commercial management operation and was transitioning from brokering and managing Berkeley apartment buildings to managing and leasing neighborhood shopping centers. I was asked by a friend to help Carol wind up her partnership in a residential brokerage office and help her transition into something new as well. I was reluctant at first. When told that Carol had multiple sclerosis and her ability to handle her normal responsibilities was diminishing, I offered to explore the possibilities. Carol's condition became all the more apparent as I watched her go from being able to walk unassisted, to weaving unsteadily, progressing from a nonmotorized to motorized wheel chair—all within that first year.

I quickly found that Carol and I had totally different personalities and seemed to process things a lot differently. Where, by my own admission, I could be characterized as somewhat uptight and rigid, Carol was more oblique in her thinking.

One day she asked if I wanted to go to dinner with her, but before we could decide on a restaurant, she wanted to take me on a quick tour. For reasons unbeknownst to me, she took me to view a mural under a Richmond freeway underpass, then to the mural in Westbrae on Gilman, and several others. Being somewhat hungry and impatient, I couldn't see what Carol was up to. During dinner, she suggested that I commission a mural for Colusa Circle. I couldn't see the logic in it and objected strenuously. "How can a mural bring value to my project," I implored. My view softened somewhat when she offered to pay for it. She also committed to letting me have some input on the mural design, so I conceded to having it done. Even then I was skeptical, questioning whether the mural would be aesthetically pleasing or serve any useful purpose.

After seeing the initial sketch of the mural, I offered my comments. The mural had two angels and depicted the businesses at 372-80 Colusa. There was a large clock, representing Doug Green's clock shop, shoes representing the

## KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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### Deadlines

Advertising deadline      May 8  
Editorial deadline      May 10

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Kensington Cobbler, a shirt representing the cleaners, and a baguette representing Semifreddi's. There was even a rendering of the neighborhood cat, 44, or Ford, as it was sometimes known. My input was that the time be set at 5:15 to provide a perch for the angels (5/15 is also my birthday) and that my initials be embroidered on the shirt—just some subtle touches.

In spite of my early trepidations, over time the mural really grew on me and I have often accepted credit for its creation. I will clarify for the record that Carol Chisholm was the real heroine of this story and one of the angels overlooking the court.

So you can understand my pain when contractors insisted that the mural would have to come down. Over the past two years I have spent as much as the original cost of the mural exploring alternatives—hoping beyond hope that the mural could be saved. "I don't mind losing my shirt (which was on the lower left corner of the mural), just save the clock," I pleaded. My consultants, architects and contractors said "no way," so I finally conceded.

The impact of the mural lives on within me. It has given me a greater appreciation of the impact of public art. Art helps give a development a sense of place. Art, when tastefully integrated with lush garden areas, fountains, and street lighting helps to humanize buildings. A commercial district can well be defined by the ambience engendered by such amenities.

So trust me—the mural will be resurrected, maybe not in the same place but it will be an integral part of whatever is built by me on the Circle. I want to thank my friend Carol Chisholm again for giving me this gift—not just the mural, but an appreciation that sometimes it is necessary to go beyond what is rational or reasonable or makes "good investment sense." That gift has left an indelible imprint and I will be forever indebted to Carol for it.

Ed Hammond

Editor—See page eight for a photograph of the mural.

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# 60th Spring Carnival



*The Crazy Quilt will be raffled*

When Kensington Hilltop School held its first Spring Carnival in May 1947, there were 44,000 TV sets in the U.S. and 40 million radios. The average annual salary was \$3,500. The inaugural carnival raised a princely \$969.05 for the Dads' Club and PTA activities. Proceeds included \$38.40 from the rat race, \$3 from character analysis, and \$62.25 from donated needlework.

Although times have changed, the carnival is still a lot of fun, and this year it celebrates its 60th anniversary. There will be games for kids, a large selection of prizes, lunch offerings from the Dads' Club barbecue, a bake sale, a cakewalk, but no rat race. The Kensington police and fire departments will be there to entertain the kids, and there will be the regular white elephant sale of rummage items.

Another tradition is the raffling of a quilt, designed and crafted this year by

Kensington parent and landscape designer Sarah Ray, with help from Amy Kurzer and Pam Snyder. This year's quilt, the Crazy Quilt, will be raffled off at the end of the afternoon. The raffle, held for the past 23 years, generally raises about half the carnival proceeds, which are used for educational programs. This year the carnival is recognizing past Dads' Club and PTA presidents as part of the diamond anniversary of both the carnival and the Dads' Club.

The Carnival will be at the Hilltop School, 90 Highland Blvd., on May 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## One less sergeant, one more officer

Shortly after the departure of former police chief Garfield, acting police chief Rickey Hull had to place Sergeant Danny Jeffries on administrative leave. Jeffries has been one of the people included in the ongoing investigation of the police department conducted by Interim Chief Taylor. On March 31, Jeffries resigned from the Kensington Police Department. The department paid a total separation payment of \$15,728, which included over \$12,000 in vacation payments. Chief Taylor said that the internal investigation into misconduct in the force has resulted in the implementation of "new organizational standards of professional/business conduct within the department."

Last month we reported on a wrongful arrest suit being brought against officers in the KPD. The claimant, Elsa Seward, recently filed suit in federal court in Oakland, charging the officers and the KPPCSD with violating her civil rights. Seward had previously filed a damages claim against the KPPCSD for a total in excess of \$10,000. The KPPCSD attorneys recommended refusing the claim, which the KPPCSD did after a closed-session meeting. Seward is a sergeant with the San Francisco Institutional Police, but she was not carrying any identity when officers stopped her for running a stop sign and speeding. During the stop, police

observed Seward's badge and asked her for identification that she was a police officer. She was unable to show any at that time, and she was taken to the Kensington Police Station for further identification. Seward works on security at the San Francisco Symphony and the War Memorial Opera House.

In other police news, Chief Taylor has done a staffing evaluation of the whole department, the results of which recommend maintaining the three remaining sergeants and replacing Sergeant Jeffries with a regular officer. Taylor thought four sergeants in a ten-member force was too top-heavy. Initial interviews for this position have already taken place, and a new officer should be selected some time in May. Taylor also recommended, and proposed for next year's budget, adding a nonsworn person to become an administrative assistant to the chief/manager. This person would do the statistical and nonpolice work currently being done by the regular police. This new position would also deal with outreach and helping to run the office. The COPS program will finance 75 percent of the cost of this position; the rest will come from district funds. The position is not being recruited yet but will be an option for the new chief when she or he is hired in the summer.

### Pets of the month



We are the Spice Girls, Cinnamon and Ginger. Our sister, Vanilla Spice, just married a handsome soccer player, and they are looking for a new home too. We hope this newspaper article will spark rumors of a Spice Girls reunion concert, and everybody around the world will want to adopt a guinea pig! Few people really know how well guinea pigs can sing. If you'd like to hear us sing before adopting us, bring a little Italian parsley with you and visit us at RabbitEars, 7 days a week, 303 Arlington Ave., 525-6155, [www.rabbitears.org](http://www.rabbitears.org).

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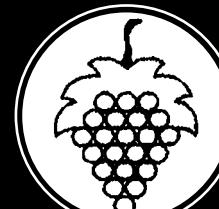
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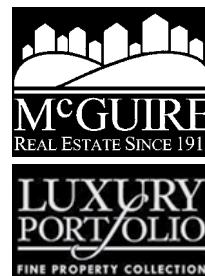
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# KENSINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

## YOUTH CLASSES

### Tennis

Instructor: Alex Brown (524-5495) In this class for students in grades 6, 7, and 8, Alex Brown teaches the fundamentals of tennis, including strokes, tactics, and sportsmanship. Classes consist of instruction, drills, and play, and continue through the school year. Students must register by the month for one or two days a week.



**When:** Tuesdays, and/or Thursdays 3:40–5:20 p.m.

**Fees:** (payable monthly): residents \$10/class; non-resident \$11/class

**Where:** Kensington Tennis Court



### Gymnastics

Instructors: Jean Jay and Judy Baker. Students should wear leotards or loose clothing such as sweatpants or shorts. Long hair must be tied in a ponytail. To enroll, call Judy Baker at 233-1833.

**When:** Tuesdays, 11 weeks

*Morning Kindergartners:*

11:45 a.m.–1:05 p.m.

*Advanced Beginners Grades 1–3:*

2:30 p.m.–3:20 p.m.

*Advanced Beginners Grades 4–6:*

2:50 p.m.–3:40 p.m.

**Where:** Community Center

## ADULT CLASSES

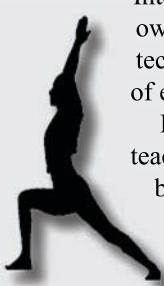
### Tennis

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

**When:** Tuesday and Thursday, 9–10 a.m.

**Fees:** 5 classes: \$40 per resident / \$45 per non-resident

**Where:** Tennis Courts (West Court)



### 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 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 lighthearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga.

For information about the class, please contact Nicole at 527-6443. To register call 525-0292.

**When:** Tuesday 9:15–10:15 a.m.

**Fees:** Residents \$12 for drop-in, \$50/5 for 5 classes

Nonresidents please add 10% (\$13.20/class; \$55 for 5 classes)

**Where:** Community Center

### Hatha Yoga

Enjoy a hatha yoga practice to calm, restore, and revitalize you each Monday and Thursday. 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 and 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, call 681-3077.

To register, call the KCC office at 525-0292.

**When:** Monday, 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Thursday, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

**Fees:** Residents—\$12 for drop-in. One-month pass (4 classes) \$40. Nonresidents—please add 10% (\$13.20 per class—\$44 for one-month pass)

**Where:** Recreation Building, Room A (Building E).

### Yoga for Beginners new

Relax, nourish, and replenish your body through an easy beginning-level yoga practice. Designed for those new to yoga as well as those with experience. Discover a newfound sense of well-being, ease, and grace through a simple series of hatha yoga postures, which encourage and promote body wisdom, health, and strength. Rejuvenate your system while practicing safely with care and attention to body awareness, alignment, and the breath. Please bring a mat to class.

Instructor Beth Hird has been studying yoga since 1975. She is a certified yoga instructor, a graduate of the 2004 Piedmont Yoga Studio Advanced Studies Program. She studied extensively with Rodney Yee, Claire Finn, and Richard Rosen, and enjoys bringing patience, compassion, and humor to the practice.

**When:** Wednesday, 8:45–10 a.m. and

Thursday, 7:30–8:45 p.m.

**Fees:** Residents, \$15 for drop-in \$50/4 weeks (1 class/week); \$100/8 weeks (2 classes/week)

Nonresidents add 10% (\$16.50/class; \$55 or \$110)

**Where:** Recreation Building, Room A (Building E).



### Acrylic Painting

Stan Cohen (533-3003) leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting, with assistance available. Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Enrollment is limited. Instructor approval required.

**When:** Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

**Fees:** \$32/month (\$36 for nonresidents)

**Where:** Community Center

*Consider this workshop for a Mother's Day gift to you and your daughter:*



new

### Mother-Daughter Writing Group & Tea Party

Want to share time with your daughter in a unique way? Mothers and daughters will meet in a supportive setting to explore and write about fun, imaginative subjects. We will share our writing afterwards over tea and cookies. Suggested minimum age is 9 years for girls who have an interest in writing. For more information please call Martha Black at 527-1347. Martha teaches creative writing for the Kensington After School Enrichment Program. To register, please call the KCC office at 525-0292. For 6–8 participants.

**When:** Sunday, May 20, 4–5:30 p.m.

**Fees:** Residents—\$25 for mother and daughter. Nonresidents—\$27.50, mother and daughter

**Where:** Recreation Building

## 2007 KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP

**REGISTRATION** There are still some spaces available for camp. Please come by the KCC office or visit [www.aboutkensington.com](http://www.aboutkensington.com) for more information. KCC summer camp runs June 18 through August 24, 2007, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Campers may enroll on a weekly basis. To ensure the best experience for each child, our camp has a maximum of 62 children per week.

**COST** for the Summer Day Camp is \$200 per week (with the exception of the 4th of July week at \$150). This covers all transportation costs, snacks, entrance fees, activities, and a KCC Summer Camp T-shirt for field trips.

### EACH WEEK CAMPERS WILL ENJOY:

- Field trips by private bus to points of interest around the Bay Area such as Scandia, Water World, the Exploratorium and the Jungle (There will be no field trip Week 3 due to the short week of July 4)\*
- Special activities such as carpentry, gymnastics, dance, drama, and golf\*
- Hiking, games, arts and crafts, and lots of fun!\*
- **Tennis with Alex Brown, three days a week\***

\*Changes in the schedule may be made due to unexpected circumstances.

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE CLASSES AT THE KCC OFFICE, 59 ARLINGTON AVENUE, KENSINGTON, 525-0292**

## KCC KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Esther Hill, Administrator, 525-0292

**To register for class:** Please 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 9 a.m. Call Esther Hill (525-0292) for tennis court reservation information.

**Tennis court fees:** Kensington residents—\$2/45-minute reservation (singles); Non-residents—\$5.

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

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Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Office hours:** 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 runs Monday, March 26 through Friday, June 8. Please visit [www.aboutkensington.com](http://www.aboutkensington.com) for more information about our after school classes.

The office will be closed during Monday, May 28.

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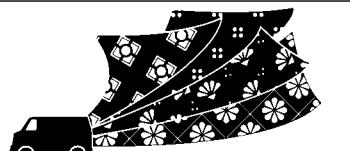
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# KENSINGTON DISTRICT



Director Cindy Kimball

In an open meeting spearheaded by new director Cindy Kimball, the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) asked the community to join with them in establishing a series of goals and objectives for the next six months. Directors and the public enumerated all the issues that they wanted addressed, and after the list was established, each member of the audience got 12 votes to cast for their choices of goals and objectives. The directors had twice as many votes. From the dozens of suggested topics, a hierarchy was soon established. These were then formed into a list by Kimball and district secretary Helen Horowitz, and the directors chose the ones they would undertake to see were implemented.

The top 26 from the list are now intended agenda items for upcoming meetings stretching through November.

Some of these are:

- Propose for approval balanced budget and report on search for general manager/police chief in June
- Police liaison report and news on possible uses for the Annex in July
- Revenue and expense report with trend evaluation in August
- Update to park master plan and report to board on community contacts in September
- Discussion/evaluation of goals, tasks, and timelines in October
- Police liaison report and plan for Annex revenue in November

At a recent KPPCSD meeting, the auditor presented a report on the audit that was recently completed. He recommended investing the \$1.9 million that the district has in cash, and keeping a closer accounting of employees' credit card spending, where some receipts were missing. The auditor stated that the department's accounting was very well organized and well run, and he praised the district staff for their work. He also pointed out that there were laws being implemented that would require the district to invest more money to cover retirement of past and future employees, mainly police officers. Additionally, at that meeting it was pointed out that the expenditures are rising as income is decreasing, and that the trend was not going in a positive direction for the future.

The overall goals for 2007 a

### Finance and Administration

Approve a balanced budget needs of the District.

### Police

Work with the chief to ensure services are of the highest to the needs of the community oriented, visible police chie

### Park and Recreation

Manage, maintain, and impr

### Board Effectiveness

Evaluate board effectivenes

The full list with the specific topics can be found a

Individual topics were largely each member had previously

### President Pat McLaughlin

Finance & Administration, Pol

### Vice President Cindy Kimbal

Police Liaison, Park & Recreat Annex, Community Outreach

### Joan Gallegos

Intergovernmental Issues, Soli

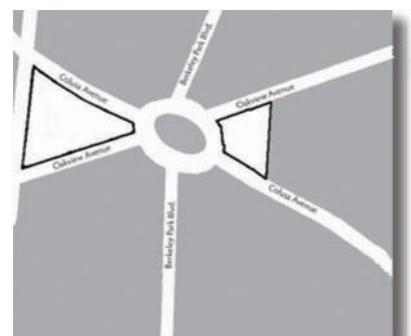
### Paul Haxo

Policies & Procedures, Pub Search

### Bill Wright

Finance, Community Outreach

## KMAC contends with Colusa Circle



### Local residents object to construction

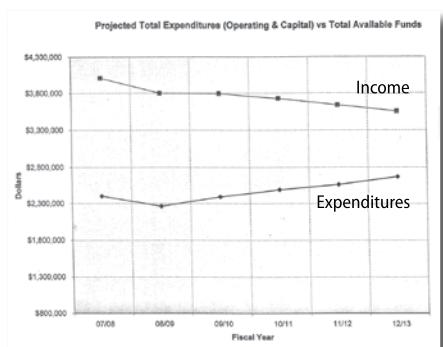
The April meeting of the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC), which advises the county planners about local development issues, had a long and contentious session discussing two building projects relating to Colusa Circle. The two sites are part of a Planned Community Development established 23 years ago. One parcel, the empty lot where cars park now, is planned to become a three-story building. Previously KMAC had asked that a parking study be conducted for this location.

The architect, Andrew Woolman, presented a study at the April meeting, but KMAC said it was inadequate because it stated, "The proposed parking plan for

this project does not satisfy the County guidelines." It does go on to say that the proposed project will not "exacerbate the parking problems that occur in the Colusa Circle area." Part of the difficulty is that the lot is now being used as a parking lot for many cars, and as this is not official parking, these spaces are not considered in the studies. Residents also complained that the proposed structure would completely block their view of the Golden Gate Bridge. The architect decided to take the process on to the county without a favorable vote from KMAC.

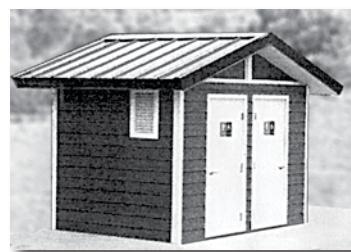
The other Colusa Circle project under consideration concerns the block that contains Semifreddi's Bakery, opposite Kensington Circus Pub and the now unused Porto Brasil. The plans for this development are for a three-story office and commercial space. Again, the developer, Ed Hammond, had been asked

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



The forecasted operating revenues are significantly lower than those forecasted for expenditure over the next six years. The estimated difference for 07–08 is \$300,000 and by 2012–13 it is estimated to be at \$200,000. These figures do not allow for park construction costs. At present the total assets and cash amount to approximately \$4 million.

The projections of total expenditures against total available funds are converging lines on a graph; presently they amount to a difference of about \$1.6 million and by 2012–13 this will be approximately \$900,000, representing a worrying trend.



toward these costs, which are now estimated to be over \$92,000. The bathroom will be ADA-compliant and will be situated against the hillside near the turning circle behind the basketball courts. There is also a possibility that the bathrooms in the recently vacated Annex building will become public restrooms. The district has already spent over \$3,800 on the Annex in the 2006–07 budget, which is more than 150 percent of the money allocated. The next year's budget has allocated \$63,000 for the bathroom.

In the KPPCSD budget there is an additional item for park improvements. New portable radios are budgeted to cost over \$48,000, replacing equipment bought in 2000. Also adding to the budget is an expense of nearly \$48,000 for four onboard computers for patrol cars, and an eight-year-old Ford Crown Victoria police car, with a leaking roof that cannot be fixed, also needs replacing in the coming year. In 2006–07 the district paid over \$115,000 in attorney fees, and the projected expenditure for next year is \$30,000.

for a parking study. He was unable to get a satisfactory study completed in time, and asked, shortly before the meeting, to be removed from the agenda. He told the council that the project was too small for most reputable traffic engineers to take on. The proposed site has many diagonal parking spaces on all sides. The project has been redesigned to relocate the third floor so it's not visible from the street.

After a lot of discussion, the council also asked for a traffic study, which it had not previously requested. Hammond decided that he would ask for a continuance and come back to KMAC one more time, when he was able to get a parking study completed. He has made many previous visits to KMAC, starting in August 2003, usually returning with altered plans he hoped would accommodate their wishes.

The many local residents in the audience were vociferously antagonistic to both projects. Their complaints were threefold: parking was the major issue, with people

KMAC member

Kay Reed suggested that having more shops in the area might result in people using their cars less than they do at present.

complaining about the lack of spaces even before bringing more businesses and homes; they did not think the area needed more commercial buildings; and the size of the proposed developments was thought to be out of keeping with the neighborhood. They said that traffic is worse than ever.

It was not too many years ago that Narsai David had his store, restaurant, and catering service in the area, and there were regularly 50 people working there, and sometimes was as large as 100 people commuting with many parking in the Colusa Circle area.

KMAC member Kay Reed suggested that having more shops in the area might result in people using their cars less than they do at present.

Many homes in the area currently are using their garages not to park cars but as living spaces, thus exacerbating the lack of parking. Both lots already have planning permission, granted with the original PUD in 1983, for rather larger structures than those proposed, although one was to have included a parking structure.

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## LISTING UPDATE

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*7991 Terrace Drive, El Cerrito*  
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*PENDING*  
*412 Colusa Avenue, Kensington*  
3BR/2BA ~ Offered at \$775,000



*1084 Euclid Avenue, Berkeley*  
2BR/1BA ~ Offered at \$769,000



*1 Claremont Crescent, Berkeley*  
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Originally offered at \$950,000



*329 Rugby Avenue, Kensington*  
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## 60th Annual

Kensington Hilltop School

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## Neighborhood Notes



PHOTO: AMYE OMINSKY

### Wall art no more

The large mural on the side of a building just north of Colusa Circle has been removed. It had been there for the past 11 years and had become a focal point of Colusa Circle. The mural was painted on a building owned by Ed Hammond, who said he had to remove the mural to repair water damage to the building. The mural was painted by John Wehrle of Richmond, for an original cost of about \$5,000. Wehrle has painted many other murals in the area, including ones in Richmond, Pinole, Hayward, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The new bare wall is a sharp contrast to the colorful picture that featured a clock, bread, and clothing relating to local shops, as well as two angels sitting on a clock. Hammond is in the process of getting permits to renovate the whole block, including the garage at the other end of the block, which is now vacant.

*Editor—See Ed Hammond's Letter to the Editor on page 2.*

### Block captains needed

In the past, Kensington had a lively group of block captains who helped keep their immediate neighborhoods informed on disaster preparedness, local crimes, and other happenings in the community. Sometimes this meant occasional visits to the elderly or infirm, checking on a neighbor's house during vacation, or picking up their newspapers when they were away. Now there are only 13 such groups known to the police and emergency crews. Of these, 12 are to the east of Arlington Ave. Many areas of the community are not covered. If you would like to help organize your block, immediate neighbors, or another group of homes, please get in touch with Officer Stegman at the Police Department (526-4141). He will get you started with some basic information and will come and visit your group to help get it established. This is not a difficult task, and it can be a fun way to bring neighbors together. Officer Stegman can also advise you on getting CERT training in first aid. Some groups concentrate on disaster preparedness, others on crime, and most spend a little time on both. On average, the groups seem to meet a couple of times a year, while some block captains distribute flyers on a monthly basis.

### Prom night

When was the last time you went to a prom? Maybe you have yet to go to one. If your prom is not scheduled for this year, then get out those dancing shoes, because the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley has just the event for you. On May 12, the UUCB is presenting Stairway to Heaven, The Prom for the Rest of Us. This will be an elegant, formal evening of dancing and dining under the stars. The church sits atop Squirrel Hill and affords a wonderful view of the Bay. There will be a luxurious four-course meal, elegantly served at your table, and dance music from the '40s through the present. Tickets may be obtained from the church and will be sold at the door, but it is better to book early,

as there is limited space available. Volunteers are also needed to help on the night of the event and for setup. Call Catherine McDonald, 965-1646, for reservations, to volunteer, or more information. The prom is a benefit for UUCB.

### Radio operators needed

The Kensington Amateur Radio Operators (KARO) is looking for interested residents of any age to learn how to operate the community's ham radios during an emergency. There are radios in various locations in Kensington, paid for by the community, and one at Kensington Hilltop School paid for by their PTA. KARO maintains the radios, ready for use when and if other means of communication fail, and it works closely with block captains, the local fire departments, and police.

When a major disaster happens, we could be without support from the outside for up to a week, and the radio operators might well be our major form of communication. Each of the radios would need more than one person to run it for this period, so KARO is reaching out to the community.

KARO members are prepared to teach others the basics of operating the radios, message handling, and communications protocols. You may find you're interested enough to join the ranks of hams and get your own license and equipment.

To learn more, call, Marian Gade at 524-9815.





Kensington's finest preparing to visit homes for last year's National Night Out

## Night Out with neighbors and police

The National Night Out is designed to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts. Traditionally it was "lights on" and front porch vigil, but activities and scope have increased over the last 23 years, and now it includes block parties, cookouts, visits from police and fire departments, neighborhood walks, and safety meetings, with much more of a party atmosphere. The first year, nationally, 400 communities were involved, and last year this number had risen to 11,125, with over 35.2 million people taking part.

Last year, the Kensington National Night Out, organized by Sergeant Angela Escobar, had 13 parties, some with 6 or 7 people, some with 30 or more, in people's living rooms, in yards, in driveways, and in the street. The Kensington Police and Fire Departments cruised from one party to another, handing out goodies to the kids and being well fed. This year, the event is being organized by Officer Eric Stegman. He has started rounding up previous party hosts and will soon be approaching past block captains.

National Night Out is a great way to meet your neighbors, have a party, and educate each other about home safety, local crime, and disaster preparedness. If you would like to be included in a local event, or would like help organizing one in your neighborhood, please call Officer Stegman at 526-4141. The police and fire departments are always happy to help people who want to organize their neighbors into a Neighborhood Watch or emergency preparedness group, or to simply bring together a few people for this one night.

## 1,000 masks and still going strong



Bibi Barrett is a mask maker. She makes plaster masks of people's faces by applying damp plaster-coated cloth and letting it harden. She has been doing this for the past 21 years, slowly perfecting her technique. She has recently made her 1,000th mask, of a 17-year-old Berkeley student. She had previously made a mask of him when he was much younger. Barrett, who has made masks of many people in Kensington, El Cerrito, Albany, and around the world, says she is looking forward to the next 1,000. Additionally, Barrett makes small cards that she illustrates and writes. She distributes these colorful cards to many people around town. The cards are in English and in a language of her own creation, which even has its own alphabet. When not making masks, Barrett can be seen walking the footpaths of the Bay Area, from Half Moon Bay to Stinson Beach and around the Bay.

## 17th Science Fair



Every year the Kensington Nursery School holds a science fair for all preschool children, although first- and second-graders seem to enjoy it also. The many activities range from making soap bubbles big enough to stand inside, to making volcanoes erupt, to playing with rabbits. This will be the 17th year for the science fair, which is enjoyed by many families. In all, there will be 15 hands-on science activities, including Space World, Magnets, Ocean-in-a-Bottle, Dino Dig, and Astro Jump, on Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is \$3. Bring your kids and stay for lunch, which is for sale in the garden. Kensington Nursery has been located in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., since 1943, but is a wholly independent organization.

## Cinco de Mayo Festival

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley is holding a Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, with a silent as well as a live auction. You can bid on meals at restaurants, jewelry, golf outings, concert and theater tickets, excursions, arts and crafts, and much more. There will be Mexican food, many activities for kids, and a plant sale. The event will take place on Sunday, May 6, from noon until 3 p.m. Admission is free, and 10 percent of the proceeds will go to the Greater Richmond Interfaith Project. Donors include: Andronico's, Arlington Pharmacy, Berkeley Ironworks, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, Cerrito Speakeasy Theater, Complete Tree Care, Disneyland, Elephant Pharmacy, Five Little Monkeys, Freight & Salvage, Inn Kensington, Kensington Bistro, Lalime's, Los Cenzontles, Mira Vista Country Club, Monterey Market, Nation's, Natural Grocery, Pastime Hardware, Peet's, Rivoli, Scandia, Shai's, Snippety Crickets, Sue Johnson Lamps & Shades, Sugar Bowl, and Venezia. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley is located at 1 Lawson Rd. Call 525-0302 for details.

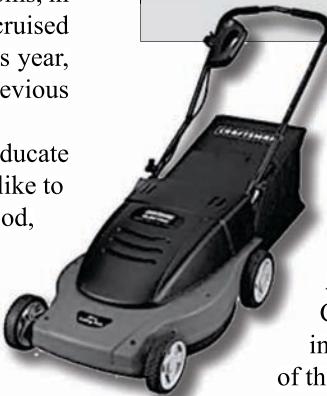
## PTA looking for candidates

On May 3, the Hilltop School PTA will hold their executive board elections. This will be the last PTA meeting of the 2006-2007 school year. The PTA is the leading advocate for parents and children at the school. The positions available are president, executive vice president (co-president), vice president for communications, vice president for the carnival, vice president for membership, secretary, treasurer, historian, parliamentarian, and auditor. The positions are for one year, from July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008. The PTA is concerned with safety disaster preparedness and emergency supplies, financial supplementation of the library, and carnivals. Recent issues addressed by the PTA include middle school discussions, school uniforms, and much more. To find out more, call Linda Ruiz-Lozito at 215-0509, Felicia Robertson at 526-5670, or Amy Kurzer at 387-0723.

## Graduation photos

Graduating high school students who live in Kensington will have a chance to reconnect with old friends, share memories, and say "cheese." The annual photo of Kensington's graduating high school students is set for May 12 at 11 a.m. at Building E in Kensington Park. Building E is situated above the basketball courts. Pizza will be served. Former and current Kensington residents are welcome.

There will be two photographs, one of only Hilltop kids, and one of everyone. To participate in the senior photo, just show up.



## Greener gardens

You can reduce air pollution and yard waste with a new electric mulching lawn mower, while avoiding filling recycling bins with grass clippings. Thanks to Central Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority, residents of designated communities within Contra Costa County are eligible for an OSH in-store rebate for \$50 plus another mail-in rebate of \$20 when purchasing an electric mulching mower. With both of these rebates, the new mower will cost \$199.99 plus tax. This offer is good through September 30. Local participating OSH stores are located on Eastshore Blvd. in El Cerrito and Fitzgerald Dr. in Pinole. For further details, call 925-906-1806 or visit [www.wasteddiversion.org](http://www.wasteddiversion.org).

## Good Hello!



Sophie Chance, of Montclair, and her grandfather Chuck Grant, of Kensington, have coauthored and published a children's book titled *Good Hello!*

The book has three children's stories in it, "Good Hello," "Two Noses," and "I'm the Best." The stories have community, friendship, and self-esteem as their themes. Also included in the book is a CD with related songs, sung by third-grader Sophie and her friend Kendal Post, a fifth-grader. The musical direction was done by Phil Schroeder of Oakland. Grant says the CD "rocks."

Although written for preschool and first graders, older children may also get a kick out of reading these fun tales with their parents. The book has colorful illustrations by Karen Goldberg of Oakland.

Sophie was six when the project started and is now at eight. This is her first published work. The initial print run of *Good Hello!* was 1,000 copies, many of which are being donated to selected Bay Area schools and hospital wards for use in their fundraising. It can also be purchased at Arlington Pharmacy for \$20. Not only are these entertaining stories, but they may well serve as inspiration for other kids to start writing.

You can find a copy of *Good Hello!* in the Kensington Public Library.

## OBITUARIES

### Marian O'Brien

On March 13, Marian O'Brien died at age 60. Marian grew up in Kensington, the daughter of Dorothy O'Brien, and after attending local schools she graduated from the University of Montana, and got a further degree from the University of Puget Sound. For the past 15 years, Marian has provided occupational therapy to mental patients in the Natividad Medical center in Salinas. She is survived by her husband, Gene Sajcich, her mother, her brother, Dan O'Brien, and two nieces, Patty and Erin O'Brien. Memorial contributions may be sent to Hospice of the Central Coast, P.O. Box 1798 Monterey, CA 93942.

### Jack Welden

Jacques (Jack) Welden died in his sleep on April 24, at age 79. Jack, an alumnus of Berkeley High School and Cal, was a regular member of Arlington Community Church since joining in 1960, and over the

years served as moderator and chairman of many church boards. He also served as the chair of the Contra Costa County Republican Party. Jack and his son David owned Welden and Welden, a law firm on Arlington Avenue. Always gregarious, Jack's sense of humor often served to avert tense situations in his work and kept his family amused. Even as he got older, Jack was always willing to help at the church, even stepping up to break up concrete with a sledgehammer. Jack and his wife Jacci were active in a theatrical group in Berkeley, loved to ski and play bridge, and drove the transportation for Meals on Wheels. The Welden family was famous for their neighborhood Halloween and Christmas Eve parties, a long-standing tradition in Kensington.

Jack is survived by his wife Jacci, children David, Kelly, Bruce, and Barbara, their spouses, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

His memorial service will be held at ACC on Saturday, May 12, at 11 a.m.

**Tuesday May 1**

**Dads' Club** meeting, Multipurpose Room, 7–8 p.m. Hilltop School, 90 Highland Blvd. 231-1415.

**FKL meeting** (Friends of Kensington Library) 5:30 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave.

**May 2**

**Constructions.** Artists Jenny Honnert, Marya Krogstad, and Thomas Morphis talk about their show. 6:30–8:30 p.m. Free. Exhibition runs through July 1. Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut Street in Live Oak Park. 644-6893.

**Thursday May 3**

**Storytime for Babies and Toddlers.** Stories, songs and action rhymes for young children and their parents or caregivers. 10:30 a.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Theater for Peace.** ACC Youth Dance with Michael Mansfield. Acting, dancing, and voice training for ages 8–14. 5:30 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**ACC Circle Dance and Ballroom Dancing.** Learn to dance with others—ballroom, Latin, and circle dances. 7:30 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146

**What is your story?** 7:30 p.m. Rev. Cathleen Cox Burneo. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Saturday May 5****60th Annual Spring Carnival.**

11 a.m. Hilltop School, 90 Highland Blvd.

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**Sunday May 6**

**Tales from the Stairs:** Stories of a Journey. Lois Atkinson. 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.



**Fiesta! Cinco de Mayo Fiesta and Fundraiser.** Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Music and Meditative Walking.** Sit or walk quietly to the music of Carolyn Margrete, 6 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**Holistic Pet Evaluation.** Pet need not be present. 1–4 p.m. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. 525-6155.

**Monday May 7**

**KCC meeting,** Community Center, 7 p.m. 59 Arlington Ave. 525-0292.

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

**Tuesday May 1****Tuesday May 8****Family Storytime.**

For children 3 and older. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Kensington Education Foundation.**

Staff Room, Hilltop School, 8–9 p.m. 90 Highland Blvd. 231-1415.

**Wednesday May 9**

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

**Thursday May 10**

**Storytime for Babies and Toddlers.** Stories, songs and action rhymes for young children and their parents or caregivers. 10:30 a.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043

**Arts Education Ministries,** Theater for Peace. ACC Youth Dance with Michael Mansfield. Acting, dancing, and voice training for ages 8–14. 5:30 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

ACC Women's Fellowship presents **Stories and Words of Worship in Unlikely Places**, Louise Weamer. Former members of Arlington Women's Club. Potluck 6:30 p.m. followed by program. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**ACC Circle Dance and Ballroom Dancing.** Learn to dance with others—ballroom, Latin, and circle dances. 7:30 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146

**Sparks for Growth.** Revs. Chris Craethnenn, Bill Hamilton-Holway, Barbara Hamilton-Holway. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Friday May 11**

**Bobby Ingrams** performs at the piano with wit and humor. 8 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**Saturday May 12**

**Friends of Kensington Library Two-Day Spring Book Sale.** 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Silent Auction 10 a.m.–2 p.m.). Kensington Community Center. 59 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**High school graduates photograph.** Building E, Kensington Park, 59 Arlington Ave. 11 a.m.

**Insect Discovery Lab.** See, touch and learn about beetles, millipedes, walking sticks and other fascinating live bugs! 11 a.m. Sponsored by the Friends of the El Cerrito Library. The El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. El Cerrito 526-7512.

**Stairway to Heaven—The Prom for the Rest of Us.** Dinner 5 p.m., dancing 7 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Tooth and nail pet grooming.** 1 a.m.–4 p.m. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. 525-6155.

**Sunday May 13**

**Friends of Kensington Library Two-Day Spring Book Sale.** 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Silent Auction 10 a.m.–2 p.m.). Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

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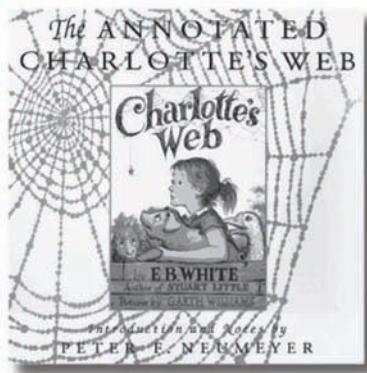
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# CALENDAR

**A Transylvanian Perspective on Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling.**  
Erika Orban. 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Mother's Day and Child Dedication.**  
10:45 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Monday May 14**



**Dr. Peter Neumeyer**, Kensington resident and emeritus professor of English and comparative literature at SDSU, will discuss various aspects of children's literature, including his *Annotated Charlotte's Web*. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Tuesday May 15**

**Family Storytime**. For children 3 and older. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Hardy Geraniums and Scented Pelargoniums**, a talk by Robin Parer of Geraniaceae. 1 p.m. Berkeley Garden Club, Epworth Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berkeley. 845-4482.

**Thursday May 17**

**Storytime for Babies and Toddlers**. See May 8.

**Spiritual Practices for Modern Life**. Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Friday May 18**

**Transitions: Spanish Influence in the New World**. The Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble, Renaissance Ensemble Alta Sonora, and others. 8 p.m. \$15, \$5 students/seniors. Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland.

**Saturday May 19**

**Contra Costa Chorale with the Kensington Symphony**. John Montanero, Geoffrey Gallegos. Rita Lilly, soprano; Chie Treagus, alto; Dean Christman, tenor; Richard Mix, bass. Mozart's Coronation Mass, Vaughan Williams, Dvorak. Reception after concert. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. \$15; \$12 students, seniors, disabled. Children free. 527-2026.

**Sunday May 20**

**\$mart and Green Day at the Farmers' Market**. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Following the Flow**. Jeffrey Melcher. 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Dark side of gluten in pet foods**. Ann Marks. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. 525-6155.

**Monday May 21**



**Kensington Library Book Club**. *Gilead*, by Marilynne Robinson. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Tuesday May 22**

**Family Storytime**. For children 3 and older. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.



**Friday May 25**

**Laurissa Carmichael, CRW Legislative Advocate** will give a talk to Kensington-El Cerrito Congress of Republicans. Social 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. \$16. Gonzales Restaurant, 12955 San Pablo Ave., Richmond. 524-5689.

**Saturday May 26**

## Spring Gala & Auction

Fundraiser for Berkeley's oldest community club. Gourmet dinner, live and silent auction, 6-9:30 p.m. \$35. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley.

**Sunday May 27**

**Group Discussion**: Meet to evaluate program and plan for the future. Time for new ideas. 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Tuesday May 29**

**Family Storytime**. For children 3 and older. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

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

**Wednesday May 30**

**Kensington Area Republican Women's Club**. Talk: Eugenia Christiansen. \$15 includes lunch. Mira Vista Country Club, 7901 Cutting Blvd. Reservations: 524-5689.

**Thursday May 24**

**Storytime for Babies and Toddlers**. See May 3.

**Arts Education Ministries**, Theater for Peace. ACC Youth Dance with Michael Mansfield. Acting, dancing, and voice training for ages 8-14. 5:30 p.m.

**ACC Circle Dance and Ballroom Dancing**. Learn to dance with others—ballroom, Latin, and circle dances. 7:30 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146

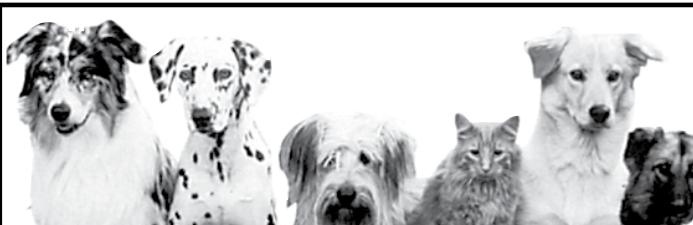
**Unitarian Universalist Roots and Branches**. Rev. Bill Hamilton-Holway. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

**Thursday May 31**

**Storytime for Babies & Toddlers**. Stories, songs and action rhymes for young children and their parents or caregivers. 10:30 a.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

**Arlington Children's Choir end-of-the-year concert**, with children's orchestra from Prospect Sierra School and the ACC Drama Troupe. 7 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

**Reaching In, Reaching Out: Paths to the Holy**. Rev. Chris Craethnenn. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.



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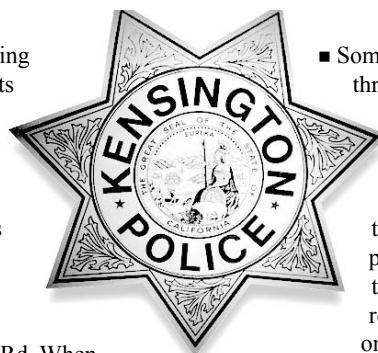
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## From the case files of the KPD

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 March

- One Friday, the school crossing guard at the library traffic lights felt that too many cars were running the red light when children were crossing, and requested a police presence to make sure the kids could cross safely.
- An elderly driver in a white Camry was involved in a hit-and-run accident on Coventry Rd. When questioned by police, she said she got out of her car to look for damage, and failed to see the scratches and the mirror hanging by a wire on the VW she hit. Another driver, this time driving a car from Rent-A-Relic without a license, failed to notice significant damage to the car they hit on Lennox Rd. In both instances, onlookers were able to copy down the license plates of the hit-and-run criminals.
- A moving truck brought down some tree branches on Beverley Park Blvd.
- Shortly after 7 a.m., an officer approached a parked car with its engine running on Arlington Ave. A woman was asleep behind the wheel. When awoken, she said she had started the car to warm up the engine and then fell asleep before she could set off for work.
- An attorney who felt unfairly treated at a local store because she was not served in order, threatened to sue the store. She took her argument behind the cash register counter, and the police were called.
- A Lam Ct. resident was approached by a collections company for payment to fake credit card bills totaling over \$12,000 for a nonexistent person with the same last name and an address in Georgia.
- A driver on Arlington Ave. heard a loud noise as her car was hit by something. She said there were no cars in the vicinity, but she was surprised by a deer with its face pressed up against one of her side windows. A passerby saw the deer run off.
- Someone thought it suspicious that two men knocked on his front door at 9:20 p.m. and then explained they had come to the wrong house. The police agreed with him, but unfortunately, the homeowner waited until 9:30 a.m. to call the police. The police would like you to call when an incident happens. Sgt. Khan said, "We are awake, and you would not be disturbing us. This is why we are here 24 hours a day."
- A thief with a green thumb but butter fingers stole a lemon tree and two sage bushes from a home on Oakview Ave. The plants were found abandoned in the next-door garden.
- Someone stole \$300 designer eyeglass frames from the optician on Arlington Ave.
- A woman reported her Chinese passport missing. She had last seen it when she came to the U.S. in 1960. Police told her it had probably expired and to consider getting a new one.
- Someone complained to police about a "mischievous" bus blocking traffic on Arlington Ave. as it slowly made its way through Kensington during the evening commute.
- Cars were parked too far into the road on Beloit Ave. for fire trucks to get through. Cars parked in the same location recently caused paramedics to have to run with all their equipment a couple of hundred yards to a medical emergency. Please be aware on narrow streets that fire trucks are wider than the average family car and need access at all times.
- A homeowner on Sunset Drive reported a broken window, and suspected the deer that play, apparently too roughly, in her backyard.
- At 11 p.m. a police officer observed a Cadillac driving at a very high speed along Arlington Ave. and failing to even slow down at the stop sign at Amherst Ave. It was going too fast to safely pursue, so he radioed Berkeley police to tell them of its imminent arrival.
- As someone backed out of a driveway into Windsor Ave., a passing motorist, not willing to wait, swerved around the reversing car and hit a parked car. Police ask that we all be a little more patient with each other. If you see someone coming down the street, don't speed up to get into the road before they arrive, and if you see someone backing into the street in front of you, give them a moment to do so safely.



■ Someone taking a walk wandered through an open gate onto EBMUD property. When they got back to the gate on their way home, the gate had been locked and they were trapped inside. The police were able to unlock the gate. They would like to remind walkers not to trespass on private property.

■ Twice in March people were reported stealing recyclables from the curbside.

■ A person living on Highgate Road, who works for Homeland Security, went to their car just before midnight and found their uniform and other belongings had been stolen from their car.

■ Would-be burglars fled from a car on Franciscan Way when they heard the burglar alarm sounding.

■ A Windsor Ave. resident working on a remodeling project was asked to stop work at 11:30 p.m. when the noise disturbed neighbors.

■ Three Kensington juveniles were caught on security video cameras as they vandalized property at Hillside School. They were recognized by the school staff; consequently the parents and kids had what must have been a very unpleasant conversation with the cops.

■ Vandals shattered a Plexiglas panel on a notice board attached to Building E in Kensington Park.

■ Someone dumped a five-gallon drum of flammable liquid in a garden on Kenyon Ave.

■ Neighbors were engaged in an argument about garbage cans left out in the street when one of the arguers started using very profane language. The offended party called the police.

■ A 60-something living with his mother was reported for elder abuse by the Social Services department. The altercation concerned the son's need for money.

■ A woman living on Kenyon Ave. was arrested for domestic violence when the police were called after a marital argument, and the husband was found to be bleeding from a facial wound.

■ Racial slurs were heard when Stanford Ave. neighbors got into an argument.

■ An elderly person complained to the police that their doorbell was being rung repeatedly. Police discovered the culprit to be the caretaker's boyfriend.

■ An Anson Way resident had their identity stolen. The perpetrator opened a Bank of America account and ordered Spanish language DVDs and bought items from a Discovery store in a mall.

■ Graffiti was found on a traffic sign on Kenyon Ave. The County was called to clean it up. Other graffiti was found on the grounds of Hilltop School. Presumably, the school personnel cleaned this up.

■ Some months ago, a resident of Lexington Rd. employed someone to wash their windows. They were surprised to return home recently and find the same man washing the windows again. He had come uninvited and wanted payment. The police were needed to explain to the window washer that he did not have a contract, it was illegal to come onto other people's property uninvited, and to not expect payment.

■ A person living on Arlington Ave. turned some fireworks in to the police. The firecrackers had apparently been purchased in 1984. The receipt was still in the bag.

■ A bicycle rider on Beloit had to swerve to avoid being struck by a moving car, and ran into a parked car. He was not badly hurt, but the car suffered.

■ Neighbors reported a noisy party at 11:30 at night. Police found a couple of families sitting around a fire pit in the back yard of a house on Ardmore. Sometimes people talking in their gardens can be disturbing to neighbors.

#### Kensington Police Department

<b>Emergency</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Police dispatch</b>	<b>233-1214</b>
<b>Non Emergency office (daytime)</b>	<b>526-4141</b>

#### Kensington Fire Department

<b>Emergency</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Non Emergency office (daytime)</b>	<b>527 8369</b>

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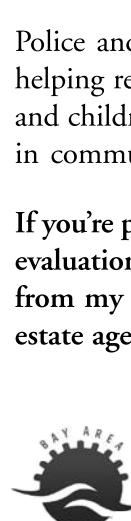
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