

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

NOVEMBER 2008

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 9



The Kensington Community Council's annual Parade and Picnic drew crowds to watch the procession on Arlington Avenue. The Boy Scouts led it off, and the Cat in the Hat hitched a ride with the Friends of the Kensington Library.

Everyone Loves a Parade

The annual Kensington Community Council Parade, sponsored by Mechanics Bank, featured hundreds of willing participants October 19. Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat sat primly in his assigned chair with the Friends of the Kensington Library without causing too much havoc, although Thing One and Thing Two could be seen scrambling for treats tossed out by Marvin Gardens' cars along the parade route. The Boy Scouts led



Kensington's Boy Scout leads the parade, right behind the fire truck.

the parade and carried the flag, and one of Kensington's Olympians, Sayaka Matsumoto, served as the parade marshal. For more photos, see Page 3.

Home Burglaries Plague Grizzly Peak Area

A spate of residential burglaries has hit the upper Kensington area in the Grizzly Peak neighborhood, and police have instituted four-officer patrols on the days when most of the robberies seem to occur. As of press time, 11 homes have been burgled in the neighborhood since August, the latest two on Oct. 10.

Kensington police believe that it's the same team committing the burglaries, and have reason to believe that there are more than two people on the team. The thieves use the same method; they either bash in the front door or break or force a window to get inside. They also don't take obvious items that other burglars seem to take.

"They are very, very selective in their take," said Sgt. Rickey Hull, of the Kensington Police Department. "They're not really taking the obvious things. They take things like checkbooks and jewelry."

While one television has been stolen, most other electronics are left behind. The homes, with the exception of two, have not been ransacked, Hull said. "In one case there were two laptops sitting side by side and they took only one."

In one case, the thieves broke open a window and unlocked a door. In others, they either kick or shoulder in the front door. Sometimes the burglars go around back to find a window to force open. Hull said the burglaries have occurred during the daytime, usually between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. He suspects that the burglars check out the houses and activity ahead of time, then go back when they think the house is empty to ring a doorbell to ensure no one is home before they attempt entry.

Chief Greg Harman believes more organized Neighborhood Watch programs may help bring burglars like Grizzly Peak's to justice. For instance, said Hull, on October 7 a resident from Grizzly Peak called police to report suspicious people sitting in a car. While the two suspects had parked the car on Grizzly Peak in Kensington, they had walked down the road into Berkeley. Those suspects are still being investigated. "I believe a burglary was foiled," Hull said.

One lead the department has is a photograph of at least one of the suspects, but Hull declined to give details as to how the photograph was obtained, other than to say it "was from a business in a contiguous city."

[See Burglaries on Page 3]

Election to Decide Crucial Local Races, Measures

The biggest local race in Kensington will be decided on Tuesday, November 4, when two seats on the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) board will be filled. Three candidates are running to fill two seats. Two spots on the Kensington Fire Protection District also are open, but uncontested, and two significant local measures for taxpayers also appear on the ballot.

Incumbent Joan Gallegos is facing Kathie Kosel and Chuck Toombs for two open seats on the KPPCSD. Board member Paul Haxo decided not to run for re-election, leaving an open seat on the five-member board, on which members serve staggered four-year terms.

The KPPCSD oversees the Kensington police and parks departments, as well as the general management of the district, including solid waste contracts. It is responsible for the upkeep of the public

protection building, as well as the buildings at Kensington Park, and can ask Kensington property owners to vote to raise taxes to pay for the services.

"The fiscal health of the district is challenge number one," said incumbent Joan Gallegos, who is seeking another term. "Funding of post-retirement medical benefits for current and future retirees, funding police services at the level necessary to attract and retain quality, community-oriented police officers, maintenance of park buildings and grounds, prudent further development of the park property, and negotiating a favorable solid waste franchise agreement with all the franchise fee revenues coming to the district – these are vital fiscal goals for the board."

Kosel stresses that residents need to get involved in their town and their elected boards. As a two-term mayor of El Cer-

[See Elections on Page 3]

Arlington Avenue Safety Pressing Issue

The crossing guard for children and other pedestrians at the Arlington crosswalk in front of the Kensington Library -- where children cross each morning and afternoon going to and from school -- said it best. "Someone is going to get killed," said daily crossing guard Agnes Breier, who has come close to being hit more than a dozen times. "It's only a matter of time." At issue is the stoplight at Arlington Avenue and Kensington Park Road, which flashes yellow unless a pedestrian pushes the button at the light to halt traffic. A red stoplight turns on when the button gets pushed, but most of the time, the light flashes yellow to drivers coming down or up the curve on Arlington. Because the light usually flashes yellow, drivers have become accustomed to cruising through the intersection.

"They buzz right by like a bat outta..., you know," Breier said. "To make matters

worse, even pedestrians who are familiar with the hazard have to check both ways and hurry, because the curves coming from either direction make it difficult to see if a car is about to barrel through the intersection," she said. This makes it especially hard for senior citizens leaving Arlington Community Church and walking across to the parking lot.

Parents, pedestrians and other interested residents turned out for an October 9 meeting of the Kensington Community Services District to address the problem.

"We're pretty clear that people are speeding, and that they're running the red light," said Cindy Kimball, president of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, commonly known as KPPCSD. She said that the board was there to figure out what to do about the problem, and promised to con-

[See Safety on Page 3]



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Election Night 'Watch Party' on Colusa Circle

A group of Colusa Circle businesses have decided to throw an Election Night Open House party Nov. 4 for anyone interested in coming down to watch election results on television and to follow local races via the Internet. The event begins at 6 p.m. at the Post Meridian restaurant, with free food and discounted drinks.

The party is "to give community members a place to watch the election coverage without being isolated at home," said Robin Valerie Low, owner of the Post Meridian. "It's a great way to follow the events on either side, whether it's going your way or not." Complimentary food will be provided by the restaurant, by Nan Phelps Photography and by Bodhi Kroll Realty for anyone showing up wearing an "I Voted" sticker, and \$1 bottles of beer will be for sale.

The restaurant will have a computer connected at the bar to the Internet and the Contra Costa County elections department so that Kensington races, school and bond measures that are not usually featured by the local and national media may be monitored. The California polls close at 8 p.m., when the national media will begin reporting results from the East Coast.



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KENSINGTON
OUTLOOK

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Deadlines

Advertising deadline November 8
Editorial deadline November 10

Submission Guidelines

Kensington, this is your newspaper. Feel free to submit story ideas, obituaries, calendar items, letters to the editor, and announcements of weddings and births. E-mail your submissions to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com, or if you're not computer savvy, drop off or mail a hard copy to the Kensington Community Center at the address above. The only restriction is that your submission must be directly relevant to the Kensington community. Include the particulars: the who, what, why and when. Call the editor, Chris Lavin, at 925-376-5592 if you have questions. Remember to include your contact information in case we need to get back to you.

We welcome any ideas for feature or news stories. Please call or e-mail with suggestions, criticisms, or photographs you deem newsworthy.

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◆ SAFETY from page 1

sider community input to affect safety changes to the intersection and beyond.

The intersection, which sees an influx of pedestrian traffic on church days and school hours, is used by about 30 people per day, given a non-scientific observance in October. In many cases, drivers slowed at the last minute to avoid hitting children or pedestrians in the crosswalk, despite a flashing red light.

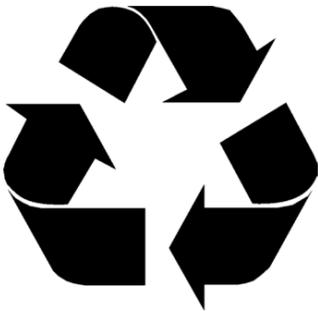
"It is a matter of when, and not if someone is going to get killed," said Kathy McGuire, in a separate interview.

KPPCSD board president Pat McLaughlin reiterated the concern about the intersection, and said that besides the problem with the light, the slope of the sidewalk and intersection itself presented problems for people with disabilities to negotiate the parking lot and the intersection. "The degree of slope for people in wheelchairs is considerable," she said, adding that she knows of people who have tipped over in wheelchairs while trying to press the button, and who have difficulty making it onto a level part of the intersection in the first place.

McLaughlin suggested that the county might consider adjusting the cycle of the light so that traffic must stop altogether, whether pedestrians were crossing or not, or add two new traffic lights before the blind curves, or adjust the sequence of the stoplight during morning and evening commutes.

The board will continue to investigate alternatives, McLaughlin said. The board also will put the item on the agenda again when requested by a community member, by visiting www.aboutkensington.com, clicking on government, going to KPPCSD, and emailing with a request for a hearing.

Be green!



Recycle this paper

◆ ELECTIONS from page 1

rito, Kosel is familiar with the ebb and flow of public boards and is accustomed



Educator Kathie Kosel is a former mayor of El Cerrito.

to evaluating budgets and long-term goals, she said at a public meeting in October sponsored by the Kensington Improvement Club (KIC). Kosel lives in the Kensington house she was raised in, and says she has a "keen sense" of the importance and uniqueness of Kensington.

Kosel said it's important to listen to the community to find out what it wants from the board. "It's not my agenda, it's yours," she told the audience at the October 11 KIC forum.



Chuck Toombs has served on Kensington committees, and is a self-employed attorney.

Toombs has the endorsement of Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, as well as a personal endorsement from KPPCSD's President Cindy Kimball and a plethora of local residents including Haxo, Chris Sorenson of the Kensington Education Foundation, and Kathy Stein, among others. Toombs said he would con-

sider hiring an outside consultant to go over the books to make sure that revenues were being spent equitably. He also said, as other candidates reiterated, that Kensington paths need immediate repair and that the undergrounding of utility lines needs to be considered.

Gallegos said, "A long while ago I thought that undergrounding of the utilities was an aesthetic issue. I found out it is not an aesthetic issue; it's a safety issue." Especially in the event of a major earthquake, she said, live power lines on the ground and their threat to start a wildfire or hurt someone would be unacceptable, and the community must begin to figure out how to pay for such an expensive public works project.



Incumbent Joan Gallegos issues tickets to the annual barbecue in October.

At the KIC candidate forum, all candidates stressed the importance of the "K" groups working together, so that the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, the Kensington Community Council, the KPPCSD board and others can meet to exchange ideas and cross-pollinate one another, with the public's input. "But at the last meeting we had of the K groups, the only group that showed up was the Friends of the Kensington Library," Gallegos said. "Everyone needs to participate."

A second Kensington election on November 4 will be for the Kensington Fire Protection District, for which Leslie Michael and Don Dommer are standing for re-election.

Of tremendous fiscal importance for Kensington, Measure WW will continue taxation for the benefit of East Bay Regional Parks, but in the upcoming parks budget – if Measure WW passes – Kensington is destined to receive more than \$200,000 for its own park and maintenance. It needs a two-thirds majority to pass.

So does Measure D, which asks for a continuance of funding for the West Contra Costa Unified School District for a five-year period. Property owners with vacant lots pay very little, mostly under \$10, but property owners with buildings pay 7.2 cents per square foot, so that a 1,500-foot building will continue to produce \$108 per year. Proponents say that the continued tax will help retain teachers, counselors and programs, while those against say that the district has squandered funds and allowed the pension program to grow exponentially.

More information about the measures can be found at www.smartvoter.org, a non-partisan site.

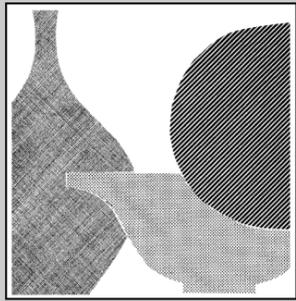
◆ BURGLARIES from page 1

Meanwhile, police in North Berkeley recently apprehended a suspect in a spate of armed robberies that plagued the neighborhood since September 20. Eight armed robberies occurred in the area bordered by Arch Street, Cedar Street, La Loma Avenue, and Hearst Avenue. One suspect – identified by a passer-by who witnessed a robbery and wrote down a license plate – was later arrested in the possession of a handgun. Hull feels certain the Berkeley case and the Kensington burglaries are not related.

Anyone in any neighborhood in Kensington, not just Grizzly Peak, are encouraged to call the police if they see suspicious vehicles or people in their neighborhood by calling 911. During office hours the direct line to the KPD is 526-4141.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Arlington Crosswalk Dangerous

Dear Editor,

We are devoted readers of the *Kensington Outlook* and wanted to apprise you of a significant safety issue for those of us who find ourselves on foot in the vicinity of the Kensington Park, library, and the Arlington Church, as well as the three preschools that occupy space on the church grounds. The traffic light on Arlington, usually set to blinking yellow, is triggered to red when a pedestrian wishes to cross the busy street. In large numbers, cars are failing to stop at the red traffic light, in many cases while children are already in the midst of crossing the street.

Since my 2-year-old started preschool at one of the campuses in the church on September 2, five cars have run the red light while we were crossing in the crosswalk. In some cases, we narrowly avoided being hit. The crossing guard, Agnes, is so concerned about the frequency of these offenses and the safety of the children that she escorts across the street.

I've spoken with Jerry Fahey, Contra Costa County traffic engineer, and he has promised to send out his safety inspector to examine the problem.

We're really concerned that a child could be seriously injured or killed by someone who runs the red light. This morning was the first morning that an officer was on hand to monitor traffic. He pursued and ticketed one vehicle that, again, almost hit my husband, son and crossing guard while they were crossing with the light. Please consider covering this important issue in the next issue of the *Outlook*. All residents of Kensington and beyond need to be reminded that the light turns red to protect our children as they cross the street on the way to and from school.

Laura Hassner

Dogs Off-Leash Not Criminals

Dear Editor,

I recently read the article by Sylvia Elsbury, "Keep Dogs on Leash," and feel compelled to respond.

First, I am sorry to hear that her daughters have a fear of dogs and that she has had some spills on her bicycle due to dogs and am glad to be reminded about both since we are dog owners and would never want our neighbors to have a negative experience with our dogs.

However, I would like to remind her, and perhaps several in the Kensington community, that as adults too many of us are acting in a manner that is not beneficial to our children and neighbors. You see, not only are we dog owners but also proud parents of a child. And I, too, am a bike rider like Sylvia.

My concern is that the "dogs on leash"

comments from many erode into judging all dog owners as "bad," much like the people without children who go to restaurants and judge parents whose children yell and calling them "brats." Not to mention blame the animal for accidents with our vehicles, whether pedaled or driven.

In fact it is highly probable that when a dog jumps, or a child yells, the adult with them may be just as mortified about the lapse in judgment of the child or dog as you are. This matters because such simple erosion of empathy can at best slip into reactions that are aggressive and at worst perpetuate the "us" versus "them" attitudes that don't help any of us on a grand scale - and is uncharacteristic of the Bay Area.

So perhaps we can all remember a couple of basic tenets of being humans that we instill in our own children:

Empathize and understand intentions behind all actions and don't label and judge all as one group versus another.

Understand that the only human (or animal for that matter) that we can truly control is ourselves, so exhibit good judgment and choices in what situations we will get into and how we choose to make ourselves safe.

Because, in the end, the overwhelming majority of our neighbors are fantastic role models for our son and we want him to continue to grow up in a community that embraces differences and consistently reminds us all of why we live here.

Lisa Schilling

Keep Dogs on Leash

Dear Editor,

I want to thank Sylvia Elsbury for her article in the October 2008 issue of the *Outlook* on dogs walking off the leash.

Last night I went to Kensington Park and found five dogs off the leash (four actually -- one had a leash, but was it not attached on the other end to its owner.) One was standing on a picnic table. After that, I decided to write my own story in the hopes that other dog owners will obey the law.

About six months ago, my 20-month-old daughter borrowed a Dachshund and was walking him on leash at the park. We came to the big grassy field. A very large dog that was the size and had the appearance of a husky was off leash. The dog's owner threw a ball to the larger dog. The Dachshund that my daughter was holding also took off after the ball. My daughter became entangled in the leash around her neck. She was pulled to the ground and was dragged by her neck. Very luckily, she was not seriously hurt. She had lacerations around her neck, and was extremely upset, but was not seriously injured.

I know that some of you will say that it was my inattentive parenting that caused my daughter to be hurt. I would like to dispel that argument as I was within a foot

[See Letters on Page 9]



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Kensington After School Enrichment Program

The fall session of KASEP continues through Friday, December 19. KASEP classes will not be held on Kensington Hilltop school holidays, November 4, 11, and 27-28. KASEP classes begin at their regularly scheduled time on minimum days: November 3, 6, 7, and 10. Please contact the KCC office if you would like to purchase a minimum day card (\$20) for childcare coverage between the end of school and beginning of classes on these minimum days. Registration for the winter session of KASEP will be held on Wednesday, December 10, starting at 6:45 pm for kindergarten students and 7:15 pm for students in grades 1-6. The winter session begins on Monday, January 5.

ADULT CLASSES

Thank you to all the Kensington residents who signed up for the Maybeck Estates Walking Tour! We will offer the tour again this spring. Please let us know if you have ideas for other neighborhood walks and if you have historic photos or other background materials. Call our office at 525-0292 or e-mail us at kccrec@yahoo.com.

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, please contact Nicole at (510) 527-6443.

When: Classes are Tuesdays, 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Fees: For residents: \$15 for drop-in; \$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresidents please add 10 percent (\$16.50 per class/\$82.50 for six classes). To register, call the KCC office at 510-525-0292.

Where: Classes are held in the Community Center.

Thursday Hatha Yoga: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Classic yoga postures and breathing practices for revitalization. Learn to listen to your body and your breath; explore and enjoy. On the second and the final Thursdays of the month, relax in a blissful Restorative practice. First and third Thursdays are a more active practice. All levels of experience welcome.

Fees for residents: \$12 for drop-in

One-month pass: (4 classes) for \$40

Non-residents: please add 10% (\$13.20 for drop-in and \$44 for month pass).

For questions about the Hatha Yoga class content, please contact Instructor Claire Lavery at 681-3077.

For questions about registration or location, please call KCC at 525-0292.

Classes are held in Room A in the Recreation Building (Building E).

TENNIS



Kim Roots offers classes for youth and adults. To register, call Kim at 526-6730.

Adult classes: 5 classes/\$40 per resident; \$45 per non-resident

Youth classes: are \$12 each.

TENNIS COURTS

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

Tennis Court Reservations

The Kensington Park tennis courts may be reserved on Saturdays or Sundays, for singles (45 minutes) or doubles (90 minutes), 9 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Fees are \$2 per 45 minutes for Kensington residents or \$5 per 45 minutes for non-residents. Please call the KCC office at 525-0292 by Thursday afternoon.

Community Center Rentals

If you are interested in renting the Kensington Community Center, please call the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) at 526-4141. The KPPCSD can also help you with questions about the park.

Parade Photos



Chief Harman's kids, Dakota and friend Gigi pose in the back of the squad car in the Kensington parade.



The pumpkins of October were festive and more than one met expectations. The winners will be announced in the December/January issue of the Kensington Outlook. Yet, all were stellar.



Kensington's Boy Scout Troop 100.

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Neighborhood Notes

Hazard Reminder from Fire Department

El Cerrito Fire Chief Lance Maples would like to remind Kensington residents of three important matters facing them that could mean life or death. These include:

- Many house numbers are simply not visible from the road. House numbers should be clearly painted on the curb as well as clearly displayed on the house itself. Maples suggested at a recent Kensington Fire Protection Department meeting that painting or re-painting house numbers on curbs might be a good project for Kensington Boy Scout Troop 100.
- Check your smoke detectors. If you don't know how, you can call the fire department and a firefighter will visit your house and check them for you. Batteries need to be replaced annually. The department provides detectors for free, so if you don't have one in each room, make sure to call the department at 527-8369.
- Thinking of seniors, especially, climbing up a ladder to check a detector, Maples warned, "Seniors, don't fall off the ladder! Stay off of them all together. We will do it for you."

Artists Present Holiday Card Show, Sale

Kensington photographer Nan Phelps is joining with local greeting card artists for a holiday card show and sale on November 15 and 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Original greetings and other artistic items will be available before the holiday madness sets in at her studio, 398 Colusa Avenue at the Kensington Circle. Participants include Phelps, a passionate lover of black and white photography. She makes her still-lives into cards, which can be previewed at www.nanphelps.com. Also participating is Gail Morrison (www.gailmorrison.com) with light-hearted "Insect Christmas Cards," as well as more traditional greetings; Mimi Scheiner, owner of Chronogram Cards, (www.chronogramcards.com), an illustrator, art director, designer and teacher; and L. Carol Christopher, owner of Quirky'nBerkeley, who sells handmade cards from her online shop, at www.quirkynberkeley.etsy.com. She has lived in Berkeley for six years with Rosie the Wonder Dog and Twink the Monster Kitten.

KFD Open House Draws Crowds

Dozens of residents – along with aspiring firefighters in the 12- and under crowd – filed through the Kensington Fire Department October 4 at the open house sponsored as part of Fire Prevention Month. Licensed firefighters installed, or re-installed, child-care seats, and lots of hot dogs landed in buns, as well. According to Fire Chief Lance Maples, the seat-installation will be separated from the open house so that more attention can be paid to each event.



An aspiring firefighter takes the wheel of a truck at the KFD Open House.

[See NOTES on Page 7]

FKL Looking for a Few Good Men (and Women)

The Friends of the Kensington Library (FKL) is looking for volunteers who can contribute time to the Kensington Library. Volunteers especially are needed to help with children's programs. Extra help will be needed soon when the library must close its doors for its \$1.4 million rehabilitation. No date has been set, but the library will have to set up a small shop either in a temporary building in the parking lot or at a storefront operation. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the library from 7-8 p.m. Cash donations to the FKL help buy books, sponsor children's programs, provide ongoing art exhibits, and more. The best way to find out more is to visit on the "second Tuesday," but information also is available by calling 524-3043.

NAN PHELPS



PHOTOGRAPHY

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French Roast



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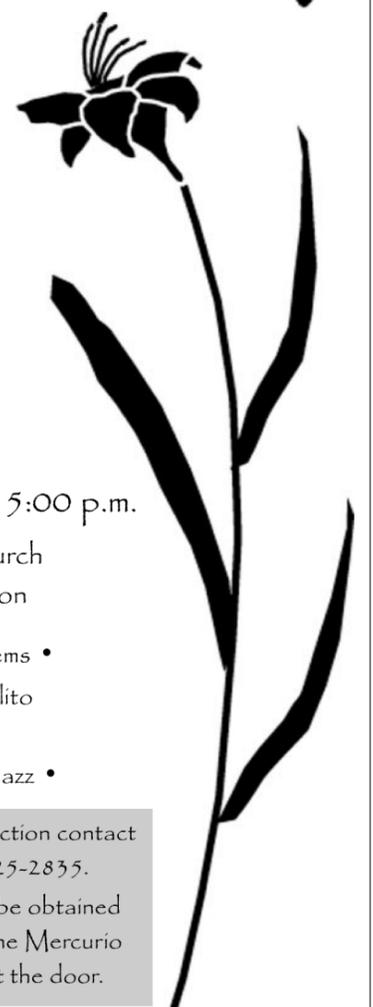
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by calling Garden Party Chair Catherine Mercurio
at 527-1297. Tickets will be \$55.00 at the door.

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OBITUARIES

Norma Finch

Kensington resident Norma Finch passed away on September 29, 2008, at her home in Kensington, at the age of 93. Born and raised in Hawarden, Iowa, Mrs. Finch had resided in Kensington for 60 years. In her free time, Norma enjoyed playing bridge, joining book clubs, painting ceramics, needlepoint, knitting, and embroidery. She was a 50-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star, and a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. Norma traveled to Europe, Japan, and South America with her husband, Dan Finch, who preceded her in death in 1982. Always a generous and lavish entertainer of her many friends, she had a wonderful life and will be dearly missed. She is survived by her two children, daughter Mary Ann Robles of Tucson, Ariz., and son Richard Finch of Berkeley, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

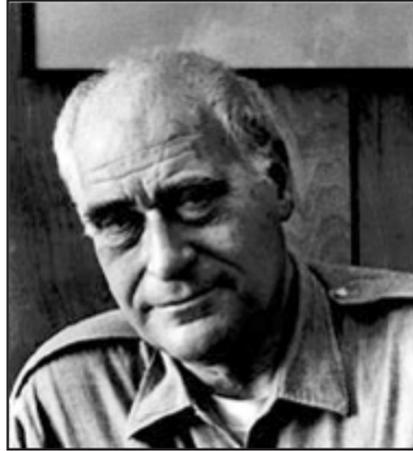
David A. McClelland

David A. McClelland, an 80-year resident of Berkeley and Albany, died Sept. 19, 2008, at 86. He was born in Berkeley on Sept. 26, 1921. Mr. McClelland was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran and a 60-year member of the Pipefitters Union. He is survived by his daughter, Bobbie Wilson; grandson, Timothy Ray Wilson; and 3 great-grandsons. His wife, Mary, preceded him in death in 1996. Graveside services were held at Sunset View Cemetery.

Gunther Stent

Gunther Stent, longtime Kensington resident and one of the original thinkers in the field of molecular biology, died June 12 near his home in Pennsylvania. He was 84. He was part of a team with James Watson and Francis Crick that revealed the double-helix structure of DNA.

Dr. Stent was chairman of the department of molecular biology at University of California-Berkeley from 1980 to 1986, during a great expansion. He did research to support findings of Watson and Crick, and wrote one of the founding textbooks in the field that was used by several generations of scientists.



Gunther Stent

According to the New York Times, in an autobiography, *Nazis, Women and Molecular Biology: Memoirs of a Lucky Self-Hater*, (Briones Books, 1998), Dr. Stent wrote that as a 14-year-old Jewish boy he had been upset at not being able to join the Hitler youth. Too soon afterward, however, he was fleeing through the Ardennes forest on the way to Antwerp, Belgium, then made his way to England and Canada and eventually joined relatives in Chicago.

Besides Ms. Ulam, his second wife, Dr. Stent is survived by a son, Stefan, and two stepsons, Alexander Ulam and Joseph Ulam. His first wife, Inga Loftsdottir Stent, died in the early 1990s. A great deal more on Dr. Stent can be found at www.wikipedia.com, and *The New York Times* did an extensive obituary in June that covers his life in more detail. It can be found at www.newyorktimes.com, with a search of his full name in the archives.

Paola S. Timiras

Famous researcher on aging, Paola S. Timiras, passed away September 17. She founded and co-directed the Center for Research and Education on Aging (CREA) at the University of California-Berkeley.

At 79, the professor emerita of molecular and cell biology spearheaded an annual health fair to promote healthy aging, and enrolled in a strength-training class. At 80, she agreed to write a book, in French, on stress and longevity, published in 2004;



Paola S. Timiras

and in her mid-80s, she was still active in the laboratory, supervising graduate students and more than a dozen undergraduates while trying to raise money to establish a center for aging research.

Vigorous to the end, Timiras worked a full day on Friday, September 12. That night, she died unexpectedly at Summit Medical Center in Oakland of heart failure. She was 85.

"She was one of the foremost physiologists of aging," said colleague Judith Campisi, a senior scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and co-director of CREA. "In an era of specialization, Paola took a holistic approach to aging, that is, how it affects the whole organism. People loved her; she is going to be sorely missed."

Ms. Timiras authored or edited 15 books and more than 400 articles in Italian, French and English. Her lasting legacy is the massive book she edited, *Physiological Basis of Aging and Geriatrics*, now in its fourth edition and "a classic in the field," according to Campisi. Timiras also wrote and edited books on human growth and development, the role of hormones in aging, and the role of stress in aging.

During her 53 years at UC Berkeley, Timiras chaired the Department of Physiology and Anatomy from 1978 until 1984. She loved teaching. Timiris once told a reporter, "You can work diligently all your life, and you might not change the course of things. But if you like to teach, whatever else you do takes on more meaning."

Timiras is survived by her daughter, Mary Letitia Timiras, of New Jersey, and her son, Paul Timiras, of California. Her husband, Nicolas, died in 1996.

**Obituary Guidelines**

The Outlook welcomes news obituary information from family, friends and funeral homes about any current or longtime Kensington residents. The obituaries run free of charge, and are written by the editor of the Outlook. A digital photograph may be emailed to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com, or mailed to Chris Lavin, P.O. Box 165, Canyon, CA, 94516. Snail-mailed photographs will be returned.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

◆ LETTERS from page 4

of her and I probably prevented a much more serious injury.

The big dog owner realized his mistake as soon as the ball left his hand. We could both see what was about to happen, but could do nothing to stop it. He apologized profusely and high-tailed it out of there.

I thought about it over the night and in the morning, I went down to the police station and tried to file a report. I really couldn't because I didn't have a name, I didn't have a good description. I didn't know if he was local. I didn't have a license plate. I was tending to my daughter and the dog owner left. The officer told me if I see dogs off the leash again, I should call dispatch. This is fine, except I don't always have a phone and it happens so frequently, I would have to call every time I was down there.

So, dog owners: Please observe the leash law. The law does not exist to punish you and your pet. It exists to prevent occurrences like the one I just described.

Leslie Reckler

Colusa Circle Development

Dear Editor,

In his letter to the editor in last month's *Outlook*, architect Andrew Woolman stated that the plans he and his clients have for development of the vacant lot on the Colusa Circle (401 Colusa Ave.) is smaller in scope than the plan approved in 1983 under the P-1 Development Plan.

What he did not mention is that the property has since been subdivided and the adjacent parcel has been used for the house at 411 Colusa. The parcel there had been previously slated to be a parking facility to provide needed parking for businesses on the Circle. What Mr. Woolman is advocating bears no resemblance whatsoever to the previously approved plan, which is now irrelevant. At their August

12 meeting, members of the County Planning Commission therefore stated on the record that because of the subdivision, the prior approval does not apply to the 401 Colusa parcel.

Mr. Woolman also states that he has made improvements to his proposal after considering input by the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council. He fails to mention that KMAC voted unanimously to reject his plan and has never had a single member vote in favor of anything he has proposed for this site.

He complains that the *Outlook's* coverage of the issue has been unfair and unbalanced. But the fact is that he continues to advocate a project that exceeds the mass appropriate for his site and blocks residential views that are protected under the Kensington View Ordinance. For this reason, opposition to his plan in the residential community remains very strong, including more than 450 community residents who signed a petition against his project that was submitted to the county.

Our group has tried to propose a reasonable compromise to Mr. Woolman and his clients that would enable them to develop 401 Colusa in a manner that respects residential views and maintains the character of the neighborhood. They have stubbornly repeated the fiction that they have prior approval to do what they propose. But if that were true, there would be no need for them to gain approval from the county.

We hope to see this site developed in a way that enhances the neighborhood but will continue to oppose their efforts to erect a structure that destroys its character, reduces nearby property values and sets a precedent that would emasculate the protections of the Kensington View Ordinance.

Rodney Paul
Chair, Colusa Circle Improvement Association

Neighborhood Notes

◆ NOTES from page 7

Go Green This Holiday Season

"Go Green This Holiday Season" is the motto for the coming holidays for Turnabout Thrift Shop's annual Holiday Shopping Spree. Starting Thursday, December 4, and running through Saturday, December 20, the shop will feature gift items kept aside with the holidays in mind, in the interest of reducing consumption and reusing and recycling items. Year-round, shoppers find books, jewelry, linens, clothing and small household items, some new, some gently used, that have been donated to the shop, which is run by volunteers. Located at 10052 San Pablo Ave. (near Central), in El Cerrito, the shop is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Proceeds benefit the Berkeley Clinic Auxiliary's orthodontia program for needy children in Berkeley and West Contra Costa County.

Portola Middle School Fund-Raiser

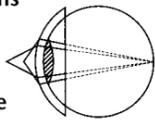
Portola Middle School parents are hoping that Kensington will get a jumpstart on holiday shopping by visiting the El Cerrito Barnes and Noble Book Fair on Sunday, November 9. Any purchase of books, movies, music, art supplies, beverages and food at the cafe will result in a percentage of the purchase going to the school, as long as the buyer mentions the school at checkout. The fair begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 11 p.m., the regular store hours. Entertainment will be provided by Magical Nathaniel with magic shows at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. If you can't get to the store, any order placed by phone at 524-0087 on the day of the event – if you mention the Portola Middle School fund-raiser – also will count for donation toward the school. The store is offering free shipping on those orders, over \$25.

Boy Scouts Begin Wreath Sales This Month

Boy Scout Troop 100 of Kensington will begin its annual holiday wreath sale on Saturday, November 29. Boy Scouts of Troop 100 will be in front of Young's Market on Saturdays and Sundays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., and just outside the Kensington Farmer's Market at its new location on Oak View Avenue at the Colusa Circle from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays. The sale will run through December 7 or until the Scouts sell out. For those not able to make it to one of the locations to purchase a wreath, special free delivery may be arranged by calling 685-0203 or 599-6480.

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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Nov. 1 Love-Song Waltzes and Wild Dances, 8 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. This concert as a fund-raiser for UUCB. Pianist Bryan Baker, flutist Deborah Schmidt, and eight vocal soloists gather for an interesting and entertaining program. The feast of music will be followed by a reception of spectacularly delicious drinks and desserts. Tickets \$20 or \$15. 525-0302.

Opening Exhibit, Rita Sklar, Artist, sponsored by Friends of the Kensington Library. Recent body of works builds on her ongoing exploration of urban and natural landscapes using watercolors and mixed media. This exhibit: "Wild About Birds." 524-



Rita Sklar's work exploring urban and natural landscapes often incorporates birds into her work.

3043.

The Joy of Writing, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church. Led by Lynn Hammond. Suggested fee \$30. Bring a bag lunch. To register call Lynn at 233-2666.

Beginner Internet Series, 10-11 a.m., "Health and Medical Information," El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Call the library to sign up, 526-7512.

Wine and Carrot Cake Reception, with artist Peter Matsukawa, 5-7 p.m., at Rabbit Ears on Colusa Circle. The Hawaiian artist will present his photography exhibit, followed by a wine and carrot cake reception. Matsukawa will also bring his rabbit muses. Show currently on view at RabbitEars. 525-6155.

Nov. 2 Kensington Farmers' Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oak View Avenue at Colusa. Continues Nov. 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Maybeck Estates Historical Walk, 10 a.m. Spaces are filled. Other walks will be made available in the future.

Personal Theology Seminar, 10 a.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, with Asha Bajaj, retired practitioner of physical therapy and rehabilitation, and now a story teller at the Asian Museum. She grew up in India and was educated in a Catholic school. Call 525-0302, ext. 306.

Nov. 3 Measure D Phone Banking,

sponsored by groups in favor, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free pizza. To sign up and for location contact Joann, 524-9464, or jsbayat@comcast.net.

Nov. 4 Election Night Watch Party, 6:30 p.m. until closing, Post Meridian Restaurant, Colusa Circle. Free food for anyone with an "I Voted" sticker. Watch television or access the computer on the bar for local results.

Nov. 5 Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters, 1:15 p.m., 44 Beverly Road. Discussion of local issues. Guests are welcome. Call 524-6071 to confirm.

Nov. 6 Beyond the Great War: Movers and Shakers of World War I, 7 p.m., El Cerrito Library. What do Humphrey Bogart and C.S. Lewis have in common? Find unexpected connections in this slide lecture presentation by Michael Hanlon, editor and publisher of *Over the Top* magazine. Hanlon will reveal little-known facts about major historical figures as well as surprising literary and film personalities that changed the shape of the 20th century. 526-7512.

Danse Lumiere, 8 p.m., Angelico Hall, Dominican University, San Rafael. This may be a bit far afield from Kensington, but Hilltop School parents are involved in the production. It presents *The Fifth Book of Peace*, an innovative dance theater program inspired by award-winning California author and activist Maxine Hong Kingston's book of the same name. Post-performance

talk with Daniel Ellsberg, revealer of The Pentagon Papers. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, you must arrive by 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 800-838-3006 or visit www.dlkdance.com or www.brownpapertickets.com/event/44558.

Straight2Screen Writers' Group, 7 p.m., monthly meeting, Kensington Circus Pub, 389 Colusa Ave. Informal but hospitable creative group including writers, agents, publishers, designers and others from the Gutenberg Galaxy whose goal is to write better, work the system, get a better job or contract or agent, and have a good beer. Email straight2screen@yahoo.com for info.

Nov. 8. P.E.O. Holiday Boutique, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Many items hand-crafted by local women. Proceeds fund scholarships for women. Holiday decorations and gifts for all ages.

Nov. 9 Holiday Book Fair, benefit for Portola Middle School, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., El Cerrito Barnes and Noble. A percentage of all purchases, including from the café, will benefit the school when you mention it at the checkout. Entertainment for children provided by Magical Nathaniel at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Portola students and drama teacher will read aloud and act out Dr. Seuss and Shel Silverstein poems in the afternoon.

Personal Theology Seminar, 10 a.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of



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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

Berkeley, with Martha Helming, coordinator of Personal Theology and former psychiatric social worker. Talk: "Odyssey: My Journey from Childhood Faith to a Universalist, Eclectic Spirituality." Call 525-0302, ext 306.

Nov. 10 Fashion Show, 11:30 a.m. for social hour, 12:30 luncheon, Mira Vista Golf and Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd. Sponsored by Kensington Republican Women. Cost \$35. For reservations call Janice at 526-2221.

Nov. 14 Seeing Things As They Really Are: An Evening with Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo, book signing 7-8 p.m.; talk 8-9:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church. Additional donations for Jetsunma's nunnery will be gratefully accepted. To register, www.palmousa.org.

Nov. 15 Garden Party, annual Hilltop School Fund-Raiser, 5 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church. Community invited. Tickets \$50 in advance by calling Catherine Mercurio at 527-1297. They will be \$55 at the door.

Taubman Faculty Piano Concert, 7:30 p.m., Berkeley Piano Club, 2724 Haste St., Berkeley. John Bloomfield, Robert Durso, Marc Steiner, Elizabeth Swarthout, and Debbie Poryes, with Stephanie Jeong, violin. Bach, Mozart, Brahms, Beethoven, and jazz standards. Durso, a Taubman-trained teacher and pianist from Philadelphia, will perform Beethoven's *Sonata in G major, op. 30, no. 3*, with Jeong. Suggested donation \$20. 523-0213. eswarthout@sbcglobal.net.

Nov. 15 and 16 Local Artists' Holiday Card Show and Sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nan Phelps Photography, 398 Colusa Ave. Semifreddi's is a few doors away, and on Sunday the Farmers' Market is literally just around the corner.

Taubman Piano Seminar, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Berkeley Piano Club, 2724 Haste St. John Bloomfield, Robert Durso, Marc Steiner, Elizabeth Swarthout, and other Golandsky Institute Faculty. Master classes and demonstrations. Suggested donation \$110 per day in advance. 523-0213. eswarthout@sbcglobal.net.

Nov. 16 Personal Theology Seminar, 10 a.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, with Barbara Bye, dancer, and holistic healer. Two years ago she

presented "Embodied Prayers." Now it's "The Embodied Landscapes: Prayer of the Earth." 525-0302, ext. 306.

Nov. 18 Martha and Monica Cello/Piano Duo. Beethoven, Schumann, and Elliot Carter. 8 p.m., Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, \$20. Students via high school, free. 525-5211 or www.berkeleychamberperform.org.

Nov. 20 It Came from Berkeley, a slide show and talk on Dave Weinstein's latest book, It Came from Berkeley: How Berkeley Changed the World, 7 p.m., El Cerrito Library. This program was previously offered in Kensington and reprises here. 526-7512.

Nov. 22 Hands-On Class: Make Box Sculpture, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., led by Emily Kuentler, Unitarian Universalist Church. Suggested fee \$45, includes craft material. To register, call Emily, 415-505-7827.

Nov. 23 Personal Theology Seminar, 10 a.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, with Ann Wiser Cornell, founder and director of the Focusing Institute and former president of the American Society of Humanist Psychology. Will speak on "Getting Unblocked." 525-0302, ext. 306.

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Worship and Potluck, noon, Unitarian Universalist Church. Turkey provided; bring a side dish. 525-0302.

Nov. 30 Personal Theology Seminar, 10 a.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, with Bill Garrett, professor of religion and philosophy at John F. Kennedy University. Topic: Scientific Revolutions and Religion: The Copernican Revolution. 525-0302.

DECEMBER LISTINGS

The following is not a complete listing of calendar items for December, but occur early in the month and are events you may want to put on your calendar before the December/January issue of the Outlook is published.

Dec. 6 Christmas Concert, with Contra Costa Chorale and the Kensington Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road. "Tidings of Joy" will include Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*, R. Vaughn-Williams *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, *The Many Moods of Christmas*, arranged by Robert

Shaw, and much more. 527 2026 or visit the website at www.ccchorale.org. Admission is free to show the Chorale's appreciation to the community for its support over the years.

Dec. 10 Kensington Area Republican Women's Club, Christmas Program, noon for social time, 12:30 p.m. for lunch, with program at 1 p.m., Mira Vista Golf and Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd. Tickets \$35, which includes lunch. Reservations required by December 5. Call 524-5689.

AT THE LIBRARY

All events at the library are free unless otherwise specified.

Nov. 3 Castoffs Knitting Club, 7 p.m.

Nov. 4 Family Story Time, 7 p.m., Kensington Library. Best for preschool and up. Continues Nov. 11, 18, and 25.

Nov. 6 Babies and Toddler Story Time, 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Identical sessions.) No story time on November 27.

Nov. 24 Book Group, 7 p.m. Reading and discussion of *Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole. Poem reading precedes the discussion.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

All Kensington public agency meetings are held at the Youth Hut behind the Kensington Library.

Nov. 3 Kensington Community Council, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 11 Friends of the Kensington Library, 7 p.m., at Kensington Library.

Nov. 12 Kensington Fire Protection District, 7:30 p.m.

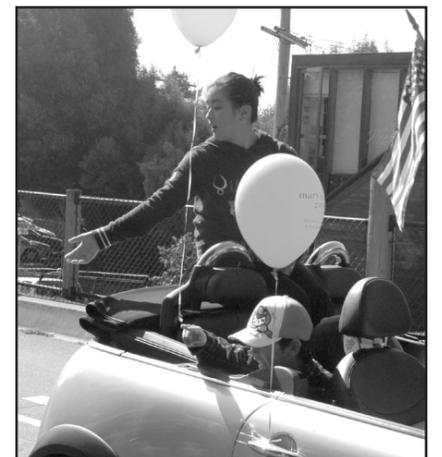
Nov. 13 Kensington Community Services District, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 25 Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, 7 p.m.

Kensington's Gold



Joined by fiancé Thomas Foley, Jessie Lorenz of Oak View displayed her Olympic gold medal to friends and neighbors in September at the Circus Pub. Lorenz won it as a member of the USA Goalball Team in the Beijing Paralympics in September. A goalball is a big, heavy ball that must be passed by a goal line against an opposing team -- not an easy task when players are blind. The six-member team defeated China September 13 after getting to the final match the day before in overtime against Denmark.



2008 Olympic contender in judo, Sayaka Matsumoto, served as the grand marshal for the annual parade and picnic in Kensington, held October 19 this year. Matsumoto was a member of the United States' judo team.

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Kensington Market Update

Address	Beds	Baths	List Price	Sold Price	Days on Mrkt
Trinity Avenue	2	2	\$729,000	\$720,000	52
Kenyon Avenue	2	2	\$799,500	\$805,000	40
Lake Drive	3	2	\$819,000	\$804,000	77
Arlington Court	3	1	\$829,000	\$830,000	38

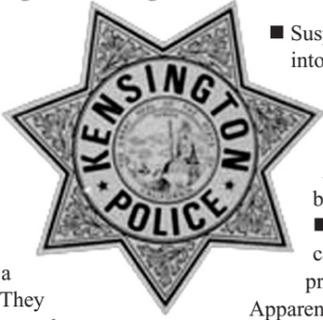
This information is taken from public records and deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

• For additional information about the Kensington market, please give me a call.

From the case files of the KPD

Editor's Note: Due to numerous complaints about the juvenile nature in the writing of the police log, an intrepid reporter has stepped forward and volunteered for the task. She prefers to be known as Brenda Farr, but the editor can reveal that she is a former English instructor and avid fan of the log – and of knowing what is going on in Kensington.

**By BRENDA FARR
Contributor**



- On August 1, a cherry bomb, discovered in a garage mail slot on Stanford Ave., was a fright but a fizzle. It burned out without detonating.
- Police were called to Highland Boulevard on August 1 on a complaint of explosive noises. They were found to be attributed to fireworks, not firearms.
- Noises were also an issue on August 2 when the complaint was loud talking on Arlington Avenue. The police could find no one with whom to hold a conversation.
- A complaint about a disturbance brought police to Amherst Avenue on the same day. They were not only unable to find noise, they were unable to find a disturbance at all.
- Yet another noise complaint summoned police on August 2. It turned out to be the sound of drums.
- Police called to Beloit Avenue to investigate an open door. We assume they then closed the door.
- On August 3, suspicious circumstance brought police to Kingston Road. It turned out that the resident had received a scam letter in the mail – a singular occurrence.
- People pretending to be PG&E personnel were located on August 4 on Yale Ave.
- Police responded to a report of stolen property on Arlington Street, on August 5. The purloined loot turned out to be a Kensington Police Department badge.
- On August 6, a person known to be a transient was stopped.
- Electronics were removed from an unlocked vehicle on Ocean View Ave.
- Police were called on August 7 to Highland Boulevard to investigate a suspicious person. Said suspect was caught red-handed, reading a Bible in front of his house.
- On Columbia Avenue, a garage door was found open. Supposedly it was then closed.
- Chairs were found abandoned on Highgate Avenue.
- Police received questions about a juvenile from Yale Court.
- Officers were called to Highgate Avenue regarding a stranger at a front door. Apparently he was not selling Avon.
- A heated dispute over property lines required police to go to Highgate Avenue.

- Suspects attempted to force entry into a residence on Rugby Avenue.
- Yet another open door was found in a community building, this time on Arlington Avenue. Police cleared the building and shut the door.
- On August 18, officers were called to Edwin Drive. The problem was a water leak.

Apparently the police did not fix the leak but settled the issue onto the shoulders of EBMUD.

- A laptop computer was stolen from Ocean View Avenue.
- A person was reported going through recyclables on Highgate Road.
- Police were summoned on August 20 to Coventry Road to investigate a resident's distress at hearing breaking glass. They were unsuccessful in locating any problem.
- A report was made from Kenilworth on August 20 by a resident who complained that her neighbors' workers were trespassing on her property.
- A bicycle ran into an auto on Edwin Drive.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Avon Road. It belonged to gardeners working near by.
- There was a report of a suspicious person on Colgate Avenue. This time he was discovered to be a real PG&E worker.
- A home on Grizzly Peak Boulevard was burglarized on August 25.
- A bicycle was stolen from an open garage on Cambridge Street.
- A resident of Coventry Road conveyed a suspicion that the home had been invaded. Whoever the invaders were, however, they took nothing away with them.
- Someone on Amherst Avenue reported the sound of guns being fired. Fortunately, it was a car back-firing, instead.
- Albany police, along with Kensington's, assisted in four home invasions and burglaries in El Cerrito on August 5.
- During the month, some seven home alarms went off without discernable reasons.

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Non Emergency office (daytime)	526-4141
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