



— Bringing The Community Together —

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

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VOLUME 71 NUMBER 3

KCC March Mardi Gras Fundraiser a Hit!

Good Times Roll in Kensington

The dance floor was crowded last month at the KCC Mardi Gras dance, and a good time was had by all.

More than 80 community members came together to dance the night away with local dance instructor, Lynn Gardiner leading the way with a dance lesson, and DJ, Devin Pennix playing all the right music to get people out on the floor. The dancing didn't stop until the very end.

KCC wants to thank the many local businesses who provided delicious food and drink for

see Mardi Gras, Page 3...



Lorraine Osmundson and Gretchen Gillfillan in Mardi Gras finery at last month's Kensington Community Council Fundraiser at the Community Center. Can these gals party, or what!? More photos on Page 7.

GM/Chief of Police, Greg Harman

The Interview

Greg Harman has been Chief of Police and General Manager of Kensington since leaving his position in Daly City in 2007. Up for a possible renewal of his now seven-year tenure in June, the *Outlook* sat down with the controversial GM/COP last month for an interview.

Kensington Outlook: *What prompted the move from Daly City?*

I needed a change. I was looking to advance, and I didn't believe that opportunity was going to evolve where I was. I had just got my master's degree in public administration and, because this position included the GM job, I thought it would be a great opportunity to apply my degree.

KO: *So it was the GM job that attracted you to this position?*

(Yes), and because it was a smaller department, so I could go on calls as well as do the administration. I love that part. Smaller departments allow for

see Harman, Page 3...

Writ of Mandate Defense Through Jan. 2014: \$145,800

May Hilltop Carnival Coming

Come one, come all! The 67th Annual Spring Carnival at Kensington Hilltop Elementary is Saturday, May 10th, from 11am-3pm. An exciting event for the entire community, the carnival will debut some new activities, as well as feature many longtime favorites.

Attention bakers! Enter your best, tasty pie in the 1st Annual Pie Baking Contest. Pies will be accepted in four categories (fruit, nut, dairy, and student submission) and will be judged by an illustrious panel of judges. The winning bakers will receive fabulous prizes and bragging rights.

The Carnival will also feature the 32nd annual Quilt Raffle, benefiting the Hilltop PTA. The grand prize is a beautiful quilt, *Kensington Connections*, lovingly made by Hilltop moms; runner-up prizes include shopping sprees at Arlington Avenue and Colusa Circle shops. Raffle tickets are \$2 each and go on sale in April. Tickets will be available from Hilltop school students, at The Arlington, and at the Farmer's Market. Prior to the Carnival, the quilt will be on display at the Kensington Library.

see Carnival, Page 8...

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• KENSINGTON MARKET UPDATE •

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• Ardmore	\$825,000	\$810,000	5/4
• Colusa	\$699,000	\$725,000	2/2
• Grizzly Peak	\$689,000	\$825,000	3/2
• Current Pending Sales: 4			
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Source: EBRD-MLS Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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-Lesley Lupinsky, Seller

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Letters to the Editor

Down the Rabbit Hole

Dear Editor:

What a curious place the Kensington Outlook is becoming! Curiouser and curiouser, as Alice said.

Take the March issue. There were no bylines on any articles (were they all ghost-written?), so presumably the editor is also the sole news writer. There was no editorial, but the editor (identified in this instance) allowed himself an italicized (but unlabeled) opinion piece following his interview of board member Janice Kosel. Shouldn't editorials, even when they provide useful facts, be labeled as such?

Then there is the curious case of the editorial allowance of a one-star Yelp!-style review, masquerading as a letter to the editor, criticizing one local restaurant; and in the same issue, a generous (and unsigned) "news" article on the opening of another restaurant providing the best possible free advertising an owner could want. What editorial ethics are at play here?

The icing on the cake was the full page and more devoted to the parroting of and additional encomia promoting the KPPCSD-proposed measure to raise taxes to "improve" the community center. The article reported how wonderful these improvements would be. The writer/editor did not bother to ask other community residents whether they thought it was a good idea; in fact, no independent opinion was provided. One such opinion appeared, apparently unsolicited, in the letters section, with cogent arguments against such a proposal. (We can expect establishment rebuttals prominently displayed in the next issue.)

The article reported that a phone survey was commissioned by the KPPCSD to assess support for the measure. Some of us who took the survey complained about the survey's lack of options to oppose the measure or express a lack of trust in the KPPCSD's financial management. But there was no guarantee that this point of view was represented in the survey.

The article reported that \$23,500 was spent on the survey. What were the statistical results? This was paid by taxpayers. We are owed a full account. Kensington residents are not stupid. Will the KPPCSD – through the editor – please provide it in the next issue?

Kensington deserves real journalism. The Outlook is not providing it. The editor has been in the pocket of the dominant members of the KPPCSD for years. It is time that a new broom swept clean – at the Outlook and at the Board of Directors.

Kevin Padian

Luckily, the KPPCSD's wallet is pretty thin, so there's plenty of room in here.
– Ed.

Regarding the Rent

Dear Editor:

Regarding the question of whether the Fire District should subsidize the Police District's rent, the Fire District is in good financial shape because they contracted with El Cerrito to share resources and because their Board has never sued anyone or defended their Chief in personnel disputes. In contrast, the Police District has increased property taxes by more than \$800.00 a year since 2003, so as to continue an inefficient 'stand alone' department for a district of only 2200 homes.

The Fire District's website lists their costs for services compared to other local districts. In contrast the Police District does not, and the Police District refuses to implement Grand Jury requirements that specifically instructed the Police Board to provide oversight over expenses.

The Fire District pays 1/3 of the Fire Chief's salary. The Police District is suing homeowners to "defend" against a writ demanding they follow the law in determining the Police Chief's compensation.

The Fire District Board President would like to see how the Police District's expenses compare with other local districts. So would I.

Anna Shane

Regarding the Pub

I was saddened by the letter under "Pub Not Their Cup of Tea" in the March Outlook. My foremost thought remains: Why did the Editor choose to publish one couple's narrative about a onetime negative experience at a longtime, well-regarded Kensington restaurant?

Kensington Circus Pub has been at Colusa Circle for 26 years. Over the years it has evolved, adapting to changing preferences, and has become a great local restaurant. About 2 years ago founder Graham Simpson, homesick for his native England, sold The Pub to good friend and regular customer Scott McFadin, an Albany native and resident. He was committed to not changing what was working, but made some improvements, such as the updated and expanded menu. Yes, the beloved Shepherd's Pie is gone, as is that English classic Bubbles and Squeak (not enough demand).

From the Flemings' letter it appears that they had not been to The Pub in quite some time – the dartboard was retired over 10 years ago. Choosing Feb. 14 (Valentine's Day, and a Friday in 2014!) to go to a restaurant for dinner at 7:30 and not expecting a crowd, and possibly compromised service, seems out of touch with reality. At The Pub, that's about the time when

K E N S I N G T O N
OUTLOOK

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...Chief, from Page 1

more of that. In larger departments, the higher up you go, the less of that there is. That’s my thing – I love being a police officer.

KO: *What do you love about it?*

It’s fun; it’s exciting; you get to make a difference. It sounds corny I know, but after 31 years I think I’m pretty good at it. Coming to this agency, I get to bring that experience, and to share it. Every day is different. Every day you learn something new – either the hard way or the easy way. I can’t imagine doing anything else. I have no athletic skills; I tried being a rock star and that didn’t work; the next best thing is being a police officer. I had the long hair, the whole bit.

KO: *What happened with your rock star career?*

I was in a band, and had just got married. It wasn’t so much the band, but the times changed. In the 70’s everyone wanted a DJ; no one wanted a live band anymore. My high school counselor asked me what I was going to do if the rock band thing didn’t work out. They gave me a job aptitude test and my strongest suits were military and police.

If you’d known me then you wouldn’t have believed I would ever be a police officer. But I grew up, had a family, and had to start being serious about providing for them.

KO: *What instrument did you play?*

I’ve got no musical talent; I had to play drums. And a little background vocals – that wasn’t very good either.

KO: *So the rock world’s loss is Kensington’s gain?*

(Laughs.) Yeah.

KO: *When is your contract up for renewal?*

June 30th of this year. *(Quick answer.)* Not that I had to think about it at all.

KO: *What have your greatest accomplishments been in this position?*

In the almost 7 years that I’ve been here, the department is so much more professional now than when I got here – the way we do our business and provide our services. When I came here there were a lot of surprises in the way they did things. That’s my proudest achievement.

Not only has the agency grown, but personally, I have grown. I had no idea of the things that I’ve learned and experienced over the last 7 years. Sometimes it’s been painful, but I’ve learned from them.

The friendships I’ve developed here, I value those. As hard as it’s been sometimes, the treatment I’ve received from some people in this community, there have also been many people that have helped me and stood up for me.

KO: *How do you divide your time between the General Manager and Chief of Police positions?*

That’s changed over the past 7 years. When I first arrived it was 10% GM and 90% COP. We were in the process of making a lot of changes and growing as an agency. Now, it’s approximately 50/50, given (things like) the LAFCO reviews and the garbage arbitration. The great thing is that I’m so comfortable and confident with where we are as a police department that it gives me more time to deal with the other challenges that have presented themselves on the GM front.

KO: *What have been your greatest disappointments?*

The biggest one has been the distraction within the community – and whether or not I’m solely responsible for that, it’s

hard to say; it has been difficult dealing with that divide. I would’ve rather that had not occurred, but I get it, I understand why it happened and why it continues to happen. I don’t think I’m responsible for it. It’s great to disagree, but I don’t think it has to get as nasty and mean-spirited as it has. That’s been a big disappointment to me.

KO: *So why is it that you think you’ve been such a polarizing figure?*

One, I think most police chiefs are; everyone knows who the police chief is, in any community. The chief stands out, and I think a lot of it too is the politics in town; there is a small group in the community that would rather see their own choice in this position, and their sole mission in life is to put such a person in this job.

KO: *Who is it they’d like to see in this spot?*

(Laughs.)

KO: *What do you see as your biggest challenges ahead– For you personally, and for the department?*

For the department, I’m happy about where we’re at right now, but we’re still building on that and fine-tuning our service, which we’ll continue to do. The great thing now, moving forward, is that we have a very supportive board; it’s nice having five directors working with me to serve the community. It was real hard the first several years I was here when that wasn’t the case. Now, were working as a team.

For me personally, overcoming the negativity in the community. We’re trying to heal some of that – not sure if that can happen or not; time will tell. We don’t have the distractions that we had before – the discord on the board.

KO: *Care to say anything about the rent discussion with the Fire District?*

It would be nice if we could get consideration from the Fire District. Everyone has budget constraints. On this particular issue, I think it’s unusual that you have one District charging the other District rent, and taxpayers are paying each District taxes. It makes sense for the taxpayers that that wouldn’t happen. I’m sure both sets of board directors will work together to hopefully come up with a solution that will benefit both Districts.

KO: *What about the arbitration with Bay View Refuse?*

It’s over. Everyone has his own opinion whether it should have occurred or not. I’m of the opinion that we didn’t ask for the arbitration – we just had to respond to it. The contract expires in September of 2015, and we have to start the process of identifying who’s going to provide waste removal service in the future.

KO: *How much time do you spend in an average week responding to Public Information Requests?*

It ebbs and flows like the tides. Some people have asked for incredible amounts of information, which is their right. It takes a lot of time to gather that information. We try to put as much information on the website as we can. I challenge anyone to find another community that puts as much stuff out there as we do.

Some things are protected – personnel matters being the main one. There’s criticism that we don’t provide the legal billings; but we have to protect personnel records and attorney-client privilege. It’s especially problematic when the same people that are suing us are asking us to reveal information about discussions between the District and the District’s attorney.

KO: *Is this a full time job or what?*

see Chief, Page 4...

90-Year Old Says ‘Never Too Late to Start!’

“If you have not met Harriet Dhanak yet, you absolutely must,” says All-In-One Fitness co-owner, Jasmine Buczek – “she is the happiest and sweetest senior member at our club.”

Coming in consistently three or four times a week and leading a healthy lifestyle, Harriet caught the eye of the local health and fitness club, which last month honored her as Member of the Month – on the occasion of her 90th birthday!

The great outdoors has always been a favorite haunt of Harriet’s, and she spent much of her life walking, hiking, volunteering for the Sierra Club, and backpacking throughout California; but she didn’t start a structured weight resistance-training program until well into her 80s.

When Harriet came to All-in-One Fitness, she wanted an exercise program that would help her continue to be able to make trips to Point Reyes with the Sierra Club, and to continue to lead an independent lifestyle. She had one knee that had bone rubbing on bone, and significant back problems; she had two age- and work- related hairline fractures in her low back, from years having to lift people, as a nurse. She thought

this was going to mean she’d end up in a wheelchair, as she was in pain at times to the point where she could not stand up – but her trainer believed otherwise.

Trainer, Jasmine designed a specific exercise program for Harriet that would gently strengthen her core without compromising the weakened area in her spine. She also focused on strengthening Harriet’s thighs and hips to strengthen and support her knees.

After only a few months working with that routine – and upping her training sessions from two to three times a week – Harriet recovered completely, to the point where her knee is no longer hindering her daily activities, nor keeping her from her mile-long hikes. She is proud to say that she is free of pain in her knee and back after doing specific exercises to keep her range of motion around all of her joints intact. Harriet is encouraging everybody – and especially the older folks in her age group – to work out, so they too can enjoy a full, active and healthy life.

Visit All-in-One Fitness, 614 San Pablo Ave., Albany • 524-1001 • AllinOneFitnessInfo.com.



90-year old Harriet Dhanak says, “It’s never too late to start exercising!”

...Mardi Gras, from Page 1

the evening. Arlington Wine and Spirits provided wines. Savory treats were provided by our new neighbor, Country Cheese, Magnani Poultry, Young’s Market, Cheeseboard Pizza, and Kensington Fine Foods. Nation’s Food Service Inc. provided delicious cherry cheesecake and chocolate cream pies. Fat Apples, La Farine, Lisa Kirkby, and Virginia Bakery provided a plentiful supply of cookies and confections to sample. Monterey Market provided fruit, and Edible Arrangements provided a fruit bouquet. Prizes were provided by Kensington Nail Salon and Delhi Diner. Finally, as always, we are very grateful for the support of our sponsors Mechanics Bank and Marvin Gardens Real Estate. Many thanks for all the local support! See you next year – let the good times roll! – Pres. Anne Forrest, KCC

KPPCSD Rent

At last month’s meeting of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, Board President, Len Welsh discussed his initial conversations with representatives at the March meeting of of the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) regarding the lease agreement between the KFPD and the KPPCSD.

Len suggested \$1-a-year rent; KFPD President, Janice Kosel requested financials from KPPCSD and an opinion letter whether it would be an unlawful gift of public funds. KPPCSD’s lawyer drafted a letter to the effect that it would not, that was presented to the Fire Board.

Len reported that the Fire District Board met in closed session to consider his proposal, but that no action was taken at that meeting.

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...*Letters, from Page 2*

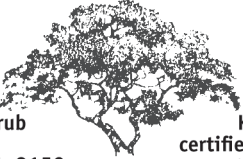
parents with kids (both love the play area) are finishing up, and waiters are dealing with multiple checks, and clearing and resetting tables. Not serving water unless requested is standard practice, especially during a drought, since even untouched water has to be dumped and a lot more water is required to wash the glasses. Bodingtons is served from a keg, not a can, in a 16 ounce (1 US pint) glass. There’s no cover charge for the live music provided by bands that play for pleasure, exposure, and tips. It’s nice that this couple chose to finally return to The Pub to hear one particular group (for unspecified reasons) but unfortunate that they did not enjoy their experience.

The Flemings seemingly felt polite in not mentioning to their waiter that their food and service were not satisfactory and that they wanted change along with a receipt, yet they did not hesitate to write a letter to the *Outlook* enumerating their complaints; and the Editor did not hesitate to publish it. (I say “did not hesitate” because their visit was on Feb. 14 and the deadline for letters for the Mar issue was Feb. 10.) Even an amateur review can be detrimental to a small local restaurant/business and the Editor should have considered this.

Kensington residents: Don’t believe everything you read in the *Kensington Outlook*! Go to Kensington Circus Pub one evening for some great pub grub and a fine selection of ales, beers, and wines; bring your kids or grandkids and let them play while you chat with neighbors, friends, or others you see; or go on Friday or Saturday and hear a local band; or go on Saturday or Sunday for a nice enjoyable brunch. Go judge for yourself.

A. Stevens Delk
Baja Kensington Resident

The Outlook publishes all the letters it receives, on a space-available basis; with late submissions accepted under that same rubric. – Ed.



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Open Letter to GM: The Paths

This is a letter I wrote to General Manager, Greg Harman; I wanted to share it with other residents of Kensington:

I am writing to you today to ask for your help in completing the community path system in Kensington, specifically path #7 which would provide a connection between the Arlington and Amhurst Avenue. As you are aware, the path routes are NOT owned by the County, the Kensington community, nor the adjacent property owners. However, they are extremely useful. The paths provide shorter routes to public transportation than the looping streets. And they can provide emergency exit routes in case of road blockage. In fact, in Berkeley, which has similar paths, the City has applied for and received Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants to improve (its) path system.

Numerous community members have contributed time and money to complete the path system, and are willing to continue to do so to make the paths available to the entire community.

I urge you to do whatever you can to make path #7 available to everyone.

Thank you,
J.A. Zaitlin

Something Crazy Here?

Dear Editor,

My brain may have slowed, but I just read the last *Outlook’s* section about the finances on the Fire and Police Districts of Kensington and I am having some trouble with the arrangements that we have.

Proposition 13, which passed in 1978 and which I worked against at that time, is still causing us the trouble we are in today.

Whoever decided in 1978 to allocate the tax money division between the Police and the Fire Districts should be called back and made to answer for such a dumb decision. Common sense should have told them that just because one district was not run well at that time, that the division of tax money should not be set in stone for all time. The result is what we have now, namely that of the 1% of property evaluation that the county taxes us for, 30% goes to the fire district and only 13% goes to the police district.

It would take an act of God to change that, so what can we do now?

As you know, we now contract with the El Cerrito Fire Department. Due to the crazy split as outlined above, we are paying 30% of the El Cerrito Fire District’s budget. Kensington’s population is about 5,000,

see Letters, Page 12...

...*Chief, from Page 3*

It’s definitely more than full time. It’s like a lot of occupations – there’s time you put in for which you’re paid and other time you put in for which you’re not paid. It’s definitely more than 40 hours a week. I get calls at all hours about issues that need to be dealt with. It’s just part of the job.

KO: *What would be involved in hiring two people to fill the GM and COP positions?*

A lot more money! The fact that the two positions are combined, the District gets the benefit of that – there’s a huge cost savings there.

Police chiefs generally report to a city manager; I report to five board directors. I’m supervised by five different bosses. I think the cost savings greatly outweigh any concerns about lack of supervision. I don’t think as a police chief I’m lacking in supervision.

KO: *Anything else you’d like to add?*

I’d like to continue working here! Even though it’s been difficult, I’ve liked the last 7 years, and I’d like to work here another 7 or 10 years, if they’ll have me.

KO: *Well, worst case, you could always be a drummer on the Oldies circuit!*

While criticisms from Harman’s detractors – deemed unfounded upon review by numerous government agencies – have been well-documented in these and other pages (see ‘Top Cop’s Name Cleared,’ Outlook, November 2012), many of his accomplishments have taken place behind the scenes, and have gone unrecognized.

When asked about the financial resources he’s developed for Kensington, Harman denies responsibility for grants or savings in which he’s had a hand. Others in the know tell a different story, however.

According to one informed source, when Harman arrived in 2007, he assumed the work that had been being done by the Huston Group, which Kensington paid to lobby at the state level on its behalf, generating a savings of approximately \$8K a year since 2008 – (\$56K through 2014).

He successfully obtained COPS Grant funding, even when funding looked tenuous, for a total of approximately \$700K to-date, and counting; and did the same for WW Grant funds, which brought to the District \$258K that paid for the park restroom. (“I always lobbied to make sure

we got the COPS grant, but it was out of my hands. I was one voice of many to try to encourage the state to continue the program. All police chiefs and elected officials were fighting for that money.”)

On his own initiative, Harman became involved with the federal Hazard Mitigation Committee, and registered Kensington for FEMA mitigation and post-disaster funds, worth untold sums of money in the case of disaster. (“I was part of a County-wide committee, and part of that was putting together the Countywidehazard mitigation plan, which qualified Kensington to seek funds in a natural disaster; and to apply for FEMA grants for any type of hazard mitigation funds. If you don’t have this plan in place, you can’t get FEMA funds in case of a disaster.”)

He completed the required number of classes offered by the California Special District Association and the Special District Risk Management Association to reduce the premiums Kensington pays to a pool of special districts, which covers us for property and liability and workers comp. This saved an estimated \$6K in premiums in 2010, alone – for an estimated total savings of \$24K to-date. Prior to his arrival, Kensington was not participating in any of the discounts that were available to it.

Taking note of the Kensington Community Council’s history of contributions to maintain and repair the Community Center, it’s reported that Harman nurtured and encouraged KCC to contribute \$200K to the Community Center building fund – a contribution that did not appear to be in the offing at the time. Following historical example, Greg worked with KCC to develop its interest in contributing to those improvements – now verging on fruition, pending approval of the bond measure scheduled for the June ballot. (“Mine was not the only voice, but I always felt that it would be a great donation for the KCC to make.”)

Greg also solicited volunteer assistance for the park bathroom from local experts, Jack Griffith, Italo Calpestri. and Andrew Mixer – whose professional contributions saved tens of thousands of dollars.

For a guy who admits he’s not really very good on the drums, in this arena at least, he appears able to keep a number of different beats going, all at the same time. And, as Chief of Police, one suspects his motto must be, “The Beats Go On.” – Ed.



General Manager and Chief of Police, Greg Harman
Still crazy after all these years – about his job, that is!

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KASEP

Kensington After-School Enrichment Program - Spring Session

Kensington After-School Enrichment Program (KASEP) Spring Session is now in progress. Classes continue through to Friday, May 30th. The KCC Office will be closed for Spring Break April 7 – 11. No KASEP classes held during spring break. Need an activity for your child during this break? Check out the Movie Making Workshop, KCC Recreation Center, Monday – Friday, 9:00am – noon for grades 2nd through 5th!

KASEP SUMMER CAMP 2014

Welcome to KCC Summer Day Camp, your home for a day camp program located in the beautiful East Bay hills community of Kensington. Camp is for children entering 1st-6th grades in FALL 2014. Camp is a full day of activities, Monday - Friday 9am-5pm. Morning and afternoon extended care is available for an additional fee.

Cost is \$245.00 per camper, per week
Register On-line at: www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org
Registration is ongoing throughout the summer.

Our traditional day camp is all about having a good time, safely, supervised by trained camp counselors. This camp offers a fun, well-rounded summer camp experience where our campers get to do a little bit of everything from arts and crafts, games, and group tennis lessons, to team sports.

KCC Summer Camp Activities & Schedule

Week 1: June 9 - June 13

Specialty: Carpentry
Field Trip: The Jungle – Indoor
Playground/Concord

Week 2: June 16 – June 20

Specialty: Soda Pop Tab Belts/Jewelry
Field Trip: Adventure Playground/
Berkeley

Week 3: June 23 – June 27

Specialty: Gymnastics *Spirit Week*
Field Trip: Oakland Zoo

Week 4: June 30 – July 3

Specialty: Ultimate Frisbee & Volleyball
Closed 4th of July

Week 5: July 7 – July 11

Specialty: Ceramic Clay Creations
Field Trip: Lake Anza

Week 6: July 14 - July 18

Specialty: Gymnastics *Olympic Week*
Field Trip: Marine Mammal Rescue/
Marin

Week 7: July 21 – July 25

Specialty: Circus Arts
Field Trip: Bladium-Alameda
Rock Climbing/ Soccer

Week 8: July 28 – August 1

Specialty: Cooking *Spirit Week*
Field Trip: LakeTemescal

Week 9: August 4– August 8

Specialty: Metal Art, Dog Tags
Field Trip: Scandia

Week 10: August 11 - August 15

Specialty: Ceramic Critters
Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool Party!

Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances.

jazzercise



JAZZERCISE
Low Impact for Adults
Monday-Wednesday-Friday,
8:15-9:15am • Ongoing

BODY SCULPTING
For Adults
Tuesdays and Thursdays,
9-10am • Ongoing

Dancing Days! **Jazzercise** group fitness class combines dance-based cardio with strength training and stretching to sculpt, tone, and lengthen muscles for maximum fat burn. **Body sculpting** is shaping your body to look leaner, more toned, and strengthened. Both Jazzercise and Body Sculpting are taught by Kevin Knickerbocker at the Community Center. Register at class. Questions? Call Kevin at 486-2728.

* SPRING BREAK! *

MOVIE-MAKING WORKSHOP
Monday-Friday, April 7th thru 11th
9am-12pm at the KCC Recreation Building
Grades: 2nd thru 5th; maximum 10 students
Cost: \$200 for the week/per student

Lights, Camera, Action! Ready to learn the basics of filming? Kids create short movies, start to finish, and learn valuable camera skills in a fun and collaborative environment. Learn how to use the “GoPro” camera or bring your own digital camera from home! Students learn about all parts of movie production – story development, storyboarding, lights, set design, acting, and directing. The only prerequisites necessary are an interest in storytelling and photography.

Filmed scenes will be edited by instructors and given to every student on USB bracelets to take home and share. Presented by Mike Conner (BFA, MFA, California Institute of the Arts), Filmmaker, Artist, and After-School Enrichment Class Teacher.

2013-2014 KASEP Scholarship Fund Donations Thank You to Families Helping Other Families

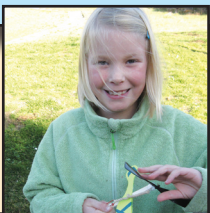
Adrienne Bentley	Dan McGarry	Manson Marpaung
Agnes Ubalde	Daniel Meier	Marni Deshong
Andrea Gordon	Dave Neel Yarnell	Mary K. Johansson
Andrew Farquharson	David Paige	Mary Pryor
Andrew Phimister	Dolores Isern	Mary Shaughnessy
Ann McDermott	Emily Su	Matt A Cole
Ann Sussman	Fatemeh Mizbani	Matt Wayne
Anna G Porter	Frances M Donovan	Melinda Pilling
Asa Goldstein	Gaina Lieu	Michael H Ziegler
Brenda Wallace	Gilian Handelman	Michael Bahn
Brian Daley	Isabelle M Sodini	Natasha Benjamin
Carla MacDonald	Jen Shonholtz	Nicholas Wellington
Carmen Cook	Jen Weiss	Nick Gawlikowski
Charlotte Cabasse	Jennifer Jacobs	Parisa Farvid
Christina Johansen Pollack	Jennifer Medveczky	Parviz B Azar
Christina Wistrom	Jennifer Stockford	Patrick Tahara
Cindy Ma	John Leichenger	Patty Weir Robertson
Claire G Thomas	Kari Tindol	Sangwei Lu
Conni Kloster Wimple	Kristy van Herick	Scott Schonfeldt-Aultman
Cristina L. Ruotolo	Laurie E Koteen	Sierra Veenbaas
Cynthia Abramov	Leanore Walsh Shikuma	Sonja Vogel
	Leslie R Reckler	Sophie Boroditsky
	Lisa Trotter	Steffani Aranas
		Tara Shaw
		Tara Taylor
		Wendy Mazursky
		William Tao
		Yair Eilat
		Yuji Kosugi
		Yvetteh Ortiz


REGISTRATION

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. E-mail: kccrec@yahoo.com, or call 525-0292. M-F, 10am-4pm.

Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am. Call the KCC office for info. Court Fees: 45-min. singles reservation: Residents: \$2; Nonresidents: \$5.


Community Ctr Rental Info: Please call Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) at 526-4141.





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Neighborhood Notes

Got Books?

Friends of the Kensington Library needs them for its book sale on Saturday, May 10th and Sunday, May 11th at the Community Center. They're asking Kensington residents to go through their bookshelves and donate books they no longer need (– and that's pretty much all of them, no?). Please bring your donations – including books, CD's, and DVD's to the library (Library hours at ccclib.org/locations/kensington.html). Thanks a bunch – your generosity speaks volumes!



What Happened to the Bench?

For the past two weeks, Chris Hall, Farmers' Market Manager – and father of bench builder, Lucky, told us he'd had an average of a person a day ask him what happened to the bench that had been placed at, and then removed from, the corner of Arlington and Coventry. Chris said that the bench had been given a going away party and is now in a very sunny spot just off the corner of the Farmers' Market on Santa Fe and Oak View Ave. It was welcomed by Ed Hammond, who owns the mini park there, adjacent to his properties. Everyone at the market, as well as a number of weekday lunch hour visitors to this small green space, is now enjoying a nice place to sit. As Chris' son said when we built the first bench on Coventry, "The more places people can gather, the more we can feel like a community." Yes – especially when, as at any going away party worth its sugar, there's cake involved!



A standing ovation for a place to sit.
Photo: Mark Altenberg

Police Officers' Contract Extended

At the March KPPCSD meeting, Pat Gillette presented for Board action, the negotiated Extension Agreement between the Kensington Police Protection & Community Services District and the Kensington Police Officers Association. The term is for one year, running retroactively from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. Officers will be given a 3% salary increase. The total cost of this agreement to the District for this year, including increases in pension contributions, is \$34,331.37. If the parties do not reach an agreement for a new contract before June 30, 2014, the terms of this contract shall remain in effect, with no further increases in compensation until a new agreement is reach or the parties reach legal impasse. The resolution was passed unanimously (Dir. Chuck Toombs, absent). More Board action, Pg. 9.

High School Senior Photo

Let the tradition continue! Calling all high school seniors who live(d) in Kensington, or who attended Hilltop Elementary School in Kensington for all or part of their elementary school years – you're invited to join other alumni for the Annual Kensington High School Senior Photo. The photo shoot is scheduled for Sunday, May 4th at 3:30pm. Meet up at the KCC Office – come early to catch-up with old friends! The seniors' photo will appear on the cover of the June Outlook.



Last Year's Graduating Seniors

March Was American Red Cross Month

At the March meeting of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, the KPPCSD Board of Directors proclaimed March 2014 as *American Red Cross Month*, and encouraged all residents to support this organization and its humanitarian mission. The month is dedicated to all those who support the American Red Cross in its goal to alleviate human suffering in emergencies. The Red Cross relies on donations of blood, time, and money to fulfill its mission. Got some extra money, blood, or time on your hands? Contact the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org or (415) 427-8000.



Peter Liddell, Red Cross volunteer (and Chair of the Kensington Public Safety Council), accepts the proclamation from GM, Greg Harman

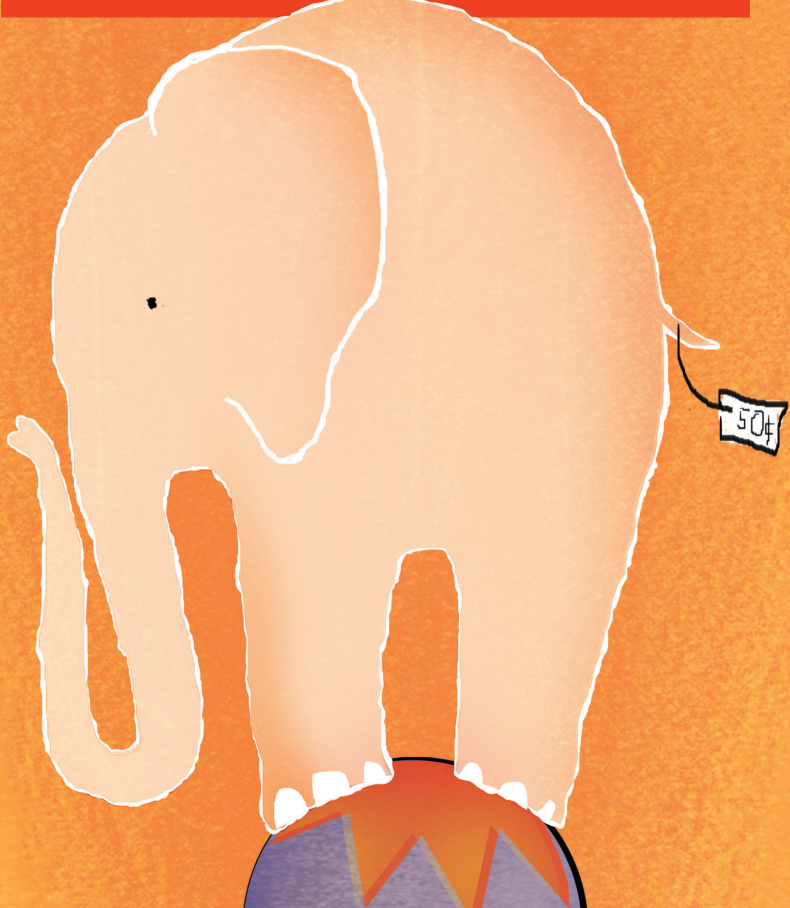
Opposite Page, Left to Right: DJ Devin Pennix rocks the house; It was hard to tell which was the best – the atmosphere, the ambiance, or the mise en scène. Knute Fischer and his wife, Robin Burns, (with KCC President, Anne Forrest); Previous Outlook editor, Danny Levine and his wife; Patrick Schlesinger and his wife – former KCC Administrator; Esther Hill, and friends; The dance lesson; Esther Hill and friends do the Macarena; KIC's Lorraine Osmundson and KPPCSD VP, Linda Lipscomb; Centerpiece; Marvin Gardens Real Estate co-owner, Marion Henon, Lynn Gardiner, and Anne Forrest boogie; Unidentified couple, who danced until the end; KCC's Laurie Ushigusa rocks out; Dick and Connie Pyle, KIC's Gretchen Gillfillan, Linda Lipscomb, KCC's Vida Dorroh, and Lorraine Osmundson.

★ KENSINGTON HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ★

★ IT'S HERE! ★

★ PTA & DADS' CLUB 67TH ANNUAL ★

★ SPRING CARNIVAL ★



★ SATURDAY, MAY 10 ★ 11 AM - 3 PM at 90 HIGHLAND BLVD. ★

★ RAFFLE ★ Grand Prize: HANDMADE QUILT! ★ Runner Up Prizes: SHOPPING SPREES AT ARLINGTON AND COLUSA CIRCLE SHOPS! ★

★ Proceeds fund the PTA's purchase of school supplies, assemblies, & emergency readiness kits. ★

★ PIE BAKING CONTEST ★ USED BIKE SALE ★ DADS' CLUB GRILL ★ PLASMA CAR RACE ★ CAKE WALK ★ PHOTO BOOTH ★ COTTON CANDY ★ QUILT RAFFLE ★ PLANT SALE ★ WHITE ELEPHANT SALE ★ SNO CONES ★ CRAFTS ★ GAMES ★

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A selection of bouquets, plants and balloons can be found at Colusa Market. Shopping the Arlington? Stop by Arlington Wine & Spirits for a wonderful bottle of wine and a Spring bouquet.



D'Jour is now featuring locally-grown tulips in a vast array of colors from the SONOMA BULB COMPANY



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Rev. Tony Clark, Pastor
www.acc-ucc.org

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Join Us for Lent and Easter

Arlington Community Church has a series of events planned for Lent and Easter. Come worship with us during this season.

- LENTEN THEME: "Return Home" •**
- Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. •**
Return to the earth
with our joyous Procession of the Palms.
- Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00 p.m. •**
Return to the Past with a Last Supper Worship.
- Good Friday, April 18, 12-3:00 p.m. •**
Return to the Passion of Jesus
through meditative worship.
- Easter Sunday, April 20 •**
Return home to Reconnect with God.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
God is still speaking—at Arlington Community Church

...*Carnival, from Page 1*

Once the big day arrives, you can smile, flash your pearly whites, and take home a keepsake from the carnival photo booth. Kids of all ages will enjoy exciting carnival activities, including a crafts table, plasma car races, "Hair Feathers," glitter tattoos, and many more. And, *repurpose* with purpose: donate gently used items



Purchase your raffle ticket for a chance to win this beautiful, 'Kensington Connections' quilt, handmade by Emi Sherman, Romy Douglass, Cathy Wagner, Alicia Mendoza, and Marion Navassartian (not shown).

to the popular White Elephant Sale. Items will be accepted beginning April 28, 8:30-9am, at the South side entrance of Hilltop. To arrange a pick up between now and May 9th, you can email Romydouglass@gmail.com. Then stop by the White Elephant Sale and find treasures on carnival day.

Just in time for Mother's Day, visit the plant sale, featuring succulents, plants grown from seed by Hilltop students, carnivorous plants, and terrariums. The Deals-on-Wheels Bike Sale will also be in full swing. Free up garage space and give an old bike new life! Donated bikes can be dropped off through May 9th at Jason's

Chevron Station on the Arlington. Jason will generously provide bike donors 10% off labor for any service through the end of May. Bikes can also be dropped off at Hilltop on Friday, May 9th, behind the multipurpose room. If you have bikes to donate but cannot drop them off, please email Rob Dunn, rododu@gmail.com.

As always, the Dad's Club Grill will serve its famous, mouth-watering tri-tip

sandwiches, as well as dogs, burgers, and veggie burgers. Carnival booths will serve SnoCones, cotton candy, and root beer floats. Win a delicious cake from the ever-popular Cake Walk. (Many thanks to Ruth Frassetto for her 10-year sponsorship of the event and generous donation of 60 cakes!)

Carnival proceeds fund PTA-sponsored school assemblies, and support the purchase of school supplies and emergency readiness kits for each Hilltop classroom. Come share in the celebration! It promises to be a wonderful day.

— Luisa Giulianetti, Kensington Hilltop Elementary School Parent

"I've written for many publications, but I think the Outlook is the one that's read the most thoroughly."
— Danny Levine, former editor of the *Kensington Outlook*


In Memory

Born in Stockton, Joan Gallegos was a native Californian, as were her parents. Her mother was a ballet teacher, her father a doctor. Joan started piano lessons while in pre-school. Her passion lay with the violin, but she had to wait until her hands were big enough to handle the instrument before she could start lessons.

Joan attended Stanford, graduating as a political science major. After Stanford, she moved for a short time to Carmel, but found life there limiting. Joan moved back to San Francisco, and then to Berkeley, where she entered the graduate program in music at UCB.

Joan studied piano and composition, and eventually realized that her true passion lay in teaching. She joined the SF Conservatory of Music's faculty in 1968, and, in her 29 years at the Conservatory, directed the New Music Ensemble and helped to develop the Musician-ship program.

Upon retiring from the Conservatory in 1997, Joan was awarded an honorary doctorate. She



Joan Gallegos
1931-2014

was a staunch advocate for women, and a pioneer in the field of new music.

Joan was also very active in the Kensington community, serving as a Director of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) for three, 4-year terms, from 1996-2008, and also on the Kensington Community Council (KCC) since 2009.

Notoriously difficult to reach by modern means of communication, such as phone or email, as she was rarely home during the day and accessed her email only via a computer at the library, Joan could often be found however, reading the day's newspaper in her "office" — her car, parked in the shade of her favorite parking spot in the upper lot of Kensington Park. The placing of a bench in her honor nearby is in the works, pending KPPCSD approval.

Thank you, Joan, for all you did for Kensington. You will be missed!

Excerpted with permission – and expanded – from the SF Conservatory of Music Archive. Photo: Beth Burnside

Rest in Peace

Save the Manatee!

2013 was the deadliest year, ever for Florida’s endangered manatees, with 829 recorded deaths. Save the Manatee Club, an international nonprofit organization co-founded over thirty years ago by singer/songwriter, Jimmy Buffett, needs your help. Funds from its adoption program go toward emergency rescue response for sick and injured manatees, and for waterway signage, public awareness and education, research, and more.

West Indian manatees are large, gray aquatic mammals with bodies that taper to a flat, paddle-shaped tail. They have two forelimbs, called flippers, with three to four nails on each flipper. Their head and face are wrinkled with whiskers on the snout. The manatee’s closest relatives are the elephant and the hyrax (a small, gopher-sized mammal). Manatees are believed to have evolved from a wading, plant-eating animal. The West Indian manatee is related to the West African manatee, the Amazonian manatee, the dugong, and Steller’s sea cow, which was hunted to extinction in 1768. The average adult manatee is about

10 feet long and weighs between 800 and 1,200 pounds.

Legend has it that manatees may have been the distant “mermaids” imagined by sailors of ancient times that caused at least one ship’s captain to have himself lashed to the mast to keep him from making some very bad decisions in regard to responding to their siren call. (Those sea voyages must have been p-r-e-t-y long! In one viewer’s opinion, at least, these manatees are cute, but they’re not THAT cute! See for yourself at the URL listed below.)

Manatees can be found in shallow, slow-moving rivers, estuaries, saltwater bays, canals, and coastal areas — particularly where sea grassbeds or freshwater vegetation flourish. Manatees are a migratory species. Within the United States, they are concentrated in Florida in the winter. In summer months, they can be found as far west as Texas and as far north as Massachusetts, but summer sightings in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina are more common.

See more information (including manatee-cam!) at: www.savethemanatee.org.



Lynn, Keith, & Tony Bring Home the Bacon

Twenty ears ago the West Contra Costa County School District (WCCUSD) was in such financial straits it decided to sell off property to pay off some of its debts – land which included what is now Kensington Park, as well as the Annex and Building E, which the District had been renting to Kensington. At the same time, the school district abandoned its commitment to provide the crossing guard on the Arlington, at the library during pre- and post-school hours.

Legitimately concerned parents lobbied the KPPCSD to take on the responsibility for saving the lives of the community’s children at that dangerous intersection and time of day. Since then, KPPCSD has been picking up the cost of providing the crossing guard, and the Kensington Police Dept. has been providing additional patrols and services for Hilltop Elementary before, during, and after school, including security checks throughout the day and night, and extra traffic enforcement during school commute hours.

The school district is in much better financial shape now, and recently invited KPPCSD to apply to receive compensation for those services, going forward.

KPPCSD Administrator, Lynn Wolter, Director Tony Lloyd, and KPD Sgt. Keith Barrow took the school district up on its offer, and, through meetings with WCCUSD representatives over the last few months, have now walked away with up to \$50,000 a year for Kensington, for the next three years, for a total of up to \$150,000.



KPPCSD Administrator (and past President), Lynn Wolter

While recognition of this financial feather in Kensington’s cap was inexplicably in short supply after the announcement by WCCUSD President, Charles Ramsey at the March KPPCSD meeting, many agree that these three public servants deserve a tip of that cap from all Kensington residents.

More info at www.ContraCostaTimes.com/news/ci_25337825.

Ballot Measure Educational Materials Approved

At last month’s KPPCSD meeting, the Park Buildings Committee presented the educational material for the Community Center Safety Project, drafted by the Lew Edwards Group, for Board discussion and approval.

The educational material presented for consideration addressed these frequently asked questions about the project: Why upgrade the Community Center? Why do it now? How do we know funds will be spent properly? What role has the community had in this process?

Three letters from the GM to be mailed to all Kensington residents regarding the ballot initiative were also made available.

The Board approved the materials unanimously, with the caveat that an ad hoc committee with Directors Lipscomb and

Gillette, working with members of the park committee, be formed to remove any language that may be included in the materials that does not meet reasonable standards of neutrality in respect to the advisability of the remodel project.

The materials will be made available to Kensington residents prior to the June 2014 election, on which the ballot measure to float a bond to pay for the remodel of the Community Center will appear.

More info at: www.kensingtoncalifornia.org; and click on “Kensington Community Center Safety Project.”

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“When I was ten years old, I gave my teacher an April Fool’s sandwich, which had a dead goldfish in it.”

– Alan Alda



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Creative Container Gardening

Coming to the Library, Tuesday, April 29th

Kensington Library hosted its first Contra Costa Master Gardener talks last year. More than 30 local hillside gardeners came to hear Janet Miller talk about winter vegetable gardens. She gave wonderful examples of lettuces that only need 2-4 hours of sun, broccoli and cauliflowers that take time to develop, yet with 6-8 hours of sun will grow well here, and many root vegetables, like radishes, carrots and parsnips that grow very well in Kensington's mild winters and summers.

These talks will continue on Tuesday evening, April 29th at 7pm at the Kensington Library. This month the topic will be: "Container Gardening, Creative and Useful Mixes," presented by Contra Costa Master Gardener, Terry Lippert. Terry's talk will cover common vegetable growing problems and how to correct them, including: Herb combinations, bringing in bees, vegetables that work well in pots,

and interesting containers. Suggestions will be provided for what vegetables/herbs and flowers to plant for the best results. And, attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions about problems in their gardens.

Master Gardeners are trained volunteers for the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) – Contra Costa County residents who have an active interest in horticulture, have completed the training, who then share their knowledge with other members of our Countywide-community.

Kensington residents, Melissa Holmes Snyder and Anna Frankfurt are certified Contra Costa Master Gardeners, and will be on hand to discuss the Master Gardener program in general, with those who are interested in pursuing the training program.

From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From February 2014

On 2-3-2014, Ofcr. Wilson and Sgt. Barrow responded to the 400 block of Ocean View Ave. for a reported at-risk missing person who was later found in Fremont.

On 2-9-2014, Ofcr. Ramos responded to the 200 block of Yale Ave. for a reported civil stand-by that later became an assault case.

On 2-9-2014, Sgt. Barrow and Ofcr. Wilson responded to the 200 block of Yale Ave. for a reported disturbance. One of the involved subjects was later cited and released for drug- and alcohol-related crimes.

On 2-10-2014, Ofcr. Ramos responded to the 600 block of Coventry Rd. for a reported injury vehicle collision. The driver was later arrested at the scene.

On 2-11-2014, Ofcr. Ramos responded to the 00 block of Kerr Ave. for a reported identity theft.

On 2-11-2014, Ofcr. Ramos responded to the 00 block of Edgcroft Ave. for a reported fraud.

On 2-12-2014, Sgt. Barrow, Corp. Det. Stegman, and Reserve Ofcr. Armanino responded to the 4000 block of Redding St. in Oakland to serve an arrest warrant for a Kensington PD case. The suspect was arrested while trying to escape through the rear door.

On 2-16-2014, Master Sgt. Hull and Ofcr. Wilkens responded to the 200 block of Willamette Ave. for a reported child abuse that had occurred in the City of El Cerrito.

On 2-18-2014, Ofcr. Wilson responded to the 00 block of Franciscan Way for a reported petty theft from an unlocked vehicle.

On 2-19-2014, Ofcr. Wilkens responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. for a reported identity theft.

On 2-25-2014, Sgt. Barrow responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. for a resident who was, "Upset over the Girl Scouts selling cookies on the corner and wanted to make sure they have a permit." The Girl Scouts did not, and were not cited. Aside from a bit of munching, no further action was taken.





On 2-25-2014, Sgt. Barrow and Ofcr. Wilson arrested a subject wanted for an outstanding warrant in the 200 block of Arlington Ave..

On 2/01/2014, Ofcr. Martinez responded to the 100 block of Arlington Ave. on a report of identity theft.

On 2/06/2014, Ofcr. Martinez responded to the 700 block of Coventry Rd. on a report of identity theft.

On 2/15/2014, Ofcr. Turner responded to the 200 block of Arlington Ave. on a report of a grand theft.

On 2/16/2014, Ofcr. Turner responded to the unit block of Arlington Ave. on a report of vandalism.



The Ring Time Report for February identified 60 total 911 calls with 7 having ring times over 20 seconds. The average ring time for the month was 20 seconds. Per the dispatcher supervisor, this unusually long ring time was due to a higher number of calls for the month, and that there were two disconnected calls from the same residence that rang for 29 seconds and

1 minute and 22 seconds; both turned out to be misdials.

Website

The Board packets, monthly reports, minutes, recordings of the KPPCSD Board Meetings, and Bay View-County Solid Waste contracts are available for review at: www.KensingtonCalifornia.org

Complete Report...KensingtonCalifornia.org/kppcsd-board/2014-agenda-packets-0

April 1 The Power of Myth at the Movies: House of Cards (1993). View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7:30-9pm. \$7. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, www.uucb.org.

April 1-3 (Tues-Thurs) Body Sculpting, 9:00-10:00am; Ongoing; drop-ins are welcome; at the Community Center.

April 1, 8, 15 & 29 Family Storytime. Picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun – stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 3, 10, 17 & 24 Baby & Toddler Storytime. Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

April 4 (Fri.) Qi-Gong 9:30-10:30am; Adults, at the Community Center.

April 5 Annual KFPD Shredding Event, 10am-4pm, at the north end of the Community Center/Library parking lot, across from Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue. Clear out old files and papers and have them securely and safely disposed of. All shredding is recycled to a paper mill. Vial of Life packets and 24-hour emergency kits will be on hand for those who have not yet received theirs.

April 5 RabbitEARS. Learn about RabbitEARS rescue, listen to stories with Dawn, and meet and pet her rabbit friend, Pepper. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 11am. Free. 524-3043.

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington
(Schedule Subject to Change – Call to Confirm.)

FKL - April 1st
Friends of the Kensington Library, 7pm (at the Library, 61 Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesdays

KCC - April 7th
Kensington Community Council
1st Mondays, 7:30pm. 525-0292

KFPD - April 9th
Fire Protection District
2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD - April 10th - New Time!
Police Protection and Community Services District
2nd Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

KPSC - April 14th
Kensington Public Safety Council
Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

KIC - April 28th
Kensington Improvement Club
4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 527-3062

KMAC (Tentative) - April 29th
Municipal Advisory Council
Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia's office to confirm: 231-8691)

KARO/ECHO - May 12th
Amateur Radio Operators
2nd Mondays of odd months, 7:30pm. 524-9815

Kensington Kalendar



Making Mud Pies at Kensington After School Education Program (KASEP)
Sponsored by the Kensington Community Council – See Page 5.

April 6 Laura Bushman, “Exploring the Mayan Civilization and Spirituality.” 10-11am. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, www.uucb.org.

April 6, 13, 20, 27 Kensington Farmers Market. Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm. Free. Colusa Circle.

April 7 Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs.” All levels welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 7, 9, 11 (M-F-W) Jazzercise, 8:15-9:15am; Ongoing; drop-ins are welcome; at the Community Center.

April 7-11 Spring Break Workshop – Movie Making for Grades 2 thru 5. Mon-Friday 9am-noon; KCC Rec. Ctr.

The December/January edition of the Outlook included the photo below on the front page. Due to the arcane vagaries with which the Outlook is published, it was not possible to print it in color at that time. This month we have an opportunity to share the photo with our readers in all its glory. So here they are again – The Koenig Totem Poles – children’s art, shown at the Kensington Education Foundation’s Garden Party in November.) Gaudi, move over!



April 10 Robert Reich Speaks on: “Healthcare and the Economy.” Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, Berkeley, 7-9:30pm. www.adsnac.org.

April 12 Serenade, Strings and the Mad Diva Concert. Serenade Chamber Choir, the Ashton String Quartet, and soprano Marcelle Dronkers. No one turned away for lack of funds. W/ chair accessible. www.LuminosityEvents.org. Tix: \$20/15, at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/604015, or at the door. 8pm, UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington.

April 13 Rev. Cathleen Cox, “Unitarian Christianity: What is it and What Difference Does it Make?” 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org. 525-0302

April 20 “Stories, Myths and the Earth: A Performance in Word and Gesture of the Web of Life and How We Are Connected.” 10-11am. Free. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302.

April 21 Art Talk and Slideshow with Michael Stehr “Heroes of Impressionism” Part 3 of his “Three Days in Paris” series. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 7pm. Free. 524-3043.

April 22 Bay Area Storytelling Festival Preview. Celebrate *Earth Day* with professional storytellers sharing tales about the earth, transporting listeners to other times and places. Ages 4 – adult. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

April 22 TRIO 180: Violin, Cello, and Piano. Beethoven, Dvorak, and Cindy Cox. 8pm, Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., \$25; HS students free; post-HS studs \$12.50. Wheelchair accessible. www.BerkeleyChamberPerform.org

April 25, 26, 27 Naomi Iizuka’s “Anon(ymous),” Fri. and Sat. at 7:30pm; Sun. at 2:30pm; ECHS Performing Arts Theater. \$10/\$5 seniors & students. Info at karenshebek@sbcgloal.net or 525-1539 (days only).

April 26 Finding Your Voice: Communicate Deeply with Those You Love, led by Jan McClain. 9am-3pm. \$40 Suggeste. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org. 525-0302

April 26 Path Clean-up. Stratford Path, 10am-noon. Bring rakes, gloves, brooms, dust pans, loppers, and clippers. Water and cookies provided.



April 26 Free Pharmaceutical Drop Off, co-sponsored by KFPD and KPPCSD. Accepting unwanted/expired medications, including narcotics – no questions asked. 10am-2pm only. Public Service Bldg., 217 Arlington. 215-4450

April 26 Chorus & Orchestra – Puccini & Mozart. Kensington Symphony Orchestra and the Choirs of Berkeley and SF UU Churches, perform Puccini’s “Gloria,” and Mozart’s “Ah, guarda sorella.” 8pm at UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd. \$20/15. Wheelchair accessible. www.LuminosityEvents.org

April 27 Kendra Smith, “God in Buddhism.” 10-11am. UUCB, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Free. www.uucb.org.

April 28 Kensington Library Book Club. Discuss Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie*. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 6:30pm. Free.

April 29 Container Gardening, Creative and Useful Mixes, by Contra Costa Master Gardener, Terry Lippert. 7pm at the Kensington Library. Free.



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...Letters, from Page 4

and El Cerrito has just shy of 25,000 happy citizens.

Is something a little crazy here?

It seems to me if the wonderful fire people are protecting 5 times more people in El Cerrito than in Kensington, maybe the budget should be adjusted. Besides, every time that the fire people come to rescue someone after a 911 call in Kensington, guess what? Our good police go there to help too!

But I digress, so let us go back to the budget.

Let us assume, for the sake of simplicity, that you just bought a home in Kensington for \$1,000,000, which is not too uncommon now; the 1% county tax would be

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\$10,000. Of that \$10,000, 30%, or \$3,000, would go to the Fire District and \$1,300 would go to the Police District. That is a difference of \$1,700. As the years go by, the differences get bigger and bigger. All because we started off wrong in 1978.

The result is that we are apparently paying for the Fire District's future retirement and health plans while the Police District's future obligations continue to grow.

Lorraine Osmundson
(A happy citizen here since 1959)

Creepy, Scary at Lake Anza

(Dear Editor:)

My daughter was hiking on Sunday around Lake Anza. It was raining. She was alone.

She went out to the rock that protrudes out over the lake. She was sitting there with her headphones when she noticed a man carrying a sledgehammer walking on the trail behind her. She took off her headphones as she was slightly suspicious, but not too worried. She figured he was with the park service. He went off the trail and headed out onto the rock. He approached

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like it was probably tree service (on a Sunday?) and that, since the man didn't talk to her, there was nothing much he could do.

This is not acceptable. I called back myself. I was told that the officer would call me back. I received no call back. So I phoned again. I was told by the woman who answered the phone that he was not going to call me back because my daughter is over 18 and he would not discuss this with me. I was furious. I said that I wanted to speak to him immediately, then, as a citizen who had heard about this.

I became upset with the woman, telling her that there is no excuse for this, and that I expected a call back in five minutes. It got heated. She told me she wasn't sure he would call me back but she would relay the message. I told her that if I didn't hear back in five minutes I was calling *The Outlook*. I have not heard back.

Why would someone approach someone with a sledgehammer out on the edge of a rock, cause her to jump, then get back on the trail after her? And then another man on the other side of the lake in apparent communication with the man following her? This just isn't right. I hope we can do something about this.

Thanks,
Marcy Cravat

More Letters, Back Page...

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...Letters, from Page 12

The Pub a Unique Resource

Kensington Pub is a great and unique local resource.

I must take exception to the Flemings’ letter, at least in the general situation, if not the particular night that the writer describes. (See “Pub Not Their Cup of Tea,” Outlook, March 2014.)

My family and I moved to Kensington in 1978. (We live one block from the Pub.)

After Narsai’s closed, Graham Simpson’s sister, Ann tried an Italian restaurant that was not successful and Graham took it over and turned it into the Pub.

Graham did a great job of building a popular family pub, but after 25 years it wore him out, in the same way that all sole proprietor restaurants that I have known about do to their creators. It is intense and never-ending work. In the last five years, or so, Graham took on James as the manager, and James did a good deal to inject new energy into the business. However, in the end, Graham wanted to retire and sold the business to Scott McFadin.

Scott, who worked for Graham for a number of years, has taken over with burst of new energy. He has spruced up the interior with new toys for the play area, new TVs, etc. Most importantly he has, for the first time in decades, enhanced the menu with new dishes. And his new weekend brunches are very good, easily holding their own with any in the area.

Scott has also expanded the music offering (which usually starts on time).

So, all in all, the Pub is a great and unique establishment, easily equaling or bettering any such in Berkeley. (Look at the Yelp reviews.)

One off night does not make for a valid review of one the best-in-class, and the Pub is certainly a gem in Kensington, north Berkeley, and El Cerrito.

William Johnston and family

Quote of the Month

Walt Gillfillan on wife, Gretchen’s beads-and-flashing-lights Mardi Gras necklace – “It’s connected to her pacemaker.” (Pictured on Page 1)



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