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KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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APRIL 2018

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 76 NUMBER 4

Big Turnout, Big Support for Independent Police Force



Matrix Consulting Group President Richard Brady (left) handled the mike at the March 17 morning meeting while Senior Manager Byron Pipkin manned the flipcharts. The community center's skylights washed out the PowerPoint presentation, though no one seemed to miss it.

By Linnea Due

A few days before the first Matrix Consulting Group meeting on St. Patrick's Day, Kensington residents received a slick flier in the mail called *Kensington Independent, Newsletter to the Kensington People*. The unattributed flier, with a Germanic attitude towards capital letters, urged residents to come to the Matrix meeting.

Whether due to the flier or to notices on NextDoor asking people to be civil, at least 225 people showed up for the Matrix-run morning event, with overflow crowds consigned to the side and back walls and even into the conference rooms off the main hall. KPPSCD General

Manager Tony Constantouros opened the meeting by defining its purpose, which was, he said, to give the community an opportunity to talk about what it wants in a police department.

He noted that there were a lot of rumors flying about: "There is no decision made about contracting out," he told the crowd. "I would not have taken the job if a decision had been made." Constantouros said that they wanted to hear from as many people as possible and mentioned that another meeting would be held April 28. He said that every email sent to him (tconstantouros@kppcsd.org) would be forwarded to the appropriate parties.

Matrix Consulting Group president

Richard Brady, who had been hired by the KPPSCD board to analyze the department and the community's needs, took the microphone and said, "This is your meeting." He asked how many people had lived in Kensington over 5 years, then 10, 20, and longer, noting how unique it was to see such a stable community with so many long-term residents. He explained that his consultancy performs staffing and operations studies for police departments, and also examines how departments meet the needs of the community. Because police and fire services are so expensive, he said, cost-effectiveness and accountability in terms of meeting community desires are more important than ever.

Brady explained that in addition to the two meetings, people could email him with comments (rbrady@matrixcg.net) or call at 650-858-0507. There is also a survey (now available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/7JSQCT9). The link is on the district website—Google KPPSCD). Brady explained that Matrix would look at management and staffing and how the department handles officer-initiated activities; the second part of that inquiry is how effective the police are in providing services the community wants. He asked that people express how well Kensington police services meet the community's needs.

Many people spoke (Anthony Knight counted 46 individual speakers at an event that wrapped up by noon, a feat in itself). Linda Lipscomb asked whether the current lack of staffing would impact Matrix's findings. Brady said that the

See Matrix Meeting, Page 5

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Letters to the Editor

Smile, You're on Camera

Dear Editor,

Recently I sent a letter to the KPPCSD board on why we should get Closed Circuit TV cameras for Kensington. In it, I asked them to please consider placing CCTV cameras at strategic intersections that form part of Kensington's border. Placing CCTV at a comparatively few border crossings, such as Grizzly Peak Blvd, both ends of the Arlington, Kensington Road, Vassar, Berkeley Park Blvd., and a few others would do much to deter crime and to catch criminals.

Looking at the series of shootings at cars and windows in the early morning hours of January 2, we would have had a much better chance of getting the license plates of the marauders with the CCTV cameras when they exited Kensington via Grizzly Peak.

Surveillance cameras are a tried and true method of both crime detection and prevention. CCTV is common in parts of Europe. There is one surveillance camera for every 11 people in Britain. Berkeley Police Chief Michael Meehan said surveillance cameras have helped solve crimes, and Berkeley is installing CCTV at major intersections and considering a registry for citizens to voluntarily integrate their private cameras in the police database.

Orinda saw a big drop in residential burglaries since installing cameras in July 2015. Orinda police say the solve rate increased from 5 percent to 25 percent after the city installed the cameras. Crime data shows residential burglaries decreased by 54 percent in the 11 months after the cameras were installed.

I had the privilege recently of meeting the new Contra Costa District Attorney, Diana Becton, who, among her many accomplishments was part of the push to get CCTV cameras installed on Highway 4. The cameras are discouraging gang-related shootings that plagued the transit corridor.

Maybe part of the reason Kensington is having an uptick in crime is that we don't have cameras. And maybe neighboring cities would share the cost and upkeep of the cameras on mutual borders.

Catherine de Neergaard

Burying Second Largest Line Item

Dear Editor,

The Kensington Fire Protection District Board of Directors recently made available for discussion at its February 7 meeting the district's annual financial statement for the period ending June 2017. I noted with surprise one of the line items listed—an annual expense of \$227,400 for “Building Utilities/Services.”

Most of us know that it doesn't come close to costing almost a quarter of a million dollars to maintain utilities and services for a 5,600-square-foot building. So, at the meeting I asked the board members what specifically those expenses were for. They responded that they did not have that information at that time, but promised to email the information to me, which they did.

Here's the answer to the riddle: \$31,928 was listed for items that legitimately fit the category. However, also listed was an additional expense of \$195,472 for "Needs Assessments/Feasibility Studies."

I do not question at this time the need for this expense or the amount of it, but I do have to wonder why it was buried within a category it clearly does not belong in. This is the second largest line item in the entire financial statement, exceeded only by the City of El Cerrito Service Contract annual expense of \$2,552,869. It should have been clearly and unambiguously identified.

We taxpayers deserve a clear explanation of what our money is being spent on. Frankly, the board members must have known full well what the answer was when I asked, and they should have owned up to it at that meeting so we could talk about it there instead of putting me off to wait for an email.

Karl Kruger

See Letters, page 6

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***The Kensington Community Council** is dedicated to the improvement, development, and education of the community, and to the promotion of social welfare in Kensington. It enriches the community by providing educational and recreational programs for all ages and by publishing the Outlook, a monthly newsletter that covers local events and issues.*

KCC also provides a forum for all Kensington community groups to meet and coordinate their respective efforts toward the common good of the community.

Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers and do not reflect the opinion of the Outlook, its editor, or the Kensington Community Council. Letters must be signed and include the resident's phone number and address (which will not be printed). Letters 350 words or under will appear in the print edition (space permitting). Any letter over 350 words will be printed in the online edition only. Publication of letters and articles is subject to space and the editor's discretion. Obituaries of Kensington residents are printed without charge. All material must be received by the 10th of the month preceding issue date; submit by email to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com. No press releases or PDFs; Word documents or text in the body of an email are acceptable. Use one space, not two, after all periods.

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

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MAY 2018 DEADLINES:
Advertising Deadline **APRIL 8** Editorial Deadline **APRIL 10**

K E N S I N G T O N

Community Education

KASEP

Kensington Afterschool Enrichment Program

KASEP SPRING 2018 registration is closed and classes are in session.



Look I made a "MINI ME"



Life Learning of Music Starts Here



Handmade Bead Necklace in April's Jewelry Creation Class



Xylophone – each piece cut and assembled by carpentry student. And it is in tune!

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PHOTO

Let the tradition continue! Calling all high school seniors who live(d) in Kensington, or who attended Hilltop Elementary School for all or part of their elementary school years – you are invited to join other alumni for the annual Kensington High School Senior Photo.

The photo shoot is scheduled for Sunday, May 6th at 3:30pm. Location: KCC Office /Recreation Building. Come early to catch-up with old friends! The photo will appear on the cover of the June *Outlook*.

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

The tai chi class is based on Dr. Paul Lam's Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention program, which has been taught to millions worldwide. In the United States, it has been recommended by the Arthritis Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for its effectiveness in bringing pain relief, improving balance, and significantly reducing falls. The class is suitable for all people, regardless of physical condition. It is however, especially helpful for people who may be experiencing some health difficulties. The exercises incorporate all the health enhancing benefits of regular tai chi, but focuses on movements that are safe and relatively simple to do.

For further information, contact Nobuo at: nnishi50@gmail.com 510-495-4860

Acrylic Artists

Wednesdays, 9:45 - 12:30pm, Community Center

Open Studio, lots of natural light. Come paint with other artists. Easels and tables are provided. Bring your canvas, paints, and creativity. Friendly group!

Tai Chi Chuan

Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

A gentle martial art, tai chi is a safe, rewarding activity for people of all ages and all levels of health. Tai chi incorporates both mind and body. Nobuo Nishi, instructor, has been teaching for 18 years.

THANK YOU KASEP FUND DRIVE DONORS 2018

Donation of \$500:
The Lee Resner Family Fund

KCC Summer Camp 2018

Welcomes You!

Welcome to KCC Summer Camp 2018, a great place to spend your summer days. Camp is located in the beautiful east bay hills community of Kensington. Our facility has everything right on-site: tennis courts, basketball courts, and grassy area for soccer and ultimate Frisbee. In addition, there is a full kitchen, outside shade area for lunch, and classrooms for afternoon specialty teacher instruction for carpentry, clay work, and art. Sign up by the week; camp is affordable at only \$295 per camper per week. Camp fees include weekly field trips to local points of interests, BBQ each Friday, group tennis lessons, daily crafts and time to hang out with friends and of course a KCC Summer Camp T shirt! Camp enrollment is restricted to children entering, as of fall 2018, 1st grade up to 6th grade.

\$295 per week July 4th-short week, \$235

Week 1 June 11 - June 15 FULLY ENROLLED

- Specialty: Creative Clay with Jeanne
- Field Trip: The Jungle

Week 2 June 18 – June 22 LIMITED SPACES LEFT

- Specialty: Carpentry with Sandy
- Field Trip: Pump It Up

Week 3 June 25 – June 29

- Specialty: SkyHawk Sports Medley with Victor
- Field Trip: Adventure Playground

Week 4 July 2 - July 6

- Closed July 4, Short Week
- Specialty: Sweet Treats with Vicky
 - No Field Trip

Week 5 July 9 – July 13 – SPIRIT WEEK

- Specialty: Fun with Food with Vicky
- Field Trip: Bladium

Week 6 July 16 - July 20

- Specialty: Upcycled T-Shirts with April
- Field Trip: Lake Anza

Week 7 July 23 – July 27

- Specialty: SkyHawk Sports Medley w/ Victor
- Field Trip: Albany Bowl

Week 8 July 30 – Aug. 3

- OLYMPIC WEEK
- Field Trip: BLADIUM

Week 9 Aug. 6 – Aug 10

- Specialty: Creative Clay with Jeanne
- Field Trip: Oakland Zoo

Week 10 Aug 13 –Aug. 17 – End of Camp LIMITED SPACES LEFT

- Air Bouncer and Jousting Tent
- Specialty: Upcycle T shirts with April
 - Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool

SEEKING KCC ADMINISTRATOR /DIRECTOR

KCC is currently accepting applications for the KCC ADMINISTRATOR / DIRECTOR position. This person is responsible for Kensington's after-school enrichment program, the KCC Summer Camp and includes Recreational Programs for its adult community. The ideal candidate has a teaching credential, has prior experience in recreation planning, able to manage and coordinate resources, and liaison to problem solving. Must be organized and have good computer skills. Being fluent in learning new software applications is a must! Excel, Word, and a proprietary online registration software program are all programs used for reporting, fiscal reconciliation and management of class enrollments. Rowena Cerri, KCC's current administrator is relocating out of the area and we are unfortunately going to lose a talented, compassionate, and competent leader. Rowena has been with KCC for over 3 years and is a hard act to follow. Interested candidates, please send your resume and 3 letters of recommendation to KCC at 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, 94707.

Family Fun in the Sun



Each year a fantastically beautiful quilt made by volunteers is auctioned off at the Carnival. Volunteers who helped put together “Rainbow Ribbons” are left to right: Stella Ritter, Jennifer Ritter, Sherry Garcia, Cathy Lo. Not pictured, Kin Foong, James and Susan Morford.

By Nicole Whiting

Help support Kensington Hilltop’s 71st annual Spring Carnival! It’s spring in Kensington, and that means plans are in full swing at Kensington Hilltop Elementary school for the 71st annual Spring Carnival, to be held Saturday, May 12 from 11am to 3pm. Save the date for the maypole to be raised and the grill to be cooking, rain or shine! The magic and family fun of “Water Balloon Catapult,” the smell of BBQ and cotton candy in the air, Cake Walk tunes and much more... it’s a Hilltop annual tradition and the school’s PTA and Dads’ Club main fundraiser of the year. Months of planning and hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours go into the event. Last year on Carnival day, over 250 people hours were spent helping to prepare and serve 670 meals, fill 1,500 water balloons for launch, and run fifteen food and game



booths! Proceeds from the event are used to fund a variety of school community needs, such as disaster preparedness supplies, assemblies, recreation equipment, teacher appreciation events, Dads’ Club work party supplies, and more. The school community relies on local support to make the event a success. To help the school celebrate spring and raise funds for its PTA and Dads’ Club, residents have many opportunities to contribute, through raffles, plant sales and more—including coming for a great time. This year’s grand prize for the 36th annual raffle is the stunning “Rainbow Ribbons” quilt, created by a joint effort of school volunteers as well as community members James and Susan Morford. Local businesses can still donate items for raffle prize baskets by contacting Sherry Garcia at sheryngarcia@yahoo.com. Watch for raffle tickets to go on sale starting April 17. Purchase them from your local Hilltop family.



Get ready to take home lovely kid-made and kid-grown plants and arrangements at the 7th annual Rhea Wilson Plant Sale. Perfect for Mother’s Day gifts and your May garden! The “Deals on Wheels” benefit bicycle sale welcomes your donations of all sizes of bicycles, child to middle school to adult sized, including those needing a tuneup or small repairs by our Dads’ Club volunteers.



To drop off your donation, contact Bruce Marvin, bmarvinca@gmail.com. The Carnival’s popular White Elephant Sale will be the hottest one day sale in town! Set aside your excellent to gently used donations (no computers, electronics, or large furniture please), including clothing and shoes. Donations can be dropped off at the school Multi-Purpose Room on Friday, May 11. Check out next month’s Outlook for more details on the Carnival fun, or access the event webpage at <http://kensingtonhilltop.org/carnival/>, and see you there on May 12!



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Letters

...from page 2

County Warning System Emergency Alerts

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to Linnea Due’s comprehensive article on emergency preparedness in the March issue of the *Outlook*. As an addition to her message, I think it’s important to let Kensington residents know that County Warning System (CWS) emergency alert calls to both land lines and cell phones will display a caller ID of just zeros (000...0). CWS text messages will show a sender ID of 24639. Neither County Warning System nor CWS will be evident as the caller ID.

I am submitting this information so that Kensington residents recognize these caller IDs are from the CWS. These messages will almost certainly relate to an emergency and should not be ignored or passed off as a crank or some unidentified, unsolicited call just because residents do not recognize the source of the call.

Paul Moss

100 Percent Green

Dear Editor,

As Shoshana Wechsler lays out in her article “Light Green or Deep Green—a Choice with Lasting Impacts,” it’s not often that we get to make a choice like the one MCE now offers. In Kensington we have been limited to purchasing electricity from PG&E. As reliable as PG&E’s service is, and it is, they have found it challenging to make their electricity greener; they’re currently at 33 percent renewable. Along comes MCE, which offers us brand new and much better choices. We continue to have our electricity delivered by PG&E, which also continues to bill us and maintain our service, but MCE procures the electricity. And boy, is it green. MCE’s basic electric choice, called Light Green, is 55 percent renewable and costs less than PG&E’s rates. This is the service we’re automatically enrolled into, so without lifting a finger each of our homes and our entire community is about to get a whole lot greener.

But I’m hoping that we Kensington folks won’t settle for just 55 percent when we can choose MCE’s Deep Green: 100 percent renewable electricity sourced entirely from solar and wind here in California. In less time than it has taken to read this letter, I opted-up my household to MCE’s Deep Green. It will cost us about \$3-4/month more, but from our next bill forward, all of the electricity for our home and also our car will be generated from 100 percent solar and wind. Oh, and MCE invests half of our premium into new local projects generating clean energy and clean jobs. Now that’s real choice, with lasting positive impacts! I hope my Kensington neighbors will opt up their homes, too.

Meidan Heaslip

Do Something Simple and Effective

Dear Editor,

I was very grateful for Shoshana Wechsler’s article, “Light Green or Deep Green—a Choice with Lasting Impacts.” It’s enormously encouraging, confronted with the reality of climate change and a political administration that seems determined not to address it, to think that we can actually do something simple and effective in our own neighborhoods. It is great news that MCE will take us from the current 33 percent renewable energy in the generation of our electricity to 55 percent.

It’s even better news that we have the option of using 100 percent renewable energy in our homes and businesses for a relatively modest price. It feels great to not feel helpless, to be able to do something. And it’s more encouraging to think that the whole Kensington community—residents and merchants—could be using wind and solar energy entirely for our electricity and creating California jobs in the process. My wife Brenda and I will be opting up and hoping our neighbors will, too.

Robert Hass

Confusion Reigns

Dear Editor:

I hope that you will allow my late submission (on March 14), but recent developments have occurred to cause me to write. There is (“was” by the time the *Outlook* comes out) confusion, and a lot of social media chatter, about the nature of the March 17 KPPCSD meeting to hear the first presentation by the Matrix Consulting Group on Kensington policing.

The KPPCSD Update newsletter, which arrived last week, states under “Board Assesses Police Services” that the “first phase of the work [by Matrix] includes interviews with all members of the KPD, an assessment of all aspects of the current operations and an opportunity for community input.” It continues that the first public meeting will be on March 17, when “Richard Brady, the President of Matrix, will discuss the scope and purpose of the study, review 21st century law enforcement practices and share ideal characteristics of community-oriented police services and the strategies for applying best practices. All Kensington residents are welcome.”

It certainly does not sound like the March 17 meeting will be the time, and the only time, for Mr. Brady to hear from the Kensington public. Maybe that should have been inferred since the item ends: “A second community meeting will take place on Saturday, April 28 and focus on Matrix’s findings,” apparently including community input heard during the March meeting.

A. Stevens Delk

February Police Log

February 2 VEHICLE ACCIDENT. Cambridge Ave.
February 7 VANDALISM. Colgate Ave. Subject possibly broke a vehicle window and drove off in a small, dark sedan.
February 7 BURGLARY. York Ave. Residential.
February 11 VEHICLE ACCIDENT. Amherst/Arlington. Two vehicles blocking roadway.
February 18 BURGLARY. Highland. Believes it’s a neighbor.
February 18 PETTY THEFT. Highland. Items bagged for recycling left outside.
February 19 RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLE. Parked on Rincon Rd. for over two weeks.
February 22 CODE VIOLATION. Contacted Chief Hull about behavior at Kensington Farmers’ Market.
February 22 VANDALISM. Lake Dr. Occurred sometime yesterday evening. Front middle window damaged, looks like BB shots. Also holes in recycling container on porch.

Kensington Calendar

Locations:
Arlington Community Church (ACC), 52 Arlington Ave., 526-9146
Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., 525-0292
Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 524-3043
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB), 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

Ongoing:
Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10
Acrylic Artists Wednesdays, 9:45-12:30pm, Community Center, \$9
Tai Chi Chuan Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10
Jazzercise with Kevin Knickerbacker ACC, Mondays-Fridays, 9:15am \$20 class or \$55 unlimited per month.
Mindful Yoga with Wendy Beckerman Tuesdays, 9:15am, bring yoga mat. \$18 drop in or discount for series. ACC.
Israeli Folk Dance Wednesdays, \$6, lessons/beginners 8pm, request dance party starts at 9pm. ACC.

APRIL

April 1 Everyone’s Fellowship, ACC, 6pm. FREE. Monthly potluck supper and program for ACCers and guests. Open to all.
April 2 Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs” All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. 6:30pm. Free.
April 3, 10 & 24 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.
April 4 Kensington Unit of League of Women Voters We are concerned about our water and air. Are you? Join us to hear a guest speaker about environmental issues at 1:15pm at 631 Parkside Court. 527-1266
April 5, 12, 19 & 26 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs, puppets, egg-shakers and loads of fun! Kensington Library. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free.
April 8 Dr. Bill Garrett, Professor of Philosophy and Religion, has taught at JFK University, San Francisco State, Fromm Institute, California Institute of Integral Studies, and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

“Playing with Fire: The Dangerous Infatuation with Hate in 21st Century American Politics.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
April 9 & 23 Kensington Library’s Digital Docent will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1pm. This one-on-one 60-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign up onsite at Kensington Library Info Desk. Please bring your device. Free.
April 14 Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Dangers Kensington is in the high hazard zone for wildfire. The Kensington Public Safety Council hosts a talk by Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Marshal Dave Gibson. 10-noon, Community Center.
April 15 Rev. Cat Cox, UUCB Community Minister, spiritual director, teacher, certified dream worker and workshop facilitator. “I’m a Weird Woman and I’m Getting Weirder!” Rev. Cat says: “I first heard (and immediately loved) this great line from a woman in her nineties. Now I’m claiming it! The original meaning of `weird’ is `in touch with the `other side’—the non-physical dimension of existence. Let’s explore what it has meant for great spiritual teachers through the ages to be `weird’ in this sense—and why you might like to get weirder, too!” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
April 16 Memoir Group 10am, ACC. Free Monthly Memoir Group led by Ruth Robinson in the Fireside Room.
April 16 UC Master Gardeners Present: “Pomegranates, Know Them and Grow Them”. The UC Master Gardeners return to the Kensington Library to split open the delicious topic of growing pomegranates. Bonnie Brookhart will take us through the fascinating story of pomegranates. Learn about the history and the many ways you can enjoy growing this delicious fruit in your own yard. Q&A and talk. Join us and learn tips and best practices for cultivating fruit fit for Demeter herself. 6:30pm. Free.
April 17 Fidget Spinners Make your own fidget spinner. You probably have at least one, but this one you will make for yourself! That’s always cooler. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.
April 17 Germar the Magician will be here at the Kensington Library to amaze the audience with his magic

tricks. Be ready for audience participation and surprises! Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.
April 21 Work, Women, and Culture: A Double-Edged Sword Lilliane Koziol, PhD will speak about work, women, and culture. She is the Coordinator of Northern California Fulbright Scholar Enrichment Program of the US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United Nations Association USA East Bay Chapter First Vice President, and a Deputy Honorary Consul of Madagascar. Christ Lutheran Church, 780 Ashbury St., El Cerrito. 10am. Free. All are welcome.
April 22 Dr. Steve Herrmann, Jungian psychotherapist; author, poet, teacher and scholar; candidate in analytical training at C.G. Jung Institute, San Francisco. “Emily Dickinson: A Medicine Woman for Our Times.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
April 23 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *Tiger’s Wife* by Tea Obreht. Book Club normally meets on the 4th Monday of the month and is open to all. 6:30pm. Free.

April 27 Bridge Night 6pm, ACC. Monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACCers and new guests.
April 28 Matrix Consulting Group will host a community meeting to discuss the results of their assessment of police services in Kensington and next steps in the process. Kensington Community Center, 10am.
April 28 Kensington Symphony Orchestra presents Youthful Reminiscence. Geoffrey Gallegos, Maestro. Program: Sergei Prokofiev, Symphony No.7. With Dr. Jason Totzke, acclaimed violinist, performing two beautiful contrasting works: The Meditation from the opera *Thais* by Jules Massenet and *Scene de Ballet* Op. 100 by Charles Auguste de Beriot. 7:30pm (new earlier time) UUCB. Adults \$20; seniors/students \$15. Tickets available at door.
April 29 Alex Pappas, former teacher of World Religions at College of Alameda and avid student of the ancient traditions. “The Metaphors of Reality: The Ageless Wisdom; Occult, Hermetic and Theosophic Teachings and Their Relevance in Today’s World of Maya.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

Want to Compost? Hire a Worm

By Linnea Due
Lately there has been a great deal of interest in food waste composting among Kensington cooks and eaters. (I give my food waste to the deer, but that’s another story.) Worms are truly nature’s composters. If you’d like to learn how to compost your food waste with worms, come to a free workshop at the Community Center Saturday, May 5, from 10am-noon.
You will learn how to make your own worm compost. Vermicomposting (“vermi” is Latin for “worm”) uses worms to process organic food waste into nutrient-rich soil. Worms eat decaying food waste and produce vermicompost, a very effective soil supplement. The worms produce a liquid fertilizer and worm castings (fancy name for worm poop). Worm poop is the best compost! It is a solid, odor-free byproduct of worm digestion. You can collect your worm castings periodically and use them as a soil addition, soil conditioner, or even light mulch.
Instructor Todd Sutton claims more than 26 years in the environmental field. He has appeared on national television and educated thousands on waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting.
On average, each person annually disposes of 700 pounds of material in landfills. According to a recent California study, an average of 37.4 percent of household waste is compostable (yard and food waste). You can make a difference by composting at home—and your garden (especially veggies) will truly thank you for those castings.
This Kensington-based workshop is open to all Contra Costa County residents. Call 925-674-7831 for reservations. Make sure to reserve your seat now, as it may be crowded. But if you forget, try to go that morning. If we all composted, we’d have brighter, greener gardens and less waste.

Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Presentation

By Katie Gluck
On Saturday, April 14 at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., from 10am-noon, the Kensington Public Safety Council (KPSC) will host a presentation with Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Marshal Dave Gibson. Fire Marshal Gibson will discuss the Napa/Santa Rosa fire and wildland/urban interface fires. He also will review our fire history and educate us on Cal Fire’s Ready, Set, Go program. And as a very integral part of our fire prevention and safety he will review Kensington/El Cerrito’s Vegetation Management Standards.
The subject of our Community Warning System is also on the agenda. As you know fire season now extends into most of the year, and the fires seem to be getting worse. We must do our part to keep our homes and neighborhoods safe. We do hope that you will be in attendance. Please bring your friends, neighbors and your questions.
This presentation is free and open to all. Please RSVP to kensingtonpspc@gmail.com so that we have an idea of how many will attend.



Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

KCC-April 2, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 6:30pm. 525-0292

FKL-April 3, Friends of the Kensington Library, 6:30pm (at the Library) 1st Tuesdays

KPSC-April 9, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

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

KFPD-April 11, Fire Protection District 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD-April 12, April 26, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

KIC- April 23, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 524-7514.

KMAC (Tent.)-Municipal Advisory Council Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s office to confirm: 231-8691)

Kensington Farmers’ Market Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm, Colusa Circle.

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Come to the second Matrix Meeting April 28, 10am, Community Center.



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