

Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

APRIL 2024
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Volunteering Keeps the Community Strong

Organizations Need Volunteers to Succeed



Lisa Prange, Jesse Montano, and Farrah Japaz (left to right) joined the KCC board in January.
Photo by Sylvia Elsbury.

By Sylvia Elsbury, KCC board president

Looking for an opportunity to share your skills? Serving on a board of one of K groups (Kensington Community Council, or KCC; Kensington Property Owners Association, or KPOA; Kensington Improvement Club, or KIC; Kensington Education Foundation, or KEF; Friends of the Kensington Library, or FKL; Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, or KMAC, and more!) is an excellent way to contribute to your community while making long-term friends and having fun.

Recently KCC's board welcomed Farrah Japaz, Jesse Montano, and Lisa Prange to its ranks, and their management experience is already proving valuable to the organization. All three are marketing innovators with varied interests and the shared goal of serving this community. As parents of schoolchildren, they bring to KCC the indispensable user perspective, along with formidable skills, great energy, and enthusiasm for KCC's recreation programs, such as Kensington After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) and the Summer Camp.

While serving on KCC's Parent Advisory Board for the past five years, Farrah Japaz became "super passionate about getting more involved in our local community," as anyone who has served alongside her can attest. Japaz is "excited to spin up some new community

Betty Anne Engel Stepped In to Fill a Desperate Need

By Anne Forrest

In 1978, California voters forever altered the state's public education landscape with the passage of Proposition 13. California's per student funding had been among the highest in the nation; with the passage of Prop 13, revenues fell drastically, and the ill effects were felt immediately. School communities scrambled to create alternative funding sources to support programs such as art, music, and sports.

At Kensington Hilltop, volunteers helped create the Kensington Education Foundation (KEF) to fund offerings beyond the Three Rs. Betty Anne Engel and others began the nonprofit that supports Hilltop's art and music courses as well as science-based and computer arts curriculums. This spring marks the end of an era, as Engel leaves Kensington after a nearly fifty-year run of stellar community service.

Born in Kitchener, Ontario, not far from Toronto, Elizabeth "Betty" Anne Engel is a lifelong travel enthusiast whose first trip away from home was a six-week bus and camping adventure to Europe, via a detour through western Canada and Alaska.

Once home, Engel found she was eager to return abroad, so she and a friend sailed to England, where she taught in London's East End for a year. More travels followed before she settled back in Toronto, working as a medical secretary for a small endocrine practice. Through one of the doctors, Betty Anne met Barrie Engel, a young lawyer from

See Volunteers, page 4

See Betty Anne Engel, page 3

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Kensington Market Update

FEB. 2024 TO PRESENT	FEB - MARCH 2023
3 Closed Sales	13 Closed Sales
Median List Price: \$1,200,000	Median List Price: \$1,198,000
Median Sales Price: \$1,300,000	Median Sales Price: \$1,500,000
Median Sq. Ft.: 1613	Median Sq. Ft.: 1718
Median Cost Per Sq. Ft.	Median Cost Per Sq. Ft.
List Price: \$761	List Price: \$805
Sales Price: \$896	Sales Price: \$897
Median Days on Market: 11	Median Days on Market: 16

Improve the value of your home in spring!
Easy updates that make a big difference.
Add a new front door
Refresh your entryway and impress potential buyers with a new front door. If your front door is in good condition consider painting it an on trend color or restoring it so it looks as good as new.

Install a new garage door
If your garage door is old or dated, a new garage door can really improve the curb appeal of your home. If it is in good shape, paint it either the body color of your home or the trim color. Ever notice how great a new attractive garage door can change the whole look of a home?

Create a garden destination
Install a deck or add an outdoor living area using stone, concrete squares, gravel or crushed granite. Improve the indoor/outdoor versatility of your home by adding an area to gather and enjoy during nice weather.

Finish attics or basement rooms
Plus rooms add value and are a great versatile space for work or stays. Home offices are in high demand or an extra bedroom for visitors. These spaces are the most underutilized and are ideal flex spaces.

Minor kitchen refresh
The kitchen is the heart of the home and the most important interior improvement you can make. Paint the cabinets or refinish damaged doors. Change out the knobs and pulls for an instant update. Replace old counters with a solid stone countertop and backsplash. Buy a new counter depth fridge to replace the one sticking out into the room. Update all the appliances and choose stainless fronts.



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Kensington and Beyond Update

March 2024



JUST LISTED | 55 Arlington Court
Kensington | 4+ BR | 3 BA | 2603 sqft. (+/-)
Level into a beautiful residence built by Paul Hammarberg recognized for his work throughout the Berkeley Hills c. 1960. Sited on a spectacular large parcel, with a lush garden.
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To view online visit: 55arlington.com



SOLD | 2332 Alva Avenue
El Cerrito | 3 BR | 3.5 BA | 2603 sqft. (+/-)
Rare new construction, tastefully finished with gorgeous Bay views.
OFFERED AT: \$1,498,000
SOLD: \$1,629,000
To view online visit: 2332Alva.com



SOLD | 89 Dairy Creek Lane*
Orinda | 4 BR | 3++ BA
Exquisite Mediterranean custom estate, the ultimate in luxury living.
OFFERED AT: \$5,600,000
SOLD: \$4,970,000
*Represented the buyer.

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El Cerrito Hillside Festival May 4-5

By Clare Sheridan

The El Cerrito Trail Trekkers are proud to host the tenth annual El Cerrito Hillside Festival in El Cerrito's 100-acre gem, the Hillside Natural Area. There's something for everyone at the festival, including guided informative hikes about geology, trees, edible and medicinal plants, birds, lichen, and El Cerrito history. Family-friendly events include a nature scavenger hunt, crafting from nature, art in the trees, and the ever-popular insect hike. People of all ages can learn how to use apps to identify flora and fauna or enter a haiku contest and hear the winners recite their poetry on a haiku hike. Hikes range from strenuous to easy. Hillside Natural Area, 7501 Schmidt Lane. See the full schedule at www.ectrailtrekkers.org. Sponsored by El Cerrito Trail Trekkers and El Cerrito's Environmental Quality Committee. All events are free.

Natives, Vegetables, Annuals at Plant Sale

By Anna Frankfur

The El Cerrito Garden Club is holding a spring plant sale, Sunday April 14 from 10am-3pm at the El Cerrito Library parking lot. There will be edibles (tomatoes, lettuce, beans, and peas); ornamentals (marigolds, alyssum, baby blue eyes, bee plant, violas, tidy tips and more); CA natives (grasses, pink flowering current, and poppies) and succulents including centerpiece arrangements. Club members propagate the plants, so all will grow around here. There will also be packets of giveaway seeds. Members at the sale will be happy to talk to you about the plants and provide care instructions. Come to 6510 Stockton Ave, El Cerrito. Parking is available. Cash or check only, exact change and small bills much appreciated! See you there!

Letters to the Editor

A Clear Vision Takes Work

Dear Editor:

"In any partnership, the questions the two parties must answer are: What does my future look like if I stay on my own? What does my future look like in the partnership? Once we know answers to these two questions, we can ask: Which version of the future do I like better? What do I/we stand to gain? What price will I have to pay?"

These are the words of the consultant hired jointly by the Fire District (KFPD) and the Police/Community Services District (KPPCSD), Kensington's two governing bodies, to prepare a financial analysis of consolidating the two districts into a single entity. Speaking in Kensington on January 17, the consultant said: "It is impossible to prepare a good fiscal study unless the two boards have a clear vision of what they will look like, individually and together."

His key point was this: "The goal of the fiscal study is to put numbers to the different versions of the future that you come up with." He said his firm "can't provide the numbers for a consolidated district, until [KFPD and KPPCSD] provide us with the various scenarios that could characterize a consolidated district."

So, a good financial analysis of consolidation cannot be done until each district—and the two districts jointly—provide the analyst with actual service delivery models and administrative scenarios for the future, separately and together.

Yet neither board has created these scenarios. In fact, responding to my inquiry, three directors denied the urgency and validity of the exercise at this time, even though it was described by the consultant as something "you owe to the community" and which, even more crucially, he says is an essential prerequisite to the work he's being paid \$50,000 to produce.

Instead of gaslighting those who heard the consultant's presentation, the boards should move quickly to deliver what he says he needs to produce a good analysis. After all, without knowing what Kensington wants from consolidation, how could anyone be expected to forecast what it will cost us?

Sylvia Elsbury

We Need the Police Back in Kensington ASAP

Dear Editor:

Once upon a time, in the one-square-mile town called Kensington, the police and fire departments were stationed together in the Public Safety Building (PSB). Several years ago, when the PSB needed renovation, the fire board chose to exclude the police department from the remodeled building. Their decision triggered an attempt by the police board to put a police station in Kensington Park. This was met with disbelief and outrage, and the election of 2022 ushered in a slate of fire and police board directors who pledged to "Keep Kensington Park for Recreation Only" and to "Retrofit and Renovate. Keep Police and Fire in One Building." Yard signs with these words got those directors elected.

Yet nearly a year ago, these same police board (KPPCSD) directors abandoned negotiations with the fire board, rejecting all scenarios offering space for police in the PSB. KPPCSD now proposes building a \$10 million+ police station in Kensington Park directly contrary to the wishes of voters who elected them in 2022.

Our highly valued, very tiny police department, whose evidence "room" is a file cabinet, does not require this expenditure. This project would take at least five years to complete, leaving the KPD stationed remotely in El Cerrito.

The recent home invasion on Lake Drive shows that we need the police back in Kensington now. Using the first floor of the PSB for the police is the fastest, most fiscally responsible way to do this. Surely both boards can figure out together a way to make this work, especially up to now, this is the way it's always been.

No solution is perfect; and investing a year and tens to hundreds of thousand dollars looking into exponentially more expensive solutions outside the PSB is not what we elected this board to do.

It's time to speak out and put pressure on the KPPCSD. It's not too late for them to reclaim space on the first floor of the PSB to fulfill the promise of those yard signs.

Deborah Lane

Special Districts Don't Need a Chief

Dear Editor,

Kensington has a police special district, not a police department. Our police district offers police services; we are not mandated to provide any specific services. Kensington isn't a city, we are part of unincorporated Contra Costa County. Our elected representative is the 1st District County Supervisor.

Under the laws that govern special districts, we are required only to employ a general manager. We are not and have never been required to employ a police chief. We are about one square mile, with about 2,500 homes and about 5,000 residents, we're not big enough to incorporate. We have a tiny commercial district, therefore most of our revenue comes from residential property taxes and special assessments. The five elected KPPCSD directors are unpaid volunteers, who can only devote whatever time they have to the district.

We should therefore have a full time general manager who is expert in the laws that govern special districts and managing contracts, who knows how to hire and manage experienced and competent police officers and clerical staff. We can afford to hire a top general manager when we are no longer paying the salary and benefits for a police chief. Police departments need police chiefs, special districts do not. The general manager should train all incoming KPPCSD directors in the laws that govern special districts. The general manager should make the jobs of the elected KPPCSD directors easy.

Anna Shane

Betty Anne Engel

...from Front Page

Berkeley. From this introduction followed a long-distance romance, marriage, two children and a move to Kensington on Betty Anne's birthday in 1975, a happy day both for Kensington and for Betty Anne, who has served the community very actively ever since.

Not long after settling in Kensington with their young children, Betty Anne and Barrie Engel got involved at Kensington Hilltop School during the era when Californians were alarmed that so many vital school programs were ending due to Proposition 13. Barrie was instrumental in organizing KEF and in writing KEF's bylaws. Betty Anne took a hands-on approach to fundraising, cooking for every bake sale and Garden Party, starting with the very first one held at the Blake Estate (that's why it's called the "Garden



Party"). She and Barbara Tapp wrote the first Garden Party Cookbook, now a collector's item. Along with other parents, Engel organized the Christmas Cookie Capers, selling 300 individual boxes of homemade cookies to raise money for the school. She helped sew many of the quilts auctioned off at KEF's annual Spring Carnival, and made doll clothes and other items to sell at the carnival's craft tables.

Engel's hands-on school volunteering was not confined to fundraising. She also spent

many happy hours in Molly Mentzer's kindergarten class, befriending, tutoring and supporting Hilltop's littlest ones for 20 years.

She also volunteered beyond the school community, thanks to a nudge from her longtime friend and fellow Kensington booster, Vida Dorroh. Engel could always be found in the kitchen for KCC's Spring Celebration fundraisers, making hundreds—no exaggeration—hundreds! of deviled eggs. Providing kitchen help and serving at KCC's Fall Picnics, year after year, she also grilled and served hotdogs at KCC's annual Movie Nights, including the most recent one last September.

After Barrie died in 2009, Betty Anne moved to a smaller house near Colusa Circle in Kensington. She remembers that period as a very hard time in her life, and remains so grateful for the Kensington friends and neighbors who rallied around her. She loves her Colusa Circle community and all the neighborhood activities they hold each year. To Engel, Kensington has always been a close-knit, small village where people care for one another, through good times and bad.

In May, she will make yet another move, this time to Culver City in Southern California, closer to her daughter Molly and family. She says she will miss everything about Kensington, but especially the people. Betty Anne's message for families new to Kensington: "Get to know your neighbors, and get involved." She promises to visit, and is already planning to return for KCC's next Movie Night (set for Saturday, September 21) where you will find her grilling and serving more delicious hotdogs!

Engel leaves behind some big shoes to fill. Volunteers are always needed and warmly welcomed by KEF, KCC, and Kensington Hilltop Elementary School.

Toss Away Those Refrigerator Magnets!

911 the New Protocol

By Linnea Due

In an effort to keep us safe, the Kensington Fire Protection District's standing committee, the Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC), sent refrigerator magnets to Kensington residents. The idea behind the magnet was that from landlines, calling 911 would get you the speediest response from fire or police. But cell phones were thought to pose a problem; they might go to the California Highway Patrol (CHP), which then would try to route the call to the appropriate agency. That added an extra step that could take time.

Now the protocol has changed. Kensington Police Chief Mike Gancasz explains in a post on the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) site that a new technology called Enhanced 911 has eliminated the problem of cell phone routing to the CHP. El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Chief Eric Saylor agrees, noting that he studied the issue and could find no reason to not dial 911 in an emergency from a cell phone. Wrote Chief Saylor via email: "I took a week to research the question and could not find a validated source that suggests the direct numbers will resolve faster than 911. The police chief is correct in his assessment and conclusion."

The problem was highlighted when a Yale Ave. resident called the fire department's 925 area code number to report a fire next door. The dispatcher thought it was a hoax and asked her why she hadn't called 911. That experience ended up with chiefs researching the issue and changing both districts' websites to reflect that residents should call 911 in case of police, fire, or medical emergency.

See below for Chief Gancasz's full explanation.

According to the California 911 Emergency Communications Office, well over half of all 911 calls come from cellular phones. In the past, cellular 911 calls were automatically routed to California Highway Patrol 911 dispatch centers, overloading these call centers and causing many callers to receive a busy signal instead of a 911 dispatcher. Today, when Kensington residents dial 911 from their cell phone, most of these calls are routed directly to the Albany Dispatch Center.

The routing of these cellular 911 calls is made possible through technology known as Enhanced 911 which uses data collected almost immediately when a cell phone is used to dial 911. The location of the primary cell tower being used, cell tower triangulation, and GPS information from the cell phone itself is instantly analyzed so the local Public Safety Answering Point (dispatch center) can be identified, and the call is routed to the proper location.

As with all technology, there are a few things to keep in mind which will influence these calls. If a cellular 911 caller is on, or in proximity, to a freeway, it is possible this call will go to the California Highway Patrol dispatch center. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has jurisdiction over state freeways and handles emergency calls on these roadways. Cellular calls often utilize towers that are located near the freeway. Therefore, some cellular calls made from city streets, but near a freeway, will be routed to the California Highway Patrol.

Also, if there is a significant incident multiple cellular 911 calls may overwhelm the closest cell tower. When this happens, cellular calls are routed through other nearby towers. Occasionally, this means the cellular phone's location may not be as accurate because the cell tower triangulation information can be misleading. This inaccurate information may cause the call to be routed to the California Highway Patrol dispatch center before it is transferred back to the Albany Dispatch Center

Kensington residents, or those visiting or working in Kensington, can always use our non-emergency line (510) 525-7573 to directly reach the police. If you call this number, you will always get the Albany Dispatch Center, regardless of whether the call is made from a landline or cellular phone. Please remember though, if you are traveling outside of the Kensington area and experience an emergency, always dial 911. Your cellular 911 call will be routed to the local agency, providing quicker and more efficient emergency service.

—Mike Gancasz, Chief of Police



Busy Writer Wins 2023 Contest for 6th-8th Graders

By Linnea Due

Kensington resident Vivien Mossman decided to enter the Jack London Historic State Park Young Writers Contest last year because a friend suggested she send in a piece. She ended up winning the top prize. “It was the first contest I’ve ever entered,” she said in a recent interview.

Mossman, about to turn 15, is in the 9th grade, attending Berkeley High. She says that she’s always liked writing fiction. “When I was little, I would write stories, and my brother would illustrate them.” Her brother, 17, also goes to Berkeley High. “I liked writing classes. Whenever we had story writing, I would write extra because it was very enjoyable.” She mostly writes fantasy and science fiction and like all writers, also does a great deal of reading.

“I’ve started to look at other contests, but I recently had a lot of other activities and haven’t had time to really commit to one of those,” she said. Mossman is indeed busy: she just finished playing on Berkeley High’s freshman soccer team, which she describes as very high level. “It was the hardest part of this year,” she said, with daily practices in addition to games. The team won every game but one. She said she started playing soccer at age five but did not get into competitive soccer until she was 11. During the summer, she plays on a club team and played on her brother’s team as well. That’s not all—she is in her eighth year of karate.

Besides English, her favorite class this year is an elective, jazz class. Mossman plays the tenor saxophone.

The story that won the contest, “Kin,” is set in a rain forest under siege. In lovely descriptions at odds with the dangers described, Mossman tells a harrowing story of humanity’s assault on the natural world through the eyes of a brave youngster, who must make a hard choice to survive. You can read her story online on page 9 of the April issue at <https://kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org/outlook/>.



Black Wealth Builders community celebration April 11

By Susan Russell

Arlington Community Church is sponsoring its first Black Wealth Builders Fund community celebration on Thursday, April 11, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at 52 Arlington Ave. The event will feature food trucks, ice cream sundaes, and a short program with those working on the project, which supports Black homeownership through zero-interest loans for down payment assistance.

Everyone is welcome to come, enjoy the food, and learn more about this important project.



On Saturday, March 16, a car leapt the curb and plowed through Inn Kensington’s front windows. Luckily no one was injured. Photo by Lisa Caronna.

K6 Simulated Emergency Training

By Kay Reed

On Saturday, April 27 between 10am-noon, people living in Kensington CERT Area 6 (Arlington to Colusa and Kingston to Edgemoor) will participate in a Simulated Emergency Training (SET) with adjacent communities to build our neighborhood’s emergency capacity and practice two-way radio skills.

With over 40 volunteers, the K6 team will create an emergency communications network where neighbors using two-way radios will call in their “emergencies” to our K6 neighborhood net, who then will submit the message to our local ham operators, who

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will then relay the messages to first responders. Others will be practicing the “Map Your Neighborhood” post-earthquake response on their blocks or starting to build their block rosters. If you live in the K6 area and would like to learn more, observe, or participate, please contact Ednalee Warnacke at ednaleewarnacke@gmail.com.

Hilltop Carnival May 18

By Scott Burns

The 76th edition of the Hilltop Elementary School Carnival returns Saturday, May 18. This beloved event is scheduled to take place from 11am-3pm on the Hilltop Elementary blacktop. Come celebrate with us, rain or shine, under the May Pole.

You can expect all your favorite Carnival games, food, and prizes as well as a few surprises! Deals on Wheels, the Plant Sale and the “Birthday” Cake Walk will be crowd-pleasers, surrounded by water balloon launching, face painting and fun for all ages. And we’re bringing back the Dunk Booth after a thrilling introduction last year.

The Auxiliary (formerly known as Dads’ Club) will once again fire up the grill, serving a variety of meals, including vegetarian options. The bake sale will ensure your sweet tooth is taken care of, along with plenty of popcorn, sno-cones and root beer floats to round out all the Carnival favorites.

As is tradition, we will be raffling off a beautiful, locally stitched quilt., along with a number of other fantastic prizes and gifts from businesses and individuals around our community. Raffle tickets will go on sale in late April and early May.

Stay tuned to the May issue of the *Outlook* for more information! See you at the Carnival!

Volunteers ..from Front Page


events that bring a magical, cross-generational group of people together.” She adds, “I hope to leverage my marketing and program management chops on KCC’s social media and the *Outlook*.” Japaz credits two past board presidents, Anne Forrest and Becky Stephens, with sparking her interest in stepping up to KCC’s board.

As “a proud Kensington homeowner for over a decade, and a Kensington Hilltop parent of two,” Jesse Montano has been a heavy user of KCC’s programs and holds them very dear and important to his family: “Those of you who clicked ‘refresh’ a thousand times at 7 pm, to get your kids into a Muffin Madness class, know what I’m talking about.” Jesse wants to help KCC find “new and modern ways to continue building an engaged and diverse community with each other, here in Kensington.” He was elected board vice president in February.

Lisa Prange, like Farrah Japaz, came to KCC’s board after serving on the Parent Advisory Board, where current KASEP families help the Recreation Director, Jenny Parks, with registration and program issues. Prange’s daughters have enjoyed KASEP classes, KCC’s summer camps and Movie Nights. She also reports: “My husband has excitedly read each issue of the *Outlook* since we moved to Kensington 10+ years ago.” Prange’s work takes her regularly to Canada on business trips, which is not an impediment to serving on the KCC or any other board. Groups are flexible and will accommodate members’ schedules, in order to keep growing ranks in number and diversity.

KCC’s new board members applied after attending a few meetings, the best way to see what the boards do and to envision how you can be a part of it. KCC’s public meeting schedule is at kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org, the “About KCC” tab. Even with the addition of the three new and very accomplished members, there is plenty of room at the table!


RED OAK REALTY'S KENSINGTON HOME SPOTLIGHTS



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KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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Home Invasion Rattles Residents, Rumors Abound

By Linnea Due

A home invasion robbery occurred on Lake Drive during the morning of March 4 at approximately 11am. According to two press releases from the Kensington Police Department, “the perpetrators forcibly entered the residence, confronting the occupants and demanding valuables. The situation escalated rapidly, with one of the suspects physically assaulting a victim. The suspects took wallets, phones, and a home safe, ten to fifteen pieces of jewelry and also attempted to move electronic funds using a victim’s credit card.

One victim was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.” Eyewitnesses got the last few digits of the getaway vehicle, a light-colored Honda, and described the robbers as two masked males in their twenties, wearing hooded sweatshirts, and carrying handguns, possibly Glock. The descriptions of the handguns were detailed, including colors of frames and slides.

The following are responses by Kensington Police Chief Mike Gancasz to questions heard around the community.

Linnea Due: Were these people targeted?

Mike Gancasz: We have no evidence currently to support a “targeting” theory.

Why were the victims able to give such a good description of the weapons?

Individuals vary in their ability to pay attention to details and perceive events accurately. Factors such as stress, fear, and the intensity of the situation can affect one’s ability to focus and accurately remember details.

The timing of when witnesses are asked to recall events can affect the accuracy of their descriptions. Memory tends to be most accurate immediately after an event and can become less reliable over time due to memory decay or interference.

Some witnesses can describe things better than others. Some victims and witnesses have more knowledge about things like cars, hats, clothing, weapons, than other people. The Glock handgun is a very distinct shape and styled firearm and not easily mistaken for other firearms.

Were the robbers driving a stolen vehicle? If a car is stolen and then dumped, how can that help find the perpetrators?

The vehicle used during the crime was reported stolen from the city of Oakland. While stolen cars present investigators with additional investigative challenges, they are not at all useless. For example, the suspect vehicle was recovered in San Leandro contemporaneous to the crime in Kensington. Our officers were notified immediately of its recovery as our investigators broadcast the vehicle as wanted in connection with a home invasion robbery. With the help of San Leandro PD preserving the vehicle for evidence, our investigators were able to process the interior and exterior of the car with help from the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Crime Lab Team using the most advanced techniques. Evidence like hair fibers, fingerprints, and DNA samples were all collected from inside and outside the car. Photographs were taken, and we were able to gather more video and electronic evidence in the moments leading up to the car being abandoned in San Leandro. These and other things were collected from inside the car, outside the car, and the surrounding neighborhood. This evidence will be used to identify the suspects, and as prosecutorial evidence when the suspects are apprehended.


Any steps residents should take to stay safe?

Residents must remain vigilant and steadfast. They must not be intimidated by criminals or their crimes. If residents see something they believe is the slightest bit suspicious, they should report it to the police immediately. Start or join an existing Neighborhood Watch Group. Home security cameras, home alarm systems w/panic modes, and dogs are all excellent security measures for homeowners. Keeping entry doors locked and reinforcing existing locks with latches and deadbolts are a cost-effective way to add security.

Also useful are additional nighttime lighting around homes, motion detectors triggering cameras and lights, and something that allows homeowners to see who is knocking on their front door before they open it. Someone knocking shouldn’t automatically initiate the homeowner opening the door. Homeowners should always verify who is

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knocking before opening the door. Criminals have used PG&E attire to get homeowners to open the door and even let them into the house. Verify (as best you can) who’s at your front door before opening it.

Lastly, unfamiliar vehicles seen driving aimlessly around the block and up and down the street should be reported to the police. Criminals demonstrate this behavior when they are “casing” a neighborhood for a crime they are about to commit or one they will return to commit later that evening. If a resident sees this suspicious pattern of behavior, they should report it immediately.

Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact the Kensington Police Department at (510) 526-4141. Tips remain anonymous.


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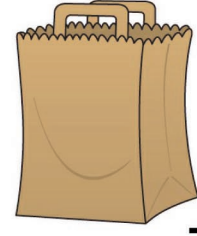
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Photo by Shira Skoot

KCC Summer Camp Activities & Schedule

\$425 Kensington Resident/\$470 Nonresident per week

- Week 1 June 10- June 14**
Theme: Rainbows & Unicorns • Specialty: Creative Crafts w/ April Schlanger • Mid-Week Activity: Sterling the Bubblesmith
- Week 2 *June 17–June 21 (no camp Wednesday 6/19) *cost \$350/\$385**
Theme: Superheroes • Specialty: Carpentry
- Week 3 June 24– June 28**
Theme: Enchanted Forest • Specialty: Fun with Food • Mid-Week Activity: Brian Scott Magic Show
- Week 4 *July 1- July 5 (no camp Thursday 7/4) *cost is \$350/\$385**
Theme: Stars & Stripes • Specialty: Dance Fitness • Mid-Week Activity: Cooking Creations
- Week 5 July 8 – July 12**
Theme: Dino Days • Specialty: Sports Medley • Mid-Week Activity: Visit from the Vivarium
- Week 6 July 15 - July 19**
Theme: Jr. Chef Showdown • Specialty: Cooking w/ April • Mid-Week Activity: Cooking Competition
- Week 7 July 22 – July 26**
Theme: Animal Adventures • Specialty: Cooking Creations • Mid-Week Activity: Petting Zoo
- Week 8 July 29 - August 2**
Theme: Under the Sea • Specialty: Legos • Mid-Week Activity: Chocolate Creations
- Week 9 August 5 - August 9**
Theme: Olympic Week • Specialty: Camp Olympics
- Week 10 August 12 - August 16 Active Waitlist**
Theme: Beach Week • Specialty: Sports Medley • Mid-Week Activity: Cooking with Vicky
- Online Camp Registration opens February 27th at 7:00pm

Summer Camp Counselor Opportunity We have openings for summer camp counselors. If you are a senior in high school or older, enjoy working with children, and want to be part of a fun, energetic team, please download an application at KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/Summer-Camp

Adult and Family Classes

Mediterranean Cooking

When: Every Tuesday evening in the Community Center
Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
Location: Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington
Price: \$45 per class, which includes all materials needed for the class.
Flexible Attendance: Join us each week for a comprehensive culinary journey or drop in when your schedule permits
April 2nd: No Class
April 9th: Moroccan Cuisine Part 2
April 16th: Spain featuring Valencia Cuisine
April 23rd: No Class
April 30th: Tuscany

Caging Loose Stones Jewelry Making class w/ April Schlanger

When: Friday, April 19th
Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Recreation Building (Bldg E), 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington
Price: \$45 per class, which includes all materials needed for the class.

Cardio Dance with Karma Smart

Fridays 11:15-12:15 Community Center
Cost \$15 drop in or register online

KASEP- Kensington After School Enrichment Programs

We have just begun the Spring session of KASEP, offering more than 65 classes each week for students after school. Our small class sizes and abundant outdoor spaces are a perfect setting for kids K-6 after school. Our location is an easy walk for kids coming down from Hilltop School and Neighborhood school. We also offer a homework club right after school for kids who are taking a later KASEP class.

Classes fill up fast, if you missed your favorite class sign up, mark your calendars for the Fall KASEP registration scheduled for Tuesday, August 27th at 7:00pm.

Important Dates: Spring Break is April1st-5th and there are no KASEP classes that week.



HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR 2024 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 is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th 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.

Yoga with Anja Borgstrom

Strength & Balance Yoga - Tuesdays at 8:30am
Strength & Balance Yoga - Thursdays at 11:30
Cost is \$20 drop in or register online

Tai Chi with Nobuo Nishi

Wednesdays & Fridays from 9:30-11:00am
Drop-in fee is \$15

Register at KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/adult-and-family-classes
Keep checking our website for updated adult class schedules.

The Kensington Outlook can now be found at: KensingtonOutlook.com
Archive copies can also be found on our website dating back to 2003.
KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Recreation Building Kensington CA 94707
E-mail: Info@KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org, or call 510-525-0292.
Our website is: www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org.



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KENSINGTON K-9s

Warrior and Niner: An Adorable Odd Couple
By Winston Churchill, Bulldog

Meet Warrior and Niner! I frequently see this odd couple at Kensington Park. Warrior is an enormous black retriever, always gleefully chasing his ball across the lawn. Niner is a small brown dog, sassily barking at canine newcomers and eagerly demanding treats from humans.

Born and raised in Kensington, Warrior is seven years old. Though he looks like a massive black lab, he is half Belgian shepherd and possibly half Labrador retriever or half Anatolian shepherd. Niner is four years old, 16 lbs., and likely a chihuahua mix. They live with their parents Justin and Marissa, sisters Zoe and Bailey, and cat sister Zelda, adopted from Berkeley Humane. Over the years, their family has also fostered numerous orphaned kittens and mama cats with nursing kittens through the Milo Foundation.

Warrior joined the family when Marissa saw a posting on NextDoor. A neighbor a few blocks away had a Belgian shepherd with an unexpected litter of twelve puppies! The family visited the two-week-old pups and fell in love with Warrior, the runt of the litter. He came home at eight weeks and proceeded to grow and grow and grow. When he reached 130 lbs., he finally decided to stop.

After a few years, Warrior asked for a playmate, so his family searched for a companion. They met several dogs at local shelters and rescue organizations, but Warrior didn't connect with them. Then he met little Niner at the Milo Foundation. When Warrior saw the six-month-old puppy, he knew he'd found his new brother and best friend.

At home, Warrior takes the lead and Niner happily follows. Warrior is a friendly, highly intelligent giant. When he feels like going for a walk, he'll bring his family members their shoes as a gentle hint. He will even take Niner's leash and lead him on walks!

Although they're physically mismatched, they love playing together all day and snuggling at nap time. Niner loves being right beside his big brother and has separation anxiety when Warrior goes on walks without him.

For those of us that only know them from the dog park, this is a huge surprise. Because at Kensington Park, Niner is small but oh so sassy! He's the spirited child, assertively leading his canine friends. And his big brother, Warrior, takes a backseat and quietly chases his ball. From appearances, Warrior and Niner are an odd couple. But whether relaxing at home or sharing adventures while out and about, they're perfectly matched and complement each other as brothers and best friends.

Meet a Raptor, Learn about Soil

Enjoy free programs offered by the Kensington Library at 61 Arlington Avenue. Call 510-524-3043 with questions. Thank you to the Friends of Kensington Library for making library programs possible.

Tues, April 2, 6:30pm Friends of the Kensington Library FKL, a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, has worked to improve and financially support library services in Kensington since 1959. Meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Open to all Kensington residents.

Tues, April 2, 6:30pm, Castoff's Knitting Club Meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Open to all levels of knitters. Bring your own yarn!

Tues, April 16, 6:30pm Native Bird Connections: Raptors Up Close Join Native Bird Connections for a journey into the world of raptors, also known as birds of prey. Live, non-releasable raptors, taxidermy and artifacts will accompany this lively, informative and always new program. Suitable for all ages.

Tues, April 23, 6:30pm UC Master Gardener Program—Soil: The Universe Beneath Your Feet Join UC Master Gardener John Fike for a presentation that will reveal the complex ecosystem of soil, one that is critical for a healthy, sustainable garden.

Fridays, April 5, 12, 19, 26 Baby and Toddler Storytime Fun stories, songs, action rhymes, and more! Great for increasing early literacy skills and making friends. Two identical sessions. 10am & 11am.

Tuesdays, April 2, 9, 23, 30 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. 6:30pm.

Tuesdays, April 2, 16 Read to a Dog Join a licensed therapy dog for a 15-minute reading session every first and third Tuesday afternoon. 3-4pm.

Wednesday, April 24, 6:30-8pm Kensington Library Book Club
The club meets online via Zoom, usually on the fourth Monday of each month. This month we meet on Wednesday. The selection for April is *All That She Carried* by Tiya Miles.

March 9–April 30 Come to the library to enjoy a satellite art show from Art of the African Diaspora, showcasing works by Orin Carpenter: www.orincarpenter.com



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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT. Kensington Village Center @ 268 Arlington Ave. 250 SF, 1st Floor, adjacent to waiting area. Private. Call Bart Jones @ 510-527-9328.

PARENT COACHING - early childhood specialist Susan Gann, former preschool teacher/director turned child psychotherapist (retired). Phone/Zoom sessions available. Resume and references available upon request. 510-604-2375

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KENSINGTON EATS OUT

Kensington Eats Out Gets Cafenated

By Ittai Shiu

In the ever-evolving landscape of remote work, searching for the perfect workspace is a perpetual quest. For many of us, escaping the confines of the home office and venturing into the welcoming ambiance of a local coffee shop has become a comforting ritual. But what happens when the familiarity of a Starbucks just doesn't cut it anymore? Especially during this time of year, when tax season threatens to disrupt our tranquil work routine?

This is when I turn to a local treasure that transcends the ordinary coffee shop experience. Nestled away by the corner of Shattuck and Vine, just around the corner from the legendary Cheeseboard Collective, lies the gem known as the Cafenated Coffee Co.

More than just a coffee shop, Cafenated is a farm-to-cup coffee roasting company that sources beans directly from well-established women's coffee farm cooperatives. Their mission is to eliminate the middlemen and brokers who siphon profit from women and instead deliver coffee directly from cooperatives to consumers. Women remain underrepresented, underpaid, and underappreciated in the global coffee supply chain, and Cafenated aims to challenge this status quo.

Upon stepping through its doors, one is immediately enveloped in a sense of modern comfort and tranquility with an intimate seating area boasting contemporary furnishings. Included are all the amenities of a top-tier coffee establishment, such as an array of pastries to fuel your productivity and rotating drink specials like the Tiramisu Latte, which I succumbed to on my latest visit.

Always fun is to notice the diverse mix of clientele from students venturing a bit farther from the university to work on an assignment mingling with locals popping in for their favorite pastries, while fellow remote workers like myself tap away at their laptops, appreciating that this little sanctuary is just a short drive away.

Yet, the pièce de résistance reveals itself through the doors in the rear—a meticulously kept garden oasis offering a full



menu. Shielded from the elements but offering ample sunlight for both flowers and customers to bloom, the seating area features large heaters for chilly evenings or summer days when June gloom forces us to keep our sweaters on. This outdoor haven offers peaceful zen amidst the urban bustle.

Amongst the lush foliage of local flora and fauna, patrons can indulge in a menu that draws inspiration from California's diverse cooking traditions of creating soulful food that celebrates an ongoing relationship with local communities and suppliers. The Spicy Chicken & Waffle incorporates the right amount of heat and a satisfying crunch that complements a light, fluffy waffle. The Salmon Avocado Toast is also a vibrant and tasty standout!

The next time you find yourself yearning for a change of scenery from your home office, venture beyond the familiar confines of your local Starbucks and embark on a journey to Cafenated Coffee Co. With its blend of modern comfort, delicious offerings, and serene garden retreat, it's sure to become your ultimate haven for remote work bliss.

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Pickleball Fans, Rejoice!

By David Aranda, KPPCSD Interim General Manager

Effective March 15, Kensington has a pickleball court just south of the tennis courts and west of the basketball court in Kensington Park. We hope the community will enjoy another recreational pastime.

Please note that for pickleball, we ask everyone wishing to play to make a reservation online <https://www.kppcsd.org/tennis-courts>. For weekend play, the fees will be \$10 per hour for Kensington residents and \$12 per hour for non-residents; there is no fee for weekday play. But we ask that you please make reservations both midweek and weekend so your spot is reserved, and the KPPCSD can track how much use the pickleball court is getting for a future, more permanent court.

All tennis players also should make reservations midweek so we may track the use of the tennis court day-to-day. There is no charge for playing tennis or pickleball midweek, only on weekends.

Please remember that KASEP after-school activities are held Monday through Friday from 1:15 to 4:45 PM, during which the tennis, basketball and pickleball courts are closed to the public.

Thank you to the residents who suggested adding pickleball to activities in Kensington Park! KPPCSD welcomes input about our park and park activities. Your thoughts may be sent to daranda@kppcsd.org.

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If you're ready to embark on your own journey to a successful sale, I'm here to guide you. Let's make your real estate dreams a reality together.

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