

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

DECEMBER 2007/JANUARY 2008 A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL VOLUME 64 NUMBER 10

Portola plans continue to perplex

School’s planned move to Castro causes an uproar

The West Contra County Unified School District has found itself in yet another no-win situation. Portola Middle School was found to be on a historic landslide and seismically unsafe, so it has to be relocated. In April the school board decided to rebuild the school on the site of Fairmont Elementary School. Fairmont was chosen partially as a result of a survey made by Oxbridge Development Inc.; Integra Realty Resources; Desmond, Marcello & Amster; and Overland, Pacific & Cutler. These consulting companies decided that the only possible sites in El Cerrito were the Fairmont school site and the property owned by Dolan Lumber.

The decision to close Fairmont, purchase six homes and a six-unit apartment building by eminent domain, and take over public buildings, including the library and senior center, raised a lot of community objections.

By July the board decided that it needed to look again at possible sites for the school. This time they decided to get the community involved in selecting the site, rather than outside consultants. A 16-member committee was selected from interested parents and others to examine the other school sites in the West County. The committee was given criteria on which they could judge potential sites. These criteria were safety, space and size, cost, educational programs, and community and environmental impact. These were weighted 25, 20, 20, 25, and 10 respectively. The committee was given instructions on how they should conduct their survey, which included not meeting with more than seven other members during the process.

In November the committee presented its findings to the school board. It selected Castro Elementary as the most suitable site, mainly due to the size of the campus and the proximity to the current Portola site. Over 280 people were present at the November WCCUSD board meeting, many carrying banners for their favorite schools. Because the findings of the committee were made public before the meeting, there was a very large contingent from Castro Elementary. Fifteen of the 16 members submitted scores. Their ratings, out of a possible 1500, were: Castro 1,126, Mira Vista 932, Adams 865, Fairmont 755, Harding 736, El Cerrito High 674, and Stege 501.

Members of the selection committee were obviously each biased in favor of particular schools, and those who came from Castro were very critical of the process and of the board’s support. When members of the public had an opportunity to address the board, over



Sign maker David Strong with KIC’s Lorraine Osmundson, Diana Ooghe, and the Ooghe children, Gwendolyn and Joshua.

Kensington Improvement Club raises new Kensington sign

A new Kensington sign went up on Arlington Ave. at the entrance to Kensington, installed by the Kensington Improvement Club. KIC erected the previous sign in 1977. The process of financing, designing, and making the new sign started nearly three years ago. It was designed and made by David Strong of Strong Signs in Oakland. The sign is just the first part of a redesign of the area on the meridian of the south end of Arlington Ave. Ted and Lorraine Osmundson have been instrumental in planning the area and getting the sign made. The landscaping portion of the work is presently out for bid and will be completed once a contractor has been selected. KIC has asked that residents and local businesses refrain from hanging banners or advertising from the sign.

60 chose to do so, many taking more than their allotted 2 minutes each. Their voices were often interrupted by booing and applause from differing sections of the audience. Many teachers and parents from Castro praised the inclusive program for students with disabilities, which attracts students from many locations in the West County. In the ’05–’06 school year, of 316 attendees, 56 had some kind of disability. Teachers told stories of how the disabled students were cared for and loved by the regular students. They claimed that such a

program would be almost impossible to set up in another location.

At the end of the very noisy meeting, the board voted 3 to 2 to accept Castro as the site for the new middle school. Voting for the motion were Karen Pfeifer, president, Charles Ramsey, and Madeline Kronenberg. Voting against were David Brown and Audrey Miles. Both of these board members recommended using redistricting of students to nearby middle schools and implementing a K–8 policy in El Cerrito schools.

See **Castro** on page 4

Two armed robberies in Kensington

First armed robberies of the year happen within four days of each other

Two unrelated armed robberies took place in Kensington in November. The first happened on Saturday, November 10, at about 3 p.m. A woman drove home from Berkeley to her house on Arlington Ave. and parked in her garage. As she opened the car door, she felt a gun press against her cheek. Her assailant, a young black male, asked her for money. She nervously reached into her purse and handed him \$80 or \$90. He took the money and left. She was unable to get a good look at him, and she heard no car drive away. She had just come from picking up a prescription from Long’s Drugs in Berkeley, and police are inspecting security cameras to see if he followed her home from there.

One of the possible leads in last year’s armed robberies was that the victims had visited an ATM before being robbed at their homes, and they may have been followed home from an El Cerrito bank, as the robber would have known they were carrying cash. As yet there are no positive leads on the crime. The police canvassed the area, including an open house across the street. No one saw the robber arriving or leaving.

The second crime happened four days later. A young man was walking along Colusa Ave. at 10 p.m. when he was approached by three black youths who stopped him, pointed a gun at him, and demanded his valuables. The victim, who works nearby, handed them his cell phone and all the cash he was carrying. They then took the victim’s hat and ran away. Again no car was seen. The police are investigating several leads related to this incident including examining the phone calls made after the robbery, and think there may be some connection to a more serious crime that took place later in Richmond. In that confrontation, three youth, one with a gun, robbed and then shot and killed another young man on the street. Kensington police are working closely with other agencies on these cases, including those in Richmond, El Cerrito, Berkeley, and Albany.

Chief Harman asked the *Outlook* to inform residents that they should pay close attention to their surroundings, especially when entering or leaving their homes. If you hear or see anything suspicious, or think a car is following you, drive directly to the police station and sound your horn. If you have a cell phone, do not hesitate to call the police. They would rather come to a false alarm than to the scene of a crime. If you are in an emergency, call 911 or, to get a police car dispatched to your location, call 236-0474.



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Remodeled Retreat. Breathtaking bay views from this 4BR/3BA home on a cul-de-sac. Newly remodeled kitchen & baths w/stainless steel appliances; hardwood & tile floors, 2 fireplaces, Jacuzzi tubs, and more. Potential in-law unit, huge deck space, recently built gazebo in redwood grove. \$995,000.

Agent: Tim Scully



24 Jessen Court, Kensington

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Agent: Barbara Kaplan

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Once again KCC thanks those who contributed to the 2007 Fall Fundraising Drive. In this season of thankfulness and giving, it is never too late to donate to KCC and consequently to the community as a whole. Any donation is tax deductible and can be sent or carried by hand to the KCC office. The address is

KCC, Building E,
59 Arlington Ave.,
Kensington CA 94707.

Those who gave in November:

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KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
59 Arlington Avenue
Kensington, CA 94707-1307

The *Kensington Outlook* is published ten times a year by the nonprofit Kensington Community Council. It is published monthly except for the combined Dec./Jan. and July/Aug. issues and is available online in PDF format at www.kensingtonoutlook.com courtesy of www.aboutkensington.com

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Deadlines

Advertising deadline January 8
Editorial deadline January 10

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What to do with the Annex?

District looks for proposals

After several discussions concerning the future use of the Kensington Park Annex Building, the Kensington Community Services District is inviting proposals for the productive use of the recently refurbished Annex.

The Annex is located inside the park, has a fenced in yard, and is surrounded by park amenities. The building is 1680 square feet, with three attractive rooms, two unisex bathrooms, and a food preparation area. It is currently approved by the state for use as a child care facility, but the district is looking for possible alternate uses. The district has already received one request to use it as a child care/kindergarten/after school facility, and while the district is investigating the need for additional local child care, assessing current rental prices, and drawing up possible contracts, it is looking to see if there are other ideas for the use of the building. One person called the *Outlook* asking if it would be possible to have a small gym there, with showers and a sauna.

For further information regarding the facility, please contact general manager/chief of police Greg Harman at the district office (526-4141) by December 10.

Kensington poet honored



Robert Hass was recently awarded the 2007 National Book Award for poetry for his recent book, *Time and Materials*. Hass was selected from a distinguished group of nominees, some of whom are his friends. In his acceptance speech Hass mentioned that he was glad to be in the company of the other poets and had been saying for weeks that he didn't care who won. But since having won, he'd never know if that were true or not. This put him in mind of a poem by Emily Dickenson that begins "Success is counted sweetest / By those who

ne'er succeed. / To comprehend a nectar / Requires soarest need."

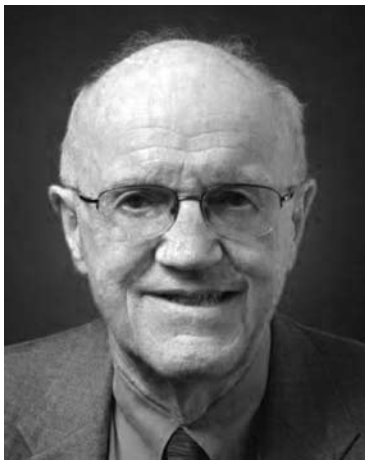
The judges of the National Book Foundation found that his latest work was "grounded in the beauty and energy of the physical world, and in the bafflement of the present moment in American culture."

Hass, who teaches at Berkeley, was poet laureate of the United States from 1995 to 1997. He is currently a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. He has won numerous awards, including two National Book Critics Circle Awards.

His books of poetry include *Sun Under Wood*, *Human Wishes*, *Praise*, and *Field Guide*. He has also translated and edited many collections.

National Book Award Winners receive \$10,000 and a bronze sculpture.

Henry Snyder recognized by the White House



Henry Snyder, a long-time resident of Kensington and director of UC Riverside's Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research, received the National Humanities Medal at a recent ceremony at the White House. Snyder's area of research is the output of the press of the British Isles and North America from 1473 to 1800, an effort that has produced the largest bibliography of its kind ever attempted. It lists nearly 500,000 items, including books, handbills, fliers, pamphlets, and warrants. "The thing that makes us human beings is memory. This is printed memory," Snyder said of the project. "It's how we recall our heritage. As we try to recover our past and try to understand what happened and how cultures evolved, we need to have access to these records." Snyder, a scholar of British history and UC Riverside emeritus professor of history, became the American director of the English Short-Title Catalogue in 1978.

The White House said that Snyder's "direction of massive projects in the digital humanities has opened new frontiers in cataloging and preserving ideas and documents for future generations."

Pets of the month

Ginger and her Three Gumdrops

Ginger is a sugar-coated young rabbit who loves to cuddle. On November 3, just in time for the holidays, she delivered three sweet babies—Lemondrop, Licorice, and Jelly Bean. All sugar and spice, these bouncing baby bunnies promise lots of love and laughter to the lucky family who adopts them. Spice it up this holiday with Ginger and her hoppy, jolly gumdrops from RabbitEARS! Open 7 days a week at 303 Arlington (behind ACE Hardware), 525-6155.



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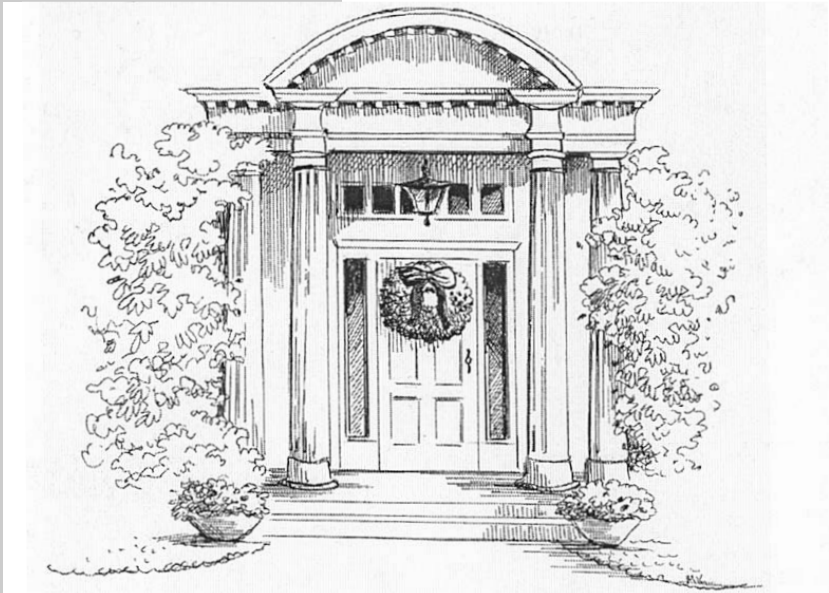
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Castro plan to preserve school and park

Castro continued from page 1 WCCUSD has set aside \$60 million for the building of the new middle school. The staff has estimated the cost of rebuilding the school on the Castro site at \$59,100,000. This includes demolition, all construction, and landscaping charges, which works out to be about \$603 per square foot.

Plans include the renovation of the existing original Castro buildings, demolition of existing modulars/portables throughout the site and the existing buildings in the middle of the site, and constructing the new middle school buildings on the middle and lower portions of the site. The gym will be tucked against the hillside to minimize view impacts, and there will be new parking and drop-off areas on the lower level. WCCUSD must now start environmental reviews, including a California Environmental Quality Act Study and a school site environmental study, must coordinate and review plans with the City of El Cerrito, and must develop plans for final approval by the board.

The Castro Elementary site also includes Castro Park and the Cameron School. The Cameron School is part of the WCCUSD early intervention program; it is home to the Learning for Infants and Families Together team for infants to three-year-olds and the Knolls Preschool Support Team for preschoolers, ages three to five. WCCUSD has stated that Cameron School and Castro Park would remain unchanged. Students would be allocated to new schools within the next few years as the district commences construction.

Town hall meeting features supervisor and superintendent

The Kensington Improvement Club held its annual town hall meeting in November. The main speaker was Bruce Harter, superintendent of West Contra Costa Unified School District; other speakers included supervisor John Gioia; Hilltop principal Judy Sanders; Esther Hill from KCC, who is in charge of, among other tasks, the Kensington After School Enrichment Program; Liz Ruhland, Kensington's head librarian; and chief of police/general manager Greg Harman.



Bruce Harter, superintendent of West Contra Costa Unified School District

The meeting started with a KIC business meeting led by KIC president John McKenna. It included a presentation by Lorraine Osmundson on the new entrance to Kensington, which includes a new Kensington sign that has already been installed. The next stage of the new entrance is the landscaping, which is at present out for bid.

John Gioia kept his comments to local Kensington topics. He said he is meeting with a variety of Kensington groups to discuss the ongoing issues of drainage, adopting and maintaining the Kensington paths, and the undergrounding of utility wires. He said he had met with those who want to develop the block that is contained by Colusa Ave., Santa Fe Ave., and Oak View Ave., as well as those who are opposing the planned development. The Colusa Circle Improvement Association, which has appealed the improvement to the board of supervisors, is organizing this opposition. This appeal will probably be heard in early December. Gioia said he and his staff had walked the area and are considering providing pedestrian-friendly landscaping on the south corner of the Colusa/Santa Fe intersection. He also said that he was going to bring code enforcement to other buildings in the area. Finally he stated that the yellow curb painted around the center of the circle was illegal, and that the public works department was looking for suitable loading zones in the area.

Bruce Harter made a presentation based on a slide show that highlighted some of the statistics from the West Contra Costa County Unified School District. He said advanced placement has increased. He reported that the cost of building new high school buildings has increased from \$216 a square foot in 2004 to an estimated cost of \$434 a square foot for construction that is due to start early next year. This is a 100 percent increase in just four years. He also stated that the school district serves 16,000 lunches and 6,000 breakfasts each day, and that next year will be the first year that the district is going to spend more than they take in. Enrollment is down, primarily in Richmond and El Cerrito, and 15 schools have been closed since 1971.

Help an adult learn to read



"A candle that lights another candle does not lose its light." Take some time to help an adult learn to read, write, and spell better. Project Second Chance (PSC), the Contra Costa County Library adult literacy program, trains volunteers to become literacy tutors. For more information on this rewarding and necessary endeavor, and to find details of students and teachers, please visit the library

Web site (www.ccclib.org/psc).

If you are interested in becoming a literacy volunteer, please call 527-7558 or email psc@ccclib.org for training registration information. Training will be held at the PSC office in the Pleasant Hill library, 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Training begins Wednesday evening, January 30th, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and continues February 2nd and 9th, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All 14 hours of training are required.

K E N S I N G T O N COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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K C C HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE & FOOD DRIVE

The Boy Who Cried Wolf
performed by

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Friday, December 14, 7 p.m.

Kensington Community Center

Admission: Bring two cans of food for the holiday food drive!

An updated version of a classic tale: it's the holidays and the boy can only think of presents! He's bored watching his lamb and decides to make time go by faster by turning on his dad's wolf alarm. Tricking his dad is all fun and games until a real wolf shows up. Will the audience help the boy escape from the wolf? Will the boy get presents? Find out in the holiday version of the *Boy Who Cried Wolf*.

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YOUTH & ADULT CLASSES



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

Fees: Adult classes: 5 classes/\$40 per resident; \$45 per non-resident
Youth classes: \$10 per class for residents; \$11 for nonresidents.

Where: Tennis Courts (West Court)

ADULT CLASSES



Acrylic Painting

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

When: Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

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

Where: Community Center

Yoga for Health

Harmonize your body, mind, and spirit. This class involves basic yoga poses, correct body alignment, breathing techniques, and relaxation. Develop strength, flexibility, endurance, and grace. Therapeutic concerns such as wrist, knee, neck and back pain, and stress reduction will be addressed.

No prior experience required. All ages welcome. Please bring a mat to the class.

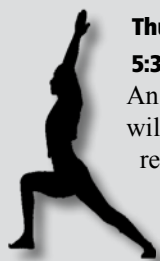
Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and qigong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. For more information about the class, please contact Nicole at 527-6443.

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

When: Tuesday 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Fees: Residents– Drop-in, \$12; \$50 for five classes. Nonresidents please add 10% (\$13.20/class; \$55 for five classes)

Where: Community Center



Thursday Hatha Yoga 5:30–6:30 p.m.

An ongoing class that will calm, restore, and revitalize you. Classic yoga postures and quiet attention to the nuance of movement help create a satisfying personal practice. Yoga postures, breathing techniques, and philosophy are covered. All levels of experience welcome. Please bring a mat to class.

Instructor Claire Lavery is an experienced teacher who has been practicing and teaching yoga to all ages and abilities. Her studies have included Ashtanga, Iyengar, Integral, and Yin yoga; adaptive yoga; and yoga philosophy. She focuses on breathing, alignment, and adjustment to help students enjoy a deeper practice.

Fees: Residents—Drop-in, \$12 . One-month pass (4 classes) for \$40. Nonresidents please add 10% (\$13.20 for drop-in and \$44 for month pass)

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

Monday Night Hatha Yoga 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Join a three-week session; a new session begins each month. Begin or deepen your yoga practice with a supportive group. Please bring a mat to class.

Instructor: Claire Lavery

When: Class series meets Mondays: November 5, 12, and 19 December 3, 10, and 17

Fees: For residents: one-month pass 3 classes for \$30. Nonresidents: please add 10% (\$33).

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

YOUTH CLASSES

Gymnastics

Registration takes place with KASEP on Wednesday, December 5, starting at 6:45 p.m. For more information about classes, call Judy Baker at 233-1833.

Instructors: Judy Baker and Jean Jay.

When: Tuesdays
Morning Kindergartners: 11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.
Advanced Beginners Grades 1–3: 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.
Advanced Beginners Grades 4–6: 2:50 p.m.–3:50 p.m.

Where: Community Center

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K C C KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

To register for class: Please call the office unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits; those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

Tennis court reservations: Reservations are for weekends and holidays only; the earliest is 9 a.m. Call Esther Hill (525-0292) for tennis court reservation information.

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

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

K A S E P KENSINGTON AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Office hours: Esther Hill, Director (525-0292), 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Elma Conley, On-Site Supervisor (525-0292) during class hours
Sandy Thacker, Curriculum Coordinator (482-1258)

Sessions: Winter registration takes place on Wednesday, December 5, for kindergarten students at 6:45 p.m. and for students in grades 1–6 at 7:15 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center. Please bring your lottery slip to the KCC office by 9 a.m., Tuesday, December 4

Winter classes begin on Monday, January 7, and end on Friday, March 21. Please visit www.aboutkensington.org for more information on classes.

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As is the gardener, so is the garden



The Berkeley Garden Club, which counts many Kensington residents among its members, was started 75 years ago by a group of women who were dedicated to gardening, to the study of botany, and to community service. To mark this anniversary, the club recently published a history of the organization, called *The Friendly Gardeners*. It covers the years from 1932 to 2007. The club's objective is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and to protect native flora and fauna. The book's eight main chapters cover the club's activities and highlight the club's long history of conservation and concern for the environment. The 100-page book is full of photos and lots of historical data about happenings in the area and makes for interesting reading.



Police looking for one or two admins

When interim police chief Brown Taylor was heading the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District last year, he identified a need for a supplementary position within the police organization in the form of an administrator and analyst who is not a sworn officer. Taylor left the job definition and the hiring of this position to his successor, chief of police Greg Harman. Approximately \$43,300, or 75 percent of the position's total funding of \$54,000, would come from a COPS grant.

Harman has decided that the position might best be structured as two part-time positions. One 20-hour-a-week position would be a police service aide, who would take care of records management, evidence keeping, and staff backup. The other position, an administrative aide, would deal with emergency planning, community outreach, special and regional projects, and finding and applying for grants. This too would be a 20-hour position. Harman says that separating the job into two positions would avoid future disruptions due to staff turnover, would cutting benefit costs, and would allow a wider scope of experience. And if funding were to be discontinued, it would be easier to keep a person doing the district-funded portion of the job. Splitting the jobs would have a negative financial impact, as employment costs would rise \$4,700 or more.

The KPPCSD board has voted to ensure the employees have access to health care, if not retirement. At this time the district is looking for applicants for these positions. Potential candidates for either or both positions should contact general manager Greg Harman at 526-4141 or by writing to KPPCSD, 217 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707.

KCC features new

KCC is introducing fencing classes for 5th and 6th graders. The classes will be taught Karen Ladenheim, who runs the Sport Fencing Center on Central Ave. in Richmond. Ladenheim started to fence when she was 12 years old, introduced to fencing by her father, who fenced for the Navy. "It was so empowering for me as a girl," she said. "I had been brought up never to hit anyone and be feminine, 'and at my first lesson my coach said, 'Don't be afraid; hit me!' It was very liberating." Ladenheim, who was already a gymnast, went on fencing through high school and at Temple University. Her trainer was a famous fencing coach who trained at West Point. Ladenheim, three times Pacific Coast Champion, opened her club in Richmond in 2001 and now also teaches at seven schools in Contra Costa County. The classes utilize positive coaching, which aims to teach life

Garden Party

The 24th annual Garden Party shone as one of the highlights of the local social scene. Organized by Kensington Education Foundation over the past 12 months, the party was well attended and showed off all the hard work that went into organizing the event. There was a lot of fine food and drink, and the bidding was enthusiastic for the silent and live auctions. The fare was Mexican, with a large fajita service as well as tamales and enchiladas. The music was a mixture of ballads and upbeat jazz from Jan Jones, Frank Mercurio, Matt Willis, Cyril Guiraud, and Fred Hyer. The musicians drew an attentive audience all evening, and some partygoers even danced in the limited space.

Between 450 and 500 people attended the event, and the auction included 500 items, many of which were sold through the passionate auctioneering of Larry Polito, with the aid of the two MC's, Paul Normington and Jim Thomsen, all of whom kept the audience entertained and the bidders excited. Among the most successful sale items were a trip to Puerto Rico and paintings and prints by Picasso, Chagall, Dürer, Braque, Rembrandt, and George Schulz. Other items





...w fencing class

lessons along with those related to a sport. This approach has garnered her a small but eager following of students and parents.

Kensington’s most accomplished fencer, Rene Pinchuk, who fenced for 64 years in Michigan, San Francisco, and Rome and competed in national fencing championships, encourages young people to take up fencing, saying it is a “wonderful sport that is skillful, competitive, great exercise, and no one gets hurt.” He notes that fencing can become a lifelong sport that is rewarding on many levels, encouragings style as much as winning.

Registration for fencing classes is on December 5, at the same time as KASEP classes, in the Recreational Building (Building E) in the park. Equipment will be provided. Call Karen Ladenheim for details: 528-5110.

Party fun

included many vacations, lots of food and wine, books, artwork from Hilltop students, jewelry, trips to Pixar Studios, and the ever-popular Principal for a Day for a Hilltop pupil and the Dads’ Club work party. This last item was so popular that two people ended up getting the services of many dads who turn up to fix, paint, plant, build, and repair your home for a day.

The party was sponsored by the Grubb Company and Ruth Frassetto, who also served ice cream and donated printing of the beautiful catalog and the invitations, and by Arlington Wine & Spirits, Colusa Market, Inn Kensington, Marvin Gardens, Mechanics Bank, and The Arlington. Local art dealer Alex Adelman once again donated almost all the fabulous fine art. Early accounting estimates that \$80,000 was raised for the school.

Events such as this depend on the willing help of many volunteers and the tireless work of the Dads’ Club and party chairs Catherine Mercurio and Debbie Polito. Middle and high school volunteers, all graduates of Hilltop, graciously served the food.



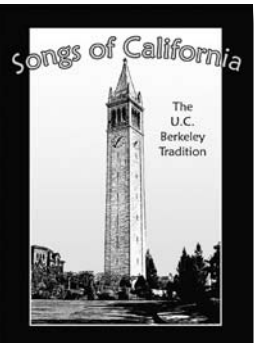
Police to endorse district candidates

There are many K groups in Kensington, but one you may not have heard about before will sooner or later be making headlines. The KPOA (Kensington Police Officers Association) is basically a police officers union that promotes the needs and aspirations of police officers. It is this body that negotiates with KPPCSD over police wages. At a recent meeting of the association, they decided that they will publicly endorse (or not) candidates for the KPPCSD board elections that are coming due in November 2008. People up for reelection, if they decide to run again, are Joan Gallegos and Paul Haxo. Gallegos has suggested that she may not seek reelection, and Haxo has not made any statements publicly.

Police officers get an up-close view of the district board members, as they are often in and out of the police station, and some officers have viewpoints somewhat different from many Kensington residents. Previously they have only endorsed candidates for the district attorney’s office.

The KPOA represents all the officers in the district and is chaired by Officer Keith Barrow.

Cal songbook republished



John Vlahos started to redesign the Cal Song Book 15 years ago, when he discovered a copy he owned as an

undergraduate, published in 1944. This labor of love includes all the old songs, plus several new ones. *Songs of California: The U.C. Berkeley Tradition* contains 21 songs, the histories of each, and many illustrations. The new edition was unveiled at the reunion of the Class of 1957’s 50th reunion. In writing this new edition, Valhos referenced a 1945 thesis on the history of Cal songs, the Cal Band website and centennial book, the University and *Daily Cal* archives, various books on University and Cal football history, and personal interviews. A committee was formed to assist in the project, and, under the leadership of John Edginton, 1957 class president, the group underwrote publication.

Songs of California is being sold by members of the Class of 1957 and can be bought from the California Alumni Association. The cost is \$15 for Cal students and \$20 for nonstudents

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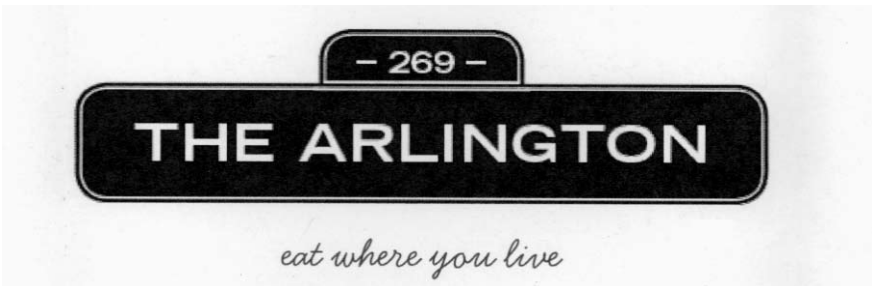


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At the St. Mary’s Center Preschool with volunteer and St. Paul’s Towers resident Marty Newhard



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Neighborhood Notes



Toys and food for the county needy

"The best gift of my life" is how one recipient described the bicycle he received from The Richmond and El Cerrito Firefighters Toy Program. During the holiday season this project collects and distributes new, unwrapped toys to economically disadvantaged children in West Contra Costa County.

The Kensington Police Department, El Cerrito Fire Department, Richmond Firefighter Local 188, Richmond Police Department, Mechanics Bank, Target of El Cerrito, YMCA, Oakland Paper Co., and Alliance Corp Bank, GMAC Financing, B.I.T. Leasing Trucks, California Oils, Maranatha Christian Center, Oakland Paper Co. Chevron, Richmond Sanitary Department, Sims Metal, Orton Development, and the Richmond Recreation and Parks Department sponsor the program.

The toys are distributed to children ages 12 and under in San Pablo, Richmond, and surrounding areas. The organization works with the Richmond PD to also distribute food baskets to families in need during the holidays. Each year organizers purchase dozens of bicycles to give away to young children, often the most expensive gift of their young lives. The bikes come unassembled. Firefighters put them together in their spare time.

If you would like to donate, there is a large collection bin at the fire station. Gifts can be dropped off at the Kensington Public Safety Building on Arlington Ave., the Mechanics Bank on Arlington Ave., and all other local Mechanics Bank branches, and regional Contra Costa fire stations. Donations can be sent to Firefighters Toy Program, 1401 Marina Way South, Richmond, CA 94804 or through their Web site: www.firefighterstoyprogram.org. Presents will be distributed on Dec. 22 to 850 families. For information, call 307-8031.

Kensington gets new reserves

Police chief Harman is in the process of appointing two new reserve police officers, both women. These officers will fill in when needed but are unpaid. He recently stated that he also expects a new man to join the ranks of reserve officers in the new year. Along with our present current reserve policeman, Officer Borgfeldt, this will make four reserves. If and when there is a vacancy in the department, Harman expects one or more of these police officers to join the force. If this happens, these officers will know the community and the organization and fit in quickly to the department.

Memory magnets



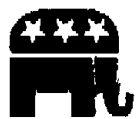
Recently Kensington police officer John Ty designed and had made a refrigerator magnet promoting the new police phone number as well as other emergency numbers. The KPPCSD is making these available to the public. They can be picked up at the Public Safety Building on Arlington Ave. or at a KPPCSD meeting in the Community Center Annex on December 13. Another magnet that has useful information is one distributed by the Contra Costa County Recycling program promoting their recycling hotline. This too can be obtained at the same locations.

Local artist presents holiday gifts

This Christmas season, local artist Keiki Fujita is having an exhibition of her work at D'Jour at 7512 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito. The shop will be exhibiting her scarves and clothing. She also makes jewelry. Fujita, who has lived and worked in Kensington since she was a young child, is especially busy over the Christmas period and has an open studio every weekend at her studio on Arlington Ave. An alumni of UC Davis, Fujita also studied design with a Japanese master in Kyoto. She has sold her art to Linda Rondstadt, Liz Taylor, and Whoopi Goldberg, as well as in stores in the United States, England, Germany, and France.

Christmas dinner plans

For many years, the Arlington Community Church has provided Christmas dinner for needy families through Neighborhood House of North Richmond, which is supported by a number of religious and social communities in West Contra Costa County. Again this year, ACC is encouraging Kensington residents to sponsor a family by providing food (a list of suggested items is available; the church provides the turkeys) and/or gifts. The gender and age of each family member are given to facilitate gift buying. Families are encouraged to sign up for a needy family with children of ages similar to their own. Drop-off will be at the church, 52 Arlington Ave. To sign up or for more information, including drop-off details, call Jim or Linda Young at 235-8443; zmon@comcast.net.



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Local contrator wins award



More Than A Carpenter, a local building contractor, won a Rennie for renovation work they did in a home in Kensington. Rennies are awards for top remodeling work done by members of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. The remodel was done at the home of Steve and Laurie Holland. When their children moved away from home, they decided to remodel their bathrooms. They managed to get both bathrooms remodeled at the same time by constructing a temporary bathroom in their garage. The master bathroom is the one that won the award. More Than A Carpenter did all the design work, matching tile and wood with other parts of the home. Many items in the bathroom had to be relocated, the ceiling was raised, and a skylight was added. Although the work was not done to win an award, Ms. Holland said she loved the end result. More Than A Carpenter is a design/build remodeling firm located at 9825 San Pablo Ave., Suite 201, in El Cerrito.

Fire Department stats

In October the Kensington Fire Department attended 15 medical situations, 2 hazardous situations which could be chemical spills, leaks or downed power lines, 9 service calls, four false alarms one event that was cancelled en route. There were no structural fires in Kensington.

Car seats 101

New parents and those unclear on the workings of car seats can have a member of the Kensington Fire Department fit car seats into their car. Many prenatal services tell people to get trained. As car seats get more and more complex, even experienced parents occasionally need instruction. Child car seats are required on children up to the age or six or when they reach 60 pounds.

Terry Pace and several others in El Cerrito, have done extensive training with the Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician Training program. The four-day course covers most modern child car seats, and she will be happy to install a seat, change it from one car to another, or train you in the procedure. Pace works shifts, so you should phone first to find out if she is there, and remember she is a fireperson so she may be called out on an emergency. Call Pace or Brenda Navellier at 527 8395.

OBITUARIES

Annette Warren



born of Polish immigrant parents. After school, she taught third grade in Hawthorne, IL, for seven years. She married Dr. William Warren, from Arcata, CA, in 1936. He predeceased her in 1997.

As a bride, she lived briefly in Schenectady, NY, and Champagne, IL. The young family moved to Santa Clara, CA, in 1941, living there for 10 years before relocating to the Kensington area in 1951.

She is survived by three children, Nicholas W. Warren of Berkeley, Mary Elizabeth Beard of Los Altos, and Laetitia Annette Offutt of Fairfield Glade, TN; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Three sisters survive her, Camille Chicon and Eugenia Szymoniak of Oak Park, IL, and Natalie Steinbach of Sun City, AZ, as well as a multitude of nieces and nephews.

A reception celebrating her life was held on November 17 at her home. Her funeral mass and inurnment were held in Santa Clara.

James Hand



lived on Ardmore Rd. for 43 years. They raised three sons, Cyrus, Angus, and Jasper, and enjoyed two grandchildren.

Hand was born on a potato farm in East Hampton, NY, in 1922 and went to college at Antioch and Columbia. After WWII, Hand worked with airplanes, scripted cartoons for newspapers, and spent six years working as a personnel manager at Harrah's Casino in Reno. Later he became a schoolteacher. In 1956 he eloped from the Bay Area with Lorraine, getting married in Salt Lake City. During the Vietnam War, the Hands spent most Sundays in front of the Kensington Library in an antiwar vigil.

Hand was a lover of jazz, an avid reader, and a great teller of stories. He always found a book to read in order to educate himself on any new project, such as buying a car, going on a 10-week camping trip in Europe, or painting his Kensington home. After moving to Kensington, Hand still loved to take trips to Reno. He claimed that Marilyn Monroe winked at him on the set of *The Misfits*, and that his neighbor in East Hampton, Jackson Pollock, would scowl at him. Hand loved to play and read with his grandchildren, Max and Charlotte.



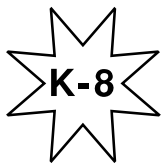
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Sunday December 2

Personal Theology

“Ways to Enlightenment Drawn from Hinduism”, Ana Matt, of Graduate Theological Union, 10 a.m.
Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Sing-Along Messiah, 6 p.m. Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Monday December 3

Castoffs Knitting Group. Some materials and help are provided. Bring show-and-tell projects. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Tuesday December 4

Baby-friendly Book Club 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Toys and board books available. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Tween Time. Board and card games. 3 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.



The **Mountain Mushers and Their Sled Dogs.** Meet sled dogs Sorrel, Su, and Pixie, and their owners Harry and Lela Schlitz. 6:30 p.m. For ages 3-and-up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.*

Wednesday December 5

KASEP Winter Registration. Kindergarten— 6:45 p.m. Grades 1–6—7:15 p.m. Bring lottery slip to the KCC office by 9 a.m., Tuesday.

Thursday December 6

Storytimes for Babies and Toddlers. 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

KENSINGTON



Dr. Bruce Harter, Superintendent WCCUSD. Hilltop PTA 7 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Hilltop School. Childcare provided. jkmeurer@aol.com

Saturday December 8

Young People’s Chamber Orchestra. 3 p.m. For all ages. Kensington Library 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.*

Sunday December 9

Walking our Talk: Dialogue to Live the Vision. 10 a.m.
Personal Theology: see Sunday, Dec 2.

Kensington Farmers’ Market
Harbor House Quilt Project. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 303 Arlington Ave (ACE Hardware parking lot) 525-6155.

Tuesday December 11

Tween Time: Arts and Crafts. 3 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Family Storytime. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Baby-friendly Book Club: See Dec 4.

Wednesday December 12

Kensington Area Republican Women’s Club membership meeting, Christmas program and lunch. Noon, \$15. Mira Vista Country Club, 7901 Cutting Blvd. El Cerrito. Reservations by Dec 7. 524-5689.

Thursday December 13



Holiday crafts and tree trim. 3–5 p.m. Age 5 and up,

including “tweens.” Tree donated by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Tween Time: Storytime. 3 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District meeting 7:30 p.m. Community Center Annex. Info, 526-4141.

Friday December 14

The Boy who Cried Wolf performed by Puppet Art Theater Company. 7 p.m. Kensington Community Center. Admission: Two cans of food per person for the holiday food drive.

Sunday December 16

Queer Thea/ologies, led by Donna Sequeira. 10 a.m.
Personal Theology see Dec 2.


Tuesday December 18

Tween Time: See Dec 4.

Holiday Concert and stories featuring the Arlington Children’s Choir (ages 8–14), 7 p.m. For ages 3-and-up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.*

Kensington Farmers’ Market, **Harbor House.** See Dec 9.

Baby-friendly Book Club: See Dec 4.



Amy Kurzer

Broker Associate
510/387-0723
amy.kurzer@prurealty.com
www.prurealty.com/amykurzer

Kensington Market Update

Address	Beds	Baths	List Price	Sold Price	Sold Date
285 Colusa Ave.	2	1	\$475,000	Pending	
27 Anson Way	3	2	\$499,000	Pending	
435 Berkeley Park	2	1	\$550,000	Pending	
27 Lenox	3	2	\$699,000	Pending	
62 Highgate Rd.	4	2	\$895,000	\$902,500	10/30/07
12 Edwin Dr.	3	3	\$998,500	Pending	
400 Coventry Rd.	3	2	\$1,098,000	Pending	
93-99 Franciscan	1-2+++	1+++	\$1,350,000	\$1,370,000	11/1/07

\$500 donation to Kensington Education Foundation for each sale of a Kensington home!



This information is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

CALENDAR

Sunday December 23

Heritage and Tradition: “Early Christian Church: Roots of Heresy and Humanism in Jesus’ Jerusalem,” 10 a.m.
Personal Theology: Jeremy Taylor, author, UU minister, “Imagination as a Means of Perception,” 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Monday December 24

Family Christmas Eve Service. 5 p.m. **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** 10 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: Family Service, 5 p.m. Late Service, 10 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Sunday December 30

Personal Theology: David McFarland and Joanne Orenge, “Voluntary Simplicity: Your Money and Your Life—Exploring Ways to Keep Our Footprints on the Planet Shallow.” 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist **Heritage and Tradition.** See Dec 23.

Monday December 31

New Year’s Eve Worship: Prayers for Peace. 5 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Sunday January 6

Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Personal Theology: Bill Garrett, Prof. of Religion and Philosophy, J. F. K. Univ., “Rethinking Respect: Dialogue with Religious Extremism,” 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Monday January 7

Castoffs. See Dec 3.

Tuesday January 8

Family Storytime See Dec 11.

Baby-friendly Book Club: See Dec 4.

Sunday January 13

Walking our Talk see Dec 9.

Monday, January 14



Eat at Bill’s, a documentary about Monterey Market, followed by a discussion with owner Bill Fujimoto. 7 p.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 524-3043. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.*

Sunday January 20

Personal Theology: Jane Ramsey, Community Minister



at UUCB. “Shame,” 10 a.m. **Queer Thea/ologies** see

Tuesday January 22

Bill Nomoyten, The Hornman will discuss and play horns from five continents. Children’s songs, classics, jazz, gospel and folk songs. 6:30 p.m. For ages 3-and-up. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.*

Baby-friendly Book Club. See Dec 4.

Family Storytime. See Jan 8.

UU Heritage and Tradition, 10 a.m. **Personal Theology:** Jack Steller, physicist, UUCB member, “What Darwin Has Done for Me,” 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Monday January 28

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison. Kensington Library Book Club, 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 524-3043.

Tuesday January 29

Baby-friendly Book Club: See Dec 4.

Family Storytime. See Dec 11.



Arlington Community Church

United Church of Christ
52 Arlington Ave. • 526-9146
www.acc-ucc.org

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

Remember Church on Christmas Eve?

Arlington Community Church has a season of Advent and Christmas Celebrations. Come delight in God’s many kindnesses! Become one of our visitors this season.

• December Offerings •

December 2	10:00 a.m.	Advent 1 Celebration
December 7	7:30 p.m.	Complete <i>Messiah</i> by G. F. Handel with orchestra, choir, and soloists. Bay Area Classical Harmonies (B.A.C.H.) conducted by John Boyer
December 9	10:00 a.m.	Advent 2 Celebration
December 16	10:00 a.m.	Advent 3 Celebration
December 21	7:30 p.m.	<i>Amahl and the Night Visitors</i> , a short opera by Gian Carlo Menotti, about kindness in this season
December 23	10:00 a.m.	Advent 4 Celebration
December 24	5:00 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Service: Crowns of Kinship: Night Visitors of Royalty (with participation and costumes for children of all ages)
	10:00 p.m.	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (with bell and adult choirs)

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



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Our New K-6 Campus— 7075 Cutting Blvd, El Cerrito, CA 94530
Sunday, January 27 – Saturday, February 9
Saturday, February 2 (Kindergarten Only)



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From the case files of the KPD

This report is based on the many reports in the police logs of the Kensington Police Department. The Outlook is solely responsible for the writing and editing of this report.

Events in October

- A resident brought two semi-automatic rifles, a M1 carbine and a pistol, to the police station. They had belonged to a man now deceased. The police got a ruling from a judge to keep them for training and possible deployment in police cars at a later date.
- A police officer used a knife to allow a resident to gain access to their locked home. If the officer can get in with a pocket-knife, so can a crook.
- A resident of Windsor Ave. was persuaded to send \$600 to a person in the UK. They did this on the promise of getting \$4,000 in return. Don't send money to strangers.
- A thief termed "incompetent" by a Kensington officer tried to open and then start several Ford cars with the aid of a screwdriver.
- A resident called in to report graffiti on a bench in the park and then offered to wash the offending ink off the bench.
- The driver of a white pickup carrying a surfboard drove up and down Arlington Ave. in front of the shops shouting at no one in particular. He had driven off when police arrived.
- Someone asked the police to keep an eye on their daughter, who has been threatening to commit suicide.
- A person on Cambridge Ave. reported hearing footsteps in their house. Police assume it was a raccoon outside.
- A thief opened the unlocked door of a Honda Element parked on Yale Ave. and removed about \$10 in change.
- A pit bull dog was reported running loose on Vassar Ave. but was gone when authorities arrived.
- When conducting a routine stop, a police officer saw what was believed to be marijuana in the car. When asked about it, the driver opened the door and ran away, leaving two passengers in the car. He later returned, presumably realizing the police could easily trace him from his car. The three became pedestrians when the car was impounded.
- A Kensington resident was reported as being suspicious when she was seen carrying several bags toward the school.
- A couple exiting their car on Arlington were fired upon with yellow paintballs. They took cover behind a parked car, not realizing it was a paint ball gun. The shooter was driving a white Toyota pickup truck. The next day, another car was fired upon with yellow paintballs. Sergeant Khan said this is very dangerous, can cause serious injuries, and that the shooter "is asking for a starring role at the Darwin Awards."
- A Volvo had the driver's side mirror broken off by a hit-and-run driver on Ardmore Rd.
- Two middle aged men, one from Berkeley, and the other from Kensington, got into a fight about a traffic accident that nearly happened. They drove to the police station, and punches were thrown and many ungentlemanly words were used. The police stopped the altercation. A man walking his dog witnessed the original near collision and the ensuing fight.
- Neighbors on Arlington Ave. in an ongoing dispute videotaped each other when one claimed to have been beaten up by the other. Police reviewed the tapes, which were inconclusive, as neither individual is a good videographer. A report was submitted to the DA.
- A car on Arlington Ave. was "egged" twice.
- Someone was arrested for being drunk in public outside the stores on Arlington Ave.
- Police were called to Los Altos Dr. to stop magazine solicitors going door to door. The miscreants continued their trade into Berkeley.
- A person complained to police of a man taking photos of her home. He turned out to be a residential appraiser taking pictures of comparable houses.
- Someone reported kids sitting on the side of Stanford Ave. as being suspicious. The youngsters told police they were waiting for a ride home.
- A Volvo was broken into on Lake Dr. and a window blind and a rock-and-roll CD were stolen.



- A Toyota truck was impounded on Arlington Ave. for having expired registration tags.
- A VW van hit two cars on Beloit Ave. The driver made off and later explained to police they were in a hurry to officiate at a race at Lake Chabot.
- Shots were reportedly heard on Ocean View Ave. Police found witnesses who saw fireworks.
- A person on Kensington Ct. received a thank you note from a store for a \$400 purchase made for furniture with their credit card. They had made no such purchase.
- Someone on Amherst Ave. reported their neighbor to the police for parking in front of their home. Police would like to remind residents that the space on the street in front of your home is public, and residents to not have any exclusive rights to the space.
- A resident of Grizzly Peak Blvd. reported kids making a ramp on a public path in Tilden Park. Police saw the ramp, a small pile of earth, and it was not on the path. The kids had gone.
- A thief broke into a car parked on Amherst Ave. and removed a Dell laptop computer, a FasTrak device, and a bottle of wine labeled "Trailer Trash."
- Police were called to a parking dispute on Highland Blvd. when a backing up Mercury bumped a Honda.
- A resident called police to report a car taking up two parking spaces on Highland Blvd. This is not a crime.
- A car was reportedly doing "donuts" in Tilden Park at 10 p.m. Police could find no evidence.
- A police officer did not correctly apply the brake or put the car in park when making a routine traffic stop, and the cruiser gently rolled into the stopped car. It was not reported who, if anyone, got a ticket.
- Someone found a purse in a parking lot on Lawson Rd. containing a small figure of an alien and 138 pennies.
- Two Honda Civics were reported blocking Oberlin Ave. One was stolen and being driven by a parolee. He will not be driving for a while.
- A gang symbol was painted on a sign at the corner of Sunset Dr. and Highgate Rd.
- A person left threatening and obscene messages on the phone of a Windsor Ave. resident. The caller was apprehended.
- A Suburban was broken into on Kenyon Ave. and \$2 in quarters were removed from the ashtray.
- CDs of religious music worth \$150 were stolen from a Hyundai parked on Kenilworth Dr. Maybe the thief will repent after listening to the music.

Kensington Police Department	
Emergency	911
Police dispatch	236-0474
Non Emergency office (daytime)	526-4141
Kensington Fire Department	
Emergency	911
Non Emergency office (daytime)	527 8369

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