

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

February 2004

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Volume 61 Number 1

Parcel Tax Measure Headed For March Ballot

Measure J would create \$7.5 million to ensure funding for valued programs

Voters in West Contra Costa County will decide next month whether to approve Measure J, a parcel tax that would raise about \$7.5 million a year for the financially-troubled West Contra Costa Unified School District.

The West Contra Costa Unified School District trustees unanimously approved the ballot measure at a special board meeting in December. The tax would be assessed at 6.8 cents per square foot on all building area for parcels in the district. Citizens 65 and older could apply for an annual exemption on single family resi-

dential units or multi-family housing units if they serve as their principal residence.

The measure comes as the district faces a \$20 million budget gap and threats of more cuts from Sacramento.

"This school district is historically underfunded and it needs to catch up by having a

parcel tax," said Helen Bean, co-president of the Kensington Hilltop Parent Teacher Association. "The looming state budget cuts are going to impact our district even more so. We need to shore up our finances as best we can."

The measure faces a battle because it

requires a two-thirds majority to pass and must overcome some community distrust of the district.

Sensitive to community concerns the district crafted the measure so it specifies that the money will be used to fund programs valued by district residents and assure the money will be spent at the school and not the administrative level.

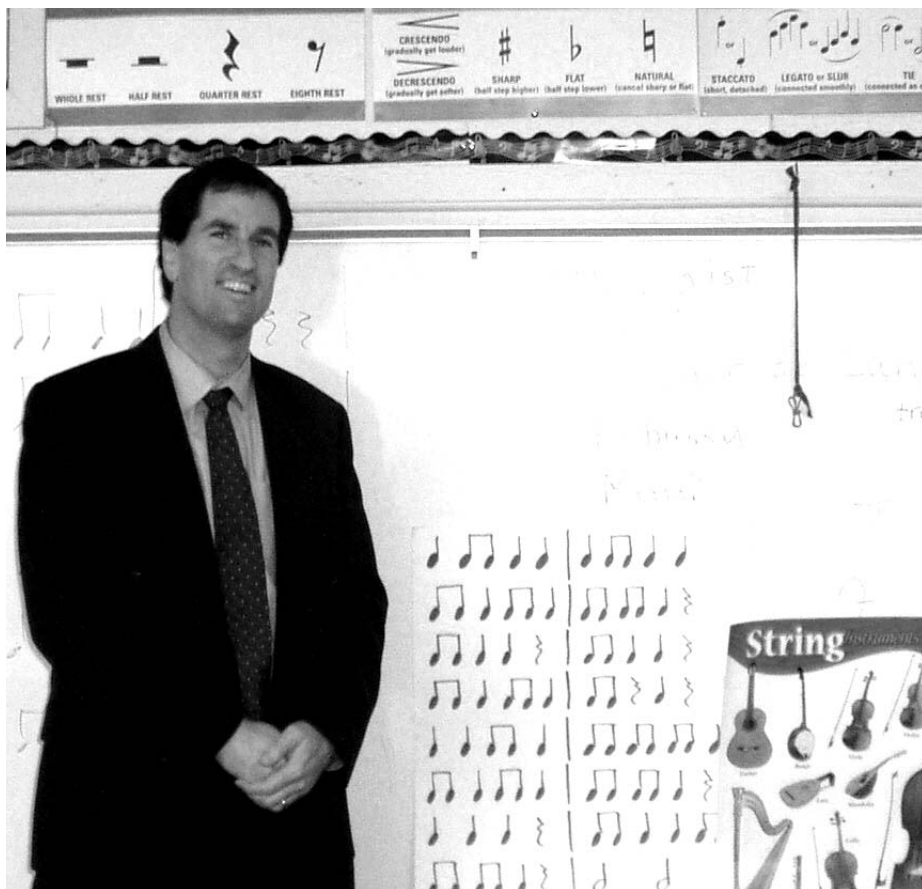
This includes maintaining reduced class sizes for kindergarten through grade three, purchasing text books and teacher materials, attracting and retaining qualified aides and counselors, enhancing core subjects and

improving custodial services to keep facilities clean and in good condition.

The measure also calls for an annual independent audit of how the funds are used.

In November, only five of 11 school district parcel taxes won voter approval and two of those were within the same district. Since 1998, 43 of 63 parcel taxes in the Bay Area have won voter approval.

The League of Women Voters will hold a meeting on the pros and cons of the ballot measure Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at El Cerrito Royales, 6510 Gladys Ave. in the third floor meeting room. Call 527-1332 for information about the meeting.



Orchestrating a Fundraiser: Kensington Education Foundation board member Hal Abrams believes the organization can raise the money needed to build a new music and art room.

Foundation weighs financial commitment

KEF must decide whether to commit \$175,000 to ensure art and music room for renovated school

The Kensington Education Foundation will decide this month whether to pursue an ambitious fundraising campaign to replace the art and music room at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School, which will be lost in the school district's \$15.5 million renovation and expansion.

The foundation expects to need about \$175,000 to pay for the room, which would be part of a new two-story structure that would connect the lower yard to the upper yard and house the school's library and science room.

Currently the art and music classes are housed in a portable structure that will be removed from the grounds. A formula used by the school district intended to equitably use Measure M bond funds for school facilities did not allow the district to pay for the room.

Though \$175,000 is about as much as the foundation raises a year, Hal Abrams, the newest member on the foundation's board believes its an achievable goal that will require that the group educate the community about the school's need and require the foundation to solicit larger gifts than it traditionally has sought.

"People in the past that have great capacity to give haven't prioritized the school as being in need of more than a few hundred dollars," said Abrams, a professional fundraiser for the University of California. "I see a good opportunity to entice the right people to make major gifts."

Perata pushes, then pulls, bill aimed at Scher controversy

Senator Don Perata withdrew a bill aimed to resolve the ongoing dispute between concert promoter Danny Scher and some of his neighbors over fundraising concerts at his home by stripping the county of its ability to regulate them.



Don Perata

Lindsay Graham, a legislative aid to Perata, said the senator pulled the bill after talks between supervisor John Gioia and Senator Tom Torlakson provided Perata with assurances that the county is addressing the matter. Graham said the senator would not be opposed to the county passing a noise ordinance that would regulate the

use of amplified sound, but felt homeowners should be free to hold fundraisers at their home without seeking permits from the county.

The bill, SB 952, was originally introduced last year. It would allow charity fundraisers as a permitted use within residential zones. Contra Costa County's zoning ordinance currently allows charity fundraisers in residential zones with land use permits. The permit requirement allows the county to address issues regarding the frequency, scope and scale of fundraisers, including neighborhood noise and parking impacts.

"Local government's right to control land use is fundamental in California. Neighboring families look to local government for protection and

it is the county that is called, not the state, when there are noise or traffic problems," wrote Community Development Director Dennis Barry in a letter to the board of supervisors. "This situation is being driven by a single individual and should be resolved at the local level, not the State."

Supervisor Gioia scrapped plans for a county-wide noise ordinance after opposition from the county sheriff, who was concerned about enforcement. Gioia said he is now exploring the possibility of a Kensington-only noise ordinance that would be enforced by local police.

Perata's Graham said Perata will introduce new legislation if a satisfactory resolution is not reached by the county.

Spring Fling



KCC's Vida Dorroh and Danielle Power
Mark your calendars for this year's Spring Celebration. The party will be held Saturday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. There will be free childcare with pizza and a movie for children.

see page 3

Letters to the Editor

Doggie doos and don'ts

To the Editor:

The following applies to any dog owners, dog sitters, or dog walkers who are allowing their dogs to leave droppings on their neighbors' properties, the streets, sidewalks, parks or any other public spaces.

Pick up after your dog. It is your responsibility. It is easy to keep bags with the dog's leash so that you remember to have the necessary equipment.

When you pick up after your dog, do not leave the bag of droppings. Take it home and put it in your trash can, or use a public trash can. That bag is your responsibility.

I am writing this letter after returning from the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School where I saw a father struggling to remove dog excrement from the wheels of his daughter's stroller. There is a lot of dog excrement left on the hill next to the school parking lot.

Whoever allows their dogs to leave their droppings there is antisocial and irresponsible. Don't we all have enough to do without having to remove dog excrement from our shoes? Don't teachers have enough to do without having to clean up dog droppings tracked into their classrooms?

I have a dog. I walk her to school every day with my children. I let my dog out into my own yard before we leave every morning and I carry bags with me when I take her out. Please have the same courtesy for your neighbors that I have for you.

Diane Egelston
Kensington

An ounce of fire prevention

To the Editor:

In the aftermath of the dreadful fires in Southern California, people are far more aware of the similar possibilities in our area.

The dead vegetation around us could cause a similar debacle to what we watched for so many days. The indifference of individuals to fire danger needs to be addressed. A similar fire could quite easily occur here.

Tilden Park is currently very dry and, in certain areas, there is much long, dead grass. There are occasional broken tree branches that are also very dry. A strong east wind on a very warm day could prove catastrophic in the event of a spark in the wrong place.

People need to lose their complacency and take action to make certain that the heavily populated East Bay hills remain fire free. Some of that action could be to contact the proper individuals who are in charge of fire prevention or local fire departments. Offers to assist community officials and those who have authority in the county could also be extremely important. Other actions by individuals could begin with a simple clean-up in their own area.

Now that rain has come many individuals will feel that it isn't necessary to take care of dead vegetation - it will be too wet to burn. But the situation remains very dangerous and next spring the new growth will mix with what we have already and the situation will be far worse.

At present, protect your home by being more responsible. Be one of those individuals who take some action.

Connie Lynch
Kensington

Kensington Community Council continues annual fund drive



Kensington Park's Tot Lot is one example of what community donations to KCC do.

The Kensington Community Council thanks the following people for their recent donations to its annual fund drive. The generosity of community members provides critical support for Kensington's recreation and education programs and the Kensington Outlook. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution, please send it the Kensington Community Council, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington 94707.

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The Kensington Outlook is available online at www.kensingtonoutlook.com courtesy of www.aboutkensington.com

Editorial

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The Kensington outlook is delivered free to residents. Non-resident subscriptions are available for \$10 a year by sending a check made payable to the KCC to the Kensington Outlook, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707

The Kensington Outlook is published ten times a year by the non-profit Kensington Community Council. It is published monthly except for combined December/January and July/August issues. For advertising rates, space, availability and size restrictions please call. The advertising and editorial deadline for the March issue is February 10. Send mail to: Kensington Outlook, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707. The Kensington Outlook welcomes letters to the editor and reserves the right to cut and edit those reprinted in the paper.

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Kensington Community Council

Let AC Transit decide what size buses best suit its needs

To the Editor:

Lately there has been much negative publicity regarding the AC Transit 67 bus to the detriment of riders that use it.

I've lived in Kensington on the bus line for many years and ride the bus. AC Transit need not apologize for the size of the present bus. For many years, AC Transit used the large bus on the same route. Several years ago, the smaller bus was introduced. Now, we are back to the large one.

The bus ran everyday from morning to midnight. Then the weekends were discontinued, and then, the hours were reduced to the present schedule.

During all those years it satisfied the residents' needs. No one complained about size, noise, safety or emissions. We were grateful to have the bus service the community. For me, there was no problem with safety issues. The drivers do a good job driving the bus and maneuvering the tight spots.

Several years ago, budget cuts in the county funds reduced the service and maintenance of the roads. Breaks in the road are not uncommon. Unfortunately, when people move to a community where there is an "existing nuisance" they decide to "fix it" by finding all sorts of excuses. Forcing AC Transit to jump through hoops may seriously jeopardize future bus service to Kensington.

AC Transit should continue to do what is in the best interest of the agency and choose the bus it feels is the appropriate one for the run.

Eugenia Bailey
Kensington

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Gioia breaks with committee recommendation to appoint county attorney to KMAC

Supervisor John Gioia broke from the recommendations of a nominating committee in naming new appointments to the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council.

The council is an appointed body charged with advising the Contra Costa County Community Development Department on land-use, planning, zoning, variance applications, code enforcement and code changes. The group acts as a community liaison between Kensington and supervisor Gioia.

Gioia named Richard Karlsson, chief assistant county council to Alameda County, to the seat held by David Jenkins. Jenkins had sought reappointment for a



Richard Karlsson

new term and had been recommended by a nominating committee made up of representatives of Kensington civic organizations.

Gioia said the decision was not a reflection on the work Jenkins performed for the council, but instead centered on the value he saw in adding someone with Karlsson's depth of knowledge about county government legal matters, particularly at a time when Kensington is seeking to pass a new zoning ordinance and considering a noise ordinance.

Also appointed to the board was architect Patrick Tahara. Tahara will take the seat previously held by Ed Detmer, who applied for and was appointed to the second alternate seat. The second alternate position was created at the end of 2002, but never filled.

There are a total of five members and two alternates on the board serving staggered terms of four years.

KCC makes Spring celebration evening affair

The Kensington Community Council's annual Spring Celebration is not only offering neighbors a chance to meet, but also parents a night out.

The event, sponsored by Marvin Gardens Real Estate and Andronico's Market, marks its 16th year with a break from tradition. Instead of an afternoon gathering, this year the event moves to the evening. Free childcare featuring pizza and a movie is available.

The festivities kick off March 13 at 6:30 p.m. and will feature live music and a silent auction. Beer, wine and finger foods will be served. Tickets are \$25 per person and available at the door.

Donations of art, books, jewelry and other goods and services are appreciated. This is an important fundraising event for the Kensington Community Council and helps support education and recreation programs in Kensington, as well as the publication of this newspaper. The organization is working to close a \$9,000 budget deficit this year caused in part by a sharp rise in



KCC's Vida Dorroh and Danielle Power work the door at last year's Spring Celebration.

workers' compensation insurance costs.

To donate an item to the silent auction, please call Danielle Power at 524-6737. If you would like to take advantage of the childcare that evening (and attend the party) please call Helen Horowitz at 525-0292.

Cliff Taylor

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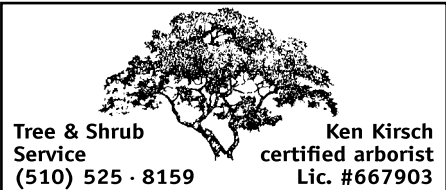
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Neighborhood Notes

The West Contra Costa Unified School District board named Nancy Kawata principal of Kensington Elementary School.

She replaced Robbie Mack who had served as interim principal of the school since the retirement of Judy Kantor.

"Kensington seemed to offer a wonderful opportunity -- great school, great community and great kids," she said.

Kawata takes the post at a time when the school district continues to face severe budget problems, seeks to pass a parcel tax and readies for a major renovation of the school set to begin this summer to modernized the 55-year-old structure and bring it up to seismic safety standards.

Kawata previously served as assistant prin-



Nancy Kawata brings a background in arts and technology education to Hilltop Elementary

principal and interim principal in the Travis Unified School District for two years. She served in separate coordinator positions for arts, visual performing arts, and technology.

She was a teacher for 15 years in Travis and in Springfield, Ohio.

Friends of Kensington Library names officers for 2004

The Friends of the Kensington Library, a community organization dedicated to improving library services in Kensington through membership donations and book sales, named officers for 2004 at its January meeting.

Debbie Hamati will continue to lead the organization as its president. New member Nancy Okasaki becomes vice president and program coordinator for the group and Larry Sullivan will serve as treasurer.



Debbie Hamati

The group is planning to set up a Valentine's Poetry Night in February, but as of press time a date had not been set. The event will combine readings of published and unpublished works by local authors and feature a period of open mike readings by people who would like to share their work. Check the local bulletin boards at the Library or at the Kensington Kiosk in front of the drug store for the date of the event.

Ham it up with Kensington's Amature Radio Operators

The Kensington Amateur Radio Operators, a group of residents who hold amateur radio licenses and are committed to assist the community in cases of earthquakes, wildfires and other emergencies, is seeking new members.

The group maintains five stations throughout Kensington and is offering training for volunteers willing to man those stations in an emergency. Entry level ham radio operating classes will begin the last Tuesday of March at Alvarado School.

The group meets the second Monday every other month beginning with January at 7:30 at the Kensington Community Center. For more information call Marian Gade at 524-9815.

Arlington Community Church names Felicity Wright pastor

The Arlington Community Church named Felicity Wright as its new pastor.

"I keep pinching myself and wondering if I've died and gone to heaven," said Felicity Wright. "In fact, if I could have designed the ideal church in the ideal location, this would be it."



Felicity Wright

While Wright is relatively new to ordained parish ministry, she had been active in church and civic activities for many years. She also brings extensive experience in non-church work, having been a senior manager with state government, public interest groups, and various professional services companies.

Because her family includes many non-believers, she has a particular interest in "translating" the Biblical message in everyday terms, especially to those who are discouraged by the rigidity and reactionary nature of some Christian churches.

"In fact, I treasure the United Church of Christ - the denomination of ACC - precisely because of its tolerance and openness to new ideas. The denomination is living proof of the fact that we are more likely to find God's truth in our lives if we approach God and one another with an open mind and an open heart.

Wright is a single mother of two. Both her children are now in college in Maryland. Wright lived in Maryland before moving to the Bay Area to finish her final year of seminary.

In addition to parenting, Felicity enjoys music, literature, and the outdoors. She has just moved into an apartment in El Cerrito and is looking forward to exploring the many delights of the Bay area whenever she can find some spare time.

Super Troopers



Girl Scouts Troops 319 and 913 recently spent \$800 from their cookie sales to buy and bag canned foods for 300 homebound seniors in Berkeley. Berkeley firefighters pitched in with bread, chicken and perishables. It was one of several public service projects undertaken by the troops. The scouts are looking for projects in Kensington. Suggestions and requests can be made to leader Carolyn Weil at 526-2657.

Kensington Community Education

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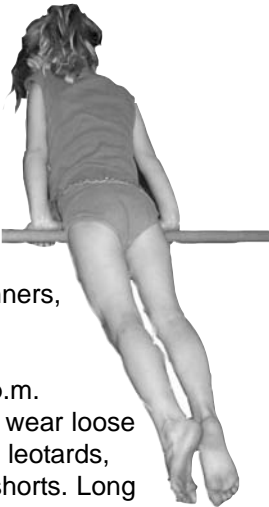
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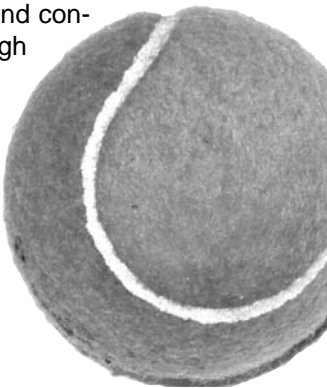
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TENNIS COURTS

KASEP REGISTRATION
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7:00 p.m. Kindergartners
7:15 p.m. Grades 1-6

There are a limited number of openings still available for some KASEP classes in the current session ending March 26. These spaces are available on a pro-rated basis. For more information call Helen Horowitz at the KCC office at 525-0292.

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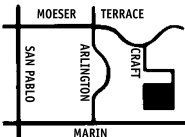
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KCC Kensington Community Council

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Kensington Community Council
Building E, 59 Arlington Ave.
Kensington, CA 94707-1037
525-0292

OFFICE HOURS
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
Office closed: Feb. 16 to Feb. 20

To Register for Class call the office unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits. Those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

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Kensington Calendar

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The Friends of The Kensington Library will present its annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Party to honor the good doctor's 100th birthday on Saturday, February 21 at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Seuss stories will be combined with a dramatization of "Green Eggs and Ham" performed by Myles and Milena Schaller. It will be followed by a meal of green eggs. There will also be a drawing for prizes. This event will be held at the Kensington Community Center. The event is free, but space is limited to only 50 children. Tickets will be handed out beginning Tuesday February 17th at the Kensington Library.

Sunday, February 1
Personal Theology Seminar: Alex Pappas, teacher of world religions at Alameda Community College, presents a talk on Theosophy: Meaning, Origin, and Basic Principles including karma, reincarnation, and Free Will at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Monday, February 2
The Kensington Community Council meets at 7:30 in building E at Kensington Park. Info: 525-0292

Tuesday, February 3
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Wednesday, February 4
The Kensington Study Group of the League of Women Voters will be meeting on February 4th at Sheila Lichtman's house at 21 Camelot Court, Kensington. We will be discussing the League of Women Voters Bay Area Program Planning including: Regional Governance and Planning, Natural Resources, Air Quality, Social Policy, Housing and Transportation. Call 527-1332 to confirm.

Thursday, February 5
The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Meet with tax specialist, Evan Appelman, E.A. (enrolled agent) Q & A session. Potluck lunch. Bring food for 4-6 people, or pay \$3. Info: 526-9146

Sunday, February 8
Personal Theology Seminar: Alex Pappas, teacher of world religions at Alameda Community College, presents a talk. The Theosophical Society and its leaders: H.P.Blavatsky, Olcott, Leadbeater, Krishnamurti at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, February 10
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Wednesday, February 11
Kensington Fire Protection District meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 527-8395

Thursday, February 12
The El Cerrito Garden Club will hold its regular meeting 9:30 a.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. Bob Ehrhart, president of the Northern California Camellia Society will speak on growing camellias. \$3 at door. Info: 234-0135

Thursday, February 12
The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Learn to manage your pain with Amy Aldrich, CCHT (certified hypnotherapist). Lunch \$3. Info: 526-9146

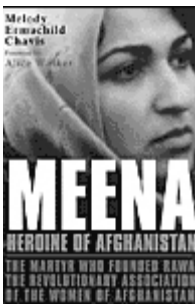
Thursday, February 12
Kensington Community Services District meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 526-4141

Sunday, February 15
Ray Westergard, math teacher and president of the local chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, speaks on Understanding and Protecting the Wall of Separation between Church and State at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, February 17
Berkeley Garden Club presents "Vernal Pools: What? When? Where?" by Carol Witham, consultant on botanical and biological ecosystems of vernal pools of California and Nevada at the Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berkeley. Guests are welcome. Meeting at 1 p.m. and the free program at 2 p.m. Info: 524-4374

Tuesday, February 17
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, February 17
Join **Melody Chavis**, author of *Meena, Heroine of Afghanistan: The Martyr Who Founded RAWA, the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan*, for a reading and discussion at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Avenue, El Cerrito. Ms. Chavis will talk about Meena, other women's lives, and the current situation in Afghanistan. She will show a few slides she took of RAWA's projects when she traveled to the region. Info: 526-7512



Tuesday, February 17
The Kensington Library presents ventriloquist **Randel McGee** and his dragon Groark at 7 p.m. for an evening of silly fun sponsored by The Friends of the Kensington Library. Space is limited. Free tickets will be available starting Feb. 9. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, February 17
The League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa County meets at 7:30 p.m. at El Cerrito Royale, 6510 Gladys Avenue, El Cerrito, in the third floor meeting room. There will be a presentation of the pros and cons of the School District Parcel Tax. Info: 527-1332

Thursday, February 19
The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9

WWWhat?
Information Literacy: a free series of programs at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue teaches how to use a computer mouse, set up an e-mail account and do research online runs. The program runs Mondays from 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call to reserve a seat 524-3043



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Kensington Calendar Continued

a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Come see slides of the Amazon River with Jackie Hetman. Lunch \$3. Info: 526-9146

Saturday, February 21
Kensington Symphony with guest conductor Eric Hansen and pianist Seth Montfort performs Tchaikovsky, Rossini, arr. Britten. at 8 p.m. at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. Suggested donation: \$10; seniors, \$8. Children free. Info: 524-4335.

Sunday, February 22
Mare Cromwell, poet, environmentalist, spiritual seeker and author of *If I Gave You God's Telephone Number*, presents a talk My Spiritual Director is a Cherokee Native American at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, February 24
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, February 24
The Kensington Municipal Advisory Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 526-5546

Tuesday, February 24
The El Cerrito Democratic Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito, in the ground floor conference room. The program will deal with government, private businesses and the erosion of the right to privacy. Info: 527-2194

Thursday, February 26
The Kensington Senior Activity Center 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Hear from Officer Escobar of the Arlington police force about senior safety. Lunch \$3. Info: 526-9146

Sunday, February 29
Ann Jauregui, author and teacher in graduate psychology training programs, An Epiphany: Where does it come from and what is it good for?

Feed your soul and your stomach

Thursday evenings the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley at 1 Lawson Rd. holds Worship and Core Curriculum Programs. This mid-week gathering includes times for socializing (5:30-6 p.m.), sharing a meal (6-7 p.m.), worshipping (7-7:30 pm) and learning together in the Core Curriculum Programs (from 7:30-9 p.m.). Dinner reservations are required. The programs include a series of sessions on UU Heritage and Values, Powerful Non-Defensive Communication, Community Building: Skills for Successful Group Process, Opening Our Hearts: Developing Spiritual Practices, and Higher Purpose. Contact the church office at 525-0302 for more details.

at 9:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. Info: 525-0302

Sunday, February 29
The Unitarian Universalist Center for Spiritual Development is sponsoring an afternoon with Dunyu Lamon Dorje Rinpoche on What is Buddha Nature? How to Find True Happiness at 2:30 to 5:30 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd. Rinpoche will discuss Buddhist philosophy and principles. Admission \$20. Reservations and info: 527-4931



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From the case files of the KPD

Events in November and December

○A homeowner on Willamette Ave. reported someone threw paint on his new fence and side-walk.

○Police arrested a man on Stratford Ave. for public intoxication and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

○A man called police concerned that his friend, a resident of Oak View Ave. was missing. Police located the man in Santa Clara County Jail.

○A resident reported that an aggressive door-to-door magazine salesman threw a rake at him when he refused to purchase any subscriptions.

○A homeowner on Willamette Ave. who had cleaned paint thrown on his new fence discovered someone had taken wet paint left over and scrawled a four letter word, which ironically is what he probably said when he saw it.

○A Lenox Rd. resident called police about a dispute with a neighbor over a fence the neighbor constructed over a sewer pipe that was now leaking. Police referred the man to the civil court system.

○Police approached a man standing alone on Arlington and Amherst at 11:19 p.m. He said he was waiting for a friend. He consented to a search and was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

○A Willamette Ave. resident reported the theft of jewelry and two jewelry boxes worth a total of \$6,100.

○Police responded to a call from a Colusa Ave. resident whose 6-year-old son had his finger caught in the lock mechanism of a door. Firemen freed the child by turning the lock mechanism.

○An Anson Way resident reported the theft of three plants with a total value \$150 from her yard.

Police win certification -- offer warnings, advice and gun locks

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies completed its review of the Kensington Police Department and is expected to grant the department recognition status at its annual conference in March.

The department would be the first in California to successfully complete the independent accreditation agency's recognition program.

The recognition program evaluates police departments on 96 standards that address a range of issues from health and safety to reduced risk of high liability exposure. It represents a scaled down version of the organization's full accreditation program, which is geared for departments significantly larger than Kensington's.

The department said it embarked on the recognition program as a way to improve its professionalism.

Handicap Parking

The Kensington Police Department is enforcing a zero tolerance policy on handicap parking violations and will issue \$275 fines for each infraction.

The department will ticket cars not only illegally parked in a handicap parking space, but also motorists who standing in or blocking access to a handicap spot.

The police said there have been problems by Arlington Pharmacy with people stopping to mail letters as well as by Young's Market and at the Community Center.

Project Childsafe

The Police Department is also participating in Project Childsafe, a national program from the National Shooting Sports Foundation and funded by a U.S. Department of Justice grant that makes available gun locks to promote safe firearm handling and storage. The locks are free of charge at the police department at 217

○A Colusa Ave. business reported an intoxicated man was banging on its window. The man resides at a psychiatric care facility and was having dinner at a local pub with his parents.

○A resident reported the license plate of a car driven by a woman who dumped trash into a construction dumpster. Police traced the woman down and had her take back her trash.

○Police stopped a vehicle because the driver and passenger failed to wear their seat-belts. The police arrested the driver and passenger - brothers from Suisun City - for possession of marijuana for sale.

○A tenant on Stanford Ave. who said his landlord is trying to evict him reported the landlord killed the electricity to his unit. The landlord said he was mixing a cake and must have tripped a circuit.

○A Beloit resident reported a possible phone scam after a caller told him that he won a \$150,000 prize, but first had to pay a small fee to a courier in order to collect it.

○Police arrested a man on Arlington Ave. after a routine traffic stop. The man was in possession of stolen property and burglary tools.

○A woman was taken to the hospital with serious injuries after she rammed the car she was driving into a telephone pole. The vehicle was stolen and the woman, on parole, tested positive for methamphetamine.

○A Kensington resident reported that he loaned his 1988 Ford to a friend of a friend who needed to go shopping. A week and a half later he was still without his vehicle.

○The lawn at Kensington Park suffered damage when some drove a vehicle onto it and spun in circles.

○Police detained four juveniles for egging houses on Coventry Rd. Police made them clean the eggs off the homes and apologize to the homeowners after contacting their parents.



KPD Sgt. Hussain Khan demonstrates gun lock Arlington Ave. to any adults.

Beware of phone scam

The police department said AT&T alerted it to a national phone scam that tricks people into dialing phone numbers in area codes 809, 284 and 876 and result in excessive charges to the caller.

The scam involves voicemail and e-mail messages asking the recipient to call a number about a loved one who has been jailed, injured or killed. Other scams may tell victims they have one a prize and need to call the number.

The phone numbers are similar to 900 numbers, but are based in the Dominican Republic, the British Virgin Islands and Jamaica. Because these area codes are outside the United States the operators of them are not required to disclose rates and charges at the start of the call.

To avoid incurring such charges, check area codes of unfamiliar numbers. If you never make international calls it is possible to have your phone company block international calling as well.

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