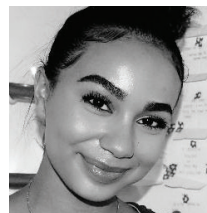


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Seniors *from front page:* Graduating seniors photographed separately:



Marshall Doty,
ECHS, Rice
University



Sofia Dower-
Vasquez, St. Mary's,
U. of Hawaii, Manoa



Penelope Gould,
Oakland School for
the Arts, NYU



Sage LaJoie, ECHS,
UCLA



Athena Lynch,
ECHS, UCLA



Nick Meurer, ECHS,
Humboldt State
University



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Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

JUNE 2018

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 76 NUMBER 5

Congratulations Class of 2018



Photo by Mark Costantini

Bottom row, left to right: Kylee Frassetto, Berkeley HS, U of Oregon; Phoebe Hyer, Oakland School of Arts, UC Berkeley; Aaron Kavalier, ECHS, Utah State University; Julia Chen, Oakland Charter HS, UC Berkeley; Ashley Chong, ECHS, Arizona State University; Spencer Guffy, Albany HS, Gap Year; Thomas Franaszek, St. Mary's College HS, Humboldt State University; Jacob Punz, St. Mary's College HS, Utah State University;

Middle row, left to right: Celia Iacullo, ECHS, Berkeley Community College; Annika Duquet, St. Mary's College HS, UC Santa Cruz; Victoria Wansick, ECHS, Diablo Valley College; Mariko Costantini, ECHS, UC Berkeley; Aron Sherman, ECHS, UC San Diego; Sydney Cerri, ECHS, U. of Hawaii, Manoa; Cameron Grant, ECHS, Cal Poly SLO; Vanessa Shalaby, ECHS, UC Santa Cruz; Mary Elsbury, Oakland School of Arts HS, London School of Fashion; Luc Marshall, ECHS, UC Santa Cruz; Dylan Hendershott, St. Mary's College HS, UC Santa Cruz; Diego Zamalloa-Chion, College Preparatory School, Princeton;

Top row, left to right: Nicholas Connelly, ECHS, UC Santa Cruz; Eli Duggan-Daniels, ECHS, SF State; Roy Miller, ECHS, Cal Poly; Azmi Loh, St. Mary's College HS, UC Santa Cruz; Blaise Ausmus, ECHS, College of Marin; Gretta Kirkby, Albany HS, Chico State; Sofie Ten Broek, Christopher HS, Gavilan College; Haakon Hoyer-Nielsen, St. Mary's College HS, San Diego State; Connor Robertson, ECHS, UCLA.

Graduating seniors not in photo: Dakota Bodell, Albany HS, UC Berkeley; Amanda Capone, ECHS, UC San Diego; Tatiana Carty-Figueroa, ECHS, Humboldt University; Reshma Grewal, ECHS, UCLA; Henry Jackman, St. Mary's, U of Oregon; Elena Nirgiotis, ECHS, Cal Poly SLO; Isabella Wright-Lyons, Berkeley HS, North Ridge University.

**SAVE THE DATE! JUNE 24, 2018 • COME TO THE BIG GREEN PARK
PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE OWNERSHIP OF KENSINGTON PARK! See Page 5**

See Seniors, Back page



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Letters to the Editor

Favoring El Cerrito

Dear Editor,

The Kensington Fire Protection District board is not responsive to the needs of the Kensington community. I have attended monthly board meetings for many years and am always surprised by the board's actions/inactions. The board is totally controlled by the El Cerrito / Kensington fire chief. While it is not unusual for a staff person to control a lay board, in this case it hurts our community.

Every decision made by the board/fire chief favors the city of El Cerrito to the detriment of our community. The latest example is the issue of a drone purchase that came before the board a couple of months ago. The chief wanted Kensington to buy a drone for \$14,500. Someone in audience questioned why the price was so high, when drones can be purchases for much less. The chief's answer was that this drone had bells and whistles. I then asked if El Cerrito was also going to buy a drone. The chief's answer was that El Cerrito did not have a budget for that purchase. It seems clear to me that since El Cerrito/Kensington has a total of three fire stations, and that if a drone was going to be needed, there was no need for more than one drone for the three stations. I then asked if El Cerrito was going to pay for part of the purchase. Again, the answer was that El Cerrito does not have a budget for any part of the drone.

I then asked our board to reconsider the purchase prior to voting. One board member, Don Dommer, was willing to delay the vote. The balance of the board was not. The vote to purchase a \$14,5000 drone passed four to one. One more time the chief had his way. It's another small example of how the KFPD board subordinates its votes to El Cerrito's needs and spends Kensington tax dollars unwisely.

Karl Kruger

Corrections to the KPOA Directory

Dear Editor,

The Kensington Property Owners Association recently mailed each household a 2018-19 Kensington Directory. We subsequently found out there are a few incorrect phone numbers and meeting times listed. We hope your readers will note these corrections to the directory: Non-Emergency Police Dispatch 510-525-7573; County Supervisor John Gioia 510-231-8686; Kensington Fire Protection District meeting regularly starts 7pm. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Gail Feldman, President KPOA

Our Only Choice

Dear Editor:

As a clinical psychologist and 25-year resident involved with KPPCSD for nine years, strongly in favor of a locally controlled police department I have come to two opinions, one in agreement with the largely partisan crowd at the last Matrix meeting responding to calls by the anonymous publication *The Independent*, and one in disagreement. My agreement is that whatever the board's decision, it should be put to a vote of the people for the sake of community cohesion and a sense of legitimacy. I disagree with the idea that contracting out means losing local control and the local character of our police department. I believe that our only feasible and healing choice for our roiling community is contracting out.

"Independent PD" doesn't make sense because independent PDs exist only in police states, and the insurmountable problem with the present structure is that our department has had elements in recent history of such independent traits that have resulted in an "above the law" mentality among some personnel. Morale and internal cohesion are not good. Sadly, here as it is nationally, the laws protecting police personnel often make accountability next to impossible when some do not hold themselves accountable with integrity. Thankfully we have some excellent officers and the directors, interim chief and general manager are not blameworthy as under the present structure their hands are tied.

See Letters, page 7

JULY/AUGUST 2018 DEADLINES:

Advertising Deadline ❖ JUNE 8 Editorial Deadline ❖ JUNE 10

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

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

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

K E N S I N G T O N

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K E N S I N G T O N

Community Education

KASEP

Kensington Afterschool Enrichment Program

Congratulations on completing a successful school year! We are gearing up for summer camp as it begins on Monday, June 11th. We wish you a fun and adventurous summer and look forward to seeing you in the Fall! Fall registration is scheduled on Tuesday, September 11th and classes will begin Monday, September 17th.



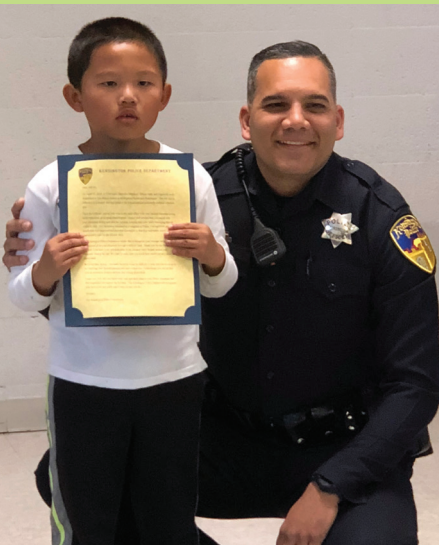
Gardening gift for Mom



Pastel Art animal



Learning Spanish through music



Hilltop School second grader and KASEP student, Aili Yi, was awarded a Good Citizen award by Kensington police officers Amit Nath and Stephanie Wilkens on May 9. When fellow second-grader Peter Pan broke his arm at school, Aili came to the rescue by helping translate to police, paramedics, and Peter's parents. He was instrumental in making sure that everyone understood each other—translating the paramedics' instructions into Mandarin, while translating Peter's family's questions into English for the paramedics. Thankfully, Peter is now back at school, smiling as his friends signed his new arm cast.

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

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

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

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

Acrylic Artists

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

The artists are seeking inspiration this summer and will resume painting in September.

Tai Chi Chuan

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

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

KCC Summer Camp 2018

Welcomes You!

Top Five Reasons To Come to KCC Summer Camp

1. Your children's friends from Kensington Hilltop are already here.
 2. We are open from 9-5pm with before care and after care for working parents.
 3. It's affordable! At KCC we know about the many demands on parents and we want to keep summer camp costs low for you.
 4. Every day campers get 45 minutes of arts/crafts, 45 minutes of tennis and 45 minutes of self-directed time (foosball table, ping pong, lanyards, board games and more).
 5. One fee includes BBQ lunch on Friday, free T-shirt, field trip entrance fees and transportation, and a snack each afternoon.
- Summer camp is right around the corner! We are absolutely thrilled to have a new Camp Director this year. Joe McGinnis comes to us from Kensington Hilltop School as he works as a resource specialist aide and he also works at Neighborhood School as an after school program teacher. He knows many of the kids and he is a welcome addition to our community. He will join Marshall Doty, Head Counselor and returning counselors, Aaron Moore and Natalie Meacham.



Camp enrollment is restricted to children entering, as of fall 2018, 1st grade up to 6th grade.

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

Week 1 June 11 - June 15 * FULLY ENROLLED

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

Week 2 June 18 - June 22 * FULLY ENROLLED

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

Week 3 June 25 - June 29 * LIMITED SPACE

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

Week 4 July 2 - July 6

Closed July 4, Short Week

- Specialty: Sweet Treats with Vicky
- No Field Trip

Week 5 July 9 - July 13 - SPIRIT WEEK

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

Week 6 July 16 - July 20

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

Week 7 July 23 - July 27

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

Week 8 July 30 - Aug. 3 * LIMITED SPACE

- OLYMPIC WEEK
- Field Trip: Bladium

Week 9 Aug. 6 - Aug 10 * LIMITED SPACE

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

Week 10 Aug 13 -Aug. 17 - End of Camp * 2 SPACES LEFT

Air Bouncer and Jousting Tent

- Specialty: Upcycle T shirts with April
- Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg. E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707.
E-mail: kccrec@yahoo.com, or call 525-0292. M-F, 11:30am-5pm.

Hilltop Elementary Students Win Poetry Awards

By Linnea Due

Kensington Hilltop fifth grader Iris Fisher won first place in one of four elementary school categories in RichmondWrites! Poetry Contest, a competition for all grade levels in the West Contra Costa County School District. Hilltoppers Michael Hassner and Lucy Anderson took second and third, while Damian Piech brought home an honorable mention. Fisher explained in an interview that her technology prep teacher, Susan Gonzalez, helped the students enter the contest.

Fisher won with a poem called “The Moon.” “I wrote that poem for the contest, but I’ve written poetry before. I like to write it. Sometimes I like to read it,” she added, sounding more iffy about that prospect.

She was surprised by her win. At an awards ceremony at Richmond City Hall, she and others read their poems out loud. “It was cool,” she reported. Fisher also likes to write fiction, particularly fantasy, and she does all forms of art, including painting, clay, and collage. Luckily, Hilltop offers an art program. Fisher also likes to cook. “I usually cook things like vegetables with lots of garlic and onions.” And like all those proficient in the kitchen, she’s chosen her side of the divide: “I won’t bake without a recipe, but I’ll cook without a recipe.”

Katharine Mieszkowski, Fisher’s mother, said of the awards ceremony: “It was great to see children’s achievements in poetry celebrated with the same enthusiasm you usually see at basketball games. People were applauding for all the kids, not just their own.” She credited Susan Gonzalez for encouraging the kids to enter the contest. “It’s a credit to her,” Mieszkowski said. The contest, now in its eighth year, attracted entries from nineteen elementary, middle, and high schools in Richmond and West County.

The Moon
By Iris Fisher
**Growing, Shrinking,
Light, Dark
Waxing, Waning
Full, New
Crescent, Gibbous
Always Changing
The Moon**

Second Matrix Meeting Useful but Confounding



Richard Brady (left) was assisted during the meeting by Bob Deis (right), who prowled the room, microphone in hand. Photos by David Bergen.

By Linnea Due

On April 28, over 225 people showed up at the Community Center for the second Matrix meeting. Public Law Group’s Bob Deis, who has advised two permutations of the KPPCSD board on personnel and management decisions, joined Matrix Consulting Group’s president Richard Brady and senior manager Byron Pipkin to present preliminary findings of Matrix’s study of Kensington’s policing options. A six-point agenda listed time limits, with Deis in charge of the microphone and time-keeping. Due to glare, Powerpoint slides were again unreadable, though Pipkin attempted to keep track of points on a whiteboard at the front of the room.

Deis opened by saying that Kensington was not unique in investigating its service solutions, a path driven primarily by the cost of CalPERS and other benefits. He said that he’d never seen the amount of community input that the Matrix study generated—“and *that’s* what makes Kensington unique.”

Brady took the mike to explain that Kensington had three options to meet its policing needs: the current model, contracting with an outside agency, or engineering a hybrid solution. The online survey, which generated over 600 responses, was meant to substitute for the same number of personal interviews. About one in eight residents participated. Brady called the concern over people retaking the survey unfounded: out of 625 people, only about twenty had more than one recorded response. He said that about a third of the responses favored contracting out, a third favored improving the present department, and a third were on the fence, awaiting information.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the survey was that 98 percent of survey takers said that they feel safe in Kensington. Brady called this vital information, as often people are frightened in an area that could objectively be called safe. Over three-quarters said police were responsive to their needs and over 85 percent felt their interactions with police were positive. Brady noted that more information from the survey, many emails, and phone calls would be incorporated in Matrix’s report, which was still in draft stage.

An audience member wanted Matrix to affirm that residents would vote on options. Deis suggested using hand votes of those in the audience, and asked what proportion are interested in maintaining local control. Pipkin guesstimated this vote at 80 percent. After complaints about not being able to hear or understand the question, Gail Feldman, president of the Kensington Property Owners Association, asked the presenters to stick to the agenda. That suggestion received near-unanimous acclaim.

Brady said that crimes in Kensington were stable from 2012-2016 despite staffing variations, and that Kensington residents rarely request service. As a result, he said, officers have extensive opportunities—typically 80 percent of their shift—to use proactively. That time can be spent patrolling, attending community events, walking through neighborhoods, talking to residents to identify problems—the essence of community policing. Brady noted that this amount of proactive time, especially during daylight hours, is extremely rare. “The biggest issue,” he said, “is what they use this incredibly valuable time to do.” Unfortunately, almost all of this time is undocumented. “We’re not

saying it isn’t used,” Brady said, “but the point of effective policing is directing the goals of proactive time. Now there is no strategy for addressing that proactive time.”

Maintaining staffing continues to be difficult. He said that an effective and safe force needs two people on duty, ideally one a supervisor. In Kensington, there is only one officer on duty 168 hours per week, with no supervisor on late nights. Because there are only six officers, there is a lot of overtime, which might explain the KPD’s double the average rate of turnover. Compensation is lower than at neighboring agencies, the interim chief often must be in the field to take shifts, and there is scant opportunity for training. No comparison costs were given for Brady’s recommended force of five officers, five sergeants, and a chief.

District administrator Lynn Wolter brought up the CalPERS termination fee—she estimated that if KPD went inactive, we would owe over \$16 million to CalPERS and possibly more. Each year the district receives an actuarial valuation from CalPERS; the last is as of June 30, 2016 (June 30, 2017 figures will arrive this August). Wolter explained in a later interview that her figures were based on that report, which includes a section titled “Hypothetical Termination Liability.” Hypothetical should be underlined: figures depend upon market returns, how much of the district’s liability is funded vs. unfunded (KPPCSD’s funded liability ranged from 70 percent to 78 percent over the period 2011-2016), actuarial data, and more. The terminated pool is invested in less risky securities with a lower rate of return. Estimates for Kensington’s unfunded liability at 1.75 percent is almost \$16 million; at 3 percent, it’s around \$12,500,000. Audience members wanted to know if Matrix would include CalPERS costs in its analysis, and Brady said they would.

Frustration boiled through on multiple occasions, often around the hand-raising that was supposed to indicate support for a particular strategy. Many did not understand the question, and shouts for clarity were ignored. Towards the end, Karl Kruger said that the presenters were trying “to sell contracting out”; it was, however, hard to tell what the presenters were trying to sell, if anything, and those who attended the meeting hoping to hear comparative financial information or recommendations left disappointed.

As minutes crept past noon, Interim Chief Rickey Hull discreetly informed Pipkin that the Community Center was rented for a 1pm event. The chairs that Hull had found for standers throughout the meeting had to be shifted back to their normal spots. Brady ended the session abruptly with promises to deliver a phase one report, though a time frame was not mentioned (see conclusion).

Conversations outside and email exchanges afterwards revealed that meeting-goers felt that the presenters did a poor job. Most mentioned that some of the most important information came from the audience, such as factoring in CalPERS costs, costs of the Public Safety Building, and whether partnering with El Cerrito PD could trigger annexation of Kensington by the City of El Cerrito. No one liked the hand counts—said Linda Lipscomb, “I was pleased to see that an overwhelming majority raised their hands indicating that they want to have local control... I felt that the other questions were not framed as clearly as I would like to have heard them, and as to some questions, it was totally unclear what was being asked.”

Kevin Padian said, “Lynn Wolter provided the most important information... If dissolving our police means a CalPERS obligation of \$17 million or beyond, we can’t afford to do that. If I’m getting this right, contracting our obligation to another district would comprise not only their officers’ time and wages but their pensions as well. So we’d be paying a double burden of pension obligations... This is the elephant in the room. Only idiots ignore elephants.”

Jim Watt thought the meeting raised more questions than gave answers. He queried the need for two officers on duty 24/7 and noted that there was no mention of how higher staffing levels would impact the need for more space in the Public Safety Building. “It was suggested that we should provide body cameras and 40 hours of officer training annually, but there was no talk about the costs of upgrading the existing police department. We have a long way to go before we can do a cost benefit analysis of the options. Hopefully the final analysis turns out better than the previews.”

John Sullivan wrote by email, “These meetings that seek public input before providing public education are not very satisfying. Those of us without signs in our yard proclaiming that we’ve already made up our minds have many more questions than we have answers... Given the very competitive market for hiring police, how much more investment in salaries and ongoing recruitment does Kensington need to keep our department fully staffed with competent officers? What are the basic standards for annual police training...? What kinds of new HR and management investments are needed to lower the outrageous legal fees we are paying for our police department and to build a professional culture that lessens the likelihood of another Reno scandal? ... Ultimately it is going to get down to what police standards we want and what we are willing to pay.”

Gail Feldman of the Kensington Property Owners’ Association said by email: “What strikes me is that clearly having a locally controlled department is not of much value without strong management leadership, a strategy based on community stakeholder and board direction on priorities and performance feedback. We’ve had little of this over the years despite having several different police chiefs—some with management training. While I don’t exactly blame our electeds for this (me included), it shows that this is a complex area that requires a lot of work and understanding. I’m not sure that many small towns and cities do it well... I hope that Matrix can benchmark Kensington with some communities that have it right so we can determine whether we can actually do the job of managing our own PD at a reasonable cost to the taxpayers.”

When reached for an interview, Brady said that he thought the meeting “went great,” that it “flowed better and was more structured than the first one.” When asked about why he described the KPD as a hybrid department, he answered, “because they contract out dispatch.” This is common with small departments, and said Brady, “as a result, many departments are hybrid.”

Brady said that Matrix has not confirmed Wolter’s figures for CalPERS termination, cautioning, “That’s an awfully big price tag.” He explained that so far their emphasis has been on examining departmental needs, not on the ramifications of contracting out. He said the report will be out in a “couple of months, August, maybe end of July.” Matrix will do a formal presentation of findings of the department at a KPPCSD board meeting. Brady’s positive assessment aside, it seemed that Kensington residents, so often at odds, finally found something to agree upon—the Matrix meeting left a great deal to be desired.

As the *Outlook* went to press, the draft version of the 62-page Phase 1 report was released. In it, Matrix analyzes the department and makes recommendations, including instituting training, upping staffing and supervisory positions, and developing a strategic plan among many others. Matrix estimates the cost to implement its recommendations as \$1.25 million annually, or about \$550 per household. The report can be found on the KPPCSD website under the May 24 board meeting heading.

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March Police Log

March 4 VEHICLE ACCIDENT, Arlington Ave. Both parties declined a police report.
March 5 HIT AND RUN, property damage. Arlington Ave. Parked vehicle hit.
March 6 IDENTITY THEFT. Arlington Ave. A few months ago, rp started getting spam mail with random names on it. Last night rp's credit card was denied at CVS. Advised by Chase bank his card was cancelled, and someone had changed all his personal info.
March 7 THEFT. Highland. Teacher's purse stolen in office.
March 12 THEFT. Edgecroft Rd. WM 31-year-old roommate got into rp's bank account and made unauthorized withdrawals. Unsure if he's inside the house. Questions about changing locks.
March 16 BURGLARY. Arlington Ave. KPD storage shed alongside Community Center.
March 22 BURGLARY, Norwood Ave. Construction site was burglarized. Nothing taken but signs of prowling.
March 23 IDENTITY THEFT. Report taken at KPD, Arlington Ave.
March 24 ARREST FOR OUTSIDE AGENCY. Occurred on Arlington Ave. Warrant arrest.

April Police Log

April 1 BURGLARY. Occurred at Fuse Fitness on Colusa Ave. R/P part of CERT team, just discovered their supply shed has been broken into.
April 3 PETTY THEFT. Occurred at Arlington Ace Hardware on Arlington Ave. Bolt cutters taken. Two suspects arrested.
VANDALISM. Yale Ave. Downed sign.
April 4 IDENTITY THEFT. Avon Rd. Reporting ID theft.
April 5 VANDALISM. Officer-initiated activity at Arlington Ave.
BURGLARY, Arlington Ave. Residential. RP returned home from two weeks away, rear glass door broken.

CITIZEN
FORUM

Fait Accompli?

By A. Stevens Delk, PhD

Did you reply to the KPPCSD survey included with your last Bay View bill? Perhaps you missed it—a small card that you might have thought was part of a larger flier about worm composting.

The district was seeking “your opinion on the timeframe for implementing residential collection service enhancements.” That is, do you want Bay View to pick up your food waste, along with your yard trimmings, for composting beginning 1) in early 2019, for an additional seven percent rate increase, or 2) maybe in 2021, when you likely will have to do so and might have to pay even more? The question was not if, but when, you want to start paying Bay View to pick up food waste for composting—at an additional cost, of course.

We already pay the highest rates in Contra Costa County—17 percent higher than Orinda; 36 percent, Lafayette; 44 percent, Moraga; 61 percent, Danville. And all currently have food composting. But we do pay less than Piedmont, which coupled with much higher home prices in Piedmont makes Kensington a relatively affordable place to live.

We have been told for years that it is more expensive to service Kensington, because many streets are too narrow for trucks that mechanically pick up large wheeled carts. Now, apparently everyone will automatically get one or two 65!-gallon carts for combined yard and food waste. In addition, there will be a different color 65-gallon cart for recyclables. Unfortunately, the economy of mechanization will not trickle down to us. And we were not asked if there are concerns about how to roll behemoth carts up and down steep driveways and steps, or where to store them. One solution many will choose is to leave them on the sidewalk or easement 24/7. Won't uniform green and blue trash carts along our streets make Kensington the Neatest Place in California?

Most jurisdictions that collect food waste provide a small “kitchen composting pail” for conveniently collecting scraps. They recommend dumping it frequently and covering the food waste with yard debris to reduce odor, or even freezing small batches and putting them in the “green” cart only on pickup day. But what will residents do if they have no yard waste—put a gallon or two of food scraps in the 65-gallon cart and wrestle it to the curb for pickup each week, as required by law?

The district has pointed out that the distance garbage trucks travel impacts rates. Like Kensington, Sausalito is hilly with narrow streets. Yet Bay Cities Refuse can drive across the bridge, pick up waste (including food scraps) and return to Richmond for 10 percent less than its sister company Bay View Refuse charges us for service requiring a much shorter Richmond-Kensington round trip. With our new food waste collection, we will be charged 17 percent more.

In 2021 the district should be focusing on what to do when the Bay View contract expires in 2023. I hope that board (two KPPCSD elections away) will send out RFPs to companies that might provide more economical service—including food composting, perhaps as an option or with a discount for those who already compost.

One final comment on costs: If ratepayers choose to delay having Bay View pick up food waste until 2022 and subsequently experience a 15 percent increase to add composting, the four-year cost would be less than if the service had been started in 2019 with a 7 percent increase.

Finally, China is no longer taking plastic and paper from many recycling facilities because of high cross-contamination levels. If the recyclables market collapses completely, these materials may have to be taken to landfill. The district is concerned that we may be forced to get food waste out of our garbage cans to meet California's landfill diversion requirements. But based on current tonnage data, if we did not combine food scraps with yard waste next year, and also had to send all recyclables to landfill, we would still meet the 2020 California “75 Percent Recycling” goal, which sets a “target” for landfill disposal at no more than 2.7 pounds per person per day. (See my letter in the February Outlook extolling our current 1.3 PPD landfill achievement.)

Recycling food scraps and soiled paper into compost is the right thing to do for environmental reasons, a fact that should have been conveyed on the survey or elsewhere. And the community should have been surveyed more thoroughly and allowed real input. And the board should have considered the whole issue more fully rather than deciding to require food composting by Bay View sooner or later.

April 7 VEHICLE THEFT. Sunset Dr. Last seen 1700 hours yesterday.

April 9 DUMPING Occurred on Willamette Ave. Trash dumping in school dumpsters. Poss resp's letter found.

VANDALISM, Coventry Rd. Driver side rear window smashed. No signs of items taken.

April 10 GRAND THEFT. Highgate Rd., officer-initiated activity.

April 11 BURGLARY. Purdue Ave..

April 13 VANDALISM. Occurred at Arlington Wine and Spirits. Graffiti on building second time this week, they cleaned it off yesterday, but happened again last night. R/P didn't want a report just wanted KPD to be aware.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT, Colusa/Thousand Oaks. No injury. Assistance to outside agency.

April 15. DUMPING, Highland Blvd. RP reporting fast food trash left in front of her residence. Requesting to speak to an officer about it.

April 16 BURGLARY, Highgate Ct. Occurred last night. Entry thru broken window on side of house. RP has been through the house. Nothing taken. . Disposition: Case Report Taken.

April 17 BURGLARY. Berkeley Park Blvd., RP on second floor.

April 18 VEHICLE ACCIDENT, Colusa Ave. No injury.

IDENTITY THEFT, Trinity Ave. IRS requesting police report from victim.

April 19 HIT AND RUN, property damage. Colusa/Ocean View. Brown Ford Focus hit.

April 23 DUMPING, Amherst Ave. Plastic bags & boxes dumped in land between 246 & 248 Amherst. No one seen. Unknown when it occurred.

April 24 VANDALISM. Arlington Wine and Spirits. Side of bldg. tagged during the night.

April 25 BURGLARY, Ocean View Ave. Woke up this morning and found the glass broken on the rear kitchen door. Believed someone attempted to break in.

BURGLARY, Oak View Ave. Auto window smashed, briefcase taken.

April 30 HIT AND RUN, Beloit. Property damage to front fender driver side.

Kensington Calendar

Locations:

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

Ongoing:

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

JUNE

June 3 Gun Violence. An open-ended discussion on background checks, repeal of the 2nd amendment, and school safety led by UUCB members Warren Zittel, Joann & Jeff Marshall, Charlie Hewitt, Lindsay Lam. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
June 4-12 Kensington Library closed for improvements for eight days. There will be new paint in several parts of the library and new furniture in the children’s, teen, and reading areas. The book return will be closed during the renovations, and holds will not be available for pick up. The library will reopen on Thursday, June 14 at 10am. Patrons needing library services should visit the El Cerrito Library or any other Contra Costa County Library branch.
June 6 Kensington Unit of League of Women Voters meeting will be held at 28 Camelot Ct. at 1:15pm. All are welcome! 527-4240
June 7 First Thursday Fellowship, ACC, 6pm. Monthly potluck supper and program for ACC’ers and guests. Open to all, free.
June 10 Occupella. Original and familiar political songs led by Hali Hammer, award-winning singer-songwriter. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
June 14, 21 & 28 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs, puppets, shaky eggs, and loads of fun! Kensington

Library. Two free identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am.
June 17 Toby Blome, active in Code Pink International Women’s movement. Her special focus is drones and their growing development. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
June 18 Memoir Group 10am, ACC. Free Monthly Memoir Group led by Ruth Robinson in the Fireside Room.
June 18 Summer Classic Movie: *Singing in the Rain* The musical. Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O’Connor sing and dance through early Hollywood. Everybody loves the main number, of course, but don’t forget the other classics like “Good Morning” and “Make ‘em Laugh.” Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.
June 19 Puppeteer Nick Knave presents “Wolfie’s Puppet Party” Featuring stories and songs hosted by the indefatigable Wolfie T Wolfe, this is a crazy cabaret for kids of all ages! Kensington Library, 6pm. Free.
June 22 Bridge Night 6pm, ACC. Monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACC’ers and new guests.
June 24 Human Trafficking. Arlene Hipp is director of Bay Area Legal Aid. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
June 24 Big Green Park Party Community Center, 2-5pm. Come celebrate Kensington’s paying off the bond that financed our park. Food, fun for all.
June 25 Summer Classic Movie: *The Adventures of Robin Hood.* Errol Flynn plays the legendary English outlaw Robin Hood. See amazing feats of archery and derring-do. Boo the dastardly deeds of Sir Guy of Guisborne played by Basil Rathbone. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free. Kindergarten & up.
June 25 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson. Book Club is open to all. 6:30pm. Free.
June 26 Giant Squirt Guns! Come in and build your own giant squirt gun. Parent help gladly welcomed. After everyone has built their squirter, we will go outside and test them by squirting everyone EXCEPT the librarian. (Okay, maybe you can squirt him too.) Kensington Library, 1pm. Free.
June 26 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.



KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
217 ARLINGTON AVENUE / KENSINGTON, CALIFORNIA 94707
TEL: 510-526-4141 FAX: 510-526-1028



iCOP R. Hull

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3/25/18

Due to a technical issue concerning volume that could not be resolved, the phone number to the Albany PD dispatch center has changed.

Working with AT&T, several methods were attempted to fix this problem but they were unsuccessful. After nine months into the process of connecting with the Albany Police Department for Computer Assisted Dispatching and Records Management Services (CAD/RMS) it was decided in the best interest of the public to obtain a new number. The old non-emergency number, 510-236-0474, will still work but I want to encourage the public to call the new non-emergency phone number; **510-525-7573 or 525-7KPD.**

I apologize for any inconvenience this non-emergency phone number change may cause but it is in the best interest of public safety.

Letters

...from page 2

The good news: it’s possible to have the best of both worlds by thinking creatively. Feasible ideas exist that allow for both contracting out and retaining the values we seem to share—a PD dedicated to our Kensington community, officers we know and who know us, who we respect and who respect us, who we care about and who care about us, who have professional integrity and don’t create massive legal bills. A ballpark estimate is that police-related legal bills amount to about \$3 million in ten years, which could make a significant contribution towards retiring our alarmingly growing CalPERS debt.

Leonard Schwartzburd, PhD



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Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

KCC-JUNE 4, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 6:30pm. 525-0292

KPSC-JUNE 11, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

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

KFPD-JUNE 13, Fire Protection District 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD-JUNE 14, JUNE 28, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

KIC- JUNE 25, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 524-7514.

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

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



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