

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

MAY 2009

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Kids of all ages got a jump on Easter, Saturday, April 11th, at Arlington Park.

Easter Bunny's 1st Stop: Kensington!

Easter came early to Kensington this year, as Saturday morning, April 11th, dawned hot and sunny at nearby Arlington Park. Other cities across the nation and across the world had to wait till Sunday, but we get our Easter first – and that's as it should be.

Many of us can recall Easter Egg Hunts when we actually hunted for real, brightly colored, hand-dyed, eggs. On this particular Saturday, however, the powers that be weren't quite as hard-boiled as our parents once were, and the El Cerrito Firefighters Organization cut right to the chase – they spread out a huge amount of (wrapped) candy on the ground, along with some brightly colored, (plastic) eggs, and at just five minutes after the appointed hour, released the excited children.

Monica Kortz, Director of Recreation for El Cerrito, estimated attendance at 1,000 – the largest Easter gathering in over twenty-three years of sponsoring this event (at Arling-

ton Park for the past twenty). The event was underwritten by the El Cerrito Fire Department, with additional funding provided by local merchants and donations from attendees.

Enthusiastic children rushed to grab as much candy as they could gather, and place it in their colorful Easter baskets (or large plastic bags, as was frequently the case). Well, the firefighters know what kids like, and no-one reported having seen that much candy on the ground since last Easter.



Robin Hanson, Jammin' with the Easter Bunny at Arlington Park

The Easter bunny was in attendance, of course, on this day accompanied by his own personal strolling violinist, local resident, Robin Hanson. (And why is it that the Easter Bunny is always considered to be male? When you think of it, doesn't it seem like it might make more sense that this iconic figure is female, what with the eggs and all?)

One onlooker appeared to wonder if, indeed, perhaps the Easter Bunny was *not* a male, and tried to get close enough to "type" him/her (that's the scientific term for 'assessing gender' in the rabbit world). Now you have to get pretty close to a bunny to type it, and on this day *His Bunnyness* was having none of it. And, despite the fact that even a moderately quick typist can type up to fifty bunnies a minute, that mystery will have to remain unsolved for at least one more year. 'Til then, E.B.!

LAFCO – No Laughing Matter

Last month the attention of many residents, and that of our local district board members, was riveted by Contra Costa County's suggestion that the consolidation of the Kensington fire and police departments should be considered.

In 2001, LAFCO – the *Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission* – was commissioned to review the fire and emergency medical services provided by all cities and special districts in the county, to evaluate their ability to provide those services to their constituents in a comprehensive and cost-effective manner.

In April, a preliminary report on Kensington was prepared for LAFCO. The report recommended absorption of the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) by the KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District – which currently includes the police department, park & rec., and solid waste management).

According to that report – the Municipal Service Review [MSR] recently prepared for LAFCO, "*In 1963...Contra Costa LAFCO was formed as a county-wide agency to discourage urban sprawl and encourage the orderly formation and development of local government agencies. LAFCO is responsible for coordinating logical and timely changes in local governmental boundaries...as well as reviewing ways to reorganize, simplify, and streamline governmental structure. Its efforts are focused on ensuring that services are provided efficiently and economically, while agricultural and open space lands are protected...LAFCO conducts service reviews to evaluate the provision of the municipal services within the county.*"

LAFCO hired a consultant to prepare an MSR for Contra Costa cities and districts, including Kensington, and received responses to that review from the public and relevant cities and districts – in our case, the KFPD and the KPPCSD – at an April 8th meeting at the county seat in Martinez.

Public concerns voiced at that meeting – and at April KFPD and KPPCSD board meetings – included 1) a concern

[See LAFCO, page 2...]

From the New Editor...

It's been an intense first month as your new editor – according to one long-time Kensington resident, the busiest she's seen here in 25 years.

While I was still trying to figure out what all the letters stand for in KPPCSD (*Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District* – for short!), Contra Costa County threw down the gauntlet about whether or not Kensington's fire and police/community service districts should remain independent – from each other – or even from the county, itself.

Kensington, we-can't-forget-no-matter-how-hard -we-try, lies on an earthquake fault, in the midst of a dangerous fire zone, adjacent to large, highly flammable open space. (And that's the good news!)

How, and by whom, fire and police services are provided is a critical issue in our town. Tax revenues, budgets, jobs, spheres of influence, and entire departments are suddenly at stake. See the article on LAFCO, herein, for details on the potential consolidation of the police and fire districts.

Meanwhile, challenges within the police depart-

[See EDITOR, page 8...]

Open Studios Preview



Kensington scuptor, Grayson Malone, above, is among three Kensington artists (including Renee Benoit and David Kwett) who will show their work in their home studios at Pro Arts' East Bay Open Studios in June. You can preview their work – and that of 400 other artists – at the East Bay Open Studios Preview Exhibition, Opening Tuesday, May 5th at Jack London Square (through June 14th). See Calendar for details.

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... *LAFCO* from page 1

that the recommendation for the advisability of consolidating those two agencies had not included an evaluation of the fire danger involved in a potential reduction of services (as voiced by Kensington resident and Fire Protection Engineer, Gilbert G. Bendix; 2) a concern that consolidation may present an opportunity for the county to reduce the overall funding of the fire and police departments, leaving Kensington to fight crime and fire with less total tax revenues (as voiced by Lynn Wolter, and others), and 3) a concern that an MSR had yet to be done on the KPPCSD, before which a decision to consolidate should not take place.

Kensington resident, Joan Gallegos, privately voiced a concern that, "if the KFPD is dissolved and its functions passed to KPPCSD...the KFPD board – which has done an outstanding job of managing that district – (would) be dissolved."

One man summed up many Kensington residents' feelings when he said, "I don't really care if the two districts are consolidated or not. I just want to make sure that if there's a fire and I call the fire department, somebody comes to put out the fire. If there's a burglary and I call the police department, I want someone to come over and protect me."

The question remains as to what is the best way to provide those services.

Follow the Money

Further complicating matters is the large cash reserve on hand at the KFPD, while the KPPCSD has a fiscal deficit. Some residents feel that since both police and fire services are just as important to our community, it doesn't make sense for one department to have a surplus and the other to have to consider making cuts in service in order to balance its budget.

Others feel that the Fire District has done an excellent job of budgeting – including remodeling the fire station, purchasing a new fire engine, completing a *fire flow improvement project*, which added almost 5,000 feet of water main improvements and 32 new hydrants throughout the community, as well as setting aside sufficient money to fund its retirement liabilities for past employees of the Fire District – and that it shouldn't be "punished" for its sound fiscal management.

The KPPCSD maintains that its budget problems are due to lack of revenue, rather than to a lack of financial management. Residents who feel the tax revenues supporting both these service districts should be shared more equally also point to the unequal distribution of those revenues.

In a nutshell, due to apportionment decisions made in 1978 when *Proposition 13* went into effect, the fire protection district gets approximately a 30% share – and the police service district about a 13% share – of property tax revenues available for fire- and police protection. Revenues were apportioned based on budgets that were in effect at the time, and those proportions essentially haven't changed.

KFPD

Board President, Nina Ramsey, says, "The KFPD recommends the LAFCO Board take no action regarding consolidation of the KFPD and the KPPCSD until the MSR of the KPPCSD is complete and there has been an analysis of the revenue of KPPCSD and the impact that a consolidation would have on services."

KPPCSD

Board President, Bill Wright, says, "We support the recommendation in the final draft as presented to LAFCO at the April 8th meeting (which suggested that a final decision be delayed until an MSR for Community Service Districts could be completed). Our board would be particularly interested in further fiscal analysis of any recommendation they would make." According to Wright, that MSR is expected to be completed this summer.

District 1 Supervisor, John Gioia

Supervisor Gioia agreed that more information – and input from Kensington residents – is needed before the best decision can be made. He also suggested that another option to explore might be the service- and cost-effectiveness of the police district contracting out police services to the El Cerrito Police Department, as the Fire Service District currently contracts out our fire protection services to the El Cerrito Fire Department.

[See *LAFCO*, page 5...]

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COMMUNITY EDUCATION

KASEP

Spring session continues through Friday, June 5. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We can be reached at (510) 525-0292 or kccrec@yahoo.com.

KCC Summer Camp

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in fall 2009. The camp runs June 15 through August 21, 2009, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Campers may enroll on a weekly basis. Cost per week is \$205. To ensure the best experience for each child, our camp has a maximum of 62 children per week. We employ one director, a head counselor, eight counselors, a tennis instructor, and a “specialty consultant” each week to work with the campers. Extended day care is available 8-9 a.m. and 5-5:30 p.m. each day for an additional \$7 fee paid to our camp director.

Each week the campers will enjoy:

- Field trip on Wednesday by private bus to points of interest around the Bay Area such as Scandia, Water World, the Exploratorium and the Jungle.
- Special activities such as carpentry, gymnastics, golf, dance and cooking.
- Tennis with Kim Roots, three days per week.
- Games, arts and crafts, hiking and fun!

SUMMER CAMP SPECIAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE*

Week 1, June 15 – June 19, Carpentry with Sandy Thacker; field trip to The Jungle.



Week 2, June 22 – June 26, Carpentry with Sandy Thacker; field trip to Lake Anza.

Week 3, June 29 – July 3, Environmental Art with Chris Lack; field trip to Oakland Zoo.

Week 4, July 6 – July 10, Golf with Alex Brown; field trip to The Exploratorium.

Week 5, July 13 – 17, Gymnastics with Judy Baker; field trip to Scandia.

Week 6, July 20 – 24, Gymnastics with Judy Baker; field trip to Oakland A’s game.

Week 7, July 27 – 31, Hip Hop with Tati Argue; field trip to Lake Temescal.

Week 8, Aug. 3 – 7, Sports and Games w/Kim Roots; field trip to Waterworld.

Week 9, Aug.10 –14, Cooking with Janet Martorano; field trip to Pier39/Alcatraz/Aquarium.

Week 10, Aug.17 – 21, Cooking with Janet Martorano; field trip to The Jungle.

**Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances.*

Interested in working for KCC as a summer camp counselor? Please call the office at 525-0292 or e-mail at kccrec@yahoo.com. Applicants should be graduating from high school in spring 2009 or currently in college.

NEW CLASSES FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Musical Playgroup with Sarah Sunshine

Join Sarah Torney for stories, songs and movement geared toward infants and toddlers (newborn up to age 2). Please bring your favorite blanket or floor mat. Parent/Caregiver participation is required.

About the Instructor: A Bay Area native, Sarah Sunshine Torney holds over 25 ECE units, a valid child and infant CPR certification, and is mother to two children of her own.

When: Tuesdays 8:45 a.m-10:15 a.m.
Fees: \$15 for drop-in or \$50/series of 4
Where: Kensington Recreation Building (Building E) in Kensington Park

Contact: Sarah at 525-2811 and lyric-sis@sbcglobal.net or KCC at 525-0292.

ADULT CLASSES

User-Friendly Pilates

Get Stronger Without Getting Hurt
Wednesdays 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Current series of 7 classes continues through June 10 (except May 6). Next session begins June 17. Students may join after 1st class, space permitting. Please call instructor for more info.

Where: KCC Recreation Bldg, Rm A. Minimum of 7 students required for class; Cost: \$84 for seven classes (residents); Non-residents, \$93 for 7 classes. Please register with KCC.

This class is for anyone who wants an introduction to *Pilates* and for those who want to get stronger without getting hurt. Your core muscles protect your spine and prepare you for strenuous activities. Developing core strength involves engaging your deepest abdominal, lumbar, and pelvic floor muscles. The instructor, Ernie Adams, presents an intelligent, less stressful way of learning Pilates and has 16-years experience specializing



Ernie Adams

in movement education and injury prevention. He is a Certified Pilates Instructor and Feldenkrais® Practitioner with an extensive background as a professional dancer.

In addition to private practice, Adams has many years clinical experience collaborating with physical therapists and chiropractors to treat orthopedic, neurological, dance and sports injuries. These include improving walking, balance, posture, back care, scoliosis, MS, CP, Parkinson’s, traumatic brain injury and stroke, repetitive strain and



chronic pain, and movement re-education. He offers individual sessions and classes at his offices in Albany and El Cerrito, CA.

For more information about the class, please contact Ernie at 619-9223 or adams@bodyinaction.com. His website is www.bodyinaction.com.

Yoga for Health
Tuesdays 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

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 class.

Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. 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.

Fees: For residents: \$15 for drop-in; \$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresidents please add \$1 surcharge. To register, call the KCC office at 525-0292. Classes are held in the Community Center.

Hatha Yoga
Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Classic yoga postures and breathing practices for revitalization. Learn to listen to your body and your breath; explore and enjoy. On the second and the final Thursdays of the month, relax in a blissful restorative practice. First and third Thursdays are a more active practice. All levels of experience welcome.

Fees: Residents: \$12 for drop-in
One-month pass (4 classes) for \$40.
Non-residents please add \$1 surcharge.

For questions about the Hatha Yoga class content, please contact Instructor Claire Lavery at 681-3077. For questions about registration or location, please call KCC at 525-0292. Classes are held in Room A in the Recreation Building (Building E).

Acrylic Painting
Wednesdays 9:45am – 1:30 p.m.

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.

Fees: \$32/month; Non-residents please add \$1 surcharge.
Where: Community Center

Tennis

Kim Roots offers classes for youth and adults. To register, call Kim at 526-6730. Adult classes: 5 classes \$40 per resident; Non-residents please add \$1 surcharge. Youth classes: \$10 per class for residents; Non-resident: \$11 per class.

Classes are held at the tennis courts (West Court).

To Register for Classes: 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 the KCC office at 525-0292 for tennis court reservation information.

Tennis Court fees: Residents – \$2 for a 45-minute singles reservation. Nonresidents – \$5.

Community Center Rental: For information on renting the Kensington Community Center, please call KPPCSD (the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 526-4141.

Thanks to Marlene Walters for her \$100 donation to KCC!

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

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Editorial Deadline.....May 10

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Open Letter to the Town of Kensington

Dear Residents,

K.C.C. has identified badly-needed improvements to the Community Center and will be working in tandem with the K.P.P.C.S.D. in the hiring of an architect and contractor to accomplish the work.

Ideally, the improvements will include a new kitchen, refurbished bathrooms, replacement of the heating system and, if our capital reserves allow, opening up of the west wall of the Community Center to the outside garden area.

Finally, we would like to solicit your ideas on what might be the best use for the area around the old tot lot, next to the Library.

There exists a great deal of talent in this Town, as well as a strong commitment, past and present, to volunteering to participate in projects which improve our community. I am hoping that I can once again prevail upon you and solicit the help of the Kensington community, encouraging you to donate your expertise, your labor and/or your capital in helping us with this initiative, since the project will benefit everyone.

If you are in a position to be of assistance or share our ideas, please contact me at (510) 526-6500 and leave a message regarding what you might be able to provide. Any help will be most welcome.

As this initiative develops, we will be regularly reporting to the community in *The Outlook* regarding its progress.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and assistance.

Bruce V. Morrow, President
Kensington Community Council

Neighborhood Notes

Kensington Hilltop Carnival

Kensington Hilltop School will hold its 62nd Annual Spring Carnival on Saturday, May 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The community is invited to enjoy a delicious barbecue of tri-tip sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs, garden burgers and sausages, all prepared on the Dad's Club playground grill. Drinks, snow cones and other goodies will also be available. There will be a fire truck demo, a quilt raffle, bake sale, white elephant sale, bike sale, and more! The Quilt Raffle and Carnival are major fundraisers for the PTA and Dad's Club activities at Kensington Hilltop School. 90 Highland Blvd., Kensington. 231-1415.

First Friday Art Walk - Colusa Circle - May 1st

Kensington is joining up with other cities across the country, including Albany, to participate in *First Friday Art Walk*. Once a month on the first Friday, participating businesses stay open until 9pm and greet art lovers with art, music, wine and more! Begins First Friday, May 1, and includes *Nan Phelps Photography*, *RabbitEARS*, *Post Meridian Restaurant*, *Kroll Realty*, *FACE Skin Studio*, and *Hiersoux Porcelain*. (Photo: *Nan Phelps Photography*)



Class of 2009 - Grad Photo May 3rd

High school seniors: Don't forget this year's graduation photo at 3pm, Sunday, May 3rd, in Kensington Park. All high school seniors are encouraged to attend. More information: 528-1908 or ccjmcafee@pacbell.net. (See *Calendar*, page 6 for details.)

Retirement Dinner for Philip Balousek

Friends and co-workers joined Officer Phil Balousek, his wife, Nita, and daughters, Kim, Laura, and Julia, in the celebration of over 40 years of law enforcement service, on Wednesday, April 15th, at the Community Center. Chief Greg Harman awarded Officer Balousek the *Silver Commendation* in appreciation for his decade of service to Kensington. Congratulations, Phil, on a job well-done. And from all of us – thank you!



Farmers' Market One-Year Anniversary Celebration - Sun. 5/31

Don't miss the special events, guests, and raffles they've got lined up to celebrate this, the one-year anniversary of the *Farmers' Market*. Oakview Avenue at the Colusa Circle. Sunday, May 31st, 10am-2pm. 524-5604 or farmersmarket@aboutkensington.com.

Green Businesses on Colusa Circle Honored

Eight merchants on *The Circle* were awarded Official *Green Business* Certification by Supervisor John Gioia on Tuesday, April 21st, in Martinez. Congrats to: *Hendrickson Clinic*, *Hendrickson Method Institute*, *Faces Skin Spa*, *Nan Phelps Photography*, *Howe Chiropractic and Acupuncture*, *PostMeridian Restaurant*, *Rabbit Ears*, and *Alchemy Facial Spa*. (And, on an official *Spare the Air* day, only three cars were used to get to Martinez!)



Fire District Vegetation Mgmt Program Begins This Month

The Kensington Fire Protection District wants to remind you that fire prevention staff will be conducting fire hazard inspections of all properties within Kensington beginning in mid-May. They encourage all residents to begin their spring pruning, weeding and cutting prior to these inspections. Properties that have an unresolved fire hazard after completing their inspections will receive a notice and be subject to the 2009 Fire Hazard Abatement Process. If you need guidance in resolving a fire hazard on your property please call the Fire Prevention Officer at 215-4457 for assistance. Pick up a copy of their *Defensible Space* brochure from the Kensington Fire Station, or go to www.kensingtonfire.org/safety.

Featured Listings



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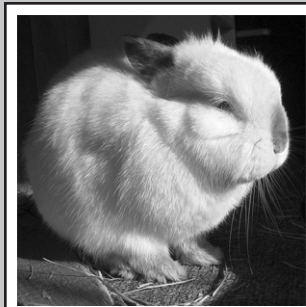
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Pet of the Month



Rocki, weighing in at a solid 2 pounds, is a high-spirited Netherland Dwarf with a big personality. Her day job is sleeping, but she likes to work out early in the mornings and late in the afternoons. If you think you can catch up with Rocki, visit her at RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Avenue, seven days a week. Rescue bunny up for adoption. Call 525-6155.



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524-2925



... *LAFCO* from page 2

Louann Texeira, Executive Officer of LAFCO, assures Kensington residents that, while LAFCO has the power to make a decision to consolidate the fire and police districts, that decision is subject to a vote of Kensington residents.

Texeira further assured residents that by law, before LAFCO would initiate a consolidation, a comprehensive fiscal analysis and further supplemental study to analyze potential service improvements would both need to be done.

Many residents and district board members share the concern that, in conjunction with the absorption of the KFPD into the KPPCSD, the county may take that opportunity to hold back some of the funds that have been accruing to the Fire District. LAFCO's legal counsel reported at the April 22nd meeting that, as the tax code is not clear on the matter, more fiscal and legal study is needed to come to a conclusion about whether or not a consolidation would be revenue-neutral to Kensington.

LAFCO's counsel said that he has seen nowhere in the relevant codes that says the county *couldn't* retain some of those funds, but he had not seen that happen.

A local attorney, however, pointed to a similar consolidation having taken place in Stanislaus County, where 10% of funds in question were retained by the county.

Even if the entire funds continued to flow to Kensington, unimpeded by the county's grasp, an additional concern was heard regarding the KPPCSD being able to do whatever it wanted with the money. Differing opinions were voiced as to whether that would be the case, or whether the funds formerly going to the Fire District could be earmarked for fire protection services, even after such a consolidation.

What's Next

LAFCO sub-committees will be meeting with the Kensington District Fire (and possibly CSD) Board(s), with a report due at the May 13th LAFCO meeting. An MSR of the KPPCSD is expected by summer's end. Knowledgeable sources indicated that, should the LAFCO decision, after receipt of that report, be to consolidate the two districts, it would most likely be subject to Kensington voter approval, as mentioned above, and it would be months, or possibly years, before a consolidation would be complete. (Next LAFCO meeting: May 13. www.contracostalafco.org.)

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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

May 1 First Friday Kensington Art Walk. Enjoy the evening weather, art and entertainment at participating businesses staying open late to exhibit local artworks for neighborhood strollers, with art, music, wine, “and whatever.” 6-9pm. Tonight: Kensington merchants on Colusa Circle.

May 2 Fundraiser for Kensington Elementary School at Barnes & Noble. Shop at B&N in El Cerrito Plaza today, mention voucher #518019 at the time of your purchase, and B&N will make a contribution to the Kensington Education Fund. 9am-10pm. Information: KathrynsMcCarthy@yahoo.com.

May 2 GateSwingers Jazz Band plays Saturday, May 2nd, 7:30-9:30pm. at *33 Revolutions*. 10086 San Pablo Avenue, at Central, El Cerrito. Food, beer, wine, dancing, Wi-fi. No cover. Information: 898-1836 or www.33revolutions.com.

May 3 Kensington Hilltop Annual Grad Photo. 3pm, on, at Kensington Park. All high school seniors are encouraged to attend, including current or former Kensington residents, and those seniors who attended Hilltop Elementary, regardless of where they now live. Small charge to cover food and photo. 528-1908 or ccjmcafee@pacbell.net.

May 3 Farmers’ Market. Every Sunday from 10am-2pm. Oakview Avenue at the Colusa Circle. 510-524-5604 or farmersmarket@aboutkensington.com.

May 3-9 Contra Costa County Library Reading Festival. Celebrate reading and connect with neighbors, family and friends. Presenting authors and musicians, actors and magicians, story times, and literacy-related crafts and carnivals in all twenty-five community library locations. Free. Information and schedule of events at ccclib.org/reads or 524-3043.

May 4 Kensington Community Council Meeting at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., 7:30pm. Everyone welcome. 525-0292.

May 4 Join the Kensington Library Knitting Club (the *Castoffs*) for an evening of knitting, show and tell, and yarn exchange. All levels are welcome and some help will be provided. 7:00 pm. 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. Free.

May 4 Spirit and the Arts, 6:15pm, Arlington community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington.

May 4 Friends of the Kensington Library Meeting 7pm at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue.

May 5 Children’s Delight Theatrical Storytellers. High-energy performance combining lots of audience participation. Kensington Library, 61 The Arlington, 6:30pm. Ages 4+. Free.

May 5 - June 14 East Bay Open Studios Preview Exhibition. Plan your *East Bay Open Studio* tour by viewing over 400 artworks and presentations in a variety of media – including painting, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, printing and letterpress, photography, textiles, and glass – much of which is for sale, with a percentage benefitting Pro Arts’ exhibitions and programs. 550 Second Street, Jack London Square, Oakland, CA 94607. Exhibition opens 5/5 from Noon-6pm and continues through 6/14. 763-4361 or www.proartsgallery.org.

May 6 Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters will discuss local issues, 1pm at 44 Beverly Court. Please call 524-6071 to confirm.

May 6 Wake Up To Al-Anon 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Fireside Room Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Kensington.

May 7 PTA General Meeting. Parents – come vote on next year’s PTA Board. Multipurpose Room, 90 Highland Blvd., Kensington. 7pm.

May 7 Kensington Property Owners Association Annual Meeting. This is a public meeting for all residents. Agenda includes talks by Supervisor John Gioia, speakers from local Boards, and a Q&A session w/Louann Texiera, Executive Officer of LAFCO,

regarding consolidation of local district boards. Plus discussion of possible tax increases, service updates on the fire season, criminal activity, and more. Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue, 7pm. 559-8232

May 8 Drop off Donations for Kensington Hilltop Elementary School White Elephant Sale. Drop off your donations after 2pm in the Multipurpose Room. Volunteers needed to help price and set up items for the Saturday sale. 90 Highland Blvd., Kensington. 526-1365.

May 8 Mini Concert *Three Leg Torso* will delight you with their masterful and eccentric bluegrass interpretations. 7:30 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. \$15 at the door. 526-9146.

May 9 Mad Hatter Tea Party and White Rabbit Adoption Fair. White rabbits from six Bay Area animal shelters will be eager to meet their new guardians! Mad Hatter will be taking photos of already adopted and newly adopted white rabbits today only! Enjoy 60s music, magic tricks, and cookies and jam; win a Picnic Basket from Wonderland! RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Avenue, Kensington. 1-4pm. 525-6155

May 9 Kensington Hilltop School White Elephant Sale. 11am-3pm, 90 Highland Bl, Kensington 526-1365.


May 9 62nd Annual Kensington Hilltop Spring Carnival and Quilt Auction. Enjoy a delicious barbecue prepared on the *Dad’s Club* playground grill. Drinks, snow cones and other goodies will also be available. Fire truck demo, quilt raffle, bake sale, white elephant sale, bike sale and more. The Quilt Raffle and Carnival are major fundraisers for the PTA and *Dad’s Club* activities at Kensington Hilltop School. 11am-3pm, Kensington Hilltop School, 90 Highland Blvd., Kensington. 231-1415

May 9-10 Friends of the Kensington Library Spring Book Sale. All-weekend second-hand book sale. Saturday 9am-4pm; Sunday 10am-4pm. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue. Free. 524-3043

May 11 The Drought and Community Response - a talk by Andy Katz, Director, EBMUD. Mr. Katz will provide an update on our current drought situation and will discuss water conservation measures and our water quality. 7pm. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. Free.


May 11 Spirit and the Arts 6:15 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington.

May 13 Wake Up To Al-Anon 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Fireside Room Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Kensington.




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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

May 13 LAFCO Meeting, 1:30pm, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 651 Pine Street, 1st Floor, Martinez CA 94553. Info: 925-335-1094. Subcommittee reports on possible consolidation of fire & police districts to be presented. www.contracostalafco.org

May 13 Kensington Fire Protection District Meeting at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., 7:30pm. Everyone welcome. 527-8395.

May 14 Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Meeting at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., 7:30pm. Everyone welcome. 526-4141.

May 16 Electronic Waste Drop-off. Accepting TV's, fax machines, MP3 players, telephone equipment, printers, VCRs and DVD players, computers, monitors, and other computer components, copiers, cell phones, and toner cartridges. 9am-3pm, Arlington Church/Kensington Library Parking lot, 61 Arlington Ave.

May 16 Community Breakfast with Supervisor John Gioia. Discuss county issues with our supervisor in an informal setting. Light refreshments will be served. Crescent Park Family Resource Center, 5000 Hartnett, Richmond, 8:30 to 10 am. Free. 374-3231 or krauc@bos.cccounty.us.

May 16 Nursery School Science Fair. Junior scientists aged 2-7 can experience the joy of discovery at Kensington Nursery School's annual Science Fun Fair. Explore more than 15 hands-on science stations, including *Space World*, volcanoes, magnets, ocean in a bottle, *Nature World*, *Water Play* and much more. Lunch available. \$3 per person (under 2 free). RabbitEARS, 52 Arlington Avenue, 10am-2pm. Info: KNSchool@sbcglobal.net

May 16 Small Critter Adoption Day. Looking for love from pet rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, mice or rabbits? RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Avenue. 525-6155.

May 17 Final Celebration of Spirit and the Arts. A one-hour celebration of music and the arts – including music, dance, theater, bells and choirs featuring all of the performing groups of Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 526-9146.

May 17 Bunny Maintenance 101. Everything you need to know about basic care of your bunny. RabbitEARS, 377 Colusa Ave. 525-6155

May 18 Kensington Library Book Club: *Disgrace*, by J.M. Coetzee. 61 Arlington Ave., 7pm, Free. New members welcome. (Usually 4th Mon. of month – please note date change.)

May 26 Kensington Municipal Advisory Council Meeting at the Commu-

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May 24 Farmers' Market. Every Sunday from 10am-2pm. Oakview Avenue at the Colusa Circle. 510-524-5604 or farmersmarket@aboutkensington.com.

May 31 Farmers' Market. One-Year Anniversary Celebration, 10am-2pm. Special events, guests, and raffles. Oakview Avenue at the Colusa Circle. farmersmarket@aboutkensington.com or 524-5604.

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From the Files of the KPD

Excerpt From March 2009

• 09-921 On 3/3/09 at 1729 hrs.

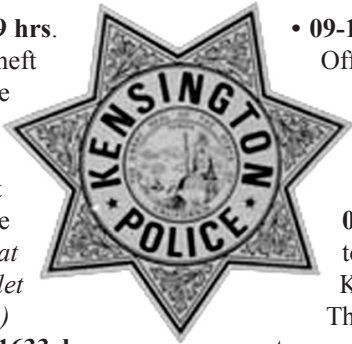
An officer took an identity theft report on Sunset Drive. The resident had been advised by an alert placed on his credit report providers that someone was trying to use his credit information. (“That card is maxed out – just let him try and use it!” he said.)

• 09-1014 On 3/8/09 at 1633 hrs.

Officer Wilson investigated a suspicious vehicle and subject on Lenox Road. It was determined that the subject was summoned to Kensington by a teenage girl and her cell phone. A family member chased off the young male. We admonished him and her family admonished her. “It’s important to know who your kids are communicating with on their electronic devices.” (Bystanders that weren’t admonished were astonished.)

• 09-1015 On 3/8/09 at 1647 hrs. An officer was advised that a sex offender was using a Kensington address. The officer tracked the offender down to his current home in a California State Prison. Pending an escape or early release, he will not be coming to Kensington for at least three years. (We feel better already!)

• 09-1027 On 3/9/09 at 0850 hrs. Officer Barrow investigated a hit and run on Kenyon Ave. There are no leads.



• 09-1140 On 3/16/09 at 1152 hrs.

Officer Wilson was contacted by a resident on Cowper Ave. who wanted to turn in some old ammunition.

• 09-1152 On 3/16/09 at 0805 hrs. Officer Barrow took a vandalism report at Kensington Hilltop School.

The vandalism was graffiti on a storage container. (What – we’re not allowed put our names on our Tupperware containers in the teachers’ lounge anymore?)

• 09-1202 On 3/21/09 at 0901 hrs. Officer Barrow made a traffic stop on Norwood Ave. This resulted in one subject being arrested for possession of a controlled substance and a meth pipe. The other subject was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance and driving under the influence of drugs. (“But officer, the substance was under my complete control!”)

• 09-1208 On 3/21/09 at 1627 hrs. Officer Wilson took an identity theft report from a resident on Yale Circle.

• 09-1232 On 3/23/09 at 1629 hrs. Officer Wilson took an identity theft report from a resident of Eldridge Court. An unknown subject attempted to use the victim’s medical provider to obtain medical care. (Apparently the victim’s deductible hadn’t yet been met, so coverage was denied.)

Editor. . . cont’d from pg. 1

ment remain – some of which pre-date current Police Chief, Greg Harman’s tenure – and it’s been reported that some officers have not shown up for their shifts. Through canceled vacations and extended shifts, the Chief has things under control.

For now, we give kudos to Officer Khan and huzzahs to Harman for giving up their vacations (and to the other officers working extended shifts) to keep the department fully staffed, and all of us safe.

While there are varying opinions on this, as with other issues, many believe that with the support of the KPPCSD Board, Harman is making the tough decisions that need to be made to resolve the personnel and financial issues facing the District.

Either way, judging from the April retirement dinner for Officer Phil Balousek, even on a modest budget, Greg knows how to throw a party – a homey little bash with good food and short speeches, in that order. (And couldn’t the responsible parties have waited until *after* the event to tow the Police Chief’s wife’s car?)

And let’s not forget that, in addition to earthquakes, fire, taxes, and crime, there are still bunnies that need adopting, high school senior photos that need snapping – and dancing in the cafes, if not in the streets. And, beginning May 1st, there will be *music* in the streets, at least, on *First Fridays* (see Calendar), so why not dancing, I say? *Laissez les bon temps roulez!*

But before the bon temps begin to roulez, I’d like to thank you for inviting me to be part of your community. I’m looking forward to getting to know you, to keeping you informed, and to giving voice to your concerns in these pages.

Like most of those in our town, it’s a two-way street, and I welcome your comments, opinions, feedback, e-mail – and tips on news you think your neighbors ought to know!

Joel Koosed
Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

Kensington Outlook Classified
To place a classified ad, please see page 2.

Obituaries

Melvin Stanley Amundsen, resident of Kensington, passed away Saturday, March 14, 2009 in Berkeley, age 94.

A native of Decorah, Iowa, and 44-year resident of Kensington, he is survived by his daughter, Mary Hammond of Kensington; and son, Joseph, of Easton, Pennsylvania, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and two sisters-in-law. He was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Gladys Amundsen, in 1989.

Theodore Osmundson, Landscape Architect, ground-breaking author, and educator, 1921 - 2009, died Thursday, April 9, 2009 at age 88, having succumbed to a brief illness. He had dealt with a host of ailments in recent years but was cared for at home by his loving wife, Lorraine.

Ted is survived by his wife, sons – Gordon, Richard, and Douglas – and three grandchildren. His intellect, creativity, and sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him.

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New Listing in Kensington

282 Los Altos Drive

Charming single-level home with Japanese garden. Large living room bathed in natural light, separate dining room, 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a family room opening to a private rear garden. Over 2,000 sq. ft. of living area.

For more information about this fine property, please give me a call.

CELIA CONCUS
510.527.0211

289 Arlington Avenue
Kensington