



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

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VOLUME 72 NUMBER 4

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District is Moving Forward

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District is tackling several new issues that it hopes will improve delivery of basic services in the face of static tax revenues and rising costs.

The District is currently searching for an interim general manager/chief of police.

We are also going to be examining how its basic police services are provided to the community, analyzing issues like optimal staffing levels, and the financial implications, and pros and cons of contracting out its police services to jurisdictions that might be capable of and interested in providing these services.

Len Welsh, Board president, is calling for a joint Finance Committee Meeting with the Kensington Fire Protection District to help us all understand how the two budgets and funding of the two districts compare and what lessons we can learn from the differences. This is crucial, since both districts serve the same community and we want to be sure we are getting our best value for the tax dollars that fund both. There has been too little dialog between the two districts on funding and cooperation, and he believes this is the first step to getting a handle on how efficiently the current situation serves the tax payers and how we can improve our service.

The Park Building Committee will begin a review of the Community Center to determine its current safety and code compliance condition and how best to make any repairs that may be necessary.

Finally, the District has retained new legal counsel with expertise in municipal

law to guide it through these key decisions. We will be asking the Kensington Community to partner with us to provide constructive input as we move forward into the future.

The Mission of the Kensington Police and Community Services District

The District is managed on a day-to-day basis by a general manager who also serves as the chief of a nine member police force. The District also manages the delivery of waste hauling services provided by Bay View Refuse & Recycling under a recently approved state-of-the-art franchise agreement. Finally the District supervises the eight acre Kensington Park, including the operation and maintenance of the Community Center and other park buildings and improvements. The District is managed by five elected and unpaid volunteer board members, and each of these board members provides numerous constituent services as part of their service to the community.

Selection of an Interim General Manager/Chief of Police

Currently, Directors Pat Gillette and Rachelle Sherris-Watt are conducting a search for an interim General Manager/Chief of Police to replace outgoing General Manager/Chief of Police Greg Harman, who will be leaving on May 31. This is the most pressing order of business.

Directors Gillette and Sherris-Watt, with Board oversight, have finalized the job description and posted it on job boards

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The Kensington Hilltop Carnival Raffle

The Kensington Community has once again come together to help support the Carnival Raffle fundraiser for the elementary school PTA.

For the 33rd year in a row the grand prize is a quilt made by Hilltop community members. Math Teacher Jean Stenquist together with school parents Sherry Garcia, Cathy Lo

— Continued on back page

KPOA Public Meeting May 3

Kensington is experiencing a new wave of civic engagement—and residents' opinions run the gamut. Since 1972, the Kensington Property Owners Association has helped inform the community by providing analysis and

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Mark Your Calendar

- **May 3:** Senior High School Student's Annual Photo Shoot

(see *Kensington Calendar* and *Neighborhood Notes*)

LOOK WHAT'S NEW IN KENSINGTON!

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Peaceful 4br/2ba in Wildcat Canyon Pk.



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3+br/2ba Midcentury in serene setting



12 Highland Blvd ~ \$719,000
One-level 3/2 Midcentury with view



SOLD! 5 Offers ~ Stanford Ave
Listed at \$575,000, sold for \$705,000

Coming Soon! 204 Arlington Avenue~ \$TBD
4br/3ba with in-law. Vaulted ceiling, hardwood floors, deck and views.

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510-236-5800

Middle School 5-8
960 Avis Drive, El Cerrito, CA 94530
510-528-5800

For more information visit prospectsierra.org

KPPCSD, continued from page 1

for prospective candidates to review. The plan at this time is to interview prospective candidates at the Board's May 8 board meeting. Directors Gillette and Sherris-Watt are doing yeoman's work in service to the community to meet this challenge.

The Future of District Services to our Community

Directors Vanessa Cordova and Chuck Toombs will serve as chairs of a new ad hoc committee, which will engage in long term planning on the future structure of the District as well as examine the way police services are currently provided to the Kensington Community. This committee will start with an analysis of whether or not the current General Manager/Chief of Police position should be split into two jobs. This position has historically been held by one individual who has served in both roles since the early 1950's.

This committee will also examine the adequacy and quality of police services the District provides to its residents, and whether or not these services should be performed under local control or under a contractual arrangement with another jurisdiction. Cost and quality of service will be the central issues in this analysis. Finally, this committee will consider more fundamental structural issues including whether, after we have engaged in sufficient fact-finding and analysis, there might be a benefit to consolidation with the Kensington Fire Protection District to achieve optimal operating efficiencies and to reunite the community tax revenue (divided when Prop. 13 passed) under one roof.

Directors Cordova and Toombs will be preparing their recommendations for the committee's direction for the Board to consider at its May 8 board meeting. The community is being invited to participate in an application and selection process by the Board for seats on this committee. Thereafter, the Board envisions this committee will need from 12 to 18 months to complete its comprehensive evaluation of District operation.

The Board also hopes to enlist the assistance of skilled outside professional consultants to serve as subject matter experts on select areas. The Board will include the community at large in this decision through town hall meetings to receive community input. The objective for this committee is to determine how best to provide police

and community services with the current level of public funding, with robust community participation in the discussion.

The Park Building Committee Will Be Meeting Soon

Director Sherris-Watt is the new chair of the Park Building Committee. She has called for a meeting to take place April 29 starting at 7:00 p.m. in room 3 of the Community Center and will be ramping up that assignment as the Board, based on her committee's recommendations, looks for cost-saving alternatives for new upgrades to the Community Center, a building that has served this community for over 60 years. Director Sherris-Watt, with the assistance of Board President Len Welsh, is assembling a committee of interested community volunteers whose first order of business will be to review current proposals from licensed structural engineers who can carefully assess the current condition of the Community Center. Interested members of the community should contact Lynn Wolter, the District Administrator, at 510-526-4141 or email Ms. Wolter at lwolter@kensingtoncalifornia.org for further information.

The District is committed towards providing a safe community center for use by its residents and is confident that Rachelle and Len can manage this process in a professional and timely manner. Among other things, this committee will carefully examine what current funding is available for this work, part of which will be financed with a \$158,000 grant from Measure WW funds, provided all of the work is completed by December 31, 2018!

The District Has Engaged New Legal Counsel

The District has also retained the San Francisco law firm of Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai, LLP doing business as the Public Law Group on a 4-month trial basis to serve as general counsel for the District and provide other legal services if needed.

The Public Law Group counts among its ranks several extremely competent attorneys, Louise Renne, former San Francisco County Supervisor and City Attorney for San Francisco, and Jon Holtzman, a former Director of Labor and Policy in the office of San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. This firm specializes in representing major cities with regional and state-wide footprints, local and regional agencies, and many special districts like our own Police District. We are excited about this new, better

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KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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June Editorial Deadline May 10

The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Outlook, its editor, or the publisher, the Kensington Community Council. Residents are invited to submit letters on matters of interest to the community. Letters must be signed and include the author's address and phone number (address and phone will not be published). Publication is subject to space limitations and the editor's discretion. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. One letter per person, per issue. Obituaries for Kensington residents are published at no charge. E-mail preferred to Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com.

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KENSINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION

TOP FIVE REASONS KIDS SHOULD GO TO KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP

Woo hoo! It's time for KCC Summer Day Camp sign up! Don't miss out—Week 1 is almost filled! Summer camp can be one of your child's most rewarding, unforgettable and joyful life experiences.

Creative, Community and affordable summer day camp experience!

KCC Summer Day Camp provides a sense of community—many classmates from Hilltop Elementary School, returning friends from Albany, Berkeley and El Cerrito attend our camp.

One of the goals of KCC Summer Day Camp is to make sure children have fun, in a supervised and safe environment. Summer camp is a much needed break from the academic year where campers experience creativity, adventure, thrills, smiles and participate in outdoor sports games.

KCC Summer Day Camp is for children entering 1st through 6th grades in Fall 2015.

Affordable Summer Camp \$250 per week per camper You choose the weeks you want to attend: Monday, June 8–Friday, August 21.

One fee includes BBQ lunch on Friday, free T-shirt, field trip entrance fees and transportation, snack each afternoon, group tennis lessons and art/craft lessons.

CAMP HOURS: Monday–Friday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Before-care: 8:00–9:00 a.m. and After-care: 5:00–6:00 p.m.
(childcare is an additional fee)

What does your child do at camp? Children to get out of their comfort zone and experience new activities such as rock climbing at the Bladium in Alameda, making homemade ice cream with teacher Vicky, or making zombie clay monsters with teacher Jamie. Campers enhance their communication and social skills by being around other children. Camp life fosters independence—children learn the responsibility of making their own decisions with the safety net of insightful counselors and staff in a safe environment.

Cost is \$250.00 per camper, per week. Register On-line:
WWW.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.Org

KCC Summer Camp Activities & Schedule

Week 1: June 8–June 12
Specialty: Carpentry
Field Trip: The Jungle

Week 2: June 15–June 19
Specialty: Gymnastics
Field Trip: Adventure
Playground/Berkeley

Week 3: June 22–June 26
Specialty: Iron Chef Pizza Competition
Field Trip: Oakland Zoo

Week 4: June 29–July 3
SPIRIT WEEK
Specialty: Sports Madness:
Statistics in Action!
Field Trip: Lake Anza

Week 5: July 6–July 10
Specialty: Circus Arts
Field Trip: Bladium/Rock Climbing and Soccer

Week 6: July 13–July 17
OLYMPIC WEEK
Specialty: Gymnastics
Field Trip: Lindsay Museum—
Animals of Mt. Diablo

Week 7: July 20–July 24
Specialty: Monster Mash Clay Zombies
Field Trip: USS Hornet
 Battleship/Alameda

Week 8: July 27–July 31
Specialty: Paper Weaving Arts/Bread Making
Field Trip: Lake Temescal

Week 9: August 3–August 7
Specialty: Woodland Gnomes &
Fairy Houses
Field Trip: Bladium/ Rock Climbing
& Soccer

Week 10: August 10–August 14
Specialty: Monster Madness
Paper Creations
Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool Party and
Grand Finale!

WEEK 11: August 17–August 21
GAP WEEK—week before school starts
Specialty LEGOS Play Well Teknologies

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



*Look who is returning to KCC
Summer Camp—welcome, Jacob!*

JAZZERCISE

Monday through Friday
Ongoing (drop-ins OK)
8:15–9:15 a.m.
Kensington Community Center
Bring water and a mat

Start Working It!
Strength, Core,
Dance Mix—Jazzercise—
come see what you are missing!
Jazzercise fitness class combines
dance-based cardio with
strength training and stretching
to sculpt, tone and lengthen
muscles for maximum fat burn.
Jazzercise is a fusion of jazz dance,
resistance training, Pilates,
yoga and kickboxing.

BODY SCULPTING

Tuesdays and Thursdays,
9:15–10:15 a.m., Ongoing

Body sculpting is shaping
your body to look leaner,
more toned and strengthened.

Register at class.
Come join the fun
and get healthy.
Just bring a mat and weights
and we'll get started.

Questions?
Call Kevin
at 486-2728;
Location for
both classes:
Kensington
Community Center.

REGISTRATION

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington
Avenue, Bldg. E (Across the grassy
field above the tennis courts in
Kensington Park), Kensington CA
94707. Email: kccrec@yahoo.com,
or call 525-0292. Mon.–Fri, 10:00
a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Tennis Court Reservations: For
weekends and holidays only,
beginning at 9:00 a.m. Call the KCC
office for info. Court Fees: 45-min.
singles reservation: Residents: \$2;
Nonresidents: \$5.

**Kensington Community Center
Rental Info:** Please call KPCCSD
(Kensington Police Protection and
Community Services District) at
510-526-4141.

ACRYLIC ARTISTS

Wednesday, 9:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

May 27 is the last day of painting before the painters take a break for the summer.
Acrylic Painting Workshop will resume Wednesday, September 2.

KCC ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Thank You for Your Generous Donations!

\$100
Ted and Caroline Blanckenburg
Beverly and Jay James

2014-15

KASEP

Thank you families for a tremendous year
as we come to a close of spring session.
Our last day of class for Spring **KASEP** is

Friday, May 29 (Monday classes, the last day is May 18). This has been a stellar year
with over 175 classes taught during this academic school year. **KASEP** teachers are
a group of 20 gifted adults of which 7 teachers are celebrating over 15 years of teach-
ing in our program. I salute their commitment, energy and expertise. Knitting, digi-
tal photography, chocolatier, and master of movement dance class were some of the
12 new classes offered this year. We look forward to continually broadening our pro-
gram with new, exciting and enriching classes. If you have a special talent and would
like to talk about teaching with us, please call our office. Parents—thank you! Your
ongoing support of our program is greatly valued.

Next year planning—**KASEP** Brochures will be sent home in children's backpacks the
week of August 31, with online registration scheduled for Tuesday, September 8. **KASEP**
classes will start on Monday, September 21 and continue through to December 18.

Reminder: **KASEP** registration software edits on child's grade. Now is a good time to
update your family's account with next year's academic school grade—most impor-
tant, current kindergarteners need to be updated to be first graders and third graders need
to be updated to be 4th graders. Don't get surprised the night of registration, act now.
Logon to your account, edit your child's grade in account information.



*Junior gardeners make “Clean up after your dog”
signs for our park.*



*Chocolate
éclairs
brought
smiles to
these
chocolatier
student's
stomachs!*



*Learning
life skills
in sewing—
the art of
hand-
stitching.*



*In action,
nails,
hammers,
saws and
a little
guidance
from
Sandy.*



*KASEP
Creative
Drama
students.*

★ KENSINGTON HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ★

★ IT'S HERE! ★

PTA & DADS' CLUB 68TH ANNUAL

★ SPRING CARNIVAL ★

SATURDAY, MAY 9 ★ 11 AM - 3 PM at 90 HIGHLAND BLVD.

RAFFLE ★ Grand Prize: HANDMADE QUILT! ★ Runner Up Prizes: SHOPPING SPREES AT ARLINGTON AND COLUSA CIRCLE SHOPS!

Proceeds fund the PTA's purchase of school supplies, assemblies, & emergency readiness kits.

★ Games ★ Pie Baking Contest ★ Used Bike Sale ★ Dads' Club Grill ★ Cake Walk ★ Photo Booth ★ Cotton Candy ★ Quilt Raffle ★ Plant Sale ★ White Elephant Sale ★ Snow Cones ★ Crafts ★

Thank you Ruth Frassetto & The Grubb Company for your generous support.

Neighborhood Notes

Love Is In The Air!

J. David and Anna-Maria Hertzer are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Emily Anna, to Stephen James Hallowell, son of Richard Hallowell of Rowley, Mass., and Laura Wick Hallowell of Rockport, Mass.



Emily graduated *cum laude* from Yale University with a Bachelor of Arts, and is a graduate of The University of Chicago's Law School and Booth School of Business. After working for the Boston Consulting Group in Chicago for 2 years, she spent a year with the firm in Melbourne, Australia. Soon after returning to California, she joined technology company Quantcast in San Francisco where she leads Mergers and Acquisitions and international expansion.

Steve is a Dartmouth man. He first obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Engineering Sciences, then a BE in Systems Engineering from The Thayer School of Engineering, followed by an MBA from The Tuck School of Business. Currently Steve is Vice President of Sales Enablement and Operations at MuleSoft, a young technology company in San Francisco focused on improving connectivity between apps, data, and devices.

The couple met in San Francisco where they both live. They enjoy hiking and cycling. A late summer wedding is planned at The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin San Francisco where Anna-Maria and David were married 39 years ago.

Introducing RabbitEARS' Sweet Little Rabbits & Guinea Pigs

Judy Hardin, Founder and Executive Director of RabbitEars would like to introduce you to Angus, Berkeley and Seven, Hershey, Max and Fox, Dandelion, Panda, Captain, Zero and Lightfoot, Blossom and Buttercup, Tulip, Lucy, Wizard, Clint, Stanley, Buddy, Fawn, Clover and thirty-two more of the of the cutest, sweetest homeless rabbits and guinea pigs you'll ever meet! And they all have a favor to ask you.



Donate and participate! Please join RabbitEARS on Saturday, May 2 as we participate in the El Cerrito Citywide Spring Garage Sale, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at our storefront animal shelter located at 6331 Fairmount Ave at San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito. This is our biggest and best fundraiser of the year! Refreshments will be served all day so check out the bargains and meet the bunnies and guinea pigs!

All proceeds are allocated for veterinary care of the animals.

Donations of clothing, art, pet accessories, books, musical instruments, dishes, jewelry, furniture are graciously accepted on April 29 and 30, two to three days in advance of the sale on May 2.

Thank you for your continued support of small animal rescue efforts at RabbitEARS.

KIC Sponsors Stratford Path Beautification

A record thirteen volunteers—including three children—took part in the March 21 Stratford Path beautification, sponsored by the Kensington Improvement Club. Weeds were pulled, ivy cut, and thirty-three bags of material collected from the lowermost link in the Stratford–Coventry–Ardmore system, the best known and most frequented of Kensington's twelve paths. At the end of two hours, freshly-baked cookies and a newly-groomed walking route rewarded the volunteers.



Before



After

Invitation from Kensington Hilltop School

Kensington Hilltop would like to invite you to the 68th annual Spring Carnival on Saturday, May 9 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.! This is a fun-filled day for Hilltop kids, their families and neighbors. We will enjoy entertainment from Hilltop's Silver and Gold bands. There will be fun carnival games and prizes, great food, yummy treats, and bargains for the whole family!



Calling All Bakers!— We saw some delicious, amazing pies entered in the first inaugural Pie Baking Contest during the 2014 Spring Carnival. We are expecting the same excitement at this year's Pie Baking Contest on Saturday, May 9.

Do you love to bake? It's time to show off your baking skills and see if they are blue ribbon worthy! Kids 13-and-under will compete in the Student Baker Category. Everyone else will compete in one of three categories: Nut, Dairy and Fruit. Pies will be judged on taste, presentation, and flakiness of crust.

Pie Baking Contest Entry form: www.kensingtonhilltop.org/carnival/ —

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Market Update

◆ Featured Listings ◆

1335 Rifle Range Road, El Cerrito
New England with a California twist, whimsical nooks and SF Bay outlooks. Charm and character. 4+BR/2BA, deck & garden. Near Madera School.
Offered at \$1,198,000

8363 Kent Drive, El Cerrito Hills
This handsome classic Ranch is sited on an oversized parcel with wonderful Bay views, 3BR/2BA and two family rooms! A great home.
Offered at \$998,000

◆ Recently Sold ◆

496 Bonnie Drive, El Cerrito
Classic 1950's 3BR/1.5BA Traditional with great views! Near Plaza shops and Central BART. Guest quarters, gorgeous kitchen, oversized garage.
Originally offered at \$789,000

483 Kentucky Avenue, Berkeley
English architecture with Golden Gate views. 4BR/2.5BA. Needs a bit of everything from the foundation up. Lovely original details and undeveloped attic. Originally offered at \$998,000

444 Yale Avenue, Kensington
Frank Krueger design, 5BR/4.5 BA Mid-Century estate with indoor pool. Fabulous grounds and splendid views. Originally offered at \$2,300,000

KENSINGTON MARKET SNAPSHOT - AS OF APRIL 7TH, 2015

• 1 Available Listings • Average List Price: \$686. per sq. ft. • Average days on the market: 15

• 8 Pending • Average List Price: \$529 per sq. ft. Average days on the market: 14

• 5 Sold • Average List Price: \$410 per sq. ft. • Average Sales Price: \$533 per sq. ft.

• Average days on the market: 14

If you are considering selling or simply wish to know the value of your home in this market call me. All appointments are confidential and complimentary.

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rfrassetto@grubbco.com
Visit GRUBBCO.COM for additional information about current listings.

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Data provided by East Bay Regional Data - MLS.

JOHN DEY,
Owner

13 Years Experience

Excellent
References

JohnCDey@Gmail.com

DEY & NIGHT HOUSESITTING

Days: 610-4638

Evenings: 233-1848

Neighborhood Notes, continued from page 4

Form and fees must be submitted by Friday, May 8 at 11:00 a.m. Pies should be delivered to the multipurpose room on Saturday, May 9 between 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Fabulous prizes and bragging rights await you. So roll up your sleeves and start rolling out the dough!

Senior High School Picture

Circle the date for Kensington high school seniors’ picture on Sunday, May 3 at the KCC Office. 3:00 p.m. for socializing and 3:30 p.m. for the picture that will appear in the June issue of the Kensington Outlook. Keep the tradition alive and join us!

KFPD Pharmaceutical Disposal Program May 9

KFPD will again be providing its on-going pharmaceutical disposal program to the Kensington community. This is a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of prescription or over-the-counter drugs while educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

On Saturday, May 9, 2015 you can bring your unused/unwanted medications to the Kensington fire station for safe disposal. We will be accepting medications on that day between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No questions are asked.

Please help keep toxins out of our water systems (do not flush unwanted medicines down the toilet!) and unused medications out of the hands of youths. Any questions, please contact KFPD at (510) 215-4450.

Protecting your Animals in Disasters & Pet First Aid

The Kensington Public Safety Council will present a talk on Animals in Disasters & Pet First Aid on Thursday, May 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. This talk is free and open to all.

Noell Crosse, Contra Costa Animal Services Department, will discuss the roles and responsibility of Animal Control during a disaster or emergency and the capabilities of our County Animal Response Team. She will describe how to safely evacuate pets and how to create a plan so they do not end up becoming victims during a disaster.

Winnie Kelly, Animal Welfare & Wildlife Services Specialist, will discuss confining stray/wild injured animals safely and what to do, if anything, to keep stray/wild animals alive until you can get them to an appropriate wildlife facility.

Dr. Beth Phimister, Kensington Veterinary Hospital, will be addressing first-aid, handling injured animals, supplies to have on hand, and more.

RSVP to kensingtonpssc@gmail.com so we have an idea how many are attending.

May Tips from CERT –Deciding on an Out-of-Area Contact

CERT is your Community Emergency Response Team. You live in one of six Kensington CERT Areas. To find out which Area you live in and who your CERT leader is go to: www.elcerrito.org/index.aspx?NID=579. We need to work together to prepare for disasters, but some things you can and should do for yourself.

This month let’s consider choosing an **Out-of-area Contact** who lives at least 100 miles away, preferably in another state. Because so many people try to make local calls after a disaster, local phone lines get jammed, but you may be able to make long distance calls. Your Contact can communicate with friends and family on your behalf. Make a card with your Contact’s name and phone numbers, keep one in your wallet and store one with your emergency supplies. Each member of the household should carry one in a purse or backpack. Write it down! Stress can cause you to forget numbers you thought you knew. Don’t rely on retrieving contact information from your computer, laptop, iPad or cell phone, they may be damaged or lack power.

Share your ideas about **Contacts** in times of disaster with your Kensington neighbors. Your Kensington neighbors are preparing, are YOU?

Send Us Your Stories

The Kensington *Outlook* invites Kensington residents to send in engagement, marriage, birth, and anniversary announcements with pictures of themselves and/or their children and grandchildren. If you’re new to the area we invite you to introduce yourself to the *Outlook* so we can welcome you to the Neighborhood.

High marks for the movie “*Woman in Gold*”–for David Brooks new book “*The Road to Character*” and for a delicious lunch at Inn Kensington with former *Outlook* editor Diane Gossard, Assistant Editor Anna-Marie Hertzner and former Ad Manager Jean Cannon. All the kind words sent my way are much appreciated. (Email your stories to: almakey@aol.com or to: editor@kensingtonoutlook.com.)

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N. Berkeley/Kensington Studio • dbradway@juno.com



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Make Reservations for Mother's Day Now!

Live Indian classical music entertainment every Friday evening.

PEOPLE LOVE US ON **yelp**

Keeping Your Home ‘Wildfire Safe’

Spring is here. Along with the nice spring weather, comes beautiful flowers, gardens and of course, the dreaded weeds.

Every year the rapid growth of noxious weeds and vegetation creates an extreme fire risk for the community of Kensington. With the extreme drought we continue to face, the moisture stored inside shrubs and trees is very low. As a result, later this summer, vegetation of all kinds will ignite extremely easy and burn intensely, creating potentially disastrous fire conditions.

To help reduce Kensington’s fire risk, the fire Department will be conducting fire hazard inspections of all properties within Kensington beginning in mid-May. These inspections will be based on the Kensington fire Protection District’s Vegetation Management Standards. Properties that have been identified as creating a fire hazard after we have completed our inspections will receive a notice and be subject to the 2015 fire hazard abatement process. If you need guidance in resolving the fire hazard on your property, please see our web page at: www.kensingtonfire.org or call Captain Chris Renshaw at 215-4457.

While planning your fire hazard reduction efforts, remember these two facts, all of Kensington is in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and all of Kensington is in the Very High fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).

fire needs heat, air and fuel to burn—the fire triangle. Take away any one of these legs and the fire will go out. In the WUI/VHFHSZ there are three major influences on fire, these are: weather, topography and fuel (fire behavior triangle). Reduction of any one of these legs will reduce the impacts of fire.

There is one leg on both of these triangles that are the same, FUEL. We can’t change the weather or topography. We can reduce the fuel. We can reduce the fuel around our homes and throughout our community while maintaining the natural beauty we love and want.

Please begin your spring pruning, weeding, and cutting prior to our inspections. For additional green waste pickup methods please call Bay View Refuse and Recycling 510-237-4614.

Remember, You Make the Difference in keeping your home and your neighborhood ‘Wildfire Safe.’

D'Jour Floral of Kensington Gardens

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SUNDAY, MAY 10th

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From the Files of the KPD

The Police Report is published on a space-available basis, and will return. The Police Report, Board packets, monthly reports, minutes, recordings of the KPPCSD Board Meetings, and Bay View County Solid Waste contracts are available for review at www.KensingtonCalifornia.org.



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KPPCSD, continued from page 2
defined relationship with legal counsel and the high level of experience associated with these skilled attorneys. The Police District will be working primarily with Randy Riddle, a distinguished and highly competent attorney who works in the Public Law Group’s Berkeley office.

Among other things, the District has asked its new counsel’s affiliate consultants to review the sustainability of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Police District and the Kensington Police Officer’s Association. The Kensington Police Officer’s Association has been working without a contract since the last one expired on June 30, 2014.

We believe the sense of the community and of the Board is that it is time to finalize some form of agreement in fairness to the officers. The Public Law Group and its consultants have been asked to make an initial assessment on whether current and projected tax revenues available to the Kensington community will sustain funding for the proposed agreement into the foreseeable future or not. Among other things, new counsel will re-examine the underlying operating assumptions regarding five year budget projections, including the information developed to date by our accountant Debbie Russell, outgoing General Manager/Chief of Police Harman, and the Kensington Property Owner’s Association to test their validity.

We hope this brief summary will give you a helpful broad view of the challenges facing the District as it works to continue and improve its high level of service to the community in a time when the availability of sufficient revenue is of concern to many while there is strong demand for the highest quality of police and community services. We look forward to working with the Kensington Community to meet head on to make the best of our challenges and opportunities and to see a robust turnout at the May 8 Board meeting. Please view and keep checking in for updates at the District’s website at kensingtoncalifornia.org for more information.

(Article submitted by Len Welsh, KPPSD Board president, and KPPSD Director Chuck Toombs)

KPOA Public Meeting, continued from page 1

options on critical issues to property owners.

Recently, our residents have focused on personnel issues within the police force and also debated the financial status of the police and fire districts. In January, KPOA mailed out a letter with our analysis of the Proposed Police Officers’ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to every household questioning whether the financial provisions of the MOU could be supported by tax revenue over the four years of the proposed contract. The Kensington Police and Community Services District has not yet approved the MOU, and KPOA continues to highlight the need to renegotiate terms so that the agreement remains within the means of our existing tax revenues.

The District proposed forming a citizens’ committee to evaluate and make recommendations on options for the position of the Police Chief and General Manager within the context of a broader restructuring of the police department and the Special Districts. KPOA will provide in-depth analysis of the issues being considered, so that residents can evaluate what makes sense for a community the size of Kensington.

Facing Forward: Kensington’s Governance Challenges will be the theme of KPOA’s May 3 annual meeting at the Community Center. All residents are encouraged to attend. The agenda and speakers are shown at the bottom of this letter.

KPOA members who have paid dues on or by May 3rd are eligible to vote for the organization’s Board of Directors by paper ballot that will be available at the meeting. Each property has one vote. The Board has nominated the current Directors to serve for the next two years: Paula Black; Garen Corbett; Linnea Due; Gail Feldman; Rob Firmin; Sylvia Hacaj; Kristine Hafner; Kevin Padian; Jim Scott; John Sullivan; and Greg Tananbaum. KPOA Members can nominate other candidates. Nominations must be received at KPOAssoc@gmail.com by April 28; contact us by email before the deadline for a nominating form.

As Kensington faces a myriad of issues

vital to our future, your membership and support of KPOA is more important than ever. We look forward to seeing you on May 3rd at 2 pm for a spirited, informative discussion. (Submitted by Gail Feldman, President, KPOA, Kensington)

- KPOA Agenda for May 3 Meeting**
Annual Membership Meeting
Kensington Property Owners Association
Sunday, May 3, 2015, 2–4:00 p.m.
Kensington Community Center
1. Welcome
Introductions and Announcements
 2. Challenges and Options for Special Districts
Lou Ann Texeira, Executive Officer, *Contra Costa Local Area Formation Commission* (LAFCO), the agency charged by the state legislature with overseeing the establishment of special districts.
 3. Experiences with Shared Police Services on the Peninsula
Connie Jackson, City Manager, San Bruno, CA
 4. Facing Forward: Kensington’s Governance Challenges
Moderated conversation regarding challenges and opportunities in Kensington:
Len Welsh, President, *Kensington Police Protection and Community Service District*
Larry Nagel, President, *Kensington Fire Protection District*
John Gioia, County Supervisor, *Contra Costa County*
Lou Ann Texeria, Executive Director, *LAFCO*
Connie Jackson, City Manager, San Bruno, CA
Gail Feldman, President, *Kensington Property Owners Association* (Moderator)
Audience Q & A
 5. Adjourn to refreshments
Annual Membership Meeting
Kensington Property Owners Association
Sunday, May 3, 2015, 2–4:00 p.m.
Kensington Community Center
- All Kensington Residents Welcome–

Annual FKL Book Sale

The Friends of the Kensington Library, a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, works to improve library services in Kensington. Through membership donations and book sale earnings, the Friends provide the Library with funds to purchase roughly half of its books. It also provides children’s and cultural programs for the community.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Kensington Library building, dedicated on September 19, 1965. The anniversary is a reminder of the long-running volunteer efforts of the Friends, which was incorporated in 1959 with the express purpose of providing a suitable home for an expanding library. At the time, the Kensington Park Library—founded in 1922 in a private home—was located across the street in the basement of Arlington Community Church.

For 45 years, Gretchen Gillfillan, one of the Friend’s founding members, curated exhibits by local artists on the library walls. Today, the Kensington Library has the highest per capita use of its collection than any other library in the Contra Costa County system.

“After the first book sale [in the early 1970s] some people thought we’d cleaned out the community. Not true! The donations kept coming,” says Barbara Nelson, longtime board member and Recording Secretary of the Friends. Since then, there has been enough donations to hold a two-day book sale each spring, and a one-day sale each fall. At each sale, Boy Scout Troop 100 provides volunteers to help with table setup, box lifting, and breakdown.

Contributions to the FKL are tax deductible and eligible for corporate matching gifts. More than 80% of donations and book sale earnings go to the library in the form of grants for books and other circulating materials, library programs for children and adults, subscriptions, and other special projects. Recent contributions include the new PA system for library programs, a set of furniture for the reference desk, book shelves, and financial assistance for binding old issues of the *Kensington Outlook*.

Plans are underway for a 50th anniversary celebration later this year.

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In Loving Memory

Theodore Kiyoshi Ono, passed away at his Kensington home on February 26, 2015. Ted Ono was born on June 22, 1921 in Oakland. He attended Fresno High School, UC Berkeley, and Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, where he received a BA in Economics. Ted was an Army Veteran, serving as Captain in the Counter Intelligence Corps during the Korean War.

Theodore married Barbara F. Ono in 1945. They opened The Gift Basket in Berkeley, which he and Barbara ran for 42 years, finally closing in January, 1994. In 2009 Ted continued to be an active member in the Albany Kiwanis Club and the “CAL Nisei Lunchers, classes of ’39-’43.”

Ted was preceded in death by his loving wife, Barbara. He is survived by daughter Carole Ono, Kathryn Ono, son Peter Ono and grandson Gavin Rice.

A Memorial Service will be held on May 9 for family and close friends.



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The Friends of The Kensington Library
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61 Arlington Ave
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kclib.org
Book Sale in the community center youth hut

The Friends of the Kensington Library Spring Book Sale will be held Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 10, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Kensington Community Center (aka Youth Hut) at 59 Arlington Ave., in Kensington.

You will find well-stocked tables organized topically for easy viewing. Rare, first editions, signed books, and more can be found at the “Special Selections Table.”

Join us for the ‘BAG SALE’ on Sunday, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.!
(510) 524-3043

Kensington Calendar

May 1–KCC Summer Camp, Ongoing Registration–grades 1-6. Call 510-525-0292, Kensington Community Council Recreation Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington.

May 2–Berkeley Garden Club Spring Plant Sale–9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Locally grown plants (many drought tolerant) and garden-related items. 131 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito

May 2–RabbitEARS–Join us as we participate in the El Cerrito City-wide Spring Gargage Sale from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. at 6331 Fairmount Ave. at San Pablo Ave. El Cerrito.

May 2–Caterpillar Puppets present “The Rhythm Rats.” This hilarious puppet variety show presented by Joe & Ronna Leon features “Los Tres Cabritos Traviesos”—a Norwegian folk tale about a Troll and some hungry Billy-goats (Can you say: "Ola, Sven!"). The Rhythm Rats, in a fast paced game, tap out increasingly tricky beats which the audience tries to repeat. Guaranteed to generate giggles! This program is appropriate for ages 3



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and up and is sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 11:00 a.m. Free. 524-3043.

May 3–Alex Pappas, former teacher of World Religions at College of Alameda and avid student of the ancient traditions. “God, Spirit, Soul and the Divine Unity (Part 1: God).” 10:00–11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

May 3–Elinor Armer in Concert, 3:00 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. Free. 525-0302 www.uucb.org

May 3–Senior High School Students’ Annual Photo Shoot at the KCC Office– 3:00 p.m. 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Call 510-525-0292

May 3–Shira Kamen Chorus, 7:00 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington

May 3–KPOA Public Meeting, 2:00–4:00 p.m. Kensington Community Center.

May 4, 5, 6, 7, 8–Jazzercise–Ongoing Monday through Friday 8:15 a.m.–9:15 a.m. KCC Rec Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

May 4–Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs” All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. Meets on the first Monday of the month. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

May 5, 12, 19 & 26–Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 p.m. 524-3043.

May 5, 12, 19, 26–Homework Help Tuesdays, 4:00–6:00 p.m. Drop by for free help from the El Cerrito Library's awesome volunteers. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave, El Cerrito. 526-7512

May 5–The Power of Myth at the Movies: A Passage to India (1984). View this movie before class, then come to the discussion led by Richard Stromer from 7:30-9:00 p.m. First Tuesdays of the month; \$8 each. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

May 5, 7–Body Sculpting, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:15 a.m.–10:15 a.m. Ongoing. KCC Rec Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

May 7, 14, 21, 28–Homework Help Thursdays, 4:00–6:00 p.m. Drop by for free help from the El Cerrito Library's awesome volunteers. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 526-7512

May 7 & 28–Baby & Toddler Story-time Stories, songs & action rhymes for young children and their caregivers. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Free. 524-3043.

May 8–BACH–featuring Renaissance Music & Pergolesi’s Stabat Mater performed by BACH Chorus. 7:30 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington

May 9–Kensington Hilltop Spring Carnival 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Kensington Elementary School, 90 Highland Blvd. Kensington

May 9–Insect Discovery Lab. 11:00 a.m.–Noon. Learn about the creepy, crawly critters from SaveNature.org's Insect Discovery Lab! Meet some giant millipedes, beetles, and more! All children are welcome. This free event is funded by the Friends of the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-7512

May 9–Friends of the Kensington Library annual Spring Book Sale. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Free. 525-0292.

May 10–Friends of the Kensington Library annual Spring Book Sale. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bag Sale– 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Free. 525-0292.

May 10–Alex Pappas (see May 3), “God, Spirit, Soul, and the Divine Unity (Part 2: Spirit and Soul).” 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

May 10–Happy Mother’s Day to all Mothers, Grandmothers and Great Grandmothers

May 11–All About Crosswords–Kenneth Berniker will provide tips and tricks for solving standard crossword puzzles; relate his experiences of constructing crossword puzzles & submitting them for publication; discuss the other puzzle types that appear in *The New York Times* on Sundays, plus offer

a few tips for those interested in building their own crosswords. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 p.m. Free. 524-3043

May 17–Evaluation and Planning Meeting: Members please join us to help evaluate past speakers as well as offer suggestions for future topics and/or speakers. Your input and ideas are important to keeping the Personal Theology program current and meaningful. 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

May 18–Kensington Library Book Club. Discussion of *The Stranger* by Albert Camus. Book Club normally meets on the 4th Monday of the month. 6:30 p.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 524-3043.

May 19–Berkeley Garden Club Lecture Program–12:30–1:00 p.m. Plant Exchange, 1:00–2:00 p.m. General Meeting, 2:00–3:00 p.m. Lecture: “Simply Geraniums!” by Robin Parer, owner Geraniaceae Nursery. Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany

May 21–The Kensington Public Safety Council will present a talk on Animals in Disasters & Pet First Aid at 7:00 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. This talk is free and open to all.

May 29–St Petersburg Men’s Ensemble–The group’s repertoire encompasses various epochs and styles—from ancient Russian chants and chorals of Western European to modern music. 7:30 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington

May 29–Last day of KASEP Spring Session.

May 30–Home Composting Workshop from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m at The Kensington Community Center, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Todd Sutton will lead the workshop. Free. Reservations should be made by calling 925-674-7831 or by email: maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us

Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

(Schedule Subject to Change—Call to Confirm)

**KCC–May 4th
Kensington Community Council**
1st Mondays, 7:30 p.m. 525-0292

**FKL–May 5th
Friends of the Kensington Library**
7:00 p.m. (at the Library,
61 Arlington Ave.) 1st Tuesdays

**KPSC–May 11th
Kensington Public Safety Council**
EQ & Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays, 6:00 p.m. 501-8165

**KARO/ECHO–May 12th
Amateur Radio Operators**
2nd Mondays of odd months.
7:30 p.m. 524-9815

**KFPD–May 13th
Fire Protection District**
2nd Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. 527-8395

**KPPCSD–May 14th
Police Protection and
Community Services District**
(No meeting on Memorial Day)
2nd Thursdays 7:30 p.m. 526-4141

**KIC–June 22nd
Kensington Improvement Club**
4th Mondays 7:30 p.m. 527-3062

**KMAC–May 26th
Municipal Advisory Council**
Last Tuesdays 7:00 p.m.
(Call Supe. Gioia’s Office to confirm:
231-8691)

**KPOA Property Owners
Association–May 3rd**
2:00-4:00 p.m. Meets quarterly.
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FREE Home Composting Workshop

A FREE Home Composting Workshop will be offered at the Kensington Community Center on May 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Practically anyone can learn to compost or improve their existing compost techniques by following some basic steps taught in the Workshop. The Workshop also touches on worm composting (Vermicomposting) as a means of turning kitchen scraps into a compost of exceptional quality. Free instructional materials on home composting will be provided to attendees.

The instructor, Todd Sutton, an expert with more than 23 years in the environmental field, has appeared on national television

including Discovery and History channels, and has educated thousands on waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting.

Good Reason to Attend
Food waste disposal is a national problem. Food waste is the largest discarded material category in the U.S. accounting for 14.1 percent of the municipal waste stream at 34.3 million tons per year. Food waste sent to a landfill is buried and decomposes in the absence of oxygen which produces methane, a significant greenhouse gas. In terms of greenhouse gases, methane is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Composting your yard trimmings and food scraps is easy, adds nutrients to your

yard and garden, kind to our environment and good for you too! Save money, save water, and conserve natural resources. If done correctly, a compost pile can produce finished compost within three months which can be used as a soil booster.

All Contra Costa County residents are welcome. Reservations should be made by calling 925-674-7831 or maureen.parkes@dcd.cccounty.us. To learn more about composting or recycling, just go to www.cccrecycle.org.

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Carnival Raffle, cont'd. from page 1

and Sarah Schroeder made a beautiful square in a square pattern quilt that is queen-sized and named "Water Garden."

For the second year in a row the three runner up prizes are "Shopping Sprees" at Kensington businesses. Thanks to the many wonderful businesses that have offered gift certificates, the shopping sprees are each worth several hundred dollars and include certificates such as: a loaf of bread a week for a year from Semifreddi's, a 30-minute facial from Alchemy Skin Spa, a month of classes from The Fuse Fitness, breakfast at Inn Kensington and an acupuncture treatment from Pacific Acupuncture.

The Arlington Avenue Shopping Spree includes gift certificates to: The Arlington, Country Cheese Coffee Market, Ele Thai Café, Kensington Fine Foods, Kensington Home & Hardware, Kensington Nail Spa, Inn Kensington, Pacific Acupuncture and Young's Market.

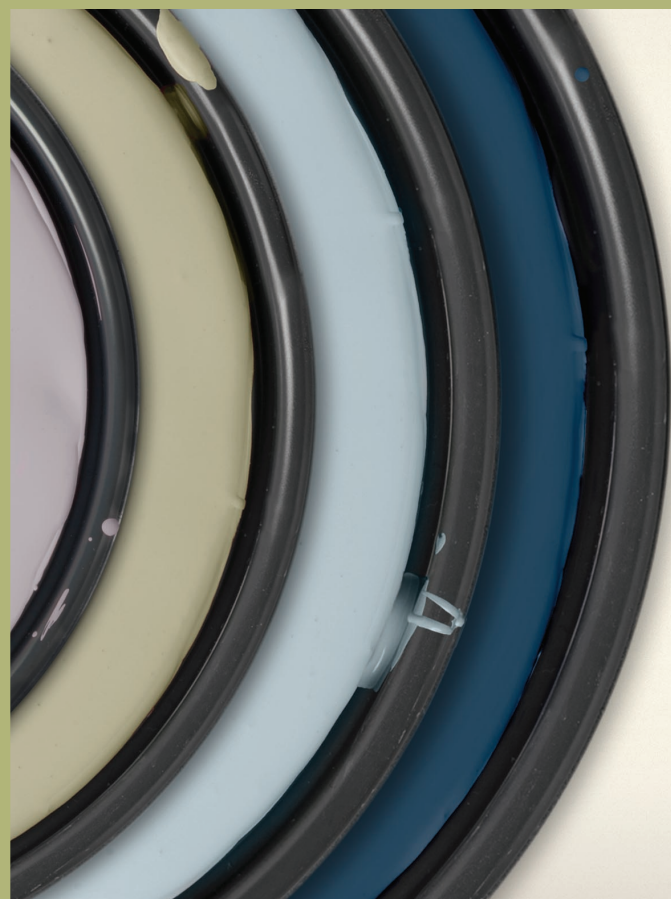
The Colusa Circle Shopping Spree #1 includes gift certificates to: 4Cats Art Studio, Circle Salon, The Fuse Fitness, Kensington Optometry, Kensington Veterinary Hospital and Semifreddi's.

The Colusa Circle Shopping Spree #2 includes gift certificates to: Alchemy Skin Spa, Benchmark Pizza, Colusa Market, The Fuse Fitness, Hendrickson's Clinic and White Magnolia Tai Chi School.

Realtor Mark Choi of Marvin Gardens Real Estate on Arlington Avenue has again generously underwritten the costs of the raffle tickets and supplies. Ruth Frassetto of Grubb Realty graciously continues to underwrite the advertising costs of promoting the Spring Carnival in the Kensington *Outlook*.

This fundraising effort is to help the Kensington Hilltop PTA cover many costs and activities at the school such as emergency preparedness, educational school assemblies, the Outdoor Classroom/Gardening program and teacher support.

\$2 raffle tickets can be purchased from any Hilltop student or at the Spring Carnival on May 9. Raffle ticket winners will be announced at the Spring Carnival and it is not necessary to be present to win.



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