

Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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MAY 2024

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VOLUME 82 NUMBER 5

Hilltop's Spring Carnival Is Fun for Everyone



By Scott Burns

While we wait for spring to decide when it will show up and stick around for good, the Kensington Hilltop community has its sights set on sunnier days, including the upcoming 76th Annual Spring Carnival. This year's event takes place on Saturday, May 18 from 11am-3pm at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School.

Nothing signals spring and the promise of summer like hundreds of children running around on asphalt, fueled by cotton candy and root beer floats. This year promises more of the same with the Auxiliary (formally known as the Dads' Club) operating the grill, amazing games, plant sales, Deals on Wheels and an encore appearance of last year's new hit—the Dunk Tank.

As in previous years, the BBQ menu will offer several options for families to choose from, including vegetarian meals and the always popular tri-tip sandwich. Meals can be ordered ahead of time to reduce wait times and lines at the event. Each meal comes with a drink, and this year everyone will receive a commemorative koozie, made possible by our hero sponsor, MAJ Realtors. Food tickets will be available for purchase in the weeks leading up to Carnival at the Hilltop Spirit Wear Website (<https://kensington-pta.square.site/s/shop>).

New traditions like the dunk tank will mix with the old, such as the plant sale, to create wonderful new memories for our kids and community. Speaking of great traditions, the Deals on Wheels fundraiser is back and now open for donations. If you have an old (working) bike, scooter, ride-along, etc. taking up space in your garage, Deals on Wheels

See Carnival, page 5



Photos by xxxxxxxx

Take Two Seals the Deal

By Linnea Due

A second meeting was held March 28 by the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) to try to appoint a new director to replace Larry Nagel, who resigned January 31. The first meeting, on March 18, ended in a deadlock, with directors Daniel Levine and Danielle Madugo supporting Rick Artis, and Julie Stein and Jim Watt supporting Thomas Cunniff. The first meeting focused on the need to deal with flammable material inside Tilden Park. Both Artis and Cunniff expressed alarm at the buildup of brush and dead wood on Kensington's border with Wildcat Canyon. Artis discussed the danger of a fire to Kensington Hilltop Elementary, while Cunniff talked about his efforts to clear brush and do plantings to reduce the danger of wildfire. Both believe real action this year must come from discussions with the East Bay Regional Park District.

At the second meeting, it became clear that the two candidates share opinions on other matters as well. Both thought the authorized study by Ridgeline will provide essential information on whether it makes fiscal and governance sense to reorganize Kensington's two special districts into one community services district (a process usually called consolidation). Both charged the past fire district with a failure of governance in the decision to reconstruct the Public Safety Building (PSB) as a fire-only facility.

Said Artis in his closing statement: "The power of this board is to do good things

See Board, page 4

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Kensington and Beyond Update

May 2024



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COMPASS

Kensington Market Update

MARCH 2024 TO PRESENT	MARCH - APRIL 2022
4 Closed Sales	18 Closed Sales
Median List Price: \$1,898,000	Median List Price: \$1,199,000
Median Sales Price: \$1,445,000	Median Sales Price: \$1,452,000
Median Sq. Ft.: 1,700	Median Sq. Ft.: 1,743
Median Cost Per Sq. Ft.	Median Cost Per Sq. Ft.
List Price: \$714.91	List Price: \$791.41
Sales Price: \$878.79	Sales Price: \$898.72
Average Days on Market: 14	Average Days on Market: 14

What is my view worth? Basic Guidelines For Valuating A View

Peek-A-Boo View (\$10,000-\$30,000)
A peek-a-boo view has a sliver or small view from probably only one area of the property. This is usually something that can be overlooked if you're walking through the home quickly.

Premier View (\$60,000-\$150,000)
Because there are only so many homes with premier views, this is where the prices really start to climb. Premier views are typically only minimally obstructed (0-20%) and have a wide field of vision.

Partial View (\$30,000-\$60,000)
A partial view is usually more than 50% obstructed by other buildings or structures. There is no doubt that there is a view though in this category.

Panoramic View (\$150,000-\$500,000+)
This view is always breathtaking! People will argue that unobstructable, panoramic ocean and city lights views will retrieve even more.

Whether you are buying or selling a view home, placing a dollar figure on it can be subjective. I recommend doing a deep analysis of the particulars based on location, category, and condition. But one thing's for certain, once you have one, a view is truly a priceless addition to any home. When buying a view home be sure to memorialize what you have by taking photos and keeping the date of the picture in a file. Should you or future owners need evidence of the view from the property this information is very important to protect it. Hopefully everyone can be reasonable, work together, and agree when a view may be compromised in some way.



If you are interested in knowing the value of your home or what is required to sell a home in this market, call me. The appointment is confidential and complimentary.

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Birds, Plants, Lichen, History Anchor the 10th Annual Hillside Fest

By Linnea Due

This year's El Cerrito Hillside Fest is the tenth iteration of this popular event, held on May 4-5. Put on by the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers and the Environmental Quality Committee, the two days include many opportunities to explore the natural world that surrounds us. The event occurs over several nearby locations so consult www.ectrail-trekkers.org/hillside-festival.html for the schedule and map.

Highlights include an early morning bird walk on Saturday, 8-10am. This 1.5 loop has a couple steep pitches, so bring binoculars and a walking stick if you need one. A history hike follows at 10:30-noon. This one is 2 miles. Kids will enjoy the nature scavenger hunt anytime from 1-3pm (parents can help!). Now that you've rested a bit, take the edible and medicinal plant walk from 3:30-5.

Sunday features another early morning bird walk, an insect hike from 10:30-noon, and two sessions of family-friendly art in the trees, 11-11:45am and noon-12:45 pm. Using paint sticks and watercolors, young artists paint tree trunks and branches in a shady glade. And the ever-popular Haiku hike is from 12:30-2. Listen to winning haikus on a short hike or one a bit longer. The lichen hike, from 4:30-6pm features UC Berkeley's lichen curator Dr. Klara Scharnagl.

These are just a few of the many offerings at this magical annual event. Come partake in the beauty that surrounds us.

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The Kensington Community Council is dedicated to the improvement, development, and education of the community, and to the promotion of social welfare in Kensington. It enriches the community by providing educational and recreational programs for all ages and by publishing the Outlook, a monthly newsletter that covers local events and issues. KCC also provides a forum for all Kensington community groups to meet and coordinate their respective efforts toward the common good of the community.

J U N E ~ 2 0 2 4

DEADLINES

Advertising Deadline ❖ MAY 8

Editorial Deadline ❖ MAY 10

Editorial.....
editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

Advertising.....**510-508-3241**
advertising@KensingtonOutlook.com

Classified Advertising
Classified ad rates are \$8 a line (45 spaces or characters), with a 2-line minimum. Online ad formats are available after the back issues listings at: www.KensingtonOutlook.com.
Mail: For display and classified advertising, please contact our advertising manager by phone or email. Other mail to: 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707. Thank you!

Use one space, not two, after all periods.

Letters to the Editor

Lapsed Notifications Part of the Problem

Dear Editor:

Page four of the March 2024 *Outlook* quotes KPPCSD Board President David Spath bemoaning the poor attendance at the January 2024 KPPCSD board meeting. Thank you for the reminder, Mr. Spath!

Until August 2023, I received an email notification from Lynelle Lewis every time a KPPCSD meeting agenda was posted to the website. I would then make it a point to check the agenda and minutes to stay informed of the goings-on.

I have no record of receiving an email notification after August 2023, and honestly, I've forgotten to check the board's agendas. This is something that the KPPCSD board and general manager should be aware of. Have others failed to get notifications? Is there a glitch in the notification system?

I've signed up again to see if KPPCSD agenda notifications will resume, and I encourage others to do the same if your notifications have lapsed or should you wish to receive notification of the board's meetings. The link is here:

<https://www.kppcsd.org/agenda-mailing-list>

Leslie Reckler

Racism Demands Immediate Response

Dear Editor:

On March 26, the administration at Kensington Hilltop Elementary informed community members of "a significant number of incidents in which derogatory slurs have been aimed at students and adults of color on our campus" as well as "many reported micro-aggressions or 'othering' incidents" that "have caused pain and harm [...resulting in] a diminished sense of safety for many of our students and families at Kensington." Moreover, "most of the incidents were observed by many other students, yet no one told an adult." These woeful facts inspire an immediate need for redress.

Racism in our community and especially in our schools is intolerable. Yet here it is, and the fact that it is harming some of our most vulnerable friends, neighbors and their children cannot be ignored. It is the duty of every member of our community to exhibit and promote the values of anti-racism, and it is the responsibility of every parent to instill those values in their children. Kensington's historical legacy as a segregated community in the Berkeley Hills makes these imperatives all the more morally urgent.

It is never too early to talk to your children about race and racism, and there are many resources on how to do so in a thoughtful, sensitive and age-appropriate manner. Neglecting to do so because of the difficulty involved or the delicate nature of the subject is largely the privilege of those who benefit from the sordid effects of racism. Targets of racism are not afforded the privilege of choosing the timing and character of such discussions.

This most recent suite of racist incidents at Kensington Hilltop is the perfect starting point for a discussion with children around the dinner table, or while commuting to an extracurricular. If you do hold and exhibit anti-racist values, teach your children what these values are, why you hold them, and how they can incorporate them into their daily lives. Start with this most basic expectation of decency: do not use racial slurs, even "ironically," and if you are a witness to racist aggression, report it immediately to a trusted adult.

Aaron Schlosser, PhD

Visioning Meetings Planned for May

Both the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) and the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) will hold visioning sessions in May. The sessions were strongly suggested by consultant Dmitry Semenov, whose company, Ridgeline, is providing a fiscal analysis of whether reorganizing the districts into one entity is advantageous. The districts are splitting the \$49,620 cost of the analysis. Semenov made it clear in a fire board meeting that strategic planning must be a prelude to creating a meaningful study. He wants the boards to come up with options that can be explored and priced out as a combined district or continuing as two separate districts. He urged the boards to be creative and to involve the public in the process. Below are the meeting notices:

The Kensington Police Protection & Community Services District will be holding a special meeting to review and update the draft Strategic Plan that was first presented to the district board in October 2022. The special meeting will be at 1pm on May 9 at the Kensington Community Center. The district is seeking public input on the draft Strategic Plan. It is available for review on the district's web site at <https://www.kppcsd.org/>. Comments can be sent to the Interim General Manager David Aranda at daranda@kppcsd.org. Members of the public are invited to attend the special meeting either in person or on Zoom (details will be posted on the district's website: <https://www.kppcsd.org/kppcsd-board>).

The Kensington Fire Protection District will hold a strategic planning and visioning session for providing services that fulfill the district's mission at 6:30pm on May 6 in the Kensington Community Center. Members of the public are invited to attend either in person or on Zoom (details will be posted on the district's website: <https://www.kensingtonfire.org/board-meetings>) to provide input. Comments can also be sent in advance to Interim General Manager Tim Barry at tbarry@kensingtonfire.org.



Mary French (aka Miss Mary) is retiring after working at the Kensington Library for over 17 years. French began working at Lafayette Library 20 years ago before transferring to Kensington. In 2007, she began offering her popular Baby and Toddler Storytime. Thank you, Miss Mary and your beloved puppets, for bringing so many smiles to the library!

March Police Log

On March 2, officers responded to the 200 block of Grizzly Peak Blvd to complete a death investigation. No foul play is suspected, and the case was referred to the coroner's office.

- On March 2, officers responded to the 300 block of Coventry Road to investigate mail theft. Officers determined the crime occurred in another jurisdiction but took a courtesy report to assist the neighboring jurisdiction with its investigation.
- On March 7, officers responded to a cycling-related injury in the 200 block of Kenyon Ave. A cyclist rode a bike over uneven pavement resulting from East Bay MUD pipe replacement work. The cyclist lost control and fell off. EBMUD was notified.
- On March 9, an officer was conducting extra patrol on Grizzly Peak Blvd when he noticed a vehicle that appeared to be casing the area. The officer conducted a vehicle stop for a vehicle code violation and contacted the driver who was acting suspiciously and who became verbally combative with the officer. The vehicle was later towed from the scene for vehicle code violations and the driver cited.
- On March 13, officers responded to Kingston Rd to investigate a report of identity theft.
- On March 14, officers responded to the intersection of Purdue Ave and Kenyon Ave for a report of a collision. Officers determined there were no injuries, and the parties had successfully exchanged information. A report was taken documenting the exchange.
- On March 16, officers responded to a report of a vehicle that collided into a building in the 200 block of Arlington Ave. Officers determined the driver accelerated over the curb and into a business. The driver and the business management exchanged information and resolved the matter civilly. A report was taken to document the incident. No injuries were reported.
- On March 20, officers responded to the 200 block of Lake Dr. for a theft report that occurred overnight. Initially, the owner did not realize anything had been taken; however, the following day, the victim received a call from a bank stating someone had attempted to cash checks. An officer was able to gain additional leads from the bank, and the investigation is ongoing. An arrest warrant is being sought for more evidence that will lead to the apprehension of the suspect.
- On March 21, officers responded to the 200 block of Purdue for identity theft. A case report was authored.
- On March 27, officers responded to the 100 block of Arlington Ave for a report of a bicycle vs. vehicle collision with injuries. Fire and Medical responded to the scene to render aid to the cyclist. An injury-collision investigation was completed.
- On March 29, officers received a report of a sexual assault. The investigation is in the early stages and officers are working with the DA's office to further the case.

FKL Book Sale May 19, Magic, Women, and Scholarships Headline Programs at the Library

By Jenny Rockwell

Enjoy free programs offered by the Kensington Library at 61 Arlington Avenue. Call 510-524-3043 with questions. Thank you to the Friends of the Kensington Library for making library programs possible.

Sat, May 4, 2pm, Paying for College Series, Session 1: The Complex Landscape of University Scholarships Rebecca Lippman will walk you through the steps to identify, apply for and manage college scholarships.

Tues, May 7, 6:30pm Friends of the Kensington Library Friends of the Kensington Library, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has worked to improve and financially support library services in Kensington since 1959. Meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, for one hour. Open to all Kensington residents.

Tues, May 7, 6:30pm, Castoff's Knitting Club Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Open to all levels of knitters. Bring your own yarn!

Sat, May 11, 2 pm, Paying for College Series, Session 2: Find Scholarships that Fit Rebecca Lippman will walk you through the steps to identify, apply for and manage college scholarships.

Tues, May 14, 6:30pm Magician Michael Della Penna He's silly, he's funny and he'll make you go WOW! Mike Della Penna creates wonder and laughter with family magic performances that are equal parts playful and astonishing.

Join us for a fun, family-friendly magic show at the Kensington Library!

Sat, May 18, 2-4pm Meet the Artists Denise McCarthy and Liv Imset share about their exhibition Encounters: Women in the World. Inspired by a collage by Amir Khadar at the Oakland Museum's Afrofuturism exhibit, the artists created a series of photomontages, featuring women they have encountered in their travels. Their exhibit will be up on view from 5/4 through June 2024.

Sun, May 19, 10am-4pm, Friends of Kensington Library Book Sale In the parking lot behind the library, the Friends of the Kensington Library will be selling a huge inventory of books to raise money for the library, helping to pay for library programs and books!

Monday, May 20, 6:30-8pm Kensington Library Book Club The club meets online via Zoom, usually on the fourth Monday of each month, this month on the third Monday. The selection for May is Rules of Civility by Amor Towles.

Tues, May 28, 6pm, Paying for College Series, Session 3: Develop Unique Essays Learn to analyze and identify up to five typical varieties of the scholarship essay and walk away with a clear sense of the most relevant content, details, and facts that must be incorporated into strong application materials.

Friday, May 3 Baby and Toddler Storytime May 3 is Miss Mary's last day! Miss Mary has been offering Baby & Toddler Storytime for 17.5 years at Kensington Library and will be retiring on May 4.

Fun stories, songs, action rhymes, and more! Great for increasing early literacy skills and making friends. Two identical sessions. 10am & 11am.

Tuesdays, May 7, 21, 28 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. 6:30pm.

Tuesdays, May 7 and 21 Read to a Dog Join us and a licensed therapy dog for a 15-minute reading session every first and third Tuesday afternoon. 3-4pm.

Seed library While supplies last, the Kensington Library seed library is always being restocked with free seeds of seasonal varieties. We also accept seed donations!

Board

...from Front Page

for the community. This board has a governance responsibility to Kensington that past boards have shirked.... They created a situation that is untenable for Kensington, knowing there was vociferous opposition. There is work to do to mitigate the harm done to this community to the tune of millions of dollars. I don't know if the PSB is a done issue..." Calling the decision a horrific governance event, he said that part of his motivation for joining the board is to give the community a voice in decision-making moving forward. Earlier, Artis stated "there needs to be a governance dialogue in Kensington in a big way. I think it's profoundly important."

Answering a question about how the board should interact with the community, Cunniff said he didn't think "most people have any idea about how fire would take over the building and the police were set adrift.... That [the PSB] should be a fire-only building should have gone to a public vote. The boards have to get the word out about these issues." In response to a question about a five-year plan, he said that part of that plan had to be whether the police should be back in the PSB. "We have to be open to the possibility that the police might cohabit that building.... We need to act in a fiscally responsible manner, for example, the police having nowhere to go. I'd like to see more community involvement in how decisions are made."

Most of the comment from residents who called in on Zoom or attended the meeting supported Artis, who served on 2017's ad hoc committee (lead on the consolidation subcommittee) and also sits on the board of the Kensington Property Owners Association. Given his experience, speakers felt that Artis could hit the ground running. Board comment noted that the two candidates had similar opinions but different styles of engagement. Said board president Levine: "You both had a lot of concerns about wildfire on the ridge. You were both in accord on that issue with possibly different styles. To me that makes the division about style." Cunniff is blunt, pledging to "pick a job and do it," while Artis is more diplomatic and data-driven.

In the end, the board again deadlocked on two separate votes, with the directors voting as they had on March 18. After the second vote, Cunniff said that "given the community support that [Artis] has, people know him and made strong testimony, I withdraw my application." After heartfelt appreciation from the directors, who urged Cunniff to continue engaging in board business, the board voted 4-0 to appoint Rick Artis as the new fire board director. Artis will serve the remainder of Larry Nagel's term, which ends this December. To continue on the board, he would have to win one of the two board seats in the November election. Appointed director Danielle Madugo occupies the other seat (vacated by Don Dommer) and would also have to win election to serve on the board in 2025.



Kensington's High School Seniors—Listen Up!

Let the tradition continue! Calling all high school seniors who live(d) in Kensington, or who attended Hilltop Elementary School for all or part of their elementary school years. You are invited to join other alumni for the annual Kensington High School Senior Photo.

The photo is scheduled for Sunday, May 5 at 3:30pm. Come to the KCC Office/Recreation Building in the park at 59 Arlington Ave. Come early to catch up with old friends! The photo will appear on the cover of the June *Outlook*.

If you are unable to attend the photo day, you can send a single photo to KCCSeniorPhotos@gmail.com. Include your name, the high school you attended, and your plan for next year: name of college, gap year, undecided, etc.

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A Garden Grows in Kensington

By Kathryn Sibley

The Contra Costa Chorale is holding its spring concert on May 11 at Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. This concert, "Make Our Garden Grow," is heartbreakingly special for members of the Chorale, as it will be for audience members as well. Artistic Director Cindy Beitmen was to be celebrated with a world premiere of a piece commissioned by the Chorale board to recognize Cindy's twelve-year tenure with the Chorale. When Cindy took the helm of the group in 2012, it had only about 30 members and had been abandoned by its then director. Now, in 2024, the group has grown to almost 80 people who are fiercely devoted to their community of singers.

The commissioned choral work, "Seed," is a beautiful piece by renowned composer Joan Szymko, based on a poem written by Elsa Gidlow, a cofounder of Druid Heights, a bohemian community established in the 1950s in Marin County.

Sadly, however, Cindy Beitmen was admitted to home hospice care in early April, having finally succumbed to the cancer she was diagnosed with seven years ago, suddenly making this concert a much more significant celebration of Beitmen's work with the Chorale.

As a demonstration of that importance, the concert will now be led by one of the world's preeminent choral directors, Dr. Edith Copley, one of Beitmen's dearest friends and a dynamic and exciting conductor who will come from her home in Arizona to work with the Chorale. Additionally, composer Joan Szymko has agreed to conduct the premiere of "Seed" along with another piece of hers that was already scheduled for the program.

The program as a whole is intended to celebrate the diversity of choral music, bringing together composers who may have been previously marginalized or overlooked. We also welcome this opportunity to make a place in our garden for guest artists with a variety of perspectives, cultures, musical styles, gender expressions, and lived experiences historical and contemporary. A final highlight of the concert will showcase guest artists Rev. Carolyn Anderson and the Community Fellowship Choral Ensemble singing gospel presentations of the historical 'Spirituals' in addition to joining the Chorale in singing the final piece on the program.

What was already promising to be an amazing performance by the Contra Costa Chorale will be made even more powerful by the emotions of the 78-voice chorus remembering and honoring Artistic Director Cindy Beitmen and her vision and programming brilliance.

Tickets may be purchased in advance here: <https://ticketstripe.com/cocochorale>. Advance ticket prices: \$20 General, \$15 Students/Seniors/Disabled. Door ticket prices: \$25 General, \$20 Students/Seniors/Disabled. All children under 12—free admission always. For further information, please visit www.ccchorale.org, email cocochorale@gmail.com, or call (510) 730-0202.



Cindy Beitmen

RED OAK REALTY'S
KENSINGTON MARKET UPDATE

Now that we've wrapped up the first quarter of 2024, here is a snapshot of the Kensington real estate market.

19
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

8
TRANSACTIONS

9%
AVERAGE LIST \$ VS. SALE \$

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*Source: MLS, single family homes sold; January - March 2024

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MAY 2024

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

Page 5

Carnival

...from Front Page

would love to take it off your hands. The team, led by Drew McGaraghan, will clean it, fix it up, and sell it to some lucky family during the Carnival! Both kids and adult bikes are welcome! Donations are tax deductible and support the PTA and the Auxiliary. Please drop off any donations with Drew McGaraghan at 7442 Terrace Drive (in the front yard against the garage) or text Drew at 415-806-3436 to coordinate. Arrive early to test-ride the best selection of bikes. There are often lots of great options for smaller bikes when the Carnival opens at 11am.

For those looking to satisfy their sweet tooth, you will not be disappointed. The bake sale will be offering cookies and treats of all varieties in the MPR, while out on the Carnival grounds you will find cotton candy, root beer floats, snow cones and of course the Cake Walk!

There will be no shortage of action and things to do on the Hilltop asphalt. From the Water Balloon Catapult to Sleeping Pirate, there will be games galore for all ages. Pick My Nose, Leap Frog and Astro Cars are just a few of the fantastic favorites that will be running all day long. Like the food tickets, game tickets will be available for pre-purchase in the weeks leading up to Carnival on the Spirit Wear website listed above.

A cornerstone to each and every Hilltop Carnival is the quilt raffle. This year's quilt is entitled "Edges." It was designed by Jennifer and Stella Ritter and quilted by Susan Morford. It will be auctioned off around 2pm on carnival day along with dozens of other generous prizes donated from the Kensington community. Kensington Hilltop students will begin selling raffle tickets in the weeks ahead, or visit the Spirit Wear website to purchase in advance of May 18.

The Kensington Hilltop Carnival is a special event in our community, having brought together generations of friends and family. If you're new to the community, we encourage you to join us even if you don't have a student at Hilltop. And if you've seen many of the 75 Carnivals that have come before this one, we hope to see you again.

Passings

Irene Watt passed away on March 2, 2024 at her home of 56 years in Kensington. Irene was born in what became East Germany, then immigrated with her family to West Germany in 1957. After completing her education in chemistry she lived in Paris for three years and then decided to travel around the world. While working for Kaiser in the Bay Area, she met her husband Jim Watt by accident. Yes, their cars collided in Berkeley, and Jim had the information he needed to start their relationship.

Irene raised two sons, Kensington resident Thomas and Stephen, who teaches English in Massachusetts. Conversant in four languages, Irene led tours of the Bay Area for French, Italian and German tourists. She was an excellent bird watcher, played the recorder and helped families with seniors suffering from dementia. She and Jim traveled often to Europe to visit relatives and take weeklong hiking trips throughout Europe and especially in the Alps.

Dementia finally caught up with Irene, but she was able to stay in her home where she felt comfortable. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Irene Watt in Hawaii with her family.

Patrons enjoying the last Friends of Kensington Library book sale. This year's sale is Sunday, May 19, 10am to 4pm, in the library parking lot. Photo by Esther Hill.

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KENSINGTON K-9s

Keanu: Handsome and Lovable as His Namesake
By Winston Churchill, Bulldog

Whoa! I saw a cool, handsome dude with a wavy black coat chasing his ball energetically across Kensington Park. Who is this good-looking guy? It's Keanu!

Keanu is a four-year-old Portuguese Water Dog (PWD). His mom, Pam, is a lover of the breed and he's the fourth PWD that she's had over the years. She first became interested in the breed because she has a dog allergy and was looking for a companion with a hypoallergenic coat. PWD have a thick, waterproof, non-shedding, non-allergenic coat and fit her desire for a medium-sized, intelligent working dog that would be friendly, energetic, and good-looking.

PWD are smart, strong, and seaworthy. They were developed to help fishermen herd fish into nets, retrieve tackle, and ferry messages between ships and shore. Pam's first PWD was Rio, followed by Bica, Jet, and Keanu. She has also fostered four PWD for rescue organizations.



Rio was a classic water-loving PWD and a local celebrity, captain of the San Francisco Giants Baseball Aquatic Retrieval Korps (BARK). The BARK Team was made up of five PWD trained to retrieve homerun baseballs from McCovey Cove at Oracle Park in the early 2000s. The BARK Team's prized homerun balls were auctioned off to benefit an animal rescue shelter, Pets in Need.

Keanu continues the family tradition of water sports and athleticism. He loves going to the beach to swim and play in the waves. Dog training is Pam's hobby, and when Keanu isn't playing with his stuffies and chasing balls, he's having fun training with her. Keanu is working on numerous AKC titles in Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, and Water Work. He's a quick learner and has boundless energy. Keanu and Pam have so much fun working together on dog sports!

As a breed, PWD are known to be goofy, lovable clowns that are affectionate, athletic, and adventurous. Keanu Reeves, the man, is not only dark and handsome but also a humble, kind soul. Keanu of Kensington is true both to his breed and to his movie star namesake.



Wildcat Firewise Hones in on Hazard Reduction Strategies

By Johnny Valenzuela

On March 13, Wildcat Firewise hosted an educational walk with El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department's Captain Travis Crumpacker, focusing on hazard reduction. The walk, attended by about 20 community members along Kensington Road, focused on how hazards around the home can be addressed by residents to lower wildfire risk.

Captain Crumpacker, along with Tom Peters, the department's new fire prevention officer, highlighted the dangers of Diablo winds and the potential of fast-moving wildfires in our area. They underscored the importance of removing certain types of vegetation, like junipers, eucalyptus, and bamboo, due to their high flammability and tendency to obstruct escape routes during fires.

Residents were advised to eliminate all non-essential flammable materials from their properties, including foliage and wooden structures connected to homes. The walk also emphasized the often-overlooked flammable components of houses, such as screen doors and roofing materials. Simple changes, like installing metal screen doors and applying fire-resistant caulk to seal gaps, can significantly increase a home's defense against wildfires.

If you are interested in creating a Firewise community, contact Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela at prepare@kensingtonfire.org.





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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT. Kensington Village Center @ 268 Arlington Ave, 250 SF, 1st Floor, adjacent to waiting area. Private. Call Bart Jones @ 510-527-9328.

PARENT COACHING - early childhood specialist Susan Gann, former preschool teacher/director turned child psycho-therapist (retired). Phone/Zoom sessions available. Resume and references available upon request. 510-604-2375

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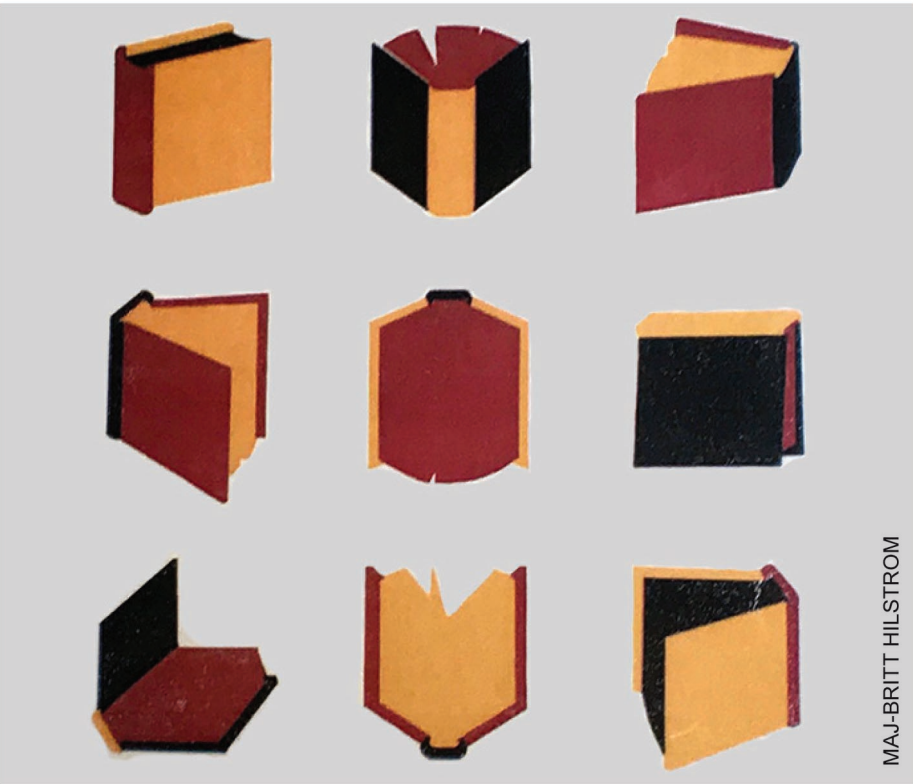
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KENSINGTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION



KCC Summer Camp Activities & Schedule

\$425 Kensington Resident/\$470 Nonresident per week

Week 1 June 10- June 14
Theme: Rainbows & Unicorns • Specialty: Creative Crafts w/ April Schlanger • Mid-Week Activity: Sterling the Bubblesmith

Week 2 *June 17-June 21 (no camp Wednesday 6/19) *cost \$350/\$385
Theme: Superheroes • Specialty: Carpentry

Week 3 June 24-June 28
Theme: Enchanted Forest • Specialty: Fun with Food • Mid-Week Activity: Brian Scott Magic Show

Week 4 *July 1- July 5 (no camp Thursday 7/4) *cost is \$350/\$385
Theme: Stars & Stripes • Specialty: Dance Fitness • Mid-Week Activity: Cooking Creations

Week 5 July 8 - July 12
Theme: Dino Days • Specialty: Sports Medley • Mid-Week Activity: Visit from the Vivarium

Week 6 July 15 - July 19
Theme: Jr. Chef Showdown • Specialty: Cooking w/ April • Mid-Week Activity: Cooking Competition

Week 7 July 22 - July 26
Theme: Animal Adventures • Specialty: Cooking Creations • Mid-Week Activity: Petting Zoo

Week 8 July 29 - August 2
Theme: Under the Sea • Specialty: Legos • Mid-Week Activity: Chocolate Creations

Week 9 August 5 - August 9
Theme: Olympic Week • Specialty: Camp Olympics

Week 10 August 12 - August 16 Active Waitlist
Theme: Beach Week • Specialty: Sports Medley • Mid-Week Activity: Cooking with Vicky

KASEP- Kensington After School Enrichment Programs

Mark your calendars for the Fall KASEP registration scheduled for Tuesday, August 29th at 7:00pm for kindergarten and 7:30pm for grades 1-6. Fall Brochure will be sent to Hilltop families the first week of school.



Let the tradition continue! Calling all high school seniors who live(d) in Kensington, or who attended Hilltop Elementary School for all or part of their elementary school years - you are invited to join other alumni for the annual Kensington High School Senior Photo. The photo is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th at 3:30pm. Location: KCC Office /Recreation Building. Come early to catch-up with old friends! The photo will appear on the cover of the June Outlook.



Adult and Family Classes

Mediterranean Cooking
When: Every Tuesday evening in the Community Center
Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
Location: Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington
Price: \$45 per class, which includes all materials needed for the class.
Flexible Attendance: Join us each week for a comprehensive culinary journey or drop in when your schedule permits.
May 7th: Egypt
May 14th: Tuscany
May 21st: Sardinia
May 28th: Campania
Family Toddler Yoga in the Park
with Lori Hess and Way to Glow Kids Yoga
Class dates: Sun 5/5, Sat 5/11, Sun 5/26 and June dates- Sun 6/2, Sun 6/9, Sun 6/23, and Sun 6/30.
Please complete a registration form at <https://bit.ly/38Sq91k> and contact waytoglowkidsyoga@gmail.com with questions about the class.

Cardio Dance with Karma Smart
Fridays 11:15-12:15 Community Center
Cost \$15 drop in or register online
Yoga with Anja Borgstrom
Strength & Balance Yoga - Tuesdays at 8:30am
Strength & Balance Yoga - Thursdays at 11:30
Cost is \$20 drop in or register online
Tai Chi with Nobuo Nishi
Wednesdays & Fridays from 9:30-11:00am
Drop-in fee is \$15
Register at KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/adult-and-family-classes
The Kensington Outlook can now be found at: KensingtonOutlook.com
Archive copies can also be found on our website dating back to 2003.
KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Recreation Building Kensington CA 94707
E-mail: Info@KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org, or call 510-525-0292.



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KENSINGTON EATS OUT

Kensington Eats Sustainable Seafood

By Ittai Shiu

Every Friday afternoon neighbors drop by Angela Chan’s house for their routine visit. Situated at the intersection of Rugby and Yale, a sizable cooler filled with ice sits in front of her house where each visitor sorts through individually wrapped bags for the one bearing their name filled with a curated selection of freshly caught seafood. Depending on the day’s catch, these bags contain anything from mussels to oysters to various types of local fish.

Angela and her husband Sam relocated to Kensington in 2022, just before the birth of their son, Avery. With a longstanding appreciation for fresh, sustainable seafood, the family was introduced to this community seafood program in 2020 when the pandemic impacted the food industry and limited choices for food lovers. However, upon settling into their new community, Angela noticed the absence of similar options in Kensington and decided to take the initiative!

Enter Seaforager, a community-supported fishery (CSF) program with pick-up locations all over the Bay Area. Their mission centers on preserving healthy fisheries for future generations by supporting fishermen who fish responsibly, providing fair compensation, and upholding transparency in the supply chain that allows consumers to trace each fish back to its origin. Never dragged, Sea Forager has higher sustainability standards than Monterey Seafood Watch, plus sustainable packaging.

The Sea Forager program allows customers to select from various neighborhood pickup spots across the Bay Area and customize the size, type, and frequency of their orders. They can choose between the Neptune’s Delight which can include fish or shellfish, and the Slab, which is strictly fish fillets (no shellfish.)

“We found that there were no pick-up sites in Kensington, so we began hosting them weekly on Fridays at our house,” says Angela. “it’s been a great opportunity to connect with neighbors and share our connection with the sea while supporting a local business.”



Angela’s favorite deliveries have included local rockfish, salmon, and McFarland Springs rainbow trout and as part of the subscription, members learn about the seasons of seafood, and get the story behind the fish along with prep tips and easy recipes. On the website www.seaforager.com visitors can subscribe to a package, manage their deliveries, and also sign up for their coastal fishing and foraging classes.

Kirk & Camilla, the duo behind Sea Forager say, “We are lucky to live in a place with incredible bounty, community, and wonderful hosts like Angela. And while it feels good to do good, it also tastes better. Small boat hook and line fishermen take better care of their fish, and the result is a higher quality product that our Bay Area home cooks can really have fun with. Supporting healthy fisheries and the people who go the extra mile to catch and harvest them responsibly is tasty work!”

Thanks to the efforts of Sea Forager and Angela, our community has access to convenient, freshly caught, sustainable seafood to create satisfying meals without having to leave Kensington.

Photo credits: Man with fish by Kat Covell, others by Ittai Shiu.

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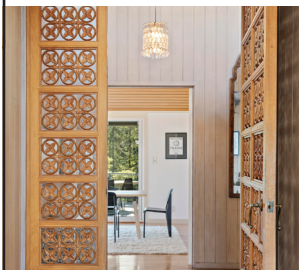
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Runners were all smiles despite a rainy April 13 at Zip Code East Bay’s 6th annual Colusa Circle 5K.

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