

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

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The Arlington to open in early November



Kensington husband and wife team Marc LaJoie and Trish McDermott will be opening a completely renovated and redecorated new restaurant, The Arlington, at 269 Arlington Avenue, in what used to be Shai's. It is set to open in early November.

The Arlington will feature local and organic produce, and the couple hope that it will become a favorite neighborhood hangout for people from all over the East Bay. LaJoie, the chef, will be serving a revamped menu, retaining some of the favorite items from Shai's menu along with many new items. He has a passion for organic foods, and the menu will highlight a wide variety of dishes made from local sustainable ingredients and fresh, seasonal produce. They also will be offering locally produced beverages, including wine, beer, and soft drinks.

"Our concept is 'eat where you live,' which doesn't mean you have to live nearby to enjoy our food. Our goal is to support local vendors and suppliers in a green environment," said LaJoie. McDermott added, "We want to create a place for people to gather and feel comfortable in a relaxed atmosphere and to enjoy their meal with family and friends."

The Arlington's menu will feature a range of breakfast dishes, including organic coffees, freshly baked goods, and mouth-watering breakfast burritos. The lunch menu will feature a full deli, hot panini sandwich specials, freshly made hot soups, creative salads, and seasonal side dishes. The dinner menu will include all the lunchtime favorites plus hot entrée daily specials such as vegetarian lasagna, beef stew, chicken pot pie, and more. A



LaJoie, McDermott and friends outside The Arlington

kids' menu will offer a range of healthy items. The couple have three children of their own, Sage, 8, Aidan, 5, and Hadley, 2, so they have a lot of experience with what children like to eat.

LaJoie and McDermott promise delicious meals in a casual, laid-back, comfortable environment as well as take-out food to enjoy at home. The Arlington will be open 6 days a week starting at 7 a.m. They will continue the catering business that was the primary service of the previous owners.

On the day they got the keys, LaJoie and McDermott started deep-cleaning the whole place, and the next day they had an impromptu party for friends and any locals who happened by. The place quickly filled with adults and children who ate tasty Middle Eastern sausages, pizza, soft cheeses, and brownies.

The couple is working with the county to bring the kitchen up to the latest code requirements. They are changing the wall coverings, moving in new tables and chairs, and replacing the bar and signage

on the window. They foresee a place that is comfortable for dining and have plans to landscape the outside. They will soon have a Web site for catering and daily offerings.

Both LaJoie and McDermott are originally from the east coast, he from western Massachusetts and she from Philadelphia. LaJoie previously worked in the restaurant business and more recently in health care in Napa. McDermott worked for the last 10 years in marketing for the Gap in San Francisco. "The Arlington is a dream come true," she says. It provides a way for them to do what they love and spend more time with their family. LaJoie said one of the best features of their new lifestyle will be the commute; they live a few doors away on Arlington Ave. with their children and their big brown dog, Gatsby. LaJoie will continue with his health-care business, moving it into offices next door. For more information about The Arlington, call 525-3900 or visit their Web site at www.269theArlington.com.

Proposed use for the Annex

Preschool and child care center proposed



In September, Jullie Sautman wrote to the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District asking them to lease the Community Center Annex to her so she could open a preschool and child care center in the building. The KPPCSD suggested that Sautman attend the next meeting where park-related matters would be discussed and the use of the Annex building was on the agenda. The later meeting was cancelled due to illness and will be rescheduled.

Previously the building was leased to the Neighborhood School, which ran a similar business there. The Neighborhood School is now situated on the premises of the Kensington Elementary School; it moved out of the Annex when the drains became blocked and the building flooded. Subsequently the building developed a bad infestation of mold, and KPPCSD had to employ a mold remediation company to completely clean the building. When this was done, the building was completely redecorated inside. Now the district is considering best uses for the building, balancing the community's needs with the need to earn extra revenue.

Sautman is experienced in working in and running child care centers. Previously she worked at the Kensington Nursery School, progressing to head teacher. When she became a mother, she left the school, and a year later she started working for a nonprofit children's center in Richmond. Last year the organization moved her to a troubled center in San Leandro, which she brought up to standard and profitability within a year.

In her letter to the district, Sautman outlined her plans for the Kensington Preschool and Child Care Center (KPCCC). She sees a need to supplement the five existing preschools, the family day care center, and the KCC KASEP program, citing long waiting lists to attend these establishments. She says the KPCCC mission will be to maintain an untarnished reputation, provide high-quality preschool and childcare services, and offer competitive pricing.

The bathroom in the Annex is now open to the public from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day. If the building is rented, presumably the bathroom would no longer be available to the general public.

This is the first such proposal presented to the district for a commercial use of the Annex, and it is expected that the board will wait to see if there is interest within the community for alternative ventures or perhaps some non-money-making ventures. The district continues to solicit input from the community about ideas for the newly revamped Community Center Annex.

Lynn Price contributes to the Noble Peace Prize

Most people have heard that Al Gore won the Nobel Peace Prize. But do you remember hearing that he shared the prize? The award was also given to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change." IPCC assesses technical and socioeconomic information relevant to human-induced climate change, its potential impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation. Each of its reports is created by hundreds of authors from 130

countries, and the latest, the Fourth Assessment Report, is the result of six years of work.

This 2007 report that contributed to the IPCC gaining the Nobel Peace Prize was partially written by scientists at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, among them Lynn Price of Kensington. Price is a scientist with the International Energy Studies Group at Lawrence Berkeley Lab. She works on energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions, international benchmarking of industrial energy use, and effectiveness of voluntary agreements and other policy mechanisms. She has an MA from with University of Wisconsin and has been at LBNL since 1990. She was also involved with previous IPCC reports and was instrumental in writing the Third Assessment Report.

Kensington Improvement Club Town Hall Meeting

An array of speakers is lined up for the annual KIC Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, November 3. It starts at

9:30 a.m. and continues until noon. Bruce Harter, superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District, Chief of Police Gregory Harman, Hilltop School's new principal Judy Sanders, Assemblywoman Loni Hancock, Supervisor John Gioia,

Battalion Fire Chief Mike Pigoni, and speakers from local groups all have important information for Kensington residents. So come early to get a good seat, a cup of coffee, and a cookie. Plans allow for a question-and-answer period for each speaker.



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Pending in Kensington



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DONATIONS



Kids at a KASEP program that benefits from the donations below

Last month the KCC started its 2007 Fall Fundraising Campaign. It is never too late to donate, and KCC welcomes contributions of any size, either corporate or personal. All deductions are, of course, tax deductible. Contributions can be mailed to KCC, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington CA 94709, or they can be delivered to the Recreation Center, Building E, at the above address.

KCC thanks all who have donated so generously already. These are:

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Police impersonation case settled

The civil law suit brought by Elsa Seward for wrongful arrest by two Kensington police officers, Sergeant Khan and Officer Ty, was settled in October. Khan and Ty were accused of wrongfully arresting Seward after they made a routine traffic stop when Seward was speeding and failed to stop at a stop sign. While Seward looked for her identification, Ty noticed a police officer badge in her belongings. When Ty, an officer in training, saw the badge, he asked Khan to take over. Khan asked Seward for identification to prove she was indeed a police officer, but she was unable to do so. Consequently she was arrested and taken to the Kensington police station. There she told the officers that she was a member of the San Francisco Institutional Police, who do security at the opera house and symphony hall. Once this was confirmed, she was allowed to go. Seward claimed discrimination because of her age, sex, and accent. She also claimed she was humiliated by being taken to the police station. She agreed to settle for \$47,500, and U.S. District Judge Susan Illston dismissed the suit. Chief Greg Harman supported the police officers at the court.

Community Invited to Hilltop Garden Party Auction November 10th

Kensington resident Kevin Cadogan is an award-winning songwriter and guitarist who has a child attending Kensington Elementary School. Cadogan wrote and performed several radio hits with the San Francisco rock group Third Eye Blind in the late '90s. For Kensington Elementary School's Garden Party, Cadogan has donated a "Rock Star" kit—a guitar, a portable amp, and a microphone. He also donated a song commission. The highest bidder will have a song written about whomever they choose by Kevin Cadogan and recorded with the vocals of his colleague, performer Steve Harwell. An extra bonus for the lucky one who bids the highest for the "Rock Star" kit: Cadogan and Harwell will both sign the guitar.

Many parents and local businesses donate to the Garden Party, so there is something available for all tastes and budgets. One of the most sought-after donations is the Dads' Club work party, where a team of willing, enthusiastic, and skillful dads will come to your home and paint, insulate, dig, plant, build, and much

more for a whole day. Last year's winner of this prize will be trying for it again, so bidding will be brisk. Also there will be more fine art donated by art dealer Alex Adelman, mosaics for outdoor or indoor use, and the class baskets in a variety of themes: In the Kitchen, Parent's Night Out, Family Game Night, Preschool Toys, Sports and Games, and Cal Bears. Other items to be auctioned include a week in a private two-bedroom suite in Puerto Rico, a two-night stay in a cottage at Stinson Beach, a complete Restoration Hardware outdoor dining set, restaurant gift certificates, and tickets to Bay Area attractions: Discovery Museum, Oakland Museum, and San Francisco MOMA.

The Garden Party is the Hilltop School's principal fundraiser. Proceeds go to support unfunded educational programs such as the computer lab, the science lab, the library coordinator, art and music programs, and classroom supplies.

Once again the Garden Party is generously sponsored by Ruth Frassetto and the Grubb Co.

The Garden Party will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., on November 10, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited! Tickets are \$50 in advance (\$55 at the door) and can be obtained by calling Catherine Mercurio at 527-1297.

Turn the librarian's hair pink!



Kensington Library is encouraging local youth to "think pink" this school year. Teens and tweens are asked to complete short reviews of books they've read recently (five sentences minimum) and drop them off at the library. As an incentive, Suzanne Vito, Kensington's Teen & Tween Services library assistant, has promised to dye her hair hot

pink in exchange for 200 reviews by the end of the school year. If the total reaches 300, she will add electric blue streaks to her hot pink hairdo.

Teens or tweens may review any and as many books as they like but not multiple reviews of the same book. No anonymous reviews will be counted in the total. Pink book review bookmarks are in the Kensington Library, so drop by and pick up one or ten and remember to Think Pink!

The KHS BBQ: A Brief History of a Great Project

By JIM THOMSEN

Larry Polito had a vision. The Dads' Club would build a barbecue on the Hilltop campus to be used at school events for many years to come. While the architects drew up the plans for Hilltop School seismic retrofit, Larry worked with them to get the barbecue on the plans and approved.

In 2005 the new Hilltop School was opened, and Polito ordered the barbecue grills. Polito, Paul Normington, Michael Waxman, and Fred Hyer consulted on the design. The plans were approved by the architect and WCCUSD. During this time for legal reasons the project changed from a "barbecue" to a "modified grilling apparatus" or the "MGA."

Plywood, cinderblock, cement, and rebar were ordered, partially paid for by a \$750 grant from Chevron, arranged by Walt Gill. On January 20, Dads' Club members broke ground on the project, and over the course of the several cold and wet weekends the MGA began taking shape. Lozica Contracting of El Cerrito donated concrete, which was poured in February. In April, Carl and Lisa Brodsky, Kensington parents and owners of The Tileshop in Berkeley, donated beautiful Japanese craftsman tile for the finish. A craftsmen from The Tileshop made a special tile pattern for the inlaid front.

In a push to get the MGA ready for the 2006 Spring Carnival, Waxman and Thomsen did the majority of the tile work and floating the grout over two weekends. Andrew Duquet and the Brodskys put the finishing touch on the MGA by sealing the grout with only days to spare. While the MGA was finished for the carnival, the project was not fully complete. For eighteen months, the Dads' Club struggled to find a solution for a permanent cover. During this period, the school community patiently put up with the temporary plywood cover, whose shape and size caused the MGA to be lovingly renamed "the sarcophagus." Waxman drew up plans for a metal cover, and although many fabricators turned down the job, Adam Lehman found someone to make it. Now the cover is installed and was shown off at a recent Dads' Club meeting.

Finally, after nearly two years, the MGA is finished! Today Hilltop School finally has a great aluminum cover that shows the beautiful tile while protecting the grills and making the MGA safe for the kids on the playground. The Dads' Club thanks everyone who participated in bringing the MGA to life. While a few people played key roles in making this happen, dozens of Dads' Club members participated. Without their help this never would have happened. Thanks to everyone! Special thanks to Larry Polito, who had the vision that put this incredibly special project in motion!

Pet of the month

Angel is an 11-year-old cinnamon cockatiel who is happiest when he is socially engaged with people. He loves Seinfeld reruns and, in fact, modeled his own comedy routines after Jerry, Elaine, Cosmo, and George. He has many tricks up his sleeve, including barking like a dog. He would be a good companion for another sweet bird or a stay-at-home human. Visit Angel seven days a week at RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave, 525-6155.



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INFORMATION EVENTS

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2060 Tapscott Ave., El Cerrito
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MIDDLE SCHOOL (5-8)
Sunday, October 28, 2007
960 Avis Dr., El Cerrito
510/528.5800

MAIN POINTS OF ENTRY
Kindergarten & Sixth Grade

New Middle School
Visual/Performing Arts Building



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Kensington does yoga

For more than a year now, Kensington has had its own yoga classes at the Community Center. These are sponsored by the Kensington Community Council and are held in the Community Center and in the Recreation Building in the mornings and evenings. The Tuesday morning session (9:30–10:30 a.m.) is led by Nicole Becker, a Bay Area native who has been doing yoga for 13 years. She was trained locally and has been teaching in Kensington for over a year. She studied Anusara yoga and is also a qualified masseuse and aroma therapist, practicing in El Cerrito. She also teaches at seven other East Bay locations.

Becker says she like teaching in Kensington because "the students who come to these classes probably would not feel comfortable in a large yoga studio." She says her students become happier and healthier in their bodies and by extension in their minds. "The first class I ever taught was at a healing center in Assisi in Italy, with people speaking five different languages. I thought, if I can teach here, I can teach anywhere." Although there are occasional drop-ins, many people become regulars as soon as they discover how relaxed the sessions are and how all levels of experience can benefit from Becker's friendly teaching style. Students range in age from 30 to 70, but older and younger people are also invited to attend. Generally sessions have between 5 and 12 people. Recent attendee Nanette Erdtman said, "She is a great teacher, and this is a wonderful resource for the people of Kensington." Erdtman says she is inviting her friends to join the class.



The Thursday evening session starts at 5:30 p.m. and is led by Claire Lavery. She has been doing yoga for 20 years and has taught for more than 7. Her classes are based on hatha yoga,

and she too caters to all levels of expertise and all age groups. Lavery pays special attention to breathing, easily accommodates people who have been injured, and occasionally does a little guided meditation. The average class size is 6 to 12, and people can drop in for one class to see how they like it. Most people who do so end up staying longer. Her longest-attending student has been with her for five years.

Lavery, who also has private students, has taught in New York and in the wider Bay Area. She also teaches a yoga class for people with disabilities at UC Berkeley that is open to anyone with disabilities (call 681-3077 for details) and she is always looking for people to help out her students.

Kensington Community Council adult classes are organized by Esther Hill, with the aid of Elma Conley, working in Building E. They are always on the lookout for new ideas, so if you have a class you would like KCC to sponsor, give them a call at 525-0292.



Amherst controversy

On September 15, residents on Amherst Ave. and one on Oberlin Ave. wrote to KMAC, Contra Costa County Community Development, and the *Outlook*. The letter pertained to a deck built on a home on Yale Ave. that is said to have been built without a permit and to impact neighbors' views, privacy, and light. Ray Barraza, chair of KMAC, wrote to Carlos Baltodano, director of building inspection for Contra Costa County, asking if the deck was built with permits and is to code. Unnamed neighbors suggest that the deck is higher than allowed, and that the homeowner added soil to reduce the height of the deck.

The planning department, without addressing any particular development,

stated that the height of a deck is measured from the top of any foundation, that additional soil is not considered, and that such soil would be probably be a code violation in itself. The homeowner directly below the property with the deck is also in the process of retroactively getting planning permission for unpermitted retaining walls that were recently replaced. To further complicate the issue, plans to add a third story to the house next door to the unpermitted retaining wall recently were opposed by neighbors. Now there are many competing disputes and alliances, resulting in lawsuits and bad feelings in the neighborhood. Some neighbors feel that the whole mess could be easily straightened out if everyone would forget about the past, start afresh, and sit down and talk the matter through.



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Smart and Green in Kensington

These talks are sponsored by Friends of Kensington Library, Kensington Community Council, Marvin Gardens, and Contra Costa County Libraries Kensington Library.

Commonsense Pest Management in the Home and Garden

Monday, Nov. 5, 7-8 p.m.

Laurie Swiadon worked with the Bio-Integral Resource Center (BIRC) for 10 years as an entomologist and Integrated Pest Management consultant. Now the office manager at Marvin Gardens Real Estate in Kensington, she is still affiliated with BIRC and continues to be passionate about replacing toxic pesticides with commonsense management techniques when dealing with household and garden pests, such as ants, rodents, weeds, lawn pests, and aphids. Her recommended techniques are well researched and field tested and include the use of what BIRC refers to as "least-toxic pesticides" such as boric-acid-based insecticides and detergent sprays for insect problems.

Solar 101 for the Homeowner

Monday, Nov. 19, 7-8 p.m.

Jay Hermon will discuss how solar works and who it works for, rebates and incentives, and how to select a contractor. Jay Hermon is a solar energy consultant with REC Solar (<http://recsolar.com/>) specializing in residential grid tied systems. He is also a volunteer for NorCal Solar (<http://norcalsolar.org/>), which is the Bay Area's oldest nonprofit solar energy advocacy group.

ADULT CLASSES



Tennis

Alex Brown, USPTA tennis pro, offers classes to a

minimum of four students. To register, call Alex Brown at 524-5495.

Fees: 5 classes: \$40 per resident / \$45 per non-resident

Where: Tennis Courts (West Court)



Acrylic Painting

Stan Cohen (533-3003) leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting, with assistance available. Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Enrollment is limited. Instructor approval required.

When: Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Fees: \$32/month (\$36 for nonresidents)

Where: Community Center

Yoga for Health

Harmonize your body, mind, and spirit. This class involves basic yoga poses, correct body alignment, breathing techniques, and relaxation.

Develop strength, flexibility, endurance, and grace. Therapeutic concerns such as wrist, knee, neck and back pain, and stress reduction will be addressed.

No prior experience required; all ages welcome. Please bring a mat to the class.

Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and qigong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. For more information about the class, please contact Nicole at 527-6443.

To register, call the KCC office at 525-0292.

When: Tuesday 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Fees: Residents—\$12 for drop-in, \$50 for five classes.

Nonresidents please add 10% (\$13.20/class; \$55 for five classes)

Where: Community Center



Thursday Hatha Yoga 5:30–6:30 p.m.

An ongoing class that will calm, restore, and revitalize you. Classic yoga postures and quiet attention to the nuance of movement help

create a satisfying personal practice.

Yoga postures, breathing techniques, and philosophy are covered. All levels of experience welcome. Please bring a mat to class.

Instructor Claire Lavery is an experienced teacher who has been practicing and teaching yoga to all ages and abilities. Her studies have included Ashtanga, Iyengar, Integral, and Yin yoga; adaptive yoga; and yoga philosophy. She focuses on breathing, alignment, and adjustment to help students enjoy a deeper practice.

Fees: Residents—\$12 for drop-in one-month pass (4 classes) for \$40.

Nonresidents please add 10% (\$13.20 for drop-in and \$44 for month pass)

Where: Recreation Building, Room A (Building E).

Monday Night Hatha Yoga 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Join a three-week session; a new session begins each month. Begin or deepen your yoga practice with a supportive group. Please bring a mat to class.

Instructor: Claire Lavery

When: Class series meets Mondays:

November 5, 12, and 19

December 3, 10, and 17

Fees: For residents: one-month pass 3 classes for \$30.

Nonresidents: please add 10% (\$33).

Where: Recreation Building

YOUTH CLASSES



Gymnastics

Instructors: Judy Baker and Jean Jay. For more

information about classes, call Judy Baker at 233-1833.

When: Tuesdays

Morning Kindergartners: 11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.

Advanced Beginners Grades 1–3:

2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Advanced Beginners Grades 4–6:

2:50 p.m.–3:50 p.m.

Where: Community Center

PLEASE REGISTER FOR CLASSES AT THE KCC OFFICE • 59 ARLINGTON AVENUE • KENSINGTON • 525-0292

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Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Esther Hill, Administrator, 525-0292

To register for class: Please call the office unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits; those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

Tennis court reservations: Reservations are for weekends and holidays only; the earliest is 9 a.m. Call Esther Hill (525-0292) for tennis court reservation information.

Tennis court fees: Kensington residents—\$2/45-minute reservation (singles); Non-residents—\$5.

Community Center rental: For information on renting the Community Center, call Helen Horowitz the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, 526-4141.

K A S E P KENSINGTON AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Office hours: Esther Hill, Director (525-0292), 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Elma Conley, On-Site Supervisor (525-0292) during class hours Sandy Thacker, Curriculum Coordinator (482-1258)

Sessions: A few spaces are still available in the fall KASEP classes. A brochure and schedule are posted at www.aboutkensington.com/kasep.html. The fall session ends on Thursday, December 20. Registration for the winter session of KASEP will be held on Tuesday, December 4.

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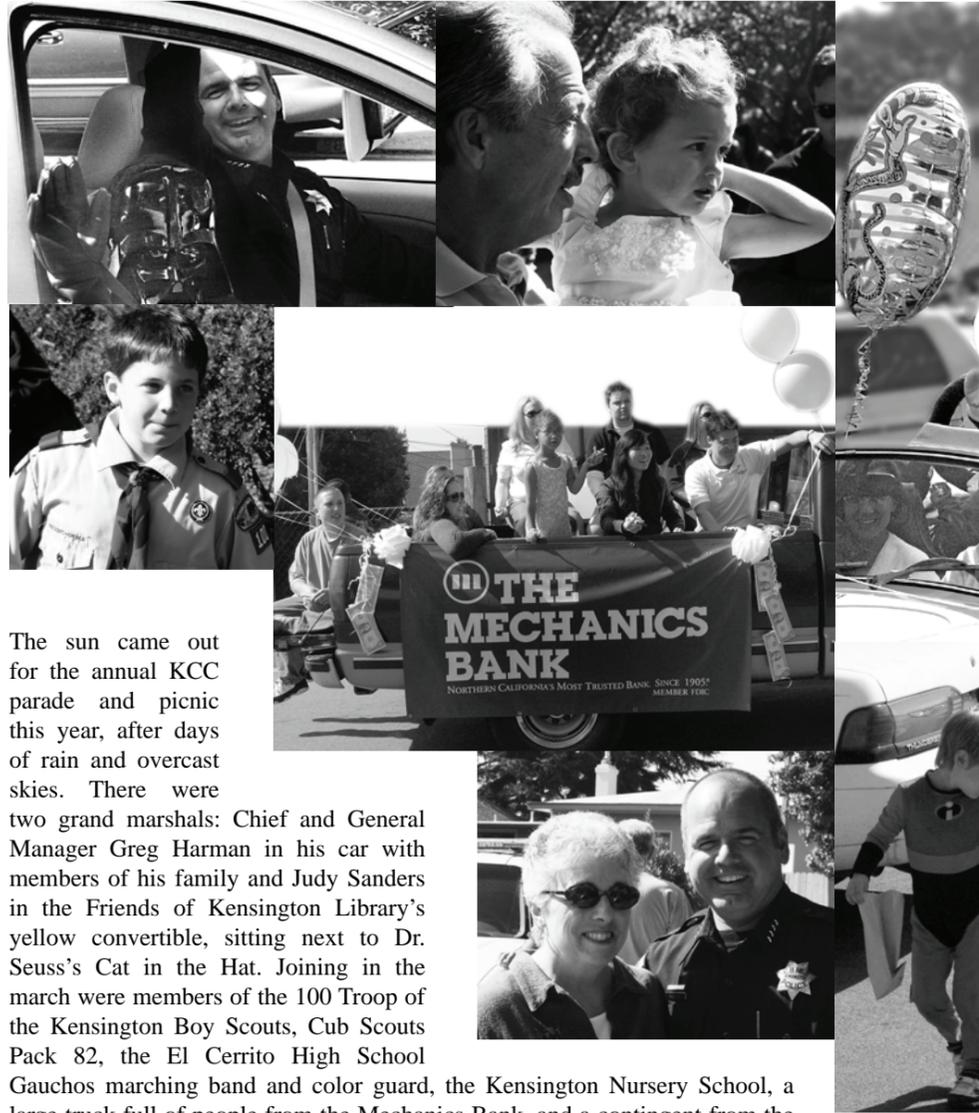
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The sun shone on the



The sun came out for the annual KCC parade and picnic this year, after days of rain and overcast skies. There were two grand marshals: Chief and General Manager Greg Harman in his car with members of his family and Judy Sanders in the Friends of Kensington Library's yellow convertible, sitting next to Dr. Seuss's Cat in the Hat. Joining in the march were members of the 100 Troop of the Kensington Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts Pack 82, the El Cerrito High School Gauchos marching band and color guard, the Kensington Nursery School, a large truck full of people from the Mechanics Bank, and a contingent from the Board of Missions and Social Justice of the Arlington Community Church. Also in the parade were many children in Halloween costumes, a woman dressed as a sparkly clown, parents, and even a few dogs. As the parade wound its way to the Community Center, scouts and bank personnel threw candy out to onlookers, who scrambled to collect it.

Once at the Community Center, the Scout honor guard raised and saluted to the flag while the Gauchos played the national anthem and the crowd recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Then everyone enjoyed the barbecue. The El Cerrito Jazz Band played some very stylish big band jazz while people sat around eating and enjoying the afternoon sun and admiring the decorated pumpkins. About 250 people attended the picnic, a record for recent years.

Our own book club



The Kensington Library has a well-attended book club. The selection of books is eclectic and the discussions, led by Louise O'Dea, are intelligent and interesting. The November book is *Animal Dreams*, by Barbara Kingsolver. There will be no meeting in December. The proposed books for next year include:

- Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison
- The House of the Spirits*, Isabel Allende
- Absalom, Absalom!*, William Faulkner
- Dancing at the Rascal Fair*, Ivan Doig
- Cat's Cradle*, Kurt Vonnegut
- Arthur and George*, Julian Barnes
- Winesburg, Ohio*, Sherwood Anderson
- The Road*, Cormac McCarthy
- Jude the Obscure*, Thomas Hardy
- Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Adichie
- Suite Francaise*, Irene Nemirovsky

The Book Club meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Copies of the books are always on reserve at the library. The club is sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.



Parking in the Circle

Contra Costa County has painted the curb yellow around the circle at Colusa Circle. Yellow curbs mean that the space is limited to commercial vehicles that are actively loading or unloading. For some time now, trucks of all sizes have been parking in the Circle, either on the outside edge or along the inner edge. Many people, drivers and pedestrians, have found this to be a dangerous practice, as it makes it difficult to see traffic on the opposite side to where you are. Now, with the yellow curb on the inside ring of the Circle, it is permissible for trucks to park along this curb if they are making deliveries in the neighborhood. Still, many trucks are choosing to park along the outside of the Circle, often blocking other cars and taking up considerable space in the roadway.

A local resident, Jenny Schaffell, said, "It is not a good thing to have trucks parked around the circle; they block drivers' sightlines." She pointed out that the Circle is not big, and some of the trucks that park there are very large. Schaffell went on to say, "With the three new proposed buildings, there will be even more businesses located in the vicinity, and deliveries will only increase. It is an important safety issue."

Kensington Parade



Later many people wandered over to the Friends of Kensington Library semiannual book sale and then on to the Arlington Community Church ice cream social, where children and adults danced and sang.

The aspiring artists who won prizes for the Mechanics Bank poster coloring competition were: ages 4-6: Larkin Barnard-Bahn, ages 7-9: Helen Gilbert-Snyder, ages 10-12: Maggie Scarpa, and overall winner Sydney Koontz. Each of the winners received a \$50 Savings Bond.

Marvin Gardens organized the pumpkin decorating competition, charging each contestant a nominal fee, which went to UNICEF. They gave out about 350 pumpkins to decorators and awarded \$25, \$20, and \$15 Barnes and Noble gift certificates to: 5 and under, 1st place: Sierra Parks (5), 2nd place: Kaleb Paige (4), 3rd place: Tyler Baum (4). In the 6-11 age group, the prizes went to: 1st place: Joe Scarpa (11), 2nd place: Ella Brudon (8) and Leah Madden (10).

Kensington Community Council wishes to thank the sponsors of the KCC Parade and Picnic, Marvin Gardens, the Mechanics Bank, and everyone who participated in the event, joined in the parade, and entered the competitions.



WCCUSD short on cash

In August voters rejected Measure G, which was aimed at raising money to help finance the West Contra Costa Unified School District and the schools and pupils in our community. Among its stated aims were maintaining reduced class sizes, purchasing textbooks and teaching materials, attracting and retaining teachers, keeping established library services and after-school programs, and funding school safety programs. The measure would have added an eight-year annual tax of 11¢ per square foot on homes, with an exemption for eligible senior citizens.

The measure needed 66 percent of votes in favor to pass and only garnered 54 percent.

This means a shortfall of \$10 million. Superintendent Bruce Harter (who will be speaking at the next PTA and KIC meetings in November) said that the School Board immediately started to assess the impact this would have on schools. Ultimately such a large reduction in the budget will have consequences that affect the children. Although the board is looking at ways to reduce administrative staff, this

alone will have little effect on the \$10 million. Already WCCUSD is relying on many entitlement and competitive grants, but these generally do not cover salaries, counselors, libraries, and custodians. Harter mentioned people wanting to eliminate smaller schools in the district, which has several, but to compensate for the deficit they would have to close between 15 and 20 schools.

The board is looking at all spending to find out where it can be reduced, with many interested parties suggesting ideas. In his superintendent's message to the community, Harter said, "Every program, every initiative, every school, every benefit has a constituency. Few people, other than our board members, have to see the whole picture," and they must act in the best interests of all 30,000 students. Some members of the board have suggested another parcel tax vote, but Harter says they will need to do a better job of explaining it to get an additional 13 percent of voters to cast their ballots differently next time. In the meantime, the board is looking at drastic cuts in the near term.

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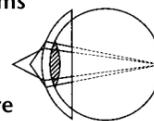


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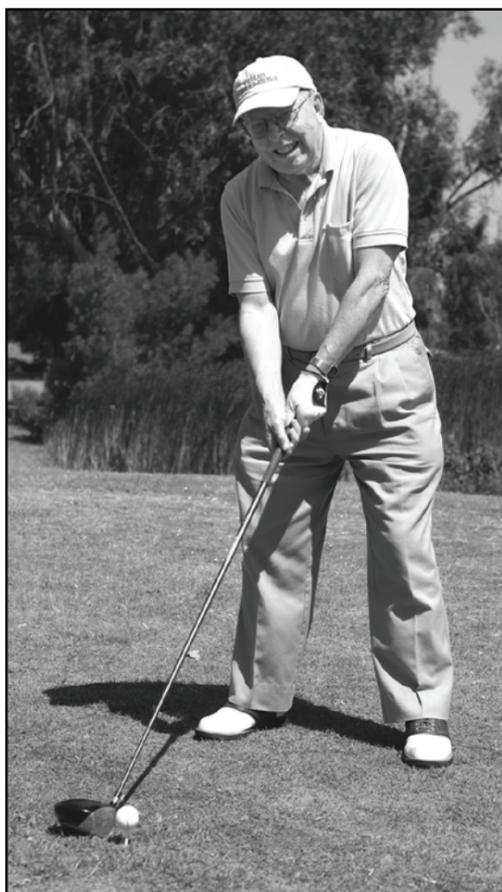
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Neighborhood Notes

Emergency preparedness

It is not a matter of if, but when, there is a major quake on the Hayward fault, which runs through the middle of Kensington. Since Hurricane Katrina, experts have changed their assessment of how long it may take after a quake before we can get electricity, water, and food. Previously people were preparing for three days, but now authorities suggest that we may be completely isolated for two weeks or more. Emergency teams will be concentrated in the high-density, high-risk parts of the county, which include BART, the freeways, and densely populated urban areas. Places like Kensington may be the last to get electricity, water, gas, roads cleared, and medical help.

To partially alleviate this crisis waiting to happen, the El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department conducts Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training as a series of evening courses and as a one-day boot camp. Last month's Boot Camp was cancelled due to lack of participants. This one-day course is a great way to getting prepared for a disaster. Taking it does not necessitate taking the CERT training, rather it is just a small subset of the CERT training, but it will tell you what to do when the emergency comes. If you would like to find out more or sign up for the next training, please call the fire department at 215-4450. More information is at www.el-cerrito.org/fire/neat.html.

If you previously trained with the Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team (NEAT) program, there is a one-day refresher course on Nov. 13 in Kensington.

Disposing of your bulbs



Many agencies are giving away compact fluorescent light bulbs, but as these new energy-efficient bulbs come to the end of their life, they need to be disposed of correctly. The bulbs contain toxic mercury vapor, so they should be taken to an appropriate center for disposal. Three local centers accept fluorescent bulbs from households:

West County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

101 Pittsburg Ave., Richmond, 94801; (888) 412-9277. You must show proof of residency in WCCC. Open Thursdays, Fridays, and the first Saturday of every month 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed 12-12:30 p.m.)

Community Conservation Center

669 Gilman St. (corner of 2nd St.), Berkeley, 94710; 524-0113; 8:30-4 p.m. every day. Open to everyone.

IKEA

4400 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 94608; 420-4532; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. daily.

What was banned?

Banned Books Week was celebrated last month by the Contra Costa Libraries. Their Web site featured banned books *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Dee Brown and *Annie on My Mind* by Nancy Garden. Among the 100 most challenged books in the U.S. are *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *James and the Giant Peach*, the Harry Potter books, and books by Maya Angelou, J.D. Salinger, Margaret Atwood, Toni Morrison, Aldous Huxley, and Kurt Vonnegut. Although often banned, our local Kensington *Ladies Own Erotica* (Ten Speed Press) did not make the list.

New KCC board member



Todd Hodson, one of the owners of Marvin Gardens, has joined the board of the Kensington Community Council. A longtime resident of Kensington and benefactor of many

local causes, Hodson was named Realtor of the Year and served as president of the Berkeley Association of Realtors. Apart from his real estate experience, he brings knowledge of the community, seemingly endless energy, and a unique blend of humor and common sense to the board. If you would like to join Todd and the other members of KCC as a board member, please contact Esther Hill at 525-0292.

Making compost



We each contribute an average of 700 pounds of material to landfills every year, and according to a recent study, over 37 percent of that material is compostable. So we can greatly reduce our use of landfills by composting at home. A free home composting workshop will be held at the Community Center at 59 Arlington Ave. on November 10 from 9 to 11 a.m. Participants will learn to make, maintain, and harvest a compost pile. Worm composting will also be addressed. There will be discounted compost bins available, as well as free literature to teach additional composting skills.

State law has mandated that we reduce trash sent to landfills by 50 percent. You can do your part by learning more about composting your waste. The workshop is being organized by the county Community Development Department. To make a reservation, call 800-752-4096, then press 2. You can learn more about recycling at www.cccrecycle.org.

Locking up the police

The police and fire station has not replaced its locks for many years, and it is not known if all former police and fire personnel have turned in their keys. New chief and general manager Greg Harman decided to install keyless entry touch pads, which enable access to everyone who needs it, without having to cut new keys for new staff. The combination can be changed when needed and the building will remain secure, with no additional cost. The KPPCSD budget has been adjusted to allocate \$4,012 for the expense.

Overtime costs for the police department are more than 218 percent over budget for the year to date. According to the chief's report, this was caused by increased officer coverage during the recent upsurge in home burglaries and the area-wide DUI checkpoints that our police department cooperated in. Most other budget items are being maintained at near or below expectations.

General manager and police chief Greg Harman is still looking for a Kensington resident to take on the role of administrative analyst and aid, to relieve sergeants and officers of administrative duties such as emergency planning, special projects, community outreach, local programs, and grant management. This person will also liaise with neighborhood watch, emergency preparedness, and other local groups, some of which is not being done at present.

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Thursday November 1



Dr. Harter, WCCUSD Superintendent, Presentation and Q&A. 7 p.m. Hilltop School PTA, Multipurpose Room, Hilltop School, 90 Highland

Blvd. Childcare provided. Presubmit questions and details: jkmeurer@aol.com

John Finger, art exhibit, through December. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. *Sponsored by Friends of the Library.*

Spirit and the Arts! Embracing World Traditions and Learning Universal Values for young people (ages 7–14). 6 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-914

Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters will discuss immigration. 1:15 p.m. 39 Stratford. Guests welcome. Confirm at 525-5187

Friday November 2

Illustrio, a trio of clarinet, viola, and piano, play Mozart's trio K 498 in E-flat "Kegelstatt," Max Bruch's Op. 83 "Romanische Melodie," "Nocturne," and "Allegro vivace," and Alfred Uhl's "Kleine Konzert." Mini Concert Series. 7:30 p.m. \$15. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.

Saturday November 3



Kensington Improvement Club Town Hall meeting. 9:30 a.m.–noon. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave.

Pet photography for holiday cards. 1-3:30 p.m. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. 525-6155.



Dr. Naomi Seidman leads a discussion on *Bee Season*, by Myla Goldberg, the last in the five-part series Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature—Identity and Imagination. 2 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington

Ave. Registration is recommended. For more information, call 524-3043. *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature, a reading and discussion series, has been made possible through a grant from Nextbook and the American Library Association.*

KENSINGTON

Sunday November 4

Education hour—Personal theology: Harry Manhoff, rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom, discusses Spirituality in Comics and Graphic Novels Today. —Bible study: with Rev. Lisa Sargent. 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302, ext. 306.

Harbor House Cambodian Women's Quilt Project. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Kensington Farmers' Market, 303 Arlington Ave. 684-6502.

Monday November 5

Kensington Community Council meeting. 7:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 525-0292.

Castoffs, Kensington Library Knitting Club. 7 p.m. All levels are welcome and some help is provided. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Finance Ad-Hoc Committee meeting. 7 p.m. Kensington Community Center Annex, 59 Arlington Ave. 526-4141.



Commonsense Pest Management in the Home and Garden. Laurie Swiadow of Bio-Integral Resource Center. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. *Sponsored by Kensington Community Council, Friends of Kensington Library, and Marvin Gardens Real Estate.*

Tuesday November 6

Family Story Time for preschool and up. 7 p.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Wednesday November 7



American Red Cross Blood Services volunteer orientation. Various East Bay locations. 10 a.m. to noon. Advanced sign-up is required; 594-5165.

Thursday November 8

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District meeting. 7:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center Annex, 59 Arlington Ave. 526-4141.



Lee Haskin talks about **Striper Fishing** on O'Neil Forebay. Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers. 6 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave.



Women's Fellowship and potluck featuring Amy Gorman, author of *Aging Artfully: Profiles of 12 Visual and Performing Women Artists 85-105*. 6:30 p.m., Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

College Night: Learning disability programs at colleges and universities. Reach for Learning, 1221 Marin Ave., Albany. 524-6455.

Spirit and the Arts! See November 1.

Saturday November 10

Contra Costa County Compost Workshop. 9 a.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Reservations: 800-750-4096 ext. 2.

Thanksgiving family story time. Give thanks for the animals with a guest from the Berkeley Organization for Animal Advocacy. Children ages 3 and up and their families. 11 a.m. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

Sunday November 11

Education hour—Personal theology: Beth Glick-Rieman, past professor at United Theological Seminary discusses Sacrifice and Blood: Biblical images and their relevance for us today. —Walking Our Talk: Dialogue to live the vision, led by Rev. Cathleen Cox Burneo. 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302, ext. 306.

Harbor House Cambodian Women's Quilt Project. See Nov. 4.

Monday November 12

KARO. Kensington Amateur Radio Operators bimonthly meeting, 7:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 524-9815.

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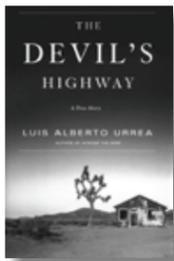



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Upper Campus (Elementary)* 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, CA 94707 **510.528.5233**

CALENDAR

Tuesday November 13



Baby-friendly Book Club. Parents and their babies, and other baby-friendly people, are invited to this daytime book club. This month's book is *The Devil's Highway* by Luis Alberto Urrea. Copies available at the Library.

10 a.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Children's Delight Musical Theater celebrates Children's Book Week. Darryl Hulsey and Gemma Beddo Barozzi present an exciting and funny show based on children's stories. For ages 3 and up. 6:30 p.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.



American Red Cross Blood Services volunteer orientation. Various East Bay locations. 6 to 8 p.m. Advanced sign-up is required. 594-5165.

Wednesday November 14

KFPD. Kensington Fire Protection District, 7:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 527-8395.

Thursday November 15

Amy Gorman, author of *Aging Artfully: Profiles of 12 Visual and Performing Women Artists 85-105*, talks and shows her movie. 7 p.m. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

Spirit and the Arts! Plus potluck. See Nov. 1.

Saturday November 17

The Spirituality of Deep Democracy: Diversity as a path to the divine. Tim Weitzel. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$40. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.



2nd Annual Benefit Arts & Crafts Show and Sale 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., \$5. Early bird 10:30 a.m., \$20. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley.

Taubman piano seminar. John Bloomfield, Robert Durso, Marc Steiner, others. Golandsky Institute Faculty. Master classes and demonstrations. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 17 and Nov 18. Free piano performance by Brenna Berman at 4:30 p.m., Nov. 18. Berkeley Piano Club, 2724 Haste St., Berkeley. Donation \$110 per day in advance. 523-0213.

Taubman faculty piano concert. John Bloomfield, Robert Durso, Marc Steiner, Elizabeth Swarouth, Rebecca Bogart, and Debbie Poryes. Mozart, Schubert, Brahms, and jazz standards. 7:30 p.m. Berkeley Piano Club, 2724 Haste St., Berkeley. Donation \$20. 523-0213.

Sunday November 18

Education hour—Personal theology: Ann Wiser Cornell, of Focusing Institute, discusses Society, decisions! When it is hard to make decisions. —Queer Theologies, led by Donna Sequeira. 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302, ext. 306.

Songs of Praise. Contra Cost Chorale. Vivaldi's Credo and Haydn's Missa Sancti Johannes de Deo. 7 p.m. \$15; seniors, students, and disabled \$12. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. www.ccchorale.org

Pet photography. See Nov. 3.

Monday November 19



Solar 101 for the Homeowner. Jay Hermon, solar energy consultant with REC Solar. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. Sponsored by Kensington Community Council, Friends of Kensington Library, and Marvin Gardens Real Estate.

Tuesday November 20

Family Story Time for Preschool. See Nov. 6.

Thursday November 22

Thanksgiving Day

Sunday November 25

Personal theology. Gene Agress of Berkeley Mills talks on "There is no escaping from a personal spiritual journey: More knowledge means more responsibility." 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302, ext. 306.

Monday November 26



Kensington Library Book Club discusses *Animal Dreams* by Barbara Kingsolver. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library.

Kensington Improvement Club meeting. 7:30 p.m. Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave.

Tuesday November 27

KMAC. Kensington Municipal Advisory Council. Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 273-9926.

Abdi Soltani speaks on **college opportunity** at the El Cerrito Democratic Club. February ballot initiatives will be discussed. 7:30 p.m. El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton St. (near Richmond Ave.), onsite childcare.



The Edmund Welles Bass Clarinet Quartet. Avant jazz, new music, black metal, and classic rock. 8 p.m. \$20. Berkeley City Club. 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 525-5211.

Family for Preschool. See Nov. 6.

Wednesday November 28

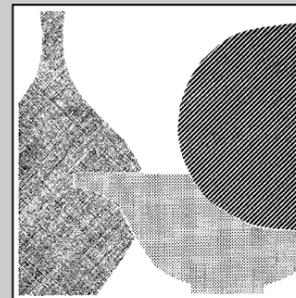
Spirit and the Arts! Islamic Spirit and the Arts week. 6 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

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Amy's knowledge and experience in the area is invaluable. Amy's legal background and her connections in the mortgage world made things less stressful for us. She's down to Earth and always accessible.

— New Kensington Homeowners

Kensington Market Update

Address	Beds	Baths	List Price	Sold Price	Sold Date
435 Berkeley Park 2	1	1	\$550,000	Pending	
27 Lenox	3	2	\$699,000	Pending	
273 Grizzly Peak	3	2	\$750,000	\$787,000	09/27/07
93-99 Franciscan	1-2+++	1+++	\$1,350,000	Pending	
84 Norwood	3	3	\$1,450,000	\$1,395,000	10/10/07



This information is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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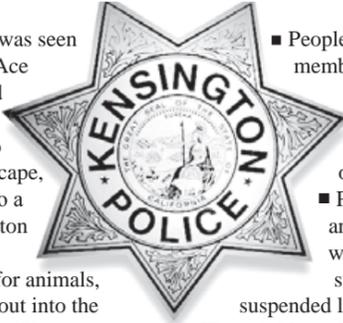
1 block from
Sunset View Mortuary & Cemetery

From the case files of the KPD

This report is based on the many reports in the police logs of the Kensington Police Department. The Outlook is solely responsible for the writing and editing of this report.

Events in September

- A fawn with an injured leg was seen in the parking lot behind the Ace Hardware. After being chased by police and a few onlookers, the frightened animal ran into Young's Market. Trying to escape, it managed to find its way into a storage room behind Kensington Fine Foods butcher counter. Sensing this not a safe place for animals, it quickly made its way back out into the street and escaped somewhere. Observers say that Larry Lefebvre is too nice a person to take advantage of fresh meat running into his store. It is thought that if Gordy was still there, venison would have been on sale soon after.
- A family on Arlington Ave. had repeated calls on their cell and home phones from a male saying "I am Adam" and nothing else. They were unable to recognize the voice, but the calls have since stopped.
- A child, or a childish adult, rearranged the letters on the notice board outside the Library/Community Center to spell a slightly rude word.
- A garden hose was stolen from a home on Jessen Ct. The homeowners asked the police for extra patrols in their neighborhood.
- A homeowner on Arlington Ct. and another on Lexington Rd. complained to police about a furniture advertisement taped to their front doors.
- A homeowner on Edgcroft Dr. saw a bag of medical waste, including needles, 60 feet down a slope below their home. They left it there and called the police, who had to traverse the slope to retrieve the bag to dispose of it.
- A man on Colusa Ave. reported his father being annoyed after receiving a call from someone wanting to collect on a debt from 1999.
- A newspaper delivery person saw a person described as a "dirty lady" taking a newspaper that they had just delivered. Police found the homeless person to be disabled and disoriented, and she was taken to a hospital.
- A person living on Arlington Ave. reported a suspicious entry on a credit card bill: a single \$8,000 charge from a restaurant in Massachusetts. Must have been quite a meal.
- A person on Coventry Rd. reported a suspicious person, after a passerby looked at their home for a few seconds when walking past.
- A suspicious person was reported walking along Amherst Ave. The cause of the suspicion was that the person was wearing a backpack and pushing a bicycle. The reporter told police that the *Outlook* had recommended reporting suspicious people.
- A thief entered the front garden of a home on Ocean View Ave. and purloined a Radio Flyer tricycle.
- A woman flagged down a passing police car on Colusa Ave. when she saw a parked car filling with smoke with two dogs in it. The police liberated the dogs, which promptly ran away. A man soon turned up, with the dogs, and said he owned the car. With the doors open, the smoke from an unknown origin, cleared, the man and dogs drove off.
- Several people reported a woman going door-to-door asking for hamburgers. When police found her, she told them she was hungry. They asked her to desist, which she agreed to do.
- An Accord parked on Rincon Dr. was burgled when a window was broken and a backpack, parka, iPod, wallet, sunglasses, watch, and bank checks were stolen. The haul was said to be worth about \$800.
- An act of vandalism was reported when a driver of a VW threw an egg at a Volvo. Police suspect auto envy.
- An Oakland driver ran a stop sign and drove at over 40 mph in a 25 mph zone. She was stopped and found to have an alcohol content 50 percent over the legal limit. She was cited, and a friend drove her home.
- Someone found a cigarette butt on a trail in Tilden Park, right below their home. They called the police to report it, as an ongoing fire hazard. They also emailed the police chief, the fire chief, and the fire prevention officer.
- Keys on a black lanyard were found on Arlington Ave. They await collection at the police department.



- People angered by a Berkeley staff member staged a protest outside the person's home on Beloit Ave. The demonstrators left insulting messages in chalk on the sidewalk.
- Police noticed a suspicious car and followed it into a gas station, where they discovered it had been stolen. The driver, who had a suspended license, showed the police an ID card. He said he had borrowed the car from a cousin but did not know the name of the cousin. The driver and passenger were found to be in possession of many shaved keys for a variety of models. A shaved key was also found in the ignition. The two, from San Pablo and Richmond, were transported to jail, where they will probably remain for some time.

- Seven times in September a person on Highland Blvd. complained about her neighbor's car being abandoned or parked where she did not like it. The caller knows the car is not abandoned but is trying to antagonize her neighbors. The patient police always respond to these nuisance calls.

- Someone on Arlington Ct. left their \$20,000 Cartier watch in their Toyota overnight. This was the night their car was broken into. The watch is now gone.

- Someone on Kingston Dr. discovered a new Dell computer purchased on their credit card. They cancelled the order and the credit card.

- Someone parked their car to block another car parked in the handicapped space behind ACE Hardware, apparently wanting to teach them a lesson, because the parked car did not display a handicapped sticker. Turns out the first driver was handicapped and so the blocker let them out.

- Someone reported three people sitting in a parked car as being suspicious. On talking to the individuals, police thought they smelled marijuana, but there was no sign of drugs, and the people were left to sit in their car.

- The glove compartment of a Honda parked on Arlington Ct. was rifled through, but the thief found nothing to steal.

- Two green waste garbage cans were emptied onto a driveway on Arlington Ave., and then stolen. If you paint your house address on your bins, they probably will not meet the same fate.

- A vandal deflated the tires on two cars on Amherst Ave.

- A white male, aged approximately 35, was reported a couple of times for soliciting for insurance. It is thought he may have been looking for home to burgle.

- A pedestrian reported two real estate signs blocking the sidewalk on Colusa Circle.

- A person on Kingston Dr. handed in two assault rifles, one older rifle, and a pistol to the police. The police intend to keep these weapons.

Kensington Police Department	
Emergency	911
Police dispatch	236-0474
Non Emergency office (daytime)	526-4141
Kensington Fire Department	
Emergency	911
Non Emergency office (daytime)	527 8369

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Warm wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.



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