

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

SEPTEMBER 2007

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 64 NUMBER 7



Judy Sanders new head of Hilltop School

Sanders promises to make time for students and parents

When Jon Stokes resigned as principal of Hilltop School at the end of last term, the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Bruce Harter from the West Contra Costa School District, came to the school and met the staff, parents, and pupils, asking what qualities they should be looking for in their new principal. Those present at the meeting were excited to get a chance to express some of the frustrations they and others had experienced in the recent past. The list of desired qualities was long, more than two pages, and wide ranging. The top four qualities requested by staff were:

- Follows through with discipline and provides consistency
- Supports teachers in dealing with discipline
- Provides leadership in staff development for both teaching and classified staff members
- Works well with parent groups.

The parents' top four requests were:

- Has effective communication skills, both written and oral
- Is willing to work collaboratively with parents, understand their needs and issues, but be able to make tough decisions when necessary
- Is comfortable in making decisions, leads with constituency both with people and the organization
- Won't tell people what they want to hear, but what they need to know.

Well, now we have a new principal, Judy Sanders, who helped craft this list.

Sanders has been a first-grade teacher at Hilltop School, and her history with the school goes back 16 years, to when her eldest child started there.



Parents and students gather to welcome the new principal

Sanders brings a refreshing sense of humor and a lot of experience to her role as principal. She said she has a "wonderful, supportive staff, and is looking forward to working with the parents," whom she described as committed to the school. Having worked for many years with first graders, Sanders has got to know and develop relationships with many of the parents as their children progressed through her classes.

Still somewhat surprised at finding herself in this new position, Sanders says there is "lots to do." She says she recognizes the need for discipline and for children to know the result of their actions. Reportedly, she is extremely capable and willing to step up to the tasks ahead. But she warned she has yet to learn "to walk on water."

Sanders says she welcomes transfer students who help enrich the community, and she wants to make the school a safe and comfortable place for children to prosper.

The Sanders family has also volunteered in the community, she served as head of the PTA, and her husband is a former president of the Dads' Club.

Starting this new school year, there are two new teachers, one covering kindergarten and first grade, and another, an alum of Hilltop, working with fourth and fifth graders.

Putting on her administrative hat, the new principal stated that she is looking for both volunteer and paid lunchtime staff to help supervise the lunch and the play areas afterwards. She described the posts as a fun way to spend time with children, and invited people to introduce their skills and hobbies to the children, be it stamp collecting inside or kick ball in the playground. The hours are 11:30 a.m.–12:50 p.m. The paid staff would be expected to work every day, while the volunteer staff can have some flexibility with their schedules.

Gregory Harman named new police chief

Former San Mateo lieutenant comes to Kensington in September

More than a year after Barry Garfield walked out of a meeting, thus ending his tenure as police chief, Kensington will have a new chief. The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District board is hiring Greg Harman, a former lieutenant with the Daly City police, where he served for 23 years.

Harman has a degree in small business administration from Cal State San Francisco, and a master's degree in public administration from Cal State East Bay. He has experience supervising teams of sergeants and officers, supervising and implementing training programs, and working with various specialized forms of police work. KPPCSD chair Pat McLaughlin said, "His references uniformly commended him on his personnel skills and problem solving, qualities the board felt were evident in our interview."

Harman is married and lives in Concord, has two school-age and two older children.

He will be sworn into office during the first week of September.

New police dispatch number: (510) 236-0474

The Richmond Communications Center has installed an automated answering system, which includes the now-common navigation route through many messages and options to get the service you require. The system is geared toward the policing needs of Richmond. Kensington police are also dispatched from that office, and our Interim Police Chief Brown Taylor has arranged for Kensington residents to have a direct line through to a real person working in dispatch. So there is now a new dispatch number, (510) 236-0474, to call if you need the police to respond immediately. This phone will be answered by a person working in the Richmond Communications Center, who will be able to dispatch a police car immediately. The new number does not replace 911, which is for emergencies, and also does not replace the Kensington Police Department office phone number, (510) 526-4141. The office number is a daytime-only number.

We advise you to place the new number on your speed dial system and cell phone.

Linda Lettieri former Outlook editor dies after long illness

Linda Lettieri passed away on July 9 after living with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or Lou Gehrig's Disease) for three years. Born in Davenport, Iowa, she grew up in Park Forest, Illinois, and received her BFA in art history and ceramic sculpture from the Univ. of Colorado. She worked in the media departments of McCann Erickson; Dancer, Fitzgerald, Sample; KCRA

TV; and Hills Brothers Coffee. She married her husband, Paul, in 1985.

Lettieri was a 14-year resident of Kensington and served on the board of directors of the Kensington Community Council for nine years. She edited the *Kensington Outlook* for two years, and, with her husband, was active in many aspects of the Kensington community. From 1990 until 1997, Lettieri published the *Home Owner's Resource*, a magazine catering to Bay Area homeowners. Later she worked with Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley. After moving

from Kensington, she applied her journalistic talents to writing for the *Piedmont Post*.

Lettieri was active as a volunteer in a variety of settings. At Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley, she volunteered as middle school secretary, served on the board of trustees, was director of development, and was president of the Parents Association. She was a Sunday school teacher at St. Clement's Church in Berkeley. Lettieri was a voracious reader, traveler, adventurer, and Francophile, and she continued

those pursuits despite ALS. She had a strong talent for botanical art and painted many beautiful images. She provided the strength and direction for her friends and family and gave everyone that knew her lessons in courage and the miracle of life. Lettieri is survived by her daughter, Madeleine; husband, Paul; and sister, Janet Hittle. She leaves behind the family's Wheaton terriers, Olive and Murphy, and calico cat, Lizzie. A memorial service was held at St. Clement's Church on July 22.



Linda Lettieri 1953–2007



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Kensington Community Council and the work that they do in the community are largely financed by donations.

Although there is an annual fund drive each year, KCC always welcomes contributions.

The generosity of community members provides much needed support for Kensington's recreation and education programs. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution, please send it to Kensington Community Council, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington 94707.

The Kensington Community Council would like to acknowledge the recent donation of \$40 from Ronald Chun and \$200 from the Walters family to the Flush Fund, which is helping to finance public, ADA-compliant bathrooms in the park.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

El Cerrito High reunion

Editor—I grew up in Kensington, attended Hilltop Elementary (from K-6), Portola Junior High, and El Cerrito High Schools. My mother still lives in Kensington. El Cerrito High is planning to have its 30-year class reunion in October. I am a part of the Search Committee to find our fellow graduates. I am aware that many of my classmates' parents, and few class alumni, live in Kensington.

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Talk about the park



Editor—Ten years ago, a very committed group of the Kensington community gave us a plan for a park to serve everyone in our community. Since that time, it has become wildly successful and dynamic. We have many new improvements and soon will have more, as the park evolves.

Today the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District board is eager to hear from each and every one of you. What do you love, and what you like less about our park? What can be done

better? What would you like to see in the park's future? I am the KPPCSD board liaison for the park, and am working with Joan Gallegos on future uses of the newly refurbished Annex. Please take a few moments to tell me what you think. My phone number is 525-8985 and my email is kforkensington@sbcglobal.net. If you feel motivated to join a new park advisory committee I am setting up, and further shape the park's future, please let me know.

Director Cindy Kimball

Pet of the month



Hulk is a 3-month-old Chinese dwarf hamster. He's only about the size of a grown man's thumb, but there's a lot of personality packed in. While most hamsters have a few bad manners, Hulk is a perfect gentleman. He never bites and always says "please" and "thank you." His favorite foods include fresh green peas, broccoli and tofu. Hulk is looking for a home that shares his love of organic veggies. Visit Hulk at RabbitsEars, 303 Arlington Ave., 625-6155.

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Colusa Circle

Editor—As Chair of the recently formed Colusa Circle Improvement Association, I would like to take issue with several statements made in your article titled “Proposed Developments on Colusa Circle” in the July/August 2007 issue of the *Kensington Outlook*.

Referring to the proposal for development of the triangle lot (site of Semifreddi’s Bakery) by Ed Hammonds, your article states as fact, “The plans now have more than adequate on- and off-street parking.” But this is a matter of opinion. Mr. Hammonds is asking for a variance from parking requirements of the 1983 Planned Use Development and argues that the guidelines in it should be reduced for his plans. Our group of neighborhood residents respectfully disagrees and believes that eliminating the third story in his plan would be a better way to reduce parking demands.

The article also includes a quote from Mr. Hammonds criticizing neighborhood residents for not engaging him earlier in the process. There is no quote in response from members of our group. Standards of journalistic balance suggest that views from both sides of this issue should have been included in the article. In fact, we feel there is more Mr. Hammonds could have done to reach out to nearby residents.

Our group was formed to provide residents with input to the planning process on the Colusa Circle. We are not against development but want to ensure the changes that are approved do not change the characteristics of our neighborhood that attracted us here in the first place.

Readers of the *Outlook* should be given the opportunity to hear from both sides on this issue.

*Rodney Paul, Chair
Colusa Circle Improvement Assoc.*

From the Editor—The *Outlook* previously published a letter from Mr. Paul but declined to post the complete text of the petition being circulated by the Colusa Circle Improvement Association. If you are interested in knowing more about the petition or the organization, you can contact them at *ColusaCircle@gmail.com*. At a previous meeting of KMAC, it was stated and accepted by KMAC that there is indeed now adequate parking to meet code.

At each KMAC meeting that the *Outlook* has attended, Ed Hammonds has always stated he has an open door policy. His office is located at 384 Colusa Ave.

As of press time, the *Outlook* has not heard from Paul or the Colusa Circle Improvement Association about what sort of development they would like to see in the area other than no third floor. At a recent hearing of the planning department, the current plan was accepted by a vote of 3 to 2, with the only recommendations being that the developer offer each resident on the opposite side of Santa Fe Ave. a 15-gallon tree. The Colusa Circle Improvement Association had about 20 people there to campaign against the project.

Mr. Paul has informed the *Outlook* that the Colusa Circle Neighborhood Association has appealed the planning department decision to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors.

Porto Brazil changes considered

Narsai David, the owner of a large part of Colusa Circle real estate, approached KMAC concerning his property at 350 Berkeley Park Blvd./385 Colusa Ave., better known as Porto Brazil. This building has been vacant for many years. David told KMAC that he was not presenting his plan at this time for approval but instead wanted to receive feedback from the community and the council. His intention is not to change the footprint of the building but to add a 1,000-square-foot apartment above one of the existing one-story apartments. Porto Brazil is approximately 5,000 square feet and is considered too large for a neighborhood restaurant, so David wishes to subdivide the area. Committee chair Ray Barraza asked if David would be doing a parking and traffic study. Council member Pam Brown explained that such a study was required of Hammonds and David also. David replied he couldn’t create more than the existing 23 spaces. David said the Golden Apple School went out of business; that building would be part of the plan.

Rodney Paul of the Colusa Circle Improvement Association wanted to know if the 23 parking spaces were legal. A Willow Lane resident asked that the façade be “classy.” David responded that he was committed to classy. He went on to say that he believes he has consistently made improvements to Kensington, and that his restaurant was the one to put Kensington “on the map.”

David is the owner of about 9,000 square feet of vacant property in the Colusa Circle vicinity. This includes the buildings that once housed the florist, the Golden Apple School, an empty house on Berkeley Park Blvd., and the Porto Brazil building.

Yale views threatened

Also presented at the July KMAC meeting was a request to add a 515-square-foot additional story to 215 Amherst Ave. This would require a variance, as the Kensington Combining Ordinance only allows for 2½ stories. The applicants stated that they had been through several designs, and this was the one that would impact neighbors the least. Many people opposed the plans. The first speaker said some houses on Yale Ave. would lose their views and that adding a third story would undermine the ordinance. The next speaker, concerned about his view, lives directly behind the applicants and presented pictures of the proposed addition superimposed upon the existing views, saying the addition would mean loss of skyline and views of San Francisco. He had been advised that the view ordinance would protect them, and he wanted it enforced. Another in opposition to the plan argued that all the work regarding the tree ordinance and the overlay ordinance would be overturned if this proposal was approved. Another speaker said she would lose a view of Mt. Tamalpais and instead would look at the rear and side of a building.

After hearing the complaints, the architect stated that trees, rooftops, and buildings were part of the view, and that, like Barcelona, Spain, part of the joy of the view is the rooftops and houses and not the bay, the bridge, or the city.

Council member Brown stated that she decided to move rather than make an improvement that would be detrimental to her neighbors. Member Reed reminded the applicants that one is only an applicant once or twice but is a neighbor forever. Council secretary Karlsson stated that the improvement in question was clearly the type that was intended to be protected by the ordinance. The applicants decided to ask for a continuance, so will almost certainly return to a later meeting with different plans.

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Emergency communications upgraded

Kensington now has six community amateur radio stations available for use during an emergency. In addition to those previously in operation, there is now a radio at Hilltop School. During the school renovation, the radio had to be removed, but it has now been relocated, due to the efforts and support of members of the PTA and Kensington Amateur Radio Operators (KARO), as well as school and district personnel.

KARO wishes to thank the many who donated time, energy, and money to ensuring that this resource is again available and in working order.

Members of KARO, assisted by other members of the community, will supervise operation of the radios during an emergency. If you are interested in being part of this effort, call Marian Gade at 524-9815. KARO meetings are held on the second Monday of the odd-numbered months at the Community Center at 7:30 pm. (Call to confirm, as meetings are held only if there is business to discuss.)

Gary Aguiar recovering well

While on vacation with his family in Hawaii, Gary Aguiar developed flu-like symptoms after scraping his shin on a rock while swimming. Three days later, Aguiar was having difficulty moving his leg. He went to Wilcox Memorial Hospital in Oahu, where a doctor diagnosed necrotizing fasciitis, commonly called flesh-eating bacteria. Very soon Aguiar went into a coma and developed kidney failure and heart problems. His condition looked so dire that Aguiar received last rites in the middle of July. When he awoke from his coma, doctors told him that he was very lucky not to have had at least one limb amputated.

The Aguiar children returned to the Bay Area with their aunt, and Marsha Aguiar stayed in Hawaii with her husband. After 42 days and several skin grafts, Aguiar was well enough to leave the hospital and return home. He is now back in Kensington, walking with a walker, and his health is steadily improving. Doctors recently said his recovery was going well.

Aguiar, a civil engineer and lecturer at UC Berkeley, is also a keen swimmer. He has swum the Alcatraz 100 race many times, once in as little as 45 minutes. He ran 6 marathons this year and had been hoping to make it 12. Doctors said that his remarkable recovery was due, in part, to his robust health. He hopes to return to work in a couple of weeks, but said, “I’m not sure what my wife will think of that.”

Necrotizing fasciitis is caused by a rare version of a common streptococcus bacterium. There is a usual mortality rate of around 25 percent, and higher if not treated quickly. Authorities in Hawaii say that it is not possible to get infected from water, but Aguiar is not convinced.

The Rotary International of Albany has set up a fund for the Aguiar family at Mechanics Bank: “Recovery Account for Gary Aguiar” c/o Mechanics Bank, 9996 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530.

Shai selling and moving to Hawaii



After 17 years at his much-loved delicatessen on Arlington Ave., Shai is selling the business and moving to Hawaii. He has bought a coffee plantation high up in the coffee belt of the Big Island and is going to start a bed-and-breakfast business there. “It is way up a private drive and very quiet,” said Shai. “We intend offering all Kensington residents a discount when they come to stay.” He is waiting for remodeling work to be completed and expects to be moving toward the end

of the year. Already three people have expressed an interest in taking over the deli, one from Kensington and two from Berkeley. Shai says he will take as long as necessary to teach the new owners all his recipes and the intricacies of plate decoration and fruit and vegetable carving. Customers are hoping that the new owners know how to make baba ganoush the same way as Shai.

Apart from running the deli and restaurant, Shai, a native of Israel, has been busy catering weddings and other events, and he recently catered three consecutive events at the Brazil Room in Tilden Park, setting a catering record. We hope that the future owners will continue the great food and friendly service. Shai says he will miss his customers and intends to hold a big party for all his regulars before he leaves.

Quilts to support women

Recently Kensington resident Amy Kurzer of Prudential Realty attended a silent quilt auction benefit and reception for Harbor House, a nonprofit located in Oakland that helps refugee women who have come to the Bay Area from various parts of the world. The reception and auction was hosted by Prudential’s Rose Street office in Berkeley. Kurzer was fortunate to be the highest bidder on a beautiful quilt, handmade by a Cambodian woman who was a survivor of the Killing Fields. This woman first learned to quilt when she came to Oakland in 2001. Her work is outstanding both technically and artistically.

The Killing Fields in Cambodia refers to a tragedy in the 1970s, when a large number of people were killed and buried by the Khmer Rouge, a radical Communist regime that ruled the country at the time.

On Sunday, September 23, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Farmers’ Market will host the Harbor House Quilt Project, and a sale of these beautiful, handmade quilts. The event supports the organization’s work of aiding refugee and immigrant women from Southeast Asia and Latin America. Established in 2001, Harbor House ministries have taught quilt-making to women as a means to connect with a wider community, to build self-confidence, and to create economic opportunities for themselves and their families.

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classes.

**Sunday, October 14
Fall Pumpkin Parade and
Picnic in the Park. Noon.**

Join the parade with the El Cerrito
High School Marching Band!
Wear your Halloween costume
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lunch, listen to the ECHS Jazz
Ensemble, view decorated
pumpkins, and mingle with
neighbors and friends. Parade
assembles at noon at the corner of
Amherst and Arlington Avenues.

**Monday, October 29
Green and Healthy Homes
7-8 p.m. Kensington Library. Free.**

Join Jan Stensland for a talk on
creating a healthy environment in your
home. Jan, a Kensington resident,
has worked for several years in green
building and design, specializing
in healthy building materials. Her
company, Inside Matters, provides
indoor environmental quality and
sustainable design consulting,
education, policy development,
and research to a variety of clients,
such as the Air Force Center for

Environmental Excellence, Alameda
County Waste Management
Authority, and Kaiser Permanente,
where she was the in-house healthy
and green building expert.

Stensland has taught and
presented at universities and
conferences, including GreenBuild,
EnvironDesign, and ISIAQ's
(International Society of Indoor
Air Quality) Healthy Building
conference, a science-based, peer-
reviewed event. Her Bachelor of
Interior Architecture is from the
University of Oregon and her
Master's of Science in Human

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Grades 1-3, \$110 per Kensington resident,
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September 17-21

Grades 1-3, \$110 per Kensington resident,
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Gymnastics

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September 25. For more information
about classes, call Judy Baker at 233-1833.

Instructors: Judy Baker and Jean Jay.

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Grades 1-3: 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Advanced Beginners
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Where: Community Center

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

Where: Tennis Courts (West Court)



Yoga for Beginners

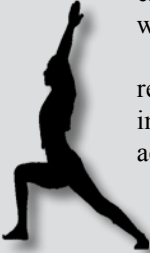
Relax, nourish, and replenish
your body through an
easy, beginning-level
yoga practice. Designed
for those new to yoga
as well as those who
have practiced before.
Discover a newfound
sense of well-being, ease, and grace
through a simple series of hatha
yoga postures, which encourage and
promote body wisdom, health, and
strength. Rejuvenate your system
while practicing safely, with care
and attention to body awareness,
alignment, and the breath. Please
bring a mat to class.

Instructor Beth Hird has been
studying yoga since 1975. She
is a certified yoga instructor, a
graduate of the 2004 Piedmont Yoga
Studio Advanced Studies Program.
She studied extensively with Rodney
Yee, Claire Finn, and Richard
Rosen, and enjoys bringing patience,
compassion, and humor to the
practice.

When: Tuesdays, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

Fees: Residents, \$15 for drop in
\$50/4 weeks (1 class/week)
\$100/8 weeks (2 classes/week)
Nonresidents add 10%
(\$16.50/class; \$55 or \$110)

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



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 class.

Instructor Nicole Becker, a
registered yoga teacher, was trained
in Anusara Yoga and has studied
acupressure and qi gong. She
describes her teaching style as
light-hearted and welcoming
and strives to make each
student feel cared for in his or her
practice of yoga.

For more information about the
class, contact Nicole at 527-6443.

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

When: Tuesday 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Fees: Residents-\$12 for drop-in,
\$50/5 for 5 classes.
Nonresidents please add 10%
(\$13.20/class; \$55 for
5 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. Bring a mat.

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)

**Monday Night Hatha Yoga Series
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.

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.

Please bring a mat to class.

When: Class series meets Mondays,
September 10, 17, and 24.

Fees: For residents: one-month pass
3 classes for \$30. Nonresidents:
please add 10% (\$33).

Where: Community Center



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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

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K C C KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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 at
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: KASEP Fall registration is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, at
6:45 p.m. for kindergarten students and 7:15 p.m. for grades 1-6.
Please turn in your lottery slips for registration by 9 a.m. on Tuesday,
Sept. 11. Classes will begin Monday, September 24. For a sample
schedule of our classes, please visit www.aboutkensington.com.

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Police department improvements and unrest



Interim Chief Brown Taylor

There have been reports of unrest in the police department, with rumors of police officers about to resign and tempers flaring. When asked about the situation, Interim Police Chief/General Manager Brown Taylor revealed that the situation in the department is on a much better course than when he first arrived. He did state that there are still personality issues among several of the officers but classified them as innuendo, an occasional lack of respect for each other, and bad body-language signals. He said that since he arrived, the department is much more functional and is running relatively smoothly. He said that there will always be some officers who get to like some people more than others, and that this ends up causing cliques, but that this is to be expected in any work environment and that every police officer is very

committed to doing the best job they can in the department, and all enjoy working in Kensington.

Taylor is in the final stages of his audit of the police department, which was one of the tasks he was given when he took the job. He said that the relatively light workload of the police in Kensington allows them to offer service unavailable elsewhere, such as welfare checks, the key program, and vacation checks. He hopes that, with the right guidance from the new chief, the Kensington officers could become among the best-trained and best-prepared police in the county.

Taylor repeated comments, made in a recent KPPCSD board meeting, that the department was in serious disarray when he arrived, with allegations of sexual and racial misconduct going back to 1999. Investigating these reports and allegations has taken a huge amount of time, money, and effort. Now the problems are more interpersonal in nature, and Taylor suggests that the new chief may want to address them.

Although the office is undoubtedly better organized, with more detailed information going out to the community than ever before, one police officer said, on condition of anonymity, that every day used to be fun at the department, and this is certainly not the case anymore.

OBITUARIES

Maxine Zalkin, teacher, writer, poet, musician



Maxine Zalkin passed away in April of this year. A Kensington resident since 1965, Zalkin received a degree from St. Olaf College in Nothfield, Minnesota, and a master's degree in education from National College, Evanston, Illinois.

She worked as an elementary school teacher in Chicago, Los Alamos, and the Bay Area. A poet and writer, Zalkin was an enthusiastic and active member of the University Section Club's Writers Workshop, of which she wrote, "We have an invisible history, our pictures are made out of words." She also was a musician and loved to play the piano. She and her husband Allan enjoyed hiking and camping. Apart from her husband, she is survived by her son Erik, her daughter Natasha, their children Joshua, Rebecca, Gerald, Isaac, and Jostin, and by her brother Quintin Johnson and sister Shirley Johnson.

Frederick Ford, family therapy innovator

Frederick R. Ford, M.D., a 50-year resident of Kensington, died July 11 at his home after a long illness. Ford graduated from the University of Oklahoma Medical School, and, after service with the Army in Korea from 1946 to 1948, he settled in Berkeley and started a private psychiatric practice. In 1960 he started training in family therapy at the Mental Research Institute in Palo Alto and taught at MRI until 1969. Ford conducted extensive research, wrote, and taught. He became a pioneer of using video in conjunction with family therapy. With an associate, Joan Herrick, he devised the Mapping of Rules or MOR, an assessment tool for family therapy interactions. He was famous in family therapy circles for his development of Family Rules.

Ford was a life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and the American Orthopsychiatric Association. He was an honorary member of the El Instituto de la Familia A.C. in Mexico. He was one of the 14 incorporating members of the Family Therapy Interest and Study Groups.

Ford is survived by his wife of 49 years, Christine, their four children, Emily Ford, Jennifer Goyne, Patrick Ford, and Laurel O'Conner, and six grandchildren. A service was held at Pt. Reyes Presbyterian Community Church.

Robert Oswalt specialized in Pomo Indians



Robert L. Oswalt was born in 1923 at an Army post in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where his father was a doctor. He traveled to many military posts, including the Philippines, while still a child. He attended UC Berkeley, earning a degree in chemistry, before enlisting in the U.S. Navy and serving during the Second World War. After the war, he returned to Cal to earn a master's in chemistry and worked in the Radiation Laboratory.

Despite working as a chemist, Oswalt's primary interest was languages, and he went on to earn a doctorate in linguistics. He became well known as a linguistic anthropologist specializing in the Kashaya Pomo Indian language. He published the highly regarded *Kashaya Texts*, a collection of stories he collected from

Kashaya residents of Stewart's Point Rancheria near Fort Ross.

With his wife of 55 years, Esther, he built his home in Kensington and there raised his two children, Edward and John. Oswalt had an avid interest in cacti, Cal basketball, and genealogy. In addition to his wife and sons, a granddaughter and three nieces survive him. He was buried in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Garden Party organizers need your help

The Garden Party is Kensington Hilltop School's biggest charity fundraiser, with both silent and live auctions, food, drinks, and live music. Last year's event raised over \$90,000. To fund the school's extra scholastic programs—including science and computer labs, art, music, and Read Naturally, programs not funded by the school district. This year's Garden Party will be held on Saturday, November 10 at the Universalist Unitarian Church. The organizers are asking for the community's help for this years' event. Let them know if you have a business or know of a business that would like to donate items, gift certificates, or services to the Garden Party. They welcome cash donations to help defray the cost of the event and businesses can also advertise in the Auction Catalog. Donations are tax deductible.

The deadline for donations is September 15. Please contact Beth Thomsen (527-1319 or jthomsen@aol.com) or Nannette De Groot (525-2835 or ndg@starterengine.com).

If you can donate the use of vacation homes or frequent flier miles, please contact Jackie Lucas (528-1613 or chiniak@comcast.net) or Kate Bloomer (527-6163 or KJBloomer@pacbell.net).

For general information, contact Co-Chairs Catherine Mercurio (527-1297 or catherine@mercuriodentalarts.com) or Debbie Polito (558-8345 or politos@sbcglobal.net).

Arlington sidewalk fix completed by homeowners but not AT&T



Arlington residents celebrate their new sidewalk.

The work on the sidewalks along the west side of Arlington has been completed by homeowners, who banded together to get the work done by one contractor. Much of the organizing of the event was done by Liz Guthridge, who runs Connect Consulting. Unfortunately the work has not been completed, because AT&T has yet to do its portion of the work. All the problems were marked at one time, and the residents had a limited time in which to do the work. On August 13, an AT&T engineering design manager said that the maintenance group will send the contract out for bid, and then the work will have to be scheduled. The permit for the work was issued to AT&T on June 6. The homeowners were told they would have to get their work completed in a month. At this time there is no indication of when the AT&T portion of the work will be completed.

At the end of August, after their work was done, the homeowners held a celebratory barbecue.

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161 Avenida Drive, Berkeley, listed at \$1,850,000, sold with 2 offers at the highest per-square-foot-price of any new construction sold in North Berkeley since January 2006.

1865 Channing Way, Berkeley, listed at \$649,000, sold over asking for the second highest per-square-foot-price of any home of comparable size and location listed and sold in 2007.



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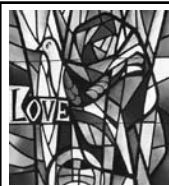
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Festivities follow at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue.



Stop by The Mechanics Bank Kensington office the week of September 17 to pick up an entry form. Have your child enter our Kids Coloring Contest for a chance to **win a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond!** (Details in our Kensington office.)



Purchase barbecue lunch tickets in advance, Monday thru Friday, September 17 to October 12, at The Mechanics Bank and receive **50¢ per ticket off** the regular Open House price.



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Neighborhood Notes

KCC Parade and Picnic



The 2007 Kensington Community Council Annual Parade and Picnic will be held on Sunday, October 14. The parade will run from the Arlington Pharmacy to the Kensington Community Center and will be followed by a delicious picnic served by KCC. As usual, local organizations and groups are invited to participate. If you, your friends, or an organization would like to be part of the parade, please contact Esther Hill at 525-0292. That same day the Friends of Kensington Library will be holding their book sale, and they invite members to donate books up until three days prior by bringing them to the library during regular hours.

Have you paid your garbage taxes?

It is possible to opt out of paying the assessment for garbage collection, but to do so you must apply for an exemption. Once this is provided, you will no longer get garbage picked up by Bay View Refuse. Only a couple of homes in Kensington have applied for this exemption, although Bay View says that there are 110 homes in the community that do not pay their taxes and so don't get garbage collected. These people are legally still responsible for their taxes, and if they do not get the exemption, they may be liable to have lien placed on their homes. Where do these families dispose of their trash? Bay View suggests that they may take their garbage to work or place it in other people cans or in public trash receptacles.

Some residents use the backyard pick-up service, while most place their cans on the curbside or store them permanently in front of their homes. We hear that many homeowners keep their cans in their garage to deter raccoons, while others are concerned about garbage workers falling on stairs or simply do not want people entering their backyards. The backyard pickup is one of the reasons that Kensington residents pay so much for their garbage service.

A potential January rate increase will be discussed at a KCSD meeting on October 24. Details of the meeting can be obtained from Helen Horowitz at 526-4141.

Park improvements

The circle and path in front of the Community Center is in need of repair, and the KPPCSD board has approved, by a vote of 3 to 2, to spend \$44,000 to completely replace the existing infrastructure, rather than opt for a less expensive patch job, as had been done previously. The board also decided to add recycling containers in the area of the picnic tables and tennis courts. The cost for these receptacles is approximately \$1,100 each, which includes a concrete base and bolts to hold them in place. Bay View Refuse and Recycling has agreed to add collection from these receptacles to their regular route. Kathy Stein developed plans for their placement.

Flu shots coming

If you are over your summer cold, you may consider getting a flu shot for the winter. These can be had at the Arlington Pharmacy on Wednesdays and Saturdays in October. The cost will be \$25, the same as last year. Medicare will pay for the vaccine for those with Medicare cards.

Want to sing?

The Contra Costa Chorale is seeking singers for its 42nd concert season. This year the program includes Vivaldi's *Credo* and Haydn's *Missa Sancti Johannes de Deo*. Performances will be on November 10 and 11.

Rehearsals are Mondays, 7:15-9:45 p.m., at Hillside Community Church, 1422 Navellier St., El Cerrito. Informal auditions are held at the conclusion of rehearsals. For more information, call 527-2026 or visit www.ccchorale.org.

Real estate thieves caught

In June, a couple started visiting open houses for sale in the area. While the woman distracted the realtor with questions, the man searched other rooms for purses and other valuables to steal. Often they would steal money, credit cards, and phones from the handbags of the realtors and then move on to the next open house. Eventually they stole a badge belonging to a retired police officer, and subsequently the thieves would tell realtors that the man was a police officer investigating thefts from open houses. They stole items from homes in Kensington, Berkeley, Piedmont, and Oakland. Once the couple realized that they were getting well known in the area, they moved east. With important information provided by Kensington police officers Escobar and Celada, police recently arrested the couple in Missouri. They were driving a Hummer rented from Hertz, which police were able to locate using the built-in OnStar system.

At a meeting for local realtors, police from Kensington, Berkeley, and Oakland advised removing valuables from houses being shown and suggested that realtors not leave purses and computers unattended while showing houses.



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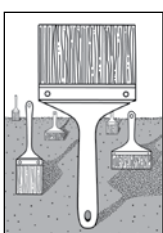
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Truck blockage

In July, a 60-foot-long moving van attempted to make a right turn from Amherst Ave. onto Princeton Ave. The attempt failed, and in the process yet another, smaller truck was damaged. Local resident Ray Barraza told the *Outlook* that traffic was blocked for about an hour before the truck was moved to the north block of Amherst Ave., thus totally blocking that street. The truck had to back all the way down Amherst Ave. to Arlington Ave. This whole procedure took more than an hour of Kensington police time. If you have moving needs and live on one of Kensington’s narrower streets, you may want to consider arranging for a smaller truck.

Annex building adds bathroom to park

The park Annex building has been completely renovated. The bright, newly decorated building is available for rent from the KPPCSD office (call Helen Horowitz at 526-4141). The Annex has been used for receptions and KPPCSD meetings over the past few months. The building also includes a bathroom with an outside door. This bathroom is now available to the public from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is not ADA-compliant. Also this summer, the Community Center was repainted inside.

Tom Hendrickson moves to new clinic



For many years now, local residents have been relying on the services of the Hendrickson Clinic, started and run by Tom Hendrickson. Recently the clinic relocated to Colusa Circle, into modern and spacious offices. Hendrickson is well known within the massage community for inventing the Hendrickson Method and for writing one of the best-selling massage books: *Massage for Orthopedic Conditions*.

The Hendrickson Method, taught to hundreds of therapists since 1977, is a system of orthopedic therapy using a combination of techniques, including massage, mobilization, and neuromuscular re-education, done with a synthesis of Eastern energy practices. The gentle therapy provides pain relief and functional rehabilitation. The Hendrickson Method is suitable therapy for most orthopedic conditions, including low back pain, whiplash, and rotator cuff injuries. With long-term benefits far beyond what is possible with massage, at its core is a one-of-a-kind stroke called wave mobilization, so named because its gentle rocking motion mimics ocean waves and is done to the rhythm of a prenatal heartbeat. A patient recently stated that “Tom has X-ray fingers and can find the spot, no matter how deep or surrounded by tense muscles.”

Although Hendrickson has a waiting list for appointments of about three months, two other accomplished practitioners, Shin Aoki and Michelle Scatina, both graduates of the Hendrickson Method, work in the clinic. The Hendrickson Chiropractic Clinic is located at 288 Colusa Circle. They can be reached at 524-8256.

Greenbelt fundraiser



“Bluegrass for the Greenbelt” is a fundraiser for the Greenbelt Alliance, which has been protecting the Bay Area’s greenbelt of natural areas and farms and making the region’s cities better places to live since 1958. The three-hour event features Grammy-award winner Laurie Lewis and The Right Hands, with Jody Stecher and Kate Brislin. Also performing will be Rustler’s Moon, with Kathy Kallick and Bill Evans. The Kensington Farmers’ Market sponsors include Chef Larry Lefebvre, offering boxed suppers made of local, organic, and sustainable ingredients; Lone Oak Orchards, offering fresh, seasonal, organic fruit, nuts, and fruit juices; and Bennett Valley Bread, featuring organic pizzettas and cookies. Other sponsor organizations include Berkeley Whole Foods, DanSun Productions, Dyer Vineyard, Freight & Salvage, Inkworks, KALW, Lalime’s Restaurant, and Peet’s Coffee. This will be the only charity event in 2007 to be held at Coventry Grove, on Coventry Road. Hours are 3–6 p.m. There is no parking at the event, but a free shuttle bus will run from El Cerrito Plaza BART station.

Make room for fire trucks


When fireman Mike Bond visited Val Paola’s block meeting on Beloit Ave., he told the attendees that the fire department needs at least a 10-foot clearance to be able to get their trucks up a street. So if you live on a narrow street, please make sure you leave enough room for the fire truck. A couple of times this year, fire personnel have had to leave their truck on a street they could not get through and run their life-saving equipment to a house. Bond also said the minimum clearance for trees overhanging sidewalks is 7 feet, and shrubs on the sidewalk should be 3 feet from the pavement edge and no more than 30 inches high.

911 statistics

Interim Police Chief Brown Taylor reported that the 911 ring-time statistics for the last 12 months now show that 71 percent of Kensington’s 911 calls are now picked up in less than 10 seconds, the state-mandated time for answering these calls. Calls answered between 10 and 20 seconds were at 15.5 percent, and 13.5 percent of calls took longer than 20 seconds to be answered. A total of 535 calls to 911 in the past year originated in Kensington. Most of the extended ring times occurred between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Lost and Found


Call Marie Metcalf at 527-1237 if you lost a pair of women’s prescription eyeglasses on Saturday, August 25 on Arlington Ave. between Arlington Ln. and Arlington Ct.



In the garden with St. Paul's Towers resident Mary Flanders

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Sunday September 2



Personal Theology: **Evil Is Not Good for You: The Dangers of Demonization.** Walter Truett Anderson, author, lecturer, political scientist, philosopher, and former syndicated columnist. 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Monday September 3

Labor Day

Thursday September 6

Storytimes for Babies and Toddlers. Fun Stories, Rhymes, and Songs! New times: 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.



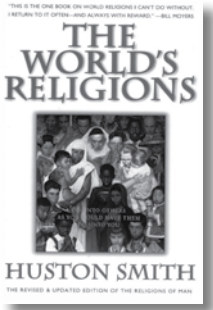
Meet the new Hilltop School principal, Judy Sanders. 7 p.m. in the school library. Free childcare provided.

Saturday September 8



Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature Identity and Imagination. *O My America!* by Johanna Kaplan. Discussion led by Dr. Naomi Seidman of the Graduate Theological Union. 2 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 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.*

Sunday September 9



Personal Theology: **Three Outstanding Experiences of My Life.** Houston Smith, author of *The World's Religions*, former professor of religion and philosophy at M.I.T., Syracuse and UC. 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

"Going Green. It's Easy." 33rd Solano Avenue Stroll, Solano Ave. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.



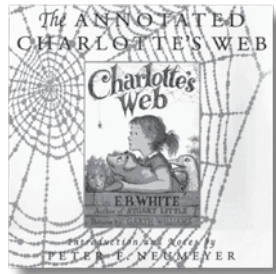
Bluegrass for the Greenbelt. Fundraiser for the Greenbelt Alliance. Coventry Grove, 3 p.m. \$65. (415) 543-6771.

Monday September 10



Join the Castoffs, **Kensington Library Knitting Group.** 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

KCC Kensington Community Council meeting. KCC Office, Building E in Kensington Park, 59 Arlington Ave. 7:30 p.m. 525-0292.



Children's Literature talk: Dr. Peter Neumeyer, emeritus professor of English and comparative literature at SDSU discusses various aspects of children's literature. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

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

Tuesday September 11

KASEP registration starts, 6:45 p.m. KCC office, Bldg. E, 59 Arlington Ave. 525-0292.

FKL (Friends of the Kensington Library) board meeting. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Community members are invited to participate.

Wednesday September 12

The Stories and Practice of Mindfulness Meditation led by Megan MacMillan and Carolyn West. 8 Wednesdays through October 31, from 9:30 a.m. Donation: \$50. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. 1 Lawson Rd. To register, call 446-5490.

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

KENSINGTON

Thursday September 13

KPPCSD Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Community Center, Room 3, 59 Arlington Ave. 526-4141

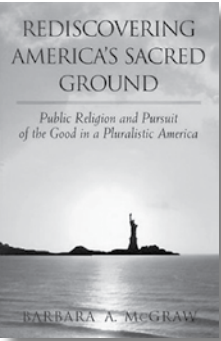
Storytimes for Babies and Toddlers. See Sept. 6.

Sunday September 16

Smart & Green

Smart & Green Day at the Farmers' Market. Bring items for donation to **Goodwill:** gently used clothing and shoes, housewares, books, games, toys, and small appliances in working condition. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Personal Theology: **Reflections on My Religious Journey.** Mac Lingo, longtime UUCB member, Jew, Buddhist, sailor, teacher in a jail, and worker for GRIP. 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.



Foundations of American Civic Virtue: The Rule of Law as "God's Higher Law." Barbara McGraw, author, member of the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court and Project Affiliate of the Pluralism Project, Harvard; Professor of Social Ethics, Law, and Public Life at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. Sunday, 12:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 222-5199. To register, call 528-3417.

Monday September 17

Annual Kensington Cleanup

Tuesday September 18

Annual Kensington Cleanup

Fall Storytime: Daffy Dave is the funniest clown around! Come see his awesome magic, slapstick comedy, goofy juggling, and amazing balloon sculptures. Ages 3 and up. 6:30 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

The Berkeley Garden Club. 2 p.m. Epworth Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St. Paul and Robin Crowley of Potomac Waterworks speak on Water, Color and Texture in the Garden. 845-4482.

Wednesday September 19

Annual Kensington Cleanup

Thursday September 20

Annual Kensington Cleanup



New afternoon book club at the El Cerrito Library. Sept. 20, *The Year of Magical Thinking*, by Joan Didion; Oct. 18, *The Other Boleyn Girl*, by Philippa Gregory; Nov. 15, *Toujours Provence*, by Peter Mayle.

El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

Storytimes for Babies and Toddlers. See Sept. 6.

Friday September 21

Annual Kensington Cleanup

Saturday September 22

Writing as Adventure and Discovery. Lynn Hammond. 11 a.m. Donation: \$30. Bring a Bag Lunch. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. To register, call 233-2666.

Sunday September 23

Personal Theology: Living the Lasallian Mission. Carole Swain, VP for Mission and Dean of Faculty for St. Mary's College. 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302



Kensington Farmers' Market is hosting Harbor House Quilt Project. Don't miss this rare opportunity to buy beautiful, handmade quilts while making a difference in the life of an Oakland family. Farmers' Market, 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

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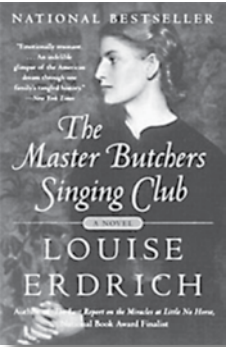
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CALENDAR

Brunch with the Bands. A benefit for the music program at El Cerrito High School. Buffet brunch, music, and great company! \$30 adults, \$15 for children 9 and under. Two seatings: 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. or 12:30–2 p.m. Downtown Restaurant, 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 236-5637.

UU Mystics, led by Barbara McGraw. 12:30 p.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Monday September 24



Kensington Library Book Club discuss *Master Butcher's Singing Club*, by Louise Erdrich. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043. Sponsored by the Friends of the

Kensington Library.

Tuesday September 25

KMAC Kensington Municipal Advisory Council meeting. 7:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 273-9926.

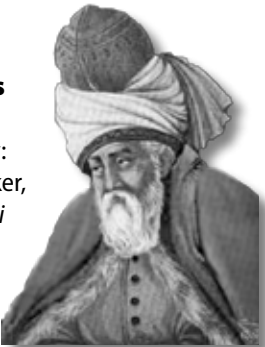
Thursday September 27

Fall Storytime: Meet a Humane Society Dog. Ages 5 and up. 4 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Storytimes for Babies and Toddlers. See Sept. 6.

Sunday September 30

Rumi's Birthday Extravaganza. Celebrate Rumi's 800th birthday. Personal Theology: Victoria Lee, speaker, author of *The Rumi Secret*, 10 a.m. Sunday Service: Rumi's Poetry and Teachings, 11 a.m. Music, dancing, poetry reading, and celebration, 7 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 222-5199.



Song and dance at the Senior Center

The West Contra Costa Adult Education Kensington Seniors Center directed by Judy Jung recently staged a performance by kindergartners and a production of songs from the 1920s through the 1960s by Stagebridge. The performers Cindy Carrico and Linda Wilson with Scrumby Koldewyn on piano, sang a range of show tunes with much enthusiasm and humor and had many of the seniors singing along with familiar tunes. Stagebridge is the nation's oldest theater company of senior adults; it has been producing plays, musicals, and concerts since 1978.

The Seniors Center meets in the Social Hall of the Arlington Community Church, at 52 Arlington Ave., every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone over 55 is welcome to join in the activities, which include a German conversation group, watercolor painting, and a meditation group, as well as presentations by a variety of people, including Sgt. Angela Escobar of the Kensington Police Department. Coffee and lunch is also available. Call 526-9146 for more information.



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Art exhibitions

A Different Look at All Things Travel is an exhibition at The Eclectix Gallery, that runs through September. A group exhibition of paintings, sculpture, photography, and mixed media, it features the work of local many artists. The Eclectix Gallery, is located at 7523 Fairmount Ave. El Cerrito, www.eclectixgallery.com.

Also, The Berkeley Art Center is holding its 24th juried art exhibition. The exhibition from over 1,700 entries includes paintings, drawings, prints, photography, collage, origami, and mixed media. Berkeley Art Center is located at 1275 Walnut Street in Live Oak Park. The exhibit runs through September 22 and is open Wednesday–Sunday, 12–5 p.m.



Quality tools come to Farmers' Market

Local woodworkers, gardeners, and cooks have long admired the wonderful Japanese tools and knives available at Hida Tool and Hardware on San Pablo Ave. in Berkeley. Now Hida Tool will be attending the Kensington Farmers' Market twice a month. They will be selling high-quality traditional Japanese tools and knives, made using ancient techniques. Bring your knives, scissors, and home and garden tools for sharpening. We hear no edge is too jagged for Masters Osamu and Chica.

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—New Kensington Homeowners

Kensington Market Update

Address	Beds	Baths	List Price	Sold Price	Sold Date
268 Los Altos	2	1	\$750,000	\$788,000	07/20/07
268 Colgate Ave.	2	1	\$725,000	\$685,000	07/18/07
43 Arlington Ave.	3	2	\$899,000	\$900,000	07/18/07
44 Marguerita Rd.	5	4	\$2,400,000	\$2,480,000	07/10/07
111 Purdue Ave.	3	1	\$619,000	\$676,000	07/06/07
235 Lake Drive	4	2	\$700,000	\$700,000	07/06/07

This information is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

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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 June/July

- Vandals walked over a Honda Accord on Rincon, leaving footprints embedded on the hood, roof, and trunk.
- A resident observed five juveniles trying to start a fire on the pavement of Los Altos Drive. They had run away when police arrived.
- A Highland Blvd. resident who is continually having issues with her neighbors called to complain about one of them chopping down branches from her tree. It turns out that PG&E had been trimming branches away from their lines. This woman made repeated reports to the police about her neighbors parking on the street and complained about a notice in a neighbor’s car window. She recently complained that toxins coming from another neighbor’s fire pit were poisoning her. He was burning a pressed wood fire log.
- A resident of Ocean View Ave. trimmed their tree and brushed the branches in front of their neighbor’s house. The neighbor pushed them back. After this happened a couple of times, the police were called, who suggested that one of them simply place the trimmings in their green waste receptacle.
- The son of an elderly lady called police because he thought his siblings might come and remove items from her house after she moved into his house.
- An inebriated couple got into a verbal and physical dispute at their home on Parkside Ct. The man had left the home before police arrived.
- A woman on Cowper Ave. complained about two off-leash dogs, both Labradors, that jumped up on her back and lower body. Dogs are not permitted off leash on the streets of Kensington.
- A woman on Santa Fe Ave. complained about threatening text messages sent to her phone by a former boyfriend. The messages mentioned killing her. The boyfriend has a record of violence, but he later texted her, saying he hadn’t meant the threats to be taken seriously.
- Several teenagers were seen hanging around and generally making noise after midnight on Sunset Dr. They told police it was the day before their graduation, they were celebrating, and that they would go home.
- An elderly woman fell asleep while driving down Franciscan Way and crashed into a fence at speed. She narrowly missed hitting a tree. Police told her she would have to take an age-related test to continue driving.
- A nephew threatened his uncle on Edwin Dr. after the uncle asked him to move out of the house.
- A suspicious person was reported on Rincon Rd. Turns out it was a private detective investigating a nearby resident.
- A driver ran their Lexus off the road when they discovered a small spider inside their car.
- An argument between two brothers escalated until police were called to intervene. It seems one was refusing to clean his room.
- Nearly invisible fishing line was tied across a sidewalk, presumably as a prank. Luckily no one was seriously hurt.
- The high price of gas was thought to be the cause of between 10 and 12 gallons of gas being siphoned from a Volvo parked on Oberlin Ave.
- A groom’s mother found her car smashed after the wedding at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. The culprit, who also attended the wedding, was in a rental car that he drove to LA and turned in, claiming he was the victim of a hit-and-run. The groom’s mother’s car had the rental license plate number embossed on her car.
- Police were called to break up an argument between a married couple living on Coventry Rd. They were arguing about her parents.
- A Sunset Dr. homeowner refused to let a neighbor’s contractor unload over a portion of their property. The neighbor was sprayed with a hose when attempting do so.
- An observant police officer saw a fire underneath a street sweeper and was able to extinguish it before any damage was done to the vehicle.



- Local juveniles were seen spray painting graffiti on the roof and walls of Porto Brazil.
- A woman left her purse in front of the pub on Colusa Circle. When she returned, it was gone. The owners of the pub had seen it and assumed the owner knew where it was.
- Graffiti was sprayed on the outside walls of the Carmelite monastery, with green paint.
- A lady from Oakland came to Kensington to buy a guitar. She was so pleased with it that she drove to the park and sat down on a bench to play it, while looking at the view. As she strummed, a thief broke into her car and removed \$1,200 worth of stuff, including a John Wayne movie on video.
- Three local juveniles, stopped on Colgate Ave., were found to be in possession of psilocybin mushrooms, a controlled substance. They were released into the custody of their parents.
- Someone reported an East Bay Regional Parks pickup and a gas can on a path near Beloit Ave. It seems the crew had forgotten the vehicle and can when working there earlier in the day.
- Obscene graffiti insulting a teacher was found written on a classroom wall at Hilltop School. The writers had broken a window to get in.
- Some letters were stolen from the new sign-board at the entrance to the park and library.
- A woman brought her hysterical three-year-old to the police station to have the police tell the child to wear a seat belt. Apparently she thought the police would scare the child out of behavior that she could not handle.
- A person on Los Altos Dr. reported a variety of breakfast items left in their driveway. Police are thought to be looking for a cereal criminal.
- A light pole lying on the side of the road at the corner of Arlington Ave. and Rincon Rd. was reported to police. This pole has been there for many weeks, despite repeated calls to PG&E. The police also called the utility company.
- A man living on Arlington Ave. loaned his new truck to his girlfriend some weeks ago. She drove off and has not been seen since.
- A thief broke into an Ardmore Rd. home that is being remodeled and removed over \$2,200 worth of tools.
- Some local kids were seen with fireworks and marijuana in the park. The police took their illegal items and sent them home.
- A car with suspicious people inside was reported on Arlington Ave. The people, an adult and kids, were Kensington residents.

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