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KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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JULY-AUGUST 2018

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VOLUME 76 NUMBER 6-7

KASEP Office Assistant Job Open

The Kensington Community Council is looking to fill the Office Assistant job for Kensington’s KASEP recreation programs. This is a part-time job (5 hours a day) close to home. You need to have good communication skills, know a variety of

computer programs (Word, Excel, Quicken), and like working with children. If you are interested in interviewing for this job, please contact Anne Forrest at anneforrest24@gmail.com.

Facelift for Kensington’s Library



Brady Presents Again at Ill-Attended KPPCSD Board Meeting

By Linnea Due

Matrix Consulting President Richard Brady gave a PowerPoint presentation May 24 at the regularly scheduled KPPCSD board meeting. The content was similar to the April 28 community meeting (see June *Outlook*), with preliminary findings of Matrix’s Phase 1 investigation. At the KPPCSD meeting, findings were in draft form (and still are, at press time), but a new wrinkle was added in that dollar costs were broken down for recommendations to bring the department up to what the consultants deem modern standards.

The first study examined Kensington’s police department with an emphasis on how well it operates and what it needs to succeed; the second phase will discuss other options, such as contracting out to a neighboring agency or adopting a hybrid model in which, for example, HR would be contracted out. In addition to talking to all police personnel, Matrix conducted two citizen feedback meetings and an online survey. Brady also received emails and phone calls with residents’ takes on the KPD.

Library-goers found the library closed from June 4 through June 12 while workers swarmed the building. Friends of the Kensington Library’s Jim Fisher says that Contra Costa County provided \$25,000 for interior paint and the design, purchase, and installation of a remodeled staff work area. In addition, the FKL committed \$9,400 to extend the refresh to the library’s public spaces, including a larger and well-defined family-friendly children’s area with new tables, chairs, rugs, and more comfortable seating for families to sit and read together (pictured, though not all furniture is in place). Fisher notes that the library, opened in 1965, has not had a significant remodel in all that time. However, he says, “the FKL has purchased individual pieces of furniture over the years, and in 2005 the Grubb Company provided funding to redecorate the storytime room with the ‘Tree of Knowledge’ mural by Julie Goodson-Lawes.” Come see the new digs! Photo by David Bergen.

Talking points included the fact that major crime is very low—and dropping. There is almost no violent crime (from 2012-2016, there was one homicide and one rape); property crimes, while more numerous, decreased by a third over the same five-year period (for example, there were 85 total property crimes in 2012 and 56 in 2016). In the 62-page report, available online at the KPPCSD website, the top three most frequent calls are citizen

See Matrix, page 4



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24 Highgate Ct, Kensington
3br/3ba ~ \$850,000

2121 Parker St, Berkeley
Duplex 2/1 & 1/1 ~ \$849,000

PENDING SALES

93 Arlington Ave, Kensington
4br/2ba ~ Listed at \$1,575,000

1240 Westview Dr, Berkeley
3br/2ba ~ Listed at \$1,249,000

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3br/2ba ~ Listed at \$1,195,000

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Letters to the Editor

The Matrix Report: Quo Vadis?

To the Editor:

Discussion of the Matrix report on Kensington’s police staffing should recall that this is only the first phase of their analysis. They found that Kensington is statistically very safe and its residents feel safe. However, the police force is understaffed, underpaid, undersupervised, underequipped, and undertrained, compared to local benchmarks. Matrix estimates an additional yearly cost of \$1.25M (which divided equally would be about \$600 per household annually) to bridge this gap.

The next step is for the KPPCSD board to project and adopt a sustainable budget for police services, ranging three to five years into the future (with flexible variables). The differences, if any, between that budget and what Matrix has recommended will need to be translated into acceptance and rejection of the various desiderata (equipment, training, staffing). In other words, if we can’t meet the additional annual \$1.25M, what will we be willing to sacrifice?

At that point an RFP, with specific budgetary categories and amounts, would need to be developed for circulation to local enforcement agencies that might consider bidding to contract for police services in Kensington. The proposals have to be identical, so the RFP has to be very specific. If there are possibilities for “hybrid” models, such as having our own force supplemented by night or weekend patrols from the county sheriff’s office, these should be considered.

Critical to this analysis are our pension and health benefit obligations to present and retired officers, which may exceed \$16M. Whether or not we contract out, Kensington is responsible for these. If we contract out and dissolve our force, our costs will likely have to include some retirement obligations to the other agency. It will be a challenge to compare projected cost increases between internal and external agencies and interesting to see if any viable external proposals are offered. Either way, our residents need to know what they’re getting for their money. At least, that’s how it should work. We’ll see if it does.

Kevin Padian

Hiring Our Officers

Dear Editor:

Knowing that many residents in Kensington think the world of our police officers and like the personalized service provided by officers dedicated to Kensington, and knowing that these would be crucial features in any contracting arrangement, the contracting group of the Ad Hoc committee asked the adjacent communities whether they would hire our existing officers, assign officers dedicated to patrolling Kensington, and replace any assigned officers who do not “fit” well with the community.

All the agencies said yes, they would, though our officers would have to go through the agency’s own hiring process and meet its standards. I ask: if any of our officers could not be hired by these other departments, why do we want them here?

Mabry Benson

Thinking Ahead to Keep Waste Costs Low

Dear Editor:

The Citizen’s Forum piece in the June *Outlook* by A. Stevens Delk asserts that the KPPCSD board decided on weekly food collection; Bay View’s rates are the highest in Contra Costa County; rates would go up by either 7 percent or 17 percent; and wheeled carts are mandatory. Here are the facts. No board decision has been made. This option will be discussed at a board meeting in the near future.

We authorized a survey on March 8 on a food waste option because of strong community interest in food waste composting, proposed state regulations mandating food waste composting, and possible limitations in using the closest composting facility. My article describing the KPPCSD’s residential food waste survey was printed on page 9 in the May online edition of the *Outlook* and is on our website.

See Letters, page 6

SEPTEMBER 2018 DEADLINES:
Advertising Deadline ❖ AUGUST 8 Editorial Deadline ❖ AUGUST 10

The Kensington Community Council is dedicated to the improvement, development, and education of the community, and to the promotion of social welfare in Kensington. It enriches the community by providing educational and recreational programs for all ages and by publishing the Outlook, a monthly newsletter that covers local events and issues.

KCC also provides a forum for all Kensington community groups to meet and coordinate their respective efforts toward the common good of the community.

Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the writers and do not reflect the opinion of the Outlook, its editor, or the Kensington Community Council. Letters must be signed and include the resident's phone number and address (which will not be printed). Letters 350 words or under will appear in the print edition (space permitting). Any letter over 350 words will be printed in the online edition only. Publication of letters and articles is subject to space and the editor's discretion. Obituaries of Kensington residents are printed without charge. All material must be received by the 10th of the month preceding issue date; submit by email to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com. No press releases or PDFs; Word documents or text in the body of an email are acceptable. Use one space, not two, after all periods.

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

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K E N S I N G T O N

Community Education

KASEP Kensington Afterschool Enrichment Program

In the midst of summer, we have already begun planning for Fall KASEP. Our Fall KASEP brochures will go home in student backpacks the 2nd week of school, August 27th - 31st and our website will be updated with the Fall schedule and classes by mid-August. www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org
Please make sure you already have an account created BEFORE September 4th because some classes fill up in the first 5-10 minutes of registration. If you've forgotten your password, please request a new one and do NOT create a new account. Families with multiple accounts create accounting woes. Our office is always open on Registration nights to help families.

Important Dates for Fall 2018

- August 20 to September 3rd - KCC office closed
 - Week of August 20th - Website will be updated with Fall session classes
 - Tuesday, September 4th - Fall KASEP Registration - 7:00pm for Kindergarten and 7:30pm for Gr. 1-6
 - Monday, September 17th - Fall KASEP classes start
 - Saturday, September 22nd - KCC Family Movie Night
- Enjoy the long summer days and we look forward to welcoming you back in the Fall!



Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

In the United States, it has been recommended by the Arthritis Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for its effectiveness in bringing pain relief, improving balance, and significantly reducing falls. The class is suitable for all people, regardless of physical condition. It is however, especially helpful for people who may be experiencing some health difficulties. The exercises incorporate all the health enhancing benefits of regular tai chi, but focuses on movements that are safe and relatively simple to do.

For further information, contact Nobuo at: nnishi50@gmail.com
510-495-4860

Tai Chi Chuan Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

A gentle martial art, tai chi is a safe, rewarding activity for people of all ages and all levels of health. Tai chi incorporates both mind and body. Nobuo Nishi, instructor, has been teaching for 18 years.

KCC Summer Camp is in motion!

The last week of camp, August 13-17 is already full. The remaining weeks have space available and you can sign up by the week. Each week has a different field trip and theme. Camp days start at 9:00am and end at 5:00pm with morning and aftercare available. Parents, need a break in the blissful summer-time routine? Join us!

Vicky kicks off the 4th of July week with her special sweet treats. Put on your rock climbing shoes for the Bladium July 11th and of course Olympic Week, not to be missed week, is July 30th to August 3rd. Camp: \$295 per week is affordable and your children's friends from Kensington Hilltop are already here. Enroll online at www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org. One fee includes BBQ on Friday, free camp t-shirt, entrance fees and transportation to all field trips, group tennis lessons and daily snack.



Camp enrollment is restricted to children entering, as of fall 2018, 1st grade up to 6th grade.

\$295 per week July 4th-short week, \$235

Week 4 July 2 - July 6

- Closed July 4, Short Week
- Specialty: Sweet Treats with Vicky
- No Field Trip

Week 5 July 9 – July 13 – SPIRIT WEEK

- Specialty: Fun with Food with Vicky
- Field Trip: Bladium

Week 6 July 16 - July 20

- Specialty: Upcycled T-Shirts with April
- Field Trip: Lake Anza

Week 7 July 23 – July 27

- Specialty: SkyHawk Sports Medley w/ Victor
- Field Trip: Albany Bowl

Week 8 July 30 – Aug. 3

- OLYMPIC WEEK
- Field Trip: Bladium

Week 9 Aug. 6 – Aug 10

- Specialty: Creative Clay with Jeanne
- Field Trip: Oakland Zoo

Week 10 Aug 13 –Aug. 17 – End of Camp * FULL

- Air Bouncer and Jousting Tent
- Specialty: Upcycle T shirts with April
- Field Trip: El Cerrito Pool

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg. E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707.
E-mail: kccrec@yahoo.com, or call 525-0292. M-F, 11:30am-5pm.
Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am.
Call the KCC office for info. Court Fees: 45-min. singles reservation: Residents: \$2; Nonresidents: \$5.
Kensington Community Center Rental Info: Please call Andrea at the KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 510-526-4141.

Matrix

...from page 1

Phase 1 Costs

- Estimated additional costs for Phase 1 recommendations vary depending on strategic choices made by the Board:
 - \$1.025 million in additional annual costs if also offering more competitive compensation.
 - \$692,000 if implementing all recommendations with no salary changes.

Cost Categories	Annual Cost	Notes
Salary and Benefits	\$531,961	Additional recommended staff
Police Equipment	\$37,558	Leased tasers and body cameras
Enhanced Training	\$79,158	At benchmark levels, incl. management
Reserves	\$19,350	Increased reserve program
Additional Vehicle O&M	\$24,167	For additional staff
Total	\$692,194	
Increased Compensation	\$1,025,280	



assist, alarms, and abandoned vehicles, which accounted for approximately 600 calls on an annualized basis; another 200 involved suspicious persons, vandalism, and disturbing the peace.

As in the late April meeting, Brady said that residents feel safe and that KPD officers have almost unheard-of amounts of proactive time (81 percent of a typical shift), hours when they are not responding to calls and can do community policing—patrolling, traffic stops, talking to residents, helping residents with neighborhood issues. However, in the past, this time has been undirected and unmonitored. Brady said “recent efforts have seen improvements in the use of this time.”

Staffing shortages were highlighted: the KPD is now at seven of nine authorized positions, and the last full staffing was at some point in 2015. Most hours only have one officer on duty, though Chief Hull now works one day on the weekend, so a lack of supervision, another finding, has improved. Brady said that equipment and training were deficient, and that compensation is significantly lower than at neighboring agencies.

Recommendations include two sworn staff on duty at all times, with one a supervisor; improve training; develop a volunteer program; equip officers with tasers and body-worn cameras; provide the chief with management training; hire a full-time administrative assistant; develop a strategic plan to address community desires for proactive time as well as institute metrics to measure that time. Retention and recruitment also need long-term attention.

According to the chart in the PowerPoint presentation, the yearly additional cost estimates for these upgrades are \$1.025 million if compensation is raised to neighboring agency standards, \$692,000 without raising pay. This includes leased tasers, an additional vehicle, and training but does not factor in the Public Safety Building and its space and functionality problems.

Residents pored through the document, which lists \$1.25 million, not \$1.025, as the price tag for enhancements. Karl Kruger quipped, “We bought it, we paid for it, we embrace it.” More soberly, he wrote, “If I were CEO of this district and I had paid for this analysis, I would have four lists by now. Items to do within six months; items to implement within 18 months; two-three year goal; and too costly or not right for the district.” Kruger noted an observation to consider immediately—that “Leadership, management and oversight issues exist in which the interim Police Chief, part time General Manager and Board are unable to focus on their respective strategic, managerial, oversight and policy roles, instead focusing on details associated with day-to-day operations.” (Phase 1 Police Draft Report, page 33).

Dave Spath, chairman of 2016’s ad hoc committee, wrote that he believes “one of the most significant financial findings... is that officer salaries are about 25 percent below the average of neighboring communities that may be likely contracting jurisdictions. It is not clear if Matrix is recommending that the district consider raising salaries significantly to be more competitive or merely advising that is what it would cost. The district doesn’t have the financial capacity to bring salaries close to those of the adjacent jurisdiction.... It would also be useful if the report would present the total compensation of officers (pension and medical benefits) compared to the other jurisdictions as this issue is an ongoing debate.”

Marilyn Stollon also wants a more transparent breakdown. “We need comprehensive costs for remaining independent, hidden costs of CalPERS pensions and pension liabilities, a full-time police services tech with or without benefits. Costs for equipment such as bulletproof vests, guns, full cost for body cameras, and let’s not forget the increased amount of physical office space required with a chief, GM, and increased staff.... I can only assume that those who want an independent force will prepare for a tax increase to pay for it, so we need to know if it’s \$1.25 million or will it be \$2 million?”

Spath notes that some at the May 24 board meeting asked, given the low crime rate, why we need more officers. Brady answered that the recommendation for supervision is based on professional policing concepts. “Supervision could be accomplished by a supervisor under a beat concept,” Spath writes, something El Cerrito has proposed in the past. For example, a captain or chief could supervise both Kensington and El Cerrito officers. “The question that [Brady] was asked at the May meeting was could proactive policing be better accomplished by two dedicated officers or with one officer and a supervisor with a larger span of control under the beat model,” Spath writes. “He suggested that two dedicated officer would be better. But this is an issue that will need further discussion in the next phase of the report when Matrix examines outsourcing alternatives. And it will depend on what the community’s priorities are: patrolling, traffic control, etc.”

Stollon also addressed this point: “With this best practices model, we are staffing for risk, not need. Ironic, because in the election four years ago, I recall many discussions... about the top-heavy police management.... As officers [were] promoted..., it became very costly.”

Costs also concern finance committee member Jim Watt. Under a foreboding title,

“Calm Before the Storm,” Watt writes that both the fire and police districts face significant capital outlays, the police district with the remodel of the Community Center, which it owns, and the fire district with the Public Safety Building. In addition to the police, KPPCSD is also responsible for the park and the Bay View garbage contract, with rising costs to taxpayers. Watt writes: “While both agencies have cash reserves, preliminary estimates suggest these costs could significantly exceed reserve levels. Unless plans are scaled back, Kensington residents may need to accept a major tax increase or long-term debt.”

Watt is unconvinced that we need to pay an additional tax of between \$300 and \$500 (or more) per household to fund the changes Matrix recommends. He writes, “Upgrading the public safety building and the community center to meet seismic safety codes is absolutely critical, and until these costs are known, we should be very cautious on other spending. The time to be frugal with our spending is now, not when the next economic downturn occurs.”

The final version of the Phase 1 report should be released within a couple of weeks (GM Tony Constantouros would not comment for this story before final figures are released). The hope is that the Phase II report will be out by late August, though Brady says, “we are trying to accelerate that timeline.”

A Little Help from Our Friends

By Janice Kosel, Kensington Fire Protection District board president

There was a house fire on Purdue May 23 that could have proved devastating, as the house was quickly fully involved, with the fire threatening the houses on either side. Within moments five engines arrived—one from Kensington, two from El Cerrito, one from Richmond, and one from Berkeley. Our neighbors really came through for us. The firefighters did a fabulous job containing the blaze, preventing it from spreading to adjoining properties, with minor damage to the house on the south side.

The fire was most likely caused by an electric scooter’s lithium battery, which was being charged in the garage, where the fire started. The homeowner later reported that he had heard a loud bang, likely the battery exploding.

Fire Chief Lance Maples writes in his report to the board, “Engine 65 initiated an aggressive fire attack with a 2-1/2” hose line and was able to knock the fire down in less than five minutes and minimize the exposure issue [to adjoining properties].”

Thankfully, all people and pets (two dogs and a cat) were able to escape the blaze.



Photo by Michael Pigoni, battalion chief

Kensington Leads in Clean Electricity

By Meldan Heaslip

There is a brand new reason to celebrate Kensington: we are a clean electricity mecca! Over the past three months, our community has transitioned from using electricity that was 33 percent renewably generated to 58 percent. This is a remarkable achievement, made all the more noteworthy by the fact that the majority of us may be completely unaware of our shared triumph. Hooray for us! Hooray for the planet! Hooray for MCE, the Marin-based nonprofit that became our new default electricity procurer, and hooray for our county supervisors, led by John Gioia, who voted last year to bring MCE to Kensington and most other parts of our county.

Of all the communities that have recently enrolled with MCE, Kensington has the lowest number of opt-outs. Just three percent of accounts here chose to continue having PG&E procure their electricity. This figure is closer to ten percent in most other communities that MCE serves.

More than this, within MCE’s entire service area, which includes all of Marin and Napa counties and most of Contra Costa County, Kensington already has the second highest opt-up rate! 156 accounts in Kensington—homes, businesses and our Community Center and Public Safety Building—opted-up to MCE’s 100 percent renewable electricity choice. Not only is the electricity for these green champions all generated by solar and wind, these accounts are supporting new renewable energy projects and well paid green jobs in our county. Fairfax holds the top spot, but it joined MCE way back in 2010.

If you would like to have all of the electricity generated for your home be 100 percent green—and at the same time put Fairfax in its place—simply complete the one-time opt-up form on MCE’s website (www.mcecleanenergy.org/opt-up/). There is a modest cost to opt-up, about \$3 to \$4/month for the average household. Do join your neighbors and have the electricity generated for your home and for our Kensington be every bit renewable.

Great News for Community Center Remodel

By Linnea Due

At the June 14 KPPCSD meeting, it was announced that a source of considerable anxiety surrounding the Community Center project had eased. For months, the fact that significant work had to be done on the project before December 31, 2018 in order to make use of the Measure WW funds approved by voters ten years earlier caused quite a bit of angst on the part of board members and architects.

How could they make use of the funds—\$158,358—before the grants expired? Some thought doing all the grading and outdoor work around the Community Center might work—but now the issue is moot. East Bay Regional Parks District, which administers the local grants, has extended the deadline for expiration to December 31, 2021. Reached by email, Sylvia Hacaj, the director overseeing the project, wrote that “the earliest construction could start, barring any delays imposed by the county, would be November 1. All this is contingent upon getting permits approved and going to bid in the next couple of months.”

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May Police Log

May 1 HIT AND RUN, Stanford Ave. Property damage. Vehicle hit while parked. Three people witnessed the incident.

May 6 HIT AND RUN, Kenyon Ave. Property damage. Car sideswiped, driver side rear. Dented and scraped.

May 8 BURGLARY, Ardmore Rd. Officer-initiated activity.

May 10 VEHICLE TAMPERING. Grizzly Peak. Unknown neighbor throwing dog waste into bed of RP’s truck on a regular basis. Drive shaft removed. Person responsible left tool behind.

May 10 BURGLARY, Coventry Rd.

May 16 BURGLARY, Arlington Ave. Officer-initiated activity at Kensington Auto.

May 18 VANDALISM, Berkeley Park Blvd. Upon arrival one suspect ran but was detained. Parents called as they were juveniles.

May 20 VANDALISM, Arlington Ave. RP requesting to speak with an officer regarding his tree that was deliberately cut down with a chain saw. Stated he had civil suit against him by a neighbor regarding his tree but it was dropped.

May 21 ARREST FOR OUTSIDE AGENCY, Arlington Ave. Officer-initiated warrant arrest.

May 23, VANDALISM, Berkeley Park Blvd. Destroyed plants and covering and well covering.

May 25 FRAUD USE OF CREDIT CARD, Coventry Rd. Internet scam.

May 29, GRAND THEFT. Sunset View Cemetery. Bronze door stolen off mausoleum during the night.



Kensington Senior Heads to Tufts

A graduate of Berkeley High, Simone Lewis will attend Tufts University in the fall. Congratulations!

Letters
...from page 4

The proposed 7 percent (not 17 percent) rate increase will provide for weekly food and green waste collection—an increase to 52 pickups of green/food waste from our current 24 pickups a year. Residential collection rates are dependent on numerous factors and, thus, rate comparisons must compare like with like. Kensington’s current rates are lower than hard-to-serve rates (hilly terrain or narrow streets) in Lafayette, Orinda, and Danville and even lower when backyard service is included.

Labor is a major cost factor in garbage rates. Many nearby jurisdictions use “fully automated” vehicles that lift carts containing waste without the driver leaving the vehicle. Bay View relies on a semi-automated system where the driver brings a cart to the truck. The wheeled carts could be used with the lift system easing the physical demands on the employee. A longer explanation is on the KPPCSD website along with links to documents supporting this analysis.

On a personal note, I compost in my yard and enjoy all my little volunteer tomato plants, but as a director, I am concerned about keeping our future waste costs as low as possible in light of draft regulations mandating food composting.

Eileen Nottoli, KPPCSD board vice president

Kensington Going Greener
Dear Editor:

The Kensington Improvement Club board supports the work being done by the Kensington Green Committee to protect our environment and wants to urge the residents of Kensington to be at the forefront. Say Yes to 100 percent renewable electricity procured by MCE. Many people have already opted-up their homes and businesses to MCE’s 100 percent renewable electricity choice, called “Deep Green,” since the cost is just an average \$3-\$4 a month, depending on usage. As of June 2018, 97 percent of Kensington residents joined MCE—the highest percentage of any jurisdiction in the county! —and 156 accounts in our district took the extra step of opting-up to Deep Green. We urge all Kensington residents to opt-up and make the switch to 100 percent renewable electricity. PG&E will continue to deliver and bill for the electricity, maintain power lines, and provide repairs, but the electricity will be procured by MCE and generated solely from wind and solar resources here in California. To opt-up your home or business, go to mcecleanenergy.org/opt-up. It’s easy!

Lisa Caronna, Kensington Improvement Club president

Talk Mystery
Dear Editor:

Has anyone lived in Kensington for a long time? In the ‘60s there was a business where people could just come to talk with someone, not a therapist, for \$10 an hour. It did not last a long time but I would like some info about it. Did anyone go there or know someone who was a customer or worked there? Thanks for replying to jenn.garden@aol.com.

Jenn Garden

A Musical Critter
Dear Editor:

Late one calm evening at home in Kensington, I was reading a newspaper and enjoying the peace of the house after everyone else had gone to sleep. All of a sudden, I heard a few, very quiet beats of a small chime that hangs in a tree just outside the living room window. As it seemed very still outside, I went to check the weather on the front porch. Sure enough, there did not seem to be enough wind to move the chimes. Not hearing anything more, I sat down to continue my reading.

Well, a few minutes later, I could hear the chimes again. So I fetched a flashlight and went to the window to shine the light towards the tree. Lo and behold, there was a young raccoon sitting on the branch the chime was attached to, staring straight at me.

I returned to my reading while our new “musician” continued playing the chimes for another ten minutes. Then he left. However, he returned later that evening, and this time the concert lasted almost an hour!

Since then, he (or she) has returned four or five times and given us more great concerts. The whole family has enjoyed the performances very much. And, of course, we were all surprised that a little critter had found the chimes so enjoyable. What a treat!

Irma Jarvenpaa

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Town Meetings

KCC-JULY 2, NO AUGUST MEETING, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 6:30pm. 525-0292

KPSC-JUNE 11, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

KARO/ECHO-Amateur Radio Operators, 2nd Mondays of odd months, 7:30pm. 524-9815

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

KFPD-JULY 11, NO AUGUST MEETING, Fire Protection District 2nd Wed., 7pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD-JULY 17, AUGUST 9, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

Kensington Farmers’ Market
Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm, Colusa Circle

Kensington Calendar

Locations:

Arlington Community Church (ACC), 52 Arlington Ave., 526-9146
Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., 525-0292
Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 524-3043
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB), 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

Ongoing:

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10
Tai Chi Chuan Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10
Jazzercise with Kevin Knickerbacker Mondays-Fridays, 9am \$20 class or \$55 unlimited per month. ACC.
Mindful Yoga with Wendy Beckerman Tuesdays, 9:15am, bring yoga mat. \$18 drop in or discount for series. ACC.
Israeli Folk Dance Wednesdays, \$6, lessons/beginners 8pm, request dance party starts at 9pm. ACC.

July 1 Political Poetry & More. Surprise guest. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
July 2 Summer Classic Movie: *Harvey* The story of the kindly gentleman, Elwood P. Dowd (played by Jimmy Stewart) and his best friend Harvey, who just happens to be a six-foot-tall, invisible rabbit. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free. Kindergarten & up.
July 2 Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs” All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. 6:30pm. Free.
July 2, 16, 30 Kensington Library’s Digital Docent will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1pm. This one-on-one 60-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign up at Info Desk. Please bring your device.
July 3, 10, 17 & 24 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.
July 5, 12, 19 & 26 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs, puppets, shaky eggs, and loads of fun! Kensington Library. Two free identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am.
July 8 Professor David Hartsough. “Waging peace: global awareness of a lifelong activist in Berkeley.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
July 9 Summer Classic Movie: *Swiss Family Robinson* The rousing adventures of the Robinson clan after they are shipwrecked on a deserted island. They have to deal with all sorts of hardships including wild animals and pirates. In between they build the best tree house of all time, no contest. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free. Kindergarten & up.
July 15 Rev. Carrie Knowles, community minister at UUCB. “What’s happening with our Veterans?” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
July 16 Memoir Group 10am, ACC. Free Monthly Memoir Group led by Ruth Robinson in the Fireside Room.
July 16 Summer Classic Movie: *National Velvet* A young girl (Elizabeth Taylor) wins a horse in a raffle and decides that she wants to train it and race in the Grand National steeplechase with the help of a drifter

played by Mickey Rooney. Of course, she can’t enter the race because she is a girl. But does she let that stop her? (No.) Kensington Library, 3pm. Free. Kindergarten & up.
July 22 Judith Tannenbaum, activist, author, teacher. “Teaching poetry at San Quentin, in communities & in schools.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
July 23 Summer Classic Movie: *Kid Brother* You’ve probably heard of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. Odds are you haven’t heard of Harold Lloyd. Well that’s about to change. Kid Brother is widely considered one of Lloyd’s best, and for good reason—it’s really funny. There are mistaken identities, clever escapes, tricks, an evil strongman, and a surprisingly capable monkey. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free. Kindergarten & up.
July 23 Naturalist Lecture: *Birds of the Sierra* A special presentation by conservationist and master birder Bob Lewis, on the birds of the Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass region of California. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.
July 27 Bridge Night 6pm, ACC. Free monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACC’ers and new guests.
July 29 Tamara Shiloh. “Teaching Black history all year long.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
July 30 Summer Classic Movie: *Mary Poppins* Two bratty kids, a mysterious and magical nanny, an uptight banker, and a whole bunch of chimney sweeps. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free. Kindergarten & up.
July 30 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante. Book Club is open to all. 6:30pm. Free.
July 31 Animal Show with Wild Things Inc! Come see an exciting and informative presentation of animals from around the world. We aren’t sure exactly which animals will make an appearance, but we’re hoping for a kangaroo! Keep your fingers crossed. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.
August 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 Baby & Toddler Storytime See July 5.
August 5 Candidates for State Assembly. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
August 6 Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs” See July 2.
August 7, 14, 21, 28 Family Storytime See July 3.
August 12 Stand Together Contra Costa. Volunteer training for Sanctuary cities. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
August 13, 27 Kensington Library’s Digital Docent See July 2.
August 13 Pruning Best Practices and Care of Tools Come hear UC Master Gardener Keith Silva talk about garden pruning tools. Keith will bring tools along with his knowledge about how to use those tools properly in our gardens. There will be time for Q&A. This is a great learning opportunity for West County hillside garden enthusiasts. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.
August 19 Dr. Meiji Singh, psychologist. “*Changing the course of destruction.*” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
August 20 Memoir Group 10am, ACC. See July 16.
August 24 Bridge Night 6pm, ACC. See July 27.
August 26 Shahmesh Parsifur, Iranian author and political dissident. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.
August 27 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *Mrs. Bridge* by Evan Connell. Open to all. 6:30pm. Free.



Person of the Planet Summer Film Series

By Ruth Robinson
This documentary series put on by Kensington’s own Person of the Planet covers sustainability, health, environmental impacts and literally, the whole earth. These films are guaranteed to make you think. Bonus event: speaker series on 7/25/18. All films at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave.
July 6, Friday, 7pm *What the Health* We follow filmmaker Kip Andersen as he uncovers the impacts of highly processed industrial animal foods on our personal health and greater community, and explores why leading health organizations continue to promote the industry despite countless medical studies and research showing deleterious effects of these products on our health.
July 22, Sunday, 4pm *Bag It* Try going a day without plastic. Plastic is everywhere and infiltrates our lives in unimaginable and frightening ways. In this touching and often flat-out-funny film, we follow “everyman” Jeb Berrier, who is admittedly not a tree hugger, as he embarks on a global tour to unravel the complexities of our plastic world. What starts as a film about plastic bags evolves into a wholesale investigation into plastic and its effect on our waterways, oceans, and even our own bodies.
July 25, Wednesday, 7pm Speaker Series: “If You’ve Only Got 5 Minutes to Save the Planet”—Jessica Day and Friends Come learn about the fundamentals of grassroots climate action with three Climate Reality Leaders who trained with Al Gore. Not only will you hear the abbreviated climate reality talk, you’ll learn tactics for generating change in your own community, small steps at a time. You’re guaranteed to make an impact. See page 5 for more.
August 12, Sunday, 4pm *A Plastic Ocean* *A Plastic Ocean* begins when journalist Craig Leeson, searching for the elusive blue whale, discovers plastic waste in what should be pristine ocean.



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