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APRIL 2026

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 84 NUMBER 3



Beloved Tradition Returns with Hilltop's Spring Carnival

By Laura Vogt

The sounds of laughter, cheering, and carnival games will once again fill the blacktop as the Kensington community gathers for one of its most cherished traditions. The 78th Annual Kensington Hilltop Elementary School Carnival returns on Saturday, May 9, from 11am to 3pm, bringing an afternoon packed with games, great food, and the kind of community spirit that has made this event a Kensington favorite for generations.

This year's carnival is packed with opportunities for playing and laughing with friends. Alongside many classic carnival games, attendees can enjoy returning favorites like the Dunk Tank, Musical Cakes, and the Water Balloon Catapult. New this year: test your arm at axe-throwing, a fun challenge for anyone looking to show off their strength. With so many booths and activities to explore, there will be plenty to keep the fun going for all ages.

When it's time for a break, stop by the Auxiliary Grill or grab a sweet treat while you explore the festivities. Indulge in fluffy cotton candy, sip on a refreshing old-fashioned root beer float, or snack on buttery



February 6, was a very special night at the Kensington Library for 70 stuffies who listened to stories and music courtesy of (left) library manager Jenny Rockwell and library assistant Gianna Vescio. The stuffies were dropped off during the day Friday, and after a rousing time making new pals and staying up all night long, the exhausted stuffies were collected Saturday morning by grateful kids. Photo courtesy of the Kensington Library.

popcorn as you stroll through the carnival. If you're looking for something more substantial, the grill will be sizzling with its signature tri-tip sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers. Avoid the lines by pre-ordering your food starting the last week of April on the carnival webpage.

One of the most anticipated parts of the carnival is the annual raffle, where lucky participants have the chance to win fantastic prizes. The Grand Prize—a beautiful, handmade quilt—has become a tradition in itself. For nearly ten years, Kensington parent Jennifer Ritter and her mom, Susan Morford, have created the raffle quilt together, and this year will be the very last one. In addition to the quilt, local businesses and community members have

donated a variety of prizes, from bottles of wine to spa gift certificates. Every raffle ticket purchased helps support the PTA and Auxiliary programs that enrich the Hilltop community.

Beyond the food and games, the Kensington Hilltop Carnival is full of surprises around every corner. Kids can browse Deals on Wheels for their next set of wheels, get creative with colorful face painting, and families can stop by the Kensington Plant Sales booth to pick up plants and flowers—perfect for a thoughtful Mother's Day gift, since the holiday is the very next day.

Whether you're competing in games,

See Carnival, Page 8

Kensington & Beyond Update



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COMPASS

Spring Plant Sale at the El Cerrito Library

By Anna Frankfurt

The El Cerrito Garden Club is having its Spring plant sale, Sunday April 19 from 10am-3pm at the El Cerrito Library parking lot, 6510 Stockton Ave. Plentiful parking can be found in the lot and nearby.

Plants available are native, pollinator, blooming, succulents, and edibles. In addition, there will be “worm juice” for soil enhancement for sale. All plants are propagated by club members so they will grow around here. Those members at the sale will be happy to talk to you about the plants and provide care instructions.

Plants can be purchased with cash, checks and for the first time Venmo, with exact change and small bills much appreciated! See you there!

And come check us out prior to the sale at our April club meeting, on April 9 from 9:30-12pm. The program is “Bouquets to Art,” presented by club members. Guests are free. We have refreshments at 9:30am, a business meeting at 10 and the program at 11am. We also feature a plant table along with a “bring some, buy some” table. We meet at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave, Albany.



February Patrol Log

By Police Chief Mike Gancasz

Feb 1: Traffic stop on Arlington and Westminster aves.; driver arrested for driving with a suspended license.

Feb 1: Stolen vehicle parts reported on Beloit Ave.

Feb 4: Auto burglary reported on Anson Way.

Feb 8: Officers responded to Beloit Ave. regarding a vehicle off the roadway.

Feb 10: Officers responded to Lenox Rd. regarding an attempted vehicle theft. An investigation resulted in an arrest for possession of stolen property, possession of burglary tools, vehicle burglary, and possession of a firearm-related offense.

Feb 10: Auto burglary reported on Kingston Rd.

Feb 10: Auto burglary reported on Lexington Rd.

Feb 13: Officers notified of vehicle striking a pedestrian on Edwin Dr.

Feb 17: Minor injury vehicle collision reported on Highgate Ct.

Feb 19: Vehicle vandalism reported on Arlington Ave.

Feb 20: Tampered vehicle reported on Berkeley Park Blvd.

Feb 20: Outside assistance for a stolen vehicle recovery.

Feb 22: Vandalism reported on Highland Blvd.

Feb 23: Grand theft of vehicle parts reported on Arlington Ave.

Feb 23: Grand theft from a vehicle reported on Norwood Ave.

Feb 26: Non-injury hit and run accident reported on Arlington Rd.

Feb 28: Stolen vehicle parts reported on Arlington Ave.

Police Participate in Blue Envelope Program

By Police Chief Mike Gancasz

The Blue Envelope Program is a voluntary public safety initiative designed to improve interactions between law enforcement and drivers who have autism spectrum disorder or other communication or sensory-processing challenges. Participants are provided a blue envelope in which to store their driver’s license, registration, and insurance, discreetly signaling to officers that the driver may benefit from additional time and clear, simplified communication during a traffic stop. The program promotes safer, more effective interactions by increasing officer awareness, reducing stress for drivers and families, and supporting professional, community-oriented policing through proactive accommodation.

Kensington Police officers provided program information to four individuals and issued a Blue Envelope after officers determined it would be beneficial and appropriate.

April 11 Is Shredding Time

By Johnny Valenzuela

The Kensington Community Services District will host a paper shredding event on Saturday, April 11, from 10am-noon. This free event is for Kensington residents to dispose of sensitive documents and reduce flammable material in their homes. The event will take place at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road, in Kensington. It is not necessary to remove staples/clips, etc., from your papers.

Shredding is done onsite, and all shredded documents are recycled by returning them to a paper mill. There will not be a pharmaceutical collection at this event. See www.kensingtonfire.org/shred

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

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59 Arlington Ave, Kensington, CA 94707-1307

Published ten times a year by the nonprofit Kensington Community Council. (Monthly, except for the combined July/August and December/January issues.) Available online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com. Non-Kensington residents can subscribe by mail for \$10 annually.

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DEADLINES

Advertising Deadline ❖ APR. 8

Editorial Deadline ❖ APR. 10

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.

Lithium-ion Batteries Can Cause Deadly Fires, Part 2

By El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Chief Eric Saylor

(This is the second part of a story that ran in the March issue of the Outlook. If you missed the first part, see https://kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org/kensington-outlook/issues/outlook_mar_26.pdf)

What can you do if a battery starts smoking or hissing or other alarming action? If a battery is smoking, hissing, or showing signs of failure: Stop charging and unplug if you can do so safely. Move the battery away from flammables if it's safe to move the device.

If a fire is involved, guidance for large battery incidents emphasizes: close the door, exit immediately, call 911 from outside, and don't take risks trying to extinguish a battery fire.

Always tell firefighters if you believe a lithium-ion battery is involved.

Dispose and recycle batteries properly—never in the trash

One of the most overlooked hazards is disposal. Batteries tossed into trash or curbside recycling can be crushed during collection or sorting and ignite. The U.S. EPA is clear: lithium-ion batteries and devices containing them should not go in household garbage or recycling bins; they should go to dedicated recycling or household hazardous waste collection points.

To reduce fire risk, the EPA recommends taping terminals and/or placing batteries in separate plastic bags. If a battery is damaged, contact the manufacturer for handling guidance.

Traveling with lithium batteries: carry-on rules matter

If you travel with power banks, spare laptop batteries, camera batteries, or vape devices, aviation rules are strict, and they must be followed for safety reasons. The FAA states that spare (uninstalled) lithium batteries and power banks must be in carryon baggage only. If your carryon gets gatechecked, you must remove spare batteries and keep them with you in the cabin; battery terminals must be protected from short circuit. The FAA also advises notifying flight crew immediately if a device is overheating, expanding, smoking, or burning.

Here's a simple way to remember: “Take C.H.A.R.G.E.”

The U.S. Fire Administration promotes an easy checklist for community safety: Choose certified products; Handle with care; Always stay alert; Recycle properly; Get out quickly; Educate others.

Take Charge provides a solid framework for families, neighbors, and anyone who uses lithium-powered devices.

Bottom line for Kensington

Lithium-ion batteries aren't something to fear, but they are something to respect. Buying certified products, charging thoughtfully, keeping batteries away from heat and flammables, and recycling correctly can prevent many incidents before they start.

If you use ebikes, scooters, or other high capacity batteries, consider your setup today: where you charge, what you charge with, and whether your charging area is clean, ventilated, and away from exit routes. Those small choices are what keep a convenient technology from becoming an emergency.

Sources and further reading:

U.S. Fire Administration battery safety resources; U.S. EPA guidance on recycling and safe handling of used lithium-ion batteries; FAA Pack Safe guidance for flying with lithium batteries and power banks; FDNY lithium-ion charging and storage safety guidance (widely applicable best practices); NY DHSES lithium-ion consumer safety guide (thermal runaway, certification, and buying tips).



Hosting a Foreign Student Brings a Multitude of Benefits

By Sarah Petersen

Do you have an open seat at your dining table? We are looking for Kensington families interested in volunteering to host international exchange students in their homes as a member of their family for one or two semesters. International students are currently actively looking to match up with a perfect fit and would arrive this August. Now is the time to apply.

All the students who apply speak English, and a local coordinator will support you throughout the entire stay. The students bring their own spending money; you provide meals and a bed.

Hosting families can come in many shapes and sizes, from single parents to home schoolers, retired couples to families with small kids. The program is administered by FLAG (Foreign Links Around the Globe), a U.S.-based nonprofit with over three decades of history in successfully managing the responsibilities of being a U.S. State Department-designated sponsor. Since 1989, FLAG has been dedicated to providing high-quality international exchange experiences that transform the lives of high school students, host families and communities throughout the world. More than 6,500 students and families have been touched by FLAG experience throughout the years.

Each year, FLAG hosts over 500 students from more than 25 countries from around the world who want to live and learn in the U.S. There are no numbers at FLAG, only names and faces. FLAG is a “small-by-design” organization that promises a personalized approach offering a variety of short-term and full semester/year opportunities for both American and international students.

FLAG is fully compliant with all rules and regulations governing student exchange, and the organization is committed to providing excellence in international exchange for the students, host families, schools, and communities we serve.

Why Host a Student?

Hosting an international student is an opportunity to introduce the world to family members who may not have had the opportunity to travel abroad but are keenly interested in learning more about the world around them. Hosting not only provides an unforgettable experience to the international students but also brings families closer together by actively sharing their own unique family customs and traditions. Siblings take an active part in showing the student “the American way of life.” Many host families have commented throughout the years that hosting was something that changed their own children's lives forever.

To apply, you can fill out an application, background check, and paperwork at flag-intl.org. A local coordinator (me!) will contact you to assist you with the rest of the process. You can search the database to find the perfect addition to your family and then welcome your new international student into your home.

I grew up in a home that hosted international exchange students and have since maintained relationships for generations after exchange. As a family with kids at home, my husband and I then also hosted exchange students. I deeply believe in exchange programs as well as FLAG's thorough, care-filled, whole-experience training and support. I would love to connect! Feel free to contact me at tspetersen@flag-intl.org with any questions.



The Benefits of a Local Summer Day Camp for Kids

By Jenny Parks, Kensington Community Council Recreation Director

Summer day camp offers kids a chance to step away from their routines and enjoy a season filled with friendship, adventure, and discovery. For elementary school children, a local camp provides the perfect balance of fun, independence, and community.

One of the biggest benefits of camp is the opportunity to build friendships. Kids often spend time with children they may have seen at school or around the community but never really gotten to know. Camp gives them the time and space to connect, play together, and often form new friendships that last well beyond the summer.

Traditions are another special part of camp life. Whether it's an enthusiastic game of dodgeball, a weekly Friday BBQ, or favorite group games on the field, these shared experiences become the moments kids remember year after year.

KCC summer campers also have a wonderful sense of continuity. Some of the best counselors were once campers themselves. They returned as Counselors-in-Training and eventually came back from college to work as counselors. This tradition creates a strong community where younger campers can look up to older role models who once stood exactly where they are.

After several years of pandemic disruptions, many camps are also bringing back exciting experiences like field trips. These outings add a sense of adventure and discovery to the summer—and for some children, it's their first time riding on a school bus, a memorable milestone in itself.

Of course, summer camp also means plenty of time outdoors and a welcome break from screens. Kids spend their days running, playing games, creating art, and exploring new interests. They might not love every activity, but camp gives them the chance to try new things in a supportive environment. From tennis classes several times a week, to cooking projects, arts and crafts, and group games, there is always something new to experience.

And when the Bay Area delivers one of those rare hot summer days, campers know exactly what that means—water play! Few things are more exciting than when the slip-n-slide comes out, and Kensington Park turns into a giant splash zone.

Local summer day camp offers more than just childcare during the summer months. It creates a place where kids can build confidence, make friends, develop traditions, and enjoy the simple fun of being a kid. For many families, it becomes one of the most cherished parts of the summer.

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Kensington Ember Exclusion Program Launched by KCSD

By Johnny Valenzuela, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

On March 12, the Kensington Community Services District voted to approve the Kensington Ember Exclusion Program, a new pilot initiative designed to help residents better protect their homes from one of the most dangerous and misunderstood wildfire threats: wind-driven embers. Embers travel miles ahead of a wildfire’s main flame front, carried by strong winds and landing on homes and in neighborhoods long before flames arrive. Once there, they enter small openings such as attic vents, soffit vents, and foundation vents, igniting structures from the inside.

“Embers are the leading cause of structure loss during wildfires and rapid wildfire spread,” said El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Marshal Chase Beckman. To help residents reduce this risk, KCSD approved an initial \$15,000 pilot program to provide residents with Wildfire Defense Mesh—a specialized ember-resistant screening designed to prevent embers from entering vulnerable vent openings.

The mesh provided through the program represents a small but important component of the overall home-hardening process. While the material itself is relatively inexpensive, proper installation is critical to ensure effective protection. Residents can install the mesh themselves or hire a professional contractor to complete the work.

For residents choosing a DIY approach, it is important that the mesh be securely fitted and that all gaps around the vent frame are sealed with a fire-resistant caulk (available at any hardware store). This prevents embers from entering vent spaces around the edges.

A common question from residents is how to find qualified help for wildfire mitigation projects. The program helps address this need by leveraging Firesafe Kensington’s community-generated list of vendors and contractors who have previously worked with residents. This resource connects homeowners with local labor providers and service professionals experienced in home-hardening and wildfire mitigation projects. Understanding how embers travel—and how they enter structures—is one of the most important steps residents can take to strengthen wildfire resilience.

The program complements KCSD’s Hazardous Vegetation Removal Reimbursement Grant Program, which helps residents remove high-risk vegetation such as bamboo, juniper, and other hazardous plants that can contribute to wildfire spread and obstruct evacuation routes. Together, these programs represent a comprehensive approach to wildfire resilience—addressing both landscape hazards and structural vulnerabilities to slow wildfire spread and protect homes throughout Kensington.

Residents interested in learning more or applying to the pilot program can go to www.kensingtonfire.org/keep.



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It’s About to Get Really Noisy (Near) the Library

By Jenny Rockwell

Enjoy free programs offered by the Kensington Library at 61 Arlington Avenue. Call 510-524-3043 with questions.

Tues, April 7, 6:30pm Friends of the Kensington Library Friends of the Kensington Library, a 501c (3) nonprofit organization, has worked to improve and financially support library services in Kensington since 1959. Open to all Kensington residents.

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

Tuesdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28 6:30pm Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome.

Tuesdays, April 14, 6:30pm Emergency Prep with Amateur Radio and Walkie-Talkies A presentation by Kensington Amateur Radio Operators (KARO) and the El Cerrito Ham Operators (ECHO), an all-volunteer nonprofit organization of amateur radio operators who provide training in the event of a disaster. Come learn about alternate ways to communicate with loved ones, neighbors, and the community in an emergency, using simple license-free walkie-talkies, or other radio services such as GMRS or amateur (“ham”) radio. All attendees will be entered into a drawing to win their own set of Family Radio Service (FRS) walkie-talkies.

Sat April 18, 2pm Super Irritating Noisemaker Come make a noisemaker with Mr. Charles the librarian. I know what you are thinking: will this noisemaker be loud and obnoxious? And the answer is: YES, ABSOLUTELY. Kids will love it. But don’t worry, we won’t let them use it in the library. All materials will be provided.

Tues, April 21, 2-5pm Cloth Produce Bag Sewing Circle Join the Kensington Seamstresses Union, local 94707 in transforming donated natural fiber fabric into bags, which will be given out for free at the Kensington Farmers Market. We need you to help measure, cut, iron sew and thread drawstrings, and create community.

Tues, April 28, Read to a Dog Join us and a licensed therapy dog for a 15-minute reading session every fourth Tuesday afternoon, 3–4pm. Same day, drop in sign up starts 15 minutes before the read session.

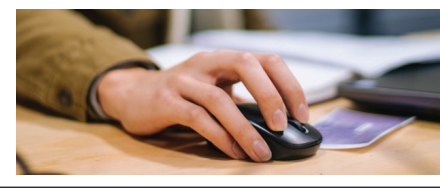
Tuesday, April 28, 6:15-7:45pm Kensington Library Book Club The club meets online via Zoom, usually on the fourth Tuesday. The selection for April is *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh.

Art Exhibit, April – May: Watercolor illustrated picture book artwork by Sandra Johnson. The story is about 6 chickens that escape their chicken coop at an elementary school.

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April 2026, Little Free Garden & Seed library

The Kensington Library seed library is always being restocked with free seeds of seasonal varieties. We also host the “Little Free Garden” table where anyone can donate or take cuttings, houseplants, crop harvests, bulbs, and garden supplies!



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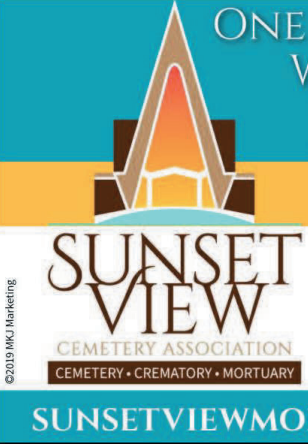
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Process for the Police to Issue Citations Approved

By Lin Due

On March 12, the nine-member Kensington Community Services District board approved moving forward with the first reading of a process by which the Kensington Police can issue citations for violating regulations set by the board. Defining the process, which include an appeals option and a hearing officer, is the first step toward the board eventually adopting regulations that are as yet undefined. That part—determining what code violations would be enforced—became a subject of contention at the meeting.

Several board members, Alex Aquino-Fike, Sarah Gough, Daniel Levine, and Rick Artis

See Citations, Page 8

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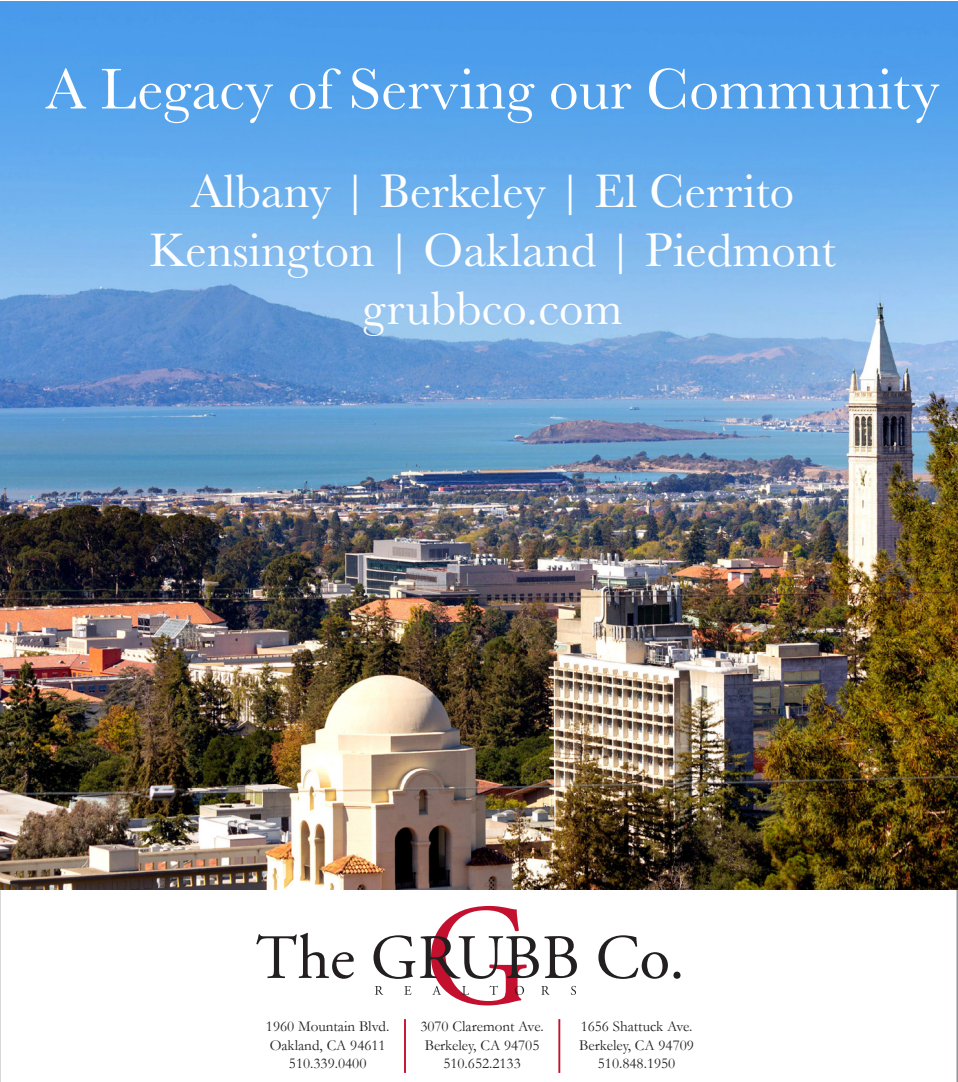
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KENSINGTON EATS OUT

5 Tacos and Beers – Solano’s Go-To for Fresh Tacos, Beer and Sunshine
By Ittai Shiu

There are four 5 Tacos and Beers locations across the Bay Area, but we’re a little biased toward the Solano Avenue spot. Location matters, and when you can grab tacos steps from a neighborhood stroll, settle into outdoor seating, and soak up those longer, warmer East Bay evenings, it’s hard to beat.



Born from the family behind Los Moles, 5 Tacos and Beers keeps things simple and intentional: quality ingredients, bold flavors, and a tight, curated menu. The concept leans into the number five—five tacos, five beers, five wines—but what stands out most is how approachable it all is. This isn’t fussy food. It’s craveable food. Owner Lito Saldaña’s philosophy around food runs deeper than a clever concept. He grew up in a small town in Jalisco, Mexico, where his family farmed much

of what they ate tomatoes, corn, beans, and melons—and grew thousands of pounds of tomatillos that were shipped to Guadalajara.

Saldaña started working on the farm at just six years old and eventually left school after sixth grade to help his father full time. That early connection to fresh ingredients still shapes the kitchen today. Whenever possible, the restaurant uses organic produce and avoids artificial flavors, hormones, antibiotics, canned foods, or microwaves — a simple, ingredient-first mindset that carries through to the tacos.

As the sun lingers a little longer after daylight savings, the outdoor seating becomes the move. It’s casual, relaxed, and perfect for gathering with friends or unwinding after work. Bonus: it’s dog-friendly. That means your four-legged dining companion doesn’t have to

Mark Your Calendars: Hillside Fest May 2-3

By Dave Weinstein

Are you a fan of El Cerrito’s Hillside Natural Area, 100 acres of open space in the El Cerrito hills? Then you need to saddle up and enjoy free events on the first week-end of May, courtesy of El Cerrito Trail Trekkers and the city’s Environmental Quality Committee.



A few sample events on Saturday: Start the day with an Early Morning Bird Walk from 8-10am led by Cathy Bleier and Tara McIntire, Golden Gate Bird Alliance members. We’ll walk up to a 1.5 mile loop. Bring binoculars and walking stick, if needed, for short steep pitches. No dogs, other than service dogs!

Then from 10-11:30am, take the Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk. Learn about ethnobotany—how native plants have been used for food, medicine, and crafts—with Alan Siegel, a docent at Tilden Botanic Garden. This is a family-friendly uphill walk.

Other Saturday events include a kid-friendly scavenger hunt, an insect identification walk, and a beginner’s plant walk, among others.

Sunday features a geology-heavy (but family-friendly!) rock walk from 10:30-11:30am, a geology hike afterwards until 3pm, a short or longer haiku hike, a discussion of building healthier landscapes with native plants from 4:30-6pm, and from 7-8pm a bluegrass band on the hillside. There are many other events.

Find a full event calendar and a map to the start of each hike or talk at www.ectrailtrekkers.org/hillside-festival-2026.html



miss out on taco night, and on Solano, outdoor seating is part of the experience. The beer selection leans local, which we always appreciate. Instead of a generic tap list, you’ll find a thoughtful rotation of Bay Area breweries that pair perfectly with tacos. Crisp lagers, hoppy IPAs, and easy-drinking pilsners make it easy to linger a little longer. If you’re going for value and variety, the Crispy Taco x 3 is a wallet-friendly favorite. It’s the ideal way to sample different fillings without committing to just one. Fresh tortillas with high quality carne asada, pastor or chicken, there’s enough flexibility to mix it up.

But if there’s one taco that lives up to the online buzz, it’s the beef short ribs. Juicy, tender, and deeply flavorful, this one earns its popularity. The meat melts in your mouth, delivering that slow-cooked richness that makes you pause mid-bite. It’s the kind of taco you think about the next day.

Saldaña has also long supported the global Meatless Monday movement, and that influence still shows up on the menu today. Tacos featuring nopales (cactus), portobello mushrooms, zucchini, corn, and other seasonal vegetables offer flavorful plant-based alternatives that are not just vegetarian afterthoughts, but that stand alongside the traditional fillings.

5 Tacos and Beers doesn’t try to be complicated—and that’s exactly why it works. Good ingredients, strong local beer selection, approachable pricing, and an outdoor setup that shines as we enjoy the spring and look towards summer.



1175 Solano Ave, Albany, CA 94706 / www.5tacos.com

Carnival

...from Front Page

enjoying a sweet treat, or catching up with neighbors, the carnival is a chance to celebrate the Hilltop community together. Bring your friends, bring your family, and join us for one of Hilltop’s most joyful traditions! Learn more: <https://www.khsparentgroups.org/carnival>.

Citations

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among them, wanted an ad hoc committee to be instituted that would propose regulations. Board president Sylvia Hacaj, with the power to appoint that committee, argued that proposed regulations should come from staff and then be brought to the entire board. Levine worried that a meeting to define violations could be “onerously long.” Dave Spath pointed out the agenda item before them was about the process, not the regulations, but the issue of what the board would regulate was not resolved so easily.

Aquino-Fike said that “we’re essentially establishing a whole body of law that this community has never had. This is a body of law that has created huge legal liabilities for other towns around racial bias and discrimination. I think this is a huge mistake, and we’re not ready for it.” She asked that the process slow down, noting that while stated examples of needed ordinances are camping in the park and regulating parking on Red Flag Days, the only public comment (at February’s meeting) was about going after a Latino food vendor. “In this climate, I think it’s really important that we slow down,” she said.

Hacaj pointed out that the district could only enact ordinances in limited areas, such as the park and public safety, not “anything around what that gentleman raised,” but Artis said that he appreciated Aquino-Fike’s comments, and that he agreed that ordinances can be abused. “I would err on the side of strong consensus if not unanimity on particular ordinances that could change the community in a way that would drive people out of it or make them feel unwelcome because of who they are, the idea that we would create an environment that is hostile... We could err on the side of going slowly and carefully, and if that meant an ad hoc committee... to make sure community input was taken, I’d be OK with that. That’s where I would go slow.”

Interim general manager David Aranda, who has been visibly frustrated during the discussion around proposed ordinances, said, “I don’t understand how this ordinance can go any slower than it has,” referring to the procedural aspect of the agenda item, not future regulations that the police would enforce. On that note, Aranda has submitted examples from his past work at Stallion Springs and from the East Bay Regional Park District, most of which, he said, did not apply to Kensington.

In the end, the motion to approve the first reading of the enforcement process went forward, eight-to-one, with Aquino-Fike voting no.



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