

Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

MAY 2026

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 84 NUMBER 4



**EAST BAY
PAINT CENTER**
Quality Paint & Service

contact@eastbaypaintcenter.com
www.eastbaypaintcenter.com
510-524-6582



 Benjamin Moore

990 San Pablo Ave.
Albany, CA 94706



Architectural renderings illustrate the interior of the Kensington Library after a major renovation that will begin this summer. (left) A view from the service desk down the length of the library. (right) Art graces the walls above books as a patron looks out a bank of windows to an outdoor deck. Renderings courtesy of Noll & Tam Architects.

Library Closes July 27 for Major Renovation

By Jill Stockwell

A standing-room only crowd of about 50 people packed the Kensington Public Library on Tuesday evening, March 24, for the Community Update meeting on preliminary designs for the planned library building and infrastructure improvements.

Jane Catalano, principal architect of Berkeley-based Noll & Tam Architects, the firm selected for the project, gave an overview of the project timeline and plan concepts. The design and documentation phase is underway now through this summer, with permitting and bidding to follow in the fall.

Construction Begins this Summer

The library will close July 27 for HVAC improvements that are expected to be completed by April 2027. Interior updating begins after the HVAC updates are in and is expected to take about a year.

Planned structural improvements include increased daylight from new windows, energy-efficient lighting fixtures, new ADA accessible restrooms, improved ADA accessible parking, and new fire

alarm and sprinkler systems.

Architect Katie Stuart, also from Noll & Tam, presented design concepts. She said that reconfigured interior spaces, new outdoor spaces, updated furniture, and interior finishes can better serve community needs. Reorienting and updating the collection bookshelves can make more space for flexible arrangement of tables and chairs as well as casual seating to use for study, story time, or reading. The redesign would double seating capacity to 100 for larger meetings, with convertible pods for smaller meetings.

An outdoor deck would add space for gathering and reading. Proposed new windows and doors opening to the deck, pending engineering review, would add light as well as link the interior space to the adjacent redwood grove. A roof awning is under study to shade and protect the deck.

HVAC Upgrades Improve Library Safety

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors District 1 Supervisor John Gioia summarized the funding. He said that the project budget is \$5.3 million, including \$3.8 million from library reserves and \$1.5 million from Measure X and Friends of the

See Library, Page 4

Kensington & Beyond Update



148 Highland Boulevard

4 BR | 3 BA | 2,232 Sq. ft.

LISTED: \$1,488,000 | **SOLD: \$1,900,000**

To view online visit: 148highland.com

Local Market Snapshot: March 1 - April 2, 2026

What is the hottest market in the East Bay? Kensington! (Average Days on the Market = 14 days.) Here is the comparison:

City	Median % Sale Price	Median Square Feet	Median % Above List
Kensington	\$1,775,000	2,151 sq ft.	35%
El Cerrito	\$1,200,000	1,710 sq ft.	27%
Berkeley	\$1,600,000	1,713 sq ft.	30%
Albany	\$1,352,500	1,482 sq ft.	21%

Recognized for decades as the top individual agent in Kensington and ranked among the Top 10 agents in our Berkeley office in 2025. Specializing in trusts and residential real estate. If you are considering selling or wish to know the value of your home, call me. The appointment is confidential and complimentary. Consider me your real estate resource.



Ruth Frassetto, CRS | 510.697.8606 | ruthfrassetto@compass.com | DRE 00779030

COMPASS

Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already

Sixty Years of Song: The Contra Costa Chorale Presents *The Eras* May 8

By Cyndi Mulligan

The Contra Costa Chorale presents its spring concert, *The Eras*, in celebration of its 60th anniversary season. The chorale is led by artistic director Dr. Brad Schultz and new collaborative keyboardist Christopher Alexander. Performances are Friday May 8 at 7:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley in Kensington and Sunday May 10 at 4pm at the Orinda Community Church. A livestream of the Friday performance will also be available.

The Eras concerts feature a wide variety of music representing highlights from the chorale's long history, including selections by Franz Joseph Haydn, Johannes Brahms, Andrew Lloyd Weber, Morten Lauridsen, Samuel Barber, Barry Manilow, Gilbert & Sullivan, and Joan Szymko.

The Chorale premieres a new piece, “Let Children Walk,” commissioned by the chorale from local composer Justin Trujillo. The piece is based on text by John Muir and inspired by Muir’s Martinez home and his ability to “walk with nature.” Trujillo was a 2022 recipient of a Contra Costa Chorale scholarship while at Pinole Valley High, and he recently completed a B.A. in music composition at Sacramento State University. In addition to composing, Trujillo is active in the Bay Area as both a performer and music teacher.

Tickets may be purchased at <https://ticketstripe.com/organizer/7846935872246761> or at the door. For more information, visit <https://ccchorale.org/> and at www.facebook.com/ContraCostaChorale.

LICENSE #721226

AURORA

PAINTING & DECORATING

Serving Bay Area Customers for 20 Years

INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR

WATERPROOF COATINGS

WOOD RESTORATION

COLOR CONSULTATION

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

SENIOR DISCOUNT

BONDED • INSURED

KENSINGTON REFERENCES

CALL TODAY FOR A

FREE ESTIMATE

510•655•9267

www.aurora-painting.com



PAINTING & WATERPROOFING Inc.

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

- Interior and exterior
- Waterproofing
- Renovation and restoration
- EPA certified painters
- All work guaranteed

510.654.3339

www.omnipainting.com

Klezmer Band and Chickens Run Free-Highlight May at the Library

By Jenny Rockwell

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

Tues, May 5, 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, May 5, 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, May 5, 12, 26, 6:30pm Family Storytime Lots of picture book fun with Mr. Charles!

Tues, May 19, 2-5pm Cloth Produce Bag Sewing Circle Join the Kensington Seamsters 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 draw-strings—and create community.

Tues, May 19, 6:30pm Jewish Heritage Celebration with Saul Goodman Klezmer band Celebrate Jewish Heritage month with a variety of klezmer instrumental music and Yiddish songs, along with explanations about the music, its origins and functions. Sasha Waniewski will lead circle dances corresponding to some of the rhythms performed. A craft activity will be provided by Chabad of El Cerrito.

Tues, May 26, 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 signup starts 15 minutes before the read session.

Tuesday, May 26, 6:15-7:45pm Kensington Library Book Club The club meets online via Zoom, usually on the fourth Tuesday. The selection for May is *The Frau*, by Zadie Smith.

Art Exhibit: Sandra Johnson watercolor story illustrations The story is about six chickens that escape their chicken coop at an elementary school.



RETAIL BAKE SHOP

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

372 COLUSA AVE

KENSINGTON, CA 94707

(510) 596-9935



OPEN DAILY: 7:30AM - 3PM

VISIT US ON THE WEB @ WWW.SEMIFREDDIS.COM

BAKING WITH PRIDE SINCE 1984

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.

K E N S I N G T O N

OUTLOOK

EDITOR
LINNEA DUE

ADVERTISING MANAGER
ALMA KEY

PUBLISHER

KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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.

Editorial.....

editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

Advertising.....510-508-3241

advertising@KensingtonOutlook.com

Display and Classified Advertising

Classified ad rates are \$8 a line (45 characters or spaces) with a two-line minimum. Find the ad form online at www.kensingtonoutlook.com or use the QR code here. For display ad reservations and classified questions, please contact our advertising manager by phone or email listed above. See information about letters to the editor to your left. Other mail can be sent to 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707.



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.

MAY 2026

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

Page 3

Letters to the Editor

No Kings Proves that Together We Have Power

Dear Editor:

Kudos to the volunteers who put together No Kings 3 here in Kensington! I am so impressed at how the team was able to put Kensington on the map as one more city where people cared enough about our country and our democracy to turn out on No King’s Day. Organizers estimated we had 557 folks who took time out of their Saturdays to stand up and speak out for our rights. While I was not at the Kensington protest but rather at the rally in Albany with some friends, I got to drive down the Arlington and honk my horn in support of all those in Kensington who showed up! Thank you for making me so proud to be a part of our community.

Together we have power. Let’s use it to protect our democracy and take back our country.

Pat Gillette

In Defense of Free Speech—and Public Paths

Dear Editor:

I am the builder of the bench on the Beloit path that is now officially owned by our Kensington Community Services District. It is on the steep section of the path between Yale and Stanford, which has been greatly improved recently by the addition of handrails. Well done!

The bench has been there for quite a few years. It was installed by volunteers, many of them my fellow Scouts from Troop 100. How many of you, dear readers, have rested on it and enjoyed the view? You may not have noted that it is of the same practical design as one I installed about 30 years ago in front of Berkeley Friends Meeting, across the intersection from the original Peet’s Coffee on Vine Street. I check on that one every now and then, and it is usually occupied and has so far not needed any repairs.

My current concern, if not quite outrage, is that the new owners of the path and bench, KCSD, have heeded a complaint from a neighbor to that path and bench who doesn’t like to listen to conversations there by its visitors, specifically our young people, and the KCSD directors have ordered that the bench be removed.

That is my understanding from Mark Altenberg of the steering committee for the Kensington Pathkeepers. If they are adamant in their decision, I will help dismantle the bench. And I will have something to say about this decision during the next election or two.

It is my hope, however, that KCSD directors will contemplate several concepts that bear on the matter that they might have overlooked. They ran for office and were elected to serve the interests of us all. Not just complainers.

Then there is the inconvenience to some of what the First Amendment says, and I quote in full: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Philip Zimmerman

Flock Makes Kensington Safer

Dear Editor:

Two years ago, the Kensington Police Department implemented the Flock public safety system.

Following its implementation, traffic stops and citations almost doubled, with stops leading to at least 13 misdemeanor and 14 felony charges, including kidnapping, robbery and illegal handgun possession. Flock cameras helped identify nine stolen vehicles, three individuals with out-of-county arrest warrants, and two fraudulent plates.

These are measures of Kensington becoming safer. The Flock system enables the KPD to confidently identify high-risk vehicles, effectively find leads for crimes committed in Kensington, and immediately respond to new community entrants associated with crimes.

The new capabilities mean more potential crimes are deterred and more actual criminals are caught. Without the flock system, in September 2024, the KPD would not have connected a stolen trailer from Wellesley Avenue to crimes across Kensington, El Cerrito, and Richmond. It wouldn’t have stopped an active kidnapping in collaboration with the Berkeley PD in May 2025, or helped the Berkeley PD arrest the perpetrator of a stabbing that same month. And in October 2024, the KPD couldn’t have tracked down a Kensington resident’s stolen vehicle and arrested the suspect.

Flock devices provide these safety benefits while protecting our privacy. The system collects license plate numbers for vehicles as they enter or leave the community. It doesn’t record video images of people, so it cannot be used for facial recognition or appearance-linked profiling.

Recorded system data is exclusively used by the KPD for law enforcement purposes. The force’s data policy prohibits the use of data for immigration enforcement or harassment and the sale of data to third parties. Data is deleted after 30 days, while audit trails of persons accessing data are retained indefinitely.

It is critical that our community publicly and transparently discuss the policies of our public safety institutions. We need to acknowledge the limited nature of data collected by the Flock system, along with its public safety benefits.

The Flock public safety system provides enormous value in protecting the community, without compromising our privacy. I hope the community recognizes these benefits and continues to support Flock’s use to protect Kensington.

Scott Burns

Board Should Focus on Getting Police Back, Not Regulations

To the Editor:

Do we really need to make up regulations so that the police can issue citations? We are lucky to live in a very low crime area. Surely if people are trying to camp in the park, a conversation with a police officer would be enough to dissuade them. Kensington should be a model for community policing, that is, where police focus on helping residents. This used to be the case.

Our main safety concerns are fire and earthquake. Right now, with the police based in El Cerrito, they couldn’t even get up here to help. We need to get the police back to central Kensington and to focus on evacuation planning, working with fire, and knowing who might need support in an emergency. This should be the board’s focus. I agree with board member Aquino-Fike that creating ordinances for enforcement is a huge mistake and a misuse of board time.

Meryl Rafferty

Help Us Make Vital Decisions to Prevent Tragedies

Dear Editor:

Kensington residents are acutely aware of the risks our community faces from earthquake

and wildfire. It’s frightening to realize that we share many of the same challenges that made the disasters in Paradise, Pacific Palisades and Altadena so impactful and tragic.

But good planning can do much to reduce our risk, and the KCSD Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) has multiple initiatives aimed at improving the outcome should a disaster strike. We encourage Kensington residents to participate in our meetings and help us with projects that include the reduction of flammable vegetation, hardening of homes, installation of long-range acoustic devices and implementation of parking restrictions on Red Flag days to facilitate an evacuation.

These efforts and others may be critical to how Kensington fares in a disaster. Decisions stemming from EPC initiatives may lead to changes in landscaping, home construction and traffic flow. Given the threats we face and the carnage we’ve seen elsewhere, it’s imperative that we act decisively to ensure a better outcome for Kensington.

The EPC committee currently has four KCSD board members and four public members. These are official positions with the ability to vote on resolutions that go to the full KCSD board for consideration.

But the committee also encourages and welcomes public comment and participation of all residents in our meetings. It’s vital that we engage with the community and hear from a broad array about the best way to address our risks.

Our next meeting will be at the Kensington Community Center on Thurs., May 28 at 4pm. We invite all members of the community to join us in person or participate via Zoom.

Rodney Paul,
Director, Kensington Community Services District

Some Myths About Aging

By Sara Laferte

There are plenty of cautionary tales about aging—you shouldn’t drive, you’re going to be lonely and depressed, old folks can’t learn new stuff—is that what’s in store for the future?

It seems pretty bleak, right? Come and meet Andrea Pezel, of Artichokes and Aging, who will debunk some of the myths about aging and make practical suggestions for steps you can take to support yourself and your loved ones. May 14, 7 p.m., at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. Easy parking across the street.

Team Trivia Tuesday

By Sara Laferte

What do you know? Bring it all with you to Arlington Community Church on May 19 from 7-9pm for Team Trivia Tuesday. Bring your best team (3-5 people recommended) or join a team when you arrive. Trivia host John Chapman will have great questions to test your grasp of occasionally useful facts.

Adults, teens, and older children are welcome. There will be pizza, beverages, snacks, and prizes. and prizes. Easy parking across the street. 52 Arlington Ave.

Colusa Circle 5K Fuels Support for Unsheltered Youth

By Rae Quigley

Under clear skies and beautiful spring weather, the community came together on March 14 for the 8th annual Colusa Circle 5K—an event defined by community spirit, generosity, and many smiling faces crossing the finish line.

Hosted by Kensington real estate brokerage Zip Code East Bay, the race welcomed participants of all ages and abilities to run, walk, or roll through the neighborhood. For many young participants, it marked their very first 5K—an experience made even more memorable by the cheers of friends and family and the joy of crossing the finish line.

This year’s event raised \$3,000 in support of Tiny Village Spirit, a Richmond-based nonprofit working to build emergency housing for unsheltered youth ages 18 to 24. The funds will contribute to the completion of a new youth village, a project that will expand access to safe housing and critical support services for young people in the community.

The morning began with a thoughtful land acknowledgment delivered by Good Guest Kensington, setting a reflective and inclusive tone for the event. The Kensington Police Department was also on hand, providing both safety support and enthusiastic encouragement to participants throughout the course.

Beyond the race itself, attendees contributed to a shoe and sock drive, donating gently used running shoes and new socks to benefit individuals in need—further amplifying the event’s community impact.

Runners delivered impressive performances across multiple categories. Leo Harte led the field with a standout finish time of 15:51, while Adeline Blair topped her division at 21:34. Nathan Breaux finished in 24:30, followed closely by Lauren Morrison at 25:22. Peggy Powers completed her race in 35 minutes, while Jebb Leon crossed the line in 38:09, rounding out a strong showing across age groups.

From first-time racers to seasoned runners, the day was marked by encouragement, connection, and celebration. With perfect weather, strong participation, and meaningful funds raised, the 8th annual Colusa Circle 5K once again highlighted the power of a community coming together to support its youth.

PROSPECT SIERRA

Making a Positive Impact

Immersed in a joyful school community, Prospect Sierra students think and feel deeply, develop a lifelong love of learning, and are prepared to make a positive impact on the world.

Campus Tours for Fall 2026
Now Available

LEARN MORE TODAY!

TK-8 School

Kensington Democrats Host John Gioia May 6

By Katie Gluck and David Tuft

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia will be the featured speaker on May 6 at the Kensington Democratic Club's Zoom meeting. Gioia will bring us insights into the June 2 ballot and the two ballot measures.

Measure B is meant to soften the impact on county residents after the Trump administration's cuts and attacks on healthcare and food assistance. These attacks place up to 90,000 county residents at risk of losing their healthcare, causing more people to go to emergency rooms for their care.

Gioia will address how the county is reducing health expenditures to absorb these cuts and how the five-year temporary 5/8 cents sales tax (Measure B) will help preserve healthcare and food assistance for thousands of residents.

Measure A extends and updates the county's Urban Land Lines that limit urban development to 35 percent of the county through December 31, 2051.

The meeting starts at 7pm, Thursday, May 6. Supervisor Gioia will speak at 7:30 followed by a Q&A session. Email kensingtondemocrats@gmail.com for a link to the virtual meeting.

Over 550 Kensington Residents Said "No Kings"



Julia Montrond joined hundreds of other Kensington residents to protest Donald Trump's policies and actions on March 28 at the third No Kings demonstration. Go to the May online Outlook at Kensington Community Council to see more photos on page 9. Photo by Nancy Rubin.

Food Trucks Rolling into Kensington Park May 8

By Rachel Wood and Meghan Murphy

Come hungry to Kensington Park on May 8 for the launch of Kensington Park'd, a new monthly neighborhood food truck night. This kickoff event brings six trucks and live music from 5–8pm to the park's upper field. Trucks will be back every second Friday through October, and a big kickoff event helps set the momentum for the season.

The idea for a recurring food truck night started when we, two local parents of kids at Hilltop, wanted an excuse to get together, let the kids run loose outside, and have someone else do the cooking. Kensington Park's open field and playground felt like the right place. In partnership with Kensington Community Services District and Kensington Community Council, we brought in the Foodie Crew, an East Bay food truck event company, to make it happen.

"Kensington is the perfect setting for a community-driven event like Kensington Park'd" said Adam Gross of the Foodie Crew. "We're excited to partner with the city to bring great food, local energy, and a space for people to come together and enjoy something special."

Six food trucks will be on hand: Chef Hits the Streets, The Craving Cajun, Roadside Rotisserie, Travieza Latin Flavors, Wingman, and Kona Ice of San Pablo for dessert. Roadside Rotisserie may be familiar to folks—it has been coming to Kensington for over a decade including to the Farmers Market. Owner Mitchell Newberg and his team look forward to "continuing to serve the community with this new activation on Fridays" and "have high hopes for this regular event."

The inaugural event will feature live music from the Landlines. Local families may recognize the band's frontwoman: Carolyn Landau is a 4th grade teacher at Kensington Hilltop Elementary and nominee for West Contra Costa Teacher of the Year.

Bring a blanket, a beverage, and probably a layer, because it's Kensington. See you May 8, 5–8pm! Updates at kensingtonfoodtrucks.com.



Library ...from Front Page

Kensington Library (FKL).

The HVAC and electrical updates are estimated at \$900,000. The Board of Supervisors also has allocated funds for large-scale infrastructure projects for county-owned library buildings in Pinole, Antioch, and Walnut Creek.

Contra Costa County Librarian Alison McKee pointed out that the library was built in 1964, opened in 1965, and has not had a significant remodel since. A 2008 upgrade attempt fell short of funding. In 2018, the county allocated \$25,000 for minor updates, including interior paint and a remodeled staff work area. At that time, the FKL committed \$9,400 for new tables, chairs, and rugs for the children's area and has replaced other furnishings as needed over the years.

This summer's major infrastructure improvements include an all-electric air conditioning and HVAC system to replace the gas heating system, electrical updates, plus PG&E service upgrades including roadwork on Arlington Avenue to support the library renovation. The PG&E construction start date is pending a utility easement and scheduling.

With these updates, the library will achieve a high air filtration effectiveness rating of 13. These filters capture bacteria and mold spores, smoke particles, fine dust and allergens, and virus-carrying droplets, making the building a safe space to shelter from wildfire smoke or other airborne hazards.

Seismic upgrades to public-assembly-level requirements are included in the remodel, with a structural engineer assigned to the project team. County supervisors are reviewing Fire Hazard Severity Zone policies and implementation, which will be factored in for library plans.

Important Community Resources

Kensington Library provides books, DVDs, CDs, and a Library of Things aided by staff to get patrons the resources and information that they need. Last year, more than 50,000 people visited the library and checked out more than 50,000 materials.

The library is also a gathering place for meetings, education, and entertainment programs for all ages, including Read to a Dog, Cloth Produce Bag Sewing Circle, and the Castoffs Knitting Group. Children's activities include storytime, scavenger hunts, crafts, and after school reading, studying, and computer games.

Library tech support includes community PCs, wifi, printing, and scanning. The Seed Circle cart offers free gardening info and seeds. And FKL maintains the book-sale cart. FKL also holds twice-yearly book sales in the library parking lot. The spring sale is Sunday, May 17, 10am–4pm.

Librarians Keep Working

McKee reassured those gathered at the community meeting that the Kensington librarians would remain employed at some of the 25 other Contra Costa County libraries and will be invited to return for the local branch reopening. And she said that the Kensington library and the Community Center are discussing options for sharing activities.

Library-goers Keep Borrowing

Kensington residents can visit and borrow materials at any community library in Contra Costa County with a free, full-access library card, which requires a photo ID with local address verification. The full-access library card also provides access to online resources, free and discounted museum passes, and internet access.

Easy access or ecards are available to California residents with a photo ID without address verification, but allow fewer services. For example, Kensington residents can apply for an Easy Access Berkeley library card to borrow materials, use library Internet computers, in-house laptops, and use all online databases and services at any of the five Berkeley Public Library locations.

To Review Plans, Visit the Library

To wrap up the community meeting, Library Manager Jenny Rockwell and the architects led a lively comment period where residents responded positively with enthusiasm and thoughtful questions.

After the meeting, participants were invited to take a closer look at the plans and renderings displayed on easels, add written comments by using stickers, and ask questions. The posters will remain in place for library-goers to post their opinions. Residents are encouraged to stop by the library to review the proposed plans.

Hands-On Real Estate Service

Providing my clients with a luxury experience informed by 15 years of real estate expertise and a background in design—where the smallest details make the biggest impression.

Golden Gate Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

If you are thinking about a move in 2026, I'd welcome the opportunity to talk. All consultations are complimentary and confidential.

Tracy Zhou Robbins
About me 周曉嘉

English, Mandarin, Cantonese
415.503.7363 | t.zhou@ggsir.com
tracyzhou.goldengatesir.com
License# 01896893
1559 Solano Avenue, Berkeley
Each Franchise Is Independently Owned And Operated.

REIKI ON THE ARLINGTON

Help your body heal itself.
Reduce stress, ease pain,
shift your energy.

suebojdak.com

ANYA'S TECH HELP

Experienced longtime technology professional tackles whatever computer/phone/tech issue you may have. References available.

Contact 415.523.6553 or anya@anyas.tech

Happy Spring!

Ironwood
ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION
Design/Build
Earthquake Strengthening
Foundation Repairs
Retaining Walls
Drainage • Remodels • Additions
Leak Investigations
Property Purchase Inspections
510.524.8058
www.IronwoodEngineering.com
License B44427

O'CONNELL PAINTING
510-926-2360

Free Estimates

Quality Results and Reasonable Prices

License No. 1144809
(Kensington Resident)



Kensington Hilltop's 78th Spring Carnival May 9

By Laura Vogt

The countdown is on for one of Kensington Hilltop Elementary's most beloved traditions! The 78th Annual Spring Carnival returns on Saturday, May 9, from 11am–3pm, bringing a lively afternoon of games, food, and community fun. This year's carnival blends classic favorites with something new. The Dunk Tank, Musical Cakes, and Water Balloon Catapult are all back, along with a new (kid-safe!) axe-throwing booth for those ready to test their aim. With a wide variety of activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

The Auxiliary Grill will be serving up crowd-pleasers like hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, and tri-tip sandwiches, along with cotton candy, popcorn, and root beer floats. Food pre-orders opened the last week of April on the carnival website, making it easy to skip the lines!

The annual raffle returns with a range of prizes from local donors. This year's Grand Prize—a handmade quilt by Kensington parent Jennifer Ritter and her mother, Susan Morford—marks the final quilt they will create after nearly a decade, making it especially meaningful.

Families can also explore Deals on Wheels, enjoy face painting, and shop the Kensington Plant Sale booth for flowers and plants—just in time for Mother's Day the next day.

We want to give a big thank you to our sponsors: Tracy Zhou-Sotheby's International Realty and Ferrari Larios Orthodontics. Whether you're a longtime Kensington family or new to the event, the Spring Carnival is a chance to connect, celebrate, and make memories together! Learn more at www.khsparentgroups.org/carnival.



A Legacy of Serving our Community

Albany | Berkeley | El Cerrito
Kensington | Oakland | Piedmont
grubbco.com

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

1960 Mountain Blvd. Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.0400 3070 Claremont Ave. Berkeley, CA 94705 510.652.2133 1656 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, CA 94709 510.848.1950

Join Ladies’ Own Erotica Authors for a Spicy Conversation

By Jill Stockwell

On Saturday, June 13, from 3-5pm, the Friends of the Kensington Library (FKL) will host two members of the Kensington Ladies’ Erotica Society, Rose Solomon and Nell Port, who were among the authors of the 1984 bestseller *Ladies’ Own Erotica*. The event benefits the Kensington Public Library, with \$50 ticket sales capped at 35 people and including light refreshments of tapas and sangria. Those attending also will receive one of the Ladies’ books.

The Kensington Ladies’ Erotica Society originated in the 1970s in Berkeley, when founder Sabina Sedgewick was cataloguing an erotic literature collection from a male donor for the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley. When she took the materials home to review and organize them, she was uninspired, to say the least.

Solomon described the group’s start: “Amid the cataloging project, Sabina attended a New Year’s Eve party where she asked the people she was talking to if they thought that men and women responded to the same kind of erotica. They either huddled closer or backed off and ran away. Nell was among those who hovered, so she gave Sabina her card and suggested a meeting.” The group first met at Port’s house in Kensington, and Port came up with the name.

From Readers to Writers

After several monthly reading groups where the Ladies found little published erotica that was appealing, they decided to try writing their own. The potluck reading group became a potluck writing group where the Ladies shared their spicy stories.

As Solomon wrote, “Home erotica is an antidote to pornography. I write it for love, not money. And I write it with a key principle in mind: No victims. It is the rule we Kensington Ladies live by, and I will do whatever I must to get it across.”

Solomon saved their stories in a box for several years. Eventually, the Ladies selected their favorites and sought a publisher. They appealed to a friend who was a board member at Ten Speed Press, and he helped secure them a book deal. But during the cover photo session at Port’s home, the Ladies realized that they did not want to go public with their real identities, so they donned masks from the collection she happened to have hanging on the walls, to hide their faces for their book jacket picture. And they each came up with a pen name.

Pioneers of Female Erotica

After their first book was published in 1984, the Ladies became famous. Donning their masks and traveling under their pen names, they toured locally and nationally. *Ladies’ Own Erotica* received raves in *People Magazine*, *USA Today*, the *L.A. Times Book Review*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and in newspapers in Dublin and London. Interviewers included Oprah, Regis, Dr. Ruth, Terry Gross, and many more.

As Port wrote, “I’ll always treasure the videotapes of our talk-show appearances, I’ll be a source of amusement to all my grandchildren and great grandchildren when they see pictures of Naughty Nell in her heyday.”

The Ladies published three more books: in 1985, *The Erotic Companion: An Illustrated Write-Your-Own Erotic Journal*; in 1986, *Look Homeward Erotica*; and, realizing that they were much closer to the end than the middle, in 2002 they published *Sex, Death, and Other Distractions*. Their books were translated into German, Dutch, Japanese, and Serbo-Croatian.

Times Have Changed

Solomon and Port agree that if the Ladies were coming together now, they probably wouldn’t have written the books. And even if they had, they doubt that anyone would publish them.

“Just the fact that women finally had access to reliable birth control gave us so much hope and excitement,” Solomon said. “We were optimistic about the future. I never would have guessed that we could regress. Plus, it seems as if the fun has completely gone out of everyday life. These are very threatening times for everybody, especially for democracy.”

“We had a lot of innocence,” added Solomon. “And I guess everyone was paying so much attention to us because no one had a cell phone yet! They weren’t off scrolling. And there was no such thing as an online influencer.”

Meet the Ladies

For tickets to the June 13 FKL fundraiser, A Spicy Conversation, with the Kensington Ladies’ Erotica Society members, use the QR code. Meanwhile, explore the FKL’s twice-yearly book sale at the Kensington Library May 17, 10am-4pm.



Kensington Officers Take on Death Valley in Law Enforcement's Toughest Road Race

By Walt Gill

Kensington Police Department Sergeant Brian Lande and Officer Jose Fajardo laced up their running shoes last month for one of law enforcement’s most demanding traditions—the Baker to Las Vegas Law Enforcement Challenge Cup, a grueling 120-mile relay race across the Mojave Desert. This year the race was held March 27–29.

Now in its 40th year, the Baker to Vegas race draws approximately 6,000 runners across roughly 300 teams from police and sheriff’s departments, district attorneys’ offices, probation agencies, and federal law enforcement from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Teams of 20 compete in relay segments through Death Valley and the surrounding desert, supported by chase vehicles staffed by team volunteers who keep runners fueled and moving across some of the most unforgiving terrain in the southwest. The event raises funds for police officer associations with the endorsement of participating departments, while promoting teamwork, physical fitness, and camaraderie across the law enforcement community.

Sergeant Lande and Officer Fajardo competed as members of the Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office team, reflecting the close working relationships KPD maintains with its regional law enforcement partners. Running alongside colleagues from across the county, the two officers embodied the spirit of inter-agency collaboration that defines public safety in our community every day.

Sergeant Lande drew one of the race’s most punishing assignments—a six-mile hilly desert leg run in 95-degree heat—and delivered a strong performance, finishing 49th out of 271 runners in his segment to place in the top 18 percent. Officer Fajardo took on a six-mile sprint near the race’s midpoint, carrying the team across the California-Nevada state line while knocking nearly three minutes off his expected time. The Los Angeles Police Department’s Elite team claimed first place with a time of 12:25:05, edging out the California Highway Patrol’s Elite team—which posted a raw time of 12:24:10 but absorbed a

See Race, Page 8

RED OAK REALTY'S

RECENT KENSINGTON TRANSACTIONS

THIS DISTINGUISHED RESIDENCE LOVINGLY RESTORED AND ENHANCED
SOLD FOR 29% OVER LIST PRICE FOR \$1,670,000

101 Windsor Avenue, Kensington - 101Windsor.com
Grace Bishop - 510.872.4512 - #01245471

IN 15 DAYS, THIS LOVINGLY MAINTAINED AND BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED
LEVEL-IN HOME SOLD FOR 22% OVER LIST PRICE FOR \$1,400,000

265 Purdue Avenue, Kensington - KensingtonCharmer.com
Tracy Davis - 510.301.3924 - #01366511

Allow us to help you meet
your real estate goals.

50
YEARS
OF
REALTY

🏠 #1 IN KENSINGTON · REDOAKREALTY.COM

What Our Clients Say...

"Lisa and the TTL Team are amazing. I've done three real estate transactions with them now, one as a buyer and two as a seller. Every time they've gone above and beyond to get me the best deal possible (and within a short timeframe!). This most recent sale was during a tough market, and I still was incredibly impressed with the outcome, much better than I would have expected or thought going into it. Choose them and you won't regret it!!!" — M.B.

Give us a call! 510.206.2686

TTLTeam.com • ttlteam@redoakrealty.com
@todd.tania.lisa.realtors

RED OAK REALTY

TANIA BALAZS • TODD HODSON • LISA ROBESCH
REALTORS® • #1469906, 909437, 2081605

Classified Ads

AURORA PAINTING & DECORATING-
Interior, exterior, waterproof coatings, wood restoration, color consultation. License #721226. Kensington references. 510-655-9267 for free estimate.

BAYWOOD BUILDING AND DESIGN -
Contractor with 47+ yrs experience in home remodeling & renovation. Creative solutions for kitchens, baths, additions, ADUs, etc. Local references. baywoodbuilding.com / Yelp Lic. 357706-B / Call Robert 510-798-5808

CAL ESTATE RESOLUTION - Thoughtful help with senior moves, downsizing, estate clean-outs. Sorting, donation, contents sale. Bonded & insured. calstatesresolution.com 510-459-6777

HELPING HANDS personalized concierge services: organization, book keeping, downsizing. Kensington res., local references. 510-735-6965.

KENSINGTON CONTRACTOR-Kitchens & baths, expert home repairs, handyman services. Reliable. Lic/#06634 Thomas Cuniff Construction 415-378-2007

KENSINGTON DEYLIVERY- Affordable delivery service for community residents. John Dey 510-610-4638

PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER-Quality Headshots to Family Portraits. Nan Phelps Photography located at 398 Colusa Ave. Learn more at nanphelps.com or YELP. Contact: nan@nanphelps.com or phone 510-528-8845

YOUR GREEN GARDENERS-Unique, Beautiful, Sustainable Garden Designs. Garden Maintenance, Clean-Ups & Tree Pruning. Email: yourgreengardeners@gmail.com. www.yourgreengardeners.com

Classified Ad Placement

Monthly rates \$8 per line (two-line minimum), 45 characters or spaces per line. Ad form at www.kensingtonoutlook.com or scan this QR code. Classifieds must be prepaid and received by the 10th of the month preceding publication. You can also mail an ad to PO Box 2212, El Cerrito, CA 94530.



Kensington Community Education

Photo by Sindy Süßengut/Unsplash

KCC-Summer Camp

For 75 years, KCC has been bringing kids together for a fun, active summer camp experience, mostly outdoors in Kensington Park. Founded in 1951 as a volunteer-led program, KCC Summer Camp has grown and evolved over the years. While many things have changed, one thing remains constant, creating a space where kids can stay active, be creative, and build lasting friendships.

Join us for another exciting summer at KCC Summer Camp in Kensington Park. Several weeks still have space available!



We are thrilled to welcome back Ailish Smith as our Camp Director for her second summer in this role!

Ailish previously worked as a counselor at KCC for three years before stepping into the director position, and she could not be more excited for another fantastic summer ahead.

KCC has served as a welcoming, fun, and supportive summer community during her time at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she graduated in 2025 with a Bachelor's Degree in Art and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. She is currently working toward pursuing graduate school in the arts. Drawing on both areas of study, Ailish brings a creative, thoughtful, and inclusive approach to camp leadership. She believes in the power of joyful self-expression, play, and community to help children grow into confident, compassionate individuals.

Now entering her second year as director, Ailish is excited to continue fostering an inclusive, caring, and engaging camp community. She looks forward to building on last summer’s successes while introducing new, enriching activities and games that complement the play-based social and emotional learning that makes summer camp such a joyful, impactful, and memorable experience for every child.

KASEP- Kensington After School Program

Last day of Spring KASEP is May 29th

Mark your calendars for the Fall KASEP Registration on Tuesday, September 1st, 2026. Classes begin Monday, September 14th, 2026.



Attention All High School Seniors!

High school seniors who currently live or previously lived in Kensington, or attended Hilltop Elementary for any part of their elementary years, are invited to gather for the annual Kensington High School Senior Photo.

Date: Sunday, May 3rd

Time: 3:30 PM

Location: KCC Office / Recreation Building



Arrive early to reconnect with old friends! The photo will be featured on the cover of the June *Outlook*.

If you are unable to attend the photo date please send us a photo with name, high school attended and college plans, gap year, etc. to info@KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org

Spring Schedule for Adult and Family Classes

Tai Chi with Nobuo Nishi

Wednesdays & Fridays from 9:30-11:00am

Community Center - Drop-in fee is \$15

Yoga with Anja Borgstrom

Strength & Balance Yoga - Tuesdays at 8:30am

Community Center - Cost is \$20 drop in or register online

Slim Chance Circus School - All-Ages Unicycle and Juggling Class

Thursday evenings, 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

Recreation Building Classroom A
(Kensington Park near the flat upper lawn)

Cost: \$20 per person (drop-in).

Family discounts available!

Chair Yoga with Angi Love

Thursdays 10-11am

Community Center - Cost is sliding scale

Family Yoga in the Park with Lori Hess

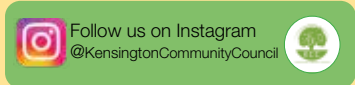
Family Yoga will take place on rotating weekend days @ 10:00-10:45 (kids aged 2 to 5) on the grassy lawn outside the KCC Office/Recreation Building (past the tennis courts).

If possible, please bring a waterproof blanket/tarp, two yoga mats (we will have extra mats available), warm layers, and a water bottle.

Spring dates: Saturday 5/2, Sunday 5/10, Saturday 5/16, Saturday 5/30, Sunday 6/14, Saturday 6/20 and Sunday 6/28.

Suggested cost: \$25 per class; Please contact Lori Hess waytoglowkidsyoga@gmail.com with questions about the class.

Register at KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/adult-and-family-classes



The Kensington Outlook can now be found at: KensingtonOutlook.com
Archive copies can also be found on our website dating back to 2003. Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Recreation Building Kensington CA 94707 E-mail: Info@KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org, or call 510-525-0292. Our website is: www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org.



KENSINGTON EATS OUT

Kensington Eats Out at the Sailing Goat
By Ittai Shiu

A Scenic Detour Leads to a Distinctive Meal

Taking the winding route to the Sailing Goat feels a little like a test of commitment, but it's also the kind of place that reminds us the East Bay has a few surprises left.



If you've never been to Point San Pablo Harbor, this is your sign to trust your smartphone navigation and keep going. Shortly after you exit Stenmark Drive off 580 in Richmond (it's the last exit before the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge), take a moment to glance toward the bay—you'll catch sight of the shipwreck, a fitting preview for what's ahead. By the time you arrive, it's clear this isn't just dinner. It's a destination.

At the center of it all is chef Arnon Oren, whose path to the harbor wasn't exactly linear.

Classically trained in France, Oren brought his culinary talent to California and spent time working in some of the East Bay's most iconic fine dining kitchens. But despite his restaurant background, opening a restaurant wasn't originally the plan. Instead, he built a highly successful catering company serving Bay Area tech clients, a thriving business until the pandemic abruptly changed the way companies worked—and spent.

When corporate catering budgets disappeared, the ripple effect was devastating. Like many in hospitality, Oren got creative, chasing every possible pivot while trying to keep the business going and take care of his employees through a deeply uncertain time. Rather than shutting it down, he adapted—evolving to survive in a world no longer anchored by corporate clients.

Then came the harbor.

When the harbor space became available in 2023, it felt like one of those rare opportunities that doesn't need much explaining. The setting alone makes a strong case: a quirky waterfront pocket lined with docked boats, oversized sculptures, weathered charm, and just enough offbeat character to make



Board Passes Act Enabling Regulations 8-1

By Lin Due

At the regular meeting of the Kensington Community Services District on April 9, directors passed an act that enables it to create regulations that would be enforced by the Kensington Police Department. Those regulations would only apply to areas the board manages, such as the paths and parks. Alex Aquino-Fike repeated her objections, saying that regulations were often enforced unequally and that voting in favor enacted the ability to create laws that Kensington had never known or possibly needed. No other substantive comments were made, and the act passed quickly.

AY problems again plagued the meeting, and the video was difficult to view. Hopefully these issues can be addressed before the next meeting on May 14 during which the fire department's Chase Beckman will discuss stepped-up scrutiny of vegetation around residences and how this will impact Kensington's homeowners.

Race

...from Page 6

10-minute penalty to finish second at 12:34:10—with the Los Angeles Sheriffs Department Elite team rounding out the podium at 13:29:23.

For a department of Kensington's size, simply fielding a team at Baker to Vegas is a statement. That Sergeant Lande and Officer Fajardo competed—and excelled—alongside colleagues from one of the region's largest agencies, and against some of the most elite law enforcement teams in the country, is a source of well-earned pride for the entire Kensington community.



impression before the food even hits the table. The staff is warm and genuinely welcoming, and the outdoor seating with the harbor view is hard to beat, especially when the stage within the dining areas lights up with live music. Find the lineup of talent at www.sailinggoatrestaurant.com.

The menu gives you plenty of reasons to come hungry, and a few reasons to immediately start planning a return visit. Kaplan's popular offerings include a bouillabaisse-inspired seafood stew, a weekly changing harbor chowder built around what's in season, and sourdough pizzas that are ideal for sharing. On our visit, we fell into the familiar restaurant dilemma of menu FOMO.

Watching plate after plate of golden-brown fish and chips head to neighboring tables made resisting impossible, and the dish absolutely lived up to the visual hype—crisp, satisfying, and exactly the kind of meal that feels right by the water. Leaning into ingredients from the surrounding area, we also tried the brandade, a smooth and savory spread made with local rockfish, along with the house-made pork rillette served with freshly toasted crostini.

When we caught up with Oren, he recommended some seasonal items including a chicory and citrus salad, which brought a refreshing contrast to the richer dishes and arrived beautifully plated without feeling fussy as well as a strawberry rhubarb crumble that was comforting, bright, and just rustic enough to match the setting.

What makes the Sailing Goat especially compelling isn't just the food, the live music, or the view, though all are strong draws. It's the feeling that this place was built from experience, resilience, and timing. Oren and Kaplan's story carries the kind of grit that shapes restaurants with staying power, and paired with a setting this distinctive, it feels like the beginning of something bigger.

The road out there may still throw first-timers off, but once you've made the trip, it's easy to see why people come back. The Sailing Goat doesn't just reward the drive—it makes it part of the charm.

1900 Stenmark Dr., Richmond www.sailinggoatrestaurant.com

Hillside Fest May 2-3

By Dave Weinstein

Saddle up and enjoy free events on the first weekend of May, courtesy of El Cerrito Trail Trekkers and the city's Environmental Quality Committee.

A few sample events: Start Saturday with an Early Morning Bird Walk from 8-10am led by Cathy Bleier and Tara McIntire, Golden Gate Bird Alliance members. We'll walk a 1.5 mile loop. Edible and Medicinal plants are explored from 10-11:30am and all day there's a kid-friendly scavenger hunt. Sunday has a rock walk, the very popular haiku walk, and a native plants talk among many other events. The Hillside Fest hosts events all day and into the evening, with both adult- and kid-focused fun.

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

Living on Indigenous Land Workshop May 20

By Laura Callen

The town of Kensington lies on the ancestral and present-day homeland of the Lisjan Nation people. How can Kensington residents live here in a good way, in light of this fact? What opportunities are made possible when we do?

Good Guest Kensington (GGK) explores these questions in service of repairing harm and creating a better future for all beings living in this beautiful place. Together with our neighbors, GGK has accomplished a lot in five years. And the more we do this work of living as good guests on Indigenous land, the more inspired and humbled we become.

On May 20, join us to hear about GGK's Indigenous solidarity work in Kensington, part of the movements for freedom and justice that are growing all around us. Imagine how you might participate. Everyone is welcome, whether you live in Kensington or a neighboring town!

This workshop will take place on Zoom, 7-8pm. A link will be provided with RSVP. To RSVP, use the QR code or the "Events" section of GGK's website (www.goodguest-kensington.org). Reach out at goodguest-kensington@gmail.com with any questions.





The Professional Tree Care Company

Caring for trees since 1978.

Our services range from consultation through all aspects of tree health care and removal. We have a 100% recycle policy for all materials generated by our activities. Certified arborists, licensed/insured.

www.professionaltreecare.com

510-549-3954 or 888-335-TREE

No Kings 3 Draws Hundreds



Photographers were active on March 28 for the No Kings 3 protest in Kensington. Crowds gathered at the Arlington and Amherst avenues and at Colusa Circle to protest the administration of Donald Trump. Photos by Nancy Rubin and Sacha Kawaichi.





SPRING UPDATES with ZCEB

Spring is in full swing, and we've been busy in Kensington—focusing on community, bringing homes to market, and helping buyers find their place. Here are a few updates:



COLUSA CIRCLE 5K Thanks to everyone who joined the 8th annual Colusa Circle 5K! We raised over \$3K for Tiny Village Project to support emergency housing for Richmond youth.



SPRING COLLECTION With upcoming offerings in Kensington & nearby areas up to wine country, email josh@zipcodeeastbay.com to learn about new listings or how to prepare your home for sale.

EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED. DRE 02029039.

ZIP CODE EAST BAY

388 COLUSA AVENUE | 510.323.3669
a certified B Corporation & Green Business
ZIPCODEEASTBAY.COM PORTFOLIO