

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

MAY 2006

PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 63 NUMBER 4

Kensington crime

Chief, KPPCSD board, and
citizens discuss public safety

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) April monthly meeting was packed with concerned residents due in part from the recent armed robberies reported in the *Kensington Outlook* and the Grizzly Peak Neighborhood Watch group. Among the topics on the agenda was a report and open discussion of the recent crime statistics and the efficacy of the 911 call system. Chief Garfield spoke about recent serious March crimes.

- When the police investigated a suspicious car and occupants parked on Lake Dr., the driver repeatedly attempted to run down Officer Barrow. Two men were apprehended as they tried to escape. A third fled on foot. The driver was booked for assault with a deadly weapon.

In the car was a large cache of stolen items taken from the Grizzly Peak area.

- A man, who had a no-bail warrant for a previous crime, was arrested in a stolen car containing stolen items and drug paraphernalia.

- The police apprehended some juveniles who had been driving a stolen van through Kensington and running stop signs; they eventually abandoned the vehicle near the Carmelite Monastery.

- On Ardmere Rd. the police broke up a domestic violence situation.

- Kensington police assisted El Cerrito police in detaining a drunk who was punching people on the streets.

The public had an opportunity to address the police chief and the KPPCSD directors. One attendee suggested that most residents in Kensington would be happy to contribute another \$5 a month toward the cost of an 11th police officer. This amount would raise approximately \$140,000 a year.

In the discussion about the effectiveness of the 911 response time, someone noted that they had called 911 and did not receive a satisfactory response. Chief Garfield asked that if this ever happens, to call him, and he will personally investigate the situation.

How you can help

The Chief said that the residents of Kensington are the eyes and ears of the community. He stated that Kensington is not a community that often calls 911. Directors Paul Haxo and Ciara Wood stressed that if you are afraid, call 911 immediately. Chief Garfield added that if something looks wrong or out of place, call the police dispatch. He told of a person who observed an intruder in their home and did not inform the police until the next day. The faster you call, the better the chances of rectifying the situation.



Fire station ceremony On April 1 a large crowd turned out for the fire station open house and badge pinning ceremony for new firefighters and paramedics. Christopher Renshaw, Joseph Gagne, David Yun, and Thomas Wade took their oaths, and Jarl Grunseth and Jose Castrejon were promoted to captains. Firefighters showed people the station and all the equipment and served abundant refreshments. Engineer Terry Pace painted kids' faces.

Services

Seniors program—As 24 percent of the population of Kensington is 65 years old or older, the KPPCSD directors wanted the community to know about the Seniors Program. All seniors can register with the police, fill out forms about next-of-kin, medications, and other details, and leave a front door key with the police. Then if they need help, or their relatives get worried about them, the police have access to their home, with the relevant information.

Welfare checks—For concerns about a parent or relative in the Kensington area who may be old or sick, who may not be returning calls, or has missed an appointment, call the police department, and they will visit the home and check on the person.

Tele-minder—The police department has updated the tele-minder system with new phone numbers. Residents can contact the police department to opt out of this service.

Monthly tips—At the suggestion of an attendee, Chief Garfield will institute a series of brief tips in the *Outlook* each month. (See below)

PTA and Dads' Club Spring Carnival

Kensington Hilltop School will hold its Annual Spring Carnival on Saturday, May 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hilltop School. Come and enjoy lots of fun games. The Dads' Club will be cooking up a feast on the newly completed BBQ. For the past 22 years, the PTA has sponsored the making and raffle of a quilt. This year's beautiful quilt, called Wildcat Canyon, was made by Betsy Quayle, Diane Egelston, Laura Lavorando, and Jen Wright. The machine quilting was done by Sue Fox, of Fox Dreams. The raffle will be between 2–3 p.m. on the day of the Carnival. Quilt tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for six. The proceeds from the quilt raffle help to fund PTA initiatives such as emergency earthquake supplies and community building. Additional tickets can be obtained from raffle organizer Amy Kurzer, msogul@covad.net or 524-6314.

Hilltop classes filled

Waiting lists open as Kensington students fill classes before the end of the first month of enrollment

Registration for kindergarten and first grade at Hilltop School quickly filled to capacity this year. The enrollment started in March, and for the first time in many years it was filled before the end of the month. So far, six children of Kensington parents have been placed on a waiting list. Class sizes have been capped by the state at 20 students, and there are already four kindergarten classes, with no room for adding more classes. The problem carries over to first grade, as existing students are automatically allocated places in classes as they graduate from year to year. Previously people were not too concerned about enrolling their children in kindergarten, settling instead for alternatives. But with the increase in the number of local children, parents need to enroll their children as early as possible to give them a chance of attending Hilltop School. At this time, all except the second grade are filled to capacity.

Since the waiting list began, at least one student has already moved from the waiting list into the fall class. Alan Del Simone, who handles school transfers for the West Contra Costa Unified School District, said that this is not an unusual situation in other areas of the school district. "People naturally assume they can just walk in and register their children when they move to a district, but this is not always the case. In Kensington there have previously been vacancies, and many children have transferred from outside of Kensington."

It is impossible to predict the number of children that will need to be accommodated in schools in the future. Some parents of children on the waiting list are very upset. They have been supportive of the school and the PTA, and they expected their children would go to Hilltop. Some are now asking who is responsible for the lack of facilities for all the local children, even after the school was recently rebuilt. But adding a fifth class to each year is not feasible, because Hilltop does not have space for such additions.

Del Simone added that from now until school starts children on the waiting list may yet be admitted to Hilltop, as families move or decide to place their children in private schools. Hilltop, like other schools, is allocated a cluster of schools that are first choice for transfers if the vacancies do not occur. These schools are Harding on Fairmont Avenue, Castro on Donal Avenue, Fairmont on Kearney Street, and Madera on Madera Drive, all in El Cerrito. If these schools are also filled, then West Contra Costa Unified School District will work with the parents to find alternatives.

Even though the school is rapidly filling all its classrooms, some people are still actively working to add two grades to the school, making it a K–8. This initiative has many hurdles yet to overcome, and it seems unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future.

Chief Garfield's safety tips: If in doubt call the police dispatch.

1. Summer is the time of solicitors. If in doubt, don't open your door. If you feel threatened or scared, call the police.
2. Don't leave valuable items in your car, or at least, not in view. Robbers can get into your car in seconds. The trunk is not a safe place to leave valuables.
3. If you hear an alarm, call the police dispatch. Don't wait, call immediately.
4. If you hear strange noises in the night, don't wait until morning to call the police. They would rather investigate, even if it turns out to be a false alarm.
5. Be aware of your surroundings. Check your mirror as you drive; look around you as you walk. Is someone following you? If you feel unsafe, call the police.
6. If you are unsure about how safe your house is, call the police to give you an evaluation of your home's security and lighting.

IMPORTANT police numbers. Emergency: 911 Non-emergency dispatch: 233-1214
Police office number: 526-4141. This is the daytime office phone for the department, NOT a dispatch or emergency number.

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Matching Grant

KCC has a matching grant up to \$15,000 to be used toward the construction costs of toilets in the park. Send donations to KCC, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington CA 94707. Mark your donation "Matching Grant".

Donations received include:
\$150 — Bill Hardijzer of B & H Builders
\$25 — Karen and Pete Shebek.

Call for PTA board nominees

Now is the time to step up to the plate and do your bit for the PTA. The PTA is an advocate for parents, teachers, and children. Time commitments range from several hours a week to several hours a month. Elections will be held during the May 4 meeting at the school. Open positions include president, copresident, vice president for communication, vice president for carnival, vice president for membership, secretary, treasurer, and historian. Nominations will be taken from the floor. All members of the PTA are eligible for the PTA Board, and positions are for one year. The PTA also is looking for volunteers to help manage the Kenvue, art night/art celebration and the new movie night. To find out more, contact Katherine Meurer at jkmeurer@aol.com or 526-3504.



Pet of the month

Freeway is a sweet baby Persian guinea pig with beautiful long, sandy hair. She was found on the San Jose Expressway, showing multiple signs of trauma. Unable to eat or drink on her own at first, but after several weeks of nurturing by RabbitEars volunteers, she is healthy and looking forward to finding a new happy home. Visit RabbitEars at 303 Arlington Ave., phone 525-6155, or email fixpets@yahoo.com.

FROM THE EDITOR

Keeping the community informed

Over the past month, I have been asking the various Kensington groups to post their meeting agendas and minutes online. That way interested parties can keep abreast of agenda items, and stay informed by reading the minutes, even if they cannot attend the meeting. The Kensington Municipal Advisory Council has been doing this for some time, and other groups have agreed to do so in the future. PagePoint, the hosts and maintainers of the About Kensington Web site, have agreed to post these documents. In the future you can expect to see this important information online at www.aboutkensington.com. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can find the agendas of many committees and groups posted in the library, on the kiosk outside the pharmacy, or outside the Public Safety Building at 217 Arlington Avenue. You can also get free access to the Internet at the library.

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
59 Arlington Avenue
Kensington, CA 94707-1307

The *Kensington Outlook* is published ten times a year by the nonprofit Kensington Community Council. It is published monthly except for the combined Dec./Jan. and July/Aug. issues. Courtesy of www.aboutkensington.com, the *Kensington Outlook* is available online in PDF format at: www.kensingtonoutlook.com

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Subscriptions

The *Kensington Outlook* is delivered free to residents. Non-resident subscriptions are available for \$10 a year by sending a check made payable to KCC to: Kensington Outlook, 18 Kingston Road, Kensington, CA 94707.

Advertising

Please call for advertising rates, space availability and size specification. Rates and an online ad form for the classified section are at: www.kensingtonoutlook.com at the bottom of the back issues listings. All mail pertaining to both display and classified advertising should be sent to: Kensington Outlook
18 Kingston Road
Kensington, CA 94707

Deadlines

Advertising deadline May 8
Editorial deadline May 10

The *Kensington Outlook* welcomes letters to the editor and reserves the right to edit for clarity and length.

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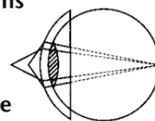
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Easter goodies

Just before each holiday, Deborah Ann Brown, owner of the Arlington Baking Company, bakes cookies for children (and adults) to decorate. This Easter she made cookies shaped like bunnies, chicks, and eggs, and set out a table with many different sprinkles and a variety of colored icings in plastic bags, which people could pipe on to the cookies. Children of all ages came by, many with their parents, and decorated as many cookies as they wanted, free of charge. Police sergeant Danny Jeffries stopped in and showed the kids how the big boys decorate cookies. Parents enjoyed coffee and tasted samples of the delicious baked goods and breads from the bakery.

FKL annual book sale



The annual two-day book sale sponsored by Friends of Kensington Library will be at the Kensington Community Center, with a silent auction on May 13 and a bag sale on the 14th. All proceeds

will benefit the library. If you have books or videos to donate to the sale, please take them to the library during library hours. Please don't leave donations outside. Call the library at 524-3043 to see if volunteers are available to accept your donations.

Nancy Roberts pastels



Pastel paintings by artist Nancy Roberts are on exhibit in the library through June 15. Roberts' pictures are full of life, color, and spontaneity. She explores reflections, the structure of trees, still lifes and floral pictures. The exhibit is sponsored by Friends of the Kensington Library.

Volunteers needed

The Friends of the Kensington Library needs volunteers to help set up for the monthly children's programs at the library. This involves only about 10-15 minutes of moving tables and chairs before and after programs. Call Barbara Nelson at 524-4566 to volunteer.

OBITUARIES

Kensington volunteer Muriel Scolnik remembered

Muriel Scolnik passed away suddenly of natural causes at the age of 81 on March 21 in Valencia, California. She was a longtime resident of Kensington, where she lived with her family from the 1950s to 2004. Her husband died in 1984. She volunteered her time for many Kensington community activities, including Friends of the



Kensington Library, TeleCare, Read Aloud programs, and election boards. She is survived by her two daughters, Julie Lynn Scolnik Martinez de Ubago of Spain and Alisane Augusta of Valencia, California; her son, Stephen Scolnik of Tucson, Arizona; and five grandchildren. She was buried at Sunset View Cemetery.

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79 Arlington Avenue, Kensington

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welcome

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We are proud to announce that Jeanine Weller has joined our office in Kensington. Her ten years of experience as a realtor in Kensington, Berkeley, Oakland, Piedmont and Orinda have given her in-depth knowledge of market conditions and trends in these communities.

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Neighborhood Notes

Belanger joins Kensington Optometry



Julie Belanger has recently joined Drs. Thal and Cotteral at Kensington Optometry. Dr. Belanger has degrees from Junita College in Pennsylvania and Ohio State.

Presently she is finishing postgraduate work at UC Berkeley. She has been in optometry for nine years, previously working in Ecuador. At UC Berkeley she specializes in strabismus (eye alignment), contact lenses, and working with infants.

Brudney named to chair



Former Norwood Ave. resident Jeffrey Brudney, Ph.D., has been named to the Albert A. Levin Chair of Urban Studies and Public Service at Cleveland State University. He is a scholar of public administration, nonprofit sector studies, and volunteerism. He is currently a professor at the University of Georgia.

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Bike to Work Day, May 18

Bike to Work Day is May 18. Commuters can find Energizer Stations around Berkeley to help them on their way. Approximately 36,000 Bay Area residents use a bicycle as their primary commuting vehicle, according to the 2000 U.S. census. Organizers of Bike to Work Day expect between 50,000 and 100,000 people to bike to work in the Bay Area.

K-5 at Camp Galileo

Camp Galileo at Prospect Sierra Elementary School, 2060 Tapscott Ave., El Cerrito, will run K-5 day camp programs from June 19 through August 4. Activities include designing psychedelic '60s art, building water rockets, basic physics, studying fingerprints, and other fun activities. Weekly rates range from \$259 for partial days for younger kids to \$329 for full days. Scholarships are available. For information, phone 595-7293 or visit www.campgalileo.com.

Phishing for you

Almost every month there is an item in the police blotter about someone having their identity stolen. This often happens through a technique called phishing, in which you get an e-mail from a bank, credit card company, or some other service. The e-mail usually tells you that there has been a computer failure, or someone has stolen a list of customers, and the company wants you to reregister or confirm a password. These are almost always scams. The e-mail looks legitimate, and even the URL they send you to may look correct. In fact, you often need to be a computer expert to spot the fraudulent Web sites. In a recent study conducted by the universities of Berkeley and Harvard, a group of testers failed to identify 40 percent of fraudulent Web sites. In one case, 91 percent of the testers wrongly identified a Web site for an online bank as legitimate. If you want to try your hand at identifying frauds, visit <http://lurl.org/go/1au1>. The average loss to each person is \$1,200. If you are in doubt about a communication from a company, telephone the company, or enter the main Web site address yourself. Don't use the links in the e-mail.

Casino impact

At the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services meeting, Director Joan Gallegos reported on a meeting she attended concerning the proposed extension to the San Pablo casino and the building of two new casinos in the county. The proposals are still being developed, but it seems likely that if adopted the new businesses will have a significant impact on Kensington traffic patterns.

Children's musical audition

Arlington Community Church is inviting children aged between 7 and 12 to participate in a musical called Peace Child, which will be performed August 14-18. The performance provides an opportunity for kids to address the possibilities of solving many world issues. The weeklong camp will cover singing, set design, and script learning. \$50 material fee. Contact Christy at 526-9146 by June 9.

CEH fundraising reception

The Center for Environmental Health staff and board members will hold a fund-raising reception in Kensington the evening of May 16. Space is limited, so please RSVP to Jennifer@cehca.org.

Current CEH projects include addressing the disposal problem of toxic materials in discarded computers and electronic waste. CEH is leveraging the purchasing power of visionary companies to demand that computer manufacturers use fewer toxics and that they take back computers and dispose of or recycle them at the end of their life. CEH has been instrumental in eliminating lead from children's jewelry and candy and is publicizing dangerous lead levels in children's lunchboxes (www.cehca.org/lunchboxes.htm). It also got playground equipment manufacturers to stop using arsenic-treated wood and producers of children's medicines and baby powders to eliminate lead from their products.

Morris exhibit



Cass Morris is showing some of her remarkable photographs at the Marvin Gardens Arlington office in an exhibition called Windows, Walls and Doors Series: Photographs from Around

the World. Morris has two degrees in art and experience with graphic and fabric design and photography. "I believe these images are symbolic for everyone," she says, "boundaries and portals enclosing or opening to the unknown; transitions, moving from one state of existence to another." The exhibit is open until June 22.

Art competition

All artists of high school age can enter the 2006 Congressional Art Competition. If you live in the 10th Congressional District, you can submit your work to and get information from Congresswoman Ellen O. Tauscher's Walnut Creek office at (925) 932-8899. This annual event is for high school students across the country. The selected pieces are displayed for a year in the Cannon Tunnel of the U. S. Capitol. The deadline for submissions is May 10.

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Office Hours

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Monday through Friday

KCC Office

Building E is located
across the grassy field from
the Community Center
Annex that houses the
neighborhood school.

NOTICES

To register for class

Call the office unless
otherwise specified. Some
classes have enrollment
limits; those registering
will be notified if they
cannot be enrolled.

Tennis court reservations

Reservations are for
weekends and holidays only;
the earliest is for 9 a.m.
Fees are: \$2 per hour for
Kensington residents and
\$5 per hour for others. Call
Esther Hill at 525-0292 for
classes and tennis court
reservation information.

Community Center rental

For the Community Center
rental information, please
call Helen Horowitz at
the Kensington Police
Protection and Community

**K E N S I N G T O N
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YOUTH CLASSES

Tennis

In this class for students in grades 6, 7, and 8, Alex Brown teaches the fundamentals of tennis, including strokes, tactics, and sportsmanship. Classes consist of instruction, drills, and play, and continue through the school year. Students must register by the month for one or two days a week

Instructor: Alex Brown (524-5495)
Tuesdays and/or Thursdays 3:40–5:20 p.m.

Fees (payable monthly):
\$10 per class/resident, \$11/non-resident
At the Tennis courts

Gymnastics

Students should wear loose clothing such as shorts, leotards, or sweatpants. Long hair must be tied in a ponytail. To enroll, call Judy Baker at 233-1833.

Instructors: Judy Baker and Jean Jay
Morning Kindergartners:
11:45 a.m.–1:05 p.m.
Advanced Beginners, Grades 1–3:
2:30 p.m.–3:20 p.m.
Advanced Beginners, Grades 4–6:
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Tuesdays, 11 weeks, at the Community Center

ADULT CLASSES

Acrylic Painting

Stan Cohen leads this informal but professional workshop for established and serious beginning artists. Mornings are devoted to developing painting, with assistance available. Afternoons are reserved for class critique. Limited enrollment.

Instructor approval required
Instructor: Stan Cohen (533-3003)

Wednesdays, 9:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
\$32 per month; non-residents add 10%
At the Community Center

Swing Dancing—back by popular demand

East Coast swing is one of the most popular and easiest to learn of all swing styles. Instructor Nick Lawrence will start with the basic steps and have everyone dancing by the end of the first class. The classes will build on the basics to create a repertoire of steps by the end of the session. Nick Lawrence teaches at Ashkenaz in Berkeley and is committed to making dance accessible to everybody. Call Nick at 524-2546 for information. No partner needed.

Friday, 8–9 p.m., through May 26
with the exception of Friday, May 12
4 classes/\$48; non-residents add 10%
To register, call the KCC office at 525-0292
At the Community Center

Yoga for Health

Develop strength, flexibility, endurance, and grace with yoga. Therapeutic concerns such as wrist, knee, neck and back pain, and stress reduction are addressed. No prior experience required—all ages welcome. Please bring a mat to the class. Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered Yoga teacher, trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. She describes her style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. For more information contact Nicole at 798-8148.

To register, call the KCC office at 525-0292
Fees for residents: \$12 for drop-in
\$40 for 1 class per week for 4 weeks
\$80 for 2 classes per week for 4 weeks
Nonresidents please add 10 %
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:15–10:15 a.m.
At the Community Center

Tennis

Alex Brown, USPTA tennis pro, offers classes to a minimum of four students.

To register, call Brown at 524-5495
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9–10 a.m.
5 classes/\$40 per resident; \$45 per non-resident
At the Tennis Courts (West Court)

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PROGRAM**

KACEP
Building E
59 Arlington Ave.
Kensington, CA 94707-1037

Office Hours

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Monday through Friday

Esther Hill, Director
525-0292
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Elma Conley,
On-Site Supervisor
525-0292
during class hours

Sandy Thacker,
Curriculum Coordinator
482-1258

Spring Session

The spring session runs
from March 27 through
June 7.

There will be no
KASEP classes on the
following day:

Monday, May 29.

What is Proposition 81?



Proposition 81, the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006, is a statewide bond

measure that would provide \$600 million in state monies to fund library construction or renovation projects. It will be on the June ballot. This bond money would fund 65 percent of the cost of local projects. Nearly 50 percent of these projects would involve partnerships between libraries and local schools.

Prop. 81 would provide funds for:

- Homework centers for students and places for children to go after school
- College and career centers for high school and college students and adults re-entering the workforce
- Spaces for expanded children's reading programs

- Access for seniors and people with disabilities
- Updated technology and increased access to computers and the Internet
- Library space for programs to fight illiteracy
- New partnerships between libraries and schools for jointly used space

Frequently asked questions about Proposition 81:

Q. What could be funded with the bond proceeds?

A. Construction of new libraries, renovation of older libraries, purchase of library furnishings and equipment, including computers and high-speed Internet access, and the fees for architectural and engineering services needed to design library improvement projects.

Q. What could not be funded with bond proceeds?

A. Library administration, personnel and other normal operating costs, the purchase of books and supplies, and the costs associated with applying for bond grants.

Q. Have some projects already been approved for funding if Proposition 81 passes?

A. Yes. In 2000, voters approved Proposition 14, which raised \$300 million for library construction and renovation and funded 45 projects. However, another 56 projects were deemed worthy. Up to half of Prop. 81 monies could be used to fund these already approved projects. Additional projects would be submitted for funding to the state selection board.

Q. What is the process for applying for and granting funding? How will projects be selected?

A. Applicants for grants could be from any local entity empowered to own and maintain public libraries, such as cities, counties, or library districts. A committee that includes the state

librarian would select projects on a competitive basis, using established regulations.

Q. Would project sponsors pay any of the project costs?

A. Yes. The state would pay 65 percent of the total cost of approved projects, and the project sponsors would pay 35 percent. Project sponsors could propose joint-use projects with grade schools, county offices of education, community colleges, California State University or the University of California, and any of those partners could help pay a share of the local 35 percent match.

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Hilltop
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Saturday, May 13
11am-3pm

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Bake Sale
Cotton Candy
Game Booths
Prizes
BBQ Lunch

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The 2006 Carnival is being underwritten
by a generous donation by The Grubb Co.

Monday, May 1

The Castoffs knitting group, 7 p.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

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

Nancy Roberts Art Exhibit
Through June 15th, library hours. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Tuesday, May 2

Friends of the Library meeting. 5:30 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Thursday, May 4

Exploring Unitarian Universalist Theology, led by Starr King, seminarian, and Sonya Sukalski. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road. 525-0302.

Hilltop PTA elections for the 2006-07 school year executive board. To join the board or for information, contact Katherine Meurer. 526-3504.

Saturday, May 6

Kensington Nursery School **Annual Science Fun Fair**. For junior scientists aged 2-7. 15 hands-on science stations. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$3. 52 Arlington Ave. 524-7963.

Unitarian Universalist FIESTA! Annual Fundraising Silent and Live Auction. Cinco de Mayo refreshments, games, raffle, plant sale. Noon-3 p.m. Free. 1 Lawson Road. 525-0302.

Sunday, May 7

Beyond Rescue Remedy: **Flower Essences for Animals**. 2-4 p.m. \$15 donation, RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. 525-6155.

Personal Theology Seminar. Professor Dody Donnelly. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road. 525-0302.

Graduating high school class photo. 2:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 527-0530 or 524-2466.

Monday, May 8

Local author **Carole Meyers'** slide presentation of her book, *Weekend Adventures in San Francisco & Northern California*. 7 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Six Points to Successful Sales, Contra Costa Small Business Development Center. 7 p.m. Pinole Library, 2935 Pinole Valley Rd., Pinole.

Tuesday, May 9

Family Story time. 7 p.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Dads' Club annual officer elections. Some positions still open. 7 p.m. Hilltop School, Multi-purpose Room.

KENSINGTON

Kensington Educational Foundation meeting. 9 p.m. Hilltop School, Teachers' Lounge.



Berkeley Chamber Performance.
Avenue Winds. Ligeti, Hindemith, Nielsen, and Romero. 8 p.m.

\$20. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 525-5211.

Wednesday, May 10

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

Thursday, May 11

El Cerrito Garden Club Annual Tour of Gardens. 526-2976.

Kensington Community Service District meeting. 7:30 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 526-4141.

Exploring Prayer and Spiritual Practices for Unitarian Universalists. 7:30 p.m. Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Saturday, May 13

Friends of the Kensington Library Booksale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Silent auction 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave.

Kensington Hilltop School PTA and Dad's Club Annual Spring Carnival. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Hilltop School.

Non-Anesthetic Teeth Cleaning for Pets. 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., \$35 for teeth cleaning, \$12 for nail trim. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. Reservations. 525-6155.



Let's Talk About It:
Jewish Literature—Identity and Imagination, a reading and discussion series, made possible through a grant from Nextbook and the American Library Association. *Kaaterskill Falls* by Allegra Goodman. Led by Dr.

Naomi Seidman. 2 p.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Family story time. "Up, Up and Away! Things That Fly—Stories and Crafts." Listen to stories about flying things, then make a mini kite, a flying saucer, or a paper plane to fly at Fairmont Park! 11 a.m. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.



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Back to the 60s. Fund-raising benefit for Univ. Students' Cooperative Assoc. Screening of *Berkeley* with filmmaker and producer Bobby Roth, dessert and wine tasting with Narsai David. 7 p.m. Coventry Grove. 848-1936. www.usca.org/alumni/events/.

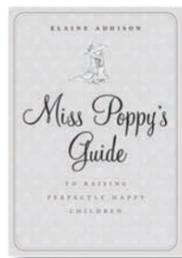
Sunday, May 14

Friends of the Kensington Library book sale. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Bag sale 3-4 p.m. Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave.

Arlington Children's Choir singing at the Mother's Day church service. 10 a.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. 526-9146.

Personal Theology Seminar. Zsolt Solymosi, "My Journey in Ministry: Teaching Transylvanian Unitarians." 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, 525-0302.

Monday, May 15



Elaine Addison will discuss her book **Miss Poppy's Guide to Raising Perfectly Happy Children.** 7 p.m. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

Tuesday, May 16

Berkeley Garden Club. **California Native**

Bumble and Other Bees, Prof. Gordon Franklin. 2 p.m. Epworth Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berkeley. 524-7296.

Family story time. 7 p.m. Free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

Thursday, May 18

Bike to Work Day.

Exploring Unitarian Universalist Heritage and Tradition. Rev. Cathleen Cox Burneo 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Saturday, May 20

Workshop: The **Once and Future Goddess Is Alive in You!** Rev. Cathleen Cox Burneo. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Donation \$35. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. (415) 662-2434.



Contra Costa Chorale, opera excerpts from Mozart, Beethoven, Verdi, Joplin, others. Nanette McGuinness, soprano soloist. Reception following concert. 7:30 p.m. \$17.50; \$15, students, seniors, disabled. Children free. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Sunday, May 21

Fourth Annual **Hidden Gems of Berkeley Bicycle Tour:** A family cycle tour of historic and unusual landmarks around town. Led by John Steere and Judith Reich. 8-10 mile route is easy and without hills. Info 847-0575.

Personal Theology Seminar. Psychologist, Buddhist, and teacher Kendra Smith: "What's It All About?" 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Meet the Guinea Pigs, with Jenna Guffey. 2-4 p.m. Free. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. 525-6155.

Tuesday, May 23

Classroom Safari with Bonnie Cromwell. Meet real wild animals. All ages welcome. 6:30 p.m. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.



Judith Turiel will give a talk on her book, **Our Parents, Ourselves.** 7 p.m. Free. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. 526-7512.

Wednesday, May 24

Kensington Republican Women's Club meeting. Talk: Rosie the Riveter. Noon. Mira Vista Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito.

Red Cross Blood Drive, San Pablo City Hall, 13831 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo.

Thursday, May 25

Exploring World Religions. Rev. Christopher Craethnenn 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Saturday, May 27

Chocolate & Chalk Art Festival, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Free. Solano Ave. Rain date June 3. Draw art! Eat chocolate! 527-5358.

Gala Concert of Violin and Piano. Mozart, Brahms, Rochburg. 8 p.m. Donation: \$20 general; \$15 seniors/students. Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd. 525-0302.

Sunday, May 28

The Joy of Rats, with Debra Mendelsohn of Bay Area Rats Rescue. 2-4 p.m. \$15 suggested donation. RabbitEars, 303 Arlington Ave. 525-6155.

Tuesday, May 30

Family story time. 7 p.m. Free. Kensington Library. 61 Arlington Ave. 524-3043.

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

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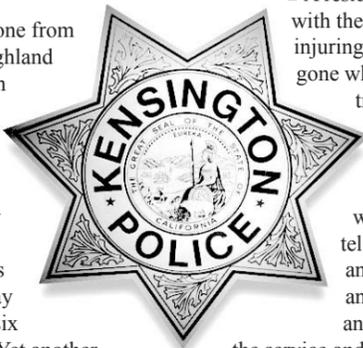
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From the case files of the KPD

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

Events in March

- Thieves stole two Acuras, one from Beliot Ave. and one from Highland Blvd.; both were recovered in Richmond. An Integra was reported missing from Arlington Ave.; an Accord was stolen from Highland Blvd. and found by the highway patrol; a Camry stolen from Cowper Ave. was also recovered by the highway patrol and then stolen again six days later; it is still missing. Yet another stolen car was recovered on Highland Blvd.
- A Porsche on Colusa Ave. had its window broken but nothing was stolen.
- Police stopped a car on Yale Ave. that had expired tags. The driver had no license or insurance. The car was impounded.
- There were hit-and-run accidents on Purdue Ave., Anson Way, Stanford Rd., and Berkeley Park Blvd. A neighbor informed a car owner on Lake that she had seen someone hit her car.
- Two people received anonymous phone calls. A person was threatened on Kingston Rd. and someone informed a resident that their roof was on fire, which was untrue.
- Goods and cash worth \$400 was stolen from a car on Highland Blvd.; a stereo and country music CDs worth \$680 were stolen from a car on Kenyon Ave.; and a Honda Civic was broken into and five keys were stolen from the glove compartment.
- At 8:25 p.m. the police were called to break up a party of juveniles on Windsor Ave. after a disturbance. Police were called back when the party started up again at 9:30. The juvenile did not have permission from his parents to have a party.
- The police were called to direct traffic on Kerr Ave. while a fire in a closet was extinguished by the fire department.
- A stereo used for the kids was stolen from the KCC offices.
- A house being remodeled had the fence unbolted but left in place, presumably by someone wanting to burgle the home when building work was completed.
- A man on Beloit Ave. wearing a Raiders jacket and with an unleashed dog was reported as being suspicious, but the police could find no Raiders fan at large in the neighborhood.
- Someone set fire to a stack of magazines outside the art room at Hilltop School.
- A mother called police when she locked herself out of her home with her two-year-old child inside.
- Someone on Franciscan Way thought they saw someone outside their window while watching a show on television.
- Graffiti was sprayed on a library outbuilding. A police officer compared the perpetrator to a dog marking its territory on a fire hydrant.
- A water-main break created a minor flood on Highland Blvd., which was speedily dealt with by the Kensington fire department and EBMUD, while police redirected traffic.



- A resident on Yale Ave. got angry with the driver of a large truck for injuring their trees. The truck was gone when the police arrived. The trees have survived so far.
- The Kensington police were called to a religious service in El Cerrito, which was showing videos of the late televangelist Dr. Gene Scott, and was disrupted by a mother and son who screamed insults and obscenities at the leader of the service and the congregation.

- Someone on Lexington Rd. thought there was a prowler rattling her front door. No one was found.
- The front license plate (the one without the renewal tags) was stolen from a car on Avon Rd.
- A car was stopped on Arlington Ave. for having no front license plate. The driver had a suspended license. Police said that even Ferraris and Corvettes need a front and rear license plate.
- Someone made a "prank" call to say that a person had been shot on Oberlin Ave. It seems that they wanted the excitement of sirens, flashing lights, and speeding black-and-whites.
- Neighbors on Arlington Ave. got into an altercation when one of them thought a drainage contractor had stepped into her yard.
- An aggressive dog was reported loose on Windsor Ave. The troubled hound is reportedly a recidivist, with a continuing roaming problem. Another large brown dog was reported running loose on Oak View. It had made a clean getaway by the time police and animal control people arrived.
- A hard-headed drunk was arrested after head-butting parked cars, as he made his way from El Cerrito to Kensington.
- A person on Highland Blvd. was the victim of identity theft; someone made 12 withdrawals of \$300 each from their Wells Fargo bank account. Someone on Cambridge Ave. reported that their identity had been used to get a cell phone from Nextel. And yet another person found \$189 worth of unordered mail order goods on their credit card statement. The items were sent to an address in Richmond.
- After school hours, an irate parent followed a teacher into a classroom at Hilltop to discuss his child's grades. The teacher felt threatened and called the police. The parent said he would sue the teacher.
- A suspicious Ford Taurus was reported in the Eldridge Ct. and Coventry Rd. area, but it was gone when police arrived. A resident of Ardmore Rd. reported a suspicious Dodge Caravan, presumably with a questionable driver.
- Police locked a car that was left open with tools and a laptop computer in view on the seats. They hid the computer in the car.

In all, Kensington police received 16 alarm calls; 13 calls for medical or health-related issues, mainly for elderly people; four accidental 911 calls; and many other calls for police attention.

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