

Hilltop School Wins Important Honor

Kensington Hilltop School, under the leadership of Principal Judith Sanders, is pleased to announce that the school has been awarded the 2018 California Distinguished Schools award by the state Department of Education. This award recognizes California elementary schools that have made exceptional gains

in implementing academic content and performance standards. Kensington Hilltop is the sole school in the West Contra Costa Unified School District to be awarded this honor—and is one of only 287 schools across the state.

Principal Sanders thanks everyone for the hard work that has gone into making Kensington an award-winning school. “I’m so proud of the work the Kensington community is doing to support all students’ success, and we’re so pleased to be recognized for the collaborative team of teachers and parents,” she said.

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MAY 2018

Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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A Rank and a Journey



Troop 104's newest Eagle Scouts from left, Thomas Franaszek, Evan Garrison, and Charlie Meacham. Photo by Paul Gilbert-Snyder.

By the Eagle Trio

Kensington residents Thomas Franaszek, Evan Garrison and Charlie Meacham were recently awarded the Boy Scouts of America rank of Eagle Scout. All three attended Kensington Hilltop Elementary School; Meacham and Garrison are juniors at El Cerrito High School and Franaszek is a senior at St. Mary's College High School in Berkeley. All three achieved Eagle Scout rank while in El Cerrito's Troop 104, which was originally chartered in 1939. Franaszek aged out of the troop when he turned 18 in February. Meacham and Garrison will remain in the troop through their senior year.

Franaszek and Meacham began their scouting journey as young Cub Scouts under the direction of Cubmaster Thomas Sherris-Watt. “My favorite Cub Scout outings were when we slept on the USS Hornet aircraft carrier and USS Pampanito submarine,” Meacham said.

At the end of fifth grade, all three boys joined Troop 104 in El Cerrito, initially directed by Scoutmaster George Gaebler and later by Karen and Jason Kondracki.

On their journeys, the three guys learned fire safety, orienteering, and camping, among other skills. They also spent time working on community service projects, including each

other’s Eagle Scout service projects. The boys participated in service projects at Yosemite, Lake Berryessa, Point Reyes and the Shadi Display on Moeser Ave.

“My favorite experiences so far as a Boy Scout have been the many summer weeks at Camp Wolfeboro and our sailing trip to the Florida Keys,” Meacham commented.

To become an Eagle Scout one must learn many skills to advance from rank to rank. In addition, one must complete 21 or more merit badges, some of which take months. The scout must also plan and carry out a service project benefiting a community organization of his choice. Franaszek planned and constructed an 88-foot-long cedar fence to protect wildlife around Baxter Creek Gateway Park in El Cerrito. Garrison’s project took place at El Cerrito’s Trinity Church, where he built a sandbox and ice cream truck-themed play structure as well as painted lines on basketball and four-square courts. Meacham built six planter boxes, some with irrigation, as part of a West County Digs program at Mira Vista Elementary School in Richmond, which educates students about growing their own food. Each project took about 270 work hours.

After completing all of the requirements for Eagle Scout, Meacham, Garrison, and Franaszek became the 98th, 99th, and 100th Eagle Scouts of Troop 104. “It is an astonishing feeling, to have a goal that felt unachievable at first and then finally achieving it,” Franaszek said. “It is a great weight off my back, but it also makes my time as a Boy Scout feel

See Eagle Scouts, Page 6



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REMEMBER THIS DAY!

Happy MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY, MAY 13th

Shopping on the Arlington?
Stop by the Raxakoul Coffee and Cheese Market. In addition to their fine selection of delectables, you will find assorted bouquets from D'Jour Floral.

Shopping on Colusa?
Look for a selection of bouquets and plants fresh daily at Colusa Market.

Attention Book and Vinyl Lovers:

Mark your calendars for the Spring Book Sale (including rare LPs)
9am-5pm at the Community Center, Saturday, May 12.
Sponsored by the Friends of the Kensington Library

Letters to the Editor

Police Should Focus on Law Enforcement

Dear Editor:

I attended the March 17 community meeting with Matrix Consulting Group to provide input into the study regarding the community's desires for its police force. I did not get to speak at that meeting, so I'm providing my comments here.

I would like the police to have sufficient resources to respond to emergency calls in a timely manner. I would not be satisfied with a department that had only enough resources to respond to violent or dangerous situations. I would be willing to wait a reasonable time for a response to non-emergency calls. In short, I would not be satisfied with Oakland's level of policing, but I would be fine with Albany's. And it should go without saying, that I would like all members of the police force to act professionally.

I would be satisfied with a police force that focused on law enforcement and crime prevention. I do not need to call the police for other issues. I have family, friends, and neighbors to help with those.

I do not care if the officer who answers my call is wearing a Kensington uniform or driving a Kensington police vehicle. Nor do I care if there is a local police station in Kensington. In fact, given that our current public safety building has seismic deficiencies, it may be preferable to have police services housed in a neighboring jurisdiction.

I would also like the Matrix study to address what it would take (reorganization, costs, etc.) to bring our department up to current policing standards and best practices. With this information, we should be able to evaluate the tradeoffs of keeping our own separate police force, or contracting out for these services. I look forward to seeing that analysis.

Jaz Zaitlin

Parents Need Voice, New Residents a Proportional Vote

Dear Editor:

I attended the town hall meeting on March 17, and I felt the representation of our community was skewed. I want to reinforce the request of parents of young children for a more convenient time to give feedback. The frustration was obvious in the few parents in attendance who felt they were unable to fully participate in community input. In failing to give parents an equal opportunity, Matrix will have failed in its stated goal per its handout under "Methodological Overview" to obtain "Input from...the community through... 'Town Hall' type meetings."

An online survey is available, but I don't feel it will have the same impact on Matrix as the comments at the meeting. Residents can submit letters, but parents have their hands full! They also are not an organized voice along the lines of many in the room on Saturday who invested time and money (think of the yard signs around town and the glossy flier mailed to everyone's home) advocating for their position.

In addition, the issue was raised at the meeting and in the flier that Kensington residents should be allowed to vote on the recommendations of Matrix. If I were a new homeowner, such as one of my neighbors currently paying twice my property tax, I might insist on a vote that is proportional to what I am contributing. In other words, votes would be prorated on taxes paid. I daresay the loudest voices at the March 17 meeting, many who enjoy low taxes courtesy of Proposition 13, might have the smallest voice in the final tally.

Having lived here for twenty years, I am eager for an impartial, professional assessment of the policing options available to Kensington and a realistic, transparent price tag attached to each option.

Mary Korn

Questions that Need Answers

Dear Editor,

I was away on March 17 and had to miss what I hear was a very well attended meeting about police services. I have long been open to contracting out, but I've never thought

See Letters, page 4

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

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

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

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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JUNE 2018 DEADLINES:
Advertising Deadline MAY 8 Editorial Deadline MAY 10

KENSINGTON

Community Education

KASEP Kensington Afterschool Enrichment Program

We are halfway into the Spring session. This has been a stellar year with 159 classes taught during this academic school year. KASEP is lucky to have a group of 16 creative and dedicated teachers of which 7 are celebrating over 15 years of teaching in our program. I salute their enthusiasm and hard work! As we near the end of the session, thank you families for a tremendous year.

Our last day of class is Friday, May 25th.



123 Math with Vicky - Creative ways to count



Taking a break from tennis lessons



Artful Animals with Carey
- Beautiful handmade bird pillows, nests & eggs

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, May 6th 3:30 - 4:30pm, KCC Office
Graduating High School Senior High Picture
Please help us spread the word!

Spring KASEP ends Friday, May 25th.
KCC Summer Camp begins June 11th and runs through August 17th.
Weeks are filling fast, register TODAY!

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

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

For further information, contact Nobuo at: nnishi50@gmail.com

510-495-4860

Acrylic Artists

Wednesdays, 9:45 - 12:30pm, Community Center

Open Studio, lots of natural light. Come paint with other artists. Easels and tables are provided. Bring your canvas, paints, and creativity. Friendly group!

Tai Chi Chuan

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

A gentle martial art, tai chi is a safe, rewarding activity for people of all ages and all levels of health. Tai chi incorporates both mind and

KCC Summer Camp 2018 Welcomes You!

Welcome to KCC Summer Camp 2018, a great place to spend your summer days. Camp is located in the beautiful east bay hills community of Kensington. Our facility has everything right on-site: tennis courts, basketball courts, and grassy area for soccer and ultimate Frisbee. In addition, there is a full kitchen, outside shade area for lunch, and classrooms for afternoon specialty teacher instruction for carpentry, clay work, and art. Sign up by the week; camp is affordable at only \$295 per camper per week. Camp fees include weekly field trips to local points of interests, BBQ each Friday, group tennis lessons, daily crafts and time to hang out with friends and of course a KCC Summer Camp T shirt!

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

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

Week 1 June 11 - June 15 * FULLY ENROLLED

- Specialty: Creative Clay with Jeanne
- Field Trip: The Jungle

Week 2 June 18 – June 22 * LIMITED SPACES LEFT

- Specialty: Carpentry with Sandy
- Field Trip: Pump It Up

Week 3 June 25 – June 29

- Specialty: SkyHawk Sports Medley with Victor
- Field Trip: Adventure Playground

Week 4 July 2 - July 6

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

Week 5 July 9 – July 13 – SPIRIT WEEK

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

Week 6 July 16 - July 20

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

Week 7 July 23 – July 27

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

Week 8 July 30 – Aug. 3

- OLYMPIC WEEK
- Field Trip: Bladuum

Week 9 Aug. 6 – Aug 10

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

Week 10 Aug 13 –Aug. 17 – End of Camp * LIMITED SPACES LEFT

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

SEEKING KCC ADMINISTRATOR /DIRECTOR

KCC is currently accepting applications for the KCC ADMINISTRATOR / DIRECTOR position. This person is responsible for Kensington's after-school enrichment program, the KCC Summer Camp and includes Recreational Programs for its adult community. The ideal candidate has a teaching credential, has prior experience in recreation planning, able to manage and coordinate resources, and liaison to problem solving. Must be organized and have good computer skills. Being fluent in learning new software applications is a must! Excel, Word, and a proprietary online registration software program are all programs used for reporting, fiscal reconciliation and management of class enrollments. Rowena Cerri, KCC's current administrator is relocating out of the area and we are unfortunately going to lose a talented, compassionate, and competent leader. Rowena has been with KCC for over 3 years and is a hard act to follow. Interested candidates, please send your resume and 3 letters of recommendation to KCC at 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, 94707.

Top Six Reasons to Come to Carnival

By Nicole Whiting

Spring in Kensington isn't complete without the magical fun of the biggest party in town, so mark your calendar for this year's 71st Annual Spring Carnival at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School Saturday, May 12 from 11am-3pm. Bring the whole family to enjoy carnival games and prizes, delicious food, White Elephant sale, "Deals on Wheels" bargains, and our lovely plant sale!

Here are the top six reasons to come up to the school:

#6: Games, Activities and Treats

Have a blast playing games and enjoying activities for all ages. Start the fun at the face-painting and hair feathers booths—then it's onto Water Balloon Catapult, Cheese Toss, and Sleeping Pirate. Our Pick My Nose, Alligator Outhouse, and Five Little Monkeys booths were so popular last year that we're bringing them back! You'll also have a chance to win a delicious cake from the kids' favorite, Cake Walk. Thank you to realtor Ruth Frassetto for her many years sponsoring of the Cake Walk, and her generous donation of sixty cakes.



#5: Yummy Carnival Food

Hilltop's very own "pop up" lunch spot, the Dads' Club Grill, will be serving up famous tri-tip sandwiches, as well as sausages, hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs. We have your carnival favorites too, like popcorn, sno-cones, root beer floats, and cotton candy. And back this year due to hundreds of last year's happy customers is the Bake Sale, with treats to enjoy after your meal or take home. Rice crispy treats, chocolate chip cookies, cupcakes and more!



#4: Shopping Galore

Get to the White Elephant Sale early and shop the best bargains in town! Whether it's for Mother's Day gifts or items for the family, Carnival's White Elephant Sale is the place to shop. You can also kick-start spring cleaning by donating gently used items for the sale. Items will be accepted 9am-6pm Friday, May 11, at the Multi-Purpose Room of Hilltop (no computers, electronics, or large furniture, please). Then stop by the White Elephant Sale on Carnival day starting at 11 for really great bargains! For serious shoppers, consider coming at 10:30 for our Early Bird presale—a \$20 donation gets you behind the ropes for an extra thirty minutes of shopping!

The best deals on kids' bicycles can be had at the Carnival's "Deals on Wheels" bike sale. Get here early to nab some seriously amazing deals. This is also a chance to free up garage space and give your old bike new life. Donated equipment, including tricycles, foot-to-floor mobiles, or anything with wheels, can be dropped off at Hilltop behind the multi-purpose room on Friday, May 11.

#3: Secret Garden: "...and the secret garden bloomed and bloomed and every morning revealed new miracles..."

This year's theme for the plant sale comes from *The Secret Garden*—Mary Hodgson Burnett's timeless reminder of the profound impact that gardening and discovery can have on the lives of young people. Stop by and see the fresh seedling starts, as well as sweet succulent arrangements and other delightful items for sale! Spring is in the air with fresh blooms all around, and this year we will have opportunities for DIY at the table: Pot a lovely springtime mix of blooms for Mom's special day, or create a sweet scene as you put finishing touches on a succulent or plant arrangement with figurines inspired by literature—sweet birds, butterflies, bunnies and more! All proceeds benefit KHS students, so come have some fun at our table! Garden-themed books will be available for inspiration as well!



#2: Quilt Raffle

Be sure to purchase your raffle tickets before and during the Carnival! The grand prize this year is the beautiful "Rainbow Ribbons" quilt, lovingly created by community volunteers Susan and James Morford and school parents Sherry Garcia, Cathy Lo, Kin Foong Perry, and Jennifer Ritter. Tickets are just \$5 each, so purchase a pack from your neighborhood Hilltop student to increase your chances at winning the quilt. You could also win one of four wonderful runner-up prizes of shopping sprees at Kensington businesses; each shopping spree is worth \$200-\$300!



We are so grateful to the wonderful local businesses that have contributed to these prizes! Arlington Avenue businesses: The Arlington Wine & Spirits, Raxacoul Coffee & Cheese Market, Kensington Fine Foods, Kensington Home & Hardware, Kensington Smog, Repair & Fuel, Inn Kensington, Kensington Nail Spa, The Arlington and Young's Market. Colusa Circle businesses: The Farmers Market, Benchmark Pizza, Zip Code East Bay, Hendrickson Chiropractic, Colusa Market, Circle Salon, The Fuse Fitness, Kensington Vet Hospital, and Semifreddi's. And thanks to realtor Mark Choi of Marvin Gardens Real Estate for again helping to underwrite the costs of running the raffle.

And the #1 reason: Support a Great Cause!

Kensington Hilltop School's Spring Carnival and raffle proceeds are used to fund PTA and Dads' Club projects such as Dads' Club work parties, earthquake readiness supplies, recreation equipment for the kids, school assemblies, Art Night and Movie Night. Spring Carnival is a celebration of our school community, and we can't wait to see you and your family there!

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Letters

...from page 2

it was a foregone conclusion; thus, I am greatly encouraged that the KPPCSD board has contracted with Matrix to explore options and get specifics on potential contracts (including services and costs). Following are the issues most important to me.

Finances: Can Kensington afford to have its own police department? In light of pension obligations, salaries, and administrative overhead, are we living beyond our means by managing an independent police department? Could the community save money by contracting out?

Discipline/HR: Given KPD's checkered history around lapses in discipline and problematic officers, would contracting out give residents and officers access to an HR department that would promote better discipline and provide a robust grievance process?

Community policing: If Kensington contracted out, could we become a precinct of a larger department with officers assigned specifically to Kensington? (I'd very much like to see officers assigned to Kensington so that they'd know the community. This seems to concern many residents, who don't want an impersonal department staffed with a random and ever-changing pool of officers who wouldn't get to know the community.)

Staffing: Would we be relieved of some of the financial burdens (and staffing shortages and resulting overtime obligations) associated with having officers out on illness/disability or disciplinary suspensions/desk duty, if staffing was overseen by a larger department? Also, would we have the option of retaining officers who are a good fit for the community and who have served us well? (I would hope so.)

I look forward to getting answers to these questions. Only then can we make rational decisions about how to proceed. The board has my support as they take a clear-eyed approach to evaluating the options open to our community, and I am confident that they will be guided by the data. Ours is an evolving community in a changing world. If we need to make changes, we will.

Andrea Lingenfelter

Pros, Cons, and a Third Option

Dear Editor:

I can summarize my concerns regarding the potential contracting out of the Kensington Police Department by saying I don't know enough to make a decision. Those who have made a decision must have information that hasn't made it to my house.

The first critical piece of information is the minimum staffing level required to provide an appropriate level of police protection. We have had a staffing level of nine officers and one chief/general manager in the past. It seems that the Kensington community thought that was adequate. I have no way to independently verify whether that is the appropriate minimum or if the current force of six officers and an interim police chief is an appropriate level. Until we understand staffing levels, all other conversations are just conversations.

Then we can look at how to provide the staff. There are pros and cons to the current set-up and the contracting-out possibilities. There could be a third option—Kensington employs the officers but contracts out for such services as human resources and ancillary services.

The current set-up allows for personnel actions to be handled locally. That can be good if one has a favorite officer, but it could be bad in the event that an officer does not follow procedures. With such a small department, the chief must be a jack of all trades and expert in none. This has not served the community well over the last several years. The current set-up makes it difficult to recruit and train, and keeping officers on active duty has been a challenge. There appears to be no short-term solution, and I would like to understand the long-term solution if there is one.

Contracting out would allow for consistent levels of staffing and personnel specialists to ensure officers are appropriately trained and follow procedures. With contracting out you lose local control of salaries and benefits and end up with whatever the contracting department is providing. Costs would be different, but probably not significantly.

Craig Rice

Dollars and Sense

Dear Editor:

Dollars and sense come to mind when considering our police force and our ongoing exposure to liability. Quite simply, we have runaway legal and litigation costs for ten years, in part caused by lawsuits against our police, costs for investigations regarding allegations of intimidation of residents, personnel harassment, and misconduct issues relating to personal information accessed via CLETS. The current board, to its credit, selected Ann Danforth, whose moderate rates reduce ongoing legal fees; nevertheless, the costs continue due to the multiple appeals of officers and ongoing, seemingly never-ending legal issues resulting from Renegade, the Berkeley stop, citizen complaints and now the Saba RICO suit.

My concern is in order to maintain our local "independent" department with its problematic officers, we taxpayers would need to be willing to shoulder the burden for ongoing legal costs and resulting increased liability insurance premiums. That means—increased taxes. Why do I say this? Because, as we know, past actions are a predictor of future actions.

We hire, we are liable; we contract for services, we are not liable because the officers are hired by the provider. It's on them, that is why the provider controls the hiring process. Yes, we would pay a proportional amount of legal fees as part of the comprehensive hourly rate configured, but we would not have the major liability and resulting costs. It is a prime reason towns contract out—to reduce legal liability, pension debt and workers comp.

Legal costs from 2015-17 based on the audits including consulting fees for police and district business are as follows: for 2017 \$274,067; for 2016 \$298,238; for 2015 \$260,110. Consulting fees have included investigations in the past or other legal assignments. It isn't broken out. For this budget year Jul 2017-Feb 2018, our fees to date are \$78,000 (\$33k legal, \$45k police).

If you are not in favor of another tax assessment, then please stay open and flexible to review and consider the fact-based proposals Matrix will develop for costs and quality of service.

Marilyn Stollon

Time to Face the Music

Dear Editor:

Much like our country is doing, Kensington is testing the limits on how bad we can let things become. How many signs on the wall are needed? I'm talking about KPD and its continuous abuse of the town and our resources. But if there is any finger-pointing, you should look to the KPPCSD board. I told them over a year and a half ago that they needed

to seriously consider solutions to this problem. But they ignored it. Now it has come time to face the music.

The RICO lawsuit filed against the officers and Kensington, combined with every other scandal, is evidence that we have a major problem. And we've known that for quite a while, yet we refuse to do anything about it. The problem is we have some bad apples that are continuing to ruin it for everyone, and nobody can seem to fix it. I'm not for or against contracting out, but I can tell you this much for sure. If you keep the KPD, the entire house has to be cleaned out, or the problems will continue. If you contract out, the worst you can expect is more accountability.

I don't see the kind of problems we have with the police in surrounding cities. That's due to the oversight we lack. Unchecked power is always abused. And I believe that certain members of the board are helping promote the problem. If this RICO lawsuit doesn't light a fire under the board's rear end, then something smells like a rat. People have brought up the legal costs of defending the town/police over and over. Now the lack of leadership has allowed this to get out of hand. Creating groups to study solutions for the problem would be fine if they didn't take years to give an answer. If you're entrusted to run this small town, and you had advance notice of a problem this big but failed to address it, then it's time for you to quit. This problem needs to be addressed now. All of this could've and should've been avoided.

Todd Grosvenor

Letters continued at kensingtonoutlook.com

Rare Vinyl Records a Draw at Annual Spring Book Sale

By Jim Fisher

The annual Spring Book Sale of the Friends of the Kensington Library coincides with the Spring Carnival at Kensington Hilltop Elementary. The event takes place from 9am-5pm at the Community Center Saturday, May 12.

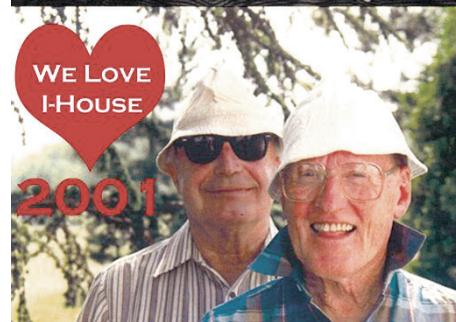
This spring, the sale features a trove of vinyl LP discs from the collection of Vern Haddick (1928-2017), Professor Emeritus at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS). For 25 years, Vern was a devoted and beloved instructor in the school's Integral Counseling Psychology (ICP) program, offering the first such East-West graduate degree in the world.

With his life partner Paul Herman (1927-2012), Vern provided a model for a long-term, loving, and intellectually vibrant relationship. The two met as residents at UC Berkeley's International House in 1951, forming a lasting partnership that endured more than fifty years. When not teaching, the two Kensington residents were avid world travelers, an occupation that allowed Vern, an enthusiast of music, to assemble an internationally sourced collection of nearly 3,000 vinyl LP recordings.

The emphasis of the collection is on Western art music, including recordings of early music on period instruments; performances of baroque, classical, and contemporary compositions; and opera. Ethnic or world music is also well represented, with recordings from a wide variety of regional music traditions.

Approximately 70 percent of the collection—or more than 2,000 LP vinyl discs—will be available at the spring sale for a quarter a disc, or five for a buck. Stanford University's Archive of Recorded Sound receives the remainder.

The Friends provide the Kensington Library with funds to purchase roughly a quarter of its books. It also provides children's and cultural programs for the community. Contributions to the FKL are tax deductible and eligible for corporate matching gifts. Volunteers are always needed at the twice-yearly book sales.



JAZZERCISE KENSINGTON

Jazzercise Kensington has moved to
Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington.

Low impact aerobics great for seniors!

Need to lose a little weight or build up your muscles?
Start May 1st with a free month and no processing fee.
No money down—payment starts on June 1st.
Hope to see you in class!
Any questions call Kevin at 510-486-2728.

BOOK SALE

Friends of the Kensington Library

**Sat, May 12
9am - 5pm**

**In the Kensington
Community Center
59 Arlington Ave
Kensington, 94707**



- Thousands of books!
- Fiction hardbacks \$1.00
- Trade paperbacks 50¢
- Pocket pbks and vinyl LPs 25¢ (or 5 for \$1.00)
- CD's, DVD's and audio books \$1.00-\$5.00
- \$3.00 Bag Sale 3pm - 5pm
- "Better books" priced accordingly

This sale only:
Over 2,000 vinyl LPs
from a donated special collection!

**More letters and story on food composting survey
at kensingtonoutlook.com. See page 9, May 2018**



At Prospect Sierra, our whole focus is to help your children become successful students and caring people who strive to build a better world.

Come see how we're different.

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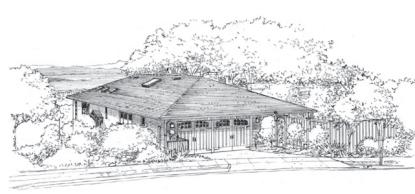
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Annual KPOA Meeting to Address District Issues

By Kevin Padian and Gail Feldman, KPOA Board Members

The Kensington Property Owners Association will hold its annual meeting and election of directors Saturday, May 19, from 10am-noon at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue. All are welcome. Issues critical to the town's future will be discussed by our scheduled speakers, Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, KPPCSD Director Sylvia Hacaj, and President of the Kensington Fire Board Janice Kosel, followed by a moderated question and answer period. An Information Fair, with tables outside the center, allows residents to inform themselves about community services and activities. This is an exciting yearly event with an extended format to explore issues and solutions that affect all residents. You don't have to be a property owner to attend, and if you aren't a member you can join!

Topics addressed in the meeting will include: (1) future options for police services, update on the Matrix study, the ad hoc committee report, and other issues; (2) next steps for possible renovation of the Public Safety Building; (3) timing and financial planning for the renovation of the Community Center; and (4) lessons learned from the Wine Country Fires: how Kensington can respond as a town and as a collection of neighborhoods. All are of timely and critical importance to our community, and the KPOA Board is grateful to our speakers and sponsors of tables at the Information Fair.

Coffee and tea will be served. Please bring your neighbors and your questions. See you there!

It's 2018—and We Now Own Kensington Park

By Anne Forrest, Kensington Community Council

To ensure that we have open green space smack in the middle of Kensington, with fantastic views and natural beauty, Kensington residents have been assessed \$100 a year on their property taxes since 1998. This year the dream of community ownership of this wonderful park will come true; the twenty-year bond will be paid off! A lot of hard work went into the negotiation and purchase of this property from the West Contra Costa School District. We want to celebrate this accomplishment at a Big Green Park Party to show our appreciation for the hard work to secure the popular park for everyone's use and enjoyment.

While we celebrate paying off the bond, we now need to focus on the upkeep of the brick and mortar side of the equation—the renovation of the Community Center. If each household in Kensington pledged the same \$100 assessed to buy the park for one, two, or three years, we would be a lot closer to making sure that Kensington residents have a safe and welcoming Community Center to complement the 360-degree views in Kensington Park.

As president of the Kensington Community Council (KCC), which oversees both the afterschool education programs for our children (KASEP) and the KCC Summer Camp, I am looking forward to finally starting the renovation of the Community Center this summer. As a lifelong Kensington resident, I understand that a project of this size only happens once every thirty years. The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) is anticipating that it will be ready to review bids in May and award a bid by the end of June.

Please join KCC and the Kensington 360° fundraising group on Sunday, June 24 from 2-5pm at the Community Center for the Kensington Park Celebration—the Big Green Park Party! This event will celebrate our ownership of Kensington Park and look to the future as we anticipate the start of the renovation project on the Community Center. Please mark your calendars to join your friends and neighbors in an afternoon of fun with refreshments and family activities as we honor the work to secure the park and anticipate the renovation of the Community Center during the next two years.

Eagle Scouts

...from page 1

conclusive."

In March, all three young men were celebrated. Meacham and Franaszek shared a large, festive ceremony, at which KPPSCD President Rachelle Sherris-Watt, El Cerrito Mayor Gabriel Quinto, and Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia spoke about the accomplishments of the two scouts and, more importantly, about the benefits of scouting and contributing to one's community. Garrison's more intimate celebration focused on his family and personal connections. Both Garrison's grandfather, Jim Demos, and family friend, Kensington resident and Eagle Scout Jim Thomson, spoke about Garrison's accomplishments.

All three have plans and aspirations for the future. Garrison said, "I'm currently hoping to get an internship at NASA this fall, and later become an aerospace engineer." Both Meacham and Garrison will continue leading and mentoring the younger scouts in Troop 104 until they graduate from high school in 2019. Meacham also plans to continue to pursue his passion for playing the trumpet. Franaszek is considering majoring in forestry in college and has yet to determine which college he will attend. The trio will be recognized for their achievements at the KPPCSD meeting Thursday, May 24.

Hillside Fest Climbs Cliffs May 4-6

What's better than a walk in the park? Learn about our natural hillside topography, plants, and animals at the fifth annual El Cerrito Hillside Fest. The event kicks off Friday May 4 at noon with an introduction to the Hillside Natural Area, its history and natural history. Meet at Navellier and Blake. At 6:30, ramble through the hillside. Expect beautiful views and a couple of steep uphill sections (it is a hillside, after all).

Saturday from 10-11am is a young person's nature hike starting at Madera School. From 11am-3pm is the popular Dog Scouts of America. Meet a therapy dog and discover whether your dog has a super nose. Meet at Madera School. From 1-3pm is a community service event to remove invasive plants while also learning about natives. At 2 pm, Richard Schwarz discusses life before the arrival of Spanish colonists. Signs will direct you from the trailhead on Regency Court.

Sunday from 10-1, play Wildlife Bingo and from 2:30-4, enjoy a wildflower and tree hike. There are many more activities—come and explore. Google El Cerrito Trail Trekkers for more events, maps, and suggestions for a great day on the hill.

Kensington Calendar

Locations:

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

Ongoing:

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10
Acrylic Artists Wednesdays, 9:45-12:30pm, Community Center, \$9
Tai Chi Chuan Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10
Jazzercise with Kevin Knickerbacker ACC, Mondays-Fridays, 9:15am \$20 class or \$55 unlimited per month.
Mindful Yoga with Wendy Beckerman Tuesdays, 9:15am, bring yoga mat. \$18 drop in or discount for series. ACC.
Israeli Folk Dance Wednesdays, \$6, lessons/beginners 8pm, request dance party starts at 9pm. ACC.

MAY

May 1, 15, 22 & 29 Family Story-time Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.
May 3 Everyone's Fellowship, ACC, 6pm. Monthly potluck supper and program for ACC'ers and guests. Open to all. Free.
May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs, puppets, shaky eggs, and loads of fun! Kensington Library, Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free.
May 4 Hillside Festival kicks off at noon on May 4 and runs through Sunday evening, May 6. See story in this issue.
May 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 Cabaret, the musical by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, and based on the book by Joe Masteroff, is presented by Theatre of the Blue Moon, directed by Erin Merritt, music direction by Scrumbly Koldewyn and featuring Clay David as the Emcee, Emily Radosevich as Sally, and Donna Davis* as Fraulein Schneider. Post-Show TalkBack Sunday, May 6 and Pre-Show Talk May 11 at 7pm with the director. Warning: This production may not be suitable for people under 18. UUCB, 8pm on Fridays & Saturdays; 3pm

on Sundays. Tickets \$20 adult, \$15 students, available at the door or through brownpapertickets.com. No one turned away for lack of funds. uucb.org or 510-525-0302. *Member, Actors Equity Association.

May 5 Worm Composting Workshop

Todd Sutton, an expert with more than 26 years in the environmental field, will conduct a Worm Composting Workshop. RSVP 925-674-7831 or maureen.parkes@ded.cccounty.us Kensington Community Center, 10am-noon. Free.

May 5 Singing Machaut's Medieval Polyphony

ACC, 10am. \$85 General \$75 Student. Vajra Voices director Karen R. Clark with ensemble members Allison Zelles Lloyd and Amy Stuart Hunn, present a workshop for singers and conductors. Join us for a day of vocal technique, diction coaching in medieval French, and performance practice in singing the elegant 14th century music of Guillaume de Machaut. Allison, Amy, and Karen enjoy presenting the intricacies of this challenging repertory and making it accessible to eager singers of all ages. Immerse yourself in the joys of making music. Register today: Google Vaira Voices.

May 6 Imam Wali Muhammed, spiritual leader of the Muslim Mission Center in Richmond, CA. "Al-Islam." UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

May 7 Kensington Library Knitting Club

"The Castoffs" All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. We will provide support, encouragement and help. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. Normally meets on the 1st Monday of the month. 6:30pm. Free.

May 7 & 21 Kensington Library's Digital Docent

will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1pm. This one-on-one free 60-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign up onsite at Info Desk. Please bring your device.

May 8 Draw Comic Book Heroes Join animator/illustrator Sam Filstrup during Free Comic Book Week as he teaches you how to draw some of your favorite comic book heroes. Filstrup will lead children ages 8-15 through drawing Spider-Man and Wonder Woman. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

May 10 El Cerrito Garden Club The first five years of the school garden at the El Cerrito High School will

be presented by Sarah Sirchuk, who will discuss and show slides about how the garden began and how it has grown. Meet at 9:30am in the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane in El Cerrito. Members are free, and visitors cost \$3 each. The program begins after a short business meeting and a refreshment break. For questions, call Bonnie at 510 237 4654.

May 12 Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Kensington Library will hold its annual Spring Book Sale from 9am-5pm in the Kensington Community Center at 59 Arlington Avenue. Of special interest this year are over 2,000 vinyl LP discs from a donated special collection, and an expanded children's section. See story in this issue.

May 12 71st Annual Spring Carnival

at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School 11am-3 pm. Family fun, games/activities, food, shopping, plant sale and raffle/prizes. See pg. 4 for details. www.kensingtonhilltop.org/carnival/

May 13 Lonnie Moseley (UUCB)

Membership Co-Chair, Member of UUCB Program Council and Social Justice Council, writer, jazz lover) and Cordell Sloan (UUCB Board Trustee, Member of Stewardship Committee, technology guru, lucid dreamer and son of Rev. Cordell Sloan, Sr). "A Black Christian Couple Wake up One Morning as Unitarian Universalists." UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

May 14 Fine Arts Lecture: Cult of the Machine

A docent from the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco will shed scholarly light on Precisionism, an important early strand of American modernism. Featuring masterworks by O'Keefe, Demuth, Sheeler, and others. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

May 15 Make your own golden

penny! Okay, it's not really gold, but it looks like it. Still only worth a penny though. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.

May 18 Bridge Night

6pm, ACC. Monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACC'ers and new guests.

May 20 Rev. Emese Bodor

Balazs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry, ordained Unitarian minister in Romania, and religious teacher and school chaplain at the János Zsigmond Unitarian High School. "The Importance of Education in Transylvanian Unitarian Communities." UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

May 21 Memoir Group

10am, ACC. Free monthly memoir group led by Ruth Robinson in the Fireside Room.

May 21 Kensington Library Book Club

Discussion of *Burger's Daughter* by Nadime Gordimer. Book Club normally meets on the 4th Monday of the month, and is open to all. 6:30pm. Free.

May 27 Planning and Evaluation of the Personal Theology program.

Please join us to help evaluate past speakers as well as offer suggestions for future topics and/or speakers. Your input and ideas are important to keeping this program current and meaningful. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

FOOD COMPOSTING SURVEY

Be sure to fill out the survey card sent with your Bay View invoice. Responses due May 31. Return card with payment or take survey online. Click on the link at KPPCSD.org to access survey. More info at kensingtonoutlook.com



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March and April police logs will run next issue. Sorry we missed it this time!

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Town Meetings

Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington

KCC-MAY 7, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 6:30pm. 525-0292

FKL-MAY 1, Friends of the Kensington Library, 6:30pm (at the Library) 1st Tuesdays

KPSC-MAY 14, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

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

KFPD-MAY 9, Fire Protection District 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD-MAY 10, MAY 24, Police Protection and Community Services District 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

KIC- MAY 28, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30pm. 524-7514

KMAC (Tent.)-Municipal Advisory Council Last Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia's office to confirm: 231-8691)

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

Classified Ads

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Food Composting Survey

By Eileen Nottoli, KPPCSD board director

KPPCSD will conduct a survey in May on the timing of new service enhancements—including the addition of weekly food composting. These changes address interest expressed by some residents to compost food waste and concern for meeting possible state requirements to collect food waste by January 1, 2022. The board recently learned from Tracy Swanborn, with Walnut Creek-based environmental management consulting firm HF&H Consultants, that given China's refusal to accept some recyclables, other diversion efforts, such as food waste composting, is likely inevitable. Our choice now seems to be when to start the new program.

Food waste is estimated by the EPA and California to be 18 to 21 percent of wastes going to landfills, and state regulations require that food wastes for composting be collected weekly. This offers a benefit with having green waste removed weekly instead of waiting two to three weeks between our current bimonthly green waste pickup, an important benefit as Kensington has been designated a high fire hazard area.

Bay View will provide each resident with one or two 65-gallon wheeled carts for yard trimmings and food waste. Wheeled carts are easy to move to the curb/street and minimize rodents getting to the food waste. Additional bags/containers of green waste will also be collected at no additional charge. Bay View will also provide one 65-gallon wheeled cart for recyclables.

These enhancements will increase rates 7 percent, if implemented in early 2019, in addition to a 3 percent annual inflation adjustment for a total of 10 percent increase. Most residents subscribe to the 32-gallon rate so the new rate would be \$50.22 versus the current rate of \$44.56. If KPPCSD delays service changes and food waste composting, the rate increase may be higher if the capacity of the nearest compost facility becomes limited before Kensington opts in.

A survey card will be included with Bay View invoices that will be mailed in late April. All responses received by May 31 will be counted. You can return the card with payment or drop it off at the Public Safety Building office, or you can take the survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/KPPCSD-Compost. Each survey card will include a unique number that must be used when responding online, and duplicate responses will be rejected.

Policing Within a Budget

Dear Editor:

In March, we all received from folks who do not want to identify themselves a glossy (read expensive) mailer that warned that the current KPPCSD board is trying to shut down the Kensington Police Department.

Yes, the current board authorized a study (by the Matrix group, which is experienced and respected in analyzing police services) to explore our law enforcement needs, the ideal characteristics of policing services, and alternative strategies along with cost estimates of providing those services, strategies that include making changes in the current department as well as outsourcing all or part of our policing needs.

I ask, "Why are these anonymous folks not willing (or afraid) to find out what needs to be done to improve our policing services and ways and costs to do so?" Surely improvements could be made, such as better training resources, 24-7 supervision, more advancement opportunities, support staff who can do many of jobs that our expensive sworn officers now do, sufficient backup to maintain adequate staffing when the inevitable illness, disability, retirement occurs.

The KPPCSD board has been elected by the Kensington voters to decide/control how to provide policing and how to pay for it. Policing is expensive, and the taxes authorized inevitably do not pay for everything on our wish list of wants. These hard choices are not easy, but knowing what the options are can help all of us realize what is important enough that we are willing to pay for.

The current board is not trying to shut down the Kensington Police Department. Rather it is trying to find ways to provide quality policing that fits within our budget. We elected them to do that job.

Mabry Benson

Reckless Mailing

Dear Editor:

Days before the town hall meeting with the Matrix Consulting Group, an anonymous mailer was delivered to Kensington residents. The four-page full color illustrated political mailer was titled Kensington Independent. The recklessly irresponsible front-page headline messages made various claims that Kensington could "lose" the police department, and the KPD was being "killed" by the KPPCSD board!

The contents of the next three pages continued to make similar exaggerated and erroneous claims and strongly suggested citizens attend the upcoming Matrix meeting. The only thing made clear by the crude newsletter is that it was intended to incite and misinform Kensington residents.

Kensington voters overwhelmingly voted in a KPPCSD board to seek solutions to improve the delivery of our public safety services. To begin that process a new district general manager has been hired. And the board tasked Matrix Consultants with evaluating our present police situation, get community input and deliver their findings and make recommendations based on real information.

One can only guess at the motives of the group who wrote, produced, and funded the expensive mailer. If we are being asked to take its hyperbole-rich content seriously then in my view it has done nothing toward solving our police problems.

Only by working with facts and real information can the district move forward to provide quality policing and public safety services for all of Kensington.

John Gaccione

Tax Scams Ripen in Spring

Dear Editor:

It is tax season again! Just a friendly reminder to be aware of mail theft, as thieves may obtain your personal information this way (social security and credit card numbers). If you receive any IRS paperwork, phone calls, or emails that you believe may be fraudulent, please contact your tax preparer and the IRS to substantiate the information. Make sure you are speaking with the IRS, and do not use phone numbers provided to you in any possibly fraudulent documents/messages.

If you receive any unexpected deposits in your bank accounts from the IRS, without having filed your taxes, contact the real IRS to report this. Scammers have been known to call, posing as the IRS, demanding you immediately withdraw the money and send it to them. This is another scam.

As always, please be vigilant and watch for suspicious people/vehicles in the area that may be stealing mail (this is one of the easiest ways for them to obtain your personal information during this time of year). Avoid leaving mail unattended for long periods of time, and remove mail from your box as soon as possible after delivery. If you have any questions, please contact the police at (510) 526-4141. Stay safe, and have a nice day!

Officer Stephanie Wilkens K50

Kensington Police Department