

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

May 2004

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Volume 61 Number 4

Board OKs temporary move of Hilltop to Portola

Final approval will depend on environmental impact report expected by the end of June

The West Contra Costa Unified School District Board approved a plan to relocate students from Kensington Hilltop Elementary school to portable classrooms on the Portola Middle School campus during the planned \$15.5 million modernization beginning this summer.

The 4-0 vote, with trustee Charles Ramsey recusing himself because his children attend Hilltop, followed a series of sometimes contentious public meetings, intensive lobbying efforts and behind-the-scenes negotiations with El Cerrito officials. El Cerrito expressed concern about adding traffic to the congestion already caused by both having Portola and

Prospect Sierra Middle School across from each other on Moeser Ave.

"The best decision for the children, for their safety and education, is to move them to Portola," Hilltop Dad's Club president Larry Polito, a member of Kensington's Measure M site, told the board before the vote.

The decision is expected to save the district \$800,000 by using the same temporary classrooms for Portola students when Hilltop's construction is completed and Portola's begins. In addition, the plan is expected to help contain construction cost at Hilltop and minimize opportunities for delays by not having to stage the work.

The vote came after a sharp reversal from superintendent Gloria Johnston, who only weeks before had delayed a vote on the relocation after meeting with El Cerrito officials.

She told a gathering of about 60 Hilltop parents that she opposed the move because their "children would not be safe."

A traffic study from traffic engineer consultants Abrams Associates prepared for the district concluded the relocation "would not result in any special or unusual traffic safety problems." Parents, as well as board members, challenged Johnston's assertions and pointed to the much greater dangers and disruption to learning that would come from keeping students in an active construction zone.

The vote on the relocation was followed by a second vote by the board to work with the city of El Cerrito to develop a memorandum of understand to craft mitigations to traffic problems and minimize safety concerns.

Though no specific measures have been agreed upon, associate superintendent

Vince Kilmartin said measures might include staggered start times for the schools, additional signage and parking restrictions, the use of carpools and buses to minimize traffic.



Gloria Johnston

Trustee George Harris, III called the plan a "breakthrough" because of the cooperation between all of the parties involved and the benefits he expects that to yield. He also praised Kensington parents for their "selfless" decision in supporting the relocation away from where they feel "safe and comfortable" and for not asking for anything in return.

Harris quickly added "that last remark wasn't to put in your mind the idea you should be asking for something."



Dalmatian not included: Kensington's new custom pumper in El Cerrito waiting for firefighters to put on the final pieces of equipment. The four-wheel drive vehicle is lighter than the 21-year-old pumper it replaces and better suited to ride the hilly streets of Kensington as well as travel off-road to fight wildfires along the community's ridge.

Fired up

Kensington's new \$295,000 pumper is customized to better handle the community's hilly streets and designed to go off-road

Kensington residents will have a chance to kick the tires on the community's new pumper, a \$295,000 customized vehicle in classic fire engine red, May 1 at the Kensington Fire Protection District's open house.

The new pumper is outfitted with the cab of a truck and is lighter than its predecessor to allow it to better navigate the sharp turns and hilly terrain of Kensington. It replaces the community's 21-year-old fluorescent yellow-green pumper that had an appetite for brakes and tires and was not designed to drive off-road.

The new engine also has specially designed compartments to store equipment for the paramedic program. Coupled with improvements made during the past five years to Kensington's water system that will provide enough water for three pumpers to fight a wildfire along the community's ridge, officials say Kensington residents should feel safer.

"It is much safer," said Janice Kosel, a Kensington Fire

See Fire page 2

Group sues AC Transit over diesel buses on 67 line



The 67 bus has some fuming

A Kensington-Berkeley neighborhood group filed suit against AC Transit charging the agency violated California law when it failed to get an environmental impact report prior to placing diesel buses on the 67 line.

The suit follows months of meetings and lobbying from residents along the 67

bus line to get AC transit to replace the current 30-foot long diesel buses with smaller, gasoline powered-alternatives and reduce the frequency of service.

In June 2003, AC Transit replaced gas-powered vans along the route, which runs through winding residential streets in Kensington, with 30-foot long diesel buses. Since then, residents have complained of noise, pollutants and dangers of having the large buses barrel along the narrow streets.

The group contends that AC Transit failed to prepare an Environmental Impact report or an initial study as required by the

California Environmental Quality Act and wants the court to order the agency to stop running the diesel buses on the 67 line at increased frequency. It also wants the court to order the agency to create an environmental impact report before it puts in place the changes it made to the line.

"I work at home on Spruce Street. They are monstrously loud," said Paul Cohen, a writer who is involved in 67 Neighbors against Diesel Buses, the group that brought the suit. "Having these massive things running up narrow, hilly streets is absolutely inappropriate."

see BUS page 2

Drumming up support



Taiko master Kenny Endo of the Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble joins other musicians May 15 at a benefit concert for the West Contra Costa Unified School District's music programs.

see page 4



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D is just what the doctor ordered

To the Editor:

West Contra Costa County is facing a health-care crisis. Doctor's Medical Center, formerly known as Brookside Hospital, and its emergency department are set to close on July 31.

Tenet Health Systems gave notice that it will terminate the lease with the district and discontinue operations of the San Pablo hospital. The district must be ready to begin operating Doctor's Hospital on Aug 1 at 12 a.m.

In order to make certain that local emergency medical care and other important services are available when needed, the district has placed Measure D on the ballot for the special election to be held on June 8 by mail. Measure D requires two-thirds approval by the voters and will cost the average homeowner \$1 a week (\$52/year). All Measure D funds will stay in West County to ensure our hospital stays open.

What happens if Measure D fails? Our hospital will close. Currently no resident in West County is more than 10 minutes from an emergency room. If Doctors Medical Center closes, the nearest emergency room would be up to a 45-minute ambulance ride away.

Additionally, the 250,000 people in West County, from our backyards to Crockett, would be served by one already overcrowded emergency room at Kaiser Richmond. If the 40,000 annual emergency room visits currently served by Doctors Medical Center are forced elsewhere, emergency room lines and wait times will drastically increase for all West County residents. Disaster Preparedness will also suffer if there is a toxic chemical release at a local refineries.

We can't afford to have Doctor's Hospital and its emergency room close its doors. For many of us, keeping the hospital open will be

Kensington Outlook

Editor

Daniel S. Levine
editor@kensingtonoutlook.com

Advertising Manager

Alma Key
advertising@kensingtonoutlook.com

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The Kensington Outlook is published ten times a year by the non-profit Kensington Community Council. It is published monthly except for combined December/January and July/August issues. For advertising rates, space, availability and size restrictions please call. The advertising and editorial deadline for the June issue is May 10. Send mail to: Kensington Outlook, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707. The Kensington Outlook welcomes letters to the editor and reserves the right to cut and edit those for clarity and length.

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Kensington Community Council

the difference between life and death. Your support is essential. Please vote YES on D.

Ellen Morrissey, MD
Kensington

BUS: settlement talks underway with AC Transit

Continued from page 1

A spokesman for AC Transit said the agency is aware of the suit and is studying it, but is not commenting on it at this time.

Settlement talks are underway between the group and AC Transit to see if a resolution could be reached, according to Cohen. He said the group is trying to reach an agreement on reducing the frequency of runs as well as a firm commitment from the agency that it will purchase new gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles and use them on the route. If that happens, it is not expected to occur before the end of 2005.

Supervisor John Gioia has long been in talks with AC Transit to minimize the

impacts of the buses on the 67 line by reducing the frequency of service during off-peak hours.

Last month, AC Transit deputy general manager Jim Gleich sent Gioia a letter saying that recent line counts showed the 67 meets the agency's standards of operating 30-minute service.

"Any options relating to reducing the schedule resulted in a severe denigration of service on the entire line," he wrote.

As of press time Gioia was scheduled to meet with AC Transit and said he will continue to push for a reduction in off-peak service in order to minimize the impacts of the service on the community.

FIRE: New truck arrives

Continued from page 1

Protection District director. "We don't have any constraints about using it. We will be able to tackle fires on the ridge when they come."

Kensington entered into a contract with the city of Richmond to sell its old pumper as well as a four-wheel drive wildland vehicle for a total of \$33,500.

The open house, a joint event with the Kensington Police Department, will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 1. In addition to the new fire engine, drawings of a proposed remodeling of the public safety building will be on display. Children will also be able to explore emergency vehicles and meet Smokey the Bear.

Annual photo of graduating high school seniors set

Graduating high school seniors who live in Kensington are invited to meet Saturday, May 15 at 2:30 p.m. at Kensington Park's building E (beyond the tennis courts) for a group photograph. Pizza will follow.

The photograph will be published in the June issue of the Kensington Outlook.

For additional information, please contact Michelle Hellerstein at 524-2466.

Correction

A photo caption accompanying an item in April's Neighborhood Notes about rower John Hertzler misidentified him. It was John.

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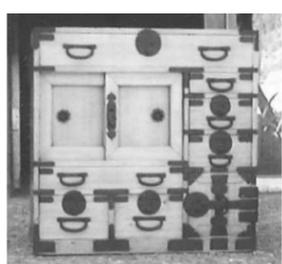
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Police issue reminder on rules of the road

In response to a number of recent incidents the Kensington Police Department issued a reminder of certain traffic and parking rules in Kensington. The department hopes that this will help keep violations and complaints to a minimum.



Disabled designated parking spaces

Parking spaces marked with a blue disabled sign are limited for use by persons with a current disabled license plate or placard. Violators are subject to a fine in the amount of \$275.

White painted spaces adjacent to disabled limited parking spaces.

The white painted area adjacent to any disabled limited parking space is to be kept clear of any vehicles. Violators are subject to a fine in the amount of \$275.

Residential neighborhood issues.

Vehicles must be parked on the side of the street that allows parking, facing the proper direction (right wheels adjacent to the curb line). Violators are subject to a fine in the amount of \$20. Do not block driveways or sidewalks. Violators are subject to a fine in the amount of \$20 and may also

PTA Endorses measure B

The Kensington Hilltop Parent Teacher Association voted to support Measure B, a proposed parcel tax to fund the financially troubled West Contra Costa Unified School District.

The parcel tax would raise an estimated \$8 million and be used to restore sports, libraries and counselors to the schools following their planned elimination as part of a set of Draconian measures intended to close the district's \$16.5 million budget gap.

In addition the funds would be used to maintain reduced class sizes, purchase textbooks and teaching material, improve custodial services and attract and retain qualified teachers, aides and counselors.

Property owners would be assessed 7.2 cents per square foot of total building area or \$7.20 per vacant lot. The measure would sunset after five years.

The June 8 special election will be conducted by mail with ballots going to voters in early May.

face having their vehicle towed and stored. Vehicles must not be left standing in the parking space longer than 72 hours. Violators are subject to a fine in the amount of \$20 and may also face having their vehicle towed and stored.

Rules of the road

A vehicle traveling uphill on a narrow roadway has the right of way. Vehicles traveling downhill must yield to the uphill traffic.

Mailbox usage and drop off traffic

All persons who wish to use the mailbox in front of the Arlington Pharmacy at Arlington Avenue/Amherst Avenue must first park their vehicle in a legal parking space. Violators face fines ranging from \$20 to \$275. The snorkel type mailbox has been once again placed in the lower lot between Coventry Road and Ardmore Road allowing mail drop off without having to exit the vehicle.

Animal related laws

The law requires that all dogs be under effective restraint by leash. Kensington Park has signs to remind that all dogs must be kept under effective restraint by leash. The law requires that animal waste on public walks, public recreation areas, in public buildings, or without the owner's consent on private property shall immediately be removed to a site not prohibited by law.

Noise ordinance revamped

A proposed Kensington noise ordinance is undergoing revisions following public response to its first draft.

The new version, which was still being refined as of press time, is expected to include the use of decibel levels to define a violation.

Several people criticized the original draft for relying on subjective standards. The Kensington Community Services District May 20 will review the revised ordinance if it is ready in time.

KFPD rejects funds request

The Kensington Fire Protection District rejected a request from community groups to contribute \$5,000 to help fund enactment of a proposed Kensington property ordinance designed to protect homeowners views, light and privacy from neighboring construction.

The vote followed a rejection from the Kensington Community Services District in March after a legal opinion advised that a contribution could constitute a misuse of public funds.



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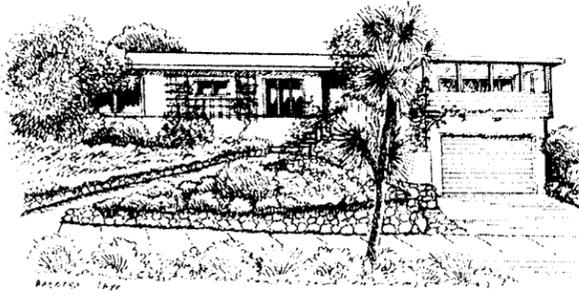
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Neighborhood Notes

Musicians hope to get people jazzed about music education in west contra costa schools

A group of popular jazz musicians, including famed koto player June Kuramoto and keyboardist Kimo Cornwell of the popular Los Angeles jazz fusion group Hiroshima, will hold a May 15 benefit concert for the West Contra Costa Unified School District's music programs.

Taiko master Kenny Endo and the Portola Middle School Jazz Band of El Cerrito will also perform.

These artists are lending their talents to the school district's music programs at a crucial time. The district faces \$16.5 million in cuts for the 2004-2005 school year, threatening the survival of music programs.

Kuramoto, who ranks among the premier koto players in the world, has blended the koto to jazz compositions. Kuramoto's work includes music scores for the Tom Cruise movie "The Last Samurai."

Cornwell has performed with such artists as Al Jarreau, Frankie Beverly and Maze and Hiroshima. Endo, who has toured internationally and received favorable reviews from the New York Times to the Los Angeles Times, blends Asian music and jazz with his taiko performance.

The benefit will be held at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose St., Berkeley. A reception will be from 5-7 p.m. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Japanese and American fare will be available at the concert. Advance tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for youths under the age of 18, and \$35 and



Taiko master Kenny Endo \$25 at the door.

For ticket information, go to the Portola Middle School Web site, which is <http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/Portola/>. Checks for ticket purchases can be sent to: Portola Middle School, Attn: Satsuki WCCUSD Benefit Concert, 1021 Navellier St., El Cerrito, CA 94530. Inquiries can be directed to L.K. Chung at 510-236-5637 or at Chungdc@aol.com.

KFPD honors retiring CafTel

The Kensington Fire Protection District honored Pat CafTel, who is retiring after ten years as program coordinator for the El Cerrito and Kensington Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team or NEAT.

The program helps prepare residents to respond to wildfire, earthquake and other disasters through training and organizing.

A's make a pitch for schools

The Oakland A's is conducting its *Step up to the Plate for Education* fundraiser for the financially troubled West Contra Costa Unified School District.



The defending American League West champions will donate half of every ticket sale that is sold for the games of June 9 (Cincinnati Reds), July 27 (Seattle Mariners), and August 25 (Baltimore Orioles) when purchased through a special order form. All games begin at 7:05 p.m. The order forms are available at all branches of The Mechanics Bank, requested via fax by calling 620-2245 or downloaded from the internet by going to: www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/Fiscal/Asform.pdf. Payment deadline is May 28, 2004.

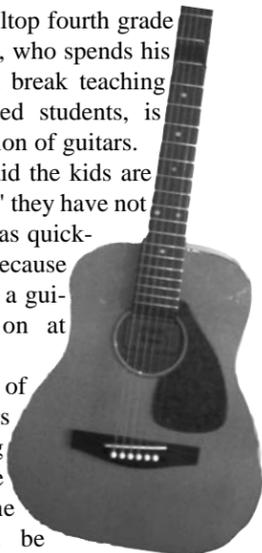
Kids in need of ax to grind

Kensington Hilltop fourth grade teacher Mark Gill, who spends his Wednesday lunch break teaching guitar to interested students, is seeking the donation of guitars.

Though Gill said the kids are "keen as mustard," they have not been progressing as quickly as they might because many can't afford a guitar to practice on at home.

Any donations of playable guitars that are just lying around unused are welcome. The instruments will be loaned to students, but not returned to donors.

People who have a guitar to donate can reach Gill at rynmark@earthlink.net.



Liam Barker weds in Japan

Liam Barker of Kensington married Kyoko Uehara on April 11 in Osaka, Japan. Liam, an Eagle Scout from Troop 100 and a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, has been teaching in Japan for the past two years. The two plan to eventually live in the United States within the next few years, but for the time being will stay in Osaka.

Librarian Furgason retires

Barbara Furgason, who served 32 years in the county library system including the last ten as senior branch librarian for Kensington and San Pablo libraries, retired at the end of March. She plans to take classes and travel including a tour of Russia and a cruise through the Panama Canal. Liz Ruhland, who's been with the county for 5 years as a reference librarian, is temporarily filling her position.



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SPRING SESSION

The spring session will end on June 11.

COME JOIN US AT KCC SUMMER DAY CAMP!

Located in the Berkeley hills at 59 Arlington Ave. in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in the Fall 2004. The camp runs from June 14, 2004 through August 20, 2004, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Campers enroll on a weekly basis. To ensure the best experience for each child, our camp has a maximum of 60 children per week. We employ one director, eight counselors, and a "specialty consultant" each week to work with the campers. Drop-ins are not permitted.

Day Camp Staff Returns

Director Jessica Smith is returning for this year's camp along with head counselor Joe Starkey, Andrew Erdmann, Valeria Fike-Rosales, Teddy Firestone and Ryan Del La Rosa.

COST

The cost for the Kensington Summer Day Camp is \$170.00 per week. This fee covers all transportation costs, snacks, entrance fees, activities and a KCC Summer Camp T-shirt for field trips. A limited number of partial scholarships will be available. All fees must be paid by the stated due date and before the week begins. Children whose parents or guardians have not paid fees in full may not attend until fees have been paid to the KCC administrator. Registration, emergency cards and release forms must be tendered prior to the start of the week. A nonrefundable deposit of \$25 per child per week requested is required with the application. The \$25 deposit is deducted from the balance due of camp. If a week is full and space is not available, applicants will be notified immediately. We cannot refund fees if a child drops out after a week begins.



Brochures available

For further information or a brochure, please call KCC office at (510) 525-0292.

REGISTRATION

Parents may register their children on a space available basis during KCC office hours.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

June 16	The Jungle
June 23	Jelly Belly Factory & Bowling
June 30	Exploratorium
July 7	Scandia
July 14	San Francisco Zoo
July 21	The Jungle
July 28	A's Baseball Game
August 4	Waterworld
August 11	A's Baseball Game
August 18	Academy of Sciences

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE*

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Carpentry with Sandy Thacker
Week 2 June 21 - June 25

3D Painting, Clay & Paper Mache Work with Celeste Conner
Week 3 June 28 - July 2

3D Painting, Clay & Paper Mache Work with Celeste Conner
Week 4 July 5 - July 9

Gymnastics with Judy Baker
Week 5 July 12 - July 16

Gymnastics with Judy Baker
Week 6 July 19 - July 23

Drama with Kelly Donahue
Week 7 July 26 - July 30

Drama with Kelly Donahue
Week 8 August 2 - August 6

Treasure Boxes, Jewel Books & Fimo Treasurers with Celeste Conner
Week 9 August 9 - August 13

Treasure Boxes, Jewel Books & Fimo Treasurers with Celeste Conner
Week 10 August 16 - August 20

Tennis with Alex Brown, three days a week.

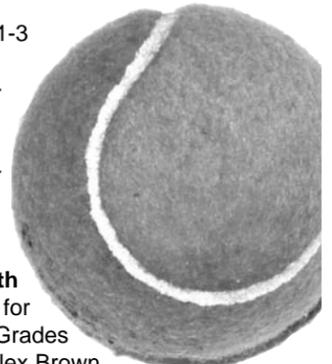
SUMMER TENNIS CLINIC WITH ALEX BROWN

Students in Grades 1 - 6
Session 1: June 21 - June 25
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Session 2: July 5 - July 9
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Session 3: July 12 - July 16
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Session 4: July 26 - July 30
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Session 5: August 16 - August 20
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Clinic includes stroke instruction, play, ball-machine practice, refreshments and prizes. For information about racquets, please call, Alex Brown, (510) 524-5495. There will be a minimum of four students in each session. Registration is on a first come first served basis in the KCC office, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Emergency card, registration and waiver forms must be tendered prior to the beginning of the session. For further information or to request an application, please call the KCC office at 525-0292.

Instructor: Alex Brown

524-5495
Weekdays: 1-3 p.m.
\$80.00 /session (resident)
\$88.00 /session (non-resident)



Tennis-Youth

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

Session:

Tuesdays and/or Thursdays
3:40-5:00 p.m.

Fees (payable monthly):

\$10 per class/resident

\$11 per class/non-resident

TENNIS COURTS

Adult Classes

TENNIS

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

To register

Call Alex Brown at (510) 524-5495.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-10am

5 classes/\$40 per resident

5 classes/\$45 per non-resident

TENNIS COURTS (WEST COURT)

DOG OBEDIENCE

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Instructor: Lewis Cuccia (233-4500)

Wednesdays

Beginners: 7-8 p.m.

Current session

began: April 28

6 weeks: \$40 per resident/ \$45

per non-resident

Conformation: 8-8:45 p.m. \$4/class

Intermediate/Advanced: 9-9:45 p.m.

\$4/class

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Ongoing -- 8 weeks

\$200 for residents

\$220 for non-resident

BUILDING E

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Non-impact aerobics; ongoing.

Instructor:

Michele Dorntge

Monday, Tuesdays and

Fridays

9 a.m. -10 a.m.

\$40/1 x week

\$80/2 x week,

\$120/3 x week

\$4.50 drop in

Non-residents add 10 percent

COMMUNITY CENTER



KCC

Kensington Community Council

Helen Horowitz, Administrator
Kensington Community Council
Building E, 59 Arlington Ave.
Kensington, CA 94707-1037
525-0292

OFFICE HOURS

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Closed May 31

NOTICES

To Register for Class

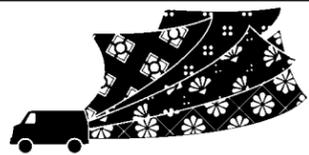
Call the office unless otherwise specified. Some classes have enrollment limits. Those registering will be notified if they cannot be enrolled.

Tennis Court Reservations

Reservations are taken for weekends and holidays only. The earliest reservation is for 9 a.m. Fees are \$2 per hour for Kensington residents, \$5 for others.

Community Center

Call Helen Horowitz for rental and reservation information.



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Kensington Calendar

Making science child's play



Kensington Nursery School holds its 14th annual Science Fun Faire, Saturday May 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the school at 52 Arlington Ave. behind the Arlington Community Church. The unique event, for children 2 to 7 allows kids to learn through play. At this unique event, children learn through play at more than 15 hands-on stations and exhibits. Admission is \$3.00 per person aged 2 and up. A barbecue lunch will be available to nourish scientists of all ages.

Control; and Steve Klein and Abdullah Al-araby speaking on The Truth about Islam; and Tom DelBeccarro, Chairman of the Contra Costa Republican Central Committee. Luncheon served. \$30/person Reservations 223-0443

Tuesday, May 4
Family Storytime
Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Wednesday, May 5
The Kensington Study Group of the League of Women Voters, will be meeting at 1 p.m. at the home of Patricia McLaughlin, 39 Stratford Road, Kensington. Local issues will be discussed. Please call 525-5187 to confirm.

Sunday, May 2
Personal Theological Seminar: Thomas Berry, Father of the Modern Nature Mystic Movement at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. Info: 525-0302

Sunday, May 2
Interfaith Meditation for Peace 12:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Info: 526-8944

Monday, May 3
The Kensington Community Council meets at 7:30pm in the Kensington Community Center.

Tuesday, May 4
Kensington Area Republican Women's Club hosts the CA Federation of Republican Women, Area VI, Spring mini-conference at the Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featured speakers include Dr. Stanley Monteith, host of Radio Liberty speaking on Sustainable Growth: Regional vs. Local

Saturday May 8
The Friends of the Kensington Library holds its annual book sale at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale continues Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and ends with a \$3 a bag sale at 3 p.m. Donations of books, videos and cassettes are continuously accepted at the library during open hours.

Sunday, May 9
Call mom and tell her thanks and that you love her.

Sunday, May 9
Personal Theological Seminar: Transylvanian scholar Maria Pap - a Transylvanian Unitarian Minister comes to Berkeley: the Perspective Gained in this Year at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, May 11
Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, May 11
Join Oliver Chin, author and artist of graphic novel, 9 of 1: A Window to the World, a story that follows a diverse group of Bay Area teenagers struggling with the aftershocks of September 11th at 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. Chin will read from his book, give a quick introduction to the graphic novel, and discuss his intent to create a work relevant to current events. Info: 526-7512.

Tuesday, May 11
Teresa LeYung Ryan, author of "Love Made of Heart" facilitates a writers meeting at 7 p.m. to discuss everything from polishing your writing to getting published. Sliding scales donation \$10 to \$20 to support Boadecia's Books, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Info: 559-9184 or www.bookpride.com

Thursday, May 13
El Cerrito Garden Club will hold it's regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. This month's program is "Member's Day: A Tour of Member's Gardens." Cost is \$3 at door. Come visit some of your neighbor's gardens! Info: 223-0443

Thursday, May 13
Kensington Fire Protection District meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 527-8395

Thursday, May 13
Grizzly Peak Flyfishers holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Member Bill Newton presents a slide show and talk on his trips to Chile and New Zealand. Guest speaker Roger Buttermore will discuss aquatic invaders. Info: 547-8629

Saturday, May 15
Sacred Listening: Listening to self and to others, listening to sacred texts and sacred sounds - a workshop led by Leonard Levis and Nora Martos-Perry from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Suggested donation: \$45. Info: 526-8944

Saturday, May 15
Jazz concert to benefit West Contra Costa Unified School District's music programs at 7 p.m. at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose St., Berkeley featuring famed koto player June Kuramoto and keyboardist Kimo Cornwell. Also performing Taiko master Kenny Endo of the Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble and the Portola Middle School Jazz Band. Reception begins at 5 p.m. Concert starts at 7 p.m. Japanese food as well as American fare will be available for purchase at the concert. Advance tickets: adults-\$30, youth-\$20 (\$35 and \$25 at the door).

Sunday, May 16
Personal Theological Seminar: Dan Harper, assistant minister in charge of Religious Education, The Death of Progressive Education: a Liberal Religious Perspective at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, May 18
The League of Women Voters - West Contra Costa County holds a general membership brown bag meeting at 11:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room of the El Cerrito Royale, 6510 Gladys Avenue, El Cerrito. Pat Player, school board member, will speak to us on Measure B, West Contra Costa County Unified School District's Parcel Tax, which will appear on the June mail-in-ballot.

WWWWhat?
Information Literacy: a free series of programs at the Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Avenue, teaches how to use a computer mouse, set up an e-mail account and do research online. The program runs Mondays from 6:55 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call to reserve a seat 524-3043.
May 3: How to set up a free e-mail account that is accessible from the library or any on-line computer
May 10: How to do your own on-line medical research
May 17: How to find articles in back issues of magazines and newspapers using the library's databases
May 24: How to do business/investment research on-line using the library's databases.

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Kensington Calendar Continued

Feed your soul and your stomach

Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley mid-week gathering includes times for socializing (5:30-6 pm), sharing a meal (6-7 pm), worshipping (7-7:30 pm) and learning together in the Core Curriculum Programs (from 7:30-9 pm). Dinner reservations are required. Call the church office at 525-0302. The Core Curriculum Programs will include a series of sessions on UU heritage and values, *Powerful Non-Defensive Communication*, *Community Building: Skills for Successful Group Process*, *Opening Our Hearts: Developing Spiritual Practices*, and *Higher Purpose*. Contact the church at 525-0302 for more details.

Tuesday, May 18

Berkeley Garden Club presents "Organic Pest Control in the Garden" by landscape consultant Jessie West at Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berkeley. Meeting begins at 1 p.m. and free program at 2 p.m. Info: 524-4374.

Tuesday, May 18

The Friends of the Kensington Library present **Python Ron & His Reptile Kingdom**, 6:30 p.m. at the Kensington Library. Ron McGee shares some of his live animals and explains how they live, what they eat and other interesting facts. His menagerie includes a tarantula, a scorpion, a python, a giant tortoise and a giant lizard named Mojo. Free tickets are required. Tickets will be issued beginning on Monday, May 10.

Thursday, May 20

Kensington Community Service District meets at the Kensington Community Center at 7:30 p.m. Call to confirm: 526-4141

Sunday, May 23

Dances of Universal Peace - Learn Sufi dancing 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington. Pass the basket donation. Info: 526-8944

Tuesday, May 25

Family Storytime Kensington Library at 7 p.m. Info: 524-3043

Tuesday, May 25

The El Cerrito Democratic Club meets at 7:30 p.m. in the downstairs conference room at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave, El Cerrito. U.C. Professor Richard Walker speaks on Tax cuts, deficits, and the future of the American economy.

Sunday, May 23

Personal Theological Seminar: Michael Nagler: Professor emeritus at UCB, founder of the Peace and Conflict Studies at UCB, long term student of Sri Eknath Easwaran - The Teaching of Sri Eknath Easwaran: How to Transform Ourselves and Society at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. Info: 525-0302

Tuesday, May 25

Kensington Municipal Advisory Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center. Call to confirm: 526-5546

Wednesday, May 26

Kensington Area Republican Women's Club regular meeting at noon at the Mira Vista Country Club, 7900 Cutting Blvd., El Cerrito. This month's speaker is Steve Wampler host of "Right On" radio talk show. He will speak on the "Death Tax" and it's implications for your estate. Luncheon is \$15. Reservation deadline May 21. Info: 524-5689.

Saturday, May 29

The 8th annual Chocolate & Chalk Art on Solano from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. along Solano Ave. in Albany and Berkeley. Music, poetry and the chance to indulge in a wide variety of delectable chocolate creations. Info: 527-5358



Sunday, May 30

Group Discussion: An important time for sharing the sessions that had the most meaning for you, and what you would like for the future at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington. Info: 525-0302.

Kensington Library book recommendations

Gregor The Overlander
by Suzanne Collins

Gregor, 11, lives in a tenement building in New York City with his mother and two younger sisters. While doing laundry and caring for his two-year-old sister they are sucked into the grating behind the washing machine. A 20-minute fall finds them in a strange underworld where giant cockroaches and spiders, friendly bats and killer rats co-exist beside strange looking pale humans who haven't surfaced for hundreds of years. Gregor only wants to get home, but reluctantly joins the humans and the bats in their war with the rats. He realizes his missing father is a prisoner in the rodent kingdom and that he may be the warrior named in an ancient prophecy to help save the doomed people of the underworld. First time novelist Suzanne Collins has based her fantasy loosely on Alice in Wonderland, exploring how that classic tale might unfold within a modern context.

Darker than its inspiration, the themes of good and evil unfold in this large scale adventure that ends each chapter as a cliffhanger, tempting the reader to go on and on. This beautifully written fantasy creates a complete and

mysterious other world that is sure to please its intended audience of 9 to 13 year olds.

-- Pamela McKay

Captain Cook: A Legacy Under Fire
by Van essay Collingridge

A biography that challenges some preconceptions about the famous explorer, Collingwood presents a popular history of Captain Cook and his three voyages of discovery, while interweaving her own and her great grandfather's quest to establish Portuguese sailors as the real discoverers of Australia instead of Cook himself. Collingwood refrains from deluging the reader with too much technical nautical detail, yet conveys well Cook's charting skills as well as the incredible trials his sailors endured in prolonged sea voyages with poor food, deadly diseases and tortuous living conditions during Cook's lengthy forays into frigid Antarctic waters. Pertinent to the tale are descriptions of South Seas islands and cultural native clashes. Unfortunately Collingridge provides few maps in this travel biography that remains a fascinating study of an obsessed man.

--reviewed by Louise O'Dea

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From the case files of the KPD

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

Events in March

○A woman brought her daughter into the police department requesting that the police administer a breathalyzer. The girl said she had not been drinking. The breathalyzer disagreed.

○A workman reported the theft of \$535 in tools from a locked garage on Ocean View Ave.

○Police arrested a resident on Arlington Avenue and Sunset for driving under the influence. He registered twice the legal limit. Police released the man to a family member.

○Kensington police assisted El Cerrito police on a foot pursuit of a suspected burglar. After El Cerrito police arrested the subject, Kensington police administered first aid to El Cerrito police by putting a Band Aid on the officer's cut finger. Kensington police, however, did not kiss it and make it better.

○A Purdue Ave. resident who was away at work called police and requested they let themselves into her home with a key on file and check to see that she unplugged her curling iron. She had.

○An Ardmore Rd. resident reported the theft of \$785 in goods from her car including a leather bag, silver trays and tax papers. She was in the process of loading her trunk and it was unlocked when the theft occurred.

○Police responded to a report of five boys ages 13-15 wearing camouflage pants, black shirts and masks firing air guns in Kensington Park. A parent arrived on the scene while the officer explained it was illegal to fire the guns.

○An Ardmore Rd. resident reported the theft of three rugs valued at \$11,000 from an attached garage in which they were stored.

○Police arrested the driver of a vehicle on Arlington Ave. at Sunset Dr. on an outstanding

warrant and for possession of methamphetamine. A passenger in the car was released.

○A resident reported that a woman she shared a rental with threatened her life with a voodoo spell. The landlord asked for information about evicting the spellcasting woman.

○Police arrested a Stanford Ave. resident who was in a car at 3 a.m. with 3 unknown occupants. The resident was in possession of methamphetamine and nitrous oxide and was not attempting high-speed dentistry.

○An Arlington Ave. neighbor complained about his neighbor's trimming of ivy on a fence on a disputed property line. One neighbor put no trespassing signs on the fence. Police referred the man complaining about the cutting of the ivy to the tree ordinance and suggested a survey could settle the dispute.

○A Los Altos Rd. resident reported the theft of a 2003 Subaru Outback and a car seat and stroller worth a total of \$22,000.

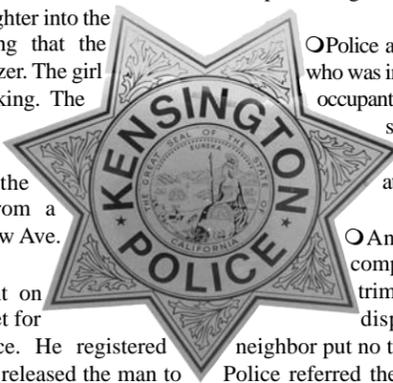
○A Highgate Rd. resident, concerned about a foul smell outside her house, discovered the decaying carcass of a deer. Animal control came and requested assistance from the Kensington Police in removing the animal.

○A Berkeley resident said he was walking on Arlington Ave. when a white dog growled at him. The owner restrained the dog and the man walked on his way, but then complained to police the dog had violated his constitutional rights (see Plessey v. Rover).

○A resident reported the egging of vehicles on Willamette and Purdue Avenues. It was believed linked to several other past incidents.

○A resident on Arlington Ave. complained that a neighbor removed "No trespassing" signs on his fence and threw them on the lawn.

○A Sunset Dr. resident reported that someone stole a sign from the outside wall to his property that read "No parking. Under video surveillance." Police said there was no video of the theft.



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