

## 2024 Kensington Talmadge Earth Day

### Our Backyard Birds and Climate

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Kensington-Normal Heights Library Park



Join Trees KenTal, with support from the **San Diego Audubon Society**, to celebrate Earth Day in our neighborhood. This year we highlight backyard birds, how to identify them, and what you can do to support and encourage our local species. Fun activities for all ages. Learn best practices for selecting, planting and caring for trees. Take home a **FREE tree** (by open drawing).

Major sponsors include the **Adams Avenue Business Association, Kensington Talmadge Business Association and the KenTal Community Association**. This year's Earth Day welcomes newcomer exhibitors, the **San Diego Audubon Society** and **City Farmers Nursery**. **Art FORM** brings art education and environmental stewardship to this family-friendly event.

Please bring your own refillable water bottle - refills available! No single use plastic please!



**FREE ICE CREAM**, compliments of KTCA.  
Join us on **Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>** from **11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

## NATIVE PLANT GARDENING FOR BIRDS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

With our pleasant weather, Kensington attracts birds year round. Native plants are our “green infrastructure” and necessary for healthy, resilient, biodiverse habitats. Below are excerpts from the California Native Plant Society (cnps.org) with backyard gardening tips for attracting and feeding our wild friends.



House sparrow, American Crow, Black Phoebe, House finch, Anna’s Hummingbird, American robin, Lesser Goldfinch, Bushtit, California Towhee, Northern Mockingbird, Oregon Junco, Scrub jay, Hooded oriole, Hawks and Owls are some of the regular visitors to our Kensington backyards.

Birds, in general, require resting, nesting, and food sources. In planning a garden with native plants the goal is to supply the needs of many local and migratory bird species, because diversity prevents one species—such as pigeons, starlings or crows—from dominating the landscape, perhaps ruining the garden.

Tall trees—California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)—are wonderful hosts for many birds, from woodpeckers to hummingbirds to hawks and owls, if the garden is large. Both tree species require a lot of space.

Either a hedge or a grouping of tall and short shrubs (small trees and short shrubs) is necessary to provide dense canopy for small birds—goldfinches, lesser finches, bushtits, towhees, warblers, sparrows and many others—to hide from predators, to nest in, to act as food sources with buds, seeds and fruit. Try golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), fuchsia—flowered gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), holly leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*) or holly leaf redberry (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*).

For food sources that provide bright flowers for the garden as well as insects, fruit, and seeds for birds, try bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), canyon sunflower (*Venegasia carpesioides*), penstemon (*Penstemon spectabilis*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*) and all the sages (*Salvia spathecea*, *S. apiana*, *S. leucophylla*, *S. mellifera*). Hummingbirds like trumpet-like flowers, and so do orioles.

The main threats to birds in southern California are gardeners with leaf-blowers, pest control services that spray too frequently for insects outside the house, and early spring brush clearance requirements that push some homeowners to employ crews to prune out protective canopy, to destroy nests in trees, bushes and on the ground and to remove all cover for young fledglings in the spring. Migratory birds are especially vulnerable as they need to rest and feed before nesting. Hence they are caught in the midst of their nesting season when landscapes are laid bare, their nestlings visible to predators and their nests overheated by the sun.

Thoughtful gardeners weed regularly and schedule pruning over a period of time that allows the season’s crop of young birds to develop their flight feathers in safety, then let the birds do pest control in the garden. Please avoid hiring tree trimmers during the nesting season, and give the birds a chance.

Read the original article at [www.cnps.org/gardening/native-plant-gardening-for-birds-in-southern-california-5150](http://www.cnps.org/gardening/native-plant-gardening-for-birds-in-southern-california-5150)

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# WINNIE'S PICKS!

by Winnie Hanford  
of Kensington Video



## KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON (2023)

Directed by Martin Scorsese

The film portrays the plight of the Osage Indians in Oklahoma during the 1920s. Oil has been discovered on their tribal land. A culture, rich in tradition, will soon fall prey to newfound wealth and the greedy exploiters that descend upon their land. The story is based on actual events. The evil that is heaped upon the innocent is only surpassed by the lack of justice for the Osage Nation. The film has been nominated for ten Oscars.



## THE CRIME IS MINE (2023)

Directed by François Ozon

This French comedy is an homage to the screwball comedies of the 1930s with directors like Preston Sturges, Frank Capra, Billy Wilder, and others. An aspiring actress is accused of murdering a producer. She's innocent, but the prosecution and courts don't believe her. So, in satirical fashion, she embraces the accusation and presents herself as a victim. It's a fast-paced script with rapid-fire dialogue. Enjoy it.



in a medical study involving an experimental drug in a facility that is isolated and understaffed. Double blind refers to the fact that there is no placebo. As the drug takes effect, the participants soon discover that sleep will bring them death. Trapped in a 24-hour lockdown, they must do whatever it takes to stay awake and escape. The personal conflicts become worse than finding freedom. As the plot thickens, we learn why these subjects were chosen. It's a good mystery with lots of twists.



the story behind the alter-ego of the kung-fu street fighting ladies' man. Moore epitomized the Blaxploitation genre with action, obscene humor, flashy dress, and a female entourage. After watching the top-notch performances of Murphy, Mike Epps, and Keegan-Michael Key, you'll want to watch the original Dolemite, The Human Tornado, Petey Wheatstraw, Disco Godfather, The Monkey Hustle, and more.

## AMERICAN ASSASSIN (2017)

Directed by Michael Cuesta

The story begins when a terrorist group strikes a beachside resort filled with vacationers. The tragic loss of a fiancé fills a young man, Mitch Rapp, with hatred and the goal of infiltrating and destroying the terrorist cell. The CIA has been tracking Rapp, as he's interfering with their missions. They decide to recruit him into their Black Ops program. He is sent to a training

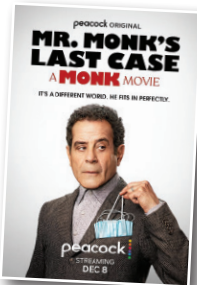


facility and meets Hurley, a seasoned fanatical warrior and trainer. There's plenty of action, violence, car chases, and general mayhem.

## MR. MONK'S LAST CASE (2023)

Directed by Randy Zisk

Fans of the Monk series (2002-2009) enjoyed the crime-solving skills of the neurotic genius brilliantly portrayed by Tony Shalhoub. The series ended at the height of its popularity with fans wanting more. It took a few years for the return, and now we can enjoy his 'last case'.... maybe. The highlight of this episode is the return of all our favorite characters. They re-unite as if they never separated. It only revives the hope that the series with have a rebirth. A Winnie's Pick!



## DOUBLE BLIND 2023)

Directed by Ian Hunt-Duffy

Seven young people participate

## DOLEMITE IS MY NAME (2019)

Directed by Craig Brewer

Rudy Ray Moore starred as the 1970s action hero, Dolemite. Eddie Murphy brings this comedic biopic to the screen with



If you need to purchase a film or make a copy of an event or wedding, please call my son, Guy, at 619-269-6998 or email him at kensingtonvideo.com.

## SPOTLIGHT: ANIMAL RESCUE GROUPS



The Rescue House, Inc. is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization dedicated to assisting cats through its rescue, foster and adoption activities. We find loving homes for unwanted, abandoned, homeless and abused cats. We find good homes for every cat that we take in – we are a true no-kill cat rescue organization.  
[mail@rescuehouse.org](mailto:mail@rescuehouse.org) | (760) 591-1211 | [RescueHouse.org](http://RescueHouse.org)



**T Monk**

I'm jazzy and named after Thelonious Monk! At ten months old, I am eager to play and like kitty friends but I'm still a little timid. Will you help me feel safe and gain my confidence?



**Pearl**

I'm a super social and cuddly lap cat kitty! I'm four years old and adore playtime and food. I do not adore other cats so please let me be your one and only.



**Katy**

I'm a one year old beauty that enjoys playtime and then naptime in the sun. I can be timid so a tranquil home is my preference and having nice kitty friends helps me.



**Freddie**

I'm a dapper, loving, extroverted seven year old tabby boy. I adore cuddles and attention. Other cats are okay with me but my preference would be to have all of your attention please.



**Whiskers and Yogi**

We are ten months old and a Dynamic Duo. We can't wait to bring our love, glamour and kitten shenanigans to your house! We will keep you laughing and then curl up in your lap and banish your worries.



**Maude**

I am a very sweet senior girl with a calm and gentle soul and I like to be in the room you are in. I enjoy a quiet home. I'm seventeen years young with a little arthritis but it's no big deal!

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HELPFUL TIPS

CAN WE “FIRE SDGE” AND GET LOWER ELECTRIC RATES?

BY SUSAN DUERKSEN,  
KENSINGTON RESIDENT

San Diegans tired of paying the highest electricity rates in the United States have launched a campaign, called “Power San Diego,” aimed at ousting San Diego Gas & Electric.

Volunteers with the group are circulating petitions for a citizens’ ballot measure to replace the for-profit SDGE electricity distributor with a nonprofit community-owned utility.

Dozens of other cities in California have similar public power utilities, all with rates much lower than SDGE’s. While San Diegans pay an average of 48 cents per kilowatt hour, public utility rates average 28 cents in Los Angeles and 17 cents in Sacramento.

SDGE has raised its rates faster than inflation and is planning further rate hikes, even as it profits more than \$1 million every day from its City of San Diego business. It’s a big money-maker for its parent company, fracked gas exporter Sempra.

The new public utility would take no profit, immediately saving ratepayers 20% off SDGE rates – which are the highest in the nation.

Besides lowering rates, Power San Diego also promises to provide cleaner energy and do more to fight the climate crisis. The new nonprofit utility would prioritize expansion of rooftop and parking lot solar panels and local battery storage, and is supported by SanDiego350, a major climate action organization. SDGE has obstructed affordable rooftop solar to protect its larger profits from transmission lines.



“San Diegans need our electric utility to be an ally in the climate fight, not an opponent,” said volunteer Craig Rose.

The proposed initiative applies to all SDGE customers within the City of San Diego, with an eye to later expansion to

other parts of the county.

To make it onto the November 2024 ballot, the grassroots campaign must collect signatures of 80,000 San Diego voters by May 14. The petitions must be signed in person, so the group maintains a calendar

of where and when to find petitioners.

If voters approve the ballot measure, SDGE would be required to sell its power grid and other equipment to the new utility, financed through a low-interest municipal bond. Even paying off that bond, customer rates would drop about 20% right away, campaign chair Bill Powers told the Union-Tribune.

The new utility would be a self-funded department of the City, run by a five-member Electric Board with advice from a Citizens Oversight Committee. The initiative commits to retaining the SDGE workforce at current employment terms for at least 10 years.

The local power situation is complicated by the recent addition of San Diego Community Power, but that nonprofit simply buys electricity and depends on SDGE to deliver the power to homes and businesses. It wouldn’t be affected by Power San Diego buying the grid from SDGE and operating it as a nonprofit.

The citizens’ initiative was designed by local volunteers with deep experience in engineering and energy planning, and informed by the experience of similar public utilities in dozens of other cities.

“Change is essential as our current situation is unsustainable,” the group declares on its website. “Our mission is simple; provide electric service at fair, reasonable, and affordable rates while maximizing economic benefit to the people of San Diego.”





# SUDOKU

created by Crosswords Ltd.

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	2		7				3	

## SCRABBLE GRAMS

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I <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	F <sub>4</sub>			
A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>			
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E <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	U <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	H <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>			
A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	W <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>			

PAR SCORE 265-275  
BEST SCORE 329  
FIVE RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. SOLUTION TOMORROW

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com 09-10

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14				15							16			
17				18							19			
20				21							22			
		23	24					25						
26	27					28	29	30				31	32	33
34					35						36			
37					38						39			
40					41						42			
43					44					45				
			46						47					
48	49	50				51	52	53				54	55	56
57						58						59		
60						61						62		
63						64						65		

## ACROSS

- 1

"The Magic School Bus" aier
- 4

"Let's take it down a notch"
- 10

Dropbox files, informally
- 14

Clickable link
- 15

Green, maybe
- 16

"Ocean to Ocean" singer Tori
- 17

Issa of "The Lovebirds"
- 18

Protection from bright flashes of light?
- 20

Caustic solution
- 21

Philanthropist Melinda
- 22

Tears
- 23

Amanda Gorman, for one
- 25

Support
- 26

Sparkly insects?
- 31

Puppy noise
- 34

Many tweetstorms
- 35

Actress Skye
- 36

Couch
- 37

"Bus Stop" playwright
- 38

Takes for a ride
- 39

Shades
- 40

Not biased
- 41

Decent plot
- 42

Blot gently
- 43

Spam holder
- 44

Sign on a sauna door?
- 46

Droid
- 47

Observe Ramadan
- 48

Just not done
- 51

Behavior pattern
- 54

Short-term sculpture material
- 57

Entry on a dating site for fireflies?
- 59

Machine part
- 60

Just chilling
- 61

Course requirements?
- 62

Commotion
- 63

Chow
- 64

Least significant
- 65

Take home

## DOWN

- 1

Pixar short about a ball of yarn
- 2

Heehaw
- 3

Not setting an alarm, say
- 4

Denver team
- 5

Airing in the wee hours
- 6

Judicial order
- 7

"Enough" number of women justices on the Supreme Court, per Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- 8

Decides
- 9

"Rushmore" director Anderson
- 10

Had the nerve
- 11

Itchy ears, to some
- 12

Like many dorms
- 13

IRS IDs
- 19

NFL analyst Collinsworth
- 24

Critter that eats while floating on its back
- 25

Range listed on board games
- 26

Take for a ride
- 27

Island west of Maui
- 28

Christina of "Yellowjackets"
- 29

Wild hogs
- 30

Yet to be fulfilled
- 31

"Count on me!"
- 32

Lead-in to bad news
- 33

Fake jewelry
- 36

"\_\_ of Sunset": reality series featuring Persian Americans in Beverly Hills
- 38

Brine ingredient
- 42

Genealogy aid
- 44

Mucky stuff
- 45

Goes paperless at tax time
- 46

Bent in the wind
- 48

"Yay, the weekend!"
- 49

Montreal-based shoe brand
- 50

String tie
- 51

"Celebrity Skin" rock band
- 52

Miles off
- 53

Take the bait
- 55

System of rules
- 56

Four-award acronym
- 58

Turntable letters

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# PUZZLE ANSWERS

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION	
PAR SCORE 265-275	
TOTAL 329	
RACK 5 = 62	W <sub>4</sub> A <sub>1</sub> N <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1</sub> N <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>3</sub> E <sub>1</sub>
RACK 4 = 69	U <sub>1</sub> N <sub>1</sub> H <sub>4</sub> I <sub>1</sub> R <sub>1</sub> E <sub>1</sub> D <sub>2</sub>
RACK 3 = 61	L <sub>1</sub> I <sub>1</sub> G <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> T <sub>1</sub> E <sub>1</sub> N <sub>1</sub>
RACK 2 = 61	T <sub>1</sub> A <sub>1</sub> P <sub>3</sub> I <sub>1</sub> O <sub>1</sub> C <sub>3</sub> A <sub>1</sub>
RACK 1 = 76	P <sub>3</sub> I <sub>1</sub> N <sub>1</sub> F <sub>4</sub> O <sub>1</sub> L <sub>1</sub> D <sub>2</sub>

5	4	8	6	7	1	2	6	3
1	6	3	8	5	2	7	9	4
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6	8	5	8	6	4	7	9	4
9	5	4	2	1	7	3	8	6
8	7	9	6	3	2	6	9	4
7	8	5	3	9	1	6	8	2
4	3	6	1	9	5	8	2	7
9	3	8	4	7	6	3	9	5

P	B	S	N	O	N	O	N	O	W	D	O	C	S
U	R	L	U	N	R	I	P	E	A	M	O	S	
R	A	E	G	L	I	N	T	S	C	R	E	E	N
L	V	E	G	A	T	E	S	R	E	N	D	S	
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G	L	I	T	T	B	U	S	S	O	F	A	S	
R	A	N	T	S	I	O	N	E	S	H	U	E	S
F	A	I	R	A	C	R	E	S	D	A	B	A	T
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F	O	D											



PROTECTING YOUR FINANCES

DON'T GET SCAMMED!

These days, many Americans do a lot of their shopping and charitable giving online. That is why it's important for consumers to be conscious of financial scams to protect their identities, bank accounts and monetary transactions. From check fraud and peer-to-peer digital payments (i.e., Zelle, Venmo, Paypal or CashApp) to imposters posing as representatives of banks, roughly three-quarters of Americans reported being targeted by scams last year.



The Consumer Bankers Association (CBA) recommends taking the following steps to minimize the possibility of falling victim yourself:

- 1. Be wary and slow down!** Scammers sometimes send text messages or emails claiming to be a fraud alert from the app or your bank. If you don't recognize the email or phone number, you should proceed with caution. Don't open attachments or click links from unknown sources, even if they say they are coming from your bank. Like many online scams, scammers will sometimes offer products at unrealistic prices to trick consumers, so resist demands to act quickly.
- 2. Don't give out personal information.** If a text message asks you to provide any PINs, passwords, Social Security numbers, account information or any other sensitive information, it is likely a scam. Banks rarely ask for this information over the phone and will never ask for a one-time login code. If you have any suspicions, hang up and immediately call your bank.
- 3. Triple-check payments.** And, if you are sending money over a payment app, check every number to ensure accuracy. Some apps prompt senders to

verify the recipient's phone number or otherwise verify their identity. While this is important, double-check the recipient's account information before you click send. Instant payment apps act like cash, so treat it as such.

"Fraudsters and scammers are getting more sophisticated to trick consumers out of their own money. That's why it's so important to be mindful before making a payment to someone, providing any personal information, and especially before giving your bank information to anyone," CBA President and CEO Lindsey Johnson said. "Please be vigilant and encourage others to do the same."

The Consumer Bankers Association and its membership comprising the nation's leading consumer retail banks encourage consumers to protect their own information and money to avoid falling victim to scams and fraud. More information can be found at [www.consumerbankers.com](http://www.consumerbankers.com).

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EDWARD JONES

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH YOUR TAX REFUND?

BY DAVID TAM,  
EDWARD JONES IN KENSINGTON

It's almost that time of year when many people start receiving their tax refunds. If you get one, what will you do with it?

Of course, the answer will depend somewhat on how big your refund is. Last year, the average refund amount was about \$2,750, according to the Internal Revenue Service's Filing Season Statistics report.

Whatever the size of your refund, you'll want to maximize its benefit. Here are a few suggestions:

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR IRA

If you were to receive about \$2,750, it would go a long way toward funding your IRA for the year — but any amount would help. You still have until April 15 to contribute to your IRA for the 2023 tax year, but if you've already "maxed out" on it, you could use your refund for 2024, when the annual contribution limit for a traditional and Roth IRA is \$7,000, or \$8,000 if you're 50 or older. And by getting an early start toward fully funding your IRA for the year, you can reduce the pressure of having to come up with large amounts later.

BUILD AN EMERGENCY FUND

Your tax refund could help you start or expand an emergency fund. It's a good idea to keep up to six months' worth of living expenses in such a fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account, separate from the funds you use for your daily expenses. You might need to draw on this fund for unexpected expenses, such as a major home or car repair or a medical bill that's not fully covered by your insurance. Without such an emergency fund in place, you might be forced to dip into your IRA or

other retirement accounts to pay for these types of costs, and such a move could be expensive, resulting in taxes, penalties and lost opportunities for growth.

CONTRIBUTE TO A 529 PLAN

If you have children or grandchildren and you'd like to help them further their education someday, you might consider investing in a 529 education savings plan. With a 529 plan, earnings and withdrawals are federally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified education expenses.

Based on where you live, your 529 plan may provide state tax benefits, too. (It is possible, though, that 529 withdrawals could affect financial aid packages, depending on who owns the account.) A 529 plan can be used to help pay for college, accredited trade school programs, some K-12 expenses and even to help repay some student loans.

PAY DOWN DEBTS

Most of us probably wish we could reduce our debt loads. Your tax refund may give you a chance to do just that. But which debts should you tackle first? You could follow the "snowball" method by paying off the smallest of your loans or debts as quickly as possible. Or you could choose the "avalanche" route by making minimum payments on all debts and using extra funds — such as your tax refund — to pay off the debts that carry the highest interest rates. Either method could help you save money in the long term.

Your tax refund can be a valuable asset — so use it wisely.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



# MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
CINCO DE MAYO						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
MOTHER'S DAY						ARMED FORCES DAY
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	MEMORIAL DAY					



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# APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	APRIL FOOLS DAY					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



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# A PINEAPPLE MARGARITA FOR GOOD LUCK? YES, PLEASE

**BETH DOOLEY** - In looking for symbols of luck to usher in the new year, I came across the pineapple, long associated with friendliness, warmth and good fortune. The flavor of this luxuriant, rich fruit is nicely balanced by a cutting acidity. In cocktails, it blends harmoniously with

a range of spirits, though usually with rum (think piña colada). It also works nicely with the smoky notes of mezcal and tequila. Both spirits are made from agave. Mezcal can be produced from up to 40 different species of the agave plant. Tequila, a type of mezcal, is made from just one — the agave tequilana,

or Blue Weber agave. Mezcal has a stronger taste and a higher alcohol concentration than tequila. Pineapple cocktails are especially festive, thanks to an enzyme called bromelain that breaks down protein and reacts with air to make bubbles when the juice is shaken. There's no need to fuss with the fresh fruit; in this case, canned or bottled juice is just as good. Look for varieties without added sugar and that are sold in smaller quantities, if possible, as the juice can spoil quickly once opened. The splendor of this New Year's cocktail is not diminished when it's made as a boisson or sobrio — zero-proof. The variation calls for additional fresh lime juice and little sparkling water. Both are elegantly crowned with coarse salt and a slice of grilled pineapple. To complement such sunny sips, think about serving dishes with contrasting flavors and colors. As we transition from one year to the next, keep the choices light and easy — broiled shrimp, chips with lively fresh salsa and guacamole, and fish or chicken tacos are as simple to make as they are to serve. Be sure to add a few good-luck Mexican wedding cakes for dessert.

## PINEAPPLE MARGARITA

*Makes 2 cocktails, but is easily doubled.* You can make up a big batch for a crowd and hold in the refrigerator. Not everyone loves the smoky notes in mezcal, so feel free to use tequila. Make it zero-proof by omitting the tequila and adding several extra splashes of fresh lime juice.

- 1/8 c. mezcal or tequila (for zero-proof, use 1/8 c. fresh lime juice plus 1/4 c. sparkling water)
- 1/4 c. fresh orange juice
- 2 tbsp. fresh lime juice
- 3/4 c. (6 oz.) pineapple juice
- Coarse salt, for garnish
- Crushed ice
- Lime slices, for garnish
- Grilled pineapple slices, for garnish (see below)

## DIRECTIONS

Put the mezcal or fresh lime juice, orange juice, lime juice and pineapple juice into a cocktail shaker and shake vigorously. Pour about 1/4 inch of coarse salt into a saucer. Lightly wet the rim of the glasses with water. Holding the glass at a 45-degree angle, run the glass rim around the salt. Set the glass aside so the salt hardens. Carefully fill the glass with crushed ice. Pour the margarita into the glasses then garnish with the lime slices and grilled pineapple. **To prepare grilled pineapple:** Cut fresh pineapple into 2-inch pieces. To grill it on the stovetop, using tongs, hold the pineapple piece over the flame until it begins to char, about 5 to 8 minutes. To grill in the broiler, preheat the broiler to high. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Arrange the pineapple pieces on the parchment and run under the broiler, checking after about 3 to 5 minutes. If it's beginning to char, flip and continue grilling another 3 to 5 minutes.

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## INGREDIENTS

SERVES 4

- ❑ 1 1/2 pounds small red potatoes, unpeeled, halved
- ❑ 6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- ❑ 10 garlic cloves, unpeeled
- ❑ 2 teaspoons table salt, divided
- ❑ 1 1/2 teaspoons pepper, divided
- ❑ 1 pound broccoli florets, cut into 2-inch pieces
- ❑ 4 (8- to 10-ounce) bone-in pork rib chops, 3/4 to 1 inch thick, trimmed
- ❑ 1/2 cup chicken broth
- ❑ 1/3 cup heavy cream
- ❑ 2 tablespoons grainy mustard
- ❑ 2 teaspoons lemon juice



## PORK CHOPS, POTATOES AND BROCCOLI WITH MUSTARD-GARLIC SAUCE

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Adjust oven rack to lowest position and heat oven to 475 degrees. Toss potatoes, 3 tablespoons oil, 10 garlic cloves, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/2 teaspoon pepper together on a rimmed baking sheet. Arrange potatoes cut side down and roast for 10 minutes.
2. Toss broccoli with 2 tablespoons oil and 1/2 teaspoon salt and scatter over and around potatoes. Roast until vegetables are tender and browned, about 20 minutes. Squeeze garlic from skins and chop fine.
3. Meanwhile, pat pork dry with paper towels and sprinkle with remaining 1 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon pepper. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in

- a 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until just smoking. Add pork and cook until browned and registering 140 degrees, about 6 minutes per side. Transfer pork to platter.
4. Add broth and cream to the now-empty skillet and cook over medium-high heat until slightly thickened, about 3 minutes. Stir mustard, lemon juice, garlic, and any accumulated pork juices into sauce. Serve.

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# KENSINGTON NEIGHBORS: GREYWATER IS DO-ABLE IN SAN DIEGO!



Our drought-tolerant front yard.

BY MARTIN AND  
CYNTHIA OFFENHAUER

When we moved to Kensington 24 years ago, it's walkability, historic homes, community connective-ness and access to transit reminded us of the East Coast community we'd left behind. But soon a new reality hit us — high utility and water rates that kept going up and up. Our challenge: how to keep the historic character of our home but also reduce these increasing costs.

First, like many folks, we replaced the lawn with succulents and cactus plants, to give us year-round color. We also kept a few mature plants whose deep roots would require less water. Next we installed solar panels, energy saving appliances and two 500-gallon rain barrels that are hidden in our back yard. Eventually, and probably most significantly we investigated grey water systems.

WHAT'S PERMITTED

In 2014, after much research, we selected the company, Catching H2O. They had experience and good references and had worked in the City of San Diego. Their staff explained to us that California required permitting of shower grey water systems like we wanted.

With their design, we were able to channel our shower water to our landscape on the south side yard that includes our banana, lemon, and orange trees. The system also sends water to the south front garden. In our case, due to gravity constraints, water drains into a surge tank and then is pumped into the landscape.

Over the past ten years, we estimate we've saved over 2,000 gallons of water annually between our rain barrels and grey water system. At that rate, we've save about \$300 per year, so in about five years, the system paid for itself.

URBAN ENVIRONMENTALIST

We received recognition for our water conservation efforts by former Mayor Sanders who called us "Urban Environmentalists." Our greywater system and garden were featured in the Balboa Park Floral Society 2019 tour, and our garden is included in Debra Lee Baldwin's books, "Designing with Succulents" and "Succulents Simplified."

We really enjoy sharing our water saving knowledge. Here are some of what we learned from Catching H2O about these systems:

- Greywater is usually accessible through a crawlspace or from a ceiling or wall outside a shower. It is NOT accessible from a slab foundation, unless you are remodeling your bathroom.
- A three-way valve is installed where the shower line joins

the mainline. This is required by California Plumbing Code to allow users to switch back to sewer/septic as needed — in the case where it is raining for days on end and you don't want to send more water to your plants, or you send something down the drain that is not good for your plants. A remote switch can be added for site appropriate access.

- The topography of your landscape will determine whether a pump is needed or you can use gravity. All distribution must be in basins filled with mulch so that bacterial laden water is not exposed to the surface where animals or people can come in contact. In a mulch filled basin, microorganisms will consume the bacteria and other particulates in the water and turn it into food for the plants. When

done properly minimal to no filtration of the water is needed prior to its' distribution in the soil.

- You shouldn't use grey water on leafy green vegetables or root vegetables, some plants are sensitive to salts and should not be irrigated.

We are grateful for Catching

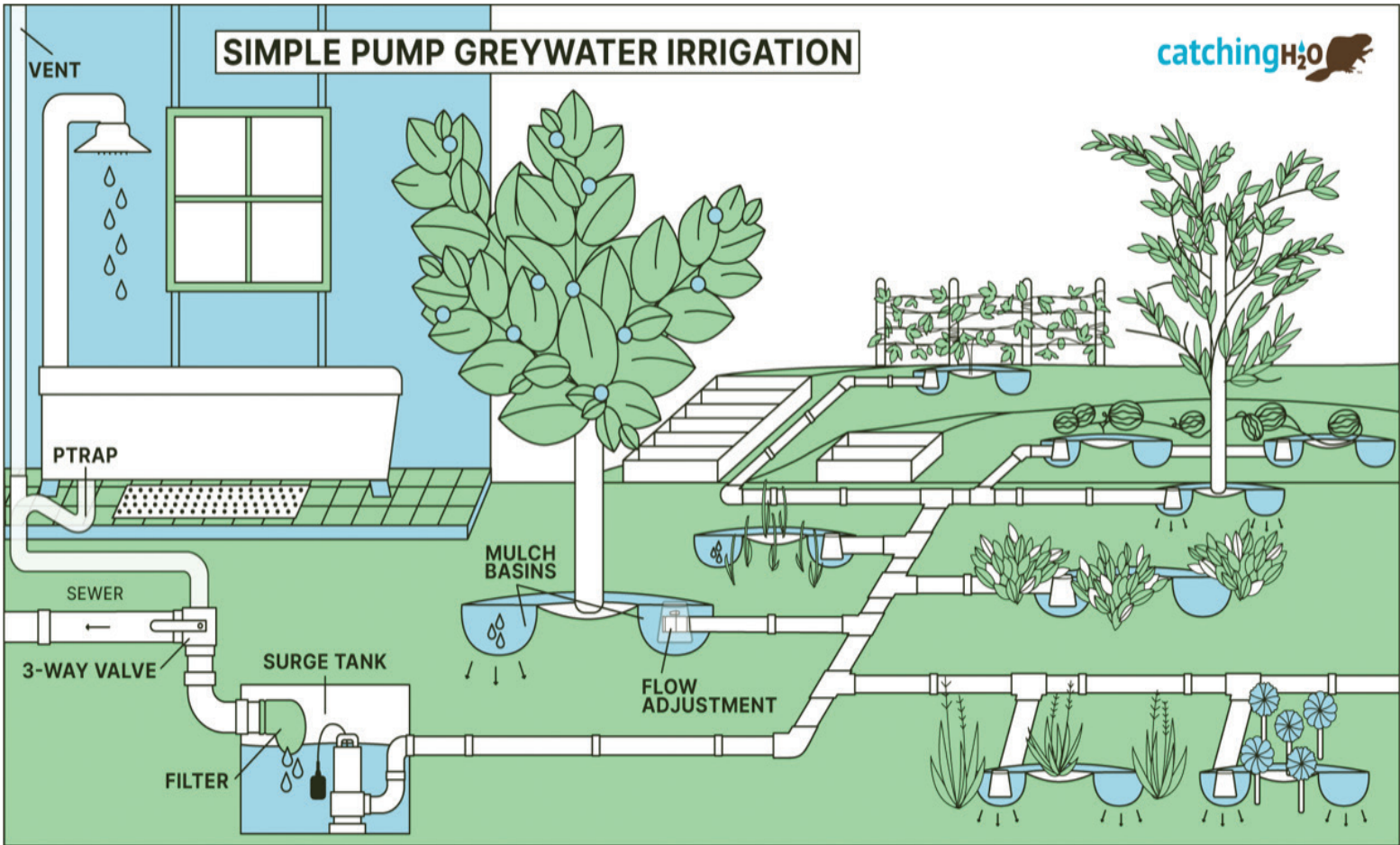
H2O's help, and all efforts to maximize opportunities to up-cycle our valuable and scare water. Instead of barren landscapes that require no water, we can have lush, productive, edible, pollinator-supporting, carbo-sequestering, shaded landscapes without using any new municipal water - only gently used grey water and rainwater that is ours to keep on site!



South side of house with greywater lid.



Our greywater system surge tank and pump.





# FIRE-EY QUESTIONS FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS

## IS THE CALIFORNIA “FAIR PLAN” FAIR?

by Judy Beust Harrington,  
Co-Chair, Kensington Fire Safe

Kensington's fire safe council will share our researched answers to inquiries from community members. Please send your fire-related questions to [info@kensingtonfiresafe.org](mailto:info@kensingtonfiresafe.org). Pictures appreciated!

**Q:** Over a recent delicious lunch at Clem's Station on Monroe, we talked with Tony – manager, bartender, waiter, and part of the Owing family - about problems residents are having getting, keeping, or affording homeowner insurance. He asked how the California FAIR Plan worked.

We checked with the San Diego Fire Department in November and were told that crews [www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/brushprioritymaplist.pdf](http://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/brushprioritymaplist.pdf). The phone number for questions on Open Space Brush Management is 619-685-1350.

First of all, it's not a government entity, as a lot of folks think. Although established by a California statute in 1968, CFP is run by a consortium of California property and casualty insurers. They're required to participate if they want to do business here, and they share in the plan's overhead, profits, and most significantly – losses, in direct proportion to their market share in our state.<sup>(1)</sup>

So that means the bigger their sales, the greater their CFP plan liabilities, on top of whatever they're paying out for their own insured. Is it any wonder you may find it hard to get a policy with the biggest insurers like State Farm, The Hartford and USAA?

FAIR plans, which exist in 26 states, weren't intended for long term coverage, but rather as a temporary safety net until traditional insurance could be secured. In other words,

it's the insurance of last resort when no other insurer will take you on. But with our fire losses, CFP covers over 320,000 policies – about 3% of Californians. (By contrast, Washington State's CFP Plan only covers about 130 policies.)<sup>(2)</sup>

CFP doesn't take all comers. Brokers must answer questions about why they're placing the risk with it, and confirm they've been declined by other carriers. As a result, CFP's growing share of high-risk properties results in more expense for insurers and higher premiums for the insured.<sup>(3)</sup>

But – there are other problems. According to a June article in the *San Francisco Standard*, critics say the CFP is underfunded and mismanaged.



Scott Caraveo, Insurance Advisor to Kensington Fire Safe

### KENSINGTON FIRE SAFE'S DUMPPATHON GREEN WASTE ONLY



**DUMP YOUR  
FIRE-PRONE  
YARD TRIMMINGS  
HERE FOR FREE!**



**APRIL 25 - MAY 6  
KENSINGTONFIRESAFE.ORG**

Perhaps not surprising since, as the article says, “The very companies that refuse to insure properties in high-risk areas are still insuring them through the ‘back door’ of CFP, and it doesn't always pay out when it ought to.”

The article goes on to cite a Department of Insurance four-year study that found numerous issues, including that the CFP on occasion failed to provide standard fire insurance coverage, particularly regarding smoke damage claims.<sup>(4)</sup>

Kensington Fire Safe's insurance advisor, Scott Caraveo, says the process can be slow. “As homeowners buy in areas with higher fire risk, they're ending up with five or more insurance quotes from several brokers, which may all be from the CFP. So now CFP has five different applications from five different brokers, all for the same address, creating a gigantic backlog. The three or four days it used to take for a CFP quote to be returned have become three weeks or more.”

#### HIGHER PRICES & LESS COVERAGE

Scott pointed out there was a 15 percent increase this past December, but it's not spread evenly. According to a November ABC report, “Some people in the most wildfire-prone, high-risk areas could see their rates as much as double.” And CFP covers less than traditional insurance plans.<sup>(5)</sup> Of course, some of our neighbors have already seen their homeowner insurance double if it's renewed at all.

So, that's the bad CFP news. The good news is we at least have a backup insurance option. If interested, your insurance broker can help with the plan's application process, which requires information on your home's replacement costs and date-stamped photos. You're supposed to get a quote that's good for 30 days.

Another option is an excess and

surplus (E&S) carrier specializing in insuring high-risk properties. These policies are not backed by the California Insurance Guarantee Association, although they likely have other fail safes, such as reinsurance. Check with your broker or the Surplus Line Association of California website for more information.

Meanwhile, make your home more attractive to insurers by hardening it against fire embers. A good time to trim excess green fuel and dump it for free is during the KFS Spring Dumpathon, Thursday, **April 25 to Monday, May 6th**. Check for location announcements at [kensingtonfiresafe.org](http://kensingtonfiresafe.org) and on Nextdoor. And please, no non-greens. We can be fined for that!

#### BY THE FIRE SAFE WAY... WE'RE HOPING TO ARRANGE TWO PRESENTATIONS THIS SPRING:

- Efforts to Keep Our Canyons Safe by representatives from San Diego Open Space Brush Management and the San Diego Fire Department.
- Assessing Fire Risk by representatives from Verisk on how they report on risk for insurance companies.
- Watch for date announcements on Nextdoor and KFS's Facebook page. To receive this info directly, send your email address to [info@kensingtonfiresafe.org](mailto:info@kensingtonfiresafe.org)

#### Notes:

- (1) [www.cfpnet.com/about-fair-plan/#:~:text=The%20California%20FAIR%20Plan%20was,from%20a%20traditional%20insurance%20carrier](http://www.cfpnet.com/about-fair-plan/#:~:text=The%20California%20FAIR%20Plan%20was,from%20a%20traditional%20insurance%20carrier).
- (2) <https://content.naic.org/cipr-topics/fair-access-insurance-requirements-fair-plans#:~:text=The%20states%20that%20have%20their,similar%20purpose%20to%20FAIR%20plans>.
- (3) <https://sfstandard.com/2023/10/19/california-insurance-crisis-CFP-plan-1000-applications-rate-increase/>
- (4) <https://sfstandard.com/2023/06/05/as-insurers-retreat-california-homeowners-may-need-the-CFP-plan-so-what-is-it/>
- (5) [www.cfpnet.com/](http://www.cfpnet.com/)



# KENSINGTON AND BALBOA PARK: G. AUBREY DAVIDSON'S GREATEST WORKS?

BY MAGGIE MCCANN

On July 9, 1909, G. Aubrey Davidson, founder of the Southern Trust and Commerce Bank and president of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, told his fellow Chamber of Commerce members that San Diego would be the first American port-of-call north of the Panama Canal on the Pacific coast and, therefore, San Diego should stage an exposition in 1915 to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal. "For 20 years this organization and the entire Pacific Coast have waited for the building of the Panama Canal," he told his board. "It occurs to me that the [1914 canal] opening should be the signal for San Diego to put on a great celebration, not just a county or state fair, but an international exposition."

An exposition would call attention to the city and bolster an economy still shaky from the Wall Street Panic of 1907. It would most definitely boost real estate sales. The chamber of commerce authorized Davidson to appoint a committee to look into his idea. Six years later, Davidson presided over the opening of the Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park, a two-year event that set San Diego on a new direction in the 20th century and left a legacy – the park, the Navy, high-tech industries – that lives with us today. Because the idea began with him, Davidson is called the "Father of the Exposition." Davidson later served as President of the Exposition during the actual Exposition years, hosted dignitaries, and would succeed George Marston as president of the San Diego Museum (now the Museum of Us).

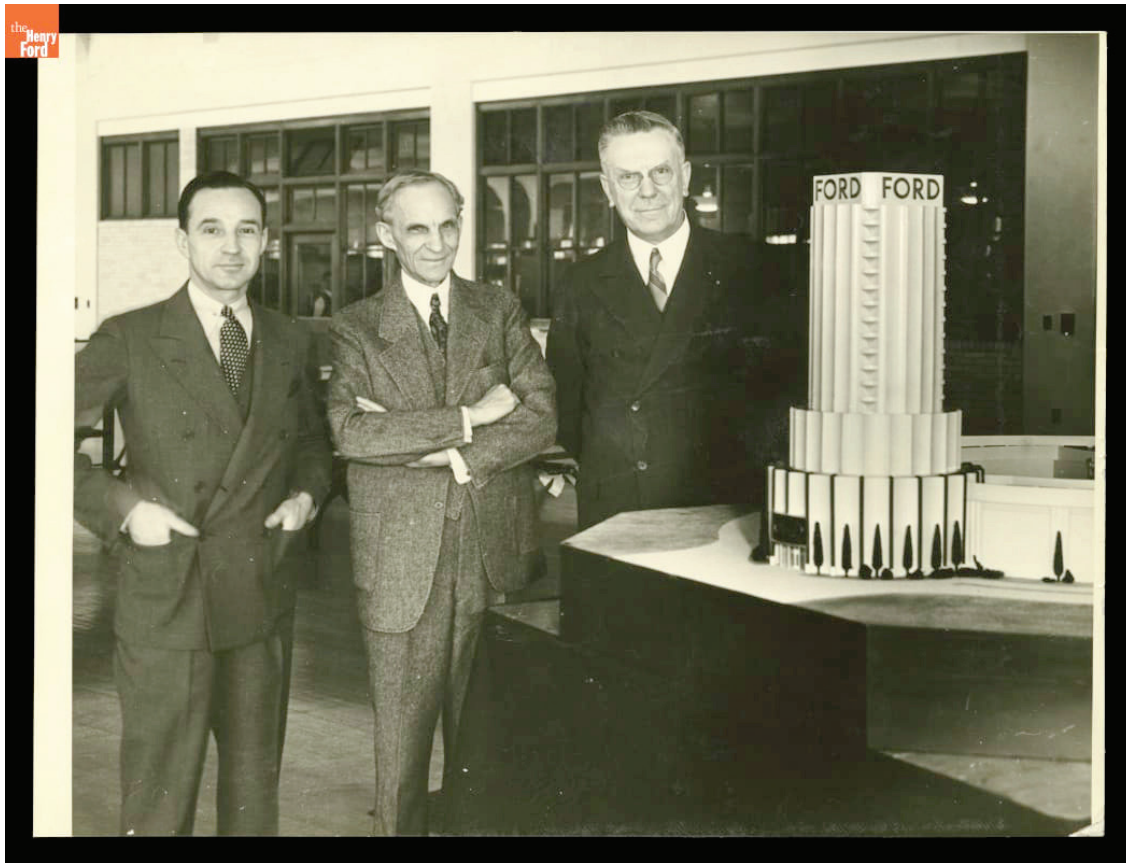
Gilbert Aubrey Davidson was born in Kirkville, Nova Scotia on the 21st of June 1868. His education was at Kings County Academy to the eighth grade, leaving school at 14 to take a job as a telegrapher with the Canadian Railroad. His parents moved to San Diego in 1886, prompting him to follow, where he landed a job with the Santa Fe Railway. One of his earliest duties was to take a bag of gold out to the end of the rail line in the desert and pay the Chinese laborers. He transferred to Los Angeles the next year. He began employment at the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad

Company, first as a ticket taker and telegrapher, then as a bookkeeper, and later an auditor. That experience is what led this eight grade graduate to a successful career as the founder of San Diego's first million dollar capital bank.

On November 12, 1894, he married Rosetta Harben of Los Angeles. G. Aubrey Davidson renounced his Canadian citizenship and became an American citizen on June 25th 1900. Aubrey and Rosa relocated from Los Angeles in 1907, initially making their home in San Diego's Bankers Hill neighborhood. There they raised their only son, Gilbert Aubrey, Jr. Davidson spent much of the next decade going back and forth to Los Angeles where he recruited millionaire investors for his San Diego schemes. In his first years in San Diego, Davidson immersed himself in local politics (backing A. G. Spalding for Senator in 1910), became the primary booster of San Diego's potential, and pushed the city forward from an isolated cul-de-sac to a major naval hub. As president of the Chamber of Commerce, he had more influence than the mayor of the city. It was the Chamber, under his leadership, that took the initiative to pave the city's streets, and in 1909 he took on the promotion of planting shade trees, saying, "San Diego ought to be a city of shade trees, for almost all such trees do better here than anywhere else in the country. But, as a matter of fact, we are worse off in this respect than almost any city in the state. You can traverse street after street without seeing a single tree."

Over the next half century, G. Aubrey Davidson would become an influential person in the development of San Diego and the surrounding area. He was responsible for getting the Navy to build a base in San Diego, receiving the Navy's highest civilian honor in 1956, the Distinguished Public Service Award, and earning the moniker "Godfather" of San Diego's Naval facilities. The award included his work as founder and president of the first Armed Services YMCA in San Diego. Many called him "a visionary who could not only imagine great things but was able to persuade others that such things were possible." One of his greatest visions was for the development of a 117-acre tract just outside the city limits, which he named "Kensington Park."

In 1907 Davidson organized the Southern Trust and Savings Bank, a forerunner of the Bank of America, which he served as vice-president until he retired in 1949. He organized a company which built and operated the U.S. Grant Hotel. As president of the



L to R: Edsel Ford, Henry Ford, and G. Aubrey Davidson with model of San Diego's Ford Exposition Building designed for the 1935 Exposition.

Chamber of Commerce he led a campaign which culminated in the Panama-California Exposition of 1915-1916. One of the visitors to the exposition was Marine Colonel Joseph Pendleton who was impressed by the climate. Pendleton worked alongside Davidson to establish the Marine Corps Recruit Depot. After that success, Davidson solicited funding to buy 150 acres as a site for the Naval Training Station. He also led a campaign for land for a 1,000-bed Naval hospital in Balboa Park. In his spare time, whenever an out-of-town financier or dignitary arrived in San Diego, Davidson would take them for a drive around the county, pointing out the potential for investment and growth. He worked to make San Diego's harbor a major port, bringing in steamships to move goods along the coast, leveraged his Santa Fe Railroad connections to extend the rail lines, and lobbied every government official he met for federal and state investment in the region.

Davidson invested in raw land all over San Diego County, much of it in Lemon Grove and El Cajon, which he held and sold on to others to develop. One of his first forays into real estate development in San Diego was as a partner of W. W. Whitson, president of the Hillcrest Company and developer of Hillcrest at Fifth Avenue.

An article in the San Diego Union in September 1909 reported that a "Syndicate of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Santa Fe Interests to Spend \$100,000 on Suburban Section," with the purpose of developing 117 acres east of Normal Heights. Investing in the property acquired from the Hitchcock estate were Los

Angeles and San Francisco executives of the Brea Canyon Oil Company and the Santa Fe Railroad, as well as capitalists H. F. Vollmer and A. C. Riordan. "Through the energetic efforts of G. Aubrey Davidson, President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles men were induced to come here and look over the property." \$50,000 was paid for the land, and an additional \$50,000 was to be expended on improvements before any lots were put up for sale.

In the January 30, 1910 edition of the San Diego Union, the plans to develop Kensington Park were announced. "NAME CHOSEN FOR NEW HIGH-CLASS HOME TRACT" the headline proclaimed. "Kensington Park is the name decided upon for the 117-acre tract recently purchased by G. Aubrey Davidson and a syndicate of Santa Fe officials for a high-class residence district... Besides perfection in roadmaking, the property will be curbed and side-walked, and different kinds of shade trees planted on each street. The owners of the property look upon the deep canyon between the tract and the city as an advantage, as it divides the tract, which is to be distinctly a high-class proposition, from any other subdivision." A few months later, an ad ran in the Union, soliciting bids for a wooden trestle bridge over Ward Canyon at Adams Avenue, leading into Kensington Park. "All bids must be submitted to G. A. Davidson, Pres. Southern Trust & Savings Bank, San Diego, Cal., on or before noon of April 23rd 1910."

The rest is history. Kensington Park was opened for the sale of lots on Thanksgiving Day, 1910. Kensington Manor

and Point Loma Highlands were subsequent development projects of Davidson's.

During a ceremony in 1948 when Davidson was hailed as San Diego's "First Citizen," he spoke about his legacy. "At one time we had much controversy over the question of smokestacks and geraniums" he said. "Well I am strong for smokestacks. I made many trips east in the interest of various activities – steel plants and cotton mills and shoe factories and a little of everything. But today, in the face of our accomplishments in San Diego, I am an out-and-out believer in geraniums. There's so much we could do in the way of beautification."

G. Aubrey Davidson, Sr. died at the age of 89 on December 14, 1957 at his home at 4440 Braeburn Road, where he had been living since his wife died in 1953. Now called Beth-Sarim: House of the Princes. This historically designated house was the first owned by Davidson. Prior to moving to Kensington he was a lifelong renter, having spent 20 years living at the Hotel del Coronado. Davidson decorated the home with signed photos of the seven U.S. Presidents that he met, from Theodore Roosevelt through Franklin D. Roosevelt. His favorite, he said as a lifelong Republican, was Democrat F.D.R. "Mr. Roosevelt was assistant secretary of the Navy when I headed the exposition in 1915. He made several visits to San Diego then and I visited him later in the White House. We were close friends." Davidson created Kensington, and he died a Kensington homeowner. He was buried beside his beloved wife of 59 years, Rosetta, in Mount Hope Cemetery.



HISTORIC  
KENSINGTON



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## Mike's Recent Market Activity

### *The Kensington Collection*



#### **KENSINGTON! 4933 Marlborough Drive**

Spanish Hacienda! Single story oozing with charm inside and out! Lovely corner lot with extensive landscaping and fruit trees! Formal LR and DR as well as an eat in kitchen! Two car detached garage plus Solar! A Kensington stand out!  
**Offered at \$1,799,000**



#### **KENSINGTON! - 4358 Alder Drive**

Three bedroom three bath traditional styled home on a quiet lot complete with pool! Formal LR and DR as well as a gorgeous open kitchen and family room leading to the pool and entertaining areas.  
**Offered at \$2,090,000**

#### **KENSINGTON! - 4315 Hilldale Road**

Three bedroom two bath with detached studio and extra bath! Single story ranch in great condition. Beautiful pool and patio overlooking the QUIET lush canyon! Over 1,900 sf. Excellent location.  
**Offered at \$1,799,000**

**NO ONE HAS SOLD MORE HOMES IN KENSINGTON THAN MIKE TRISTANI!**



#### **KENSINGTON! - 5274 Marlborough Drive**

Spanish! Mills Act potential! North end Classic Spanish four bedroom two story with a very generous main bedroom with fireplace. Classic design throughout with a formal living room and fireplace, formal dining, family room and much much more.  
**Closed at \$2,270,000**



#### **MILLS ACT!**

#### **KENSINGTON! - 5310 Canterbury Drive**

One of Kensington's most prominent addresses is now on the market! MILLS ACT is in place! This single level Ranch by Chris Cosgrove, once owned by the Ratner and Fleet families, is on a nearly one acre canyon view parcel complete with pool and tennis court! A detached studio offers many different uses.  
**Closed at \$3,575,000**

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