

# Bringing the Community Together

# KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

APRIL 2021 PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL VOLUME 79 NUMBER 3

## A Family Affair



Bill Hansell's two younger sons (Wes, 2, and Gabe, 5) model their fancy firefighting gear.  
Photo by Angela Seita.

By Linnea Due

Bill Hansell, the Kensington Fire Protection District's new general manager, jokes that he's no longer the new kid on the block—his tenure predates the KPPCSD's GM, Marti Brown, by about two months (see the March *Outlook* for an interview with Brown). Hansell, with a degree in architecture from the University of Virginia, has long straddled a two-pronged

career path, one influenced by his parents.

"I came to California 31 years ago to practice architecture," Hansell explained. "I moved to Marin when my son was three. Soon after I got on the board of my Marinwood Community Services District (CSD) so that I could become more integrated into the community. My

See Hansell, page 4

## Whither the Kensington Police?

*GM Presents Options to Board*

By Linnea Due

It's a perennial question, though now it's not about rapacious El Cerrito or jobbing out to the sheriff. Now the issue is where in Kensington can the police be located if they cannot eke out a space in the Public Safety Building.

New KPPCSD GM Marti Brown prepared an attractive and meaty PowerPoint to address this issue, which was presented at the March 11 regular board meeting. Brown compared three scenarios: 1) the police stay in the PSB, 2) the police lease a space elsewhere in Kensington, 3) the police build a new structure with or without the fire district on what Brown characterized as vacant land in the district (read: the park). She gave preliminary costs for these alternatives.

What might catch the attention of those perusing this document (on the district website under the March 11 board meeting agenda) are Brown's and KPD Captain Mike Gancasz's assessments of the building's inadequacies for the police—and how the renovation might exacerbate those lacks. Brown noted that 93 percent of companies provide 100 sq. ft. (SF) or over of workspace per employee. Only 3 percent provide less than 75 SF. The current KPD officer enjoys 38-56 SF per employee—however, as was pointed out later in the

See Police, page 12

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January 31, 2021 - Present

Listings		Pending Sales	
Number of listings	2	Number of Pending Sales	10
Avg. List Price	\$1,275,000	Avg. List Price	\$1,224,000
Avg. Square footage	1,879	Avg. Square footage	2,090
Avg. List Price Cost Per Sq. Ft.	\$677.65	Avg. List Price Cost Per Sq. Ft.	\$665.28
Avg. Days on the market	15	Avg. Days on the Market	20

Sales January 2021 to present

Number of Solds	5 (Per MLS)	Avg. Square footage	2,043
Avg. List Price	\$1,275,000	Avg. Sales Price Cost Per Sq. Ft.	\$771.69
Avg. List Price Cost Per Sq. Ft.	\$631.84	Avg. Days on the market	16
Avg. Sales Price	\$1,346,000		

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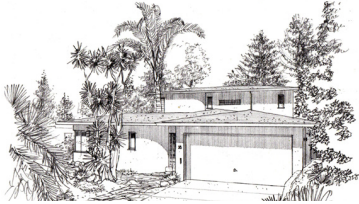




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## Kensington Update


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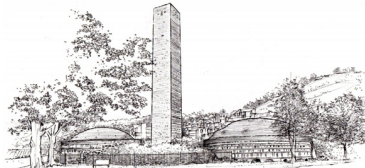
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**This number could save your life: (925) 655-0195.** This is the new caller ID phone number the county's Community Warning System (CWS) will use to call residents to inform them of imminent danger and relay instructions (e.g. during wildfire, evacuation, hazardous conditions, etc.). Do not ignore an incoming call from this number! Post or note it at an easily accessed location.

The call will go out to your landline (automatic) and cell phone (if you have registered your cell with the CWS). To sign up for CWS emergency notifications for your cell phone, go to [cwsalerts.com](https://cwsalerts.com). Stay informed and stay safe!—Paul Moss, KFPD Emergency Preparedness Committee

*The Kensington Community Council is dedicated to the improvement, development, and education of the community, and to the promotion of social welfare in Kensington. It enriches the community by providing educational and recreational programs for all ages and by publishing the Outlook, a monthly newsletter that covers local events and issues. KCC also provides a forum for all Kensington community groups to meet and coordinate their respective efforts toward the common good of the community.*

## MAY 2021 DEADLINES:

**Advertising Deadline ❖ APRIL 8**  
**Editorial Deadline ❖ APRIL 10**

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

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# Letters to the Editor

## Commission Without Ties Can Be Objective

Dear Editor:

Kensington has struggled for years on various proposals to renovate the existing PSB, which has housed both the fire and police departments for about fifty years. The existing building must be retrofitted for seismic safety. The challenge in renovating the existing building is meeting safety and legal requirements for both departments.

It's time for a new approach—a commission consisting of a former police chief and a former fire chief, neither of whom have been employed by either district, and an architect who has not been retained by either district, to investigate options and report to the community. These options would include whether the existing building can meet the needs of both departments and, if not, recommendations for alternatives, including possible relocation of the PSB. This commission should also provide rough cost estimates.

The directors of both boards are understandably advocates for their respective departments, which can create an impediment in devising the best solution for the community as a whole. A commission with expertise but without ties to either department can look more clearly at options.

The existing space was adequate years ago but not with today's additional legal requirements and technologies that mandate more, not less, space than is available in the current building. The police department must meet Department of Justice requirements for confidentiality and safety for storage of weapons, ammunition, and evidence. The desk computers, mobile computers, and body cameras require space to store, recharge, and download data. Contracting out for functions such as evidence is inefficient and expensive.

Likewise, responding to fires especially in areas of urban/wildland interface and medical emergencies has become more complicated and requires additional equipment. The serious threat to Kensington is fire from the canyon, which is a tinderbox that hasn't burned in over a hundred years. There is also concern that an earthquake could make the Arlington impassible, and the commission could study whether it makes sense to relocate the building.

This issue has the potential for a significant tax increase that should concern all Kensington taxpayers, especially the newer residents as they bear a disproportionate property taxes burden.

Eileen Nottoli, vice president, KPPCSD

## Let's Rethink

Dear Editor,

The issue of how to proceed with the remodel of the Public Safety Building was discussed at the 03/11/2021 KPPCSD board meeting. The KPPCSD staff put together a report looking at the question of where the future home of the KPPCSD could be located. Although a few board members raised questions about some of the facts and figures, the report contained much relevant information and raised several questions that will lead no doubt to more discussions by the community.

As we face the need for a remodel of the building, we have an opportunity to address a number of basic safety concerns. We know that the threat of a wildfire could originate from the Eastbay parklands and spread to Kensington very quickly. We also know that the Public Safety Building is located virtually on top of the Hayward Fault. Knowing this, why would we want to continue to house our two critical public safety agencies in such a vulnerable location? And at a preliminary estimate of 2 to 8 million dollars, is that a sound investment?

The roadway along Arlington Avenue is also susceptible to damage from potential and active slide areas. Key evacuation routes could be compromised because of the potential slide areas near the intersections of Oberlin and Wellesley, causing the access to Sunset Drive to be blocked. Further north on Arlington Avenue, active slide areas could also limit accessibility to evacuation routes.

The KFD may have to remain in its current location on Arlington Avenue to maintain acceptable response times to emergency calls in our community. But the KPD can be located in another part of our community where it is less susceptible to earthquake or fire damage. The furthest point from the fault line in Kensington is the Colusa Circle area. The area also has a range of commercial/office spaces and connections to major local roadways.

Perhaps it is time for a referendum on the choices of the future location of the KPD facility.

John Gaccione

## Letter of the Law

Dear Editor:

Our KPPSCD has just attempted to eliminate its last community member committee, the finance committee. This has been a long-standing committee of Kensington citizens to help provide oversight of the KPPCSD budget, audit, and district purchases. Why would this board not seek to continue community input or oversight on its expenditures?

We say "attempted to eliminate" this standing finance committee because, in our opinion, the board's vote to do so in January 2021 violated California's Brown Act, the Open Meeting Act. Ironically, this board's majority platform emphasized its "transparency" in the fall election.

Yet, their internet post for January 14, 2021 buries in the final and 24th item of a lengthy agenda an item that merely states that it seeks to "renumber and amend policies No. 6030 and 4020." The agenda fails to inform the public that in fact the "amendment" of board policy 4020 (one would have to wade through the board's policy and procedures manual to even find it) actually does not amend, but entirely deletes the policy that provides for the finance committee. Only if one carefully reviews the attendant resolution can one realize that this opaque agenda item seeks to transform the standing financial committee to a temporary committee "that the Board President or the Board deems necessary or advisable." Who would be appointed to this new committee by the board, if at all? What might their temporary role be? The stated rationale is that Kensington no longer needs citizen input because the board has hired professional (i.e., highly paid, by our taxes) staff for its own financial oversight.

California courts hold that under the Brown Act, "The People of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know."

This "transparent" board is now attempting to close off all community committee input and doing so in a manner we feel is designed to withhold information and violates state law.

Paul Dorroh, Nancy Fenton, Pat Gillette, Richard Karlsson, Linda Lipscomb, Charles Toombs, Len Welsh

## That 1932 Ordinance

Dear Editor:

I have resided in Kensingdog my entire life and feel compelled to open up and gripe. I am troubled by the open flouting of the 1932 Dog Ordinance that made it illegal for humans to walk the streets of my village without a dog. In the last six months alone I have personally witnessed three humans, blithely walking along, completely without a dog. How many others of my species watch in despair, wait in vain? It's criminal, I tell you!

Brigit Colleen Pooch

# Vaccination Update

By County Supervisor John Gioia

Contra Costa County Health Services has been working with local health providers to vaccinate our county's population as quickly as possible. Our goal is to have 1 million doses administered by July 4.

Of course, our success is dependent on receiving a sufficient supply of doses from the state, and the state receiving enough doses from the federal government. The good news is that the federal government has purchased more vaccine doses, and we expect our supply to increase. Currently, we have a greater capacity to administer doses than the actual supply we are receiving.



Photo: Mufid Majnun, Unsplash

There is no wrong door to get vaccination appointments

Contra Costa County's Health Officer recommends you sign up for vaccination appointments through all of the following sites: with your own healthcare provider, with the state's MyTurn system, and with Contra Costa County Health Services. Then take the first appointment you can get. You can access all sites to get vaccination appointments at [www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-vaccinated](http://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-vaccinated)

Currently, the following individuals are eligible to sign up for an appointment: health-care workers, residents and staff of congregate care facilities, emergency service workers, education and childcare workers, food and grocery workers, transportation and logistics workers, people 65 and over, and anyone with high-risk health conditions or disabilities regardless of age. Further information about these eligible categories is on the county's website.

The federal government is estimating that there will be a sufficient supply of vaccine doses to begin vaccinating those under 65 starting in May. Let's hope they can follow through on this goal.

The county's website shows vaccination rates by city and community in Contra Costa. The data shown for Kensington is inaccurate due to a problem with the state's data collection system. Since Kensington shares zip codes with Alameda County, a number of Kensington residents are showing up under Alameda County instead of Contra Costa County. We've asked the state to fix this issue.

Kensington residents remain eligible to be vaccinated in Contra Costa County.

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**Hansell**  
*...from front page*

parents were very involved with our community in Pennsylvania.”

More than that—Hansell’s father was a city manager, and for twenty years he was president of the national ICMA, which serves city and county managers and other professionals working in local governments. Hansell discovered that serving on Marinwood’s CSD board, which manages fire and parks and recreation, harkened back to those years growing up attending ICMA conferences and hearing about the challenges of local government. “To my father, my architecture, artistic side was so different from what he was doing, but it informs my ability to help governments. Volunteering on [Marinwood’s] board just felt really great. I was also on the board of the San Francisco/Marin food bank. My parents had a long history of charity work. I realized that I was getting more satisfaction out of that kind of work than from architecture.”

Marinwood went through a search for a GM when Hansell was board president. “The recruiter said, ‘Why don’t you apply for this position?’” The nudge worked not for Marinwood but for the Muir Beach CSD, which manages recreation, fire, and roads. “In that first professional experience as a manager, my architectural background was very helpful,” Hansell said. “And because I’d served on Marinwood’s board, I was able to appreciate the political side of government rather than just having a bureaucratic background.”

When Hansell spotted Kensington’s GM position, he jumped at it. “I thought it would be a great way to use the experience I’d gained at Marinwood and Muir Beach. Fire has been a consistent interest of mine.”

Like Marti Brown, Hansell sees the Public Safety Building as the greatest challenge he’ll face in the next year or two. He and Brown have been meeting to discuss parameters for the public meeting held March 25. The meeting included both boards in addition to the two general managers. “I’m getting along great with Marti,” Hansell said. “Even though we are two separate agencies, we’re serving one community. Neither of us have the baggage of historical issues between the agencies. We see it as one agency in a sense. We have one community here to service. She has experience in city government, and I have a specialty in architecture. We’re hoping to come out of that meeting on the 25th with a breakthrough. We need that.” (Because of *Outlook* deadlines, the meeting will be covered in the May issue.)

Hansell is also keeping track of the fire district’s Emergency Preparedness Committee’s plans; on March 10 the board voted to issue RFPs to contract for an emergency preparedness coordinator and a grant writer. Hansell will oversee these new contract positions. “In my experience going back fifteen to sixteen years, the nature of fire service has really changed,” Hansell said. “We’ve moved from the importance of domestic firefighting to medical calls, and now moving to wildfire threats. The priorities that the Emergency Preparedness Committee has identified for Kensington are really progressive. Kensington can serve as a model.”

Special districts have a nimbleness that can elude municipalities. “At first I thought, Wow, this committee has a lot of ideas,” Hansell said. “I wondered how many of those ideas should be handled by other agencies. But the reality is that a smaller community doesn’t have to wait for that. This is the beauty of special districts. You don’t have to wait for a larger agency to deem these things important. We can invent a new paradigm here.”

In his brief time on the job, Hansell has spent hours on the PSB conundrum, talking to the chiefs of the fire and police departments, past interim KPPCSD GM Bill Lindsay, and Marti Brown. Does he think the building can continue to serve Kensington? “Let me put it this way: from my experience as an architect. I think there is an essential value to the facility that makes it just as important to the quality of service it provides. It’s natural for people to value the quality of the individual firefighter, police officer, fire engine, patrol cars. They don’t realize how much the actual building allows the staff to provide the level of service.”

Hansell explained that the building could be seismically upgraded to an essential services standard (higher than residential codes), and that renovating the building with a strict budget “is probably healthy. It’s always good to have a creative boundary and a financial boundary that forces you to work within that box.”

Still, he said, “There have been substantial changes in the last fifty years that at a certain point require upgrades. We have challenges in terms of wildfires that were not present when these buildings were planned. I think anybody can walk through the existing building and see how cramped it is, how relatively hard it is for the police and fire to just do their jobs. It costs in quality of service.”

Hansell said that what he and Brown are trying to provide their boards is a context in which to make decisions. “We can describe what is minimally necessary. And what would be ideal—and then what would be a compromise. I do think that if the decision is made to not change anything, that will be at the expense of the quality of service. We feel like it’s our duty to restate the options at this point and let the community and the boards make the decision.”

That decision will ultimately impact Hansell. At the moment, there is no room at the inn for his part-time position (24 hours per week). “There is no place for me at the PSB. I can work remotely as long as the board needs me to. But the lack of any administrative space is problematic. Working in the same space with your staff is important. I’d like some type of space for a small office.”

The district also employs executive assistant Sasha Amiri-Nair, who works 15 hours a week. Amiri-Nair lives in Novato, while Hansell still lives in Marinwood, in the Lucas Valley. Said Hansell: “[Board president] Larry Nagel jokes that we’re the executive office of the Kensington Fire Department located in Marin County.”

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The GMs see the renovation of the Public Safety Building as both districts' most critical issue.

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Photo by Ford Whitefield-Brewer, taken at Kensington Park

## Bird of the Month Red-Shouldered Hawk

Anyone who has spent any time at Kensington Park has seen these hawks. They dart over the lawn, spiral through the trees, and slash through the play and barbecue area. Says Ford Whitefield-Brewer, “Red-shouldered hawks return to the same nesting site every year. Like crows, they are territorial, and will fly over and dive-bomb any raptor that comes near their nest, even if they are much bigger, such as eagles.” Whitefield-Brewer suggested a quote from Bay Area Birds by David Lukas: “Since the late 1970s, these colorful and noisy raptors have become an increasingly visible (and auditory) part of the Bay Area landscape. Formerly rare, they are now common permanent residents in almost all low-lying wooded areas, even in heavily developed neighborhoods that still have patches of tall trees or wooded streams.” Hail tall trees, wooded streams, and hawks that catch small rodents and even large insects. —Linnea Due

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### Seniors and Parents of Seniors

## Plan Now for the June Outlook Senior Photo Spread

By Jenny Parks

As most Kensington residents know, the senior photo shoot is a long-held tradition. Seniors gather at Kensington Park to be photographed as a group, and the resulting photo is the featured on the cover of the June Outlook.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is still upon us, so we are reverting to last year's strategy.

Please send in photos of the class of 2021 by May 1 (earlier the better!).

Eligible are all high school seniors who live or lived in Kensington, or who attended Hilltop Elementary School for all or part of their elementary school years.

Please submit student's name, high school attended, future plans (college, undecided, gap year, etc), and a current photo to [kccseniorphotos@gmail.com](mailto:kccseniorphotos@gmail.com) by May 1 for our June Outlook spread. Photos must be a solo photo of the graduate from the waist up and good resolution in jpg format.

### Congratulate Your Senior

The Outlook is offering “Senior Shout Outs” if you would like to share some words of encouragement to your senior. For the June issue, you buy a 3-line \$30 or 4-line \$40 ad. Email by May 8 to [advertising@kensingtonoutlook.com](mailto:advertising@kensingtonoutlook.com)

The subject line of the email should read "Kensington Outlook Senior Shout Out."Checks can be made to KCC for \$30/\$40 and mailed to Kensington Outlook, PO Box 2212, El Cerrito, CA 94530



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earth month

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CITIZEN  
FORUM

# EBMUD’s Project Is a Bounty of Negative Impacts—And the Agency Could Care Less

By Douglas Gostlin



The diesel-powered street cleaners motor up and down Berkeley Park Blvd., Colusa, and nearby streets.

About eighteen months ago, when EBMUD started the current phase of its upgrade project on its property that fronts Berkeley Park Blvd., I was initially amused by the street cleaners running up and down in front of my house. It seemed like such a meaningless task given the slope of Berkeley Park. The deep storm drains didn’t allow for these street cleaners to have any impact other than making dust and a lot of noise.

But my amusement quickly turned to horror as I observed that these street cleaners were actually pushing dirt, debris, and in one instance, EBMUD’s own No Parking signs, into the storm drains. In addition to polluting the air with diesel fumes, dust, and noise (they sometimes run all day), the street cleaners were polluting the bay.

Of course, the cleaners are only one aspect of the broader negative impact that EBMUD’s project is having on our quiet and quaint community. Please understand, I am in support of the benefits that we will all gain from EBMUD’s upgrade. My concern is in how the agency is carrying out this project.



EBMUD’s own No Parking signs run afoul of the cleaners. These signs were shoved into a storm drain.



No wheel-curbng on steep Berkeley Park. No drivers, either.

EBMUD has shown a consistent lack of respect for the environment, for safety, and for our community. My wife and I have lived in our house on Berkeley Park across from EBMUD’s Summit West Pumping Plant since 1997. For 22 years we barely noticed EBMUD was

there until the summer of 2019. This is when EBMUD began intensifying its work on the Clearwell Project. Quality of life in my neighborhood has not been the same since.

The first noticeable and devastating change was the massive number of trees EBMUD

removed at the start of the project—250+ to date (these are the agency’s own numbers). This doesn’t include the trees killed or maimed (mainly with excavators) by not putting proper protection around them. EBMUD also removed a tremendous amount of greenery and bushes, turning the property into a barren eyesore.

Along with the trees went the extensive wildlife—the owls, deer, hawks, etc. Not only was this devastating for the environment, it created an imbalance in the ecosystem that resulted in many residents having increased problems with rodents and other animals infiltrating their properties. A few had rats. A group of neighbors had raccoons. We all chipped in \$50 to have them professionally and humanely relocated.

After the trees were cut down, then came the large trucks—sometimes thirty per day while we were all sheltering in place. These large concrete trucks and 18-wheelers made illegal and dangerous maneuvers on our streets. On two occasions, the neighbors and I photographed 18-wheelers backing in reverse all the way down from the corner of Oceanview into Colusa Circle with no flag people or traffic monitors to aid. If this wasn’t bad enough, EBMUD’s response to our complaint to one of these incidents was: “The most recent truck backing down the street violated no traffic laws.” Not a mention of



Sometimes two or more heavy trucks block Berkeley Park Blvd.

care or concern for safety! This is, however, a typical response from EBMUD; it denies, deflects or blames. Empathy and care don’t seem to be in EBMUD’s vocabulary.

I have many other examples but will only cite two more. In another incident, a slow-moving concrete truck was passed on Berkeley Park Blvd. by a dump truck. Both of these vehicles had just left EBMUD. Other safety concerns have been when these large 60,000-pound concrete trucks park on Berkeley Park Blvd. without curbing their wheels. The slope of Berkeley Park is 12 percent at its steepest point between EBMUD’s entrance and Colusa Circle. EBMUD did not seem concerned about the possibility of one of these trucks rolling down the street and crashing through the circle.

Many of the neighbors and I have brought these concerns to EBMUD and asked if the agency could use its entrance at Colusa Avenue (near Sunset View Cemetery) since the trucks were already coming from the north. We referenced the increased number of pedestrians, children, and bikers that are out during the weekday hours due to shelter-in-place. Colusa Circle is always very active with shoppers and a pre-school.

EBMUD continued to resist using its other gate, even after community meetings with county supervisor John Gioia. One reason given was that it wasn’t practical to use that gate, another than it was deemed unsafe!

After several neighbors reported these safety concerns, the Kensington Police began monitoring Berkeley Park Blvd. and Colusa Circle more closely. But from the vantage point of my house, the violations continue.

On a personal note, EBMUD’s pump and substation are directly across the street from my house. Both make a continuous buzzing and vibrating noise. This noise used to be buffered by all of the trees and other vegetation. Now nothing protects us from the noise and the electromagnetic radiation (EMR) emitted by this equipment. The substation noise disturbance (which is 24 hours per day) may be mitigated with a sound wall that we’ve been waiting for over 18 months for EBMUD to build. It took extensive fighting on our part to even get this project moving.

The pumps are another issue. Temporarily, during the nights from 9pm to 7am, EBMUD has agreed to not run all of its pumps. This helps, but during the weekend days and early evenings, this is still a major problem.

It has been very sad and frustrating for my family and me to have to deal with such a constant disturbance. We have seen how it negatively affects our neighbors. We love Kensington and have built our lives here and raised our two boys in this wonderful community. We expect more from EBMUD. It can carry out its upgrade project in a manner that respects our community, our safety, and our environment!

My wife and I ask that if you have concerns with EBMUD to please be vocal and contact the General Manager and demand that the agency respect our community. Please write to Clifford Chan, GM, East Bay MUD, 375 11th Street, Oakland, CA 94607. Or email Clifford.chan@ebmud.com.



Before this began, deer grazed among trees and bushes. The photo on the right was taken from the same vantage point as the one on the left. The center of the property now features a giant pit. Photos by Douglas Gostlin



CITIZEN  
FORUM

# School District Must Get Kids Back to School

By Chris Ward

I am the parent of a first grader at Kensington Hilltop. I have been watching and waiting for West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) to make a real plan on re-opening schools and showing that as a district the education and well-being of our children is prioritized.

In board meetings, I've heard parents mention "a deep lack of trust" in our district. In my experience, there are two ways to earn trust: Complete honesty and transparency and/or delivering on a mission so well that stakeholders don't have to think about it

As of now, district leadership is accomplishing neither.

What I would find helpful to build trust is direct communication and goal setting. We need a clear statement that the 2021-2022 academic year will return to a five-day week in-person model. Yes, there is uncertainty that will require contingency planning, but the plan must be to find solutions and bring our children back.

We also need clarity on exactly what is limiting re-opening this spring. Currently parents are left to speculate. If the unions are the only blocker, we have a right to know. Multiple levels of government have prioritized vaccinating educators. The unions will not win any moral arguments by accepting vaccines but refusing to teach in person. The science, as presented in the board's listening sessions, makes clear that even without vaccines, we can safely reopen campuses with appropriate safety precautions. Vaccines make this a slam-dunk. Are there other blockers?

We need leadership to explain the facts to the community. A year ago we knew very little about the virus, and it was appropriate to go virtual. Now we know how the virus spreads and how to mitigate the spread. We know that children are less prone to catching the virus. We know that children will actually wear masks. We have vaccines. We have a positive trajectory on caseloads. And importantly, we have science showing the rate of spread in schools is no higher than community spread.

It was good that we went virtual—and we can now do the right thing by returning kids to school. WCCUSD is taking steps to prepare campuses. Show us pictures or a video walkthrough. Make it real to the community that we can return safely.

The district must communicate that parents can make a personal choice. Everyone's situation is different. Make it clear that a virtual option will remain for those who choose it.

Our family is very fortunate, and I know many in the community have suffered to a significantly higher degree. To me, this discrepancy only makes it even more urgent for the district to take real action toward serving its role to raise everyone up. Here are some of the ways that continued online learning is causing a serious negative impact for my child and our family.

Two hours of Zoom calls that do not fully engage a first grader cannot possibly approximate the in-classroom learning experience. The only way this is even close to working is through us parents taking on a major portion of the teacher's role. WCCUSD's mission includes "the highest quality education." This mission is not being met, with academic loss the result.

School serves a role in both social and academic development. The existing online model fails on the social component. WCCUSD's mission includes "make positive life choices, strengthen our community, and successfully participate in a diverse and global society." At an elementary school level, to me this means children learn to interact with other children. They learn how to compromise, share, play, talk, and more. Here the district also fails its mission.

Much has been said about the emotional impact to children. Since online education began, and as more time passes, our first grader is more apt to anger, emotional outbursts, and stating that he "just wants to be a normal kid." The emotional toll also impacts parents.

And then there is the financial burden. At this point we are paying for school roughly three times but getting a subpar substitute for school's role in our society. We pay a significant amount of taxes to fund public schools, more taxes are being paid through the additional COVID relief education funding, my wife's working hours are reduced to fill part of our teacher's role, and we are paying for additional childcare. The social contract of the public paying the district for our children's education requires the district to take responsibility and provide that education.

I'd like to end on a positive note. Despite the above observations, I do believe our son's



Photo: Thomas Park, Unsplash

teacher is making a concerted effort to do what she can within the framework the district is providing. In talking to parents in other districts, it also seems that Hilltop is doing a better job with virtual learning than some of our neighboring districts. I'd also like to thank Mister Phillips specifically for his leadership in advocating for what is right for our children.

A letter similar to this was sent to all members of the WCCUSD board on March 15.



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KENSINGTON

Community Education

KCC Summer Camp is Back!

Registration is now open

KCC is offering 9 weeks of camp beginning June 14th - August 13th  
Camp is from 9:00am - 5:00pm Monday through Friday  
Cost is \$350 per camper, per week  
Register On-line: [KensingtonCommunityCouncil.Org/kcc-day-camp](https://KensingtonCommunityCouncil.Org/kcc-day-camp)

**Kensington Summer Day Camp 2021**  
KCC Summer Camp is filled with outdoor team games, arts & crafts, dance, sports, Olympic week, cooking, tennis, and much more! We hope to be enjoying the newly renovated Kensington Community Center this summer, adding a kitchen, tennis courts, basketball courts, classrooms and large grassy areas to the camp's foot print - all in one area, no need to travel anywhere else! Camp provides a positive and nurturing environment for students entering grades 1st through 6th in FALL 2021. Campers learn new skills, develop new friendships, and have an exciting summer!



Campers will be grouped in pods of 12 according to their age and friends (when possible). Teacher Vicky Brodt will host a craft project every week. We will be performing some cooking magic in the new community center's kitchen and with our outdoor BBQ. Each week tennis instructor, Kim Roots, will have you swinging a tennis racket to improve your back stroke and improve your tennis game. Our enthusiastic camp counselors, many of them former campers, will engage the pods in a variety of sports and games making sure there is plenty of laughter, teamwork, and fun!

Calling all Counselors!

We have openings for summer camp counselors. If you are a senior in high school or older, enjoy working with children, and want to be part of a fun, energetic team, please download an application at [KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/kcc-day-camp](https://KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/kcc-day-camp)



Spring KASEP

KASEP Spring 2021  
Block C-Starts April 19th -May 28th

VIRTUAL CLASSES

COOKING - ALL ABOUT TACOS  
Thursday 3:00-4:00  
Grades 2-6

CODING  
Friday  
Grades 1-3 2:30-3:30  
Grades 4-6 4:00-5:00

MATH CLUB  
Wednesday 4:00-5:00  
Grades 3-6

SPANISH  
Tuesday  
Grades K-2 3:00-4:00  
Grades 3-6 4:00-5:00

IN-PERSON CLASSES

\*New\* CARPENTRY  
Wednesday 3:15-4:45  
Grades 2-6

\*New\* ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
Monday 3:00-4:00  
Grades 2-5

DANCE FITNESS  
Tuesday & Thursday 3:00-4:00  
Grades K-6

HANABI JUDO  
Wednesday 3:00-3:45 & 4:00-4:45  
Grades K-6

TENNIS CAMP  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 3:00-4:15  
Grades 3-6

You can register for an upcoming session now online at [KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/Kasep](https://KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/Kasep)



KCC Adult Classes

Zumba in the Park  
Saturdays 9:00-10:00 a.m.  
Community Center Lawn - \$15 drop in fee  
\*If there is rain the class will be cancelled and not relocated inside\*

Virtual Adult Exercise Classes  
Easy Moving for Adults with Limited Mobility  
Thursdays 10:00-11:00am

Stretch & Strength  
Wednesdays 11:30-12:30pm

Pilates  
Saturdays 9:00-10am

Register at [KensingtonCommunityCouncil.Org/adult-classes](https://KensingtonCommunityCouncil.Org/adult-classes)

Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am. Call the KCC office for info. Court Fees: 45-min. singles reservation: Residents: \$2

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg. E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. E-mail: [kccrec@yahoo.com](mailto:kccrec@yahoo.com), or call 525-0292. Our website is: [www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org](https://www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org).





FEBRUARY POLICE LOG

**1 VEHICLE TAMPERING**, Coventry Rd. Catalytic converter. **SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**, Highgate Rd. Cold. Occ yesterday. Ring doorbell camera recorded two subj in a car, stopped ifo res and att to get into RP's vehicles by jiggling the car door handles. RP has video footage.

**SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**, Windsor Ave. WMA middle-aged or younger attempted entry after standing around outside door on Westminster side no vehicles seen unk direction. Unable to Locate.

**2 DISTURBANCE OF PEACE**, Westminster/Kenyon. Verbal unk veh blocking the street and backing up traffic. Report is Unfounded.

**DISTURBANCE OF PEACE**, reported KPD. Road rage heavy build BFA 40s hair tied back wearing a sweatsuit driving erratically in U-Haul truck, followed RP around Marin Circle to Henry Street then exited veh and attempted to confront RP near Safeway on Shattuck, RP was driving 1997 dk grn Honda Accord and is home now.

**3 BURGLARY**, Arlington Ave. Just discovered- RP hasn't gone through the entire house yet, camera footage shows a subject entering the home last night and shoes left behind.

**5 SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S**, Los Altos Dr/Grizzly Peak Bl. (Hundred block.) 5 ago, WFA, 50-60, 507, 200, light blue/gray baseball cap, jeans and light blue backpack passing by cars and looking inside l/s on foot towards Lake Dr. Unable to Locate.

**HIT AND RUN** - Property Damage, Princeton Ave.

**DISTURBANCE OF PEACE**, Sunset Dr. Male outside screaming, not seen only heard. Unable to Locate.

**6 HIT AND RUN** - Property Damage, Highland Blvd. UPS truck hit side of veh. RP did not see it occur, neighbor did. UPS driver returned to the scene.

**ARREST FOR OUTSIDE AGENCY WARRANT**, Eureka Ave.

**7 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**, Kenilworth Dr. 10 ago. RP was brushing her teeth and heard her garage door opening. She has the remote, no other remotes & she did not click it. RP checked her garage and did not see anyone or anything else suspicious.

**8 VEHICLE ACCIDENT** - No Injury, Anson Way. Veh into parked vehicles two responsible departing on foot w/b Eureka toward ECHS #1 BMA late 20s early 30s 600 200 lt gry hoodie blue jeans #2 BFA golden brown fur coat.

**PETTY THEFT**, Norwood Pl. Coffee machine approx \$200 delivered by Amazon to porch taken by delivery driver in dk red veh while delivering second package for RP containing air filters.

**DISTURBANCE OF PEACE**, Arlington Ave. Male on call advised of verbal argument with his wife, no violence, female heard in background sounding upset.

**9 PERSON SEEKING ADVICE FROM PD**, Trinity Ave. Large tree branch looks like it is about to fall. Tree located in backyard on Trinity. Adv RP that the tree is on private property so PD cannot take it down and to tell the res on Trinity

**PETTY THEFT**, Berkeley Park Blvd. Unlocked veh. Approx \$30 cash taken and some miscellaneous items.

**10 GRAND THEFT**, Ocean View Ave. Catalytic converter theft.

**SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**, Oak View Ave. Prized artichoke plant cut and removed from RP's front garden. RP requesting extra patrol due to her back yard door not having a lock on it.

**SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**, Arlington Ave. Officer initiated activity. Email sent on 2/09 0253hrs now being reported 38 hrs later—Rp rcvd email from foreign country making threats to set off a bomb if they do not receive bitcoin. KPD contacting ECPD bomb squad and FBI SFPD Division.

**11 DISTURBANCE OF PEACE**, Ardmore Rd. Noise occurring since 0800 hrs- RP understands that Kensington does not have a noise ordinance but still requesting if an officer can ask the resident to turn down their music as a courtesy. Unable to Locate.

**12 GRAND THEFT**, Berkeley Park Blvd. Catalytic converter theft.

**VANDALISM**, Norwood Pl. Graffiti found on RP's mailbox.

**SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**, Willamette Av. 10 ago...WMA 30's, wearing a bike helmet was digging through RP's mailbox, when RP asked what he was doing he made statements that did not make sense.

**16 WELFARE CHECK**, Grizzly Peak Blvd/Plateau Dr. Just prior, two vehicles silver Honda CRV hazard lights unoccupied ifo veh #2 lt blue Toyota subj passed out or sleeping in driver's seat, vehicles were facing n/b near the Kensington sign. Situation Corrected by PD.

**19 ARREST FOR OUTSIDE AGENCY WARRANT**, Buchanan Interchange, Albany. Female 40s arrested for an active warrant. She was transported to jail.

**22 ASSISTANCE TO AN OUTSIDE AGENCY**, Safeway, Solano. Male subj walking around parking lot yelling and screaming. Almost hit by vehs. BMA, 40's, 506, wearing shorts.

**VEHICLE ACCIDENT** - No Injury, Oberlin Av/Arlington Av. Veh vs deer. Animal is still breathing in middle of road. No one else injured.

**SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE**, Highland Blvd. Cream veh in no parking zone next to sign associated to subjects carrying bags out of Highland, blue car across from Highland occupied and associated, three WMA.

**PERSON SEEKING ADVICE FROM PD**, Ardmore Rd. Yelling and using profanity toward RP's 5 and 7yro kids playing in the backyard, playing loud music making false claims about dragging garbage cans, taking photos of RP's driveway.

**23 VEHICLE TAMPERING**, Windsor Av. Front plate taken.

**VEHICLE TAMPERING**, Anson Way. Missing plates.

**24 IDENTITY THEFT**, Avon Rd. Mail taken from RP's mailbox- resp caught on RP's video footage.

**25 BURGLARY**, Exxon on Arlington Av.

**26 ANNOYING TELEPHONE CALLS**, Yale Ave. RP rcvd X2 voicemails on his work cell from a number saying that "I am going to kill you" and "I don't care about the police."

**GRAND THEFT**, Beloit Ave. Catalytic converter theft.

**27 RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLE**, Berkeley Park Blvd. RP says that construction material is missing and they found a vehicle onsite possibly associated w/a screwdriver in the ignition, did not see anyone in the immediate area.


**28 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**, Trinity Ave. Plants ripped out from unk source, thrown into truck bed and pushed into passenger side mirror area, four females live on site, has reported mailman to USPS for leaving gifts and loitering around house on a regular basis unk if he is responsible.

Good News for Library Patrons




Photo: Ed Robertson/Unsplash


Beginning Monday, April 26, most county libraries will open to the public for Grab & Go service. This includes Kensington! The libraries are open with limited occupancy to offer certain services. Patrons are asked to stay no more than one hour and to abide by all safety protocols including social distancing and mask-wearing. You can browse, check out books, and pick up holds. You can even use the computers, print, and make copies. Kensington is open Tues-Sat., closed Sunday and Monday.



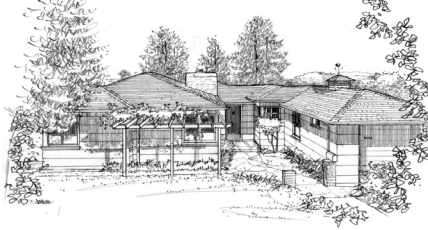
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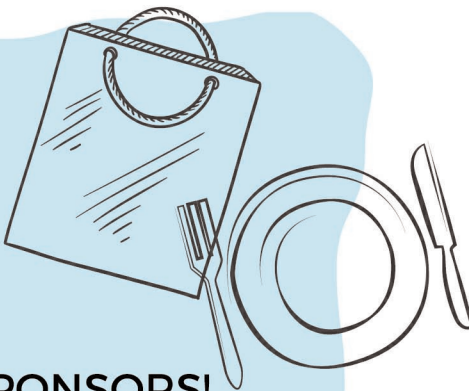
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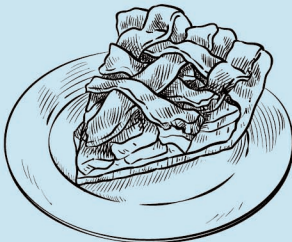
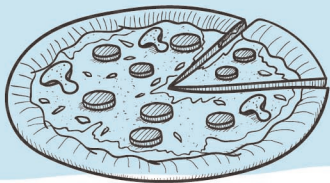
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Thank You for Supporting the Kensington Education Foundation (KEF)!

March 2021

By KEF Board Members (Brenda Lee, Amy Mullarkey, and Amy Draemel)

Each fall, for the past 37 years, the Kensington Education Foundation (KEF) has hosted an annual fundraiser, The Garden Party, that helps fund the teachers and staff who instruct the children at Kensington Elementary in science, art, physical education, music, and computers—all of which our Richmond-based school district has not funded for many years. This annual event has also helped fund a school librarian, and critical reading and math support for students performing below grade level. Sadly, this year we had to cancel this much anticipated event due to the pandemic. Although we were not able to hold this important event, KEF has continued virtual Science, Art, Music & Movement classes as well as reading and math intervention thanks to continued parent and community support.

As a way to bring a smile back to our community and conduct a mini-fundraiser, the Kensington Education Foundation hosted a covid-safe dinner pick-up on Saturday, March 13 where we served close to 200 pounds of crab and 110 cheese pizzas. The food was delicious and it was great to see familiar faces again behind their creative mask designs.

We would like to give a special thanks to our parent community for coordinating and volunteering at this event; to our food sponsors for providing us with delicious food: *Nations Pie Shop, The Arlington, Arlington Wine and Spirits, Little Star Pizza, Semifreddis and Mahoney's Seafood*; and to our raffle prize donors for your continued support. Lastly, we are extremely grateful to our sponsors—*Zip Code Realty, Ruth Frassetto/Compass, Children's Dentistry—Dr. Nicholas Ching, and Mechanics Bank*. This success could not have been achieved without everyone involved.

Our goal is to help build a strong foundation for our children so that they are equipped to conquer the world ahead of them. The money we raised will go towards academic and arts enrichment classes that benefit all the students at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School and KEF is proud to be a part of this journey.







Police

...from front page

meeting, this parsing includes district staff and a full complement of officers.

And then there are the restrooms. As Brown noted, “There is one restroom on the first floor shared by Police, Fire, Administrative and Civilian Staff as well as the public. There is also one sub-standard bathroom upstairs used by 6 patrol officers.” Gancasz made a joke during the meeting that the upstairs bathroom had not been designed for adults—yet served six.

Most of the rest of the presentation attempted to explain why this mattered. Much has been said about the police needing relatively little space because they’re out patrolling in their cars or answering calls. The PowerPoint took a torch to this theory with facts and figures about how much office and storage space a modern police department needs.

According to Brown and Gancasz, the department is hamstrung in a variety of ways by lack of appropriate facilities. They said the department is not complying with Department of Justice requirements for secure storage of evidence and documents. There is little area for private discussions—employee reviews sometimes must be postponed until fewer listening ears are in the crowded space. Interim Chief Walt Schuld noted that he must speak softly in his closed-door office because the walls are so thin.

Gancasz estimated that sergeants spend close to half their time on recordkeeping while officers spend at least a quarter of their time on the computer. Every stop must be logged, and arrests take a lot of paperwork. Much of that paperwork is confidential, even between officers. (It’s like health records—they cannot be seen or available to the public, non-sworn employees, or in the case of personnel records and some investigations, other officers.) There is very little room in the current building where police can securely store files and records. And the current plan for the PSB renovation calls for the space now occupied by the police to be reduced by approximately 200 SF, to 1020 SF. Gancasz said that required space for Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) would reduce that figure by another 200 SF.

The FBI administers CJIS, and its regulations protect information gathered by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. This includes fingerprints, criminal background information, copies of private documents, or anything else that could be classified as sensitive. According to the CJIS website, the “essential premise of the CJIS Security Policy is to provide appropriate controls to protect the full lifecycle of CJ, whether at rest or in transit.” Full lifecycle means creation, viewing, storage, and eventually destruction of evidence or documents.

Gancasz then turned his attention to co-location of fire and police. He said that few municipalities do this because the needs are so different. “The fire employees live onsite,” he pointed out. “So they’re living in the midst of an active business [the police department]. I come in at 6:30am, and I try to be quiet because they’re asleep. A building has to be designed to accommodate the needs of both departments.” He also noted if that if the Arlington was damaged in an earthquake, it would be better if the two departments were sited separately.

Brown offered the alternatives and their presumed costs. Option A is staying in the renovated PSB. Brown estimated \$1.5 million as a temporary relocation cost while the PSB is being worked on (estimated at about 18 months). Once back in, although no figure has been set, currently the KPD is paying \$3,050 rent per month to the fire district. She believed that locating district staff elsewhere would cost another \$900 per month.

Option B, to lease elsewhere in Kensington, is not easy to estimate. Brown pointed out that they would not know the condition or upgrades of a building until it was identified, so the cost of tenant improvements is wide-ranging, from about \$800,000 to \$2-3 million. Brown wrote in an email that pricing of tenant upgrades was estimated by a licensed contractor with over thirty years’ experience constructing government facilities. “The contractor provided a broad range of potential costs that might be necessary to bring any facility up to the standards necessary for use by a Law Enforcement Agency,” Brown wrote. “The broad estimated figures are absent a pre-site assessment of the location. This means they would be required to complete a thorough, in-depth inspection (examine foundations/load-bearing walls, inspect HVAC and electric capacity, and define structural integrity issues).” Brown noted that the cost to repair and rehabilitate a structure can frequently exceed the cost to replace it with a new building.

The cost of leasing such a building, should it pass muster, could range around \$6,000 per month. She looked at one building and what a lease agreement would look like over fifteen years; the cost rose to \$8,000 per month after year 10. That building, she said, was 2650 SF, a big improvement over what the district has today.

Option C, to build in the park either with or without the fire district, was estimated at \$8 million with the fire district, perhaps \$2.4 million without. She said that San Rafael’s new public safety facility came in around \$800 SF. Owning the building would entail continued site and building maintenance.

She noted in conclusion that they needed to find “a sweet spot” between regulatory needs, space, community and board desires, and more, and hoped that the PowerPoint would open up the discussion for the meeting on March 25 and “move the conversation on a forward trajectory.”

Reactions from Public Not Sweet

Board president Sylvia Hacaj elected to take comments and questions from the public before director remarks. Gail Feldman said that some numbers in the report were not accurate—for example, that the square foot per employee was based on ten officers and two staff on hand at once, where normally three officers or fewer are in the office at one time. She also noted that police consultant Matrix did not raise space as a significant concern.

John Gaccione said that a new building for the police might get them off the Arlington, out of earthquake danger. “I can’t get past why we’d want to stay on the Arlington for two of our public safety agencies. Wouldn’t it be wise to separate them now so we could have at least one agency that could be whole and able to respond?”

Linda Lipscomb felt that the fire department was being too grabby: “I don’t think it’s any secret that Kensington citizens believe that the fire department is overreaching to take care of El Cerrito’s needs,” she said. “They’re looking to have eight fire department personnel in the PSB when they really only have three.” She was also incensed at the KPD paying \$3050 a month to the fire district. “I want to know why are Kensington taxpayers paying Kensington taxpayers for the police to be in the building?” She referenced past costs as \$1 per year with the police contributing to building maintenance on a needs basis.

Pat Gillette asked for community involvement to make these decisions. “We can’t afford the optimal. We don’t need 2500 SF. Often one officer is on duty at a time. They’re not there all at the same time. We need to make a building that will work for everyone.” Both Gillette and Lipscomb wanted a single board to oversee these decisions,

with one administrative staff, aided by the “expertise and talent of Kensington residents.”

Fire board director Julie Stein noted that past interim police chief Kevin Hart had identified some of the larger space figures. “Kevin was essentially asked for a wish list,” she said, which included holding cells and more. “The evolution of police chiefs has not asked for these.” She also said that the benchmark of \$8 million for a new PSB is outdated, referencing a new building in San Pablo “on flat ground” that cost \$13 million for 6000 SF. “It’s very naïve to think that we could build a building on a hillside for \$8 million.”

Another fire board director, Kevin Padian, also spoke up. “I personally am very happy with this report. It’s important to understand the fire department is working by regulations that have been improved since 1960. The fire department is not trying to take over the whole building.” He noted that RDC, the architectural firm that has been working on designs for the past years, reached the conclusion that there was no space for the police. “We do have a lot of taxpayer money,” said Padian. “Both districts should work together to help each other. I hope that with tonight’s presentation we can see that we cannot fit both departments in there reasonably. Please put that fond hope to rest.”

Kristine Hafner wanted to know when a long-term financial decision might be in the offing. “When will the focus turn to how to finance this?”

Celia Concus added, “There isn’t a big vacant piece of land to be used for a PSB or a police station. What we’re talking about is Kensington Park. The residents voted overwhelmingly for that land to be purchased and saved in perpetuity as a park. This was long before the current people who are making decisions now. One has to recognize that this park land is for the entire community.”

Brown came back on to say that she appreciates that there is a lot of passion and frustration. “I knew coming in that it would be a challenge to bring things together. You are correct that we looked at the land that is technically in the park. Both GM Hansell and I thought there was a reasonable potential there. Since we thought there was potential there, it’s worth presenting the concept. If it gets shot down, we’ll move on.” She noted that there may be other sites that would require a purchase.

Captain Gansacz said that it’s true that “ten officers are not here all the time, but we do have to think about a building that can accommodate only the minimal number. Sometimes there are seven when you include district staff as well. There is a burden in operating in such a small location.”

Interim Chief Schuld added that he felt the building was totally inadequate for a department of this size. “And I don’t have any skin in the game,” he reminded the board. “I won’t be here for the renovated department. There has to be some kind of personal workspace and some comfort when you come to work... This facility is not adequate for a police department to run professionally. That would be my professional opinion of 32 years of police work.”

**Board Even More Sour**

Chris Deppe began the conversation by saying that there was a lot wrong in the PowerPoint and in the assumptions. “For instance, past chiefs have said we were in compliance with DOJ,” Deppe said. “In Option A, the administrative staff would definitely move out” so should not be counted in the square footage per personnel. But this was not Deppe’s greatest concern. “The first time I saw this was last night. I wasn’t asked for any input. Rachelle [Sherris-Watt] and I have some institutional knowledge of this effort. Some numbers are not accurate at all. I am disappointed that this was put together without board input.”

Deppe pointed out that Interim Chief Steve Simpkins had a design for the police in the PSB that he was happy with apart from a couple tweaks. “I don’t know how we got from this needs a few tweaks to this is impossible,” Deppe said. He suggested that there was so much wrong with the report that they shouldn’t talk about it any longer.

Director Cyrus Modavi wanted to know if it was really true that we could not get a waiver to increase the footprint of the PSB. “Could the state help us get a waiver?” he asked. “Fault lines are going to haunt a lot of locations.”

Board vice president Eileen Nottoli said that the county could grant a waiver but then it would bear the liability for any injury or death. “And that’s why they will never grant a waiver,” she concluded.

Board president Sylvia Hacaj suggested waivers could be brought up at the combined board meeting to discuss the PSB on March 25. (Because of *Outlook* deadlines, that meeting will be reported on in May.) Meanwhile, Hacaj was concerned that there was no mention of the renovation of the Annex in the report, which has been cited as the most likely location to house district staff.

Brown said that she hadn’t made an analysis of the Annex. “I think it needs a lot of work,” she said.

The Annex is in Kensington Park, opposite the playground. It has been unused for over a decade except as storage and is owned by the district. The district ordered a pest report in the past year. According to Rachelle Sherris-Watt, the inspector estimated that the pest repairs/prevention would run around \$28,000, but that work has not begun until decisions are made as to its use. The inspector found no evidence of mold or water damage. Sherris-Watt said in an email, “I believe that the building is perfectly suited to being renovated and begin life again benefitting the citizens of Kensington.”

Hacaj noted that no decisions would be made at the combined board meeting. “We will continue to grapple with this,” she predicted.



The Annex is believed to be the most likely location for administrative staff for the police district and possibly the fire district as well. Photo by Elisabeth Cornu.