

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND CA
PERMIT NO. 8058

Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

APRIL 2022 PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL VOLUME 80 NUMBER 3

Trusted for More Than 50 Years



The workhorse. Regal® Select repels stains and cleans up easily without damaging walls.



Call us today.
We're here to help!



East Bay Paint Center
990 San Pablo Ave.
Albany, California 94706
510-524-6582
www.eastbaypaintcenter.com

©2020 Benjamin Moore & Co. Benjamin Moore, Gennex, Regal, and the triangle "M" symbol are registered trademarks licensed to Benjamin Moore & Co. 4/20

Fabric Artist Mounts Show at Library



By Lin Due

The pandemic put a halt to many activities, including art installations on the south wall of the Kensington Library. As we reawaken, fabric artist Ann Mayse becomes the first to exhibit in the space in over two years.

Mayse says that she got into fabric after her son was born. "My mother-in-law

taught me how to sew clothes for him," she said. "I was living in Fresno at the time. I took a class at a local quilt shop, quilted for awhile, but then went back to working full-time." She took quilting back up after she retired.

Mayse, who grew up in Berkeley, attending Berkeley High and graduating from Cal, says that she began as a traditional quilter. "But when we came back to the Bay Area a few years ago, I moved more into improvisational quilting, and then into mixed media textile art." The smaller framed pieces in the library are Mayse's latest works, combining cloth, paper, and a Japanese paper technique.

She describes herself as a lifelong learner. "I pick up a book, go to a lecture, my thinking is always evolving," she says. She notes that the pandemic created unexpected opportunities: "A lot of artists put their classes online. Now there's an amazing smorgasbord of classes online. I was lucky enough last year to take two consecutive classes from Rosalie Dace, a well known South African quilter."

Even before she moved back to the Bay Area, settling in Kensington four years ago, she was in touch with the East Bay Heritage Quilting group. "One of the nice things about being a fiber artist is that the community is vibrant and interesting, and

See Library Art, page 8

Evacuation Drill Scheduled for Part of Kensington

By Johnny Valenzuela, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

On Saturday, April 9, the Kensington Fire Protection District and the Kensington Police Department will conduct an evacuation drill for a portion of Kensington. Kensington's public safety agencies will coordinate a test with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System with a drilled response to a simulated wildfire originating in Tilden Park with a westward projection towards Kensington.

This evacuation drill aims to educate the public in raising awareness for wildfire dangers, test the county's Communication Warning System, evaluate traffic flow on critical streets, and provide an opportunity for residents to assess their readiness and resiliency.

The Kensington Fire Protection District has identified high-priority areas within Kensington and will work with those areas to coordinate evacuation exercises. These high-priority areas face a higher threat due to several variables such as limited access and proximity to wildland areas. For this evacuation drill, community members residing east of Arlington Avenue and south of Hilltop School are in the test zone. The fire department will be using Zone-haven to manage the evacuation drill. The

See Evacuation, page 8

Police Board Ponders Options for Temporary and Permanent Housing, page 4;
Fire Chief Michael Pigoni Retires, page 6

Kensington and Beyond Update

March 2022



JUST LISTED | 57 Bonnie Lane, Berkeley | 3+ BR | 3 BA

Beautiful renovation from the foundation up with Golden Gate view. Price upon request.



JUST LISTED | 7221 Cutting Blvd. El Cerrito Hills 5 BR | 3 BA

Berkeley Hills Country Club-Meadows Home | Offered at \$1,658,000

To view online, visit: 7221cutting.com

Interest rates are still affordable and buyers and sellers are on the move. Housing inventory is low and demand is high. If you are considering selling or just wish to know the value of your home in today's market, call me. The appointment is complimentary and confidential.



Ruth Frassetto, CRS | 510.697.8606 | ruth.frassetto@compass.com | DRE 00779030

Over 25+ years of experience you can count on.

Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.



Kensington | Market Update

March 2022 to present

 Detached Single Family	7 New Listings	6 Pending Sales	4 Closed Sales
Median List Price \$1,049,000	Median List Price \$1,485,000	Median List Price \$1,224,000	Median List Price \$1,814,500
Average Sq. Ft. 1,646	Median Sq. Ft. 2,418	Median Sq. Ft. 1,873	Median Sales Price

Pricing Your House Right Is Crucial Even in a Sellers' Market

The price you set for your home sends a message to potential buyers. Price it too low and you might raise questions about your home's condition or lead buyers to assume something is wrong with the property. Not to mention, you could leave money on the table, which decreases your future buying power if you undervalue your house.

On the other hand, price it too high and you run the risk of deterring buyers. When that happens, you may have to do a price drop to try to reignite interest in your house when it sits on the market for a while. But be aware that a price drop can be seen as a red flag for some buyers who will wonder why the price was reduced and what that means about the home.

In other words, think of pricing your home as a target. Your goal is to aim directly for the center – not too high, not too low, but right at the median value. Pricing your house realistically based on market conditions increases the chance you'll attract more buyers who are interested in purchasing it. That makes it more likely you'll see multiple offers, too. And when your home receives multiple offers, you'll likely get an even higher final sale price. Plus, when homes are priced right, they tend to sell quickly.

The hardest part for sellers is allowing their agent to provide them with an objective list price, without the emotional context from the sellers' subjective opinion of value. The hardest part for the agent is managing your expectations while achieving the highest sales price possible, based on comparable listings and sales.



Bottom Line
Even in a sellers' market, pricing your house right is critical. Don't rely on guesswork or sites like Zillow which are simply algorithms that are unreliable. A careful statistical analysis using a number of factors is the best way to target the optimal listing price.

If you are considering selling your home or simply just wish to know the current market value, call me the appointment is complimentary and confidential.

Specializing in single family, multi-unit and properties held in trust for over 25+ years.

Ruth Frassetto, CRS | 510.697.8606 | ruth.frassetto@compass.com | DRE 00779030

Over 25 years of experience you can count on



Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.

Save a Life, Learn CPR

The Kensington Fire Protection District is offering CPR and First Aid classes on two Saturdays, April 16 and May 21. Classes meet at the El Cerrito Community Center on Moeser. The CPR class is from 8:30am-noon and the First Aid class is from 1-4:30pm. Wear comfortable clothes. Register by calling (510) 215-4450. The fee is \$55 per class for Kensington residents.

LICENSE #721226

AURORA PAINTING & DECORATING

Serving Bay Area Customers for 20 Years

- INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR
- WATERPROOF COATINGS
- WOOD RESTORATION
- COLOR CONSULTATION
- RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
- SENIOR DISCOUNT
- BONDED • INSURED
- KENSINGTON REFERENCES

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

510-655-9267

www.aurora-painting.com



OMNI PAINTING & WATERPROOFING Inc.

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

- Interior and exterior
- Waterproofing
- Renovation and restoration
- EPA certified painters
- All work guaranteed

510.654.3339

www.omnypainting.com



SEMIFREDDI'S

CAFÉ & BAKERY
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

372 COLUSA AVE
KENSINGTON CA 94707
(510) 596-9935

M-F: 7AM - 5PM WEEKENDS: 8AM - 4PM

VISIT US ON THE WEB @ WWW.SEMIFREDDIS.COM
OR AT OUR STORE IN BERKELEY, 3084 CLAREMONT AVE.

BAKING WITH PRIDE SINCE 1984

⚠️ PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDER ⚠️

Safety Starts At Home

This spring, the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) launches a new emergency preparedness initiative based on the annual tradition of National Night Out. The well-attended block parties of late summer will be the platform to promote neighborhood collaboration and household emergency preparedness. Residents can host the district's Emergency Preparedness Information Booth to provide block party attendees with valuable information to make their homes and community safer. These gatherings will also stress preparedness for wildfire danger and evacuation. Stay tuned for announcements for these gatherings.

—Johnny Valenzuela, KFPD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

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.

APRIL 2022 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. 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.

Editorial.....	editor@KensingtonOutlook.com
Advertising.....	510-508-3241
advertising@KensingtonOutlook.com	

Classified Advertising
Classified ad rates are \$8 a line (45 spaces or characters), with a 2-line minimum. Online ad forms are available after the back issues listings at: www.KensingtonOutlook.com.
Mail: For display and classified advertising, please contact our advertising manager by phone or email. Other mail to: 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707. Thank you!

Letters to the Editor

KPOA Stands By Its February 2022 Citizen Forum

Dear Editor:

We thank the fire board directors for discussing their reactions to our February 2022 Outlook Citizen Forum. (There are no responses from the KPPCSD board.) But what stands out in the fire board remarks is that they miss the Forum's three points: the need for combined-district plans to identify the financial consequences for both districts of the Public Safety Building conversion exclusively into a fire station; reform of current rules and practices to encourage exchanges between the public and both boards; and, need for a unified governance structure with a single board and one general manager—resulting in community-wide plans, budgets and forecasts optimized across all Kensington district functions.

To borrow from William S—on point, reasoned, accurate, calm, non-ad hominem, non-defensive, non-accusatory discourse: wherefore art thou? The KPOA stands by its February Citizen Forum statement.

Rob Firmin, KPOA President

Portables on Highland, Not in the Park

Dear Editor:

I am deeply opposed to housing the Kensington Police Department in Kensington Park. Not only did the citizenry of Kensington vote to purchase the park property, we, the tax-paying residents, very personally, funded the purchase through our property taxes. With the service district's help, real property was purchased with tax revenues, not with KPPCSD funds.

In the intervening years, the park was developed with funds from the community and from grants. Recreation programs and facilities were improved and expanded, again with funds raised by the community and through grants, not by tapping into the KPPCSD budget.

KCC renovated Building E specifically to expand its recreation programs for children. With Building E, KCC's afterschool education programs and summer camp have grown to a resounding success.

With so much time, energy, and love invested in the park, it has become the center of our community life. Yet the KPPCSD now plans to kick the KCC and its afterschool programs out of Building E, in an un-thought action that will have consequences across the life of our community.

What can we do instead? The police could be put in portables on the Highland Boulevard frontage at the top of the park. This is an area that is not part of the Alquist-Priolo study zone. (Both sites the KPPCSD is considering lie within that zone.)

What makes building along Highland by Hilltop School different from building on the Arlington hillside? For one thing, the slope above the Arlington is the only open space we have in Kensington. Everyone drives by it and can enjoy it. Also, we look down on that hillside from the benches around the tennis courts and basketball courts. It is part of our pleasure of being in the park.

With a building down below, a building that would morph into a massive structure with an access road, we would be looking down on the rooftop of a building, on an access road and parking area, which is hardly in keeping with the spirit of the park that we, the citizenry, have funded and built.

Let's preserve Kensington Park.

Ciara Wood

Hit the Pause Button

Dear Editor:

It's time for our two district boards to pause the rush to demolish and renovate our Public Safety Building, starting in September, and immediately commission a seismic evaluation of an alternate site for a new Public Safety Building.

Demolition will trigger a move of our fire department to expensive (over \$1 million) temporary quarters at the El Cerrito border, far from its current central location. It will dislocate our police department from the PSB to a destination currently unknown, although the KPPCSD board indicates the likely home may be Building E in Kensington Park, after a move to temporary facilities in El Cerrito, at still unknown cost. This, in turn, would dislocate our recreation programs, forcing them to move out of one of Kensington's prime recreation assets. Building E would become a police station in the heart of our park, the crown jewel of recreation in Kensington.

All this is necessary, our fire board says, so that we can spend more than \$13 million to renovate the existing PSB to house the fire department only, in a building that would still be likely to suffer major damage and become unusable for months, if not permanently, in the event of a major earthquake.

If this were the only solution to the existing PSB's seismic problems, we might have to live with it. But we don't know if it's the only solution. There is a potential alternate site in an otherwise unusable corner of the park adjacent to the library. But the necessary geological study was never performed when it should have been, years ago.

The fire board is about to commit Kensington to spend well over \$13 million dollars, without knowing if there is a viable alternate location for a new building to house both agencies, which would avoid temporary relocation expense, keep both fire and police in Kensington at all times, and provide a permanent home for both.

Our next generation of Kensington residents will be paying for this for many years. We must make every effort to make sure we are spending their tax dollars wisely.

Vida Dorroh

Building E Vital for Kids

Dear Editor:

After many decades of cohabitation, the Kensington Fire and Police departments no longer play well together, and the police must move. It appears that the KPPCSD favors relocating the police in Kensington Park and taking over Building E in the process. This building was renovated with over \$300,000 provided by the KCC. It is the primary loca-

tion for KASEP classes for our school kids. Its loss would remove the heart from our afterschool programs and would do the same for our summer camp. There are alternative sites for the police. Save Kensington Park!

Ted Blanckenburg

The Mad Hatter Comes to Kensington

Dear Editor:

Just when we thought we'd heard the last of the Mad Hatter, he showed up at a Kensington costume party. He introduced himself to the group and sat down for a cup of sparkling lemonade. A person dressed as a chameleon came over to chat.

Chameleon (dressed in bright green): Hello, very glad to meet you. We've been talking Kensington politics and would like your opinion on several confusing issues. Our fire and police had their fiftieth anniversary in the same building. Why must they split now?

Hatter: They made it to their golden anniversary, but Kensington can't afford to pay for emeralds at 55 years or diamonds at 60. It's time to cut the cord and sail on.

Chameleon (turning yellow): But the police have no permanent place to go. What will they do?

Hatter: Firefighters need to bask in luxury but, if need be, police can go homeless. After all, you can fight fire with fire, but you can't fight police with police.

Chameleon (turning orange): I'm not sure I understand your rationale, but maybe you can tell me why both fire and police will move out of Kensington during renovation of the PSB. This will add a lot of extra time during emergencies.

Hatter: What's another five to ten minutes? Neighbors can use hoses to hold down the fire, and if it's a burglar they need to keep pepper spray handy. It's time people started taking responsibility for themselves and stopped relying on others.

Chameleon (now red): But does it seem fair that Kensington residents pick up all the remodel costs when 40 percent of the calls go into El Cerrito?

Hatter: When did fair enter the discussion? If Kensington wants a luxury firehouse, why should El Cerrito pay? I may be mad, but I can spot a fool when I see one.

Jim Watt

Return the US Post Box to Arlington Parking Lot

Dear Editor:

The drive-through mailbox in the Kensington parking lot across from our markets was abruptly removed in late December, at the height of the holiday mail season. This has meant drivers must now find parking (often sparse during commute hours) and then walk to the corner post box on the corner. This wastes our time, and is totally inconvenient. John Gioia's office says the person to contact is Mark DeSaulnier.

I urge all Outlook readers to contact Ryan-Thomas Brown, at the office of Congressman DeSaulnier. Email Ryan-Thomas.Brown@mail.house.gov or call 925-933-2660. Demand an immediate return of the mailbox to the parking lot where it has been for at least 25 years! The post box has been efficient, easily accessible (without getting out of our car), and a real community service for all. Let us hope that such a simple request does not take an Act of Congress to get it done.

Brent Green

Are We Not Better Than This?

Dear Editor:

It seems we hear so often that, "There is more that unites us than divides us!" As so many of us seek to find that common ground with others, I believe there is one topic amongst us all that holds potentially overwhelming, perhaps unanimous agreement—that being the importance of and support for Family. Given that all families are unique, when the word "Family" is heard, we collectively seem to understand the significance of what that word represents to us and to others.

April 25 is "Parental Alienation Awareness Day." "Parental Alienation" has several complex characteristics, but I will cite a simple, working definition from the Martinez mayor's "2016 Parental Alienation Awareness Day Proclamation": "Parental alienation, sometimes called Hostile Aggressive Parenting, is a behavior by a parent, or an adult a child trusts, such as a grandmother/father, aunt, uncle, etc., whether conscious or unconscious, that could create alienation in the relationship between a child and a parent."

I want to be clear that I am not a psychologist, just a Kensington Dad; however, my understanding is that Parental Alienation concerns, mostly, situations surrounding divorce. Here one parent, sometimes referred to as the Alienating Parent, for child custody purposes, targets their spouse in an attempt to manipulate their child into believing that the Targeted Parent is the enemy.

Such targeting can occur when divorce is not a topic. Parental Alienators can be anyone choosing to cause division between child and parent. Engaging in such divisive behavior puts children and young adult children at potential risk for significant psychological trauma, including the child's possible estrangement from their family.

Within my Lake Drive neighborhood, I see so many moms and dads who are making a huge contribution toward the stability of our community. I have no doubt that many of you see similar contributions going on in your neighborhoods as well. It is so easy to see how "Family" is so much a part of what unites us. It is for this reason that I remind all of us that April 25 is "Parental Alienation Awareness Day."

Mark McNulty



It's Not a Job... It's our Passion

WE PAY YOUR SALES TAX on all materials with installation.

Visit Us For Details

Low Price Guarantee

Shaw FLOORS
PAWS DOWN: THE BEST FOR YOUR PET BELLERA

Carpet - Vinyl - Hardwood - Linoleum - Tile

Floor Dimensions where beautiful rooms begin

Expert Installations... Every time

510-525-5656

1081 Eastshore Highway, Albany/Berkeley (near Target) 94710

CL#788850
www.floordimensions.com

Police Board Considers Landing Spots

By Linnea Due

One of the byproducts (if such a momentous shift can be so categorized) of renovating the Public Safety Building as a fire-only facility is that the police department must find new digs. After the timeline laid down by fire district GM Bill Hansell at March 9's fire board meeting, that reckoning is coming sooner than expected. Most talk in town (and on the boards) predicted the need for an exit strategy around November or December of this year, but Hansell said that now that the second-floor deck enclosure has been permitted by the county, he expected demolition to begin in September, giving police and fire their walking papers at the end of August.

The March 10 police board meeting met this reality with two agenda items. Interim police board GM Rick Benson asked that the board appoint him lead negotiator to discuss leasing one of two unoccupied portables at 10940 San Pablo Avenue, adjacent to El Cerrito's downtown fire station, for a temporary police station. "It's very close to Kensington," Benson said, "and it gives us breathing room." Room, that is, to find and make ready a permanent home for the KPD.

Director Chris Deppe asked what the financial impact might be and what modifications would be needed. Benson opined that the rent would be comparable or even lower than what the district is paying to the fire district for its portion of the Public Safety Building. He said that the fire district might rent space in the portable for storage during its own exodus, and that would help with payments. "The great thing about modulars," he said, "is that they're made to be modified."

A member of the public worried that this was a de facto merger with the El Cerrito PD. Director Mike Logan, who toured the portables, said that no contact was ever made with the ECPD, and that they have nothing to do with negotiations. Benson added that his only contact has been with the El Cerrito City Manager.

Director Rachelle Sherris-Watt said that this was not a backdoor to get the police to contract with El Cerrito. "We will always have a station in Kensington," she said. "Besides, our dispatch is run through Albany, not El Cerrito." (In fact, Kensington's upgraded dispatch software is not compatible with El Cerrito's.)

Deppe tried to big-picture the plan. "Everybody agrees that the PSB is going to be renovated, and that means that we have to move out temporarily. This option eliminates a lot of costs and problems. If the chief [Chief of Police Mike Gancasz] says he can run our police department efficiently out of the portable, I believe him."

The motion to engage in negotiations and provide a timeline for the move passed 5-0. **Home, Sweet Home**

Next on the agenda was the hunt for a permanent Kensington location. Sherris-Watt took the lead in describing the background to what has now emerged as the most likely scenario. "We're attempting to synthesize a whole bunch of different needs," she said. "We advocated sharing space in the PSB for five years. Their board has made a decision to move forward with a fire-only plan. We considered commercial properties, private residences, and now we come to Kensington Park."

She described the widespread opposition to new construction in the park. "It also appears quite costly," she added. "After exploring all kinds of possibilities, we turned to property we already own. That boils down to the Annex and Building E."

The Annex, opposite the tennis courts, has been unoccupied since 2006. Building E, at the southern edge of the park, serves as headquarters for the Kensington Community Council's Kensington After-School Enrichment Program (KASEP) and KCC's popular summer camp. The police board is investigating moving the police into Building E while transferring KCC and KASEP into a renovated Annex.

"The Annex has 1,772 square feet, Building E 2,600 SF. Through an agreement reached in 1999, KCC pays \$1 a year and is responsible for ongoing repairs," Sherris-Watt continued. "There are two bathrooms in each facility. The Annex has no water damage, and debris in the back has been cleared. Costs to renovate either building is currently unknown." Building E has the advantage of being on the park's border, she noted, with a parking lot below that can be accessed from Windsor Avenue.

Deppe chimed in; in February, the two directors were appointed as ad hoc investigators of the two park buildings. "We've looked at this for a long time," he said. "We spent a fair amount of time on a commercial property that didn't pan out [303 Arlington]. I don't think that taking more time is going to surface more alternatives. This seems like a reasonable compromise. The police would be centrally located. It works on location and

See Police, page 7

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
FINANCIAL PLANNING
MARSHALL WHITE, CFP
Recently Merged With
CAPITAL TRUST ADVISORS
and again is
ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS.
OFFERING
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING:
 Retirement • Estate
 College Planning • Risk
 Management • Inflation Protection
SUSTAINABLE INVESTING
PROGRAMS
 Following ESG (Environmental, Social
 and Governance) Guidelines
 Donor-Advised Fund Management
Long-Time Kensington resident
Fee-Only Independent Advice
Call For Free Initial Consultation
510-528-9484
 mwinvest@gmail.com
 www.capitaltrustadvisors.com

The Professional Tree Care Company
Caring for trees since 1978.
 Our services range from consultation through all aspects of tree health care and removal. We have a 100% recycle policy for all materials generated by our activities. Certified arborists, licensed/insured.
 www.professionaltreecare.com
510-549-3954 or 888-335-TREE

Support Your Local Businesses

THEY COUNT ON YOU!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Church of Berkeley

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
 Connect with us throughout the week.

SUNDAY MORNINGS
 Online Worship at 11:00 a.m.
 followed by a virtual Coffee Hour.

Check our website for details and more ways to connect:
www.uucb.org
 —Supporting beloved community—

BRIDGE PAINTING

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
 Interior • Exterior

Careful Preparation for a Lasting Finish!

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
232-3340
 Insured PL & PD • State Lic. #639300

Freshly Cut
 A FLOWER LOVER'S FLORIST

378 Colusa Avenue
 Kensington
 NORTH OF THE CIRCLE
(510) 525-3751
 freshlycut.com

Free Shreds and Meds Disposal April 30

The Kensington Fire Protection District will host a paper-shredding event on Saturday, April 30, from 10am-1pm. This free event, in the Kensington Community Center and parking lot, is open to all Kensington residents to dispose of excess papers (fire hazards) in your household. At the same time and place, the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, in coordination with the DEA, will facilitate the National Prescription Drug Take-Back campaign. Residents can safely dispose of all unused or expired medications, including narcotics, pills, syrups, inhalers, etc. No household hazardous waste. Never flush unwanted medications down the toilet, as they will pollute our drinking and groundwater. For more information, please visit district websites. Google KFPD or KPCCSD.

PS VISION

PS CARE

PS JOY

Prospect Sierra students engage in deep academic work, practice skills to hone greater self-knowledge, and demonstrate compassion and care for others. Immersed in a joyful school community, they develop a lifelong love of learning.

PROSPECT SIERRA
 prospectsierra.org

Passings

Michael Paul Stanis, the Colusa Circle fiddler featured in the November 2015 issue of the *Outlook*, passed away December 28, 2021. He had been a Kensington resident for 35 years.

A true child of the '50s, Mike had a lifelong interest in cars and transportation. He made numerous road trips across the US and enjoyed traveling by Amtrak and collecting model trains. Although not fond of flying, Mike found planes and aircraft technology fascinating.

In 1961 he joined the US Air Force and spent time stationed in France as a medical specialist. After discharge, he began a career as a classical guitarist, working or studying wherever opportunities led him, including stints in his native St. Louis, Boston, Hawaii, and Vienna. In 1966 he came to California, as so many others did, initially settling in Berkeley. After many years teaching guitar, volunteering at Harding School led to a second career as a special education aide at El Cerrito High School, retiring in 2010.

Mike's many other interests included painting, photography, cooking, and languages. He was an inveterate collector of musical instruments, cameras, tarot decks, and foreign coins. During his retirement, he immersed himself in online news sources, including French and German media. He especially enjoyed Japanese language programs, and also read books in French. His memoir about his Air Force experience was published in 2019 by Grizzly Peak Press.

Mike is survived by his wife Phyllis; children Shane, Nate, and Paul; and granddaughter Poppy, all of Northern California.

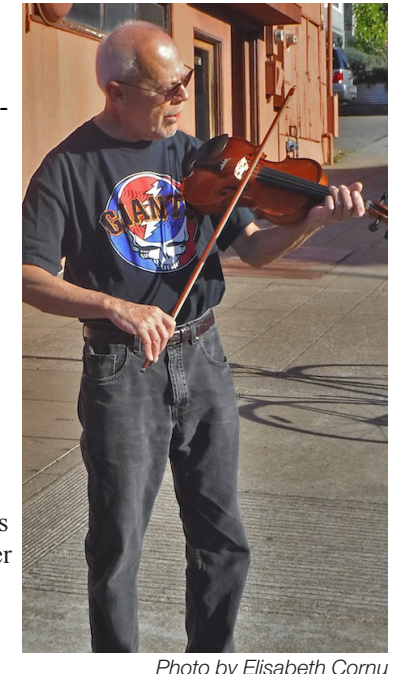


Photo by Elisabeth Cornu



Cynthia May Frisch (née Phillips) grew up in Galina, a small village in Jamaica. She moved to the capital, Kingston, in her late teens and worked for a bank, but had her sights



Advice from a Sunflower: "Be bright, sunny and positive. Spread seeds of happiness."

set on studying nursing in England. When she was in her twenties, she left her parents and eight siblings and boarded the *Queen Elizabeth* ocean liner for the UK.

Cindy would have made a great nurse, but there came an obstacle in her path, a tall, handsome German obstacle... named Bruno. And she took a different path. After attending a "Fasching" celebration in

Germany, Bruno proposed to her the very night they met, despite not speaking the same language.

They fled war-torn Europe, married in Canada, and eventually moved to Kensington where she resided for 57 years. She was a wonderful mother to Gary and Jenny and took many an exciting family vacation overseas. She enjoyed tending to her expansive garden filled with azaleas.

She worked for Palmolive Co. in Berkeley, and then for Dymo Industries in San Francisco where she rose to corporate communications manager. She obtained her real estate license and also became fluent in German. She opened the Junket Delicatessen with Bruno in 1979. Her "Fountain of Youth" lasted 42 years. She enjoyed meeting people and many of the Junket customers became close friends.

Cindy was optimistic, kind-hearted, generous, and loving. She never complained and saw the good in everything. She was quite extraordinary. She had an adventurous, full, wonderful life.

Cindy left us in February a month shy of her 92nd birthday. Her husband Bruno, son Gary, daughter Jennifer, grandkids Garrett, Kylie, Olivia and Sofia, Junket customers, and relatives the world over will miss her.



On March 15 a display case honoring the late Linda Spath was dedicated at the Kensington Library. Linda died of cancer in December, and donors from the Friends of the Kensington Library, the Kensington Property Owners Association, the Kensington Improvement Club, and the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District gathered in her memory. Her husband Dave Spath, long a pillar of the town, stands front and center. Photo by Charles Hargrove

I'm ready to downsize, how can I take advantage of Prop 19?

I'd love to answer this and any other questions you might have. Call me, let's talk.

LEIGH SCHNEIDER
 REALTOR® #2033564
 510.390.0857 · leigh@redoakrealty.com
 www.leighschneiderhomes.com

RED OAK REALTY

Living in and loving Kensington for over 17 years

PAGEPOINT Serving Kensington For Over 20 Years
 WEB SOLUTIONS

custom web programming
 online marketing website management
 hosting seo social media
 website strategizing and consulting
 wordpress database programming

www.pagepoint.com 510.558.1534



Coventry Road resident Michael Baar asked Arlington businesses to mount a Ukrainian flag to show solidarity with the besieged nation. He plans to organize a benefit soon. Photo by Michael Baar.

Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Chief Retires

By Linnea Due

After 27 years, El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Chief Michael Pigoni is hanging up his turnout gear. In truth, since he became fire chief on the last day of 2018, Pigoni has done more budget- and politician-wrangling than fighting fires.

That was not true as a boy growing up in Sonoma County’s Geyserville. “My grandfather, dad, and my brother and I were all volunteers at the fire district,” he said on February 7. “At a very young age, me and my brother knew what fire service was about. Long before we could legally go to calls, we’d go with my dad. It took me a lot of years to consider it a career. I just loved doing it as a community event, as a service to the community.”

During his first year in college, Pigoni decided to take the fire academy course, again not with career aspirations. “Our local academy was offering an extended class for people working or going to school. I’d go Tuesday and Thursday nights and we’d spend the whole weekend at the tower. I loved it.”

When Kensington decided to contract out its fire services to El Cerrito in 1995, a couple battalion chiefs Pigoni kept in touch with contacted him. “They said, ‘We know your background. Have you ever thought of being a firefighter?’ It was a funny question. I thought, ‘I am one.’ They explained that seven people were going to be hired to staff Kensington’s station. I came down, got hired, and never looked back.” Pigoni says that of the seven, one now works in Oakland and the rest are retired. As of April 30, Pigoni will join the retirees.

“There have been so many changes since 1994-95,” he says. The fire district was in bad shape, financially and in pretty much every other way. “They had two engines and a twenty-year-old pickup truck.” The newer engine had an open back cab, which did not meet safety standards. “The hills just tear up the engines. If you looked at that engine on level ground it kind of sagged in the middle. It had taken so many twists and turns. And it belched out black smoke.”

Pigoni says that as the engine came up Coventry Road and turned right to make the U-turn back to the station, “Anyone sitting on that bus bench got pelted in black smoke. The other engine, another structure fire engine, was even older.” Meanwhile, the Public Safety Building was sliding, the front sliding faster than the back. “The district had been fighting to stay alive financially for so long. There was so much deferred maintenance,” he says.

From the moment the contract with El Cerrito was signed, Pigoni says, the district was able to start setting aside money. “Within five years, both engines were replaced, one with a wildland type 3 engine,” important to Kensington as it is smaller and more nimble, able to go into wild areas at Kensington’s borders. The district also stabilized the building, the first of three remodels during Pigoni’s time, and built up medical services. “These were huge changes. From the outside, not a lot of people saw that. What most people care about is if they call 911 they want someone to show up.”

Pigoni praised the fire board. “They listened to our recommendations, such as replacing one of the structure fire engines with a wildland engine. They also invested in larger capacity water pipes and more hydrants all along the ridge,” a vital improvement in high-risk Kensington. The district also adopted a set-aside program, where money is bankrolled each year so that when it comes time to replace an engine, the money is there to do it. “They’ve maintained their rolling stock,” he says. “That was a very smart thing on the part of the board.”

Vegetation management also came with the El Cerrito contract. “We started the whole weed abatement program. That’s evolved over the years,” he says. And it will evolve further due to new state guidelines. “It won’t make residents happy,” Pigoni predicts; the new guidelines set strict rules for defensible space. “It’s a good thing, but an expensive thing. I could keep a fuel crew going 365 days a year if I could pay for it. Brush keeps coming back, so you also have to keep coming back.”

Along with the regulations are new sources of money but, Pigoni points out, “We don’t know what we’re going to get.” He is heartened by the awakening consciousness of fire danger. “There is a situational awareness of weather, the potential for evacuation, and the controversial issue of parking. Whether you can even park on the street is going to be a hot topic. It’s just not reality to say that you can’t park anywhere but in your driveway. Or that we should rely on some other form of transportation. That may be a great thing, but we’re not there yet. These streets were never designed for today’s traffic. There’s no way to make the streets wider. So we do what the majority of people will buy into.”

Pigoni mentioned two of the district’s popular programs, the fall and spring paper shredding and offering sandbags during the winter rains. “Technically that should be the county road service,” he says of the sandbags. “But the district steps up to the plate to do that for residents. And they’re investing in fine-tuning evacuation programs with the emergency preparedness coordinator position.”

The entire time he’s worked at El Cerrito and Kensington, Pigoni has lived in Sonoma County, first in Geyserville, where he grew up, and then in Cloverdale. His wife Carol, until she retired, was most recently city manager of the town of Sonoma. She still does consulting work, which Pigoni may also try. He notes that he will be available to provide a smooth transition to whoever comes in as chief. He doubts that either of the two long-term battalion chiefs wants the position, so El Cerrito has engaged a recruiter to look at outside candidates.

“Fire chief is a totally different job,” Pigoni says. “You’re dealing with politics, with the budget. As a battalion chief, you’re running the day-to-day operations and dealing with the crews. The only time I ever get involved call-wise is if there’s a major call. But for the most part, my job as the fire chief is to deal with policy and budget.” Having both Kensington and El Cerrito on the chief’s plate requires a special person. “We need to find someone balanced between city government and district government, someone well versed in both. They’re really different animals.”

Carol, he says, loves NASCAR. “She is a major race car nut. We both enjoy it. We’ve been to Talladega, Texas, Vegas, and of course Sonoma. Our bucket list is to hit every



track before we’re too old to travel. Hopefully we can do a cruise. We have a grandson and granddaughter we just cherish. And I have my parents’ ranch in Geyserville, twenty acres of grapes. I don’t run the vineyard, but I have the property and the house to take care of.”

He has some advice for his successor: “El Cerrito is looking good from a financial situation now,” he says. “The city ended this year with a little over \$5 million reserve. That’s not counting the federal money. That reserve comes from tightening up the budget.”

He says that warnings about the impact of the pandemic on cash-strapped El Cerrito were dire. “We had all these predictions of what was going to happen when COVID hit, and none of them came true. Property values have gone up, people are still shopping. The city still gets the sales taxes whether it’s brick and mortar or online. But looking ahead, there are potential pitfalls with inflation and a possible downturn in housing. If the value of homes goes down, that affects El Cerrito and Kensington. You can’t wait ‘til it happens to react; you have to look ahead.”

Kensington Gains an Investigative Wizard

By Linnea Due

One of Kensington’s newly minted police officers has a great deal of experience gathering information used in criminal investigations. Officer Megan Farley came on the force the last week of November, another hire from the Dixon Police Department (as is fellow officer Dustin Siebert, profiled in the March *Outlook*).

Both of Farley’s parents are in law enforcement, and she set her sights early on a career in policing. She graduated from Chico State in 2012, with a major in criminal justice and a minor in sociology. She says her first full-time job was as a deputy in Solano County’s probation department, with a primary emphasis on managing sex offenders. “It was hard at times,” she says, “but you get in the mindset that they’re people too—people who do weird things.”

Farley wanted more from her job, which mainly involved supervising people. “While I was working at the probation department, I contacted DMV Investigations. I really wanted to do more investigation work. Most people don’t know that the DMV has its own investigation unit, and everyone in that unit is a police officer.”

Thus started a fascinating journey in investigating fraud-related cases, such as odometer rollbacks, unreported bills of sales, driver’s license frauds, unscrupulous car dealerships, and more. Her office was attached to a field office in Vallejo, so she had easy access to DMV staff. “It was a great way for me to learn,” she says.

Still, much of it involved sitting at a desk. “I went to Dixon PD after that,” she says. “I wanted experience in the field. I was there for a bit. Then I was recruited to come here. I’d worked with Officer Siebert and Lieutenant Brad Harms. I did a tour and thought, ‘This is kinda nice. I can do investigations and be on the street.’ It’s turned out to be a perfect fit.”

Farley learned a great deal at the probation department and at the DMV about the ins-and-outs of identity theft and other frauds. “I’ve been able to use that in Kensington,” she says. “I know who to call for what.”

She lives in the North Bay with her two children. She says that she’s had nothing but positive contacts in Kensington. “I really enjoy it here. The climate today in policing is that people are on edge. Some don’t appreciate it when the police come to the front door. I expected things to be a little bit edgy here. But it hasn’t been the case at all. People wave at me. They like the contact and follow-up. When I’ve asked neighbors if they have security cameras that might aid an investigation, they’re so helpful.”

Scams Cost Californians Big-Time

By Linnea Due

Data released in February from the Federal Trade Commission shows that the commission received 244,585 reports of fraud from California consumers in 2021. Moreover, those targeted lost \$820,858,149 to fraud schemes, with a median loss of \$600.

The FTC’s database receives reports directly from consumers, as well as from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, the Better Business Bureau, industry members, and nonprofit organizations. The commission also counts instances of identity theft, and takes complaints or queries about banks, online sellers, creditors, and more. California consumers filed 524,636 reports in 2021, with identity theft the highest category. That was followed by imposter scams (“Granny, I’m trapped in a Mexican jail”); credit bureaus, information furnishers and report users; online shopping and negative reviews; and banks and lenders.

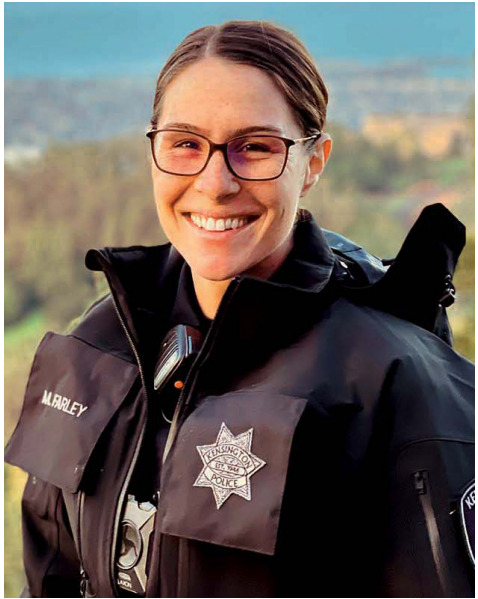
Fraud Losses Up Nationwide

Nationally, consumers reported losing more than \$5.8 billion to fraud in 2021, up from \$3.4 billion in 2020. More than \$2.3 billion of losses reported last year were due to imposter scams, while online shopping accounted for about \$392 million in reported losses from consumers.

The FTC received 2.8 million fraud reports from consumers in 2021, with imposter scams remaining the most common type of fraud. Online shopping was the second most common fraud category. Prizes, sweepstakes, and lotteries; internet services; and business and job opportunities rounded out the top five fraud categories nationally.

A full breakdown of reports received in 2021 is now available on the FTC’s data analysis site at <https://ftc.gov/exploredata>. The data dashboards there break down the reports across a number of categories, including by state and metropolitan area.

The Federal Trade Commission works to promote competition, stop deceptive and unfair business practices and scams, and educate consumers. Report fraud, scams, or bad business practices at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.



Police

...from Page 4

square footage. It’s on property we own, and we’re using our assets. The police have a home, our district staff has a home, and KASEP has a home. It’s an acceptable solution that is worth looking into.”

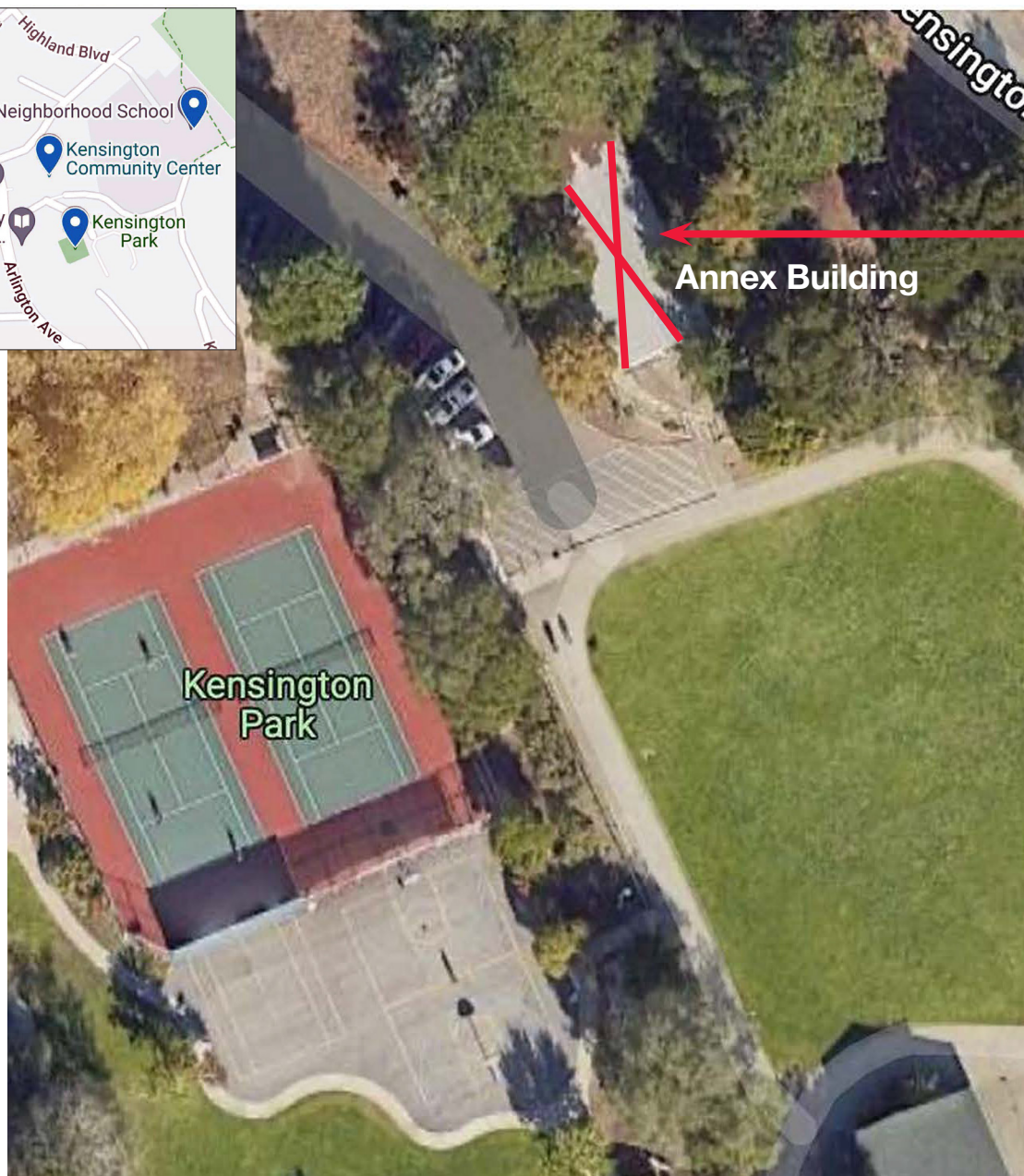
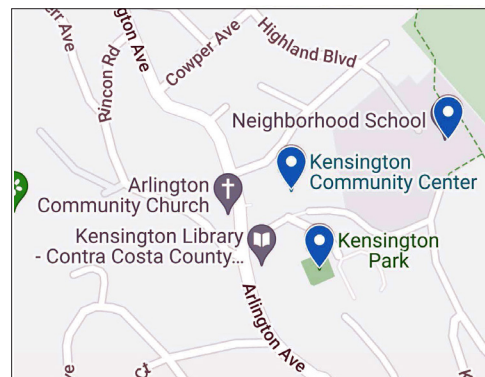
Sherris-Watt added that the district would be upgrading its assets. “These buildings have not been renovated in over 22 years for Building E and decades for the Annex. I’m suggesting that we hire architects for a general analysis and a seismic analysis. We could give KCC a renovated building and the police a renovated building at a cost far less than millions for new construction.”

During public comment, Gail Feldman, speaking on behalf of the Kensington Property Owners Association, said that the organization’s main concern is what the districts can afford. “We continue to ask both boards to do a joint financial analysis of how this is going to impact the Kensington taxpayer,” she said. “This is really about money. It seems pretty clear that you’re going to have to use one of your properties. What does it mean for the community as a whole? The police board and fire board should put together a combined financial analysis.”

Paul Dorroh, who favors building on the steep slope next to the library, also wanted to know the costs. “We need to know what our community can afford. What does the community want? Those are the things that are crying out for recognition on the part of both boards.”

Linda Lipscomb said, “Our problem stems from these two different boards. We have a foolhardy rebuild of a building on an earthquake fault that was specifically designed to house both departments. We need to go back to the drawing board. I’m hoping for greater cooperation. If they [the fire board] is going to go through with this, the Taj Mahal of fire stations, you [the police board] will need to do something, and it may have to be the Annex or Building E. You’ve been handed a bill of goods with our government-

For Cop Shop or Kids' Playhouse, Annex Will Need Modifications



The Annex building, above, which has been unused since 2006, lies across from the parking spaces and the tennis courts (green rectangles on a red field, left). The Annex is marked with a red X. At present, there is no opening to the park meadow to the south of the building; the entrance faces the parking spaces to the west.



Above and below: The Annex consists of two large open areas with two bathrooms at the north end of the building (where the figure is standing), and a small office area in the center. The rendering below, created in 2012 by Muller & Caulfield Architects, has center bathrooms that could be accessed from either open space, a modification necessary for nearly any use.



This rendering (left), created by Muller & Caulfield Architects in 2012, shows a modernized Annex with ADA-accessible bathrooms in the center. The renderings were created with an educational or recreational use in mind. If the Annex became the site of the police department, the interior would be modified substantially. For KCC, an office space would need to be created, and KASEP presently has three open classrooms in Building E, not two. The Annex would likely need to open to the large meadow to the south.



CITIZEN FORUM

We Can Work Together— But We Need to Talk

By Sylvia Elsbury, board president, Kensington Community Council

Picture the room where a child handcrafted the wooden Golden Gate Bridge that spans a corner of your home (and mine, for nearly twenty years now). A second room, where a KASEP (Kensington After School Enrichment Program) teacher taught your kiddo to sew the keepsake quilt you treasure. A third room—large, bright and airy—where campers seek shelter from summer sun and little athletes stay active during winter rains, and where Homework Club keeps your student safe and supported after school. Tennis, Gymnastics, Coding, Theater and Dance, Paper Arts, Circus Arts, Yoga, just a few on the long list of classes offered over the years by Kensington's recreation program, the Kensington Community Council.

KCC, a nonprofit 501(c)3, exists because KPPCSD and local volunteers created it, decades ago, to be Kensington's de facto recreation department. Residents and businesses donate generously to KCC's annual fund drives. KCC's home base is Building E, better known as "the KASEP building," with three customized classrooms and a busy office.

Generations of Kensingtonians have discovered their creative and athletic sides—and built confidence and found friends—in KCC's programs based in Kensington Park. Classes for adults have included painting, Jazzercise, Zumba and more. The current schedule consists of 58 classes, Monday-Friday, serving about 200 children in the park, Building E, and the Kensington Community Center. KCC's popular summer camps, also held in those spaces, are open for registration and filling up fast.

Now picture these programs, which add value to Kensington in so many ways, screeching to a halt when KCC is evicted from Building E so that "the KASEP building" can become a police station.

When this plan was floated by KPPCSD's interim general manager at a February 10 public meeting, KPPCSD board president Sylvia Hacaj cautioned against "public panic." Hacaj said no one should panic because "the general manager's memo [about where to locate police] talked about being cognizant of the KCC's role there, and programs ... and we are aware of the role that's been played before... but we do have a very important task to consider."

Everyone is sympathetic to the challenges of the "important task"—housing the police department—but Hacaj's description of KCC's role as having "been played before" was unsettling. What about KCC's role at present, and in the future? We never imagined that could be uncertain.

KPPCSD's board hastily created an ad hoc committee to explore the repurposing of two park buildings (Building E and the Annex, a long-abandoned and far smaller structure). As president of KCC's board of directors, I anticipated that KCC would soon be contacted by the two members of this committee, KPPCSD directors Rachelle Sherris-Watt and Chris Deppe.

A month went by, and by the time their next meeting agenda was published, not a word had been heard from KPPCSD. Not even our deeply knowledgeable and resourceful recreation director had been consulted about the nature and scope of Kensington's recreation programs, and what will become of them if KCC is evicted from Building E. In spite of Hacaj's assurance that KCC's vital role is well known to the district, we were left out of the discussion.

At KPPCSD's March 10 board meeting, it became clear that Building E was KPPCSD's favored solution to their police station problem. And Sherris-Watt's statement about where KCC would go, when evicted, was far from reassuring. "We would look at renovating the Annex as a space for recreational programs—and possibly, the KCC," she said. (Why were rec programs and KCC mentioned as two separate entities?) Drawings were shown for an Annex renovation, with a pre-pandemic price tag of \$1.3 million. But no promise was made, to KCC or to the community in general, that the Annex would be renovated, much less enlarged to include the office and additional classroom KCC requires. It will be "looked at," said Sherris-Watt, and as for KCC, we might "possibly" be offered that space.

We understand that the police department needs an adequate home. But any planning for the police, from Day One, must include planning for the continuation of KCC's programs.

The recent updating of the Kensington Community Center was a collaborative effort. The district owns and renovated the building; KCC raised and donated nearly \$500,000 to the project. When KPPCSD started planning the renovation, there were many meetings with various groups to get feedback about the present and future uses of the building. We expect a similar outreach now, as the district looks for alternatives to the Public Safety Building.

KCC hopes the police department will relocate to temporary quarters, buying time for an informed and inclusive approach to a permanent solution. And the district must give equal priority to supporting our community's recreational space, programs, and classes. Residents should let the KPPCSD board know that our common goals for Kensington can be achieved only if they listen to us, consider our needs, and plan together with us.

Citizen Forums are guest editorials written by Kensington residents. To submit a Citizen Forum for consideration, email editor@kensingtonoutlook.com

Calling the Class of '22
SENIORS! We want everybody who attended part or all of Kensington Elementary School and/or is a Kensington resident graduating from high school this June to be in the Outlook's SENIOR PHOTO. Come to Kensington Park May 1 at 3:30pm. Fun and food await. This will be the first group photo after a two-year break; the photo is the centerpiece of the June Outlook.

Evacuation

...from Front Page

zones targeted in this drill will be ECK-E007 and ECK-E008. To find your zone, visit community.zonehaven.com, and input your home address.

How the Drill Works

At 9am on April 9, residents of Kensington Zone ECK-E008 will receive a message from Contra Costa County's Community Warning System ordering an immediate (safe and orderly) evacuation to the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station to check-in with site volunteers. Participants will provide volunteers with their street name; this completes the simulation.

At 9am on April 9, residents of Kensington Zone ECK-E007 will receive a message from the county's warning system. Those residents should acknowledge receipt of the notification and shelter in place. A short survey will take feedback. Residents in ECK-E007 will not participate in the evacuation portion to El Cerrito Plaza BART.

Because Kensington is unincorporated, all residents are strongly encouraged to register for the county's Community Warning System (CWS). Before the drill begins, residents wishing to participate in the exercise must register for the warning system. More information is available at fire district's website, www.kensingtonfire.org/drill.

Library Art

...from Front Page

I have found it to be very welcoming," she says. "I made my first friends and contacts through the guild." She took a class at a now-closed shop called Hello Stitch. "The class started about six months before the pandemic," she says. "There were seven of us, and

after the shutdown we continued meeting on Zoom every Tuesday morning. We have different aesthetics and visions, but we trusted each other. That group really got me through."

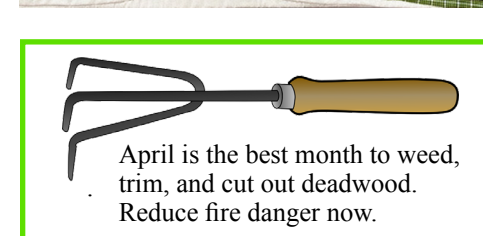
Mayse works out of a downstairs bedroom. "That was my non-negotiable as we looked for a house," she says. "It had to have a shed or a bedroom where I could work." She was glad to move back to be with family and grandchildren. "I love Kensington, it's a fun, sweet community," she says. "I grew up less than a mile from where I live now. So it was like coming home."

Mounting the library's first show felt perfect. "I love the library," she says. "My first friend in Kensington was Anasa

Tatum [librarian and volunteer coordinator]. When I was in the midst of moving, I went to get my library card. I'm a voracious reader. From the minute I walked in, Anasa made me feel a part of the community. It's wonderful to be able to give something back."

Meet the Artist

Ann Mayse will be at the library on April 9 between 1-3pm. Come talk with her and others about quilting, fabric arts, or the ever-elusive muse! Mayse will bring a current project to work on and perhaps a sample of other works in progress.



April is the best month to weed, trim, and cut out deadwood. Reduce fire danger now.



Bonus view of one of Mayse's favorite pieces. This evocative work of tree trunks framed by subtle meadows and a hill is not in the library show.

PAGEPOINT WEB SOLUTIONS Serving Kensington For Over 20 Years

custom web programming
 online marketing website management
 hosting seo social media
 website strategizing and consulting
 wordpress database programming

www.pagepoint.com 510.558.1534

Contra Costa Library System One of Top Fifty Libraries in the World for Digital Circulation

By Linnea Due

Last year Contra Costa County libraries checked out one million eBooks and eAudiobooks. This milestone illustrates the continued growth and importance of library digital lending of eBooks and eAudiobooks, especially after a prolonged period of building closures due to the global pandemic. The county is one of 121 public library systems that surpassed a million digital checkouts.

Most Popular Books

The top five eBook titles borrowed through the county's digital collection in 2021:

1. The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
2. The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
3. The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
4. Anxious People by Fredrik Backman
5. The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave

The top five eAudiobook titles borrowed through 2021:

1. A Promised Land by Barack Obama
2. Talking to Strangers by Malcolm Gladwell
3. Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
4. Becoming by Michelle Obama
5. The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner

Kensington Library contributed 28,298 checkouts to the grand total. Fiction was the most popular genre. Kensington's top five checkouts:

1. The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
2. Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro
3. The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
4. The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller
5. Talking to Strangers by Malcolm Gladwell

ONE NAME TO REMEMBER WHEN IT'S TIME TO REMEMBER

EXCELLENT, AFFORDABLE SERVICE SINCE 1908

SUNSET VIEW
 CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
 CEMETERY • CREMATORY • MORTUARY

101 Colusa Avenue
 El Cerrito, CA 94530
 F.D. LIC #1079

CALL US ABOUT PRE-NEED ARRANGEMENTS

SUNSETVIEWMORTUARY.COM | 510.525.5111

Classified Ads

ABC GUITAR LESSONS FOR ALL AGES
 Vaccinated school music teacher Berkeley-Boston graduate. Mark Sorensen - 510-207-5118

ACKLEY PROFESSIONAL PAINTING SERVICES 40 years experience makes a difference! We strive for clear communication and follow-through. Free estimates. License #528381. Phone: 510-220-4021, larryackley1953@yahoo.com

AURORA PAINTING & DECORATING. Interior, exterior, waterproof coatings, wood restoration, color consultation. License #71226. Kensington references. 510-655-9267 for free estimate.

BRIDGE PAINTING paints houses! Top quality, int/ext, A-1 prep. for lasting finish, Sr. discount, fully ins., Lic. 639300, free est., see display ad inside. 510-232-3340

DESIGN-BUILD LOCAL CONTRACTOR - with 43+ years experience remodeling/renovation with creative solutions for handicap accessibility, kitchens, baths, ADU. Lots of local references. Learn more at www.baywoodbuilding.com or Yelp. Lic 357706-B Call Robert at 510-595-4231

FURNITURE: Repairs Refinish Retrofit. Sensible, lasting workmanship by 3rd generation fine furniture maker, Huttonio Brooks. 510-526-4749. www.huttonio.com

HANDYMAN BRUCE, Small jobs and repairs, fences, decks, painting, and around the House repairs. Also replace locks and locksmith repair. 510-528-3419

HELPING HANDS, PERSONALIZED CONCIERGE SERVICES. Help around your home to make things easier for you. Organize, errands, de-clutter, home care. Ongoing or short term. Kensington resident, local references. Call to discuss your needs. Peggy 510-735-6965

KENSINGTON CONTRACTOR - Kitchens & baths, expert home repairs, painting, waterproofing. Reliable. Lic#606634 Thomas Cuniff Construction 415-378-2007

MEDICARE INSURANCE: Independent Agent specializing in Medicare plans contact Martha LaMair (CA Lic#0E50665) at 510-301-3313 www.lamairinsurance.com

PET CARE - Kensington resident seeks dog walking/vacation pet care jobs. Skip the doggie hotel, I'll feed & walk your Kensington pooch twice a day for \$30.00 and bring in your mail free. Dog walking 10 bucks per twenty minutes. Other tasks negotiable. Just ask Laura (Charlie's mom) lsbodyb@gmail.com

PETER the PAINTER-Spring Special! Get a free estimate from a Kensington favorite. Int/Ext Lic. Ins. 510-575-3913

PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER - Quality Headshots to Family Portraits. Nan Phelps Photography located at 398 Colusa Ave. Learn more at nanphelps.com or YELP. Contact: nan@nanphelps.com or phone 510-528-8845

WANTED: Looking for old whiskey bottles. Please contact Daniel 415-267-6191.

WRITER FOR HIRE - Former Film/TV Exec will write/edit copy for books, websites, ads, letters, speeches, presentations. Email: info@alisonbrantley.com or 510-684-3104

CLASSIFIED ADS Monthly Rates \$8.00 per line (\$16.00 minimum). There are 45 spaces per line. Count each letter, punctuation mark, and space between words. Classified ad form available online at: kensingtonoutlook.com or email: advertising@kensingtonoutlook.com. Completed classified ads must be pre-paid (payable to KCC) and received by the 10th of the month preceding publication. Mail to: Kensington Outlook, P.O. Box 2212, El Cerrito, CA 94530

April 22 is Earth Day. Honor Your Mother

HOLY WEEK at ARLINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Palm Sunday, April 10, 10:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, April 14, 4:00 p.m.
Good Friday, April 15
 Bay Area Ecumenical Service held at First Church Berkeley

Easter Sunday, April 17, 10:00 a.m.

A spiritual center welcoming and affirming all people. Visit our website for more information and COVID protocols at www.ArlingtonCommunityChurchUCC.org

Arlington Community Church Installs Dr. Celestine Fields



By Ruth Robinson
Arlington Community Church invites all to attend a service of Installation and celebration as the church welcomes its new settled pastor, The Rev. Dr. Celestine Fields. The event will be held at the church on Sunday, April 3, at 2pm.

Pastor Celeste (as she prefers to be known) is an ordained minister with full standing in the United Church of Christ. She was ordained in Philadelphia in 2013. She earned her Master of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 2013. Much of the focus of her seminary studies was the Holocaust. She wrote a paper titled, "The Gospel of John and its Complicity in the Holocaust." Her Doctorate in Ministry came from the same institution in 2021. Her dissertation was titled, "Black Pastor, White Church—Using Applied Positive Psychology to Build and Sustain Multicultural Congregations."

Dr. Fields describes herself as a woman of fierce faith. Her vocation as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ gives her the opportunity to preach, to teach, and to walk with people on their spiritual journeys, no matter what their beliefs. She enjoys helping to empower and lead the community where she serves, as a change agent. She is a clergy and nutrition coach, and a life inquirer. Pastor Celeste seeks to help people discover what will give their lives' meaning and purpose in the Church, in their community, and in the world. She says, "My desire is to help you find the fire within you and fan it!"

The installation service will feature music, African drumming, and vocalists followed by a reception. The event will be held outside on the Labyrinth and patio. Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test in the previous 24 hours is required. Masks will be worn indoors.

Stop By the Library During National Library Week

By Kara Sheetz
Did you know that National Library Week is April 5-9? During this week, we invite everyone to connect with us by visiting the library in person! Come inside and say hello. We will have fun giveaways to share with you when you do. This is also a great week to reach out to our representatives and encourage them to pledge their support for your public library. We hope to see you soon.

A Legacy of Serving our Community

Albany | Berkeley | El Cerrito
Kensington | Oakland | Piedmont
grubbco.com

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

1960 Mountain Blvd. Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.0400 | 3070 Claremont Ave. Berkeley, CA 94705 510.652.2133 | 1656 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, CA 94709 510.848.1950

COZY KENSINGTON ABODES RECENT LISTINGS FROM RED OAK REALTY

- 245 LOS ALTOS DRIVE, KENSINGTON**
2 bd / 2 ba - Authentic Mid-century gem with magnificent canyon views! This serene sanctuary has two brick fireplaces, original gumwood walls, and large picture windows.
245LosAltos.com
Locally Real - Janet Kaplan & Yania Rodriguez
#988927, 2091137 - 510.506.2762
- 272 PURDUE AVENUE, KENSINGTON**
2 bd / 2 ba - Special Storybook home by P.C. Clausen c. 1934, exuding character and charm from the rounded brick fireplace to the carved stairway railings and built-ins.
272Purdue.com
Sheri Madden
#1228854 - 510.501.1317
- 205 LAKE DRIVE, KENSINGTON**
2+ bd / 3 ba - Japanese-inspired Mid-century home. Architectural artistry and contemplative gardens in a peaceful setting overlooking Wildcat Canyon and Tilden Park.
205Lake.com
Todd - Tania - Lisa Team
#909437, 1469906, 2081605 - 510.701.1008
- 307 RUGBY AVENUE, KENSINGTON**
3 bd / 2 ba - Spacious Tudor-style home with Bay views! Gracious entry, high ceilings, large front window, eat-in kitchen looks out to a sunny patio and garden.
307Rugby.com
Tim Cannon & Anne Politeo
#665085, 843273 - 510.381.1618



Free Emergency Radios

By Katie Gluck and Peter Liddell
The Kensington Public Safety Council (KPSC) has a limited number of emergency weather radios that the council is happy to offer, free of charge, to Kensington residents who fall into one or more of the following categories: disabled; senior citizen; and/or living alone on a fixed income. These radios will be provided to residents who respond with their name, address and contact information by email to kensingtonpsc@gmail.com or by phone to 510-356-8785.

If you wish to request a radio, please provide your name and either email address and/or phone number so we can contact you. If you leave a phone number, please let us know a good day and time to call. Your contact information will not be shared with anyone.

The KPSC would like to thank Chris Hilliard, El Cerrito and Kensington CERT, for his assistance.

KENSINGTON Community Education



We have just begun the Spring session of KASEP, offering more than 50 classes each week for students after school. Our small class sizes and abundant outdoor spaces are a perfect setting for kids K-6 after school. Our location is an easy walk for kids coming down from Hilltop School and Neighborhood school. We also offer a homework club right after school for kids who are taking a later KASEP class.

Classes fill up fast, if you missed your favorite class sign up, mark your calendars for the Fall KASEP registration scheduled for Tuesday, August 30th at 7:00pm.

Important Dates: Spring Break is April 4th -8th and there are no KASEP classes that week.

High School Senior 2022 Photo

Let the tradition continue! Calling all high school seniors who live(d) in Kensington, or who attended Hilltop Elementary School for all or part of their elementary school years – you are invited to join other alumni for the annual Kensington High School Senior Photo. The photo is scheduled for Sunday, May 1st at 3:30pm.

Location: KCC Office /Recreation Building. Come early to catch-up with old friends! The photo will appear on the cover of the June Outlook.



KCC Adult Classes

Tai Chi with Nobuo Nishi

Fridays 9:30-11:00am

Drop-in fee is \$15



This class teaches tai chi for health, improving students' strength, balance, flexibility, and dexterity. A gentle martial art, tai chi is a safe, rewarding activity for people of all ages and levels of health. Tai chi involves the mind and body working in harmony. It helps us calm the mind, relax the body, and reduce stress. Students at all levels of health and experience are welcome. Instruction is provided for beginners as well as experienced students. Register at KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/adult-classes

Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only. Call the KCC office to book your reservations 510-525-0292

New KPCCSD Court Fees:
1 hour reservations- residents: \$7 non-residents \$10

The Kensington Outlook can now be found at: KensingtonOutlook.com

Archive copies can also be found on our website dating back to 2003.

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, or call 510-525-0292. Our website is: www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org.

KCC Summer Camp

We still have space available in several weeks of KCC Summer camp. Our camp offers a fun and nurturing environment for children entering first grade through 6th grade in the fall 2022.

Many camp traditions have been going on longer than one can remember. A lot of our camp counselors were KCC campers themselves and then became CITs (counselors in training) and now get paid to carry on the traditions of KCC summer camp. Although we will not be doing field trips this year we have lots of fun things planned with visits from the Bay Area Vivarium and an animal petting zoo, traveling circus and more.



KCC Summer Camp Activities & Schedule

\$375 per week

Week 1 June 13- June 17

Theme: Pod Pride Specialty: Pickle ball

Week 2 June 20 - June 24

Theme: Superheroes Specialty: Skyhawk Sports

Week 3 June 27- July 1

Theme: Western Specialty: Carpentry w/Vicky

Week 4 *July 5- July 8 (no camp Monday 7/4)

Theme: Stars & Stripes Specialty: Cooking Creations

Week 5 July 11 - July 15

Theme: Going Green/Recycle Specialty: Dance Fitness

Week 6 July 18 - July 22

Theme: Reptiles Specialty: Pottery

Week 7 July 25 - July 29

Theme: Circus Specialty: Olympic Week

Week 8 August 1 - August 5

Theme: Space Specialty: Legos

Week 9 August 8 - August 12

Theme: Beach Week
Specialty: Skyhawk Sports



Summer Camp Counselor Opportunity

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

February Police News

Off-Duty Sergeant Saves the Day

On Wednesday, February 2, at about 1:45pm, Kensington Police Sergeant Amit Nath was off-duty with his family, shopping at BuyBuy Baby, a chain store in a nearby city. While in the parking lot, he spotted a green purse left behind inside a shopping cart, collected the item, and brought it into the store and gave it to the manager. "They were aware I was an off-duty officer," Nath wrote in an email.

Shortly thereafter, the grateful owner of the purse was located and exhilarated to know that not only was her purse found—but so were its entire contents, including \$8,000 in cash.

Said Nath, "Before leaving the store, a woman sought me out as management had directed her to the person who found the purse. She was visibly upset and crying while thanking me profusely in Spanish. In my very short conversation with the woman, she advised she had contract paperwork and a large sum of paper currency in her purse. She explained that her family was in the midst of buying a home and hence the money." Management confirmed the woman's identity via the contents of the purse and her identification and released the belongings back to her.

Nath wrote: "The one thing I hope this gets across to the reader is to be kind. In the world and society we are in today, it is of the utmost importance for us all to 'Pay it forward.' My biggest take-away from this event was that my kids were able to watch it happen and understand there is still good in this world, we just have to work a little harder to find it."

Tired of Road Closures? At Least You Know Where They Are

Kensington PD is using Nixle alerts to notify Kensington residents of road closures.

Nixle is a privately held US corporation founded in 2007 that offers both free and paid notification services for local police departments, county emergency management offices, municipal governments, and other agencies across all fifty states. Nixle allows government agencies to send messages to residents via phone, email, and on the web. Information is delivered almost instantly. For more information on how to sign up and get notified, go to www.nixle.com.

Whoever Heard of the Shakespeare Cluster?

During the month of February, EBMUD crews began installing a new water pipeline to improve water service throughout Kensington. As a result, numerous streets were affected and temporarily closed throughout the district. This is part of the Shakespeare Cluster Pipeline Replacement project, which is projected to take approximately seven months to complete. As a result of this massive project, Kensington PD issued nineteen Nixle alerts to notify residents when a portion of the roadway is scheduled for closure. Unfortunately, Stege Sanitary began a sewer line replacement project at the same time, so lower Kensington can be a bit of a maze to traverse.

Kensington PD Arrest Helps Neighboring City

An early morning arrest by one of our officers helped solve multiple crimes in a neighboring city. On February 2, at about 1am, a vehicle was seen slowly driving through Kensington; its occupants appeared to be casing the area. Both occupants were eventually arrested, their vehicle was impounded, and a Federal Control Number (FCN) was attached

to the impounded vehicle. Later the same day, a detective from a neighboring police department called KPD; he was excited about the arrest, because the same vehicle had been involved in the theft of multiple high-end bicycles the night before. (See description below.)

Police Log for February

FEBRUARY 2: Around 1am, a vehicle was seen driving slowly in the 300 block of Arlington Avenue. A traffic enforcement stop was initiated, and fentanyl, methamphetamines, burglary tools, and drug paraphernalia was located inside of the vehicle. The occupants were arrested for H&S 11377—Possession of Dangerous Drugs; H&S 11364—Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and PC 466—Burglary Tools, and their vehicle was impounded before they could commit any crime in Kensington.

FEBRUARY 9: Officers conducting speed enforcement on Franciscan Way captured a vehicle on radar traveling at a high rate of speed. A traffic enforcement stop was conducted, and the driver was determined to be driving on a suspended license. The driver was cited for speeding and his vehicle was impounded.

FEBRUARY 21: An officer was dispatched to the 300 block of Rugby Avenue on a residential burglary. During the investigation, it was determined that a small hole was drilled through the garage door, then a small hook on a long pole was inserted through the hole, and the garage door opened. Once inside, multiple items were stolen. Due to the unique Modus Operandi, A Critical Reach Flier was generated and shared with the nine Bay Area counties.

FEBRUARY 25: Prior to the Ace Hardware Store opening for business, a vehicle was located in the back parking lot with major front-end damage. An investigation was conducted to determine if a Hit & Run collision had taken place in one of the neighboring jurisdictions. CHP, East Bay Regional Parks PD, Contra Costa County SO and Orinda PD were all contacted, and it was ultimately determined that there was no Hit & Run, and that the collision took place off Wildcat Canyon Road.

FEBRUARY 26: Early in the morning about 1:30am, an officer in the 100 block of Highgate Road spotted a suspicious vehicle with the dome lights on. A subsequent investigation was conducted, and multiple burglary tools were located. The person, who had an extensive history of automobile thefts and catalytic converter thefts, was arrested and his vehicle was impounded before he could commit any crimes in Kensington.

FEBRUARY 27: While conducting after-hours extra patrol inside the Sunset View Cemetery, a person was contacted trying to get his vehicle out of the closed cemetery. A records check was conducted, and the person was discovered to have multiple warrants for his arrest, totaling \$30,000 from Lakeport, California. As a result of the multiple warrants, the person was arrested.



IRONWOOD
ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION
Design/Build
Earthquake Strengthening
Foundation Repairs
Retaining Walls
Drainage • Remodels • Additions
Leak Investigations
Property Purchase Inspections
510.524.8058
www.IronwoodEngineering.com
License B444427



EARTH MONTH
WITH ZIP CODE EAST BAY

@ HOME

April is here, which means it's Earth Month. Never before has there been such urgency to make environmental pledges and take action.



ZCEB is committed to putting people and the planet first. That's why we practice Real Estate as a Force for Good. In 2018, we became the first real estate brokerage in California to be certified as a B Corp based on rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency.

ZCEB ECO, our green listing program, helps sellers improve their home's market value while making a measurable environmental impact.

We give 5% of our profits to charity, including Giveback Homes, Urban Tilth, Sogorea Te' Land Trust, and other local organizations. Our commitment to being the best brokerage means doing the best for our community too.

All Zip Code East Bay agents hold the Nat'l Assoc. of REALTORS® Green Designation. We love being your local green resource. Questions? Give us a call! 510.323.3669

ZIPCODEEASTBAY.COM
a certified B Corporation & Green Business