

Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

DECEMBER 2022-JANUARY 2023

PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 80 NUMBER 10

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Photo by Mark Altenberg

Fall Picnic a Real Treat

By Sylvia Elsbury

Hundreds of Kensington friends and neighbors gathered at the Community Center on October 23 for the return of KCC's annual Fall Picnic. Under sunny skies cooled by an autumn breeze, KCC and many more volunteers served over 250 tasty picnic lunches. Everyone agreed that the bands were fantastic.

Huge thanks to the jazz musicians of Korematsu Middle School, and to the classic rockers of the Great Space Coaster, which kept the party popping long after the food sold out. Our sponsors were Mechanics Bank and Red Oak Realty, and realtors Todd Hodson and Leigh Schneider. It was a picture-perfect day in Kensington, and we can't wait to do it all over again next year!



See more photos of the festivities on Page 5



Photo by Joelle Provost

Oh My Gourdnness, We're Back!

By Erika Ramirez, Zip Code East Bay

After a two-year hiatus, this year's Colusa Circle Halloween Harvest Celebration was a spook-tacular hit! More than 180 kids and their grown-ups showed off creative costumes as they paraded around the Circle, cheered on the costume contest winners, and visited local businesses to complete the traditional Where is the Witch scavenger hunt, which ended with a free soft-serve from Benchmark Pizzeria.

Along the way, guests guessed the weight of the giant pumpkin provided by Colusa Market, received free pumpkins from the Kensington Farmers' Market, enjoyed the photo booth at Zip Code East Bay, and got their hearts pumping at the Fuse Fitness obstacle course.

To top the ending of this faBOOlous day, everyone enjoyed an interactive animal show sponsored by the Kensington Veterinary Hospital. We loved hearing all the positive feedback and shared in excitement about returning to Colusa Circle for the annual Tree Lighting on November 27! To find out about upcoming events, visit: colusacircle.org/events. (See more on page 8.)

“Gratitude can transform common days into thankgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

- William Arthur Ward

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve so many with their real estate needs--Happy Holidays it is always my pleasure to work with you.



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Kensington | Market Update

October 2022 to present

	2	5	9	2021 Comparison
Detached Single Family	New Listings	Pending Sales	Closed Sales	1 Closed Sale Sept - Nov 5, 2021
	Median List Price \$1,346,500	Median List Price \$1,395,000	Median List Price \$1,375,000	Median List Price \$1,225,000
	Median Sq. Ft. 1723	Median Sq. Ft. 2,490	Median Sales Price \$1,650,500	Median Sales Price \$1,325,000
	*(1 represented by Compass)	DOM 14	Median Sq. Ft. 2130	Median Sq. Ft. 2120
			DOM 11	DOM 14
			*(2 represented by Compass)	

FACT VS FICTION: THE TRUTH ABOUT TODAY'S HOUSING MARKET
One of the most important parts of being able to have a relevant market opinion based on facts. And this goes beyond just your local data. When you think about it, most clients are already forming their own opinion of the market because of what they see in the national media. Here are the biggest misconceptions about today's housing market and the facts to help you explain it best to your clients.

#1: WE'RE IN A HOUSING BUBBLE

The Facts:
While today's housing market is anything but normal, it's not because of the same circumstances surrounding the housing bubble of the early 2000s that caused the crash. Back then, new construction single family homes flooded the market, lending standards were incredibly loose, and many homeowners were cashing out their equity left and right. Today's market is nearly the exact opposite.
Since the housing crash of 2008:
- Lending standards have tightened
- The market is under-supplied rather than over-supplied on inventory
- Most homeowners are much more cautious with their equity
- Plus, housing market experts are forecasting continued price appreciation this year, as demand continues to outweigh home supply

#2: LOTS OF FORECLOSURES ARE COMING

The Facts:
Stories about the volume of foreclosures are all over the news today, but the most important thing to remember is context is everything. However, the number of foreclosures we're seeing today is nothing like the last time.
Here are some of the reasons why that's happening:
- Most homeowners have enough equity to sell their homes
- There have been fewer foreclosures over the last two years
- The current market can easily absorb the new listings

For all of these reasons, experts don't anticipate a wave of foreclosures that would negatively affect housing prices.



#3: HOUSING PRICES WILL DEPRECIATE

The Facts:
This might be one you've heard a time or twenty. Skyrocketing price appreciation has many sellers and buyers sitting on the fence. However, experts don't project home prices to go down anytime soon. Instead, data from earlier in the year has already been adjusted to be higher than previously anticipated. House price growth is expected to moderate from the rapid pace of 2021, strong home buyer demand applies a backdrop of historically tight inventory of homes for sale will likely keep appreciation positive in the coming year. The average prediction is home prices will rise by 9%.

Bottom Line:
For both buyers and sellers, this means one thing: playing the waiting game is a risky business. When it comes to sellers, the higher price appreciation over the last two years has been great for their home's value.

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SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Candles and Trees Can Pose Risks

Candle fires peak in December and January, according to the National Fire Protection Association. In three out of every five candle fires, the candle sat too close to something that could catch fire. Keep your home safe for the holidays by ensuring any candles lit for Hanukkah or Christmas are well away from anything flammable. Never leave an open flame unattended or better yet, use flameless candles for your holiday ambiance.

Freshly cut Christmas trees are more dangerous when it comes to fire, but artificial trees are also vulnerable. Depending on the tree's age, even flame-resistant artificial trees can be a fire hazard as the flame retardant wears off over time. Ensure that your live tree has enough water by checking the reservoir in the tree stand daily.

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.

DECEMBER 2022

DEADLINES

Advertising Deadline ❖ January 8

Editorial Deadline❖ January 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.

K E N S I N G T O N

O U T L O O K

EDITOR

LINNEA DUE

ADVERTISING MANAGER

ALMA KEY

PUBLISHER

KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

59 Arlington Ave.

Kensington, CA 94707-1307

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

Police Station Location: Parking Lot is Not Top Candidate, or Is It?

By Linda Young, former ACC Moderator, and Faith Abel, Moderator

On October 19, 2022, the Council of Arlington Community Church (ACC) met via Zoom with Tony Constantouros and Sylvia Hacaj from the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD). Church leadership requested the meeting to learn about the intentions of the KPPCSD regarding a new location for the police department, and to express concerns about the consideration of the community parking lot across from the church at 52 Arlington. ACC owns half of the parking lot and has always shared its half with the community. At the meeting, Mr. Constantouros assured church leaders that KPPCSD had not identified any “priority” locations for the police department. The parking lot was simply one of the sites being considered. At the end of the meeting, ACC leadership was encouraged that the parking lot was not the “top candidate” and that the church and the KPPCSD would continue to communicate if needed.

Shortly after the October 19 meeting, however, the November issue of the *Outlook* came out with a page 6 article titled, “Options to House Police Narrowing Down: Parking Lot Now Top Candidate.” The article included six different configurations of the parking lot that would include the police station and designated parking places for police vehicles. ACC leadership had heard of the \$10,000 study but had never seen the included drawings.

When asked about the study on October 19, Mr. Constantouros dismissed it as simply for informational purposes. He stressed that there had been no priority ranking, no vote, no selection of the site. The study was simply to help eliminate some options that were not feasible. ACC has not received any communication from KPPCSD since the October 19 meeting.

For the public record, the church leadership feels that it is important to communicate the issues that using the parking lot for a police station could create for the Kensington community. These were clearly presented to the KPPCSD representatives at the October 19 meeting.

Arlington Community Church's primary mission is to be of service to the community. The leadership advocates for the entire parking lot to continue to be safe and available to the community, and shudder to imagine alternative parking on steep hills around the library, Community Center, and the church if the full parking lot were not available to the public. A traffic study would document how often the lot is used for community events, the library, the schools, religious services for several denominations, church/community events, and many large community groups that rent ACC and Community Center facilities. These events require the full use of the existing parking lot as well as street parking.

Community safety is also a concern of ACC leadership, particularly child safety and safe paths of travel for the elderly and disabled. Many children and elderly people walk through the parking lot, for use of the library, the church, the park, and the three schools housed in the church. If the police department occupied the parking lot, there would be increased risks to pedestrian safety as visitors would have no option other than to park on these steep, narrow, mostly sidewalk-less streets.

In the interest of public safety and accessibility to the library, the Community Center, the park, the schools, and the church, ACC Church Council recommends that KPPCSD reconsider the value of the full parking lot to the community and consider working with a commercial real estate broker to locate an appropriate property for the police station.

Clean Sweep

By Linnea Due

The so-called slate candidates for six director seats, three for each district, triumphed in the November 8 election. Elected to the three open seats on the Kensington Police Protection Community Services District are Alexandra Aquino-Fike with 25.82 percent of 7,888 votes cast, Sarah Gough with 25.67 percent, and Cassandra Duggan with 20.70 percent. Gail Feldman and Mike Logan brought up the rear. We thank Mike Logan for his eighteen months of service to the district and his past involvement with the board's now-defunct finance committee.

For the Kensington Fire Protection District, Julie Stein received 31.04 percent of 7,618 votes cast, Daniel Levine raked in 28.91 percent, and Jim Watt garnered 26.04 percent. Janice Kosel was defeated in her bid for reelection. It is hard to overstate the expertise brought to the table during Kosel's 28 years on the fire board. She tirelessly advocated for public safety measures including installing additional hydrants along the ridge with Tilden Park. That upped the supply that can be brought to bear on a wildfire and is a big factor in the fire district's “I” rating in fire safety from the national insurance rating agency, which lowers fire insurance costs for many Kensington home owners. This feat (a “I” is only awarded to one percent of fire agencies) seems almost impossible in a wildland urban interface such as Kensington. Kosel also oversaw the district's stellar finances for years, ensuring that money was set aside each cycle to replace needed equipment and fund pensions. We thank her for her years of service.

In other district news, fire board general manager Bill Hansell submitted his resignation at the fire district's meeting November 9. His last day is December 31.

See a brief interview on this page.

Handmade Gift Sale December 3-4

By Mary D. Ghidella

The crafters of Saint Jerome Church, 308 Carmel Avenue, El Cerrito, meet weekly to make hand-knit and home-sewn items for the annual Christmas sale December 3, 3-6pm and December 4, 9am-1pm. There are many hand-knit items ranging from sweaters and blankets for baby, scarves and fingerless gloves, hats and shawls for adults, and colorful Christmas ornaments. This year we are featuring a home-sewn napkin that starts as a half circle and becomes a colorful two-sided Christmas napkin shaped like a tree. Other holiday items and handcrafted gifts are also offered.



On October 20, outgoing General Manager Bill Hansell hands fire board president Larry Nagel the “golden shovel” for the official groundbreaking ceremony to begin the Public Safety Building retrofit. Photo by Linnea Due

Letters to the Editor

Seeking Compromise

Dear Editor:

Given the recent KPPCSD election results and the commitment of the newly elected KPPCSD and fire board candidates to keep the police in the PSB, the KPPCSD board must cease any immediate efforts to determine a long-term location for the police department. It would be against the will of the overwhelming majority of Kensington voters to do otherwise.

Most of the locations proposed by the KPPCSD Interim General Manager are known to be unfeasible. The only way forward is a compromise design for the Public Safety Building that allows our protection services to share the space, stay local, and stay out of the park. This is what the people said on November 8.

Surely, the newly configured KPPCSD board will act immediately to set up a joint building task force with the fire board. This new task force will revise the building effort to reflect the will of Kensington residents.

To keep this process moving in the right direction, citizens must show up at board meetings to support the new board members. Citizen involvement in meetings will be crucial to help avoid the mistakes of the recent past.

Andrew Reed

Removing Barriers to Home Ownership

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the article in the November issue about Arlington Community Church's Black Wealth Builder's Fund to support first-time Black homebuyers with down payments.

A lot has happened since. We have now made 21 zero-interest loans, for a total of \$275,000 provided throughout Contra Costa and Alameda counties. We have supported four new homeowners each in Richmond and Concord, three in Pittsburg, and two each in Martinez, El Sobrante, Oakland, San Lorenzo, and Antioch.

We are grateful to everyone who has supported our efforts to help remove some of the longstanding barriers to Black homeownership in the East Bay. Since we've loaned out almost all our money, we're planning another round of fundraising so we can keep supporting this critical cause. Donations can be made at any time by sending a check to our community partner, the Richmond Community Foundation, 3260 Blume Dr., Suite 110, Richmond, CA 94806.

(Please make sure to indicate Black Wealth Builders Fund in the memo line). Or visit <https://www.giveeffect.com/campaigns/17536-black-wealth-builders-fund>

Susan Russell

Fire Board GM Hansell Resigns

By Linnea Due

Kensington Fire Protection District General Manager Bill Hansell resigned after the election results were in. Although battling the cold that has swept through the Bay Area—and his family—Hansell answered a few questions by email on November 14.

Was the election the impetus for your leaving and why?

It was a coincidence that my two-year contract was up right after the election. It did, though, give me the opportunity to move on and exit with the current directors, the majority of whom did the right thing for Kensington. Creating and permitting a future-oriented design for the firefighters, locking-in financing before interest rates skyrocketed, obtaining a low construction bid, quickly building a temp station, and starting construction, all in under two years, are achievements that I am very proud of.

Personally, it is very hard not to see the project through, because both the fire chief and police chief, along with all the firefighters, police officers, and support staff, firmly believe the former shared building simply did not work. Internally, everyone was very grateful for the progress we made and are now very concerned about having that fall apart.

As an administrator, I plan and work for future needs with current realities, and the election campaigns of the new directors just denied that over and over again. I didn't see a part for me in moving backwards or wasting public funds on unworkable options.

Besides the PSB retrofit, what do you see as the most important priorities of the district going forward?

In addition to the PSB project, I prioritized the work of the Emergency Preparedness Committee and had intended to continue that as my area of focus. Evacuation prep, wildfire fuel mitigation, house-hardening, and warning systems are all things that Kensington should be aggressively addressing.

If you could alter one thing during your tenure, what would that be?

I wish I could have talked former KPPCSD GM Marti Brown into staying, since we were working closely on solutions for both the fire and police building needs, and we had a number of good options. Unfortunately, Marti was not supported by a majority of her board and that debilitated her effectiveness. Had the options for police housing moved parallel to the fire department plans, as she and I proposed, then it never would have led to the false claim that a “joint solution” did not exist. I appreciated collaborating with interim GMs [Rick] Benson and [Tony] Constantouros, but they had the same problems that Marti experienced.

What's next on your career path?

There is a large turnover right now in local government management due to retirements, so I have a lot of options. I appreciate having had the opportunity to manage the KFPD and will miss working with the prior board, fire crews, police, support staff, and EPC members.

8th Annual Garden Party Returns in Style



Photos by Brenda Lee

By Amy Draemel, Amy Mullarkey, and Brenda Lee

Mother Nature graced us with some rain earlier in the day on Saturday, November 5, a good omen as members of the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School community attended Kensington Education Foundation’s (KEF) 38th annual Garden Party at the historic Rockefeller Lodge in San Pablo. Guests mingled in the garden, enjoying specialty cocktails and other beverages served up by members of the Dads’ Club, while they perused and bid on gift baskets, vacation getaways, Teacher Treasures, class art, and other prizes offered by school faculty and members of the community. As always, the beautiful framed pieces showcasing students’ art, produced by KEF art teacher Winoka Turin and volunteer Linda Cleary, were on display for all to admire as parents tried to win one of these priceless items.

Guests kicked off the evening with live jazz music performed by Le Jazu, with Kensington Hilltop’s own 4th grade teacher Mr. Mark Gill (retired) on guitar. A delicious array of appetizers and hors d’oeuvres was served by a hard-working and energetic group of 7th and 8th grade alumni students, in keeping with Garden Party tradition. Later in the evening, guests also enjoyed a full dinner buffet and dessert, all prepared with great care and skill by Hilltop parent April Schlanger and her team of parent volunteers.

The live auction portion of the evening was held by the outdoor gazebo and led by auctioneer Cameron Michael of KLM Auctions, along with MC (and parent) Scott Burns, both of whom energized the crowd and motivated them to bid generously for prizes including a pop-up Italian restaurant and meal for 10 prepared by 6th grader/chef Romeo Ewell, a Dads’ Club work party, an Opus One Winery Tasting and Tour, a Dinner Party for 8 at Great China hosted by Tai and Lisa Yu, a Berkeley Firehouse Tour hosted by Carlos Rodriguez and the Mullarkey family, and the opportunity to be “Principal for the Day” offered by Principal Megan Burnham. The final and always exciting “Raise the Paddle” event sought to raise additional donations, with bidders vying to be the very last donor in order to win a group getaway to Kelseyville.

Afterwards, attendees danced to music DJ’d by father and son duo Matthew and Reggie Burnham. From the positive energy of the evening, it was clear that parents and community members were thrilled to have the Garden Party back in person after a three-year hiatus, and several school years’ worth of new parents were introduced to this elegant and fun annual tradition.



Principals (Fred T. Korematsu Middle) Matthew and (Kensington Elementary) Megan Burnham.

We thank everyone who donated auction and raffle prizes for their important contributions to the event. All funds raised from the evening go to support KEF academic and arts enrichment classes that benefit all students at Kensington Hilltop Elementary School.

The evening would not have been possible without the support of our local sponsors: Golden Gate Sotheby’s International Realty—Tracy Zhou & Yun Tong; Arlington Wine & Spirits; Zip Code East Bay—Josh Dickinson; Children’s Dentistry—Dr. Nicholas Ching; Compass—Ruth Frassetto; Campbell Green Law LLP—Phillip Campbell; Toolbox Design LLC—Sanem Surel; Mechanics Bank; and Farmers Insurance—Ruth Stroup. We are so grateful for their generosity.

Join us for Advent and Christmas

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4th Sunday of Advent: December 18, 10:00 a.m.*

Jesus is the Light of Joy

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For those who are grieving and struggling to find joy and hope during the season

Christmas Eve: December 24, 5:00 p.m.*

A service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

A joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus

No Service on Christmas Day

Please visit our website for our latest COVID protocols to help keep our community safe

www.ArlingtonCommunityChurchUCC.org

ARE HOMES APPRECIATING IN THIS MARKET?

Despite the recent slowdown, Kensington reached an all-time high median price this year at \$1.6M. Red Oak continues to be the largest independent brokerage in the city as its listings sold an average of 34% over list price in just 14 days.

While the market slowed in July, those who purchased in 2020 or prior have experienced positive appreciation. In fact, if you purchased 5 years ago, the average home has appreciated 36%.

Reach out if you want a custom report specific to your home.

CHANGE IN MEDIAN SALE PRICE OF SINGLE FAMILY HOMES IN KENSINGTON

2018-2022 - JULY-NOVEMBER ONLY

Change YOY

5-year appreciation

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

\$1,150,000

+12%

21% OLPS \$1,290,000

-3%

9% OLPS \$1,250,000

+27%

38% OLPS \$1,582,500

-1%

36% OLPS \$1,560,000

*OLPS = List price over sales price. // Data is sourced from the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). MLS data is provided by individual listing brokerages. There are sources we deem reliable. We have no reason to doubt their accuracy, but we do not guarantee them. Past performance does not guarantee future performance.

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Arlington Community Church Pastor Celestine Fields blessed over thirty animals at the annual Blessing of the Animals at Kensington Park on October 23. Said Pastor Fields, “We had a wonderful afternoon blessing and loving on the many doggies of our neighbors and friends. It was a privilege to kiss all their faces.” Photo by Allan Gardiner.

Kensington Fire Captain Rune Hoyer-Nielsen (left) and KCC board member Leigh Schneider. Photo by Sylvia Elsbury.

Photo by Leah Forrest

Dads’ Club members Terrence Lo (left) and Larry Nelson manned the grill, handing out hamburgers and hotdogs to hungry picnickers. Photo by Sylvia Elsbury.

Kensington Police Officer Megan Farley (left) and Mechanics Bank manager Melanie Bardales enjoyed the sun. Photo by Sylvia Elsbury.

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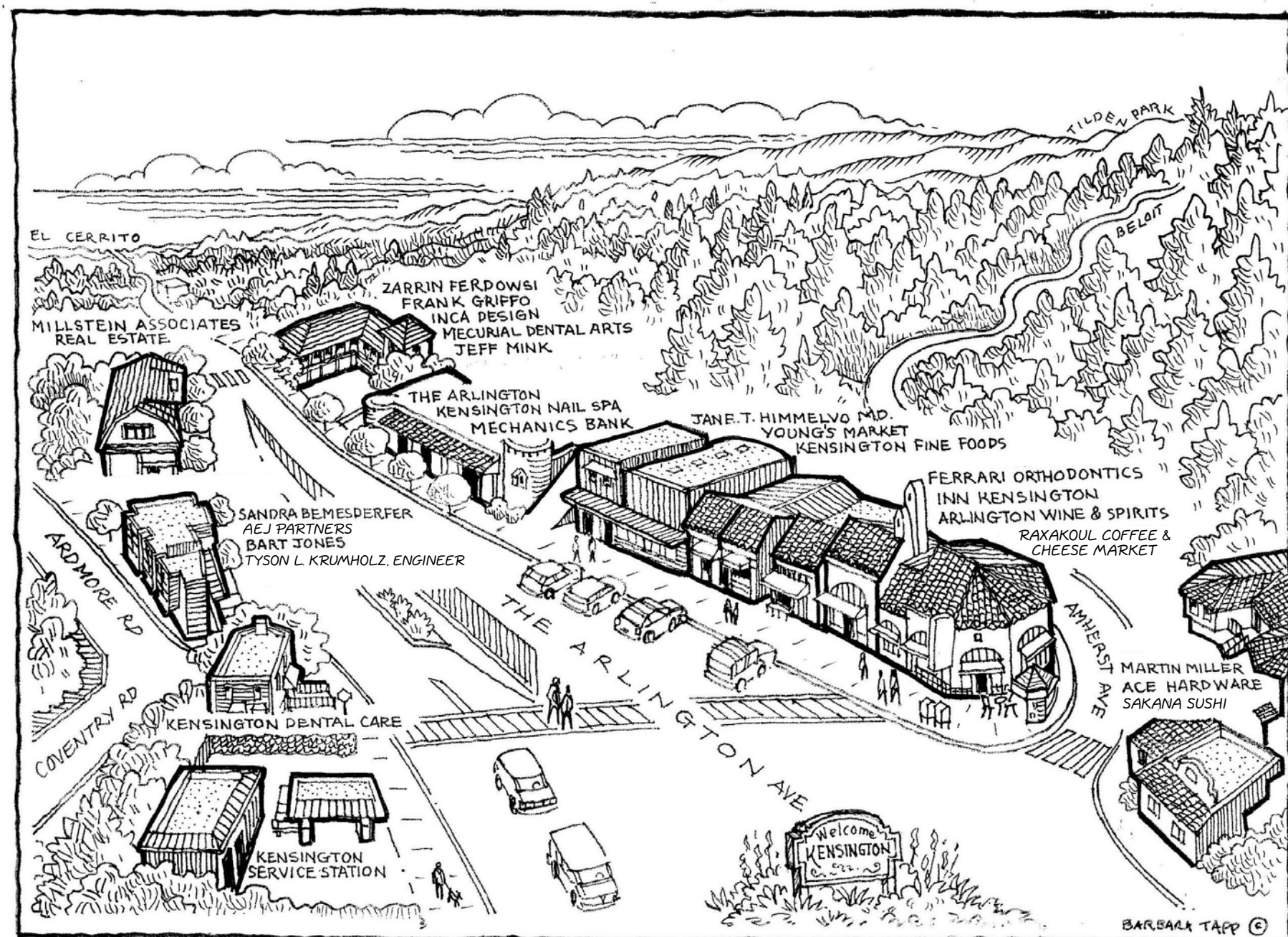
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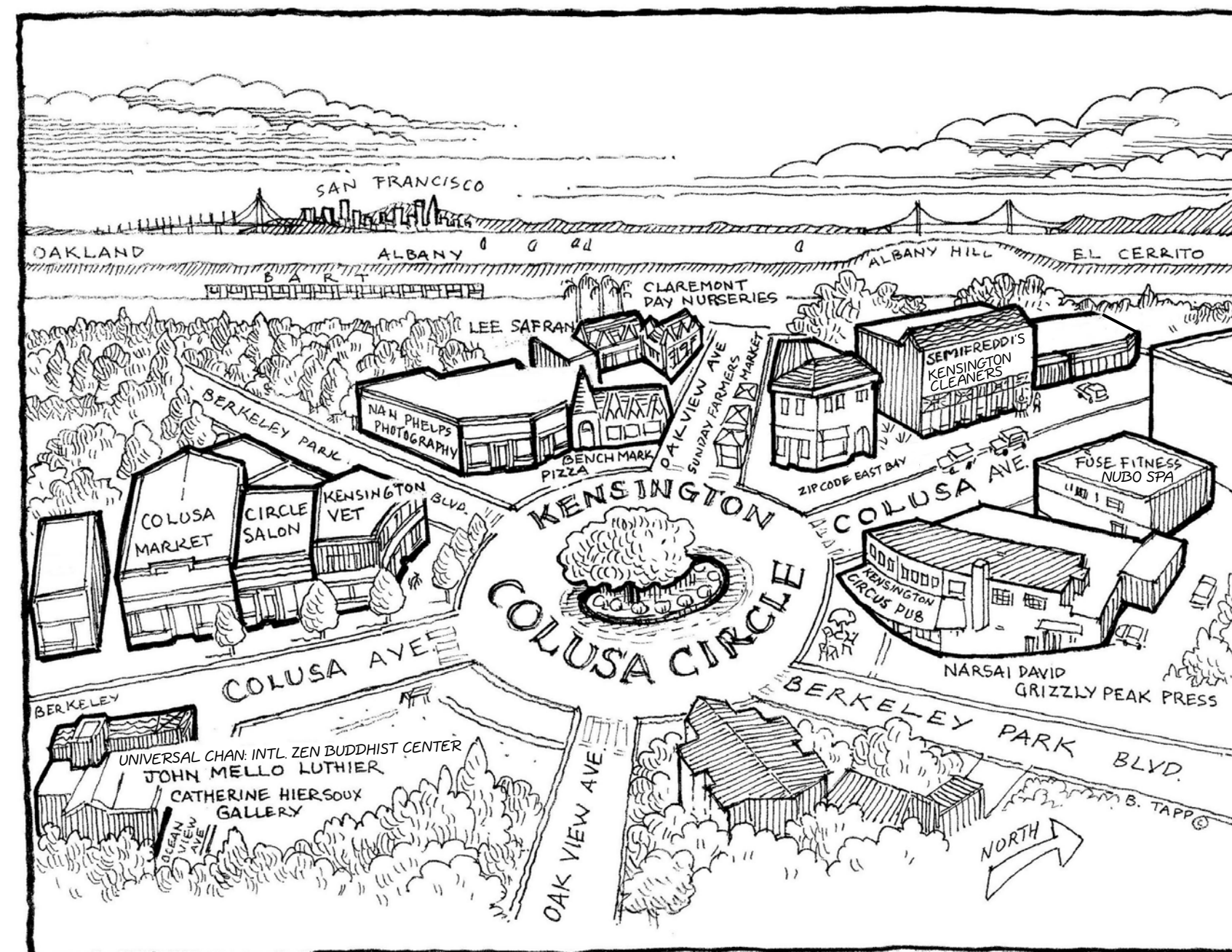
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Colusa Avenue



Graphic by Barbara Tapp, courtesy of Kensington Improvement Club



Farmers' Market manager Chris Hall feeds a pear to Boone, the San Francisco Zoo's black rhino. The pear is a drop in the bucket next to the Halloween pumpkin.

Oakland's Elephants Turned Up Their Trunks, but a Rhino Saved the Day

By Karen Yencich

Halloween was back on the calendar this year after a two-year Covid break, and Kensington Farmers' Market manager Chris Hall wanted to kick it up a notch. So, in addition to the market's Hay Bale Corral, scarecrow, decorations, vendors in costume, free pumpkins for the kids, and a parade, a giant pumpkin donated by Colusa Market was delivered to the farmers' market for Halloween.

The new Guess the Weight of the Giant Pumpkin contest was so popular that the market ran out of entry slips and had to draw up extras by hand. A winner was named, shoppers went home, the vendors folded their tents, and the market closed—leaving the 1,328-pound pumpkin alone in the middle of the empty street.

Colusa Market moved the celebrity gourd to the sidewalk outside Nan Phelps Photography where it became something of a destination. People gave it a pat for luck as they passed by. Others stopped for a selfie or asked Phelps to come out to help snap their photo so that they could get the entire pumpkin into the frame. Children clambered on it. But it couldn't stay.

An ad was posted on Craigslist, but there were no takers. Someone offered to drill a hole in it, so that the local squirrels could eat it. Another suggested carving it up for all takers and holding a pumpkin bake-off—pies, cakes, muffins, breads—but no one was sure that such a giant pumpkin was edible. Donating it to a local zoo sounded like the best idea.

Negotiations at the Oakland Zoo fell through because it was too much pumpkin for their elephants' needs, and their other potential pumpkin-eaters, the bears, are currently hibernating. They referred us to the San Francisco Zoo, which got back right away with the news that their male black rhino, Boone, would be delighted to accept the gift, although they mentioned that they would have to move a couple of fences in order to get it into his enclosure.

Chris Hall rented a truck, but even with liberal applications of Vaseline and three men to wrestle with it, the pumpkin barely fit. "I really didn't think it was going to make it," Hall said. The ride into San Francisco drew waves and honks of delight from other drivers, while the more curious pulled up alongside for a better look.

At the zoo Hall was taken behind the scenes to meet Boone, who turned out to be a sweet guy with a gentle nature and a fondness for pears. The pumpkin was downloaded outside Boone's enclosure for the time being. When he's ready for his next big feeding, zookeepers will move it into his habitat where he will be able to play with—and then eat it. The San Francisco Zoo hopes to be able to share photos of Boone enjoying his gift.

When Boone learned that the pumpkin was a gift from the children of Kensington, he exclaimed that he loves children and asked that we share his thanks. He then used his email account to place a very large order for pumpkin pie spice.



A happy Halloweeneer perches atop the 1,328-pound pumpkin that found its way across the Bay Bridge via a rented pickup (if the rental company knew...).



Colusa Circle Halloween photos by Joelle Provost.

October Police Log

- On October 3 at about 5pm, KPD was dispatched to the 200 block of Arlington Avenue on a report of a vehicle being vandalized.
- On October 6 KPD was dispatched to a "cold" catalytic converter theft in the 400 block of Ocean View Avenue.
- On October 7 at about 4:35am, while on Extra Patrol near Colusa Avenue and Ocean View Avenue, due to the catalytic converter thefts nearby, KPD spotted a catalytic converter theft in progress. The officer prevented the theft and attempted to apprehend the suspects, but they fled at a high rate of speed. A short police pursuit took place, but the suspects disappeared somewhere in Berkeley.
- On October 11 at about 3:30pm, Berkeley detectives requested agency assistance to determine if a catalytic converter theft had taken place in the 200 block of Amherst. BPD arrested a person on Alameda Probation who had a GPS monitor on their ankle. Subsequent investigation determined that the suspect had been in the exact area of an unreported catalytic converter theft.
- On October 14 at 06:08am, an auto burglary took place in the 200 block of Cambridge, whereby over \$1,000 worth of tools was stolen. A neighborhood canvass check resulted in a video of the suspect vehicle that is possibly linked to another catalytic converter theft that took place the following night.
- On October 15 at about 6:07am, a catalytic converter theft took place in the 600 block of Beloit Avenue. A neighborhood canvass check resulted in a video of the suspect's vehicle that matched the previous night's incident. (NOTE: An extra officer adjusted their shift later in the week to provide extra coverage at peak hours of thefts).
- On October 17 at 07:04am, a person was caught and tackled to the ground on Coventry Road and Edgemoor Road and arrested for attempting to steal a vehicle in the 200 block of Amherst. The subject was transported and booked into the county jail on multiple charges.
- On October 19 at about 12:30am KPD responded to an alarm in the 300 block of Colusa Avenue and located a person lurking near the closed business. A subsequent investigation determined the person was possibly trying to burglarize the business and was caught after he tried to run away from the scene. He was arrested and booked into the county jail on multiple charges.
- On October 21 at about 6:08am, a suspicious vehicle was spotted near Beloit Avenue, which resulted in the vehicle being stopped and the driver being arrested for CVC 4462.5-Possession of Stolen tabs from a previously reported stolen vehicle. The subject was arrested, and his vehicle was impounded at the owner's expense.
- On October 26 at about noon, a vehicle was caught on the radar speeding around Arlington Avenue and Cowper Avenue. The driver was subsequently stopped, cited, and also cited for driving on a suspended license.
- On October 29 at about 9:11am, KPD and KFD were dispatched to an elderly person who fell and lacerated themselves and was alone and unable to get up. The caller was a member of the KPD "Key Program," which allowed first responders to enter and render aid to the person who was transported to a nearby hospital.
- On October 29 at about 1:08pm, KPD was dispatched to a "cold" Hit and Run collision. Evidence collected on the scene allowed KPD to identify both the suspect vehicle and the suspect driver. KPD then responded to the suspect's house in Berkeley where they were cited and released for violation of CVC 20002a-Misdemeanor Hit & Run.



Hiersoux Gallery Hosts Joelle Provost Exhibit

By Karen Yencich

Joelle Provost's exhibition, "Applied Utopia," includes ten—possibly more—oil-on-canvas paintings and pen-and-ink drawings that expand the artist's vision of climate innovation and environmental justice from one of alarm to one of hope.

The term that inspired the work—"Applied Utopia"—was coined by the Slow Factory Institute of Climate Education, challenging climate activists to aim for an idealized future, rather than "sluggish incremental change," inspiring "a blueprint for action in the now." Provost describes the paintings featured in this exhibition as honest and optimistic, assessments of "the more challenging subjects of our waking reality." In all cases, her intent is to inspire the viewers to "act in defense of the natural environment."

The Hiersoux Gallery is home to Catharine Hiersoux, celebrated ceramicist, and one of 37 artists chosen by First Lady Rosalyn Carter to create table settings for the White House Senate Ladies Luncheon. The recently published book, *Herein Lies the Magic*, is a 60-year retrospective of her work. Her gallery, just south of the Kensington Circle on Colusa Avenue, has for years been a touchstone for Northern California art lovers and ceramicists.

Kensington resident Joelle Provost, 34, earned her BA in Art at UC Davis and her Master's degree from Brooklyn College. As a working artist she explores environmental issues and other modern dilemmas.

The opening reception is Saturday, December 3, 4-6pm, with an artist's talk at 5pm, followed by a Holiday Paint Session from 6-7pm. Suggested donation for the paint session is \$10. The exhibit runs from December 3-January 3, at 437 Colusa Avenue. Fridays 4-6pm, Saturdays 12-4pm, Sundays 10am-2pm and by appointment.

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Toys for Tots

By Johnny Valenzuela

El Cerrito-Kensington Firefighters are accepting toy donations through December 16. Donations can be brought to any El Cerrito or Kensington fire station as well as El Cerrito City Hall. Please donate new and unwrapped toys and remember that toy guns and stuffed animals will not be accepted. Thank you for your generosity and support in the Firefighters Annual Toys For Tots campaign.

El Cerrito Station 71: 10900 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito; El Cerrito Station 72: 1520 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito; Kensington Station 65 (Temporary): 814 Craft Ave (north parking lot of Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley).



Photo by Rock'n Roll Monkey/unsplash



On October 20, a small crowd gathered to observe the ceremonial flag-lowering at the Public Safety Building as the building closed for its retrofit. Police and firefighters were in attendance, along with residents and several district board members. Afterwards, some journeyed up the Arlington to tour the Kensington Fire Department's temporary quarters at the Unitarian Church's lower parking lot. Photo by Linnea Due.

A Kensington Solution to a Global Problem

By David Tuft
Kensington resident Jane Melia never expected to be named one of the nation's "100 Women of Influence" by Entrepreneur magazine—but then again, she never imagined her PhD in fluid dynamics and a career in the IT sector would lead to a groundbreaking solution to climate change.

Melia first became interested in finding an alternative to gas heating and hot water when it was time to replace her old system in her 1927 Spanish-style home. While heat pumps are many times more efficient in delivering heat than a gas furnace, she knew they alone wouldn't unlock home decarbonization at levels required to meet the challenge



Photo by Gabrielle Delforge

tently cuts emissions by 90 percent compared to gas while lowering monthly heating bills by up to 45 percent.

For those considering a heat pump-based system, Melia has some tips: Choose a refrigerant with the lowest "global warming potential" (GWP) for the job. Ironically, carbon dioxide, with a GWP of 1, is best-in-class.

Many air-sourced heat pumps are rated to 4° F. Ice buildup on an outside unit requires either a defrost cycle or the use of an auxiliary heat source in extremely frigid temperatures. A ground-sourced heat pump may be a better option in cold climates.

Manufacturers are starting to make reversible heat pumps that do both jobs and are a good solution if you want to replace your furnace and AC at the same time.

Check the decibel ratings and choose the quietest system. If it's loud, make sure it's located where it won't disturb you. If you're buying a stand-alone heat pump water heater, make sure the chilled air by-product won't fight your indoor space heating.

And of course, consider a system that shifts electric load to midday to take advantage of the abundant solar energy, lower rates, and have the biggest impact on climate change. Kensington's community choice electric provider, MCE, offers incentives for switching from gas to all-electric heat pump water heaters.

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Wishing you and yours a joy-filled holiday season & happy New Year!
I am proud to be your neighbor, Community Council board member, and the sponsor of Kensington Village's holiday lights each year.

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KENSINGTON Community Education



KASEP Kensington After School Enrichment Program

KASEP Winter Session begins January 3rd, 2023.

Registration is December 6th at 7pm for Kindergarten and 7:30 for grades 1-6.

KASEP offers more than 50 enrichment classes for kids after school, each week for



grades K-6. This session we will be offering Carpentry, Gymnastics, Legos, Coding, Circus Arts, Pickleball, Dance Fitness, Muffin Madness, Cooking Around the World, Sewing, Environmental Science and many more including a full spectrum of art classes from Fairies, Gnomes and Glitter, Jewelry making, Mixed Media and new this year Creative Room Art where kids will be making cool pillows, photo frames, cork boards and mirrors.

We also offer Homework club everyday after school for kids who are taking a later KASEP class that day.

Our small class sizes are a great opportunity for kids to learn and explore in a friendly and safe environment and are conveniently located just down the hill from Kensington Hilltop School.

Check our website <https://kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org/kasep/> for the Winter Brochure and a full list of classes. Scholarships are available. You can fill out an application through our website.

KCC is always looking for new teachers for after school classes. If you have a special skill or talent and love working with kids or have a class suggestion contact our offices at 510-525-0292.



Adult Art classes are back in person in the Kensington Recreation Building



Join us Wednesday evenings in December for Jewelry making with April Schlanger.



A lot of jewelry construction is the same. Learn the connection skills and the rest is creativity. Through each lesson you will learn a connection skill and leave with a beautiful piece of jewelry.

6pm -8pm \$75 per class

December 7th Chandelier Earrings

December 14th Long Pendant necklace, with embellishments

December 21st Beaded tassel pendant

April Schlanger has a broad brush of skills and enthusiasm for working with and teaching all ages. She is the owner of Happyfoodwine, which sells, teaches, hosts, and promotes all of the "Happy" things in life: wine, food, crafts, canning, etc.

Keep checking our website for updated adult class schedules.

Adult Yoga Class at the Community Center

Strength & Balance Yoga -Tuesdays 8:30am
Gentle Yoga -Thursdays 11:30am
Teacher Anja Borgstrom
Cost is \$20 drop in or register online

Tai Chi with Nobuo Nishi

Fridays 9:30-11:00am
Drop-in fee is \$15

Class teaches Tai Chi for better 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 emphasizes the mind and body working in harmony. Relaxing the body and calming the mind help reduce stress and increase the flow of energy.

Register at KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/adult-and-family-classes

Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only.

KPPCSD Court Fees: 1 hour reservations- residents: \$7 non-residents \$10.

Community Center and park rental info: Please call Rosa at KPPCSD (510)526-4141

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



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KENSINGTON EATS OUT

Yunnan Rice Noodle & Fieldworks

By Ittai Shiu

By Ittai Shiu

Chinese cuisine originating from the Sichuan Province is well-known for its bold flavors, particularly the aromatic spiciness resulting from its use of garlic, chili, and the Sichuan pepper. But perhaps lesser known is the cuisine from Yunnan, a neighboring province that shares its border with Burma and Laos—two cultures that have had an unmistakable culinary influence on the region, while still highlighting that familiar Sichuan heat.

Yunnan Rice Noodle in El Cerrito features memorable regional dishes such as crispy pork ribs garnished with chili and garlic and a deep-fried whole fish with pickled peppers. However, as the name implies, they specialize in homemade rice noodles served in various hearty broths. Those willing to break a sweat should go for the spicy soup which provides an intense and numbing heat that chili-lovers will enjoy while challenging diners who prefer a more “mild” experience.

Ordered plain, it comes with pickled vegetables and bean curd which offers relief from the heat and makes for a great vegetarian experience, but add beef for some protein or if you’re feeling more daring, try it with sliced chitterlings!



Despite the cooler weather, nothing pairs with the spices of southern China better than a cold beer. The Fieldwork Brewery Company is a beloved spot for Kensington parents to meet up while their kids partake in the nearby skateboard park or after a Lacross game. Located in Berkeley, off of Gilman, their half-pints and tasting flights make it easy to sample the thirty beers they have

on tap.

When asked about a pairing for “spicy, soup noodles”, their knowledgeable staff had a few recommendations including the Hills & Valleys Pilsner or the Castleford Pub Ale. However, the clear winner was “Rice & Easy,” a crisp and light Japanese Rice Lager that could easily cut through the lingering heat of the soup noodles.

Both Yunnan Rice Noodle and Fieldwork offer takeout so you can enjoy this combination at home, a fun option as winter sets in!



Yunnan Style Rice Noodle
10675 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Fieldwork Brewing Co.
1160 Sixth St, Berkeley, CA 94710

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As we look back on 2022, we are grateful to our clients and community for making it such a memorable year. We remain committed to growing community through real estate as a purpose-driven real estate brokerage and certified B Corp. We look forward to continuing to practice real estate as a force for good in 2023! Below are a few of our highlights from the past year.

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

FROM ZIP CODE EAST BAY



We moved to our newly renovated office right on Colusa Circle and have enjoyed the expanded digs by hosting events and engaging with our neighbors and friends!

We welcomed three new members to our team: Colleen Phan-Eversman, Michael Sanchez, and Erika Ramirez.



We hosted a Giveback Homes Build Day in Oakland, volunteering as a team to make essential repairs and help a community member stay in their home.





We were named a Best for the World™ 2022 B Corp in recognition of exceptional positive impact on our Community.



Our agents closed 51 transactions totaling over \$60M in sales*. To check out our recent sales and latest listings, visit zipcodeeastbay.com/selling

We continued our community initiatives by hosting our annual Colusa Circle 5k, an Earth Day clean up, and recycling drives that helped divert used batteries and art supplies from the waste stream.



THANK YOU FOR BEING A VALUED NEIGHBOR. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MORE OF YOU IN 2023!

If you’re looking to buy or sell or just have a question about the East Bay market, reach out or stop by the Zip Code East Bay office.

Questions? Give us a call! 510.323.3669

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