



Rickey Hull

...from front page

leaning over a table on which two cell phones perched, talking loudly so that Cordova and Nottoli could hear. The other three directors occupied seats at the table; at another table sat Rickey Hull, taking notes as interim GM, and board counsel Amara Morrison. Several speakers thought hiring Hart back temporarily was the practical solution to a problem brought about by Kyle’s resignation, while others questioned why Hart had left in the first place. A couple of speakers expressed resentment at “the reformers” or “the old guard,” but Trisha Mindel received applause when she objected to these phrases. “[New residents are] not trying to defend some position in the past,” she said. “I don’t fit into any guard, old or new.”

Past board director Ciara Wood reminded the audience that “It’s really important that we stop speaking so dismissively of each other. We need to watch our words.” Gail Feldman said that Hart did us a disfavor by only giving thirty days’ notice. She urged the board to put its focus on splitting the position.

When Len Welsh made the formal motion to hire Hart, Sylvia Hacaj seconded it, explaining that she wanted the motion to come to a vote. Hacaj noted that the instability of the district was the direct result of Hart choosing not to honor his commitment to stay through February; earlier, when he was hired, he had said that he would not need medical benefits but just as his contract would be signed, said that he would need those benefits. Hacaj said that she did not want to find out the end of “Fool me three times” at Kensington’s expense. When the vote was taken, Len Welsh was the only aye.

Next was the motion to appoint Master Sergeant Rickey Hull to the same

positions. Hull had sat through the previous discussion taking rapid-fire notes, with barely a flicker of expression. He did the same during the discussion of his own temporary ascension to Kensington’s top job. Speakers pointed out conflicts of interest: Hull is a member of the Kensington Police Officers Association, which the chief of police is not. Would he briefly leave the union? How would he be compensated? Would his retirement be impacted? These questions remained unanswered—the board was discussing Hull’s situation with a consultant, and compensation can only be discussed during a regularly scheduled meeting, which this was not.

Lori Trevino argued during public comments that Hull was already performing the duties. She suggested leaving the position vacant and contracting with a firm to find a part-time general manager: “[Hull] should not have to forego protections granted to a master sergeant to take on an at-will position.” Past director Paul Haxo worried that Hull needed to be out on the streets: with Hull serving as COP/GM, only five officers are patrolling Kensington’s neighborhoods (two of nine officers are on medical leave, one on administrative leave). Sherris-Watt moved to appoint Hull as interim COP/GM, noting that her ultimate goal “is to make Kensington boring again” by finding a way to reduce the drama. She described Hull’s 28 years as an officer, 19 in Kensington, and said that he has a “keen interest in representing Kensington.” Welsh seconded, and the motion passed 4-1, with Cordova voting no. Cordova explained over a microphone held up to the phone that she believed the public process should have included interviews. Welsh said that he supported the action, “but we need a more permanent solution.”

On January 12, the group met again at a regularly scheduled meeting, first

in closed session, then in open session. Welsh was ill; Cordova participated from Italy in closed session but was traveling during the open session. During the closed session, the board agreed unanimously to release Public Law Group’s accountant Adam Benson’s analysis of the wage implications of hiring Rickey Hull for a five-month period (until May 17) as interim COP/GM, but because that decision had just been made in closed session, no copies were available.

After discussion of the upcoming contract for records management and 911 calls—and voting to add another regular meeting per month, on the fourth Thursday—the board turned to Hull’s compensation. Sherris-Watt explained that several changes had to be made to Benson’s analysis because he was in a car during the discussion and not every detail emerged correctly. Furthermore, Hull and his attorney had not yet examined the contract. (Benson’s analysis is posted on the district website under board documents.)

Sherris-Watt explained that the contract was based on add-ons to Hull’s master sergeant salary. The add-on for Hull assuming chief duties was 15 percent, while the add-on for general manager was 10 percent. Some attendees were confused by these percentages, and Hacaj explained that the percentages did not correlate with time spent on COP or GM duties. In total, Hull’s salary for the five-month period increased by about \$2,300 per month. Several were concerned that this pay raise would increase the district’s pension liability to Hull when he retires; the GM add-on is not PERS-able, though the COP portion would be. Sherris-Watt said that Hull’s compensation would not be voted upon at that meeting but likely would at the next, on January 26. Meanwhile, the board continues to actively explore splitting the positions.



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FEBRUARY 2017

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 75 NUMBER 1

KPD Master Sergeant Rickey Hull Chosen as Interim COP/GM by New Board



Photo: Sacha Kawaichi

By Linnea Due
On December 1, KPPCSD board president Len Welsh updated information about the swearing-in of the new board members—critical because of the surprise November 25 resignation of newly hired COP/GM Kevin Kyle. The intended December 2 swearing-in date fell by the wayside when the Contra Costa County elections board said that results could not be certified until December 13, five days after the regular December 8 KPPCSD board meeting. The county agreed to certify Kensington’s results early so that new directors Eileen Nottoli and Sylvia Hacaj could be sworn in at 5:45 pm December 8 and then head directly into a closed session to discuss Kyle’s departure.

“I got the news [of Kyle’s resignation] at 7:30 the morning after Thanksgiving, and it’s been hell ever since,” said Welsh in a phone interview December 1. He hoped that Kevin Hart could come back in the same role that Kyle would have filled—as a retired annuitant, with no pension or health benefits and restricted to 960 hours per fiscal year. Welsh called Kyle’s departure “one of the most irresponsible things I’ve ever seen in my life, especially knowing the transitional thing we’re going through.” Giving no notice, Kyle wrote two letters, one to Welsh, one an official letter of resignation, explaining that the job was more complicated than he expected.

Welsh’s hope that Hart would be rehired was dashed at that December 8 meeting when none of the other three directors (or Vanessa Cordova by phone in Florence, Italy) would second his motion to hire Hart as interim COP/GM. Director Rachelle Sherris-Watt then put forth two motions—to name Master Sergeant Rickey Hull, second in rank in the department as interim COP, and to name Hull as interim GM while the option to bifurcate the position was explored. Both motions passed, 3-1 (Cordova had become disconnected) but were negated by the district’s new legal counsel, Amara Morrison, who said that the motions needed to be agendized under Hull’s name before they could be adopted. Since Kyle quit, Hull had been acting as interim COP/GM, the third time he has filled those roles on an emergency basis.

On December 15, an agenda was posted on the district website, with two separate motions, one naming Kevin Hart as interim COP/GM, the other naming Rickey Hull to the same interim position. Two days later, on a chilly Saturday morning at 9am, at least fifty people showed up at the fire station (the community center was occupied), with many eager to speak. The directors and a few hardy souls came to the closed session an hour earlier. Cordova participated in both meetings by phone from Italy, and Nottoli phoned in from College Station, Texas.

The motion to hire Hart was first on the agenda. Speakers came to the front,

See Rickey Hull, back page

Kensington Governance Explained

Kristine Hafner of the Kensington Property Owners Association outlines the governance and civic groups in Kensington. We call them “the K groups,” but few Kensingtonians understand which group does what—or where to go if you need advice. The groups could benefit from civic involvement. Find the group that speaks to you.

Contra Costa County’s Board of Supervisors is the governing body for Kensington. Kensington is part of District 1, along with El Cerrito, Richmond, San Pablo, North Richmond and parts of El Sobrante and Pinole. Two independent special districts were created by vote of Kensington residents: the Kensington Fire Protection District (KPPFD) and the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD). Each district is an independent, self-governed agency responsible directly to its constituents and is administered by a local board of five directors elected by Kensington voters. Services provided by the two independent districts are primarily funded by property taxes allocated by the County and supplemented by special taxes approved by voters. The Stege Sanitary District is also a special district, although its services cover a larger geography than the Kensington area. (For more information, see *Kensington Past and Present* published in 2000 by the Kensington Improvement Club.)

See Governance, page 5




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Letters to the editor

Contracting Questions

Dear Editor:

I frequently hear the comment that “I like having our local police department.” As a member of the Ad Hoc contracting subcommittee, I want to point out that one of the basic assumptions we made in our investigations was that the citizens of Kensington want to keep the same level of police services that we now have.

The agencies were asked, “Are you willing to have a Kensington identity on uniforms and cars, and to have a physical presence in the Kensington Safety building?” All of the agencies (Albany, El Cerrito, Richmond, and UC Berkeley) were willing to keep a Kensington identity for the contracted officers with Kensington uniforms, Kensington marked cars, and offices in the Kensington Safety Building. They all noted that a non-Kensington uniformed officer may show up to answer a call in the event that back-up coverage is needed for a Kensington officer, but that is the case now with our mutual support arrangements with neighboring departments.

Note that even now you cannot just go to the Kensington Safety Building and assume that you can immediately speak to an officer. You may have to call, and wait, as the on-duty officer may be out on patrol. Also note, that even though we have been contracting for over 20 years with El Cerrito for fire services, many residents do not realize that our firefighters are employees of the El Cerrito Fire Department. They serve as our local department.

I am happy to discuss more about the interviews we conducted, or you may read the contracting report on the KPPSCD web page at ad hoc governance committee, or I can send you a PDF of the contracting section. Contact me at benson@acm.org.

Mabry Benson

Where Is the Transparency?

Dear Editor:

Transparency is the platform upon which several of the KPPSCD candidates got elected. But that promise has been broken already by this new KPPSCD board. Specifically, they appointed Rickey Hull as Interim GM/COP for a period of 5 months without ever publicly vetting his qualifications and then tried to set his compensation without disclosing the total cost to the district.


Despite public requests for Mr. Hull’s resume as well as a full briefing on his experience and skill set for the duties a GM/COP is required to perform, the board has provided neither. Nor has this board given the public an opportunity to ask Mr. Hull questions directly about his qualifications. And the public was never informed that there were at least two other applicants for the position. Instead we were locked out of selection process through assurances that the board president “knows Rickey” and “believes he can do the job.”

Given the significant responsibilities to be performed by the Interim GM/COP during these next six months, it seems obvious that is not the time for a novice to be in the position. So if the board has determined that Mr. Hull is not a novice—but rather fully able to take on these duties—why haven’t they shared that with us?

The board also proposed a “term sheet” to review and “consider approving” that was lacking the detail necessary for the public to understand exactly what compensation Mr. Hull would receive and how that would impact the district. For example: There was no disclosure of the total amount of his compensation. There was no disclosure that the spike in Mr. Hull’s salary will increase his retirement benefits and cost the district additional PERS contributions, potentially over \$250,000. There was no disclosure of the fact that the proposed salary increase will put Mr. Hull’s salary at the same level or more than what our most qualified GM/COPs have been paid in the past.

My biggest concern, however, has less to do with Mr. Hull than the way in which this board treated the public. In the first two months, these board members have affirmatively refused to provide their constituents with information to which we are clearly entitled. Regardless of the specific information they have refused to disclose, their stonewalling behavior is unacceptable and potentially illegal. It is time for the new board to provide the transparency they claimed to value and to which we are entitled.

Pat Gillette



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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.

The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Outlook, its editor, or the publisher, the Kensington Community Council. Residents are invited to submit letters on matters of interest to the community. Letters must be signed and include the author's address and phone number (address and phone will not be published). Publication is subject to space limitations and the editor's discretion. Letters of 250 or fewer words are preferred. One letter per person, per issue. Obituaries for Kensington residents are published at no charge. E-mail preferred to Editor@KensingtonOutlook.com

PLEASE NOTE: Modern digital customs call for one space, rather than the traditional two, after all periods.

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ADVERTISING MANAGER
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KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
59 Arlington Ave.
Kensington, CA 94707-1307

Published ten times a year by the nonprofit Kensington Community Council. (Monthly, except for the combined July/August and December/January issues.) Available online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com, courtesy of AboutKensington.com.

Editorial.....510-525-0292
editor@KensingtonOutlook.com
Advertising.....510-508-3241
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Classified Advertising
Classified ad rates are \$7 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.

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March Advertising Deadline Feb. 8
March Editorial Deadline Feb. 10

K E N S I N G T O N

Community Education

KASEP

Our KASEP Winter session is already half-way over since classes began the first week in January and end on Friday, March 17th.

Spring KASEP Online Registration is on Tuesday, March 7th at 7:30pm.
www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org

We will send brochures home in student backpacks and update our website the last week of February.
Our new class “*Spanish Through Art & Play*” has turned out to be a big hit! We have reached maximum enrollment and every week finds students singing, dancing, drawing and more--all in Spanish. We’re thrilled to see some much enthusiasm and hope to expand our Spanish offerings in the future.

Important Dates
Winter Break is February 20-24th and there are NO KASEP classes that week.

Meet our KASEP teachers
Tatiana Guerreiro-Ramos--Spanish
Remember the endless conjugating of verbs when you were learning a second language? Today’s language acquisition has a whole new approach that incorporates kinesthetic movement along with song and visuals. Tatiana’s engaging style of teaching is FUN! Students play Spanish versions of “Simon Says,” “Hokey-Pokey,” “Red Light, Green Light” and much more. Stories are read and drawing is encouraged to help students relax and bring out their expressive side. Studies show that when people are relaxed they are less inhibited and thus more likely to take chances and try new things. It’s exciting to see our 6, 7 and 8 year olds dancing & singing in Spanish! What a great way to learn a second language and stimulate curiosity about the world around us.

Tara Stiehler--Hip Hop
Ever watched a first grader sit in class? It’s not long before they are squirming. Let your children turn that squirm into creative dance with Tara Steihler, our great Hip Hop teacher. Tara’s enthusiasm, athleticism and welcoming personality just make you want to tap your feet and get your body moving. Plus, the loud rhythmic music doesn’t hurt. We offer three separate Hip Hop classes for kinders, 1st-3rd graders and 4th-6th graders.



It's a joy to see our children having fun! Learning fine & gross motor skills in Hip Hop class Do you want to DANCE? Yes, yes, yes!!



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Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:45-9:45am; Community Center
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Drop-ins are welcome or you can pay for the entire month at one time. Bring a mat & your weights. Questions? Call Kevin at 486-2728

Acrylic Artists
Wednesdays, 9:45am - 12:30pm, Community Center
Looking for a big open studio with lots of natural light so you have room to spread out and paint? We’ve got just the spot for you every Wednesday morning! We provide the easels & studio, you provide your own canvas, paints & creativity. After painting for a few hours we eat lunch & offer friendly critiques of each other’s work. We’d love to have you join us! them, so please feel welcome and stop by Wednesday mornings.



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Tai Chi Chuan
9:30-10:30am Fridays, Community Center, \$10
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KCC Summer Camp 2017

Hard to imagine, but KCC is in gear, planning a terrific KCC Summer Camp 2017! KCC Summer Camp is for children entering first grade in FALL 2017 up through 6th grade. This year’s camp is filled with exciting field trips around the Bay such as Lake Anza, the Bladium and Adventure Playground. Each week there is a new place to discover!

Camp starts Monday, June 12th and goes until Friday, August 18th. You may enroll by the week. KCC camp offers tennis lessons, daily arts and crafts with an afternoon of sports & games along with a themed activity such as carpentry, gymnastics, soccer, circus, plus more! Online enrollment starts February 28th and is on-going. Our website will have all the details by the end of February.



Summer Camp fun begins June 12th

KCC ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

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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 525-0292. M-F, 11am-4pm.
Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am. Call the KCC office for info. Court Fees: 45-min. singles reservation: Residents: \$2; Nonresidents: \$5.
Kensington Community Center Rental Info: Please call Andrea at KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 510-526-4141.




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8731 Don Carol Dr., El Cerrito Hills
Original condition an expansive 6BR/4BA Mid-Century gem with panoramic views. Originally offered at: \$1,100,000. Sold: Substantially above the offering price.




883 Craft Ave., El Cerrito Hills
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Neighborhood News and Notes



Loving Kensington and Counting Up to 75
By Louise Fender
My parents, Charles and Clavel Fender, came to Stanford in 1945 so that Charles could attend business school. “We were looking for a place to build our home,” says Charles. “We found it in Kensington, and we’re still here!”

Charles and Clavel celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary September 26. They were married in 1942 in St. Louis, Missouri at Charles’ uncle’s home. They came to Kensington in 1949 and built their home on Coventry Road in 1951. Both of their daughters, Louise and Carole, were raised in that home and continue to live in the area. They added onto the home two times to accommodate the expanding needs of the family. Clavel and Charles fell in love with this area and wanted to raise their children here and never leave Kensington.

Charles has achieved the milestone of 98 years and Clavel 95 years. They attend Arlington Community Church and are surrogate Mom and Dad to many who have lost their own parents. They have failed to find anyone of their age and length of marriage and would love to meet a couple that fits this description.

Carole and Louise are in awe of our parents’ positive spirit and physical, mental and emotional strength. What a gift they continue to offer us and their four grandchildren and seven great-grand children!

(Ed. Note: Longtime Kensington residents Joel and Emily Hildebrand celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary, and they too lived on Coventry Road. Maybe it's those switchbacks that contribute to true love and long life?)

Area Deaths

Elizabeth (Betty) Stallings passed away on November 17, 2016 at Laurel Creek Health Center in Fairfield, California. She was 97. Betty was born on June 30, 1919 in Wilmington, Delaware. She attended Northwest University, majoring in math and minoring in physics. Betty enjoyed knitting, sewing, costume design, painting, and crafts of all kinds. She and her husband Don enjoyed spending weekends and vacations working on their cabin at Buckingham Park at Clear Lake. She served as president of the PTA at Kensington Hilltop School while her daughters attended in the 1960s. Her husband Donald predeceased her. Betty is survived by four children: Anne Renda, Richard Flink, Susan Ichikawa, and Sally Gunter, eight grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Betty’s name to the Employee Appreciation Fund at Laurel Creek Health Center. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Bryan-Braker Funeral Home, Fairfield (707) 425-4697. Sign the guest book at www.bryanbraker.com.

Stan Johnston, an old-time Kensington kid (age 65), passed away Thanksgiving day. Stan attended Kensington schools and Kensington’s troops of Cub and Boy Scouts. Later his family got annexed to Berkeley when in the ‘50s that section of Kensington became a part of Berkeley.

Stan lived in Southern California for many years; he was a sound engineer for noted music groups and toured for several years with Crosby, Stills and Nash. Later he was a sound engineer in Hollywood. In one Oscar presentation, the producer thanked Stan for contributing to the success of the film.

My son, Douglas Shaner, maintained a close friendship with Stan over the years; he will attend Stan’s memorial service in Hollywood. I asked him to see if he could gather more details on Stan, as the LA obit was big on family and light on details about his musical career. Stan was a great kid. At one of our vacations at our Strawberry Mountain cabin, Stan nicknamed my wife Ollie “Nails,” a name he always loved to call her; she did ride herd on those boys. —**Bob Shaner**

K Groups Gather on Rainy Night

By Anne Forrest
Despite the inclement weather, members of the Kensington community “K-Groups” met in the main room of Recreation Building E for the annual Kensington Community Council K-Group meeting January 9. KCC President Anne Forrest welcomed everyone and gave a short accounting of a year in transition as KCC bids good-bye to Kensington After School Enrichment Program Director Marty Westby and welcomes Kari Tindol as her replacement.

Represented at the meeting were interim Police Chief/GM Rickey Hull, Kensington Police Protection Community Services District board president Rachelle Sherris-Watt, KPPCSD board members Eileen Nottoli and Sylvia Hacaj, Kensington Fire Protection District board vice president Nina Harmon, Peter Liddell and Katie Gluck from the Kensington Public Safety Council, Lisa Caronna from the Kensington Improvement Club, Kensington Property Owners Association Secretary Paula Black and Kristine Hafner, Patrick Tahara of Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, and representatives from the three Kensington Hilltop School parent organizations—KEF, PTA, and the Dads’ Club.

The annual K-Group meeting is one of the few occasions during the year when the different community organizations have the opportunity to report on their projects. These include the successful enrollment of 59 out of 60 KASEP classes this winter, ideas on how to get information out to our community about the different K-Group organizations (*Ed. Note: See Kristine Hafner’s description of Kensington groups starting on page 1*), a number of public safety programs slated for the new year, concerns about our aging public safety building, ongoing efforts to see the Community Center renovation move forward, the new public address system in the Community Center with funding aid from a number of K-Groups, negotiations with the Richmond Dispatch to handle 911 calls, beautification efforts on our paths and the Arlington median strip, continued work to get a kiosk built at Colusa Circle, KPOA’s work on road resurfacing, and the parent-run school programs that help to make Kensington School one of California’s Gold Ribbon Award schools.

It was indeed a rewarding evening where the evidence of all these volunteers’ time and energy was highlighted. Their continued efforts make Kensington such a great place to call home.

Governance

...from front page

Kensington Special Districts

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD)
www.kensingtoncalifornia.org; 217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA (510) 526-4141

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District is governed by five directors elected to staggered, four-year terms. The Chief of Police, who is also the General Manager of the district and reports to the KPPCSD board, handles day-to-day operations. *[Ed. note: COP/GM may be split into two positions per the ad hoc governance report on bifurcation of the position.]*

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District provides police protection services including patrol, response to crimes in-progress, traffic enforcement, first aid and CPR, investigations, warrant and subpoena service, and other law enforcement duties. KPPCSD also manages Kensington Park grounds and facilities (including booking rentals at the community center). The KPPCSD has a longstanding agreement with the Kensington Community Council, a nonprofit organization, for use of the recreational building and community center in the park and for providing recreational services in Kensington. The general manager oversees Kensington’s garbage collection and solid waste disposal and recycling programs.

Active committees serving the board include: finance, public safety building, park planning and recreation (park grounds, buildings and funding), solid waste, community outreach, District policy and procedures manual, intergovernmental /external issues and emergency preparedness. Board meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday of the month at the Kensington Community Center. *[Ed. note: A second monthly meeting now will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month.]* Information: <http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/>
Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) www.kensingtonfire.org, 217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington CA (510) 527-8395

The Kensington Fire Protection District contracts with the City of El Cerrito for all fire prevention, fire suppression and emergency services provided to the Kensington community and maintains automatic response agreements with other West Contra Costa County fire agencies. The district public safety building (also the home of the Kensington police department) houses two Kensington-owned fire engines, one specifically engineered for the steep, narrow streets of Kensington and the other, a wild land engine for use during high fire season.

The district implements water system improvements (with the East Bay Municipal Utility District) to enhance the provision of water along the wild land interface and to optimize the placement of hydrants throughout the community. KFPD provides paramedic and advanced life support services and delivers a Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT) program. A five-person, elected board of directors governs the district. Board meetings are held at 7pm on the second Wednesday of the month at the Kensington Community Center.

Volunteer Civic Organizations: The “K” groups

Kensington residents contribute to the community via a variety of volunteer civic organizations that monitor community governance and finances and provide services that Kensington does

not receive from the County. Examples of these services are: a park and playgrounds, after-school programs, town hall meetings, the Kensington Outlook community newspaper, civic improvements and emergency preparedness.
Kensington Community Council (KCC) www.kensingtoncommunity-council.org

The Kensington Community Council is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation that, under an agreement with the KPPCSD, provides educational and recreational programs for the community such as the Kensington After School Enrichment Program (“KASEP”), Summer Day Camp and a variety of adult classes. KCC sponsors two annual fundraising events: Family Movie Night and the Fall Picnic and Parade. A Board of Directors oversees KCC, which is funded by contributions from the community and class fees. KCC hosts an annual meeting for all the “K-group” community organizations to share information regarding community service priorities.

KCC also oversees the *Kensington Outlook* community newsletter, which is published ten times a year and covers local news, issues and events. It is mailed free of charge to every Kensington residence, made available to business in the commercial districts on Arlington and Colusa avenues and is posted on the web at: <http://www.aboutkensington.com/outlook.html>. The Outlook is funded by classified and display advertising and the KCC’s annual fund drive.

Editorial contact: Lin Due (510) 525-0292; editor@kensingtonoutlook.com

Advertising contact: Alma Key (510) 508-3241, Advertising@KensingtonOutlook.com

KCC Board meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm in Room 3 of the Community Center.

Further information: Anne Forrest, (President); KCC Administration :(510) 525-0292; kccrec@yahoo.com
Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC) http://ca-contra-costacounty2civicplus.com/1641/Kensington-Municipal-Advisory-Council

The Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC) is an appointed advisory body to the Board of Supervisors with a broad charge to advise the County Supervisors on county services, community concerns, and to serve as a liaison between the community and the District One Supervisor. KMAC provides input and recommendations to the County Community Development Department on matters related to land-use, planning, zoning, variance applications, code enforcement, and code changes.

KMAC has five members and two alternates from the Kensington community who serve staggered four-year terms. KMAC meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Community Center. Further information: Contact Kate Rauch at (510) 231-8691.
Kensington Property Owners Association (KPOA)

The Kensington Property Owners Association is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that collects and disseminates information on issues affecting Kensington property owners. KPOA publishes an annual Kensington directory, hosts an annual meeting of Kensington property owners, serves as key liaison to Contra Costa County and other bodies on infrastructure-related issues such as road resurfacing, undergrounding of power lines and other topics which require Kensington property owner input and coordination. KPOA also collaborates regularly with the other K groups on matters of interest to the community such as the annual KPPCSD district

board candidate forum. Membership is open to all Kensington property owners and member dues are typically used for community educational outreach and to promote civic projects. KPOA is governed by a board of directors that meets periodically at the Community Center.

Further Information: Gail Feldman (President) (510) 559-8232; KPOAs-soc@gmail.com
Kensington Improvement Club (KIC)

The Kensington Improvement Club was the first volunteer organization in Kensington, founded in 1921. It is dedicated to promoting and fostering the general welfare of the community and to cooperating with county and local authorities on necessary community improvements.

KIC sponsors an annual Town Hall Meeting in the early fall as a forum for candidates and other important local issues; acts as liaison with other Districts, the County and local and regional agencies and monitors and makes civic improvements to public property along streets and walkways such as the entry gateways along the Arlington and Colusa Circle, sign-board, plantings, public benches and trash receptacle. KIC donates funds to critical public improvements such as the Community Center and the Park; monitors the activities of the county tax assessment for the Kensington Landscape District; initiates volunteer beautification projects such as pathway cleanups and median plantings and authors and publishes the book *Kensington Past and Present*.

The KIC is administered by a Board of Directors of community members and welcomes the involvement all Kensington residents and property owners. Regular meetings are held the 4th Monday of the month, 7:30pm, in the Kensington Community Center Conference Room. All meetings are open to the public.

Further information: Lisa Caronna (President) (510) 524-7514; KICpost@gmail.com
The Friends of the Kensington Library http://ccclib.org/friends/ken.html

The Kensington Library is a branch of the county library system and houses a collection of over 34,000 books and periodicals, and a continually refreshed selection of recorded books, movies, and music CDs. The library also offers a variety of programs for all ages, including book clubs, crafts, story time for babies and toddlers, and a family story time for older children.

The Friends of the Kensington Library is dedicated to improving library services in Kensington. Through membership donations and book sale earnings, the Friends provide the library with books, tapes, magazines, and compact discs and support children’s and cultural programs for the community. Friends help with exhibits, programs, membership development, volunteer coordination, fundraising, book sales and sorting, and publicity.

Kensington Amateur Radio Operators

The Kensington Amateur Radio

Operators is a group of amateur radio operators who live in Kensington and have agreed to participate in the support of Kensington’s emergency preparedness program. The operators have been incorporated into the CERT training and are part of the Kensington Emergency Preparedness Council.

Further information: Marian Gade, (510) 524-9815, mgade@berkeley.edu
Kensington Public Safety Council; https://kensingtonpsc.wordpress.com

The mission of KPSC is to educate our community on how to prepare for emergencies, strengthen our citizen emergency response infrastructure, and promote community public safety initiatives. The council will address topics related to earthquake, wildfire/fire, hazardous material spill or release, crime prevention.


Safety Council objectives are to significantly increase the number of Kensington residents who have a basic level of emergency preparedness including an emergency plan and survival kit with 21 days of food and water and dwellings that have been seismically upgraded. The Council also distributes safety information and supports citizen response and watch groups with CERT-trained leaders and annual earthquake drills as well as the Kensington Police Association Citizen’s Academy. Information: Peter Liddell and Katie Gluck, co-chairs, kensingtonpsc@gmail.com

The Kensington Farmers’ Market-www.kensingtonfarmersmarket.org

A California Certified Farmers’ Market, the Kensington Farmers’ Market is a nonprofit community-based organization open every Sunday from 10am to 2pm on Oak View Avenue between Colusa Circle and Santa Fe avenues in Kensington. It also serves the neighboring communities of Berkeley, Albany and El Cerrito and features live music and fresh, local produce.



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November/December 2016 Police Log

November 2 IDENTITY THEFT, Arlington Ave. Unknown suspect(s) using victim’s information w/out consent.

BARKING DOG, Colgate Ave. Directed resident to animal control with complaint form.

FOUND PROPERTY, Wildcat Canyon Rd. Former resident found a backpack with a passport while jogging.

November 3 MISCELLANEOUS, Coventry Rd. at Eldridge Ct. Resident reported dog running loose in the area. Was not able to locate the dog.

November 5 SUSPICIOUS PERSON, Beloit Ave. Checked area, unable to locate. 911, Ardmore Ave. Bad phone lines, resident attempting to fix issues w/AT&T.

November 7 MISCELLANEOUS, Coventry Rd. Resident concerned about trees on her property.

MISCELLANEOUS, Kenyon Ave. Resident’s dog barking.

OPEN DOOR, Lake Dr. Oversight on staged home for sale. No damage or signs of foul play. I secured the residence.

November 9 DOMESTIC DISPUTE, Norwood Dr. Spouse feared deportation over presidential election and yelled at her mate.

November 11 MISC./TRAFFIC Colgate Ave. Ongoing neighbor feud regarding registered vehicles parked on the street.

November 12 LOUD NOISE, Beloit Ave. Unable to locate noise.

MISC./TRAFFIC, Colgate Ave. Ongoing neighbor feud regarding registered vehicles parked on the street.

BURGLARY, Purdue Ave. Resident returned home and found several items had been stolen.

MISCELLANEOUS, Stratford Dr. Resident’s dog barking. Dog stopped barking prior to arrival.

MISCELLANEOUS, Richardson Dr. Resident’s dog barking. Dog stopped barking prior to arrival.

November 13 WANTED PERSON, Wellesley Ave. Warrant served on resident, arrest without incident.

DISTURBANCE, Ardmore Path/Coventry Road. Juveniles breaking bottles, unable to locate.

DISTURBANCE, Stratford Dr. Barking dogs, made contact with dog sitter, and advised neighbor to contact animal control

SECURITY CHECK, Avon Dr. Resident requested a security check after juveniles vandalized in the area.

FOLLOW-UP, Stratford Rd. Dog sitter had questions after neighbors complained about her dog barking.

MISCELLANEOUS, Amherst Ave. Report of subject in the street. Gone upon arrival and unable to locate.

November 14 OUTAIDED, Highland/Kenyon. Water main broke, EBMUD responded.

OUTAIDED, Sunset Dr. Resident requested a welfare check on his wife who was out of town.

November 17 THEFT FROM OPEN BUSINESS, Arlington Ave. Cash and cigarettes stolen from local business.

SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Oak View Ave./ Colusa Ave. Drove the area and was unable to locate.

November 19 MISCELLANEOUS, Colgate Ave. Large tree fell across two front yards. No one was hurt.

November 21 HIT AND RUN, Potrero and San Pablo Avenue. Outside assist for El Cerrito PD, suspect later taken into custody.

November 23 SUSPICIOUS PERSON, Lenox Rd. Resident reported a male subject knocking on her door late at night looking for an address. Unable to locate.

November 24 DECEASED PERSON, Lake Dr. Elderly male died of natural causes. Remains released to the family.

MISSING PERSON, Wellesley Ave. R/P’s mother who lives in Concord never arrived in Kensington at noon. At 1500 hours, M/P arrived home back in Concord.

November 26 SECURITY CHECK, Highland Blvd. Resident reported people talking and dropping things. Unable to locate anyone or signs of foul play.

November 28 EXTRA PATROL, Purdue Ave. Resident left her car unlocked, items were taken. Resident wanted no report but requested extra patrol.

WANTED PERSON Jefferson/56th Street. Outside assist for El Cerrito PD, suspect taken into custody.

MISSING JUVENILE Sanford Ave. Outside assist for San Pablo PD, bilingual officer needed for missing autistic juvenile. Juvenile located.

November 29 MISCELLANEOUS, Arlington Ave. One of several groups who needed to be let into the Community Center since the locks were changed.

December 2016

December 2 HIT & RUN, Lake Dr. Unknown suspect(s) hit victim’s vehicle and fled location.

VANDALISM, Arlmont Dr. Unknown suspect(s) damaged victim’s deadbolt mechanism and fled location.

HIT & RUN, Beloit and Grizzly Peak Blvd.

LOCATION: Area of Beloit and Grizzly Peak Blvd. Unable to locate both suspects and witnesses, no call back information given to dispatch.

December 3 IDENTITY THEFT, Lake Dr. Unknown suspect(s) used victims identify/credit card info to purchase items online.

December 4 SUSPICIOUS PERSON, Arlington Ave. Male subject was riding bicycle without lights and had someone else’s ID that he “found.” Further investi-

VANDALISM, Arlmont Dr. Unknown suspect(s) damaged victim’s deadbolt mechanism and fled location.

HIT & RUN, Beloit and Grizzly Peak Blvd.

LOCATION: Area of Beloit and Grizzly Peak Blvd. Unable to locate both suspects and witnesses, no call back information given to dispatch.

December 3 IDENTITY THEFT, Lake Dr. Unknown suspect(s) used victims identify/credit card info to purchase items online.

December 4 SUSPICIOUS PERSON, Arlington Ave. Male subject was riding bicycle without lights and had someone else’s ID that he “found.” Further investigation.

ACCIDENT, Coventry Rd. Driver swerved to miss deer but hit two parked cars. Deer and driver both walked away without injury.

December 8 BURGLARY, Santa Fe Ave. Suspect(s) entered rear unlocked window and took several items.

December 9 THEFT, Kensington Ave. Laptop taken from driveway.

December 10 DISTURBANCE, Highland Blvd. Tenant upset because served with a court order.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON, Arlington Ave. Three unknown male subjects were seen knocking on the RP’s front door. They left the area in an unknown direction.

December 12 VANDALISM, Stanford Ave. Window smash to vehicle by unknown suspect. No entry made.

December 13 OUTSIDE ASSIST, Arlington Ave. Looking for a reported stolen vehicle in the area. Found in El Cerrito, by ECPD.

December 14 THEFT, Avon Ave. Unknown person took 2 items of financial records from the victim’s residence.

December 19 SUSPICIOUS PERSON, Berkeley Park Blvd. Subject with clipboard knocking on doors. Unable to locate.

DISTURBANCE, Edgcroft Rd. Dispute over money and unwanted phone calls and texts.

December 22 OPEN DOOR, Oberlin Ave. Open garage roll-up door. Unable to lock the door but was able to close it shut. Neighbor will contact homeowners.

December 23 SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Colgate Ave. Van driving around the area unfamiliar to the R/P.

December 25 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE, Ocean View Ave. Family dispute. WELFARE CHECK, Avon Rd. Possible subject in distress. Gone upon arrival and unable to locate.

ACCIDENT, Arlington Ave. Minor damage to parked vehicle during a parking maneuver. Note left, later confirmed the info was accurate.

MISCELLANEOUS, Arlington Ave. Water main break IFO 144 Highland Boulevard. E-65 and EBMUD on scene. Water turned off and road block by EBMUD.

December 27 MISCELLANEOUS, Coventry Rd. Assisted the father of a reported runaway in looking for his daughter who was previously at a residence in Kensington.

December 28 WELFARE CHECK, Beverly Ct. Conducted a welfare check of residents for El Cerrito PD. Everyone was fine.

IDENTITY THEFT, Stanford Ave. Resident’s personal information used to obtain credit that was used in the State of Michigan.

December 29 OPEN DOOR, Oak View Ave. Dog opened door. No forced entry.

SECURITY CHECK, Windsor Ave. No signs of forced entry. Barking dog inside residence.

December 30 DISTURBANCE, Highland Ave. Kids playing on bikes on school grounds while cars in area.

TRAFFIC/MISC., Colgate Ave. Resident complaint regarding neighbor’s numerous vehicles parked on the street. Vehicles marked for tow.

FOUND/LOST PROPERTY, Arlington Ave. Citizen located keys on ground. Owner of keys arrived to recover keys at KPD lobby.

TRAFFIC/MISC., Colgate Ave. Cited several vehicles for blocking sidewalk.







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Kensington Calendar

Locations:
Kensington Community Center, 59
Arlington Ave., 525-0292
Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave.,
524-3043
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berke-
ley (UUCB), 1 Lawson Rd., Kensing-
ton, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

Ongoing:
Jazzercise, 8:15-9:15am, Monday
through Friday, Community Center.
Body Sculpting, 8:45-9:45am, Tuesday
and Thursday, Community Center.
Acrylic Artists, Wednesday 9:45-
12:30pm, Community Center. Open
Studio to paint with easels provided.
Tai Chi Chuan, 9:30-10:30am Friday,
Community Center, \$10

**February 2 Kensington Unit of
League of Women Voters** Join
women from your neighborhood to
discuss local issues. This meeting
will focus on the Ad Hoc Committee
report. 1:15pm at 44 Beverly Road.
(510) 524-6071 All are welcome!
**February 2, 9, 16 & 23 Baby & Tod-
dler Storytime** Stories, songs &
action rhymes for young children and
their caregivers. Kensington Library.
Two identical sessions 10:15am &
11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

**February 5 and 11 “Love Songs &
Chocolate,”** romantic songs in a
casual cabaret-like setting, inter-
rupted every so often by delicious
desserts. Soloists and ensembles
perform immortal classical melodies,
the teasing tunes of jazz, and the
heart-warming romance of Broad-
way. Unitarian Universalist Church
of Berkeley, Feb 5 at 1pm; Feb 11
at 7:30pm. Tickets include dessert
buffet: \$20 general, \$15 students,
available at the door or through
Brown Paper Tickets; all welcome.

**February 6 Kensington Library
Knitting Club** “The Castoffs” All
levels welcome. Please bring your
own needles and yarn. We will
provide support, encouragement and
help. Learn new stitches, share your
talents, and meet new friends. Nor-
mally meets on the 1st Monday of the
month. 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

February 7 Winter Magic Show Join us
for a magic show inspired by the most
magical season of the year, a time of
shorter days, colder nights, and annual
celebrations of light. Come warm
yourself this season with a little fun
and a whole lot of wonder! All ages
are welcome to come laugh, smile,
and participate in this very special
seasonal magic show. Sponsored by
the Friends of the Kensington Library.
Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

Seminar on Animals in Disasters and Emergencies

Hosted by the Kensington Public Safety Council

Since Hurricane Katrina, when thousands of residents refused to leave their animals behind to die in the floods, saving animals in emergencies and disasters has engaged federal and nonprofit agencies as well as the public. Companion animals now must be transported out of stricken areas—but that does not necessarily mean that your cat will be housed in a shelter with you or that your dog will have access to daily medication.

Just as you prepare your own medicine kit, flashlights, and water, you need to prepare for your animals. This is especially important for your own safety and the safety of rescue workers, who need people to react quickly in an emergency evacuation.

Noell Crosse from the county’s Animal Services in Martinez will tell us how to get ready for an emergency and what to do during and after. Remember that emergencies that impact your pets are not limited to wildfire and earthquake but can be an accident that happens in your home. Come with questions—there will be ample time to discuss strategies and get help, and there may be other surprise guests on hand!

Saturday, Feb. 18, 10am, Kensington Community Center
If you can, RSVP to the Kensington Public Safety Council, kensingtonpscc@gmail.com

**February 11 and 25 Heartfulness Med-
itation** Learn to Meditate with Dr.
Som Soni from the Shri Ram Chandra
Mission Meditation & Retreat Center.
Dr. Soni and his wife Gita will answer
questions and lead a beginner’s guided
heartfulness mediation. Kensington
Library, 10:30am-12pm. Free. 524-
3043.
**February 13 and 27 Kensington
Library’s Digital Docent** will answer
your eReader and digital library ques-
tions every other Monday by appoint-
ment at 1:00pm. This one-on-one
60-minute appointment is intended for
people seeking assistance with eBooks
and eReaders. Sign up onsite at Info
Desk. Please bring your device. This
appointment is free.
**February 14, 21 & 28 Family Story-
time** Lots of picture books, songs,

rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals
& pajamas welcome. Kensington
Library, 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.
**February 15 Kick-Off Party for
Relay for Life** Join us as we cel-
ebrate the start of the 2017 Relay For
Life Season and continue our fight
against cancer. The East Shore Relay
Leadership Team wants to welcome
community members from Albany,
Berkeley, El Cerrito, Kensington,
and Richmond who want to join our

Pittsburg Environmental Center, 2581
Harbor St, Pittsburg. 10am-12 noon.
\$20. Drip irrigation allows you to save
a tremendous amount of water vs.
traditional irrigation methods! Learn
the basics of planning and installing
a drip system in your yard. Resource
materials will be provided.
**February 18 American Association of
University Women’s Meeting.** Christ
Lutheran Church, 780 Ashbury St., El
Cerrito. 10am. Free. All are welcome.
**February 21 Berkeley Garden Club
Lecture Program**, Albany Commu-
nity Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Fruit
Tree Grafting: Hands-on Workshop
with Demonstration by Idell Weider-
meyer, Rare Fruit Growers. 12:30-1
Plant Exchange, 1-2 General Meeting,
2-3 Lecture.
**February 25 El Cerrito Ultimate
Frisbee Club Crab Feed.** Enjoy all
you can eat crab, salad, and pasta
while supporting local Youth Ulti-
mate Frisbee. Great raffle prizes. El
Cerrito Community Center, 5:30pm.
Tickets (\$50) at echuccrabfeed2017.
eventbrite.com. Ultimate frisbee is a
fast-paced game usually played 7x7,
and the El Cerrito teams play co-ed.
Self-refereeing makes the kids/play-
ers responsible for calling fouls, and
participants gather at the end of each
game to encourage good sportsman-
ship. The Crab Feed pays fees and
provides scholarships to kids whose
families can’t afford team dues.
501(c)(3) status.
**February 27 Kensington Library
Book Club** Join us for a discussion
of *Moor’s Account*, by Laila Lalimi.
Book Club normally meets on the 4th
Monday of the month. Kensington
Library, 6:30pm. Free. 524-3043.

Town Meetings

**Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Ave., Kensington**

**KCC-Feb. 6, Kensington
Community Council** 1st Mon-
days, 7:30pm. 525-0292

**FKL-Feb.7, Friends of the
Kensington Library**, 7pm (at
the Library) 1st Tuesdays

**KPSC-Feb.13, Kensington
Public Safety Council** Earth-
quake/Disaster Preparedness
2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

**KARO/ECHO-Amateur Radio
Operators** 2nd Mondays of
odd months, 7:30pm. 524-9815

**KFPD-Feb.8, Fire Protec-
tion District** 2nd Wednes-
days, 7pm. 527-8395

KPPCSD-Feb.9 and 23.
Police Protection and Com-
munity Services District 2nd
Thursdays 7:30pm. 526-4141

**KIC-Feb.27, Kensington
Improvement Club** 4th Mon-
days, 7:30pm. 524-7514.

**KMAC (Tent.)-Feb.28, Munici-
pal Advisory Council** Last
Tues. 7pm. (Call Supe. Gioia’s
office to confirm: 231-8691)

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SCAM ALERT

While it may seem like a fun idea to take one of the many Facebook quizzes that pop up on your timeline, be warned it may be a scam. To take the quiz, you enter your information, including your cell phone number. The surprise isn't the quiz results; it's the recurring fee on your cell phone bill you unwittingly signed up for. Just say no to Facebook quizzes!

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

Report scams to local law enforcement. Contact the AARP Fraud Watch Network at www.aarp.org/fraudwatch-network for more information on fraud prevention.



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