

Community Center

...from front page

together to ensure quality of life for future generations. Kensington 360° volunteers are reaching out to residents for help. Now is the time to come forward with one-time pledges to complete elements beyond what is currently funded. All donations will be acknowledged at the groundbreaking and the ribbon-cutting ceremonies, and the group will work with the board to acknowledge donations greater than \$1,000.

While the renovation has taken nearly ten years to come to fruition, ground should finally be broken in 2019! Plans were approved in December, and the permit is available once the builder is under contract. The bid period runs until February 20. Once bids come in, the board has a short window to determine if additional features can be incorporated.

The board expects that work will start this spring and be completed in September 2019, prior to the start of the KASEP

session. However, as with any construction project, there are always uncertainties, and there will likely be adjustments to the schedule. Regular updates on the renovation will continue to be provided at board meetings, and its progress covered in the *Outlook*.

The KCC is working with the Arlington Community Church to rent space for spring KASEP classes to ensure the continuation of the gymnastics, circus arts, and cooking classes. Other KASEP classes will be held uninterrupted in Building E. KPPCSD will be communicating with other groups who use the building.

To donate online, please visit Kensington360.org. To donate by check, mail your check, made out to Kensington Community Council, to KCC, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington, 94707. Please note “community center renovation” or “Kensington 360°” on your check. All donations are tax-deductible.



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New Members Sworn in at KPPCSD and KFPD



L to R: Cyrus Modavi, Chris Deppe, Rachelle Sherris-Watt; Bottom L to R: Julie Stein, Janice Kosel, Kevin Padian. Photos by David Bergen and Brenda Navallier

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FEBRUARY 2019

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 77 NUMBER 1

Ensuring the Future of the Community Center is a Community-Wide Effort



KCC president Anne Forrest hands over a check from KCC for the Community Center renovation. Photo by Vida Dorroh.

By Anne Forrest, KCC, and Sylvia Hacaj, KPPCSD director

At the December KPPCSD meeting, Anne Forrest, Kensington Community Council president, was very pleased to present the board with a check for \$465,000 towards the upcoming renovation of the Community Center. Of these funds, \$255,000 is unrestricted and will go towards seismic retrofitting of the building and upgrading the bathrooms and the kitchen to meet ADA standards. The remaining \$210,000 was given for two specific features: the folding glass front wall and a new heating system. Forrest explained that the KCC has been fundraising for this renovation for over fifteen years, together with other community groups such as the Kensington Improvement Club, which donated \$10,000 towards the renovation. “The KCC board is very pleased

to see the funds go towards making the Community Center safer and more accessible for the entire community, especially for the children who spend so much time in what is still affectionately called the ‘Youth Hut,’” Forrest said.

Five thousand dollars of the KCC donation came directly from the fundraising efforts of Kensington 360°, a group of community volunteers active in Kensington civic groups. Kensington 360° threw a party in June to celebrate the last bond payment, after more than twenty years, for the land that ultimately became Kensington Park. On that day alone, almost \$4,000 was donated for the renovation. Thanks to those who made donations or pledges—but more contributions will be needed in the coming months.

The last major renovation to the Community Center was more than thirty years ago. This is a major project, and the goal is to make it as thorough as possible so that it can serve the next two generations. The KPPCSD set aside just over \$1 million in funds over the past ten years to help realize this project. With the current scope, the center will be seismically safe, ADA-compliant, and have a new front wall and heating system. However, additional items in the design, such as a new floor, improved acoustical ceiling tiles, and a new wall of storage cabinets, cannot be implemented without additional funding. The cost for these three items is estimated at \$140,000.

Kensington is a community that comes

See Community Center, Back page

Testy Fire Board Meeting with New Directors

By Linnea Due

On December 12, three oaths were administered in the bay of the Public Safety Building, to long-standing director Janice Kosel and first-timers Julie Stein and Kevin Padian, the three newly elected board members of the Kensington Fire Protection District. The meeting began inauspiciously when someone in the audience suggested reordering the agenda to elect new officers at evening's beginning rather than end, in order to prevent board president Kosel from running the meeting. Kosel pointed out that she was president until December 31, and that she would chair the December meeting no matter when new officers were elected.

That antagonistic tone continued throughout, with the consent calendar almost tabled for lack of a motion to accept it, calls to describe what actions an action item merited, to define the difference between postponing an item or tabling it, and statements that the fire-safe demonstration garden, meant to be erected next to the library, was conceptually wrong. Several spoke against the garden, citing expense, that plants would be stolen within days, that “a few wispy weeds” were more fire-safe than plants, that people can see fire-safe gardens on websites, that the wooden posts in the plan were a hazard. Ciara Wood spoke in favor of the garden, noting that the main reason people gave for not removing highly flammable juniper from their yards was that they couldn't imagine what to put in its place. The garden, she said, would offer visible, attractive suggestions. An

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Letters to the Editor

Voting by the Numbers

Dear Editor,

There was a lot of posting, and posturing, on NextDoor about the November 6 election—e.g., why Kensington’s final results weren’t known sooner. One comment: “...before the election I saw the CCC Election Supervisor on KTVU bragging that they had bought some new machines for counting the votes and...were ready for a large turnout.” Another: “It is incumbent on...County to come forward...[explaining] the voting process...why so many votes...were unprocessed. We need to have transparency...” So what happened?

The poll doors closed at 8pm and just seven minutes later results were posted for mailed ballots that had been received and counted. Data cards from scanners for nearly all 744 precincts were in the processing center by 10:30 and new numbers posted at 1am. For Kensington, there were now 807 Election Day ballots, ones marked and scanned at precincts, and the Vote-By-Mail count had increased from 838 to 987. More VBMs were added on the November 9, 16 and 28, the last also showing more under Election Day, indicating provisional ballots were being counted. The final, posted on November 30, was 989 regular plus provisional and 2,395 VBM, the latter 71 percent of the total.

The 68 percent countywide turnout was large for a midterm; Kensington was 84 percent. But what might be considered “the problem” was the large number of VBMs that were dropped off at precincts or received by mail around election day—almost two-thirds according to the county. The ones from Kensington were simply part of almost 300,000 processed as a whole, not by precinct. Essentially all were counted by scanning machines, but before that could happen, the name, signature, etc., on each envelope had to be verified by actual people. Only after all VBMs were reconciled could provisional ballots be checked and counted. Less than 25 percent of ballots were electronically counted in precincts; the rest took more time to tally. If you want to make sure your vote is included in the “election night” count, inconvenience yourself — don’t vote by mail.

A. Stevens Delk

Why Pay More if You Can Pay Less?

Dear Editor:

The outcome of the December and January fire board meetings suggests that, following the election, what was once a meeting of unanimous approvals and little public interest is now the scene of controversy and discord. In December all items were tabled for further discussion in January. The January meeting resulted in a vote to abandon existing plans for a fire-safe garden in Kensington Park, while a proposal to send \$5,000 of Kensington fire district money to the Paradise area was denied when two long-term board members indicated this would be an unconstitutional gift of public funds.

The main topic of the January meeting was whether to extend the fire contract with El Cerrito, which has provided fire services for Kensington since 1995. This contract extension should be technically approved by January 2019. Long-term board members Janice Kosel and Larry Nagel had negotiated a ten-year contract extension on existing terms. The remaining board members thought we could do better, even though the El Cerrito fire chief said that if the terms are reopened, El Cerrito will consider raising Kensington’s share of total costs from 27.75 percent to 33.33 percent, reflecting the fact that Kensington has one fire station and El Cerrito two. This would raise Kensington’s total costs by about \$500,000 annually. And, since these costs are rising by at least five percent a year, this would push up Kensington’s total ten-year extra costs by \$6.3 million, or about \$3,000 per parcel.

This is no time to play hardball with El Cerrito given that we have no other choice for fire services and have had a successful relationship for 24 years, on terms that probably save Kensington \$1 million annually versus operating our own fire department. We will know soon enough if this delay accomplished any benefits or just raises Kensington’s cost for services. Accepting a proposal to extend the existing contract was by far the better option.

Jim Watt

MARCH 2019 DEADLINES:

Advertising Deadline ❖ February 8

Editorial Deadline ❖ February 10

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.

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

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K E N S I N G T O N

Community Education

KASEP Kensington Afterschool Enrichment Program

Our KASEP Winter session is at the half-way mark, starting the first week of January and continuing all the way to Friday, March 16th. The 3 new classes are a big hit. The Public Speaking and Debate Classes are off to a fine start. Activities to help write speeches and debates are used to make learning this valuable skill fun. All types of student learners are encouraged to express their opinions effectively. Girls Inc., Stem Class is a hub of science projects and experiments for girls grades 4-6th. Beginning Mandarin for Kindergarteners are showing beautiful writing skills. We truly offer something for every child.

Spring KASEP Online Registration is on Tuesday, March 5th at 7:00 pm for Kindergarten and 7:30 for Grades 1-6
www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org

We will send brochures home in student backpacks and update our website the last week of February.

Important Dates

Winter Break is February 18th - 22rd and there are “NO KASEP” classes that week.



KCC Summer Camp 2019

Hard to imagine, but KCC is in gear, planning a terrific KCC Summer Camp 2018! KCC Summer Camp is for children entering first grade in FALL 2018 up through 6th grade. This year’s camp is filled with exciting field trips around the bay such as The Jungle, Oakland Zoo, Lake Anza, and the ever popular Scandia Center to name a few. Each week there is a new place to discover! New this year is paddleboard lessons at 101 Surf Sports in San Rafael.

Camp starts Monday, June 10th and goes until Friday, August 16. 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, ceramics, Legos, plus more! Online enrollment starts February 26th and is on-going. Our website will have all the details by the end of February.

THANK YOU!

KASEP FUND DRIVE DONORS 2018

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Elizabeth Engel
Mary Small

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Teri & Ali Alyami



Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

In the United States, it has been recommended by the Arthritis Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for its effectiveness in bringing pain relief, improving balance, and significantly reducing falls. This class is suitable for all people, regardless of physical condition. It is however, especially helpful for people who may be experiencing some health difficulties. The exercises incorporate all the health enhancing benefits of regular tai chi, but focuses on movements that are safe and relatively simple to do.

For further information, contact Nobuo at: nnishi50@gmail.com or 510-495-4860

Acrylic Artists

Wednesdays, 9:45 - 12:30pm, Community Center, \$9

Open Studio, lots of natural light. Come paint with other artists. Easels and tables are provided. Bring your canvas, paints, and creativity. Friendly group

Tai Chi Chuan

Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

A gentle martial art, tai chi is a safe, rewarding activity for people of all ages and all levels of health. Tai chi incorporates both mind and body. Nobuo Nishi, instructor, has been teaching for 18 years.

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, 11:30am-5pm.



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, 11:30am-5pm.
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 the KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 510-526-4141.

Fire Board

...from front page

idea was advanced to use the funds to create a demonstration garden on what would, at the conclusion of the construction project at the Community Center, be a moonscape. KPPCSD board member Sylvia Hacaj, the lead on the renovations, said that no landscaping was included in the community center budget, and Kosel called the idea “nifty.” The motion to put the demonstration garden out to bid was tabled. (At the January meeting, the majority voted not to put the garden out to bid.)

Then it was time to move on to the contract with the city of El Cerrito, in which Kensington pays 27.75 percent of El Cerrito's fire costs. This gives Kensington one station of three, about a third of the firefighters in the stations, and half-time administrative and command staff. Padian made a motion to postpone voting on the ten-year contract; he said it wouldn't hurt to have an independent outside review of a contract that was entered into 23 years ago.

Kosel said that she and Larry Nagel, the negotiating team, had been told by El Cerrito's city manager that if Kensington simply renewed the contract, nothing would change, but if Kensington opened up contract negotiations, that the city manager would recommend that Kensington pay one-third of the costs (according to Jim Watt, costs would rise approximately \$490,000 annually). Kosel said that Kensington's station, at \$2.8 million per year, is the lowest-cost station in the Bay Area, and that Kensington residents get services other agencies don't provide. For example, Kensington firefighters pump out flooded basements. In the past thirteen years, there has not been a single complaint filed against the department. Kensington is getting a fair deal, Kosel concluded, and delaying or opening up negotiations offered lots of downside and no upside. Therefore, she and Larry Nagel (by phone from Washington DC) recommended accepting the contract.

John Bakker, the district's lawyer (at the meeting at the request of Julie Stein), was questioned about whether the contract needed to be agreed to that evening. He affirmed that no, it didn't, and that the district was in compliance with the contract negotiating terms, but he warned that it was not good to delay indefinitely, as El Cerrito might get antsy and want to renegotiate.

Padian felt that the city manager was playing a “gambit” with his percentage-raise talk, though Padian added that he was “agnostic” on the terms of the contract and felt that we got good service from El Cerrito. Only one audience member, Karl Kruger, expressed dissatisfaction with the dollar amount of the contract, demanding that Kosel stand down from the committee on the grounds that she thought the contract was the best we could get; he charged that the 27.75 percent breakdown is “very favorable” to El Cerrito. Kosel said that she would be happy to resign from the committee, adding that she did not want to be responsible for an increase of several hundred thousand annually if the contract was not approved.

Other audience members felt that the contract could use some “tidying up.” One example of this “tidying” is that originally El Cerrito and Richmond were partners in mutual aid, while over the years Berkeley and Albany had been added, but this was not reflected in the contract.

Jim Watt gave an impassioned plea for the board to approve the contract, pointing out that Berkeley and Albany are not interested in providing fire services to us, and the reason that we'd contracted to El Cerrito in the first place is that Kensington's department was bankrupt. "We are not in the driver's seat, folks," he said. "We have no other choice. And the deal is fair to both sides." Watt noted that the ten-year length is really eighteen months, as either party can terminate the contract with eighteen months' notice. "If we delay this thing," Watt warned, "you'll have to answer to the rest of the citizens in Kensington for having screwed this thing up big-time."

Padian said that Watt was creating a false dichotomy, that no one wanted to leave El Cerrito. The question, he said, was whether we could take time to examine the contract. "My position is that our contract should be as good as it could be for all parties."

A firefighter union rep pointed out that whichever party terminates the contract is responsible for the ten firefighters who would lose their jobs. “Costs from pensions and the like are only going up,” he said. “You’ve got a sweet deal.”

Nagel, from the nation's capitol, said that we are not negotiating from a position of strength, that we've been offered the same fair contract, and that he couldn't understand why anybody would want to risk it.

Dave Spath said that 27.75 percent might be fair, but that it's the board's fiduciary responsibility to examine the contract, which he said, needs cleaning up to bring it to

present time. "It's not unreasonable to take a couple of months to look it over," he said. "I do agree with Jim, that there is no reason to terminate it, and I think we get excellent service from El Cerrito."

Gail Feldman said, “It is important after twenty years that we have some independent analysis done of the contract. If our obligation is really 33 percent, [the city manager] would not be able to go through with a contract at 27 percent, because he’d have to explain to the city council why El Cerrito is subsidizing Kensington. So that argument to me is facetious. I don’t think that you can move forward without an independent review. It’s only fair to the citizens of Kensington that we have the best, fair deal.”

Fire Chief Lance Maples, who retired at the end of December to be replaced by Michael Pigoni, said, “The foundation of this is one neighbor helping another. Janice is not making up the 33 percent figure. I was in the room. It’s true that a document that’s twenty years old has some things that could be changed. But I’d like to remind everybody that it’s about partnership. The [negotiating] subcommittee asked thorough questions. So I’m a little disappointed to see how the tone turns here.” The motion was tabled until January. (At that meeting, Stein and Dommer were named as the new negotiating committee. Stein said January 19 by phone that some clauses are confusing— “[if we can clean those up], it benefits both parties”—and that she has talked with the new city manager. “I am optimistic that we can finish this quickly.” She did not address the percentage differential.)

Pigoni then spoke about the possibility of a siren or sirens. He had discovered that most sirens in the county are located near refineries and are “shelter in place.” Oakland has sirens in the hills and along the waterfront, with three warning configurations: shelter in place, tsunami, and evacuate. He said that if Kensington wanted sirens, we would first need a committee of two board members, a firefighter, a police officer, and someone from the county. A sound study would be conducted to see how many sirens were needed, an RFP developed, then a CEQA report. He warned that few people would want a siren on their property and estimated costs at about a half-million per siren.

But the real question, he said, is what would trigger the sirens: any fire in Wildcat Canyon, a Red Flag Day coupled with smoke, or something more specific? Waiting could be deadly: In Paradise, he said, fire gobbled up 80 acres a minute. At that rate, he said, "This town would be burned over in eight minutes."

After that sobering news, officers were chosen: Janice Kosel nominated current vice president Larry Nagel as president, while Don Dommer nominated Julie Stein. Stein was elected president, Dommer vice president, and Nagel secretary. Dommer, voting with Padian and Stein, noted that now a new committee could be appointed to take up the Public Safety Building conundrum; he has expressed his frustration in the past that his efforts to site a new PSB in Kensington Park (or on the church parking lot) were met with delay from other directors.

Towards the end of the contract agenda item, an audience member said that this discussion proved to him that residents “had been asleep at the switch.” This is demonstrably true; some board meetings were attended by only a couple of people. But did this community slumber result in any malfeasance or ill effects?

A new sheriff, especially with Dommer's help, has ridden into town, loaded for bear. Whether a shoot-em-up brings divisiveness or progress remains to be seen, but the tone of this first meeting was not promising.

NAN PHELPS

PHOTOGRAPHY

• WORKSHOPS •

Evolution of the Camera

Mike Stanis

Saturday, February 16, 10-2

Examine the history and practice of 20th Century photography, focusing primarily on the types of cameras used and pictures captured by iconographic Bay Area Photographers. Handle and explore 8x10, 4x5, medium format, 35 mm film and digital cameras.

In Depth Tools of the iPhone Camera

Mark Altenberg

Saturday, March 16, Noon-3

The iPhone is an amazing camera. You'll get to know how to take better pictures (and video!); how to organize, edit and share them. Sure you can go to the Apple Store or on the Web to learn a lot of this but it's great to get to know people in your own community!

Print Your iPhone Photos

Mark Altenberg

Saturday, March 23, Noon-3

The objective of this workshop is to get your best pictures out of your camera and have a project ready to print by the end of the workshop. Bring your iPhone and laptop. Projects include books, calendars, fine prints and more.

Finding Beautiful Light

Nan Phelps

Saturday, March 30, Noon-3

Turn your eyes on to the quality of light all around you. Help it out when needed. As Duane Michaels said, "Light is not just light, it is all. Bad light is rude, and one should never be photographed in rude light."

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Calling All Path Walkers

By Lisa Caronna and Mark Altenberg

Did you or anyone you know use Kensington paths before 1972? If so, we need to hear from you! A core group of residents recently started the group Kensington Pathkeepers, whose mission is to secure the Kensington paths as public access walkways for future generations. In order to do that, we need a record of historical path use prior to 1972. We want to hear about your use of the paths and the use by your friends, neighbors, and relatives.

When you write your stories, please be specific and name the path, the connecting streets, and the year(s) you used them. It would be helpful if you could also include a way to contact you.

There are eleven pathways in Kensington; see the map. Most of the paths are open to public access, although a few are completely unimproved and two have been closed off over the years by adjacent homeowners (portions of paths #7 and #10). The Kensington paths were offered to Contra Costa County when Kensington was first developed in the early 1900s, but the county never accepted the offer. Despite that, if the paths were used by the public before 1972, they would have been accepted as a result “by public use” without any need for formal acceptance. Establishing historical public use is an important first step providing clarity toward the goal of public agency ownership.

Establishing public pathway ownership has been attempted numerous times over the past hundred years with excellent information developed most recently by a subcommittee of the KPPCSD in 2011 and action taken by the KPPCSD board in January 2012. (See kensingtonpaths.org/about). The advantages of public ownership are many (including access to grant funding), and the lack of clear ownership threatens our safety and the paths’ continued existence. Our initial goal is to resolve this long overdue ownership problem. Kensington Pathkeepers is committed to working with KPPCSD, KFPD, the county, and the adjacent landowners so our paths exist for future generations.

Paths play a critical role in our community and are a true asset to be cherished. Besides offering dramatic views of the bay, they are crucial for our safety—the paths offer possibly the most direct evacuation route during a disaster, especially when roads are blocked by traffic or downed trees. They also encourage walking and physical exercise and build community through personal interaction between neighbors.

If you would like to participate, please email mark@altenberg.com and check out the website at www.kensingtonpaths.org. You can also send in your stories either by email or physical mail to Mark Altenberg 245 Yale St., Kensington 94708. Or call 510-301-5000, and we will come and interview you for these critical historical path archives.



Restoring Steelhead in Alameda and Wildcat Creeks

By Julie Haselden

On Tuesday, February 12, Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers will offer a free presentation to our community about the restoration of steelhead and their habitat. Joe Sullivan, the East Bay Regional Park District fisheries program manager, will speak about EBRPD fisheries history, present conditions, steelhead populations, and plans to create healthy steelhead habitats in our creeks, streams and wetlands. You are welcome to join us at 7:30pm at the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Avenue.

Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers (GPFF) is a nonprofit fly fishing club founded in 1982. In addition to offering fly fishing education and outings, we promote conservation through support and donations to local, state and national organizations, as well as engaging in creek restoration work parties and Trout in the Classroom. Our most recent creek restoration project was at Codornices Creek along the Berkeley/Albany border. This project will be ongoing, and volunteers are welcome to join us!

GPFF meets on the second Tuesday of the month at Arlington Community Church. The public is welcome to enjoy our speakers and presentations. Attend a meeting and join up! Annual dues are \$40. Please contact me at jhaselden17@comcast.net.

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Photo courtesy Nan Phelps Photography

Kensington Lights Up Colusa Circle

By Josh Dickinson

On November 25, the Colusa Circle Merchants Association (CCMA) rang in the holiday season with its second annual Colusa Circle Tree Lighting. After days of smoke and rain, about 300 people were on hand to enjoy a mild and clear night of celebration and holiday cheer. Spectators were treated to holiday music from the Berkeley Jazz Band and free hot chocolate, generously provided by the Kensington Circus Pub. At 5:15pm, the tree in the center of Colusa Circle was lit and remained illuminated in the evenings throughout the holiday season for all to enjoy.

The tree lighting also marked the launch of a community fundraising campaign to bring electricity to the center median of the neighborhood’s anchor circle. The holiday lights are currently powered manually, thanks to members of the CCMA. Permanent electricity in the circle will allow for year-round landscape lighting to help with traffic calming, pedestrian safety, and overall aesthetics and will provide a reliable power source for the holiday lights in the years to come.

CCMA has a \$20,000 target, the sum needed for PG&E to extend electrical service to the median and an electrician to install the specific wiring. CCMA has already begun the process by submitting the required application to PG&E. The goal is to raise all the funds now, so that they can proceed with the engineering, permitting, construction and installation by Fall 2019.

Donations of any amount are welcome. Supporters of the fundraising campaign will receive recognition and gifts for their donations based on giving levels. Visit LightUp-ColusaCircle.org for more information about the giving levels and to donate. To donate by cash or check, please stop by Zip Code East Bay at 380 Colusa Circle, Kensington.

November Police Log

Nov 1 SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Cambridge Ave. White van idling for past 15-20 mins.
ASSISTANCE TO OUTSIDE AGENCY. Black smoke coming from Tilden Park near Wildcat Canyon. Possible structure fire. No response needed.
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Kensington Elementary. Large thermos wrapped in duct tape.
Nov 2 SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Purdue Ave. Older AMA, 50s, going northbound on Purdue. Compact truck w/camper shell. Shining flashlight in people’s drive-ways and yards. Driving slowly, stopping at houses.
HIT AND RUN, Purdue Ave. Resp. Uber driver. Driver side rear fender panel damage.
VEHICLE ACCIDENT, Kensington Library. All airbags deployed, 2-3 vehicles involved. RP no longer in area.
RECKLESS DRIVING, Trinity/Beloit aves. White minivan speeding down Beloit.
Nov 3 SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S, Ardmore Rd. Shined light in neighbor’s car, wearing hood, walking north on Ardmore.
Nov 4 ANIMAL CALL, Coventry Rd. Skunk in basement and needs assistance to catch it and get it out of the basement. CCC animal control not answering.
Nov 7 REQUEST FOR EXTRA PATROL, Colusa Ave. Traffic enforcement “Stop signs”
RECKLESS DRIVING, Arlington Auto Shop. Fed Ex truck weaving in and out of traffic. Unable to locate.
Nov 8 VEHICLE ACCIDENT, Sunset Dr. Vehicle vs. cyclist, RP says cyclist and driver are engaged in conversation and cyclist doesn’t appear to be injured.
Nov 9 ANIMAL CALL, Yale Ave. RP Spoke to a woman officer earlier today. She told him to call back if dog is still barking. Dog has barked for 2 hrs since 3:39pm.RP req. dog be kept in for the rest of day.
Nov 11 SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S, Windsor/Westminster aves. Darker complexion HMA 40s longish slicked back hair bright yellow safety vest plaid shirt dark khaki pants bags looking into mailbox south side of Windsor.
WELFARE CHECK, Colusa Ave. Dog was outside & then went inside 205 Colusa. Door was open. No answer when RP att to contact owner at res. Concerned for animal & also res. Referred to Outside Agency.
SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Arlington Ave. Female screaming for 15 minutes. Yelling at someone to leave. BPD called and said RP was screaming “he hit me”, then disconnected; unable to reconnect. .
12 PERSON SEEKING ADVICE, Purdue Ave. Online scam, RP believes he was sent a bogus cashiers check from subject, who is supposed to come to home to pick up items. No police action warranted.
PETTY THEFT, Kerr Ave. Subject entered home through unlocked front doors. Stole tile cutter. Neighbor saw young male running away from the home.
SUSPICIOUS PERSON, Cowper Ave. WMA late teens early 20s sunglasses

beanie w/skull logo light blue T-shirt blk jeans seen up path off Highland toward the canyon or trail w/overstuffed bkpk. Unable to locate.
Nov 14 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Highland Blvd. RP reports computer hacking.
Nov 15 SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Arlington. Occupied vehicle parked for the last hour.
REQUEST FOR EXTRA PATROL, Colusa Circle.
SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Cowper Ave. Gray SUV, driver AMA driver not coherent, called CHP.
ANIMAL CALL, Highgate. Dog locked in house for three days, mailbox full, dog howling constantly.
Nov 16 PETTY THEFT, Wellesley Ave. Great blue heron yard ornament taken from front yard.
Nov 18 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Westminster Ave. Open trunk. Situation corrected by PD.
VEHICLE THEFT, Rincon Rd.
Nov 19 PERSON SEEKING ADVICE, Grizzly Peak Blvd. RP got a call from a scammer saying they were a public defender and his grandson was in jail; requested cash for the grandson’s bond.
TAILGATING, Westminster/Arlington. RP was tailgated by a blue Chevy hatch-back WFA brown hair. They were driving SB on Arlington, then subj turned NB on Westminster. RP disconnected.
WELFARE CHECK, Coventry Rd. RP is concerned about elderly woman out in the cold laying down holding a trashcan. Situation corrected by PD.
Nov 20 VANDALISM, Colusa Ave. One juvenile possibly tagging.
Nov 23 REQUEST FOR EXTRA PATROL, Kenilworth Dr. Had a hoodie, short hair, and double reflective stripe on shirt. Attempted to walk up stairs, then saw Ring camera and started to back away. Turned on flashlight to confirm camera and departed.
VEHICLE ACCIDENT, Colusa/Oak View. Officer flagged down re car blocking roadway.
VEHICLE ACCIDENT, Ardmore Rd. Vehicle into several parked cars.
Nov 25 DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Coventry Rd. Homeless person that RP allowed to live in his home had altercation with friends while RP was not home.
Nov 26 VEHICLE ACCIDENT, injury, Arlington Ave. Vehicle flipped over, one person inside. Con Fire en route.
Nov 27 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Colusa Ave. RP let an employee go who sent another employee a text message that he was going to smash the bldg. windows. He did come by, acted crazy and also asked for bldg. code, employee did not respond so he sent another message stating since you’re not responding I will just come by and smash the windows. RP does have an alarm.
Nov 28 FRAUD USE OF CREDIT CARD, Yale Ave.


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Ornamental grasses should be cut down before spring regrowth begins. Now is also the time to aerate the lawn and fill in any spots with cool weather grass seed.



Prune fruit trees, shade trees and grapes. Plant bare root fruit and shade trees, roses, shrubs and vines.



Don’t forget your vegetable garden! Broccoli, snap peas, spinach, carrots, spring cabbage, parsley, turnips, radishes and leeks can all be planted in this month. Bare root plants such as berry vines, grapes and artichoke crowns can be planted now as well.

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Passings



Gilbert G. Bendix, a longtime engineer for the City of San Francisco and East Bay community activist, died January 18 at the age of 93. Bendix’s 35-year tenure as a licensed civil, mechanical, and fire protection engineer included a decade as superintendent of engineering and water supply for the fire department, during which he established fire protection standards for high-rise projects.

Born in Königsberg, East Prussia in 1924, he immigrated to New York with his family in 1936 to escape Hitlerism. His education at the City College of New York was interrupted by combat service in the US Third Army in Europe and several months in a German POW camp, but he graduated in 1947 and two years later moved to California to start work for San Francisco. In 1984 he joined his wife, Selina (Weinbaum) Bendix in running her consulting firm Bendix Environmental Research Inc., serving as company vice-president until her death in 1996. He remained professionally active in retirement,

serving as a director for the Kensington Fire Protection District from 1996-2000. Director Janice Kosel says that during his term, Bendix spearheaded water system improvements, in which the district added more than 8,000 feet of pipe and 33 hydrants. Those improvements greatly enhanced the fire safety of Kensington and resulted in a significant upgrade in the insurance industry’s fire safety rating. He later served on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Review Board from 2008 until shortly before his death.

Bendix was an advocate and activist for progressive, labor, and environmentalist causes throughout his life, doing volunteer work for the American Labor Party, the Independent Progressive Party, and the Democratic Party, along with his activity on the Alameda Central Labor Council, advocating for school integration.

A devoted father and (great-) grandfather, he is survived by daughters Erica Azim and Desmid Lyon of Berkeley, son Jacob Bendix and daughter-in-law Carol Liebler of Jamesville NY, eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Kensington Calendar

Locations:
Arlington Community Church (ACC), 52 Arlington Ave., 526-9146
Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., 525-0292
Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 524-3043
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB), 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302, www.uucb.org

Ongoing:
Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10
Acrylic Artists Wednesdays, 9:45-12:30, Community Center, \$9. Self-directed artists come together to paint. Easels and tables provided. Friendly group.
Tai Chi Chuan Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10
Jazzercise with Kevin Knickerbocker Mondays-Fridays, 9am \$20 class or \$55 unlimited per month. ACC.
Mindful Yoga with Wendy Beckerman Tuesdays, 9:15am, bring yoga mat. \$18 drop-in or discount for series. ACC.
Israeli Folk Dance Wednesdays, \$6, lessons/beginners 8pm, request dance party starts at 9pm. ACC.

February
February 4 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 talents, meet new friends. 6:30pm. Free.
February 4, 11, 18, 25 CERT Training 6:30pm, ACC. Free. Through CERT, you will receive hands-on training in Disaster First Aid, Disaster Preparedness, Basic Firefighting, Light Search and Rescue, Damage Assessment, and How to Turn Off Utilities. Register with El Cerrito Fire Department (510) 215-4450 or email fire@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

February 5, 12 & 19 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.
February 6 Kensington Unit League of Women Voters will meet at 1:15pm at 44 Beverly Road to discuss the fire board. Larry Nagel will speak on the Successes and Challenges of the KFPD (Kensington Fire Protection District). All welcome! Please RSVP at 524-6071.

February 7, 14, 21 & 28 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs, puppets, scarves, shaky eggs, and loads of fun! Kensington Library, Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free.
February 7, 14, 21 & 28 Read to Dogs Each week one to three calm & gentle therapy dogs will be at the library, waiting for kids to read to them (or parents of younger kids can do the reading). Call or come by to schedule an appointment. Drop-ins often also work. Kensington Library, 2:30-3:30pm. Free.

February 7 Everybody’s Fellowship, 6pm, free. ACC. Monthly potluck supper and program for ACC members & guests. Always open to all who would like to join.
February 9 & 23 Technology Tutoring for Seniors with Kensington Library’s new New Teen Tech Expert Aliya. Aliya will provide answers to all of your Apple brand device questions every 2nd & 4th Saturday from 10am to 1pm in the Adult Reading Area at the Kensington Library. Sign up in advance for a one-hour one-on-one session. These sessions are

intended for beginning to intermediate Apple brand product users. Please bring your questions, device(s) and necessary passwords along with you. Sign up at circulation desk, or telephone for assistance. Free.

February 11 & 25 Kensington Library’s Digital Docent will answer your eReader and digital library questions every other Monday by appointment at 1pm. This one-on-one 60-minute appointment is intended for people seeking assistance with eBooks and eReaders. Sign up at Info Desk. Please bring your device. Free.
February 11 Valentine’s Day Crafts Come make snazzy cards with colored paper, markers, punches, stickers and more. We’ll also make cool woven paper heart baskets. Best for ages 3 & up (6 & up for baskets). Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.
February 11 HungryTown in Concert Vermont-based folk duo Hungrytown will perform an acoustic set, please join us! All ages are welcome! Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.
February 11 Oil Painting Demonstration Local plein air artist Paul Kratter will share his approach to oil painting outdoors at 7pm at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Includes mini art show of El Cerrito Art Association members.

February 12 Computer Fan Spin Art! Come and make some spin art using repurposed computer fans. Make awesome art and support creative reuse at the same time! Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.
February 14 “Living with Mountain Lions” presented by a Felidae Conservation Fund speaker. This organization works for the well-being of the world’s wild cats. 9:30am, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Members free, visitors \$3 each.
February 18 Memoir Group 10am, ACC. Free Monthly Memoir Group led by Ruth Robinson in the Fireside Room.
February 22 Bridge Night 6pm, ACC. FREE monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACC’ers and new guests.

February 25 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *Story of a New Name* by Elena Ferrante. Book Club is open to all. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.
February 26 Science Tellers—Legend of the Golden Piano Grab your spurs and journey with us to the Wild West, where a legendary bank-robbing outlaw is back in town, about to strike again! After the Sheriff mysteriously vanishes, two young kids saddle up to foil the great heist and put a rotten cowboy back behind bars. Mixing storytelling and experiments, Science Tellers will use volunteers and awesome science experiments to bring parts of the story to life. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

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Town Meetings
KCC-FEB 4, Kensington Community Council 1st Mondays, 6:30pm. 525-0292
KPSC-FEB 11, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

KARO/ECHO-FEB 11, Amateur Radio Operators, 2nd Mondays, 7:30pm. 524-9815
KFPD-FEB 13, Fire Protection District 2nd Wed., 7pm. 527-8395
KIC-FEB 25, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30. 524-7415

KPPCSD-FEB 14, Police Protection and Community Services District 7:30pm. 526-4141
Check district website for updates.
Kensington Farmers’ Market Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm, Colusa Circle



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