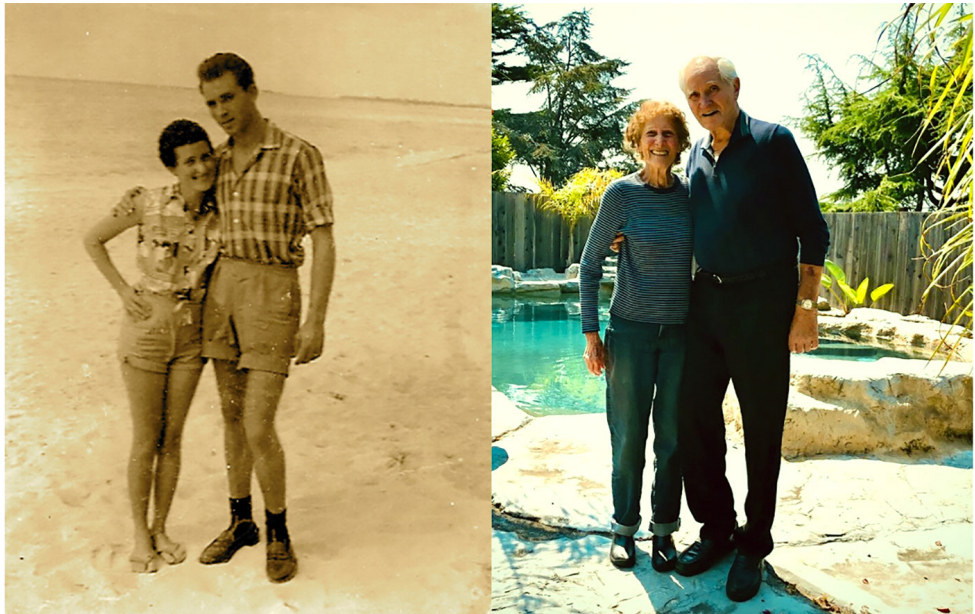


Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

FEBRUARY 2022 PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL VOLUME 80 NUMBER 1

The Junket, a Love Story



By Schatzie Frisch

Who knew that longtime Kensington residents Bruno and Cindy’s Labor of Love—and Fountain of Youth—the Junket Delicatessen & Café at the El Cerrito Plaza would have such a 42-year-deli-cious run, a run that ended on December 30, to the dismay of many? If those deli slicers could talk! Countless stories of love, mystery, Clotted Cream, Limburger, Spotted Dick, Köstritzer, and... Headcheese. Tales from the Deli is sure to be a bestseller.

The Junket was truly a one-of-a-kind place. It’s not often that you find a family-run business these days. Bruno and Cindy

Frisch opened the Junket in 1979 at the plaza. (I do remember talk of an Earthworm Farm or Almond Ranch). They quit their corporate jobs at age 50, because they wanted to work for themselves. They ventured into “unknown territory” with no restaurant experience. They were, however, familiar with unknown territory.

They got engaged the night they met, despite the fact they did not speak the same language. “I’m from Jamaica,” said Cindy. “I’m from a Shoemaker,” heard Bruno. Bruno asked Cindy to marry him and put a piece of wire on her finger and off they went to find the Land of Plenty.

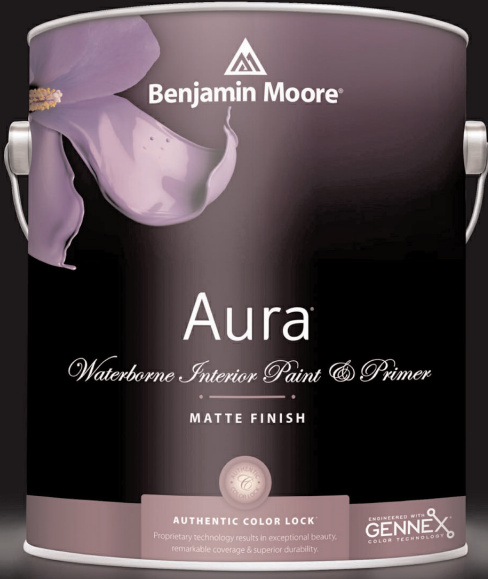
Cindy had left her large family in Jamaica to study nursing in England after WWII. She grew up in Galina, near Ian Fleming’s (James Bond) Goldeneye estate. Her mother Gwendolyn Cleopatra ran a straw-hat shop and also worked for Noël Coward (the playwright), who lived nearby at Firefly, in pirate Henry Morgan’s former home. (Enough name-dropping.) Bruno grew up in Southern Germany, Schwabenland. He was a young teen during the war and witness to many atrocities.

They fell in love at a dance party in Germany and yearned to flee depressed Europe and start life elsewhere. A “Golden” bridge in San Francisco? The Land of Opportunity? The young lovers headed West. They immigrated first to the icy land of Sault Ste. Marie with practically nothing and knowing no one. They lived in an attic. Six-foot-five Bruno (and Sean Connery *doppelgänger*) could only stand up in the center. They were married “below the altar” in a church because Cindy was not Catholic, and the preacher also told them their marriage would “never work.” Their generous Canadian landlords threw them a wedding reception. They did not know any of the guests, but there was a money tree!

“San Francisco, open your Golden Gate, you’ll let nobody wait outside your door.” Those song lyrics eventually rang true for

See The Junket, page 8

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Kensington and Beyond Update

December 2021 - January 2022



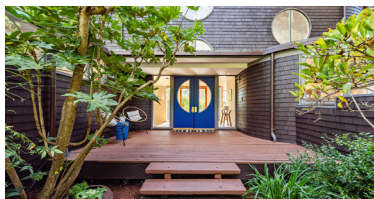
955 Leneve Place
El Cerrito Hills | SOLD

To view online visit: 805leneve.com
Offered at: \$1,195,000 | Sold: \$1,550,000



1300 Linda Vista Drive
El Cerrito Hills | SOLD

To view online visit: 1300lindavista.com
Offered at: \$2,688,000 | Sold: \$2,550,000



32A Sunset Drive
Kensington | SOLD

To view online visit: 32asunset.com
Offered at: \$1,898,000 | Sold: \$2,320,000



2020 Francisco Street
Berkeley | SOLD

To view online visit: 2020francisco.com
Offered at: \$1,998,000 | Sold: \$2,715,000



805 Kensington Road
El Cerrito | SOLD

To view online visit: 805kensington.com
Offered at: \$1,145,000 | Sold: \$1,300,000

My expectation for the coming year in our market, continued low inventory and appreciation. Interest rates will go up but not significantly. Is this a good time to think about selling? Yes. Prices are at record highs. Inflation and rising interest rates will impact the market. If you are considering selling or just wish to know the value of your home in today's market, call me. The appointment is complimentary and confidential.



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

Kensington | Market Update

November 2021 to Present



Detached
Single Family

1

New Listings

Average List Price
\$1,699,000

Average Sq. Ft.
2,396

2

Pending Sales

Median List Price
\$1,874,000

Average Sq. Ft.
3,369

23

Closed Sales

Median List Price
\$1,199,000

Average Sq. Ft.
1,824

Median Sales Price
\$1,500,000

Considering moving?
Many homeowners who plan to sell in 2022 may think the wise thing to do is to wait for the spring buying market since historically about 40 percent of home sales occur between April and July. However, this year's expected to be much different than the norm. Here are five reasons to list your house now rather than waiting until the spring.

1. Buyers Are Looking Right Now, and They're Ready To Purchase
The ShowingTime Showing Index reports data from more than six million property showings scheduled across the country each month. In other words, it's a gauge of how many buyers are out looking at homes at the current time. The latest index, which covers November showings, reveals that buyers are still very active in the market. Comparing this November's numbers to previous years, exceeding pre-pandemic years.



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PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDER

Don't Forget About Earthquakes

Welcome rains have dampened wildfire threats. But don't forget about earthquakes, which can occur any time. Be prepared to be without goods and services for an extended period of time. Stock enough food, water, and medications for at least a week. Form an emergency plan that includes family and neighbors, especially those with health or mobility issues. Stock illumination devices, wrenches, portable storage batteries, AM-FM battery-powered radios, phone and computer chargers, batteries, first aid kit, whistle, tools, portable stove, and cooking supplies. A sealable 35-gal garbage can can store your supplies. Keep it in a secure, accessible location. Check out the USGS video on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/bdz8trwk>.

—Paul Moss, KFPD Emergency Preparedness Committee

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

MARCH 2022

DEADLINES

Advertising Deadline ❖ FEB. 8

Editorial Deadline ❖ FEB. 10

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

KENSINGTON
OUTLOOK

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Mail: For display and classified advertising, please contact our advertising manager by phone or email. Other mail to: 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707.
Thank you!

Letters to the Editor

Making Kensington Safer

Dear Editor:

For 52 years the Public Safety Building (PSB) has served the needs of both our fire and police departments. Now, the fire board, its general manager and the El Cerrito fire chief want to take the entire PSB for fire use only, enlarging it by 300 square feet for an estimated construction cost of \$6 million plus. Add in the cost to relocate during construction, soft costs, and financing, for a total of more than \$10 million—before as yet unknown costs to relocate the police.

What do we get for that? Upstairs living quarters for three on-duty firefighters of 2,800 SF, an elevator to get from the first to the second floor, a downstairs conference room for 21 people, and a four-person office area for the GM and his staff. This implies we could have 25 additional people occupying the PSB with only one available off-site parking space on the Arlington. And our police will no longer be in the heart of town. Do we really need that?

Think how many power lines we could underground for this money, making our town safer and more attractive. How many deep gutters we could cover on our most critical streets to evacuate more easily and quickly in an emergency. How much flammable vegetation could be removed and replaced with fire-resistant options.

If we are so eager to open our checkbooks and keep them open for a long, long time, why not buy something that we actually need? This all started with the intent to make the PSB seismically safer. Why don't we go back to that and use most of the money to do what we urgently need to do, namely make Kensington safer from fire?

Shirley Spiller

Housing File Cabinets Instead of Cops

Dear Editor,

For many years we, the taxpayers, have been told that the Public Safety Building could not be expanded. This meant that due to lack of space, the police would have to be relocated to meet the growing needs of our fire department. I was surprised to receive a Variance Permit for the Public Safety Building. This notice from the Department of Conservation and Development of Contra Costa County means that it was possible to expand the PSB. If only someone from the police or fire boards had asked the country if expansion was possible before they told us it wasn't, we could have saved money and time.

Now the fire board is attempting to enlarge the building and at the same time evict the police department from it. The new space encloses the second story deck that presently exists, so it does not change the building footprint but does offer more interior space—slated for yet another fire personnel office!

The new plans for the PSB do not include space for the police department. The police workspace has been replaced with a large meeting room and storage space. The fire district should hold meetings in our recently renovated Community Center, which cost two million dollars to renovate, instead of kicking the police out of the PSB.

The police district has clarified to the fire district that they wish to keep the KPD in the PSB, so this is an involuntary separation of the KPD from its headquarters. Public comments and communications from the Kensington Property Owners Association to the fire board have been overwhelmingly against kicking the KPD out.

It does not make sense to pay top dollar to renovate the PSB to house file cabinets at the high cost of displacing our police force. The PSB should be designed to serve our community and both districts. If we get the variance to enclose the deck, we must ask both boards to meet again to discuss using the extra space to house the police and to convert the planned meeting and storage space into workspace for the police.

Elaine Stelton

Please see page 9 for the most current proposed floor plans for the PSB's first and second floors. The second floor deck area to be enclosed, the subject of the variance, is on the front left corner of the building.

Please Stop Burning

Dear Editor:

We have been very troubled by all the wood-burning happening in our neighborhoods recently. During winter months, the San Francisco Bay Area often experiences what is known as an inversion, which traps smog and other particulate matter in the basin. Air quality, therefore, can be particularly bad during these winter months—according to the Lung Association, Bay Area cities regularly make the top-ten list for the most polluted air in the US. And wood smoke is the top source of wintertime pollution.

We understand that many are trying to do the right thing by following “Spare the Air” guidelines. Unfortunately, our air district only calls no-burn days when pollution is extreme (actual/expected 101+ AQI over 24 hours). While our families include both young children and adults with compromised respiratory systems, according to the World Health Organization, there are no safe levels of wood smoke inhalation for anyone.

Wood smoke contains many pollutants strongly linked to lung disease, neurological disorders, heart diseases, diabetes, and infertility. Beyond those health implications, fireplaces typically make homes *colder* because they draw in air from the outside.

After years of wildfires, the smell of wood smoke, once comforting and nostalgic, is now triggering and traumatic. This is particularly true for those with compromised health and parents who have to keep young children inside and at home because the air is too toxic for them to go to school or play outside. With COVID's added potential to damage respiratory systems, we ask that our Kensington neighbors avoid making fires whenever possible.

There're so many reasons not to burn, and so few compelling us to do so. Our lungs (and especially the lungs of our youngest residents) need all the breaks and clean air they can get. Our sincere thanks to all those who take this to heart and help spread the word.

Ingrid Behrsin, PhD, MSc, Kristel Rietesl-Low

Should Our Districts Consolidate?

Dear Editor:

There has been discussion in town about whether our fire and police districts should consolidate. The assumption is that it would save money by combining staff positions, but this hasn't been shown. The problem is that it's the same amount of work, which doesn't go away. And combining part-time into full-time positions often entails increased benefits, pensions, etc.

A similar proposal is being floated to consolidate Kensington Fire with the County Fire Department (ConFire). (For over 25 years Kensington has contracted with El Cerrito to provide our firefighters and attendant administrative costs.) On its face this would seem to make more sense than to consolidate police and fire, which have very different objectives and skill-sets for administrators and directors. An “economy of scale” is sometimes assumed, but this is not automatic (think of when phone companies or cable companies merged: better service?). A merger with ConFire, even if they agreed, would not necessarily be a better value than our contract with El Cerrito Fire. That would need to be shown, and so far no numbers have been produced.

But this is not only about bottom dollar; it's about service and local control. Consolidation would mean loss of discretion over our tax revenues, loss of control over costs and decisions, and loss of local responsibility to the citizens, all to ConFire in Martinez. Currently the El Cerrito-Kensington fire chief reports to both municipalities. We (not El Cerrito) own our town's Public Safety Building, our engines, and our equipment. We determine how to use public funds. Would a merger with ConFire provide services and facilities we don't have now, more efficiently and cheaply? This would need to be proven.

It is even argued that if ConFire took over Kensington Fire, we wouldn't have to renovate the Public Safety Building seismically, and we could keep police and fire in the same building and save a lot of money. Unfortunately this idea is completely incorrect. The necessary seismic renovation of our firefighters' safety triggers updates of codes put in place since the last renovation. I'm on the fire board but writing as an individual.

Kevin Padian

Where to Store Those New Containers?

Dear Editor:

With the delivery of three large recycling and trash containers to Kensington homes by Bay View Refuse, some residents may be trying to figure out how or where to store them. This information was provided by Robert Rogers at Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia's office regarding county regulations related to storage and building storage units.

Residents store garbage and recycling containers on their own property when not out for collection. Property owners may not build storage units in the landscape median between the sidewalk and the road as that is part of the county right-of-way. Construction and demolition projects require permits, with limited exceptions (see Contra Costa County Ordinance 72-6.202).

Questions as to what construction is allowed and where on individual pieces of property must be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Property owners should review the building permit information at www.contracosta.ca.gov/Building-Permit-Forms or contact the county Application & Permit Center (855-323-2626 or 925-655-2700) to discuss potential plans for any proposed structures and related questions.

Gail Feldman

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Suspect Arrested in Connection with Structure Fire

By Linnea Due

Kensington fire and police departments combined forces to bring a quick and professional result to an incident that, terrible as it was, could easily have been far, far worse. At around 5am, police responded to a disturbance on Yale Avenue. The house, said Kensington Police Chief Mike Gancasz, was familiar to beat officers. “Kensington homes rarely have multiple calls for service. That house had four or five calls for service in one year. Everyone's been called to that house.” A medical team was also dispatched from the fire department in case of possible injuries.

Said Kensington/El Cerrito Fire Chief Michael Pigoni, “A male person living there was said to have made threats that he was going to burn the house down. It was also rumored that he had a gun.”

A couple hours later, at 8:05am, the fire department was alerted that the house was on fire. “We had to wait a couple minutes for the police to clear the scene,” Pigoni said. “The police went in, and the guy wasn't to be found. And he wasn't out there waving a gun. So we were able to go in and start fire suppression.”

It was change of shift at the fire department, and firefighters at the end of their shift hadn't left yet. They leapt into their structure fire gear and headed to the scene; soon engines from Berkeley, Richmond, and the county fire agency, ConFire, joined Kensington. Although the entire house was engulfed, houses on either side and above came through unscathed. Luckily, it was raining heavily. The crew coming off shift had been up all night on flood calls.

Said Gancasz, “The minute the fire was out, Detective Sergeant Amit Nath began investigating.” Acting on a tip, Nath interviewed residents all around the subject house. “He established a suspect, wrote an arrest warrant, and began contacting surrounding agencies.” It turned out that Hercules police officers knew the suspect well. In less than 48 hours, the man was arrested.

Nath presented the case to the district attorney. The suspect is in custody, charged with arson, criminal threats, animal cruelty (a dog died in the fire), vandalism, and committing a crime while out on bail.

Gancasz said that Nath stressed to the DA how disastrous this incident could have been. “Kensington is an extraordinarily risky location,” Gancasz said. “If this had been in August, that fire could have burned all day to Walnut Creek.”

Both Pigoni and Gancasz are full of praise for their teams and for their sister department. “The fire department knocked it out of the park,” Gancasz said. “Surrounding police agencies helped us with perimeter security. Everybody out there did a great job.” And he is justly proud of Sergeant Nath. “There were five days between the fire being extinguished and the guy under arrest.”



Photo: Nancy Rubin

We Love Berkeley—But Not Its Taxes



Photo: Pickawood/Unsplash

By Linnea Due

After Muriel Harvey bought a new treadmill, she checked out the price and realized that she had paid over ten percent in sales tax: 10.25 percent to be exact. Because of her zip code, the company listed her address as Berkeley rather than Kensington. “I started thinking about it,” she said. “I should have paid 8.75 percent. When you’re buying things online during the pandemic, the difference can add up. But more importantly, is that money going to Berkeley and Alameda County or is it going to Kensington and Contra Costa County?”

Our sales tax pays for services and infrastructure work undertaken by Contra Costa County. Because both our zip codes (94707 and 94708) are shared with Berkeley, we can be missing out on savings and on tax revenue that should go to county services. A small slice of Kensington (94706) shares a zip code with Albany, with a tax rate even higher than Berkeley’s, 10.75 percent.

“I think that Amazon has figured it out,” Harvey says. (Checking my recent Amazon purchase, I was charged 8.75 percent, the correct amount for Contra Costa’s unincorporated jurisdictions, of which Kensington is one.) “But,” she continues, “for individual purchases, the retailer may not know there’s a different tax rate.”

Putting in your complete nine-digit zip code does not solve the problem, since the last four digits are only used by the post office to designate carrier routes. Sometimes you can’t enter the right information because of the dreaded auto-correct: Residents fill in Kensington on online purchases, flip to the next screen, and the address has “corrected” to Berkeley. “That happens to me all the time,” Harvey says. “It didn’t occur to me until lately that it would have tax implications.”

It had occurred to Richard Lyon, who bought a car over three years ago and did not notice at the time that he’d overpaid by a hefty \$600 in sales tax, based upon his supposed residence in Berkeley. (Under a special rule, sales tax on a vehicle purchase is based on the buyer’s place of residence.) Once he discovered the error, he began investigating the problem. “When I moved to Kensington a long time ago from the Berkeley Hills, one of the first things I noticed was that I would still keep my old zip code,” Lyon wrote in an email. “At the time, I thought it was odd to have a zip code that spanned city and county lines... but mail still got delivered, and like most residents, I never really thought about it.”

Until he noticed the fateful car purchase. Then he began checking other ramifications. “Credit card statements and other financial account statements still show ‘Berkeley CA 94707’ but get delivered anyway,” he writes. “It took several tries to persuade the DMV that I reside in Kensington, not Berkeley. I know of one professional licensing organization that will not allow you to override Berkeley when it pops up based on our zip code, but this doesn’t have financial ramifications.

“But your zip code can affect homeowners’ and automobile premiums, which are often based on zip code. This is especially important now because some insurance companies are raising premiums due to fire risk, or canceling coverage for some zip codes altogether.”

Lost Revenue Decreases Funding for Programs

KPPCSD director Eileen Nottoli contacted Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia about the issue, and he has opened an investigation. He noted that the county sales tax supports numerous vital programs. “Many county services get funded through sales tax revenue,” he says in an email to Nottoli. “For example, the County Board of Supervisors just approved allocating the new Measure X sales tax revenue—which includes \$4 million per year in additional fire crews countywide to do vegetation abatement in high severity fire zones like Kensington, as well as a funding program (to be developed) to help homeowners clear brush around their house. We are also allocating funding to a new mental health crisis response program countywide, which will allow those in crisis to get a mental health response with trained professionals. Funding for streets and roads comes out of the Countywide Measure J Transportation Sales Tax, so Kensington gets the benefit of that as well. These are just a few examples.”

In a phone conversation, Gioia says, “A lot of sales tax goes to BART and to the state. The county gets a half-cent for programs and the county’s transportation authority gets a half-cent for our roads. We checked the businesses on the Arlington and at Colusa Circle, and they’re all charging properly. There’s no way to verify individual online sales. We’re not talking a lot of money, but obviously you want to make sure that the sales tax goes to the right jurisdiction.”

Solutions Are Slim

Lyon felt the obvious fix for this issue is for Kensington to have its own zip code by redrawing the lines to assign one of the shared zip codes exclusively to Kensington and the other to Berkeley. He writes, “A formal request to initiate the a Zip Code Boundary Review Process would have to come from local government. For Kensington, this would mean a resolution from the Board of Supervisors as our governing body.” Since KPPCSD is a special purpose district (police, garbage, parks), it does not have the power to request this nor do any of the K-groups.

Lyon points out that Kensington is not unique in this sales tax quandary. “The post office has always assigned zip codes to suit its own purposes, without regard to city and county lines,” Lyon writes. “In 2011, Congress held hearings on this and recognized the collateral consequences in its report: ‘The result can be higher insurance rates, confusion in voter registration, misdirected property and sales tax revenues for municipalities, and changes in property value.’ “

He noted that the post office is not enamored of making changes that do not benefit it, and that it took an Act of Congress for Discovery Bay to get its own zip code. Lyon thinks it’s unlikely that Kensington could manage this feat, although Gioia says he is investigating the process of redrawing boundaries as well as talking with a sales tax consultant. He is also looking at preventative steps that can be taken on the county level.

Lyon suggests a couple of remedies. He believes that the county tax office “needs to be proactive and identify ten or so of the biggest online sellers and verify with them that they’re using the customer’s Kensington street address (the actual shipping address) to calculate and allocate the sales taxes correctly.” He also recommends that Kensington residents check their invoices for online purchases, as well as car dealer invoices, and phone, Internet or television charges for misallocated sales taxes.

Gioia says, “Our goal is to protect residents from paying a higher sales tax. There are hundreds of communities across the country that share zip codes with different sales tax rates. We’re looking into whether it’s possible to change the zip code boundaries, but I think it’s unlikely. Ultimately it’s going to be up to the resident to make sure they’re charged the right sales tax. The biggest issue is for people making large purchases.”

Gioia mentioned a few other instances where a higher tax might be charged. “Some jurisdictions have utility taxes but Kensington does not. People can look on their bills and see if they’re being charged a utility tax. And they should check recurring bills, such as cable and phone.”

As several residents pointed out after Muriel Harvey introduced this topic on NextDoor, these small recurring purchases and payments add up over time. In the comments on NextDoor, one resident noticed that her phone carrier was charging Berkeley’s tax rate. Other posters were confused about what the rate should be or what they should look for on invoices. The rate for unincorporated Contra Costa County was 8.25 until it was raised a half percentage point due to a ballot measure on the November 2020 ballot. The increase went into effect last April.

If you’re paying more than 8.75 percent, call the retailer’s attention to the error. In all likelihood, that tax you’re dinged is money out of pocket and headed to Alameda County.

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Passings

Jacqueline Marie Sheehy, age 99, passed away peacefully on November 3 in Kensington. She was born in San Francisco in October 1922 to Marie Joseph Bloch and Mildred Teresa Bloch. In 1953, she married William Robert Sheehy, MD, with whom she shared a long and happy marriage; he preceded her in death in 1994.

They moved to Avon Road, which proved to be an ideal neighborhood for the family. For the past 10 years, Jacqueline lived a wonderful life with her partner Stanley Goodman, MD, who survives her at age 101.

Our mother was a warm and thoughtful person who spent much of her life devoted to children of all backgrounds. Her early career was spent teaching at Commodore Sloat Elementary School in San Francisco. After raising her own children, she returned to teaching as a substitute elementary teacher in the Albany and Richmond school districts. She had a creative gift, and she found joy in a variety of art projects and in making costumes and clothing for her own children as well as the other children on Avon Road. She maintained many strong and lasting friendships. She and Bill enjoyed square dancing and horseback riding with the family at the White Cottage Ranch. In later years she loved walking the Berkeley hills and volunteering for the local Turnabout Shop and discovering old treasures for charity. Jacqueline is survived by her children Michael Hamilton Sheehy, Margaret Marie Bauthier, and Barbara Adele Sheehy, and her grandchildren Brendan Wilkins, Erin Sheehy, Emily Sheehy-Wilkins, Jack Sheehy, Marc Bauthier, and Nicole Bauthier. Her sister Shirley Crepps preceded her in death. The family held a private ceremony in December.



On November 14, 2021, we lost our beloved husband, father, grandfather and father-in-law, **Frank Holden**. Frank was the friendly white-haired gentleman with a big smile. You might have seen him in the library, walking his son to Hilltop Elementary School, perhaps at the Circus Pub, or walking his family dog on the Ye Olde School Trail. Frank loved living in Kensington for nearly thirty years and expressed his appreciation of the community often.



Born in 1935, Frank started his life in a humble home in Hebden Bridge, England. At age fifteen, Frank and his family sailed the rough Atlantic waters to the East Coast of the United States and eventually moved west to Monterey, California. Frank discovered the multitude of opportunities on the West Coast. For example, he could afford a college education on his meager income.

Frank studied mathematics and computer science and received his BA at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He earned his Masters in international relations, during which he spent a year in Sweden with his young family.

After graduating, Frank worked at the Livermore Labs managing the room-sized computers until he discovered another calling, teaching. Frank taught at City College of San Francisco for 35 years, where he started the first computer education program and eventually became the director of the department.

Upon retiring he sailed, traveled abroad, substitute-taught, renovated houses, and volunteered for the Suicide Crisis Line. Frank, a generous and kind man of many talents and interests, will be dearly missed by his wife, Chris Holmes, his sons Liam Holmes-Holden and Dirk Holden, his daughter-in-law Jennifer Holden, his grandson Jess Holden and his many dear friends. The family asks that donations go to Hospice East Bay, an immeasurable help at the end.

The Colusa Circle neighborhood mourns the loss of **Ellen Mills**, who lived on Oak View Ave. since 1976 and played a central role in the community. Ellen died on Dec. 13 at the age of 77 years.

Ellen and Paul Mills, her husband of 33 years, hosted the Oak View Ave. National Night Out. They were able to attract many of their neighbors to enjoy an outdoor potluck and discuss emergency preparedness.

Ellen was among the first women in the chemistry department at UC Santa Barbara, where she received her bachelor’s degree. As a chemist, she got to work with moon rocks at the Lawrence Berkeley Space Sciences Laboratory. Later, she transitioned to computer science, earning a degree from Cal State Hayward. She held positions with TMA NorCal and Parker Hannifin before retiring in 2006.

She served as president of the West Contra Costa branch of the American Association of University Women from 2014-16 and was an active member of SERVAS, which fosters the hosting of travelers to promote greater cultural understanding. She was a great traveler herself; with Paul she visited Africa, Turkey, the Amazon, Machu Picchu and, her favorite, Amsterdam.

Ellen’s children and grandchildren were always at the center of her life. She raised seven children, including four children she and Paul adopted: Sarah Davis, Aicha Scott, Julia Cavanaugh, Shasta Meza, John Mills, Stormy Mills and Dustin Mills. She was very involved with her eleven grandchildren; she loved to take them to the Little Farm in Tilden Park.

Ellen frequently walked their dogs in the Colusa Circle area. She was a good listener and took an interest in local issues. Her welcoming nature made our community a better place, and she will be sorely missed.



Debbie Hayakawa-Wing passed away on November 8, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. She touched many lives with her generous spirit and positive outlook on life.

Debbie was born in Tokyo, Japan, and grew up attending international schools in Tokyo and Hong Kong before moving to the Boston area for college. She graduated from Tufts University with a degree in Child Study and later completed her Master’s in Deaf Education at the University of Washington.

Her teaching career began in Corpus Christi, Texas, and continued at the New York School for the Deaf. While in New York, she met Yakesun, her husband of 32 years. They moved to the Bay Area in 1988, where Debbie taught at the California School for the Deaf. After starting a family, she worked as a teacher in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program within the WCCUSD.

Debbie was a beloved and active member of the community. She was particularly passionate about El Cerrito High School’s music program, and was heavily involved in its fundraising and social activities. She was also the kindergarten teacher for the Daruma no Gakko Japanese youth summer program for almost a decade, and was a volunteer with the Albany-Berkeley Girls Softball League, and the Kensington Community Council.

Debbie always loved helping others and was grateful for the many friendships she formed. Her favorite activities included cooking with her family, cheering on the Warriors, and hiking among the Bay Area redwoods.

Debbie is survived by her loving family—her husband, Yakesun, children Alexander and Elisabeth, and her brother Mike, who lives in Portland.



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Can Old Dogs Learn New Tricks?



Recycling containers sit in Bay View's yard, waiting to be delivered to Kensington residents. Photo by Greg Christie.

By Linnea Due

By now some surprising new containers should have appeared in your yard. After a confirming vote by thae Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) on November 11, Bay View Refuse and Recycling is instituting new services required by California's SB 1383, passed in September 2016. According to the state's CalRecycle site, SB 1383 establishes targets to achieve a 75 percent reduction in organic waste (from 2014 levels) by 2025. (Earlier targets expired in 2020.) Says the Cal Recycle site: "Methane emissions resulting from the decomposition of organic waste in landfills are a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions contributing to global climate change. Organic materials—including waste that can be readily prevented, recycled, or composted—account for a significant portion of California's overall waste stream. Food waste alone accounts for approximately seventeen to eighteen percent of total landfill disposal."

How does this impact you? Bay View has been diverting green waste (garden clippings and prunings) from landfill for years, thus meeting the first targets of SB 1383. The next phase requires the company to divert kitchen organics. This means more frequent pickups are needed given the nature of kitchen waste.

Each Kensington household has been given three new containers: a gray container meant for waste that goes to the landfill, a blue container for recyclables, such as mail, flattened cardboard, bottles, cans, and plastic, and finally the green container, which is for food waste, yard waste, and other organic materials that will break down into compost. This can include food-stained paper, pizza boxes, and other materials that formerly had to go to landfill.

KPPCSD director Eileen Nottoli has been instrumental in working with Bay View to achieve this upgraded service. "I started working on it three years ago, when I was president," she says. "I interacted with Dave Spath, who was then president of the Kensington Property Owners Association, to try to mount an educational program about organic waste." She says that because Kensington has fewer than 7500 residents, we could have applied for a waiver from the state requirements. At that time, some residents were objecting to the new carts. Nottoli mounted a survey and found that two-thirds of residents wanted food composting and agreed to a seven percent raise in price.

"We were going to roll out the educational program, but several board directors weren't ready to commit to organic waste pickup. One objected to requiring residents to use carts if we could qualify for the waiver." The motion to collect organic waste along with green waste failed to pass in December 2019.

Last fall board president Sylvia Hacaj reintroduced the plan. Interim general manager Rick Benson recommended that it be instituted, and this time the motion passed. "It's the right thing to do," Nottoli says. She lists off a few plusses. "First of all, it benefits people because we're in a high fire risk area. Depending on the pickup schedule, sometimes green waste would sit around for three weeks. A weekly pickup in a high fire risk area makes all the sense in the world. The carts can be picked up mechanically so that reduces worker injury. And the original reason for the legislation is to help reduce climate change. Some estimate that eighteen to thirty percent of landfill is food waste, which breaks down into methane. Also, it saves on space in the landfill."

Another feature of the new service is a household hazardous waste program, likely a biannual pickup. Before, Kensington residents, as part of the unincorporated county, had to bring hazardous waste materials to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Richmond. The hazardous waste program starts in August.



Image from Bay View Refuse and Recycling Newsletter

The price increase, estimated at seven percent, covers the carts and the weekly pickup. "The carts will be amortized over time," Nottoli says. "We are going from 24 annual green waste pickups to 52 pickups a year. Separate drivers pick up green waste."

An important point for those who have lots of garden debris or who clear neighborhood storm drains and gutters is that on a given week, the green waste container might not be sufficient. Not to worry—you are not limited to that amount of green waste. Says Nottoli, "You can still put out paper containers, cans, and tarps that one man can pick up."

Similarly, if you manage to generate more recyclables than the 64-gallon blue container can hold, those too will be picked up. Writes Bay View's Kim Christie by email, "If there is more recycling, additional cans (not in paper bags, boxes or small containers) can be placed next to the blue bin. Additional cardboard can be broken down and tied or taped in bundles and placed next to the blue bin."

Those who have long had backyard service will continue to enjoy that perk, but as it has been all along, backyard service only applies to garbage, not to green waste or recyclables. At pickup, the green and blue containers must be street-side, not in your backyard.

Residents will be provided with the size garbage can they had before the transition. Christie explains that there are three garbage can sizes: 20 gallon, 32 gallon, and 45 gallon. Some residents pay for two or more cans. Those residents will receive two or more gray-colored carts.

The carts started rolling out in mid-January, so you should have received your three (or more). The insert in the Bay View bill (reprinted below) gives a graphic representation of what should go in the landfill, recycle, and green waste cans. This is a way we can all contribute to curbing climate chaos.

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Thanks to a generous donation from the Elizabeth Bettelheim Family Foundation, KCC was able to purchase much-needed and long-overdue gymnastics equipment for our KASEP classes and KCC Summer Camp. These colorful panel mats are one of the new additions to the KASEP gymnastics class, held in the renovated Community Center. Photos by Jenny Parks.

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Donors Dig Deep to Help KCC Fund Its Programs

These donors stepped up to maintain Kensington as a vibrant, responsive place to live and work. Kensington Community Council President Becky Stephens sent this thank you letter:

"Thank you for helping to keep Kensington a strong community by donating to the Kensington Community Council's Annual Fund Drive. Your generous donation is a testimony to your appreciation for our amazing DIY-spirited community.

"This has been a challenging year for all of us and the Kensington Community Council is no exception. Because of the pandemic, we have had to make many difficult choices and continue to do everything possible to sustain daily operations and provide quality services to our community.

"Your donation helps to provide enrichment programs for the community, such as the Kensington After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) and our Summer Day Camp. We also publish the Kensington Outlook, our community newspaper that covers important local news, issues and events.

"It is your contribution that collectively makes Kensington a great place to live, and we thank you for your support."

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The Junket

...from front page

them. They arrived in Berkeley in the '60s. Lived in El Cerrito for a couple years and then moved to the beautiful Shire of Kensington, where they remain today.

Bruno and Cindy are now in their nineties. They have been happily married for 65 years. They absolutely loved their so-called “work” at their beloved Junket and have been “working” together just about every day for the past forty years, until the pandemic forced them to “shelter at home.”

The Junket was their Fountain of Youth. You'll not find two more vibrant 88/89-year-olds doing what they did. They even worked on their days off. Cindy handled the business end of the Junket, and was also the social butterfly, flitting around the place, chatting with customers, handing out treats, donating to causes, and multi-tasking like nobody's Headcheese...

Bruno handled customer-to-go transactions at his cash register with the utmost care, “NO... you must take a napkin!” He also vacuumed/swept the entire place, lifting up all the wooden chairs to the tops of the tables (next to his own hand-hewn napkin holders)...every single night. Ask him if he needs help? No, you don't. He also doled out little “chewing candies” to kids and meat scraps to dogs. He traversed the Bay Area speeding around in his giant truck picking up fresh produce and other supplies from the same vendors he has dealt with for forty years. He built the giant wine wall with my brother Gary, among other things.

Many a spectacular employee filtered through the deli. A heartfelt thanks to all of them. Heather did an incredible job, especially at the end. We salute all the past employees; Dave, Eloise, Maria, Tanya, Rachel, Brandon, Garrett...the list goes on.

And yes, it wasn't always a piece of cake working for Bruno. It was Bruno's way or the highway. New employees had to learn the proper way to use a broom. But I've heard former employees are still thankful for the things they learned from him...and think of Bruno whenever they sweep.

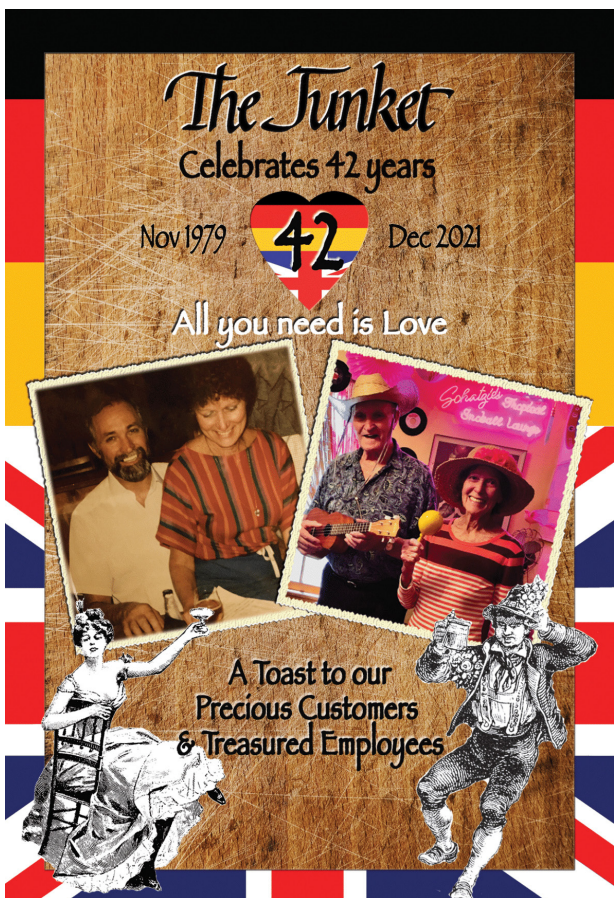
Cindy, on the other hand, gave employees second or third or nine chances... She hired a homeless fellow to bus tables. Hired an almost blind man (that was rough), and I remember her telling one employee, “No guns at the Junket!” He had concealed weapons under that apron of his. Wish I had set up that deli-cam to catch all the excitement. Would have made for quite a sit-com as well.

Bruno and Cindy helped and befriended thousands of customers. So many stories to share. There was Karl “Mr. Underberg,” an older German gentleman. He was a regular. He came in everyday to smoke his cigar and have a stein of beer at the Stammtisch. One day Karl did not come in. Bruno and Cindy were concerned, so Bruno went to Karl's house nearby, climbed the back fence and peeked in the bedroom window. Karl was on the floor and had passed away from a heart attack.

Oh, and the time an American fighter pilot came to the Junket and realized he had bombed Bruno's hometown of Heilbronn in Germany during the war. Bruno and he shook hands... Just two of many stories.

I write this on my behalf of my parents. I am Schatzie the Renegade Deli Heiress (www.SchatzieFrisch.com). Thanks for the outpouring of Junket love. I sat with them recently, and we read the lovely cards the community sent. I have only the utmost respect for my mom and dad and the Junket. I am truly sorry to see the doors shuttered, but we must celebrate 42 years, and I think laughter is still the best medicine. Bruno and Cindy will miss everyone. *Auf Wiedersehen* and Cheerio.

We thank Bruno and Cindy Frisch for supporting the Outlook for many years. The Junket was such a unique institution and a true labor of love. Thank you, Schatzie, for the back story.



Public Safety Building Conversion Illuminates Dysfunctional Community Governance

By Rob Firmin, President, Kensington Property Owners' Association

Major financial and service consequences for all Kensington citizens are coming from the fast-moving plan to convert the Public Safety Building (PSB) into a fire station exclusive of the police. It is not clear, even apparently to either governing board, what the financial consequences of the change will be for taxpayers, including in the long run. The decision to remove the police from the building was made by the fire board (KFPD) unilaterally—not the Kensington voters, nor in consummate deliberation and cooperation with the police board (KPPCSD).

Elimination of the PSB as a joint facility for police and fire districts—abandoning the original financial justification for building it—requires that the Kensington public receive full disclosure, from both boards, of financial and schedule projections of the short- and long-term effects of the PSB conversion into a fire station. This need should be addressed with public joint meetings of the two boards, including their general managers (GMs) and other staff, before PSB destruction/conversion commences.

Joint plans must be released publicly well in advance of meetings. It is critical that disclosed plans include the impact on unrestricted cash reserves that will remain for both districts after each stage of the move-out and conversion of the PSB into a fire station, cost of locating both departments temporarily, and creation of a new permanent police department location. In addition, citizens need to see, at a minimum, the five-year consequences of all changes wrought for both departments, and for a longer time span for added debt service. What are the districts' plans for how Kensington citizens are to be expected to pay for these changes over the long-term?

As the conversion of the PSB has illuminated systemic governance shortcomings, the community needs a clear, comprehensive unified guide to board progress and plans for fundamental issues raised by the KFPD's unilateral decisions and the KPPCSD's plans in reaction to them. For community consideration the following are examples of relevant issues that are now raised:

- The most serious uncertainties/risks in the conversion and relocation plans, and severity of their possible consequences;
- Given what has been learned, whether it is still reasonably prudent to disrupt Kensington finances and services by forcing the police to rent or build new quarters
- Renewed analysis of a joint-building alternative;
- Financial and scheduling plans from both boards extending as long as it will take to pay for the conversion and relocations;
- Funding plans: e.g., new special taxes and applications for grants that have been or are planned to be submitted, their financial relief potential and chances of approval;
- Plans for the converted fire station to survive an earthquake as a usable building in addition to personnel survival—the conversion is extremely expensive, will an expected earthquake destroy it?
- Explanation of how the police would upgrade a new space if they do not own it;
- Whether possible police station locations under consideration meet or can be made to meet public service building standards (if so, at what cost);
- Locations, adequacy and security of parking for staff from both departments and police vehicles;
- Effects on residential parking;
- Damage to local businesses, e.g., by using the lot currently used by the hardware store and other businesses largely for the police instead.

Finally, we are not questioning board members' dedication. Instead, we see that community governance is hampered by the current methods of decision-making and community participation. Community confusion and even non-engagement over plans and actions cannot be laid at the feet of the public. Instead, Kensington needs a reformed public engagement system.

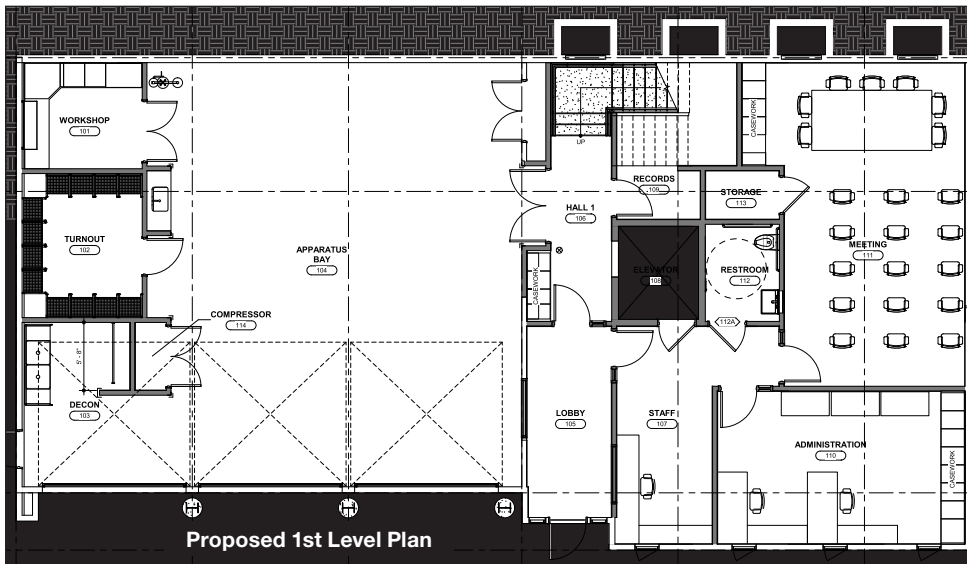
Three initial steps will help. Improved Kensington governance requires: a mandatory system of cooperation between the two boards, much more professional financial reporting and forecast modeling, and transformed guidelines for public engagement with the boards.

Changes in public participation rules for both boards should follow a format that allows for open engagement between Kensington residents and board members. Current meeting rules inhibit informative discussion with attendees of issues under board consideration; they give the appearance that the boards essentially ignore public participation, regardless of intention otherwise.

For example, public meetings should allow a reasonable opportunity for citizens to not only provide comments or raise questions but also the ability for a brief follow-up to a board response to their comments. Time for each public comment can be restricted to two minutes if many are in queue, and three minutes if there are fewer. All those who comment then would have one minute to respond to any board response, as well as to no board response to the comment. Such a format would result in much greater assurance among citizens that their inputs are being considered even if there is disagreement in the end, and not break the clock.

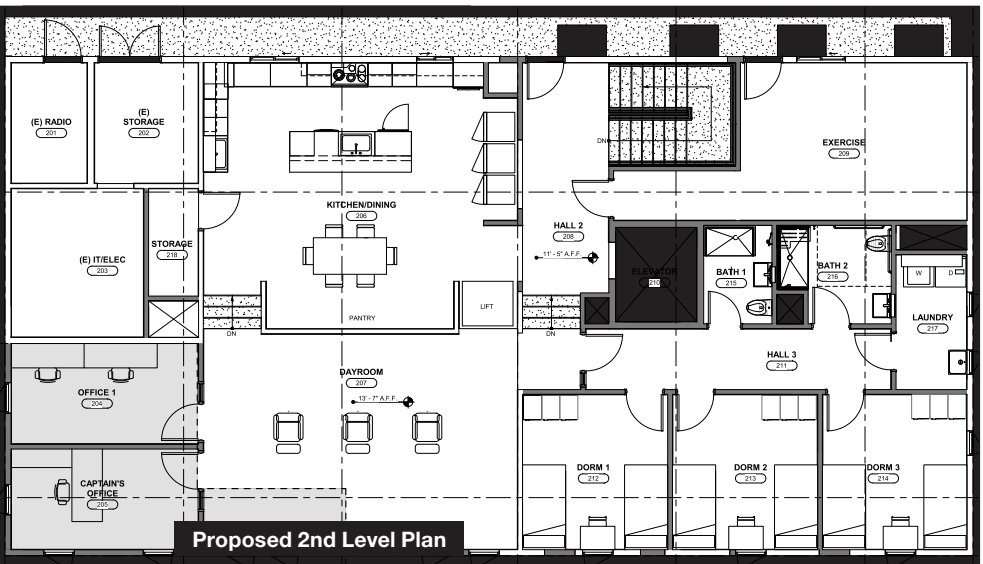
Ultimately, Kensington governance would be substantially improved by adopting a single board system with a single GM. This would eliminate the possibility of unilateral decisions affecting the whole community without community-wide, balanced planning. Budgets and forecasts could then be optimized in the interest of all of Kensington simultaneously. The community should vote to make these reforms happen.

See proposed plans for the PSB's first and second story on facing page.



First Floor: In the proposed floor plan for the first floor of the renovated Public Safety Building, engine bays are at the left. The ground floor contains the elevator (black rectangle), a lobby, hall, staff and administration offices, storage and records rooms, and a large meeting room. (The plan shows a head table with seven chairs facing an audience of fifteen.)

For a more complete view including graphics and explanations, see the October 13, 2021 board packet, item 5c, PSB Renovation Progress Update on the Kensington Fire Protection District website under Board Meetings.



Second Floor: On the second floor plan, the to-be-enclosed deck, if approved, is at the front left corner. It would contain two offices, one meant for a captain. Radio room, mechanical room, and two storage rooms are behind the offices. To the right are a large day room, a kitchen and a dining area. On the right are dorms, the gym, bathrooms, laundry, and the elevator.

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A Zero Waste Battery Box will be on the sidewalk outside the Zip Code East Bay office, at 380 Colusa Ave in Kensington, each Sunday in February. Swing by anytime during the Kensington Farmers' Market from 10am-2pm to drop off your batteries contact-free.

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The Murky World of Building in Unincorporated Kensington

By Anna Shane

When Kensington property owners seek to build, we submit development plan applications (DPA) in Martinez at the Department of Conservation and Development (DCD). The DCD is one of 540-plus building code enforcement agencies mandated to enforce state codes meant to protect the public.

But how does this work on the ground? State legislators enacted no oversight legislation. Each enforcement agency polices itself. There is no Inspector General (IG) tasked with investigating citizen reports of enforcement agency oversights or bad enforcements. We are at the mercy of the knowledge, competence, and honor of our code enforcement agency, as safe as our weakest link.

County supervisors must uphold the state's building code, Title 24, but if they don't adhere to that mandate, there isn't much an individual can do about it. Title 24 requires our elected representatives to appoint a certified building official and a certified code enforcement officer. In our case, a former building inspector was appointed building officials, and there is no certified code enforcement officer.

According to county-adopted enforcement regulations, the DPA is assigned a Project Planner (PP), who is supposed to forward it to Public Works where it is supposed to be assigned a Project Engineer (PE). The PE reviews the DPA for completeness and speaks with a consulting engineer, who must convince the PE that the construction won't destabilize nearby structures and will withstand earthquakes.

KMAC Steps into the Picture

If satisfied, the PE issues a letter deeming the DPA complete and lists all outstanding stipulations that must be met before a building permit may be issued. In Kensington that includes a Kensington Municipal Advisory Committee (KMAC) review and zoning approval for any requested variances.

Or the DCD may bypass that process and send incomplete applications that violate CBL directly to KMAC. KMAC members are Kensington residents appointed by Supervisor John Gioia and confirmed by existing KMAC members. There are five members and two alternates.

When KMAC receives a DPA, it schedules a hearing. There is no requirement that members of the community be informed ahead of KMAC hearings. KMAC votes to recommend or to not recommend the project be approved as within "community standards." KMAC members are unpaid volunteers and receive no training in building codes. The cost for the required KMAC review is \$500.

The project planner may send out notifications to neighbors within a radius of the proposed new construction. If anyone objects, a hearing might be scheduled before the planning commissioners, even if the DPA is incomplete, lacks engineering specifications, lacks a site plan, and contains violations of state building codes. If no one requests a hearing, the DCD staff may approve variances, and the DCD may issue a planning permit, even with an incomplete DPA or violations of code.

Then, after a building permit is issued, our DCD may allow changes in size and scope during construction, bypassing the law that requires such changes be resubmitted for approval. KMAC may retroactively approve completed but un-permitted construction, and the DCD may issue retroactive building permits and variances for completed but un-permitted construction.

In Kensington, it's up to property owners to adhere to the law, whether or not the state codes are adequately understood or enforced. It's up to the community to ensure new construction is safe.

Some Recommendations

Kensington homeowners who are architects, engineers, land surveyors or otherwise knowledgeable in building code law, form a collective and rotate attendance at KMAC hearings. If there is no letter deeming the DPA complete, ask KMAC members to delay taking a vote until the DPA has been deemed complete.

If there is no site plan or if a site plan is not code compliant, ask KMAC to require that the permit seekers provide a code compliant site plan. If the boundary line survey violates provisions of the Land Surveyors Act and/or violates building codes, ask that it be rejected and the plans be resubmitted after being drawn in accordance with a code-compliant and lawful boundary line survey.

Since not all surveys are on file at the county, any property owner in possession of an un-filed survey should provide a copy to the Kensington Property Owners Association and to the Kensington Library. Petition Supervisor Gioia to request he amend the KMAC by-laws to require community notification of KMAC hearings. Petition Supervisor Gioia to order a Title 24 compliance audit and a permit and construction code compliance audit, to identify potentially unsafe completed construction within the county.

And our state representatives should provide oversight legislation, and Newsom should appoint an IG for compliance with public safety legislation.

Happy Valentine's Day from everyone at the Outlook

Pastor Celestine Fields “Settling” In at ACC



By Linnea Due

Arlington Community Church's search committee has found a "settled" minister for its congregation—and if Dr. Celestine Fields has her way—for the whole community. A settled minister, explains Fields, is one who is here to stay. Rev. Nate Klug served on a two-year contract; an interim took his place, and now Fields has taken over the pastoral duties for the long term.

Fields says she was working as an office administrator at a child welfare organization in Philadelphia when she heard the call. "I remember sitting at my desk," she says. "I thought, 'God, is this what I'm supposed to do the rest of my life?'" At the time, I was serving as a pastor at an unaffiliated church that was seeking to align with United Church of Christ." UCC is Arlington Community Church's affiliation; it's a denomination that stresses unity and justice work.

"I just felt this pull to go to seminary," she says. "It's very common for African Americans to get ordained outside of seminary. But I wanted that experience." Things fell together quickly after that; she had been taking a polity course that was finishing, and essays she needed to apply to seminary came easily. "Within a few weeks, I had been accepted and had an apartment on campus," she says. She attended the Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA, also affiliated with UCC.

"I was able to go to seminary for three years without working," she recalls. "I learned about faith, took a cross-cultural trip to Thailand that opened up my heart to different ways of believing. I became one of the seminary's ambassadors, preaching all over the area, staffing their table at conferences. This experience helped me to be more adventurous with my life."

Her first job, as an associate, was in Ohio, her second in Florida. "When those ended, I wanted to do interim ministry. I started looking for calls all over the US. I'll go anywhere God calls me to go." Sycamore, in El Cerrito, was seeking an interim minister. Sycamore, a Japanese American church, offered Fields a short-term contract. It was, Fields says, a perfect fit. "My father was in the military, and he was stationed in Japan. We spoke Japanese, and Sycamore really resonated with my way of being."

Towards the end of her contract, a colleague mentioned Arlington Community Church. She began investigating the environmental activism and social and racial equity programs that the church has instituted or participated in. "This is where I belong," she says.

Fields points out that a lot of churches talk about focusing on justice issues. "Arlington is actually doing the work. They're doing racial justice, environmental justice work. It is such a fit for me."

On a recent Sunday, the congregation talked about its hopes for the future. "They did a service about their hopes for me, for the church and the community. We want to partner with the community to do justice work. I want us to be a place of safety. I want the church to be of service and in relationship with Kensington. Churches have a tendency to collapse within themselves, to just be about the people inside. We want to come outside."

As part of that, Fields says she's heard all about the popular and long-standing Blessing of the Animals that ACC has hosted for years. "Oh, we'll be doing that," she says. "Cats, snakes, newts, squirrels, bring them all."

Fields has goals for herself as well. She is presently living in Oakland but would like to be in Kensington and is looking for an in-law or ADU. Meanwhile, she is thrilled to go to work. "I love being in my office. I look around and it's so beautiful. I just feel so fortunate to be here."

She has two biological children and two stepsons, all in the Midwest, and three grandchildren who live in Ohio. She hopes that her two oldest grandsons can come visit. "I'd love to take them to the Avenue of the Giants," she says, referring to Humboldt County's scenic highway through the redwoods. "Not say anything, just go there and let them see these magnificent trees."

There are challenges being so far from her children, especially now, with travel so chancy. She had planned to go back for Christmas, but felt with COVID it was too dangerous to fly. "I've had to reconcile being here without my family or a partner," she says. "I had to find peace being alone in my home. Now I love that. I enjoy being alone in my space. I have a hiking buddy, and we hike once a week. It's hard to make friends during a pandemic. But I'm not alone. I really believe the spirit is with me. And my congregation will take care of me."

She plans on ACC sponsoring scholarships, joining environmental groups within the county, and much more. "We're going to launch new programming in the season of Lent," she says. "The idea is to become active and to have a presence in the community." Dr. Fields can be reached at Pastorcelestinefields@gmail.com

K E N S I N G T O N Community Education



Kensington After School Enrichment Program

Our winter session of KASEP began on January 3rd. We were off to a good start when the school district decided to close the schools for two days around a weekend due to an increase in Covid-19 cases and a staffing shortage. We at KASEP follow the school district schedule so we cancelled our classes for those 2 days as well, as a health precaution.

We introduced 4 new classes this session. Pascale Roger-McKeever returned to KASEP to teach the Drama class for K-6 graders and April Schlanger also returned to in-person classes for a fun Jewelry making class. The Art & Clay class filled up quickly with our new teacher Maria Rachidi and we have started a Pickleball class (pictured above) that the kids are really enjoying with coach and USA Pickleball Ambassador Darlene Vendegna. If you didn't get into your favorite KASEP class this session, the registration for our spring session of classes opens on Tuesday, March 8th at 7pm for kindergarten and 7:30pm for grades 1-6.

Important Dates: Winter break is February 21-25th and there are no KASEP classes that week.



KCC Summer Camp 2022

Hard to imagine, but KCC is already revving up for another fun summer of KCC camp for 2022!

KCC Summer Camp is for children entering first grade in the Fall 2022 up through 6th grade. We offer 9 weeks of camp, starting Monday, June 13th and ending Friday, August 12th. 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, and a whole lot of fun!

Online enrollment starts Tuesday, March 1st at 7pm and is on-going. Our website will have all the details by the end of February.

Camp counselor and CIT applications can be found on our website. We will begin interviews at the end of March.



KCC Adult Classes

Tai Chi with Nobuo Nishi

Fridays 9:30-11:00am

Drop-in fee is \$15

This class teaches Tai Chi for better health, improving students' strength, balance, flexibility, and dexterity. A gentle martial art, Tai Chi is a safe, rewarding activity for people of all ages and levels of health. Tai chi emphasizes the mind and body working in harmony. Relaxing the body and calming the mind help reduce stress and increase the flow of energy.

Register at KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/adult-classes

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

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

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

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

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg. E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. E-mail: kcrc@yahoo.com, or call 510-525-0292. Our website is: www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org.



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