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### Community Center

*...from front page*

That scope includes a great deal: Outside, the parking spaces and walkways leading to the front, side, and back entrances will be re-graded and re-paved. Inside, perhaps the most extensive visual difference will be seen in the kitchen, where access-compliant cabinets, counters, sink, and faucet will be installed. The back door to enter the kitchen from the outside will be reversed to provide proper clearances.

Wider doorways and automatic doors that can be opened with a push button will be installed at main entries. There will also

be minor changes in the restrooms to improve clearances. The fact that major changes were not needed in the restrooms made the accessibility improvements less costly than they could have been.

KPPCSD received a WW grant from Contra Costa County to make improvements to Kensington Park. A portion of these funds was used to build the bathrooms near the Windsor Ave. entrance by the basketball court. The \$158,000 that remains will be dispersed to the district once the accessibility upgrades to the community center are completed.

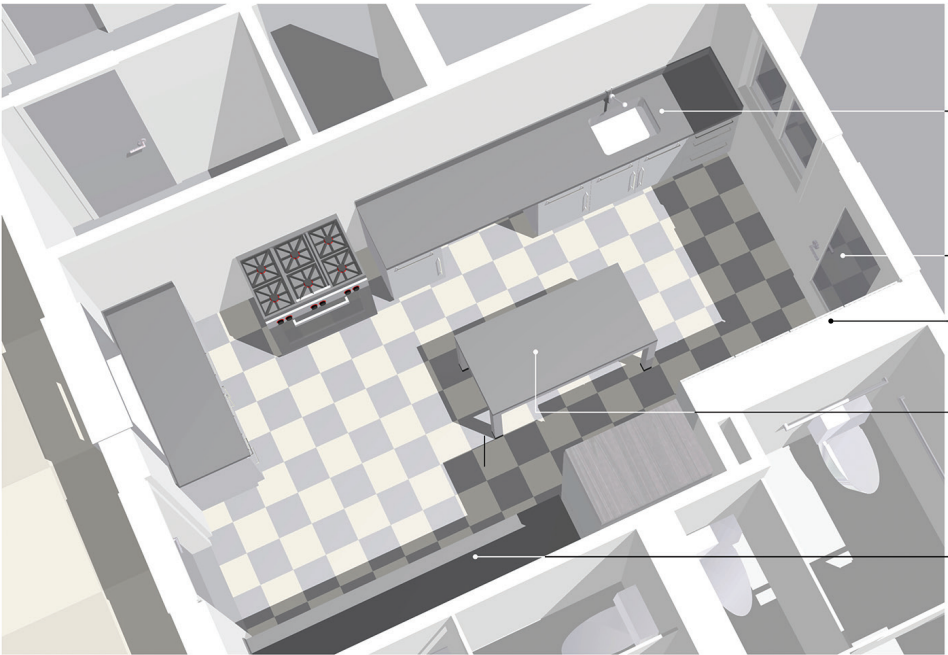
For more on the Community Center, please see page 9.



JULY-AUGUST 2019

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 77 NUMBER 7



New Access-Compliant Sink & Faucet

Door Reversed for ADA Clearances

New Doors & Hardware for Existing Storage

Moveable Low Table for Children's Cooking Classes

New Access-Compliant Counter Heights Throughout

Existing Range, Hood and Refrigerator to Remain

### Community Center Renovations Focus on Accessibility

By Sylvia Hacaj, KPPCSD director

Much of the discussion—and public perception—around the community center's renovation has focused on the seismic strengthening of the building. People point to the obvious aesthetic improvement of the bi-fold glass door system that will open to connect the interior to the lawn, where much of the action happens during special events. Yet one factor has not received enough play, and it is truly foundational; this project will improve

accessibility so that those with physical challenges can use the center with even greater ease.

In 2015, Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) board director and then Park Committee chair Rachelle Sherris-Watt received board approval for Gilda Puente-Peters Architects and Certified Access Specialists (GPPA) to perform an accessibility study of the Community Center structure, its pathways to the building, and the accessible parking in front of the lawn.

Puente-Peters discounted her services because her daughter had attended the Kensington Community Council's

after-school classes in the building. Bart Jones, longtime resident, community volunteer, and architect of the 1988 renovation, worked alongside her, taking exacting measurements over the course of a full day. GPPA provided a site report and an evaluation of the level of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards and the State 2013 California Building Code (CBC) Title 24. These formed a crucial base of the scope of work for Glass Associates Inc.'s successful bid in 2017 to design and manage the renovation project.

[See Community Center, back page](#)



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679 Cragmont, Berkeley - 4br/2.5ba - LP \$1,495,000 -SP \$2,000,679  
784 Cragmont, Berkeley- 4br/3ba - LP \$1,350,000 -SP \$1,700,000  
7161 Norfolk Rd, Berkeley - 4br/2.5ba - LP \$1,649,000 -SP \$1,690,000  
2958 Hillegass Ave, Berkeley - 4br/1.5ba - LP \$995,000 -SP \$1,110,000  
1320 Henry Street, Berkeley - 3br/2.5ba - LP \$895,000 -SP \$1,010,000  
7718 Stockton Ave, El Cerrito - 3br/2ba - LP \$895,000 -SP \$1,205,000  
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Advertising Deadline ❖ AUGUST 8

Editorial Deadline ❖ AUGUST 10

## Letters to the Editor

### No Joy for Gioia

Dear Editor,

I hope the new majority fire board directors give up on consolidating the fire district with the KPPSCD and keep the fire district professionally managed and affordable. If Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia pushes for consolidation over professionalism, we should resist. He’s been our county supervisor more than twenty years, and we lost Doctors’ Hospital on his watch. Gioia backed Chuck Toombs, KPPCSD president, when the police chief used the district credit card for personal expenses. Ex-DA Peterson (forced to resign in 2017 after pleading to felony misuse of his campaign donations for personal expenses) hadn’t seen that as embezzlement. That was back when our police chief was also the district’s general manager and allowed to supervise himself. That chief was still in charge of our officers when the Reno scandal broke.

We aren’t a city, and we don’t have our own building department. The county issues our building permits and is charged with enforcing California building laws on our behalf. KMAC is charged with recommending approval of plans based on Kensington standards, but Gioia appoints KMAC members and refuses to require residents be informed of which projects KMAC will be reviewing at its upcoming meetings. According to Gioia, informing neighbors is optional.

County building official Jason Crapo has approved retroactive variances for Kensington construction projects and allowed changes in design and scope during construction, based on criteria not shared with the public. KMAC once recommended retroactive “community standards” design approval for a deep excavation and construction project on Arlington Avenue without a building permit. Arlington is on top of the Hayward fault. Worried neighbors called for help after a county drainage pipe was busted, but Crapo refused to halt construction and later approved a retroactive permit. So much for the famous California cutting-edge earthquake safety standards, in Kensington, anyway. (See “Rashomon the Driveway,” *Outlook*, February 2012)

Our last defense against Gioia’s wild county mismanagement may be our own professional fire department.

Anna Shane

### Parks Need Proactive Care

Dear Editor,

As a regular walker around Kensington and environs, I’ve noticed two public spaces that seem to be crying out for some grounds-keeping attention. While I’m thrilled that the three live oak trees recently planted in the tiny park at top of Coventry Road seem to be thriving (in part because an irrigation system was also installed), an impressive swath of foxtails has also benefited from the regular watering. These invasive weeds have rendered the railroad-tie steps that people normally use to traverse the lot useless. In addition to being an impediment to walkers of all ages and abilities, foxtails are also a significant health hazard to pets. When dogs get them stuck in their noses they can require surgical removal.

The main Kensington Park (areas around the Community Center) also seems to be suffering from what appears to be deferred maintenance. There’s a fair amount of dead wood, weeds and an abundance of poison oak on the site. Although warning signs have been posted, actual removal of the poison oak would be a much better and safer option.

Budgets are tight, and there are always competing priorities for the allocation of our communal resources. That noted, ongoing proactive care and maintenance of our public spaces will allow us to fully enjoy these resources, reduce hazards and ultimately save us money (by avoiding more costly large-scale clean-ups, potential lawsuits arising from injuries, etc., etc.) over time.

Jon Herbst

### Death by a Thousand Cuts

Dear Editor:

I am so saddened and angered to see such reckless desertification of our once beautiful woodland trail. Gone are the Forget Me Nots, Pink Ladies, and tree canopies. The fire management effort seems to have gone desperately awry, as we are actually more vulnerable now as the moisture held within the delicate soil/plant/tree ecosystem is drying out.

*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](mailto: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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The microbes and insect life is now compromised beyond its ability to survive, and the soil vulnerable to erosion is now covered in what will become flammable wood chips as they are exposed to sun. In short time the once active living soil will become dirt. The carbon stored in those beautiful old trees has now been released, not at all what we needed.

And to make matters even more distressful, I was given a very noncommittal answer from one of those responsible when asked if they were aware of Roundup being sprayed in the crudely hacked tree stumps. Although not discussed freely, we live in a cancer cluster here in the Kensington hills. Roundup sprayed just about everywhere is now hugely on many residents’ radar as one of the more plausible causes making walks on the trail a hazard for everyone, most sadly kids and dogs who have no say in the matter.

Yes, fire is a real threat, and how these fires are getting started is a serious question. Regardless of how, cleaning out dry brush seems like a sensible idea, but cutting down trees so disrespectfully and destroying the natural ecosystem beneath them is not. When are humans going to learn?

**Marcy Cravat**

**Fire Station Site Search**

Dear Editor:

Finding a location for the proposed fire station building is not an easy task. Ideally the site would be centrally located in the community, and the location would allow for acceptable emergency response times. Unfortunately most of Kensington is built out with few locations suitable as a potential site.

The Kensington Fire Protection District board has suggested the park is an attractive choice for the location of a new fire station. The site being mentioned is next to the library and fronts on the Arlington. But it is not without its problems. It is located at the heart of the park and has a lot of pedestrian traffic, especially children.

What always needs to be considered is that any building location along the Arlington falls within the Earthquake Study Zone. We could face a situation where a new fire station building survives a major earthquake only to have the adjacent roadway system collapse.

Beyond that, complications arise because of the steep slope of the hillside site. Extensive excavation would be required to provide a level pad for a new structure. Building on the site would be very expensive.

It may be prudent to consider a few other sites. Listed below are five locations that could offer an alternative to the park site. Three are located beyond the Earthquake Study Zone. As with the park site, each location has its problems: Summit Reservoir on Grizzly Peak Blvd.; Ace Hardware store site on the Arlington; San Pablo Filtration Plant property on Berkeley Park Blvd.; commercial parcel at the intersection of Oak View Ave. and Santa Fe Ave.; large flat triangular parcel located on Colusa Ave. across from the Sunset Cemetery.

If none of the sites are determined to be workable there is the eminent domain option of appropriating a private property for public use. Although this is never popular, it is an option.

It is important we keep in mind that locating a critical emergency service such as the fire station on a major earthquake fault seems shortsighted.

**John Gaccione**

**Falling on our Swords**

Dear Editor:

China has struck a mighty blow, with recycling facilities (and local jurisdictions) scrambling to escape the carnage of “National Sword.” It’s the newest policy of rejecting imports of recyclable materials because of high “contamination” levels. It was announced in 2017 and implemented in 2018, after a previous 2014 policy failed. “Green Fence” did not clean up America’s dirty recycling business as expected (perhaps a wall would have been more effective).

In June, I went to a talk by Bay View’s Greg Christie titled “Are You Recycling Wrong?” After a brief overview, members of the audience took over with questions, frequently holding up a bottle, cup, carton, etc., and asking, “Can this be recycled?” I looked through “educational” fliers that came with BV bills; most list materials that can and cannot be recycled (with pictures as visual aids).

But it’s going to be hard to remember which is which, without understanding why—like the difference between glass bottles and drinking glasses, milk and soup/juice cartons, loose and bagged plastic bags. One needs a PhD for that. The September 2018 flier was the first to mention that recyclables should be clean and free from contamination; the latest just said clean and dry. How clean is clean, and what is contamination? Christie explained, but with only about 50 residents present from over 2,000 Kensington households, most won’t get the message—basically pretty clean is OK, otherwise everything might become contaminated.

It has been posted on NextDoor, and observed on my street, that Bay View’s crew frequently dumps acceptable materials from curbside recycling containers in with garbage. The KPPCSD/BV contract allows Bay View to refuse to collect recyclables under certain circumstances, but it does not permit disposal in landfill, a violation of the 1989 California Integrated Waste Management Act. Neither BV’s nor KPPCSD’s general manager has responded to my request for an explanation of why this is happening.

Meantime, do the best you can and insist that your recyclables at least make it to the sorting facility.

**A. Stevens Delk, PhD**

**A Disgusted Neighbor**

Dear Editor:

The anonymous smear mug shot mailer targeting Interim Chief of Police Rickey Hull and the 4/5 progressive KPPCSD board sent to all Kensington households in early May was beyond the pale. The USPS bulk mailing permit #2196 from San Jose, CA was untraceable. The stamp-dated mug shot used in the flier was released by S. Jones SLPC, Solano Sheriff’s Office (SSO) on Feb. 27, 2019, and in response to my PRA request, S. Jones (SSO) identified the requestor as Justin E. Buffington of Rains Lucia Stern St. Phalle & Silver, PC. According to the client list on the firm’s website, the firm represents the Kensington Police Officers’ Association and numerous others across the state including Richmond’s. However, it is not known who actually mailed the flier.

The June 27, 2018 *East Bay Express* reported the Richmond Police Officers’ Association (RPOA) paid for “hit fliers” targeting local progressive government officials. The article, "The Firing of Captain Mark Gagan," stated, "...In every Richmond election

as far back as 2008, the RPOA has paid for hit-piece fliers to be distributed through the mail...In 2010, the RPOA sent a flier attacking Mayor Gayle McLaughlin's mental health. In another, councilmember Jovanka Beckles and former councilmember Jeff Ritterman were attacked for promoting yoga and meditation for at-risk youth. [Council-member] Martinez...was depicted...as marching with black bloc anarchists..."

Before the 2018 election, three poorly written, alarmist fliers (Kensington Independent) were sent to all Kensington households warning: “We...could lose our police department.” These fliers were also anonymous, and all had untraceable USPS permit numbers. The only evidence on the first flier was a cell phone number telling residents where they could get lawn signs.

Smearing and misinformation is the bottom of the ethical barrel! Is this now acceptable modus operandi in Kensington? I don’t think so, but still we need to know who was responsible for all of the repugnant fliers.

**Andrew Paul Gutierrez**

**April Police Log**

False alarms, medical calls, requests for extra patrols, vehicle stops, etc. not included.

**1** SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Franciscan Way. RP lent car to someone and believes that a tow company towed the car but may not be legit.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, landlord entered residence without permission or notice. RP believes nothing was taken.

**5** CITIZEN ASSIST, Coventry Rd. RP was told to call PD to enforce a custody order. 20:31 Welfare Check, Arlington Ave. Older female asking for help walking with a dog, wants to go home, cannot walk

**6** SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Arlington Ave. Four full bottles of wine dumped on RP's front yard .

VEHICLE THEFT, reported at KPD.

CITIZEN ASSIST, Arlington Ave. Female needing to get home, unable to make it there on her own.

**7** DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Coventry Rd. Loud drumming has been going on since this morning.

DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Coventry Rd. Noise complaint for construction. RP has questions about the noise ordinance for weekend construction.

AREA SECURITY CHECK, Arlington Ave. Intersection stop sign traffic enforcement.

**8** DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Colusa Ave. RP had a verbal altercation with a female neighbor. No weapons.

VEHICLE ACCIDENT, Santa Fe. Hit parked car.

**9** CITIZEN ASSIST, Vallet Rd. RP concerned if coyotes are moving more inland and thinks coyote might have ate her neighbor's cat.

PUBLIC SUBSTANCE INFLUENCE, Kensington Park. WFA Blue sweatshirt, blue pants, with a dog, RP said subject is slurring her speech. Situation corrected by PD.

ANIMAL CALL, Highgate Rd. RP says he has an animal trapped in his attic. Situation corrected by PD.

**12** ENTER & OCCUPY PROPERTY W/OUT CONSENT of Owner, Oceanview. Female, older, shorter gray hair sitting in a silver Honda, unk plate.

AREA SECURITY CHECK, Franciscan/Anson. RP says a black BMW drives fast in the area usually at 0800 hours possibly. Driver is possible male Juvenile. Per RP, Partial plate of P5.

WELFARE CHECK, Colusa Ave. Person asked about suicidal clauses in insurance policy, RP is from Northwestern Mutual Insurance. RP wants contact. Reported Situation checks out OK.

PERSON SEEKING ADVICE From PD, Norwood Ave. RP is concerned about her neighbor who refuses to tie cardboard together so that it can be recycled and it's piling up.

ANIMAL CALL, Kensington Park. Woman with dog off leash at the park. RP wants someone to come help her enforce the leash law.

**13** SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Arlington Ave. Thumping noise like someone is trying to get into residence.

**14** HAZARD, Beloit Ave. Broken water main running into street and yard.

Petty Theft, Stratford Rd. Unlocked veh rifled thru during the night, unknown if anything was taken.

PETTY THEFT, Lexington Rd. Bike stolen overnight.

ANIMAL CALL, Arlington Ave. Deer in backyard and can't get out. Has been there for two days. Unable to locate.

**15** BURGLARY, Kingston Rd. Rear window broken, child's backpack taken.

**17** SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Oceanview. Open door.

Vehicle Accident, Oberlin Ave. Vehicle vs gate. liquid pouring from veh . RP is witness.

**18** PETTY THEFT, Beverly Rd. Items taken from glove compartment.

**21** AREA SECURITY CHECK, Highland Blvd. Kensington Hilltop School. Checks out OK.

SECURITY OR BUSINESS CHK, Kensington Park. Checks out OK.

**22** CITIZEN ASSIST, Sunset Ct. 84-yr-old male collapsed, unable to get up. Transported to hospital.

HIT AND RUN, Kingston Rd. Vehicle sideswiped between last evening and this morning possible wht paint transfer.

**23** RECKLESS DRIVING, Amherst. RP did not get good plate, driver departed.

PERSON SEEKING ADVICE, Grizzly Peak. RP stated a road rage incident occurred in Marin Circle and continued into Kensington. Suspect vehicle white Ford Ranger. RP honked at Ranger at yield sign. Ford tailgated RP and threw food at his vehicle on Arlington.

**24** DUMPING ON PRIVATE ROAD or Property, Colusa Ave. RP says trash has been dumped ifo her home a few weeks ago and it keeps piling up in the last couple of days.

**25** AREA SECURITY CHECK, Mechanics Bank. RP is office manager, says a small group of protesters is ifo the business and are passing out fliers and holding signs. Protesters are on the sidewalk near the parking. Requesting police presence so protesters remain peaceful and RP wants in person follow-up.

HIT AND RUN, Colusa Ave. Truck backed up into RP and departed north on Colusa. Black pickup, no plate.

MISC AUTO, Edgecroft Rd. Veh has been blocking RP's front gate for 4 days. Rp wants vehicle to be warned today and if not gone by tomorrow wants it towed.

**26** WELFARE CHECK, Coventry Rd. LOL walking in middle of the roadway with 2 canes, lighted hat and a small dog.

**27** PETTY THEFT, Oceanview Ave. RP discovered today front plate was missing from his vehicle. RP was parked in Oakland yesterday and says it might have happened there but is unsure.

**29** MISC AUTO, Coventry Rd. Silver SUV double-parked for over an hour.

ANIMAL CALL, Highgate Ct. 2 husky dogs running through yard, n/b on Highgate.

**30** BURGLARY, Highgate.

May Police Log

**1** DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Anson Way. RP says her neighbor said some vulgar things to her and it's not the first time and has witnesses.

ANIMAL CALL, Edwin Dr. RP says massive swarm of bees in front walkway going from porch to street curb. RP is currently inside his residence. .

CITIZEN ASSIST, Eagle Hill Rd. Former employee "broke into" RP's house via unlocked door. Woman took RP's dog but then brought it back hours later. RP suspects woman is mentally unstable. Woman has already departed after having a long conversation with RP.

MISSING PERSON REPORT, Ardmore Rd. Boyfriend not responding to RP's phone calls. Phone pinged to Bus Depot in Richmond. BF is usually very reliable and does not change plans. RP had BF's neighbor check to see if he's at home in Oakland but he was not. RP concerned. Good mental health and physical health. No arguments. Does not abuse alcohol or drugs. Last spoke at 1830 by phone and text at 1900 saying he's waiting for the bus in SF and en route to Ardmore.

**2** PETTY THEFT, Yale Ave. RP took a Lyft home and driver drove away, and his keys were in the veh. RP spoke w/ Lyft and they want him to pay for the driver to come back. They want \$16 for him to come back.

DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Oak View Ave. Group of potential protesters.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Yale Ave. RP says a company named " Gogo Grandparent" took material from his vehicle and his keys and wants payment for it. RP says he knows who it is and has contacted them but they won't comply.

ARREST FOR OUTSIDE AGENCY WARRANT, Edgecroft Rd. RP says she saw a woman on the news who is living in her residence in the in-law unit. RP said she is subletting from her tenant. RP called Emeryville PD and left a message. Arrest Made.

ASSISTANCE TO AN OUTSIDE AGENCY, Sunset View Cemetery. USO SFO brought back a fallen Marine and the destination is above location. They are requesting a unit meet them there and a call back for directions. They departed the airport at 2220 hrs.

**3** SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Rugby Ave. Vehicle with all doors open.

**4** SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Beloit. RP wanted to let officers know that they were on their way home behind a car that was driving slowly towards Los Altos and it only had dealer plates.

**5** SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Arlington Ave. RP believes that someone obtained the code to his garage door and has been opening and closing it since this morning 1 girl 2 boys. One male had on red jacket. Now 4 persons in the garage 3 males one is trying to take camera. RP is telling someone to stop taking things but no one is heard in the background. RP is stating that someone is trying to take his insulation. One male is under the car and one is on top of the garage door. Unkn weapons. RP is yelling at a female telling her the police are on the way; he says she is trying to escape. RP stated that male and female broke garage window. RP stated they are coming out of the garage.

**6** SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Coventry Rd. Veh parked in wrong direction, res feels uncomfortable and would like to have it checked out. Advised they had problems with the previous owner of their res in the past.

RECKLESS DRIVING, Arlington/Amherst, black Japanese-make sportscar with black/gold license plate approx. 50mph onto Amherst. Unable to locate.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Rincon Rd. Pry marks to front door, no appearance of entry gained, have pd enter through right side gate to path to front door.

**7** SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Yale Ave. RP calling to advise of a fight and dogs barking at residence, RP hung up. Police/Medical/Fire Assistance Refused.

**8** SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S, Arlington Ave. Anon RP called from KPD phone... transient BMA 60s 60'2-6'03 heavysset, blue jumpsuit, blue shirt over blk hoodie, blue pants w/wht stripes, wht shoes with 2 backpacks, sitting on the bench ifo Marvin Gardens Real Estate talking to himself and threw a cigarette butt in the gutter.

**10** DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Ocean View Ave. Dog barking for 40 minutes in back yard that RP shares with resident. RP wants follow up.

**11** SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Ardmore Rd. RP arrived home, saw car with 2 unkn persons in veh. RP entered home and heard someone ringing neighbors' doorbell, minutes later someone was knocking on her door and she was not expecting company. RP would like for officer to check area. RP would like contact. Unable to locate.

**12** DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Avon Rd. RP says "crazy" loud party and kids screaming. Approx age of party goers in 20s, keeps waking RP up.

DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Avon Rd. Party still going on and would like officer to respond again.

ANIMAL CALL, Windsor Ave. Baby deer injured in backyard.

**13** IDENTITY THEFT, Los Altos Dr. RP received a letter from Paypal advising someone opened up a digital line of credit in her name. Disposition: Case Report Taken.

**14** SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Yale Ave. RP received a vm at 0918 hours stating he was going to be arrested for a warrant if he doesn't respond to caller with social security number.

**15** ANIMAL CALL, Kenyon. RP says two dogs were walking with owner unleashed and they were growling at him and his puppy. RP said dog owner yelled at him.

VEHICLE THEFT, Coventry Rd. RP says vehicle is not parked ifo gate when he returned home.

**16** SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S, Eldridge Ct. AMA, light gray hoodie, dark pants, standing on the corner w/ small dark blue/black backpack on the ground. RP asked if he needed help and subj said he was just "processing" something. LSH NB toward Coventry. RP wants contact. Unable to Locate,

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Amherst Ave. RP received phone call from at 0900 hours asking for her social security and stating she will be arrested if she does not comply.

**17** DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Avon Rd. Screaming and loud music, same house as last week.

PERSON SEEKING ADVICE FROM PD, Avon Rd. RP lives in LA and is renting his home out in Kensington. Wants to know the eviction process and history of calls for service to the residence.

ANNOYING TELEPHONE CALLS, Avon Rd. RP received a call from someone claiming to be from Social Security, saying that there was a warrant out for her arrest.

HIT AND RUN, Lawson Rd. Vehicle hit RP's car and is now smashed into a wall running unoccupied, RP did not see driver she became aware from sound of smash. " No keys in ignition."

VEHICLE THEFT, Lawson Rd. Veh was stolen from at 1400 hrs.

DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Lenox Rd. Light on in front yard and hammering. RP does not want to be contacted.

**20** SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Sunset Dr. RP advising she's watching a neighbor's res. while they're are on vacation. Stated there's a strange veh parked in driveway that shouldn't be there. Advised owners veh is also parked in driveway, Toyt Prius. Texted owner and she advised it's nobody that she knows.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Canon Dr. Two males and 1 female identifying themselves to RP's 69yro husband as OPD at residence, RP is near Lutheran church in dk gry toyt Sienna says her husband and 36yro son are home, does not believe it is legit, RP made statement that she was not in an accident or hit and run, CHP advised they were there investigating an accident. Assistance Given to Outside Agency.

**22** VANDALISM, WELLESLEY AVE. RP says her gate to garage was disassembled and placed in driveway and garage wall vandalized.

VANDALISM, Berkeley Park Blvd. At EBMUD facility. Fire extinguisher residue, computer stolen, shattered windows. RP was advised to wait out front.

HAZARD, Arlington Ave. RP says there is signage blocking pedestrians from walking on the sidewalk and they have to get in road to walk around signs.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S, Norwood Ave. Unk race male unk clothing was skateboarding in the area and RP thinks he was dangerous since he was weaving in and out of the road. L/s seen going towards Berkeley.

**23** WELFARE CHECK, Arlington/Norwood. WMA possible transient with two backpacks, lying on his back on the sidewalk waving his hands in the air. RP wants to remain anonymous and ultimately concerned for subject's well-being. L/s walking towards El Cerrito.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Oceanview Ave. RP says he's getting odd phone calls from subjects asking him to change his ip address on computer but caller id is showing his wife's name.

**24** SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Lenox Rd. WMA blk jkt, WFA lt jkt late 30s associated to veh parked wrong way trying door handles to mini cooper and gry suv, responsables still in the area, RP is in a silver Ford Expedition.

**25** ANIMAL CALL, Cambridge Ave. Questions about dead deer in backyard.

**27** SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S, Stanford Ave. Unk race male gray shirt and pants standing IFO location looking at neighbor's house for approx 10 minutes. Subject has left unknown direction, unknown method of travel. Unable to Locate.

**28** DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Colusa Ave. Family members pushing each other, aggressor is BFA 20's multi colored bandana, flower pants smoking marijuana in parking lot, no weapons.

**29** VANDALISM, Coventry Rd. Sign with graffiti.

DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Colusa Ave. RP says members from a family were asked to leave service after verbal altercation. RP stated he did not want PD response and wanted to avoid sight of police car stirring up more trouble.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Coventry Rd. RP taking a walk with her dog and noticed front door open, lights on upstairs, no cars at the residence.



We Need Fiscal Common Sense and Strategic Thinking

By Andrew Reed

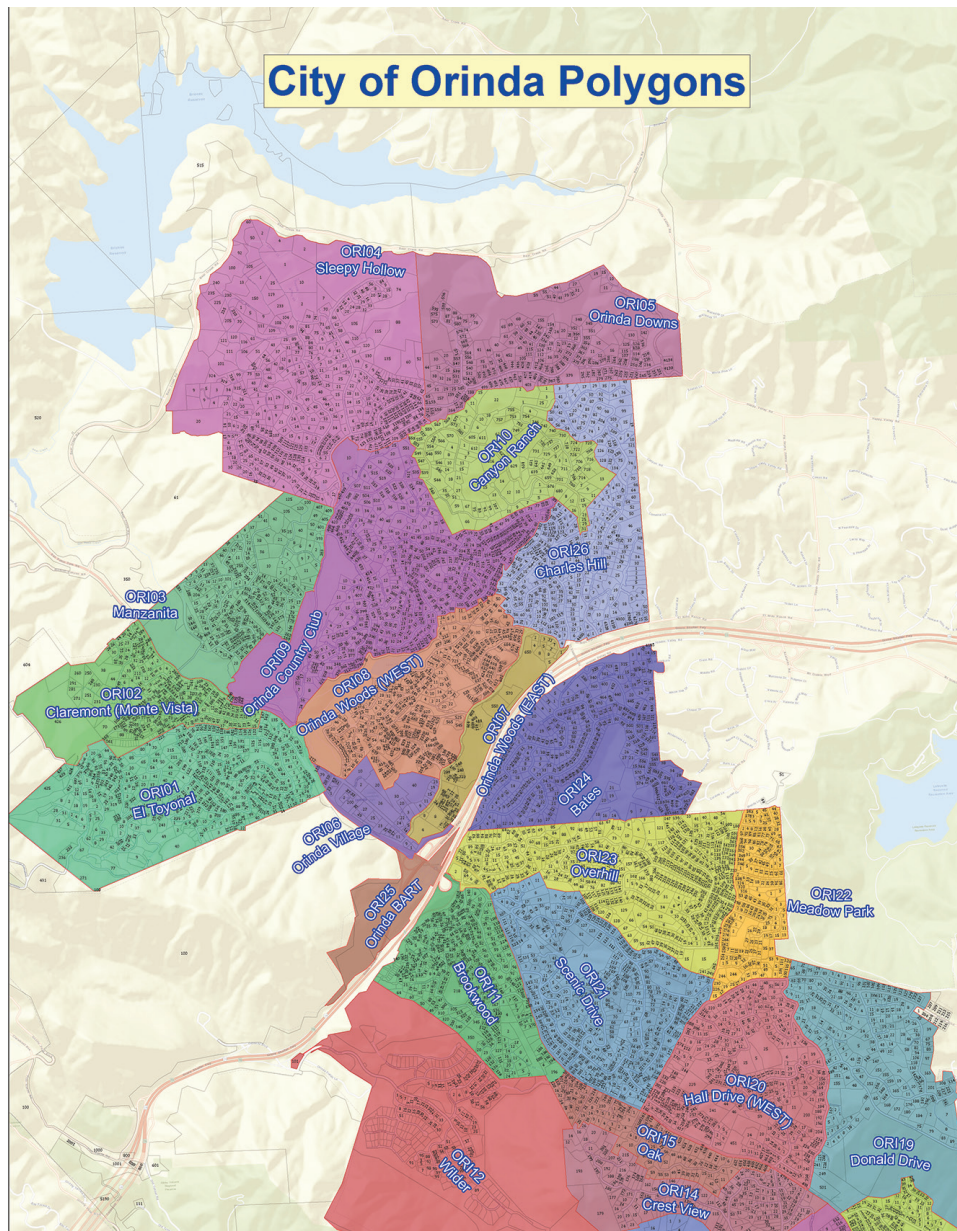
Our crime rate is historically low. Our police response times are great. We have spent over 100k on consultants who stated in a public meeting that we should keep our police department and start investing in improving it. But now our KPPCSD board is spending another \$12,000 to get bids for outsourcing the department in whole or in part.

The board has funded consultants to tell the KPPCSD General Manager Tony Constantouros how to arrange administrative functions and a staff of two. Shouldn't a manager earning \$100k for half-time work be able to do this himself? Now the general manager, with majority board support, has decided to hire a half-time chief of police and hire a placement company to find said chief. Yet this manager told us months ago that nothing should be done on police leadership until the board decided on keeping or outsourcing our police.

All the while, our recent budget surplus of 600k per year is projected to go to roughly zero or worse for the next few years. Serious pension funding concerns remain, and the Community Center remodel is dramatically going up in cost. Add to this poorly maintained district properties.

This chaotic board activity reveals a lack of strategy and discipline. Please call and/or email your KPPCSD board directors and ask them to:

1. Stop consultant spending and the proposed part-time chief of police action and launch a search for a fully qualified, dedicated, full-time chief to start a long-term rebuilding process;
2. Rethink the general manager role as currently structured. We are bleeding money (64 percent rise in administration costs) and have very little, if anything, to show for it;
3. Cooperate with the Kensington Fire Protection District board to research a new public safety building on parkland. If I were a parent with children at Kensington Hilltop Elementary, I would want to keep our police locally controlled with a centrally located office close to the school; and
4. Consider how we would structure public services if starting a new town. Surely, we would have one organization with one full-time general manager and staff, and such a group would be able to efficiently act on matters such as the public safety building, park, police services, and the fire services contract. Email fire and police board directors and urge them to hold a town meeting to discuss a blending of the boards so we can create professional, cost-effective management of community needs.



# Polygons Save Lives

By Linnea Due

How can a geometric figure aid in emergencies? The Kensington Fire Protection District is about to find out. Through the efforts of El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Chief Michael Pigoni and battalion chief Joseph Grupalo, Kensington will be one of the first districts to test and adopt an emergency evacuation program built upon mapping neighborhoods to create clusters. The clusters of residences, called polygons, number around 150-200 homes, and are based on how people who live in the clusters would evacuate. The mapping takes into account the most likely routes to safety, where traffic choke points might occur, and other factors.

The program debuted in the Moraga Orinda Fire District. Grupalo has been keeping track of its progress. “I have been working closely with MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker over the past six months,” wrote Grupalo in an email. Grupalo describes Winnacker as “the driving force and visionary behind this forward-thinking, groundbreaking technology.”

After seeing how the polygons can help evacuate neighborhoods in the event of what Grupalo describes as a mega-fire scenario, one specifically powered by Diablo winds, he suggested that Kensington be the next target for the program's developers, ZoneHaven. The program, in its beta stage, is free for Kensington, but there are associated costs, such as printing out maps and paying the county for GIS data. At its April 10 meeting, the board allotted a limit of \$10,000. Grupalo says that he is grateful that ZoneHaven and Winnacker chose Kensington as its second beta project, as several large cities also showed strong interest. The project is expected to be completed August 1.

The idea is simple: Instead of issuing blanket alerts or evacuation orders, specific neighborhoods, divided into polygons, could be informed separately. Neighbors in immediate danger would be notified and would evacuate in an order defined by the movement of the fire, the size of the roadway out, and its traffic patterns. Evacuations would proceed in order of threat rather than a wholesale race that could result, as happened in Paradise, in automobile accidents, blocked roads, and lost lives. Writes Grupal, "During a fast-moving Diablo Wind-driven fire, an event in which time becomes the best life safety ingredient, the Evacuation Decision Support Tool is the present-day solution to increase time."

Time allows neighbors to contact people they know are particularly vulnerable and gives them those few extra minutes to negotiate Kensington's narrow, winding streets safely.

Meanwhile, KFPD board director Kevin Padian, through contacts at UC Berkeley (where he teaches), is spearheading a traffic study program. This fall, a group of students will study Kensington's traffic patterns, choke points, and parking distribution. Pigoni says that this information can be fed into the polygon program "to make it smarter." One of the advantages of the polygon project is that it can be continually tweaked to take into account new parking rules, road construction, and other changes in the environment that could impact safety. Says Grupalo, "In addition, the Evacuation Decision Support Tool also enhances the ability of the Fire Department, Police Department and County Dispatch to all work in concert with each other during an inherently chaotic event."

As clever as the program is, polygons can only function with your help. Grupalo writes, “The extra time gained is utilized through a notification process. The notification will come from the CWS (Community Warning System)—but only if signed up to receive the alerts.” Please sign up at the Contra Costa County website. It’s easy and free. If you haven’t done it, do it now—and if you can’t figure it out, ask a neighbor or go to the Kensington Library and ask a librarian to help you.

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# A Photographer for the Birds

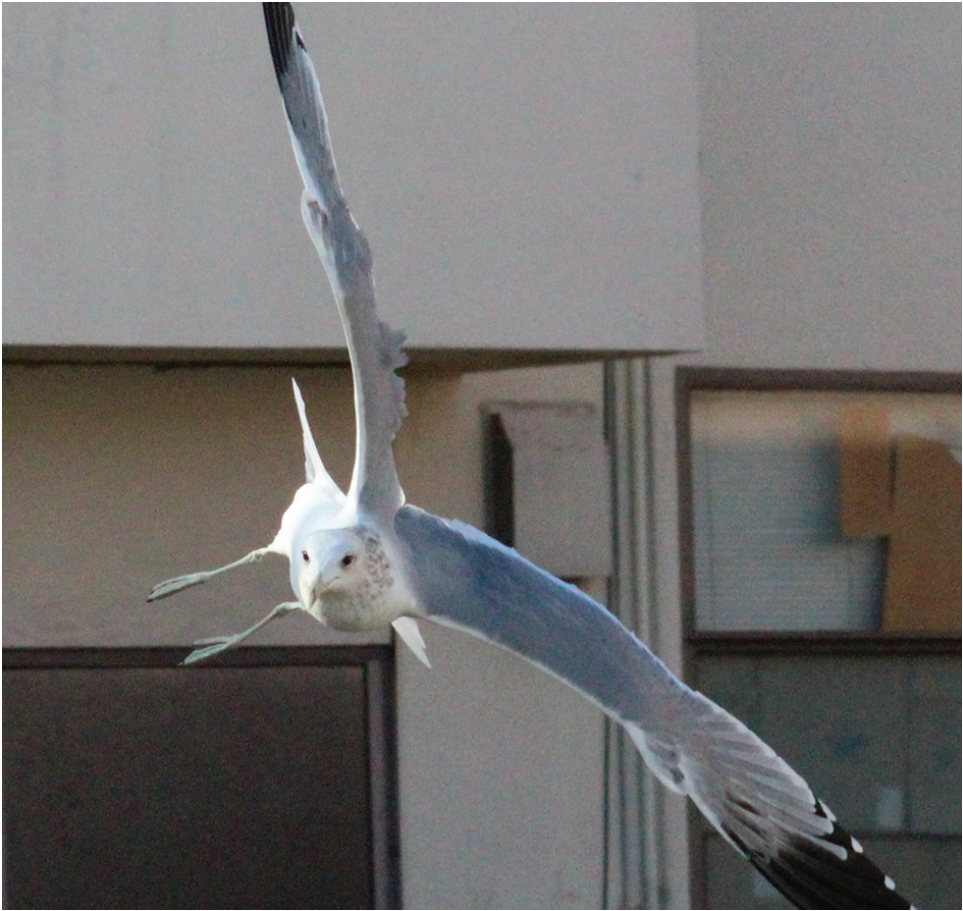


By Linnea Due

Everyone has unique talents—and high school rising senior Ford Whitefield-Brewer is lucky enough to claim several. He’s a photographer of merit, a bird lover, and an ambulance chaser. That last might seem sketchy, but Whitefield-Brewer wants to be a first responder, so he follows emergency calls on his scanner. “Wherever I go, I have my camera with me,” he says. “I have the scanner on all the time. Birding is a hobby in between. I have a bunch of feeders, and I also walk around Kensington to see what birds I can find.”

His hobby might turn out to be more than that, given his skill. He uses a Canon PowerShot with a long lens. But if he ends up being a firefighter, he’d love to be in his home base of Kensington and El Cerrito. “I really like the people who work here,” he explains. “They’re always really friendly.”

He just completed the department’s CPR/First Aid class and is now starting CERT training. He plans to take EMT classes once he’s in college and is also considering signing up for the National Guard. “I love helping people, and that’s another way to serve my community,” he says.



## Recycling: Complicated, Constantly Changing

By Linnea Due

On the regular monthly potluck night at Arlington Community Church, Bay View Refuse and Recycling manager Greg Christie came to discuss the recycling environment. In a word: confusing. “We’re back to basics with recycling,” Christie said. “The ‘Green Fence’ China enacted didn’t ban imports but put a restriction on how clean they could be.” China demanded that recyclables have 0.5 percent contamination, while the average US “export” contamination rate was between 5 to 8 percent or greater.

Many people remember separating out the different colors of glass and numbered plastics in separate buckets. That grew costly for several reasons: people didn’t pay attention to the numbers, trucks needed separate bins to accommodate the various categories, and all the little buckets meant collectors were constantly leaning over and lifting numerous times per stop, resulting in bad backs. So many companies, including Bay View, which services Kensington, went to single-stream, where recycles are sorted by hand and machine.

Christie said the plastics market is in flux. “Just because it has a symbol on the bottom doesn’t mean it’s recyclable,” he said. “And just because a produce bag is green doesn’t mean it’s recyclable either.” After a brief introduction, people asked questions or held up show-and-tell objects, and it soon became obvious how perplexing it all is.

A few surprising takeaways: some plastic bags, such as those enclosing newspapers, can be recycled so long as they are collected in quantity and stuffed into one bag. “Otherwise,” Christie said, “they just gum up the machines.” If you can rip it and see fibers in a carton, it can be recycled (for example, half-and-half cartons). If you cut the plastic spout from other cartons, they can be recycled so long as they don’t have a thick plastic coating inside. “Paper” coffee cups are tricky as there are several kinds: some are coated with plastic and cannot be recycled, some have a very light coating on one side and can be recycled, some are all paper and can be recycled. Aluminum foil is fine as long as it’s fairly clean. “What’s clean?” several asked, citing not wanting to waste water washing something that might end up getting tossed at the other end. “It doesn’t have to be perfectly clean,” Christie said.

The discussion turned to food waste—Christie said that 35 percent of garbage in the US is food waste that could be composted. Kensington does not yet have a composting program: “You need to make a decision,” Christie said. He pointed out that items could be composted that are now being thrown away, such as pizza boxes and paper takeout containers (some can be recycled if they are not too dirty).

KPPCSD director Eileen Nottoli urged the audience to support food waste pickup, which would cost around seven percent more than residents currently pay. Two containers would be provided: a kitchen pail for inside the house and a wheeled 65-gallon cart with a hinged lid. The carts, which would include yard waste, would be picked up weekly.

One concern is that the food composting program may reduce the amount of green waste that Bay View now picks up twice a month. In a later phone interview, Christie said that people could still have surplus green waste in bundles or separate containers or could ask for a second 65-gallon can. “But when you shift to a four-week program,” he pointed out, “it works out over time. The 65-gallon carts hold around three garbage cans full, and it’d be picked up weekly. But you would be able to put out beyond the one cart if you do have overflow.”

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Painting is a low cost way to brighten a space. However, indoor air can be three times more polluted than outdoor. To combat this, choose low or zero-VOC paints.



If you’re staging a home, consider an eco-friendly stager who sources local or vintage furniture, repurposes materials and transports using hybrid vehicles and eco-friendly packaging.



A clean house is essential for selling your home for top dollar. Unfortunately, most cleaning products are laden with toxins. Consider DIY cleaning products or hire a green house cleaning company.

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We hope these tips give you some ideas for greener house prep. And, if you’re looking to buy or sell or just have a question about the East Bay market, give us a call or stop by the Zip Code East Bay office.

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# K E N S I N G T O N

## Community Education

### KASEP Kensington Afterschool Enrichment Program

## KCC Summer Camp is in motion!

Top Five Reasons To Come to KCC Summer Camp

1. Your children’s friends from Kensington Hilltop are already here.
2. We are open from 9-5pm with before care and after care for working parents.
3. It’s affordable! At KCC we know about the many demands on parents and we want to keep summer camp costs low for you.
4. Every day campers get 45 minutes of arts/crafts, 45 minutes of tennis and 45 minutes of self-directed time (foosball table, ping pong, lanyards, board games and more).
5. One fee includes pizza lunch on Friday, free T-shirt, field trip entrance fees and transportation, and a snack each afternoon.

We are absolutely thrilled to have a new Camp Director this year. Marshall Doty comes to us as a Hilltop, Prospect Sierra, ECHS graduate/alumni and just completed his first year at Rice University. He knows many of the campers and was a camper himself. He is caring about the campers and the rich history of the camp. He will join Hannah Parks, Head Counselor and returning counselors, Aaron Moor, Sophia Ortiz, Tom Page, Erich War-nock, Sofia Dower-Vazquez, Cammie Grant, Athena Lynch, Kaylyn Ta and new staff members; Jake Abt, Henry Badoud, Asia Brantley, Noah Hatte-vik, Gretta Kirkby, Ben Miele, Sierra Parks, Sam Reed, Bobby Shore, Anna Thomsen and Lila Zuckerman.

**KCC Summer Camp 2019- Online enrollments are available now and available on your mobile device as well, <http://kensington-communitycouncil.org>**

#### Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

**Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, RECREATION BUILDING - ROOM A \$10\***  
**New location due to the community center construction**

The tai chi class is based on Dr. Paul Lam’s Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention program, which has been taught to millions worldwide. 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. The 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](mailto:nnishi50@gmail.com)**

#### Tai Chi Chuan

**Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, RECREATION BUILDING ROOM A, \$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](mailto:kccrec@yahoo.com), or call 525-0292. M-F, 1:00-5pm.

**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.



## KCC Summer Camp Activities and Schedule 2019

\$310 per week; 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

July 4th (short week): \$248

Field Trips on WEDNESDAY

\*All Specialty Courses and Field Trips are subject to change\*

#### Week 1 June 10 - June 14

- Specialty: Carpentry with Sandy
- Field Trip: Pump it Up

#### Week 2 June 17 – June 21

- Specialty: Art/Cooking with Vicky
- Field Trip: The Jungle

#### Week 3 June 24 – June 28

- Specialty: SkyHawk Sports Medley with Victor
- Field Trip: 101 Surf Sports & McNears Beach

#### Week 4 July 1 – July 5

- Closed July 4, Short Week
- Specialty: Art/Cooking with Vicky
- No Field Trip
- Friday Activity: Jumpy Houses and Obstacle Course

#### Week 5 July 8 – July 12

- Specialty: Skyhawks Sport (Golf) with Victor
- Field Trip: Antioch Water Park

#### Week 6 July 15 – July 19

- Specialty: LEGOs Play-Well Technologies
- Field Trip: Bladium

#### Week 7 July 22 – July 26

- Specialty: SkyHawk Sports Medley with Victor
- Field Trip: Scandia

#### Week 8 July 29 – August 2

- OLYMPIC Week
- Specialty: Ultimate Frisbee / Cooking with Vicky
- Field Trip: Oakland Zoo

#### Week 9 August 5 – August 9

- Specialty: Contemporary & Hip Hop Dance
- Field Trip: Bladium

#### Week 10 August 12 – August 16

- Specialty: Environmental Science
- Field Trip: Walnut Creek Clarke Pool
- Friday Activity: End of Summer Jumpy Houses and Obstacle Course

Morning Rotation: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

- Art and Crafts led by KASEP Teacher Vicky
- Tennis group lessons with Kim
- Self-Directed Time: camper can play games inside or be outside (soccer, ping pong, card games, baseball, etc.)

Specialty Teacher Activity: 1:00 pm

- Campers are broken into 3 groups, by age. Lesson is 1 hour for 3 days a week (Mon, Tues, & Thurs). When lesson is finished: friend time, tether ball, ping pong, lanyards, and friendship bracelets take over.
- 1:00-2:00 Grades 1st – 2nd
- 2:00-3:00 Grades 2nd – 3rd
- 3:00-4:00 Grades 4th – 6th

## KASEP

In the midst of summer, we have already begun planning for Fall KASEP. Our Fall KASEP brochures will go home in student backpacks the 2nd week of school, August 26th-30th and our website will be updated with the Fall schedule and classes by mid-August. [www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org](http://www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org)

Please make sure you already have an account created BEFORE September 9th because some classes fill up in the first 5-10 minutes of registration. If you’ve forgotten your password, please request a new one and do NOT create a new account. Families with multiple accounts create accounting woes. Our office is always open on Registration nights to help families.

#### Important Dates for Fall 2019

- Tuesday, September 10th Fall KASEP Registration - 7:00pm for Kindergartners and 7:30pm for Gr. 1-6
- KCC office will be closed from August 19 - September 3rd
- Website will be updated by mid-August with Fall classes
- Saturday, September 14 KCC Family Movie Night- *Incredibles 2*

Enjoy the long summer days and we look forward to welcoming you back in the Fall!

# Kensington Calendar

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

**Ongoing:**  
**Jazzercise with Kevin Knickerbocker** Mondays-Fridays, 9am \$20 class or \$55 unlimited per month. ACC.  
**Kundalini Meditation**, Mondays, 7-8 pm, (1st-timers: req'd intro by appt at 6:30. RSVP [amrita@heartofc.org](mailto:amrita@heartofc.org)). \$15 per class, \$10 sr/std. ACC.  
**Mindful Yoga with Wendy Beckerman** Tuesdays, 9:15am, bring yoga mat. \$18 drop-in or discount for series. ACC.  
**Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention** Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Building E at the park, \$10  
**Israeli Folk Dance** Wednesdays, \$6, lessons/beginners 8pm, request dance party starts at 9pm. ACC.  
**Tai Chi Chuan** Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Building E at the park, \$10

## JULY

**July 1 Movie Monday:** *The Hobbit* Not the recent bloated three-movie series by Peter Jackson. This animated version from 1977 is much better and truer to the spirit of the novel. Surprisingly engaging songs too. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.  
**July 1 Kensington Library Knitting Club** “The Castoffs” All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. 6:30pm. Free.  
**July 2, 9 & 30 Family Storytime** Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm.  
**July 7 Operation Dignity** They have worked for 25 years placing 200 veterans a year in housing and employment. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**July 8 Plein Air Showcase** The El Cerrito Art Association presents a special mid-summer evening with a potluck social, sale of extra supplies, art books and equipment to fund our Annual

Show cash prize awards. Artists in the Plein Air Group will share their approaches to making art in the great outdoors. 7pm, El Cerrito Community Center.

**July 8 Movie Monday:** *The Muppet Movie* Follow Kermit the Frog as he travels to California to become rich and famous. On his trip he picks up companions: Fozzie, The Great Gonzo and the porcine love of his life, the fabulous Miss Piggy. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.  
**July 11, 18 & 25 Baby & Toddler Storytime** Stories, songs, puppets, scarves, shaky eggs, and loads of fun! Kensington Library, Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free.  
**July 14 Dr. Frederick Shaw**, CEO and founder of Developing Indigenous Resources: 50 years of a career in international development in 11 countries. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**July 14 Film Series:** *The Hate U Give* 11:30am, ACC. Join us for a viewing of the acclaimed film, *The Hate U Give*. This is PG-13 rated, and if you have teens in the family, invite them to come. Local 8th grade classes to introduce the topic of race relations have used the book and film.  
**July 15 Movie Monday:** *The Gold Rush* Our second silent movie presentation after last year's *Kid Brother*. Charlie Chaplin attempts to strike it rich in the Klondike Gold Fields. Along the way he eats a shoe and makes dinner rolls dance. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.  
**July 15 Live Music!** French Gypsy Jazz at the Kensington Library Duo Gadjo’s music is largely inspired by the sounds of the ‘20s and ‘30s, when jazz was the new thing and Paris the place to be. Their style is often called “Gypsy Jazz” as pioneered by the great guitarist Django Reinhardt, who created this new genre by infusing the American art form with French and Gypsy influences. 6:30pm, free.  
**July 16 Paper Rockets!** How high do you think that you can shoot a paper rocket? Come and find out! Hint: It's probably a lot higher than you would think. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.  
**July 16 Family Art Night!** Make your own aliens, insects, microbes, plankton, and tiny sculptures of all kinds in this assemblage workshop. Discover

how to upcycle e-waste, hardware, books, and other odds and ends into real and imaginary creatures. Best for ages 8 and up, but the whole family is encouraged to attend. Kensington Library, 6pm Free.

**July 18 Bridge Night**, 6pm, ACC. Monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACCers and new guests.  
**July 21 Film**, *Gates of Jerusalem*. UUCB, 9:30am Free.  
**July 22 Movie Monday:** *The Secret Garden* Adorable orphan melts the frozen heart of her guardian by refurbishing an abandoned garden. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.  
**July 22 Kensington Library Book Club** Discussion of *Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. Book Club is open to all. 6:30pm, free.  
**July 23 Wild Things!** We aren't completely sure what animals will show up to this show. (We live in continual hope for a kangaroo!) But we do know that they will be completely awesome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

**July 28 Court Appointed Special Advocates** (CASA) for at-risk children and youth who have been abused or neglected. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**July 29 Packing Peanut Sculptures** Come build with starch-based packing peanuts that stick together with a dab of water. It takes a bit of patience to create with these, but it's loads of fun! You can make simple flat sculptures, animals, small towers, and whatever else might come from your imagination. Probably best for ages 5 and up. Kensington Library, 1pm. Free.  
**July 29 Movie Monday:** *The Iron Giant*. The debut movie of the director of The Incredibles. Hogarth Hughes befriends a 50-foot robot from another planet and has to protect him for the US Army. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.

## AUGUST

**August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 Baby & Toddler Storytime** Stories, songs, puppets, scarves, shaky eggs, and loads of fun! Kensington Library, 10:15am & 11:15am. Free.  
**August 1 First Thursday Fellowship**, 6pm, ACC. - ACC. Free. Monthly potluck supper and evening program, all are welcome.  
**August 4 Planting Justice**, a nonprofit

in which ex-cons are bringing nutrition awareness and raising gardens into Oakland public schools. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

**August 5 Kensington Library Knitting Club** “The Castoffs” All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. See July 1.  
**August 6, 20 & 27 Family Storytime** Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.  
**August 9 Person of the Planet Film Series:** *Woman at War*, 7pm, ACC, free. Woman at War is a new film from written & directed by Benedikt Erlingsson. Halla is a 50-year-old independent woman. But behind the scenes, she leads a double life as a passionate environmental activist. Known to others as "The Woman of the Mountain," Halla secretly wages a one-woman-war on the local aluminum industry.  
**August 11 Dr. Lilian Koziol**, UC Berkeley International House program director. “Cross-Cultural Communication.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

**August 13 Family Art Night!** Play with vintage kitchen gadgets, mis-cut keys, metal scraps, wire, and more! Use each object’s unique properties to construct a whimsical kinetic sound sculpture for a special place inside or outside your home. Hosted by Green Art Workshop. Best for ages 8 and up, but the whole family is encouraged to attend. Kensington Library, 6pm Free.  
**August 18 Women Serving in the Peace Corps** in their 80s. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**August 23 Bridge Night** 6pm, ACC. Monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACCers and new guests.  
**August 25 Social Justice Summer Forum** presentation; topic TBD. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**August 26 Kensington Library Book Club** Discussion of *The Comedians* by Graham Greene. 6:30pm. Free.  
**August 29 Person of the Planet Film Series:** *Paris to Pittsburgh* 7pm, ACC, free. Paris to Pittsburgh is a new film from National Geographic, produced by RadicalMedia and Bloomberg Philanthropies—narrated by award-winning actress and activist Rachel Brosnahan (*The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*).

# Community Center Renovation About to Start

By Anne Forrest

Plan to see some real changes to Kensington’s Community Center this summer! For the first time since 1987, Kensington is doing a major renovation of the Community Center. Affectionately called the “Youth Hut,” the Community Center hosts children’s afterschool classes and summer camp, Boy Scout and Girl Scout meetings, and school dances. It has been the site of hundreds of community meetings, fundraising events, family parties, weddings, and other celebrations over the years. It is Kensington’s only public meeting place and the heart of civic activity.

Over the last two years the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) has been working with the architecture firm of Glass Associates Inc. to refine what needs to be done to make our Community Center safe and accessible. Considerable time was spent with the community groups who use the building to determine present and future needs of the facility. The overall goals were to bring the building up to code seismic and safety standards, and to make the building accessible and more energy-efficient. The final list of improvements also includes: Front wall will be reinforced and opened to the outside with a folding glass wall; addition of an entry awning; new floors and new acoustical ceiling tiles in the main meeting hall; storage cabinetry wall for community use in main hall. KPPCSD has created a page on its website with plans and updates. For more details go to [www.kppcsd.org/community-center-renovation](http://www.kppcsd.org/community-center-renovation).

A contract for \$1.6 million has been awarded to KCK Builders, Inc. Funding comes from the KPPCSD budget and capital account, a Contra Costa County grant, and donations and pledges from Kensington Community Council (KCC), the Kensington Fire Protection District, Kensington Improvement Committee, the Friends of Kensington Library, and other K-Groups totaling over \$1.6 million.

In March, the KPPCSD’s finance committee unanimously recommended taking a loan from the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Finance Corporation to complete the project while taking advantage of low rates, with the objective of maintaining a reserve

for fiscal flexibility. The board ultimately authorized taking out a loan in the amount of \$250,000.

According to KPPCSD vice president Sylvia Hacaj, “The first stage will be to abate the asbestos in the old flooring in the main hall and then the rest of the renovation project can begin. “

The Community Center is used for many of Kensington’s weekly activities, all of which have been relocated. The Arlington Community Church, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, and the KCC Recreation Building are all being used in the meantime so that community meetings, clubs, and afterschool classes are not disrupted.

A group of residents, many of whom volunteer with community groups, has offered to help retire the \$250K loan. This group, known as Kensington 360, is asking all members of our community to donate what they can. All contributions are tax-deductible and will be collected and held by the nonprofit KCC until such time as distributions are made to the KPPCSD to help pay off the loan. Go to [www.kensington360.org](http://www.kensington360.org) to donate online or send a check made out to KCC at 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington, CA 94707. (Please note “CC Renovation” on check).

Kensington is a community that comes together to support community improvements, just like the last renovation 32 years ago. By pitching in, we can all share in the successes and take pride in what makes Kensington a great place to live and raise our families.



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# Get Involved and Stay Safe: Two Important Announcements from Kensington’s Fire Board

By Kevin Padian and Larry Nagel, KFPD directors

Are you a resident active in making our community safe in the event of a disaster? The Emergency Preparedness committee of Kensington’s fire board is now accepting applications for residents to join this committee. We need coordinators of efforts such as developing FireSafe communities, ascertaining and acquiring ownership of Kensington’s paths, developing better CERT training and emergency awareness, researching emergency alert systems such as remote sensors and sirens, and working with neighboring agencies.

Applications are available on the district’s website ([kensingtonfire.org](http://kensingtonfire.org)) and will be assessed on a rolling basis, subject to board approval.

Do you live on a street where vehicles are sometimes parked in a way that would impede access by emergency vehicles? Have you wanted to alert the vehicle’s owner but are not sure how?

On the fire district’s website, under “Services: Community Programs,” there is a flier that you can download and print. It can be distributed to neighbors or placed on windshields of vehicles that may not be allowing at least 14 feet of clearance.

Remember, it’s not only during fire season that we need to keep our roads especially clear! Emergency vehicles coming to save a life may need access at any time.

Thanks and please write to us with questions, ideas, or for further information: Larry Nagel ([lnagel@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:lnagel@kensingtonfire.org)) or Kevin Padian ([kpadian@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:kpadian@kensingtonfire.org)).



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## Town Meetings

KCC-July 1, Kensington Community Council, 6:30pm. 525-0292 Building E

KPSC-July 8, Aug. 12 Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/ Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

KARO/ECHO-New time, new location! July 8, Aug. 12, Amateur Radio Operators, 2nd Mondays, 7pm. Now at Arlington Clubhouse next to Arlington Park in El Cerrito 524-9815

KFPD-Aug 14, Fire Protection District 2nd Wed., 7pm. 527-8395

KIC-July 22, Aug 26,Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30. 524-7415

KPPCSD-July 11, July 25, Aug 8, Aug 22, Police Protection and Community Services District 7:30pm. 526-4141

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## PG&E SHUTDOWNS: WHAT TO EXPECT!

• From your Kensington Fire Protection District •

PG&E's new policy of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) is in effect now that fire season has begun. BE READY! Here's what you need to know:

- A shutdown could be deployed in our hills at any time and IT WILL NOT BE TEMPORARY. Rather, it will last 24-48 hours or even weeks, depending on weather conditions and inspections by PG&E and fire personnel.
  - When a shutdown is called, emergency personnel have to go all through an area and assess potential hazards of electric and gas lines. This may take quite a while. You will be without power! So take some precautions:
  - Keep your cellphones and laptops well charged. Use them sparingly.
  - Have a radio that doesn't depend on AC power, and stay tuned to news.
  - Alert friends and family that you may have to be offline for a while.
  - Pack your go-bag and keep it handy. Plan several evacuation routes.
  - Keep enough cash to get you through two weeks without credit cards or ATM machines. Get a mixture of small and large bills and some change.
  - If you have a home medical machine (CEPAP, etc.) that relies on AC power, you will need an emergency generator. Police and Fire/EMS will NOT provide these for you or help you to obtain them!!
- Plan now for auxiliary power or emergency transport out of the area.
- If you feel uncomfortable or know that you need extra time to evacuate, leave. You can always return in good time when conditions normalize.

Here is the website that explains PG&E's shutdown plans:  
[https://www.pge.com/en\\_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/public-safety-power-shutoff-faq.page](https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/public-safety-power-shutoff-faq.page)

**Questions? Call the KFPD at (510) 527-8395.**

## Newest Officer Carries on Family Tradition



Three generations of Fodors have worn the badge. This photo was taken at Tamiko Fodor's swearing-in on April 11 as Kensington's newest officer. From left, father Christopher Fodor, Tamiko, and her grandfather Paul. Photo by David Bergen.

By Linnea Due

As a young teenager, Tamiko Fodor thought about being a cosmetologist, but her father suggested that she join the Police Explorers program, run by the Boy Scouts. The program offers real-life law enforcement training for teens and young adults aged 14-21. "You learn what it's really like to be a police officer," Fodor says. "You do different trainings and scenarios, such as what would happen in this case or that." When asked how closely it hews to the real thing, she says, "Well, you know nothing bad is going to happen. Sometimes I have to remind myself, this is not a scenario, this is the real deal."

Fodor comes from a law enforcement background. For decades, her grandfather, Paul Fodor, worked as a park ranger for Sequoia National Park. "He retired when I was really young," she recalls. "I was five or six." Her grandfather had a hand in a famous arrest, that of Charles Manson and his band of misfits. Her father Christopher started his career in the Army and then went into police work. He is now a detective for the Pinole Police Department.

Fodor, 25, worked for a bit doing parking enforcement for the city of Hercules and then went to the police academy. She says that she didn't know a lot about Kensington before becoming the force's newest hire. "I knew it was a small community, and that the police and fire departments were housed together. I knew it had a really low crime rate."

The low crime rate has been cited as a detriment to hiring younger officers, but Fodor says for her it's a plus. "I knew that because the department is smaller that I would have the opportunity to follow a case all the way through. I've been here almost two months, and I'm loving it so far."

She says that she's been doing lots of patrolling—"It's a very nice one square mile." When asked how her father and grandfather like her new job, she says that they are very pleased. "Both have been really big supporters. As long as I'm happy, they'll be proud of me."

Kensington residents and her colleagues on the force have been welcoming. "The other officers have been super nice and friendly. And I've met a lot of people here. I have to admit that I'm better with faces than with names. People are so supportive. This is a great community."

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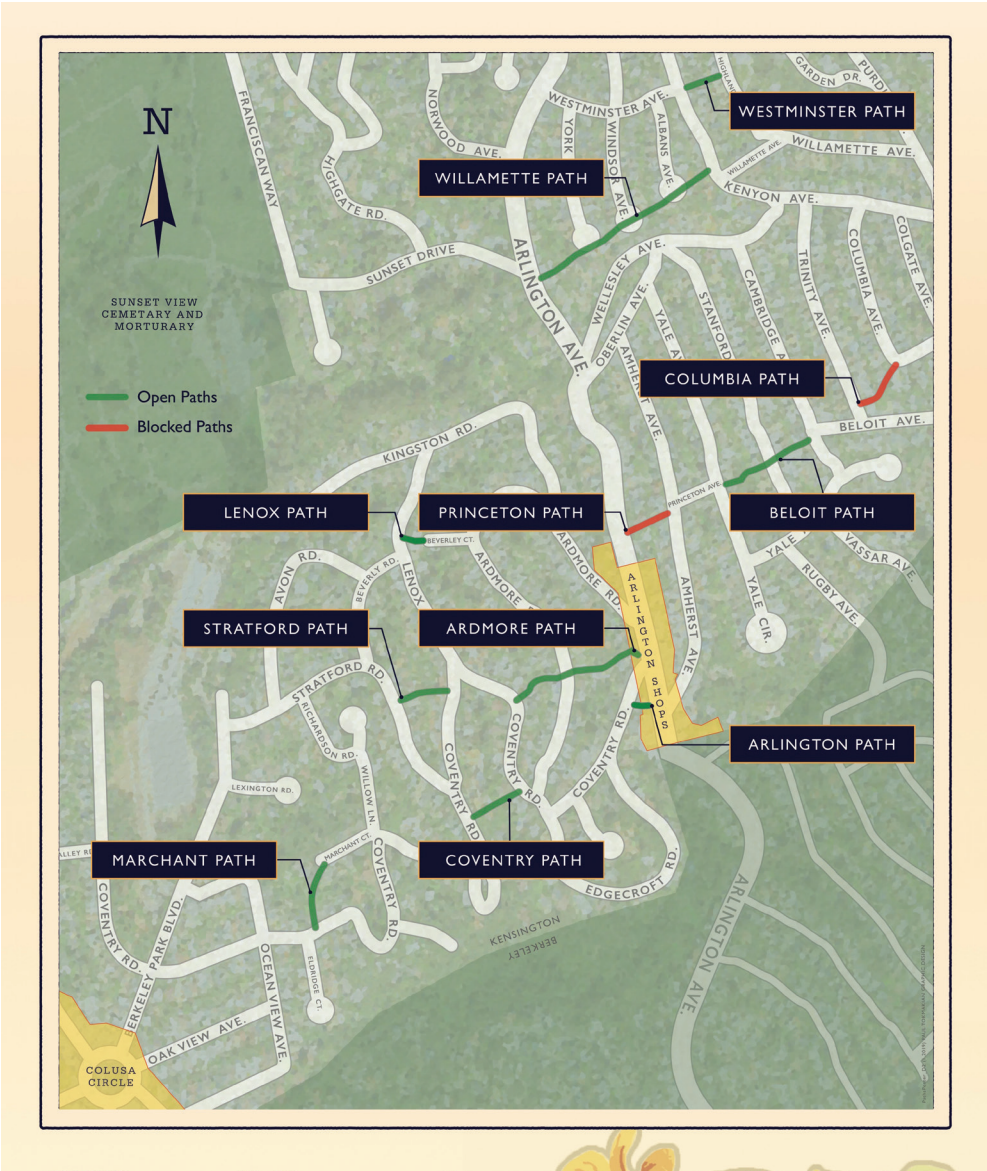
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# Paths a Precious Commodity

By Mark Altenberg  
Kensington finally has a path map so the entire community can explore and enjoy these precious pedestrian through-ways and potential evacuation routes. Planned by land developers in the early 1900s, these paths are part of the history of Kensington and a great way to get around town.

As mentioned in the June 2019 *Outlook*, you can pick up a copy of the new bro-chure with map at Raxakoul Coffee and Cheese on Arlington, at the Kensington Farmers’ Market or at Zip Code East Bay on Colusa (as long as supplies last!) Or, simply cut this map out of the Outlook and begin exploring these trails around town.

Since no one owns these paths, many are in disrepair and a few have never been improved so please use caution and be respectful of the adjacent neighbors. The Pathkeepers’ mission is to secure the paths under public ownership so the community can then plan for their improvements and their future.

Please subscribe to the Kensington Pathkeepers’ email address at kensing-tonpathkeepers.org to keep informed about the future of our paths.



Happy Camper at KASEP Summer Camp-See p. 8



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