

Bringing the Community Together

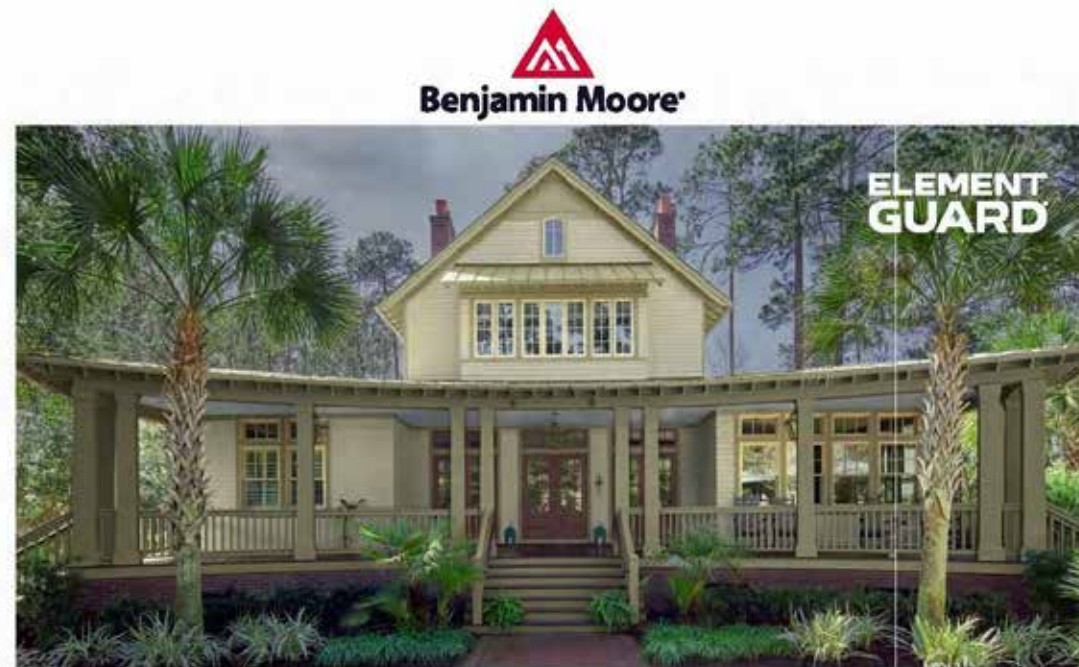
# KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

Available Online at [www.KensingtonOutlook.com](http://www.KensingtonOutlook.com)

JULY-AUGUST 2023

PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 81 NUMBER 6



### Give Your Home Beautiful Color and Protection from the Elements

Introducing Benjamin Moore® Element Guard®, a paint that performs in any weather and is specially formulated to tackle one of the most difficult painting environments: high moisture.

This premium exterior paint applies beautiful Benjamin Moore color to a variety of surfaces, resists cracking and peeling, and provides a mildew-resistant coating that withstands wind-driven rain, humidity and other harsh weather. Ask your painter to use Element Guard.



Visit [www.eastbaypaintcenter.com](http://www.eastbaypaintcenter.com) for more information.



East Bay Paint Center  
990 San Pablo Ave  
Albany, CA, 94706  
(510)524-6582  
[www.eastbaypaintcenter.com](http://www.eastbaypaintcenter.com)

## Changing the World One Pool at a Time



By Linnea Due

Last year Hilltop Elementary teacher Leah Bishop, now in her second year teaching kindergarten at Kensington, took a professional development course with Madeleine Rogin, author of *Change Starts with Me: Talking about Race in the Elementary Classroom*. In that course, Bishop learned to “teach kids to be peaceful changemakers in the community and in the world.” The

process is multi-faceted, helping kids figure out how to identify a changemaker, determine what the challenges are to change, whether the problem is solved, and much more. It sounds heady for kindergarten, but as Bishop says, at that age, “Everything is possible. They’re so open. When they see an issue that needs to be fixed, they’re passionate, and they feel they have the skills to make change. They’re silly and wonderful and very earnest.”

And talented. Towards the end of the year, the kids were looking for an opportunity to be changemakers themselves. The class had also focused throughout the year on oviparous animals, animals that lay eggs. And it developed that the UC Botanical Gardens is raising \$150,000 to redo its Japanese Pool, in which every year two species of newts lay eggs. “It sort of dovetailed,” Bishop said. “It’s a lot of money but we discussed that if everyone donated a little bit we can make it happen.”

So the kids devised posters asking people to donate. The posters are gorgeous, far above what you’d imagine could be done in kindergarten. “We spend a lot of time talking about how the work we do matters,” Bishop said. “We try our best on all our work. I have high standards, and I know that they can do it. They’re very proud of their posters.” Bishop took the posters around the area—there’s one at the library, a few on Solano Avenue, at Arlington Wine and Spirits and more.

Bishop has taught in the district since 2006. She emphasizes working in groups and says the class has grown very close. A few new first-graders will return to act as helpers with next year’s kindergarten class. Bishop considers herself lucky: she has three elementary school children at Hilltop, one starting kindergarten next year (“not in my class but next door”). Teaching at Kensington, close to her children, means that she can continue in her profession.

Those who want to make change in the newt world can do so by using the QR code on the posters or heading over to the UC Botanical Gardens website and clicking on “Save Our Newts!”

See Newts, page 5

# Kensington and Beyond Update

June 2023



**7351 Pebble Beach Way**  
SOLD | El Cerrito | 5 BR | 4 BA  
Selling Price: \$1,600,000



**774 Neilson Street**  
SOLD | Berkeley | 4 BR | 1++ BA  
Selling Price: \$1,380,000



**2309 Edna Street**  
SOLD | El Cerrito | 3 BR | 2 BA  
Selling Price: \$948,000



**1433 Devonshire**  
SOLD | El Cerrito | 3 BR | 2 BA  
Selling Price: \$1,181,000



**55 Fairmount Avenue #402**  
SOLD | Oakland | 3 BR | 2 BA  
Selling Price: \$975,000



**2112 King Drive**  
PENDING | El Cerrito | 7 BR | 5.5 BA  
Selling Price: \$2,495,000

Interest rates are still affordable and buyers and sellers are on the move. Housing inventory is low and demand is high. 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  
Over 25+ years of experience you can count on.

Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.



# Kensington | Market Update

May 2023 - Present



**Detached Single Family**

**2**

New Listings

Median List Price  
\$1,324,000

Median Sq. Ft.  
1843

**2**

Pending Sales

Median List Price  
\$1,187,000

Median Sq. Ft.  
1964

**11**

Sold

Median List Price  
\$1,295,000

Median Sold Price  
\$1,657,000

Median Sq. Ft.  
1769

## What should you do to prepare a home for the market?

The task can seem daunting. It is a process. However, it does not need to be overwhelming. I have developed a curated team of trades people to handle every task. The hardest part for my clients is packing. A seller can choose to use Compass Concierge — there are no fees and no upfront costs, ever. You are billed at the close of escrow. It is that simple. You will be surprised at how easy and seamless getting your home ready for sale is, because everything is managed, sourced, on budget and delivered on time for you. Once we make a plan and you say go, it gets done. Every dollar you spend on market preparation will typically double if not triple the return on investment.



If you are considering selling or just want to know the value of your home...call me. The appointment is complimentary.

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

Over 25+ years of experience you can count on



Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Exact dimensions can be obtained by retaining the services of an architect or engineer. This is not intended to solicit property already listed.

# SEMIFREDDI'S



RETAIL BAKE SHOP  
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

**372 COLUSA AVE**  
KENSINGTON, CA 94707  
(510) 596-9935



OPEN DAILY: 7:30AM - 3PM  
VISIT US ON THE WEB @ WWW.SEMIFREDDIS.COM

BAKING WITH PRIDE SINCE 1984



# ONE LESS SPARK



California has a new law, Zone 0, focused on removing combustible material within zero to five feet of a home. While the law won't kick in until a year after it impacts new structures, you can get an early start by removing risks around your home. Vegetation against the house is vulnerable to embers. The zone includes attached decks, stairs, and outbuildings. Mulch is a wildfire risk; gates and fences that connect to the house within Zone 0 should be metal, not wood, and paths rock or pebbles. Read more about home hardening and defensible space at [www.kensingtonfire.org/](http://www.kensingtonfire.org/) prepare.

# CERT to Restart

Chief Eric Saylor of the El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department is pleased to announce the official restart of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. CERT is a team of community members in the region trained to respond to emergencies in their neighborhood, workplace, or wherever needed.



The CERT program is an all-risk, all-hazard training program that educates volunteer members about disaster preparedness and response for hazards, training them in essential disaster response. Current events remind us of the dangers we face in our region, including earthquakes, wildfires, severe weather, and active shooter events. During times of crisis, local resources may be limited, making it crucial for local, well-trained volunteers to act as a first line of support until additional assistance arrives.

CERT equips ordinary citizens with essential skills and knowledge to respond effectively during emergencies. Through comprehensive training sessions, volunteers learn how to provide immediate assistance to their families, neighbors, and community members. From basic medical aid to small fire suppression and search and rescue techniques, CERT volunteers play a critical role in saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters.

Chief Saylor invites all interested individuals to join the CERT program. We can create a safer and more resilient community by coming together and working hand-in-hand. Volunteers of all backgrounds and abilities are welcome, as diversity strengthens our collective response.

CERT Program Manager Chris Hilliard developed a survey for residents to assess their household and neighborhood readiness. The data collected helps the fire department understand how to better program training and education campaigns to improve response capacity in the community.

Residents should expect to see training starting in the Fall. All former CERT graduates and residents interested in training opportunities are welcome.

To begin, start with the survey by visiting [www.kensingtonfire.org/survey](http://www.kensingtonfire.org/survey).

*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.*

## SEPTEMBER 2023 DEADLINES

Advertising Deadline ❖ August 8  
Editorial Deadline ❖ August 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](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.

# KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

EDITOR  
LINNEA DUE

ADVERTISING MANAGER  
ALMA KEY

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

Published ten times a year by the nonprofit Kensington Community Council. (Monthly, except for the combined July/August and December/January issues.) Available online at [www.KensingtonOutlook.com](http://www.KensingtonOutlook.com), courtesy of [AboutKensington.com](http://AboutKensington.com). Non-Kensington residents can subscribe by mail for \$10 annually.

Editorial.....  
[editor@KensingtonOutlook.com](mailto:editor@KensingtonOutlook.com)  
Advertising.....510-508-3241  
[advertising@KensingtonOutlook.com](mailto:advertising@KensingtonOutlook.com)

### Classified Advertising

Classified ad rates are \$8 a line (45 spaces or characters), with a 2-line minimum. Online ad forms are available after the back issues listings at: [www.KensingtonOutlook.com](http://www.KensingtonOutlook.com).

**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

### About that Mailbox...

Dear Editor:

Please find a safe and convenient place to put back the drive-by mailbox at Ardmore and the Arlington. It came and was put in a bad spot; it was put in a better space and then removed. Why? Because of the increased traffic and lack of parking, the box on the east side of the Arlington is not safe or convenient. Please reconsider another site.

**Pamela Drake**

### Let's Take the First Step Now

Dear Editor:

The boards of directors of Kensington's Improvement Club (KIC) and Property Owners Association (KPOA) jointly recommend that the boards of directors of Kensington's Fire Protection District and Police Protection and Community Services District collaborate without delay to initiate the county-required independent firm objective analysis of the financial effects of unifying the two districts into one.

Kensington citizens deserve to know if unification will result in financial savings year over year, or at least with no additional cost as a unified district. The estimated cost of the analysis is approximately \$50,000—\$25,000 from each district. Whether or not the independent analysis shows that a unified district will cost no more to operate or saves money each year, a unified district is expected to streamline government, improve decision-making on operations, and provide citizens with improved participation and understanding of board planning and decisions on community challenges and opportunities.

Virtually all large and small community governance across California and the entire U.S. operates this way successfully. There is no better time to take this first analytical step to understand unification than now.

**Linda Lipscomb, KIC President, Rob Firmin, KPOA President**

### An About Face

Dear Editor:

At its May meeting, the KPPCSD decided to look for a separate location to house police rather than return to the Public Safety Building. Joint fire and police occupancy of the PSB was a major issue in the November election. But police and fire pressure swayed the police board to search for a separate location.

This is the same PSB that served fire and police for 52 years and is being expanded by 400 SF for a total of 6,200 SF, with an upstairs living area of 2,800 SF. The downstairs is planned for administrative use and a large public meeting room, neither essential. By converting the downstairs area to police use, plus 100 SF of upstairs storage space, a total of 1,235 SF of police space can be provided. Since two previous police chiefs said 1,225 SF would be sufficient, this should be adequate for Kensington police.

Other factors favoring the PSB: A central location provides police response to all Kensington homes in under four minutes. This is critical in an emergency. The police could move in to the PSB within one year versus many years to find and build a new station. The costs to renovate the PSB are minimal, perhaps \$100,000. Most voters supported combined use of the PSB in the election, and the board has an obligation to pursue joint occupancy. Continuing police use of the current modular unit places them at risk in the event of an earthquake.

A police station is an Essential Service Facility requiring expensive structural standards that could drive construction costs to \$1,500 per SF, or \$3 million for a 2,000 SF facility. Add in land, site work, plans and financing and total costs could reach \$10 million. With perhaps \$2 million in available cash, the KPPCSD has limited funds to complete a separate station and must take on significant debt. All the possibilities under consideration have construction, access and location issues, such as near the Unitarian church, Ace Hardware, the library or Narsai's restaurant.

It's time to rethink joint occupancy. I'm a board director but write as a concerned citizen.

**Jim Watt**

## Democratic Club Meeting on Current Fire Season

By Catherine de Neergaard

The Kensington Democratic Club [KDC] is holding a speaker, discussion, and Q&A meeting about the current fire season on July 12 at 7pm on Zoom.

Topics to be addressed include: current local fire conditions, could something like what is happening in Canada or happened in Paradise happen here, and new tools for emergency preparation.

Someone from Wildcat Watch will be discussing the earmarks of local severe fire conditions, the Wildcat Watch project, and the problem with the cameras in the canyon. It is of concern that recently PG&E has taken over the overall direction of the cameras in the canyon behind Kensington and the Berkeley Hills and is applying an AI program of unproven reliability and accuracy to detect fires. What is the danger and what are the solutions?

To learn more or become a member of the KDC please go to our website at <https://kensingtondemocraticclub.org>. Everyone is invited to attend. Please email the KDC at [kensingtondemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:kensingtondemocrats@gmail.com) to get the Zoom address.

## Kensington Police Patrol Log

- On May 1 at about 12:17am, KPD was dispatched to the Sunset View Cemetery on a report of a naked person seen on video surveillance inside the closed mausoleum. KPD responded along with El Cerrito PD and located the suspect who had smashed the door with a brick and entered the mausoleum to take a shower. The person caused \$1,100 damage and was arrested for PC 594-Vandalism and then placed into protective custody on a Welfare & Institutions Code 5150 and transported to county hospital. The mausoleum has since filed a Restraining Order against the person.

- On May 3, between 9-11:30am, the homeowner's black Kia Sorento was stolen from their driveway in the 100 block of Kingston Rd. The vehicle was entered into the Stolen Vehicle System of the state Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS). The investigation is active.

- On May 5, KPD was dispatched to the corner of Arlington and Amherst because of an intoxicated person being belligerent to kids in the area. KPD contacted and arrested the person for violation of PC 647(F)-Drunk in Public, B&P 25620(a) Open Container of Alcohol and PC 415(3)-Disturbance of the Peace. The person was transported to the hospital for observation.

- On May 10 at 09:16am, KPD contacted a person at the intersection of Arlington and Amherst, who had multiple cite-release arrest warrants totaling \$10,000 from Santa Clara County. The person was also considered a Missing Person in CLETS. The emergency contact was located, authorized the subject's removal from CLETS, and the subject was cited and released after Santa Clara County was also contacted. The person was later given a courtesy ride to the El Cerrito BART station.

- On May 12 at 03:44am, KPD spotted a suspicious vehicle in the Park-N- Ride located at Arlington Avenue and Coventry Road. At the conclusion of the investigation, the person was arrested for violation of H&S 11377-Possession of Methamphetamines, H&S 11364(a)-Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, B&P 4060 -Possessing Other Person's Prescription Medication, PC 484e-Possession of Other Person's Credit Cards and PC 1203.2-Probation Violation.

- On May 13 at 11:35am, KPD was "Flagged Down" at the Kensington Carnival for possible Hit & Run collision in the 100 block of Highland Blvd. KPD located the collision site and eventually cited and released the driver for multiple vehicle code violations that included CVC 14601.1a-Driving on a Suspended License.

- On May 15 at 4:31pm, KPD responded to a traffic collision involving an auto vs. a pedestrian pushing a baby stroller in the crosswalk at Colusa Circle. A traffic investigation was initiated and at the conclusion of the investigation, a citation was mailed to the driver for violation of CVC 21950a-Pedestrian in Crosswalk.

- On May 22, between 8:05-8:40am, three separate auto burglaries took place at locations throughout Kensington with over \$10,000 worth of tools being stolen. KPD conducted a follow-up investigation and identified a black Infiniti QX70 with a license plate number. Follow-up with Oakland PD determined the license plates had been reported stolen a few days earlier in Oakland. An area-wide Trek Flyer was issued, and the investigation is ongoing.

- On May 22 at 8:30pm, a homeowner reported that she had been a victim of an online scam of \$2,900. It was discovered that earlier in the day, she received a fraud alert that indicated she had been a victim of a malware attack. The homeowner then called the fictitious software protection company and was instructed to send \$500 via credit card to protect their account. Later, she was contacted and told she had overpaid and needed bank account information to deliver a \$290 refund. However, the fictitious caller depleted the savings account of \$2,900.

- On May 27, overnight, in the 200 block of Colusa Ave, the owner of a vehicle was awakened by their automobile alarm. The plastic hardtop to the convertible vehicle had been stolen, a loss of \$4600. The investigation is ongoing.

- On May 28, officers received reports from district staff of graffiti in the bathroom at the Kensington Community Park bathrooms. District staff cleaned up the graffiti and the investigation is ongoing.

- On May 29, the owner of a vehicle in the 700 block of Coventry reported the theft of a catalytic converter. The crime occurred during a five-day window. At this time there are no witnesses, leads, or evidence.

- On May 30, in the 200 block of Lake Dr., an unknown suspect entered a vehicle and took \$20 worth of currency. The incident was captured on surveillance video.

- On May 31, in the 400 block of Berkeley Park Blvd., at approximately 4pm, two unknown suspects arrived in a stolen Kia. The passenger exited the vehicle, smashed the window of a Hyundai Sonata, entered the vehicle, and stole it within approximately one minute. There were several witnesses and video surveillance. The suspects were wearing ski masks and gloves. The owner of the vehicle was able to track the vehicle to the City of Alameda, but APD was not able to respond in time to stop the vehicle. The investigation is ongoing.

- On May 31, in the 200 block of Stanford, a resident reported junk mail had been stolen from an unlocked garage overnight.

- On June 1, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle parked on Stratford Rd. A neighbor saw suspicious activity near the vehicle but was not able to gather any identifiable information about the suspects or suspect vehicle.

## Paying Attention Reaps Big Dividends

By Kensington Police Chief Mike Gancasz

On June 5, just past midnight, Officer Jose Fajardo noticed a black Mercedes parked at the Exxon gas station fuel island. He contacted the occupants to see if they needed help, but the driver said he and his girlfriend were fine, they just ran out of gas, and declined Jose's offer. During the 0600-shift change, Fajardo and Sgt. Nath contacted the now-sleeping occupants and checked their identification and vehicle registration. Records revealed the driver, a 36-year-old male from Hayward, had two outstanding warrants for possessing a concealed firearm. While being taken into custody, Fajardo found the driver was also in possession of methamphetamine. The 24-year-old female also had two outstanding felony warrants for vehicle theft and possessing stolen property. While being taken into custody, Sgt. Nath found she was in possession of other people's personal and financial information, credit cards, checks, mail, and identification.

Officer Markel Smith responded to work on his day off to transport both suspects to the Martinez jail. The Mercedes was impounded, and the officers began contacting the owners of the credit cards and checks. It is more than likely these suspects would have victimized our community had they not caught the attention of Officer Jose Fajardo.

**PAGEPOINT**  
WEB SOLUTIONS

Serving Kensington  
For Over 20 Years

custom web programming  
online marketing website management  
hosting seo social media  
website strategizing and consulting  
wordpress database programming

[www.pagepoint.com](http://www.pagepoint.com)

510.558.1534

# So Many Blessings on a Single Block



By Holly Haugh

On a sunny Sunday afternoon in late May, the residents of our street in lower Kensington celebrated 25 years of annual block parties—and decades of support and appreciation.

Among those who gathered this year were two from the original 1998 party who had moved away but were overjoyed to come back to see old friends and celebrate with us.

Amid a garden full of flowers, Evelyn, our most senior member at 90 years, recounted that when she arrived at her Kensington home in 1965 this neighborhood was just as warm and welcoming as it is today. This was very important to Evelyn and her family because they were seeking a neighborhood where they would feel safe and find good schools. They had already experienced racism in another nearby community and had some trepidation about whether this would be their experience in Kensington. But they were welcomed with open arms.

Eddie Katten invited Evelyn to tea, others brought them to their church and offered childcare, and warm bread was left at their door. Forty-one years ago, I bought Eddie's house, and now Evelyn and I are the very best of friends.

Our newest neighbor, Susanna, echoed the words of our oldest. She said, "I was anxious moving here from my home of 20 years. I did not know what to expect. I was graciously welcomed by so many people. The new neighborhood almost immediately felt like home."

Over the years we have celebrated births, graduations, college admissions, and retirements. We have mourned the loss of neighbors and their family members. As Charlotte said the day after the party, "How wonderful it is to be able to witness and share the various stages of life—the joy of a baby who is now toddling with three teeth and exploring the wonders of a backyard full of colorful flowers, the joy of celebrating our 90-year-old friend and neighbor, and the joy of sharing all that happens between those years—watching kids grow, helping parents age, dealing with illness and injury, getting through life as best we can."

During the pandemic, we became particularly close, even when we had to maintain the greatest distance! Here is what Jennifer, who arrived in 1998, had to say: "When I think of current neighborhood memories I think of meeting on the sidewalk almost every night for a drink during the early part of the pandemic, singing Happy Birthday (Tony even chalked Happy Birthday to our boys on our sidewalk), wearing Jen's favorite color purple, Lea in a costume. When I wasn't attending and staying inside, I loved hearing all the laughter and felt comforted/connected at such a weird, disconnected time—Char has the best laugh, hands-down. I told so many friends about our meetings, and they all said how lucky I was to live here!"

In the early years, Cindy, who arrived in 1984, arranged for permits to close the street for our annual party, but the county's requirements kept increasing. We became scoff-laws for a few years and closed the block without a permit, always ready to jump out of the way if an emergency vehicle arrived. And that indeed happened one year, coming to take one of our very own to the hospital. After that, we moved into my backyard.

In 2012, Charlotte arrived with experience in organizing her prior neighborhood for emergencies, and she helped us to build our emergency preparedness one monthly task at a time. In March we gathered water, in April it was food, in May we planned escape routes, and so on. It is a great way to do it, not so intimidating as doing it all at once. At the end we held our own block-size emergency drill. A couple of the kids played injured residents and were taken to the medical tent on a front lawn, two other kids tested the walkie-talkie effectiveness at various distances, and we checked everyone's house and gas lines. Then we gathered for debriefing and, of course, great food.

Each of us feels confident that if something were to happen to us, the others would pitch in without a moment's hesitation. We have already had good-natured battles over which neighbor gets to drive the kids to school when a parent has a doctor's appointment. If we hear an ambulance siren on the block, several of us are out on the street ready to do what is needed—lock the door, feed the kids, inform an absent spouse.

Life is full of unknowns. Happy is a neighborhood like ours where the residents can rely on the compassion and friendship of others close by.

Besides that, we all really love to laugh together.

PROSPECT SIERRA

A lifelong  
love of  
learning

Immersed in a joyful school community, Prospect Sierra students think and feel deeply, develop a lifelong love of learning, and are prepared to make a positive impact on the world.

LEARN MORE  
TODAY!

TK-8 SCHOOL



## Is It Halloween Yet?

Thank goodness no, but save October 22 for the KCC Picnic in the Park. Kids in costume will circle the oval, and yes, there will be the ever-popular Blessing of the Animals.

# Harms Set to Retire

By Linnea Due

Popular KPD lieutenant Brad Harms will retire again on July 29. This time it's likely to stick. Harms is a generational talent—his great-grandfather was a captain in Portland, Oregon, and two uncles and a great uncle were also Portland police officers. "I wanted to become a cop to make a difference," Harms said in a mid-June interview. "That's why most cops get into the profession."

Harms was hired by the Contra Costa Sheriffs Department right off the bat and stayed there for 21 years. He was recruited to go to San Ramon's department, and then to Danville. It was there that he met past KPD chief Steve Simpkins, at the time chief of Danville's department. The two became fast friends. When Harms planned to retire in December 2019, Simpkins said, "You're coming to Kensington." Harms resisted, and Simpkins offered to buy him lunch if Harms would just check out the town. "It was such a good lunch that I decided to stay for three and a half years," Harms said.

Over his long career, Harms has kept his sense of humor, professionalism, and stuck to his reason for serving—to make a difference. He has been uniquely blessed to do just that. In 2003, he was called to a 911 call in Orinda. Harms found a frantic wife standing near a car. She said that her husband had shouted with pain while driving; he thought he'd been stung by a bee and continued on until she noticed that he was bleeding. By the time Harms and his partner arrived, her husband was slumped over, unconscious in the couple's convertible.

It wasn't a bullet wound, and Harms couldn't tell what had happened. When the ambulance came, Harms convinced the wife to delay going to the hospital for the few moments it would take to show Harms exactly where her husband had cried out. Harms and his partner began searching for anything that made sense. Finally they identified a house that had been the scene of a well-publicized murder a year earlier. Harms talked his way in to find a seventeen-year-old boy with a high-powered air rifle. The boy told Harms that he was shooting at trees, but it soon became clear that he'd been shooting into the street.

Based on probable cause, Harms arrested the boy for assault with a deadly weapon. X-rays showed the BB had lodged next to the victim's carotid artery, and the man almost died. "But we were unable to prove intent," said Harms. "Everyone agreed it was negligence, but we couldn't prove that he'd meant to harm anyone." And then it turned stranger, because penal code 246.3 specified "Negligent discharge of a firearm." A BB gun was not considered a firearm. The prosecutor told Harms there was nothing more to they could do.

Enter then-state senator Tom Torlakson to hammer two subsections to 246.3 through the legislature that label as negligent the act of shooting a "BB device" in a manner that could result in injury or death. The victim, who fought for the legislation along with Torlakson, ended up entering politics himself and is now a state senator. Steve Glazer represents the 7th district, which is most of Contra Costa County (Kensington is the 9th district, represented by Nancy Skinner).

Another instance, unnoticed by everyone but its participants, still makes Harms choke up. A sixteen-year-old boy's mother reported her son missing. He and her husband were arguing, she told Harms. Harms found the boy studying at the town library. "Your parents are worried sick," he told the boy.

"Maybe my mom but not my dad," the boy said. While they waited for his parents to come, he showed Harms his excellent report card and explained that all he wanted to do was please his dad, but nothing he did was good enough. "He began shaking and crying," Harms said. "Five minutes later the dad shows up and shouts, 'Get in the car, you're grounded.' I said, 'It's not my place, but I wish my kid would grow up to be half as good as your kid.' I explained that most of the kids I ran across had big challenges—lack of basic necessities, struggling single parents, drugs and alcohol. 'He's at the library studying because he's trying to earn your love. He will soon be gone. Have you ever told your son you love him?'"

"Two days later, the dad and son were standing in the lobby of the police station. The dad said he wanted to thank me. 'I had no idea what I was doing to my son. I asked him what he likes to do. And he said he liked to bake. So we baked a chocolate cake for you.'"

Harms said the look on both their faces was priceless, that of unconditional love. "Everyone at the front office started crying," Harms said. "We all ate that chocolate cake. As we were eating, the chief said, 'This is why you're cops, and if you don't recognize this as an opportunity you're in the wrong profession.'"

Finished Harms, "It's those moments that are few and far between that you know why you became an officer."

He will be missed.



# Contract Between KPPCSD and KCC Finally Signed

By Cathy Garza and Anne Forrest

It took a year of negotiating to reach a new agreement between the Kensington Community Council (KCC) and the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) to continue providing recreational and educational services for the community—and rightfully so, as the new agreement is radically different from any previous contract between the two parties.

With a mission to improve, develop, and educate the community and to promote social welfare in Kensington, KCC has provided recreational and educational programming for Kensington families under contracts with the district since at least 1960. Previous contracts addressed the most basic details such as maintenance fees and liability coverage. The newly signed contract is highly specific with room/location usage for afterschool and summer camp programming, KCC website requirements, and a process and timeline for providing alternate facilities should the district facilities become unavailable for any reason.

Perhaps the biggest change codified in the new contract is the assignment of responsibility for building maintenance. Until this new contract, KCC had the responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the Recreational Building (Building E), with the exception of the roof (a KPPCSD responsibility). This arrangement allowed KCC to build a savings fund that could be used for big repairs and for significant financial contributions to the district over the years, including \$465,000 to the renovation of the community center in 2018. With the new contract, KPPCSD assumes the responsibility for all upkeep of the Recreation Building in addition to the Community Center and has baked those anticipated expenses into the increased rent it is now charging KCC for use of the buildings for their programs. Additionally, for the next four years KCC will pay into a separate building maintenance fund to address improvements identified in a recent building inspection.

KCC is pleased that the new contract has finally been signed and looks forward to serving the recreational needs of the community. As a nonprofit organization, KCC relies on community members to serve on its board and welcomes your interest and especially your participation. Contact Sylvia Elsbury: president@kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org.

**The Professional Tree Care Company**

*Caring for trees since 1978.*

Our services range from consultation through all aspects of tree health care and removal. We have a 100% recycle policy for all materials generated by our activities. Certified arborists, licensed/insured. [www.professionaltreecare.com](http://www.professionaltreecare.com)

**510-549-3954 or 888-335-TREE**

## News

...from front page

Explains the site: "Over 80 years old, the Japanese Pool was built from materials originally used in the Japanese Exhibit at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition held on Treasure Island. The materials were donated to the Garden after the Exposition closed. It has been enhanced over the years but is now sadly showing the ravages of age. The Japanese Pool has been leaking for years, and many attempts have been made to patch the leaks. Unfortunately, the situation has deteriorated to the point where patching is insufficient. There is grave concern that the leaking poses risks to the pool's structural integrity. The repairs can no longer wait and must be completed this summer, before the next breeding season."



Be a changemaker and help newts continue to delight children and adults alike.

A Legacy of Serving our Community

Albany | Berkeley | El Cerrito  
Kensington | Oakland | Piedmont

grubbco.com

The GRUBB Co.

R E A L T O R S

1960 Mountain Blvd. Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.0400	3070 Claremont Ave. Berkeley, CA 94705 510.652.2133	1656 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, CA 94709 510.848.1950
--	---	--

IronWOOD

ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

Design/Build

Earthquake Strengthening  
Foundation Repairs  
Retaining Walls  
Drainage • Remodels • Additions  
Leak Investigations  
Property Purchase Inspections

510.524.8058

www.IronwoodEngineering.com  
License B444427

# Classified Ads

**ABC GUITAR LESSONS FOR ALL AGES**  
Vaccinated school music teacher. Berklee-Boston graduate. Mark Sorensen - 510-207-5118

**ACKLEY PROFESSIONAL PAINTING SERVICES** - 40 years experience makes a difference! We strive for clear communication and follow-through. Free estimates. License#528381. Phone: 510-220-4021 larryackley1953@yahoo.com

**AURORA PAINTING & DECORATING.**  
Interior, exterior, waterproof coatings, wood restoration, color consultation. License #721226. Kensington references. 510-655-9267 for free estimate.

**CAREGIVER AVAILABLE** - CAN and HHA. Local Kensington resident. Call Simone at 510-334-5682 or email: bouadana69@gmail.com

**DESIGN-BUILD LOCAL CONTRACTOR** - with 43+ years experience remodeling/renovation with creative solutions for handicap accessibility, kitchens, baths, ADU. Lots of local references. Learn more at www.baywoodbuilding.com or Yelp. Lic 357706-B Call Robert at 510-595-4231.

**HANDYMAN SERVICES,** - 35years Experience. Dennis Flynn - 510-361-9186

**HELPING HANDS** Personalized senior concierge services. Kensington resident, local references. Call to discuss your needs. Peggy 510-735-6965

**KENSINGTON CONTRACTOR** - Kitchens & baths, expert home repairs, painting, waterproofing. Reliable. Lic#606634 Thomas Cuniff Construction 415-378-2007

**MEDICARE INSURANCE:** Independent Agent specializing in Medicare plans contact Martha LaMair (CA lic#0E50665) at 510-616-1695. www.lamairinsurance.com

**PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER** - Quality Headshots to Family Portraits. Nan Phelps Photography located at 398 Colusa Ave. Learn more at nanphelps.com or YELP. Contact: nan@nanphelps.com or phone 510-528-8845

**PRE-MOVE PREP + HOME ORGANIZING.**  
If there's a move in your future, let me help you get your house in order. From downsizing, sorting, and planning, it's never too early to start. Liza 415-816-9799 / www.lessmoremethod.com

**ROSALIE STILLFORD AMFT, APCC**-Child, teen, adult and family therapy. In person in north Berkeley and online at: www.therapywithrosalie.com 510-545-2241

**YOUR GREEN GARDENERS**  
Unique, Beautiful, Sustainable Garden Designs. Garden Maintenance, Clean-Ups & Tree Pruning. Email: yourgreengardeners@gmail.com www.yourgreengardeners.com

**CLASSIFIED ADS Monthly Rates**  
\$8.00 per line (\$16.00 minimum). There are 45 spaces per line. Count each letter, punctuation mark, and space between words. Classified ad form available online at: kensingtonoutlook.com or email: advertising@kensingtonoutlook.com. Completed classified ads must be pre-paid (payable to KCC) and received by the 10th of the month preceding publication. Mail to: Kensington Outlook, P.O. Box 2212, El Cerrito, CA 94530


## New Principal at Hilltop, Author Events

Kensington author Akemi C. Brodsky, debuting her speculative medical ethics novel, *The Brill Pill*, will appear at A Great Good Place for Books in Oakland at 7pm on August 15 and at Hammerling Cellars in Berkeley from 1-5pm on August 26.

Kim Jordan, Kensington Hilltop's new principal, was most recently assistant principal at De Anza High School. She also taught elementary school in Piedmont. Stay tuned for interviews with Jordan and Brodsky in September.

## RED OAK REALTY'S

### RECENTLY SOLD KENSINGTON HOMES



CLASSIC KENSINGTON HOME WITH BAY VIEWS RECEIVED MULTIPLE OFFERS AND SOLD 27% OVER THE LIST PRICE AT \$2,275,000  
681 Coventry Road, Kensington · 681Coventry.com  
The Leaper Team · #1741458, 408309 · 510.410.2344




1940s KENSINGTON HILLS HOME WITH SWEEPING VIEWS RECEIVED 6 OFFERS AND SOLD 34% OVER THE LIST PRICE AT \$1,070,000  
269 Colgate Avenue, Kensington · 269Colgate.com  
The Jenssen Team · #1182699, 1950551 · 510.908.3370

Allow us to help you meet your real estate goals.



#1 IN KENSINGTON · redoakrealty.com



YOUNG'S MARKET

**285 Arlington Avenue • Kensington, CA 94707**  
**(510) 527-4200**

**Open Every Day 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Year Round**

Groceries • Bakery • Produce  
Dairy • Cheese • Deli • Coffee • Tea  
Sundries • Flowers • Wine and Beer

♥ Our Community Is At The Heart of Everything We Do ♥

## Summer's Sprung at the Library

Take advantage of the free programs offered by the Kensington Library at 61 Arlington Avenue. Call 510-524-3043 with questions or for details.

**Summer reading is in full swing!** Kids and adults can return their completed Summer Reading Passports at the front desk before August 5 to earn free books & library swag, plus be entered into a drawing for big prizes. Find more info at cclib.org/summer

**July 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, & 27 One-on-One Tech Help** Get help using the library's website, e-books, email or your own phone, tablet, or computer, all for free! Call or visit the library to reserve a 30-minute appointment.

**July 7, 14, 21, & 28 Baby and Toddler Storytime** Fun stories, songs, action rhymes, shaky eggs, and more! Two identical sessions. 10am & 11am.

**July 8 Free Concert: Charged Particles with Tod Dickow** Join us for an afternoon of jazz at the Kensington Library with the dynamic Charged Particles trio and saxophonist Tod Dickow. No registration required. 1pm.

**July 11 & 18 Family Storytime** Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. 6:30pm.

**July 13 DIY SUPER SOAKERS!** Come build your own super soaker water blaster at the library. After everyone has built their soakers, we'll go outside and test them by soaking each other! Parent help is gladly welcomed. 1pm.

**July 24 Kensington Library Book Club** July's selection is *The Red-Haired Woman* by Orhan Pamuk. Online. Contact the library to join. 6:30pm.

**August 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22 & 24 One-on-One Tech Help** See July 6.

**August 4, 11, 18, & 25 Baby and Toddler Storytime** See July 7.

**August 8, 15, 22, & 29 Family Storytime** See July 11.

**August 10 Fencing Demonstration** Stop by the library to catch our very own children's librarian Mr. Charles spar with a partner and demonstrate the basics of fencing. 1pm.

**August 12 Digitize & Document Your Family History** Genealogy lecturer Ron Chan will walk attendees through the physical and virtual processes of building a multimedia family library. The presentation will include key resources, best practices, and tips for compiling your own family legacy. 1pm.

**August 21 Kensington Library Book Club** August's selection is *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair. See July 24.



Research your family tree with Ron Chan. See August 12 listing.

LICENSE #721226

## AURORA

### PAINTING & DECORATING

Serving Bay Area Customers for 20 Years

- INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR
- WATERPROOF COATINGS
- WOOD RESTORATION
- COLOR CONSULTATION
- RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
- SENIOR DISCOUNT
- BONDED • INSURED
- KENSINGTON REFERENCES

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

## 510-655-9267

www.aurora-painting.com



**PAINTING & WATERPROOFING Inc.**

**COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL**

- Interior and exterior
- Waterproofing
- Renovation and restoration
- EPA certified painters
- All work guaranteed

## 510.654.3339

www.omnipainting.com

# K E N S I N G T O N

## Community Education



### Summer Camp

KCC Summer Camp has begun. It will be evident as you walk by the Kensington Park and hear the kids playing and singing. Week 1 of camp we had Magician Brian Scott come to camp for a magical performance and even taught the campers a few tricks he had up his sleeve.

Week 2 we had Hilltop PE teacher extraordinaire, Csilla Fenczik come to provide camp with her creative and fun games and KASEP teacher Vicky Brodt created some magic in the Community Center kitchen. Each week we have a different theme and related activities for the campers.

**We still have room in week 4 camp  
July 3rd through July 7th**

Register at <https://kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org/summer-camp/>



### KASEP - Kensington After School Program

Important Dates- mark your calendars

Fall KASEP Registration August 29th, 2023 @ 7pm for kindergarten and 7:30 for grades 1-6. Classes begin the week of September 11th. The Fall brochure will be sent home to Hilltop families and available on our website after August 15th.



### Adult and Family Classes

**Mediterranean cooking class** August 15th, 22nd, & 29th: April Schlanger will be hosting a cooking series for adults in the Community Center starting in August.

Mediterranean cooking is influenced by the food of people living along the Mediterranean Sea. This includes 22 countries like Spain, Morocco, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Tunisia, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Croatia, France, Italy and Slovenia to name a few. This cooking class will focus on creating healthy, mostly plant based meals from a number of these countries. This is a great class to learn new techniques, interesting recipes, new herb combinations and how to utilize more seasonal produce. Join us each week or when you're free. We will also be offering something tasty to learn and eat. Classes are Tuesday nights from 6-8 pm. First class is Tuesday, August 15th. Lesson plans will be posted a week before each class on KCC Website and Instagram. Cost is \$45

#### A bit about April Schlanger

I've been a creative person since I was very young. I went to a performing and visual arts high school, as well as a liberal arts College. I used to focus on theatre, sewing and singing. I actually went to college for costume design and worked at night as a singer to pay for some of my schooling.

After college, I ended up in the wine industry for 20 years, which is its own art form. During that time I was always working on some creative items on my off days. I made and sold jewelry and taught classes for about 10 years. Then I had my own wine store for 5 years and I was also cooking desserts for people for parties and events. I spent the last 6 years as half of an amazing personal chef service that specializes in healthy custom meals.

I now have a small event stylist business which I enjoy doing along with teaching KASEP classes. I'm also married to a great tech guy and have 3 amazing children. Each of them is very creative and that makes me super proud. Nowadays I enjoy teaching the same creative skills to young kids and adults. I'm currently obsessed with floral arrangements, feathers and found objects that can be repurposed.



#### Family Yoga

Join Way to Glow Kids Yoga for some family yoga time where parents and kids will playfully explore yoga poses, breathing exercises, and mindfulness activities together. Family Yoga will take place on Saturdays @ 10:00-10:45 (kids aged 2 to 5) on the grassy lawn outside the KCC Office/Recreation Building (past the tennis courts). If possible, please bring a waterproof blanket/tarp, two yoga mats (we will have extra mats available), warm layers, and a water bottle.

Summer dates: 6/17, 6/24, 7/15, 7/22, 7/29, 8/12, 8/19, 8/26. Suggested cost: \$25 per class; discounted tuition and scholarships are available. Class will be run on a drop-in basis but pre-registration required. Please complete a registration form at <https://bit.ly/38Sq91k> and contact Lori Hess [wayto-glowkidsyoga@gmail.com](mailto:wayto-glowkidsyoga@gmail.com) with questions about the class.



#### Adult Yoga Class at the Community Center

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

#### Tai Chi with Nobuo Nishi

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

Register at [KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/adult-and-family-classes](https://KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/adult-and-family-classes)  
Keep checking our website for updated adult class schedules.  
The Kensington Outlook can now be found at: [KensingtonOutlook.com](https://KensingtonOutlook.com)  
Archive copies can also be found on our website dating back to 2003.  
KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Recreation Building Kensington CA 94707  
E-mail: [Info@KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org](mailto:Info@KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org), or call 510-525-0292. Our website is: [www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org](https://www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org).

If you have ideas for new KCC Adult classes, we would love to hear them. Please send us your thoughts at [info@kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org](mailto:info@kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org)



Follow us on Instagram  
[@KensingtonCommunityCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/KensingtonCommunityCouncil)





# KENSINGTON EATS OUT

## Kensington Eats Out Goes Pyro

By Ittai Shiu

Pastrami holds a special place in the hearts of many, particularly those from the East Coast who are often nostalgic about their favorite deli meat. As a California native, I initially associated it with the higher-priced cold cuts in the supermarket deli section. However, thanks to my wife's Chicago background, we embarked on a journey to explore family-owned delis to truly appreciate the essence of pastrami. This quest led us to Pyro's Pastrami, a hidden gem that started as a pop-up concept in Oakland's Port Kitchen marketplace and quickly gained a loyal following.

Pyro's owner Cash Caris began his career as a dishwasher in a Jewish catering kitchen at the age of 19. This experience opened his eyes to a culture that sparked his interest in the food industry, ultimately leading him to become the chef and owner of Pyro's Pastrami. His dedication to his craft shines through via his unwavering commitment to crafting everything from scratch.

Quickly becoming an East Bay institution, Pyro's Pastrami established its first restaurant, Delirama, right here in our backyard! Opened in 2022 on Solano Avenue, Delirama offers deli classics with a unique and funky spin. From its Deli-FajitaRita Burrito to its Psychedelic Pizza, the heart and soul of its menu is its exceptional pastrami. Featured in sandwiches like the Delirama Mama or its more traditional Reuben, Pyro's signature pastrami is also available by the pound.



Every item on the Delirama menu is prepared in-house, including the brine, dressings, fries, sauces, pickles, and even its vegan pastrami. The bread, bagels and bialies (pre-boiled and hole-less bagels) are baked fresh, and pizza pies are hand-stretched to perfection. Even the Kennebec potato chips and potato pancakes are fried to order. Also, every item has gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options, ensuring every customer's delicious and satisfying experience.

Partnering with suppliers such as Cream Co. Meats in Oakland that share its values to support sustainable and regenerative farms, Pyro's pastrami undergoes a meticulous 30-day process, including brining, air

drying, smoking, and steaming. The result is a tender, flavorful pastrami that pays homage to the traditional methods and techniques of old-world delis.

When we visited, co-owner Anahita Cann was hard at work prepping for the noon rush while taking the time to be welcoming and hospitable. This attitude embodied Pyro's "feeding the revolution" slogan that went beyond pastrami to establish a connection to the community. Easy to find on Instagram and Facebook, keep an eye out for the pastrami classes taught by Chef Cash. There you'll be walked through every step of the pastrami process from brining to smoking, with plenty of opportunities to taste along the way!



Delirama, 1746 Solano Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94707

**IT'S NOT  
A JOB ...  
IT'S OUR  
PASSION**  
Since 1986



**Floor  
Dimensions**  
*where beautiful rooms begin*

**30%  
-75%  
OFF** | **12-MONTH  
FINANCING**

\*some restrictions apply

**"Low price guarantee!"**

CARPET | VINYL | WOOD | LINOLEUM | TILE

BETWEEN GILMAN & BUCHANAN ST.

**510-525-5656**

[www.floordimensions.com](http://www.floordimensions.com)

**1081 Eastshore Hwy. Berkeley**

ZC  
EB

**LATEST  
SALES**



*from zip code east bay*

**At Zip Code East Bay, we're passionate about helping people find their dream home and making the process as easy as possible. Whether you're preparing to sell your home or curious about what it takes to compete in this market, we're here and ready to assist you every step of the way.**

**Here's a snapshot of our recent sales:**



**Curious about the market? We're here to help! Thinking of selling? Contact us at 510.323.3669 to schedule your free home valuation or to chat about the state of the market.**

**ZIPCODEEASTBAY.COM**

388 COLUSA AVENUE | 510.323.3669 | HELLO@ZIPCODEEASTBAY.COM

*a certified B Corporation & Green Business*

DRE 01918183