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JUNE 2023

PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 81 NUMBER 5



On the first weekend in May, graduating seniors who attended Kensington Hilltop Elementary School met at Kensington Park for the annual photo shoot. Many had not seen each other for years, and by fall they'll be off to unknown adventures. If you see them around town this summer, give them a salute.

Front row, left to right: Kayoko Hoffman Hattori, Berkeley High School (BHS), UC Riverside; Siena Fershtman, El Cerrito High School (ECHS), Cornell; Sabra Chee, ECHS, UC San Diego (UCSD)

Sydney Quan, ECHS, UCLA; Audrey Abt, ECHS, UCSD; Julia Schweitzer, ECHS, UCSD; Jemima Heaslip, ECHS, UC Davis; Naomi Doherty, ECHS, SF State; Olivia Webster, ECHS, Community College; Sarah Farquharson, ECHS, Gap Year; Elia Addison, ECHS, Gap Year

Second row: Griffin Ramm, ECHS, Cal Poly Slo; Daniel Shimoni, BHS, UCSD; Charbel Elkhouryhanna, Miramonte, UC Berkeley; Jacob Mayor, ECHS, UCLA; Mariella Ngadi, ECHS, UCSD;, Naveen Sanka, BHS, UC Irvine; Jacob Laba, ECHS, UC Berkeley; Hadley Lajoie, ECHS, UC Davis; Stella Adler, ECHS, Scripps College; Ruby Clancy, ECHS, University of Washing-

ton; Sophia Lee, ECHS, UCSD; Styx Garrison, ECHS, Lewis & Clark College; Sophie Gillern, ECHS, UC Berkeley; Grace Wong, ECHS, Cal State Fullerton

Third row: Bianca Hunt, Kennedy HS, Undecided; Whitney Frazier, ECHS, BCC; Skylar Regan, ECHS, UCLA; Keenan Brunetti, ECHS, Purdue; Christopher Hill, ECHS, SDSU; Dillon Thompson, Albany HS, U of Utah; Vela Diego, St. Mary's HS (SMHS), Drexel; Connor Van Hersek, SMHS, UC Berkeley; Fay Cadogan, BHS, Cal Poly Humboldt; Solana Gibson, SMHS, Sonoma State; Anna Bogatirsky, ECHS, UC Berkeley; Kazuo Flanagan, ECHS, UC Irvine; Joaquin Chun, ECHS, UCLA; Brynne Barnard-Bahn, Sacramento Country Day, Wesleyan; Tess Roorda, ECHS, Gap Year; Nora Thompson, ECHS, Cal Poly Slo

Back row: Ian Connors, ECHS, Cal Poly Humboldt; Luca Stiehm, ECHS, SF State; Franco Daganzo, SMHS, Fresno State; Tory Johansson, ECHS, Oberlin; Kieran Dunn, Bishop O'Dowd HS, SDSU, Thomas Stockford, ECHS, San Jose State; Desmond Cheng, Kahuku HS, University of Hawaii.

End of Debate: Police Board Gives Up Plan to Move Police into PSB, page 5

Kensington and Beyond Update

May 2023



NEW LISTING | 7351 Pebble Beach Way



NEW LISTING | 2309 Edna Street El Cerrito | 3 BR | 2 BA





SOLD | 505 Coventry Road Offered at: \$2,450,000

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Block Parties Build Community

By Johnny Valenzuela, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

As summer approaches, the Kensington community is coming together to prepare for wildfire. The Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Block Parties, organized by residents in cooperation with the Kensington Fire Protection District, help give a platform for community members to discuss concerns and develop strategies to lower wildfire

Newly formed Firewise community, Wildcat Firewise, is hosting the season's first Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Block Party on June 4 from 4-6pm. Residents of Kensington Court, Kensington Road, Lawson, Terrace, Leneve, Ivy, Craft, Clark, Ridgeway, and members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley are encouraged to participate.

There will be live music, light refreshments, activities for kids and families, and helpful information to make the neighborhood safer.

This event aims to bring the community together and connect with neighbors while educating community members about the importance of emergency preparedness and encouraging them to take an active role in protecting their homes and families. Following this launch party, other neighborhoods are encouraged to follow the Wildcat Firewise model of community-driven neighbor-to-neighbor interaction.

By coming together to share resources, skills, ideas, and support, residents can build a strong network of preparedness that will benefit everyone in times of crisis. For information about Wildcat Firewise, visit http:// bit.ly/WildcatFirewiseCommunity

To begin organizing your neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Block Party, contact Johnny Valenzuela: prepare@kensing-



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Kensington | Market Update

May 2023 - Present



Detached Single Family Median List Price

Pending Sales Median List Price

Median Sq. Ft.

Closed Sales Median List Price Median Sales Price \$1.537.500

Median Sq. Ft.

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KPOA Annual Community Meeting Set for June 3

By Rob Firmin, President, KPOA

The Kensington Property Owners Association (KPOA) will hold its annual membership meeting by Zoom on Saturday, June 3, 10am. Planned topics and speakers include: KPOA President on government unification into a single, efficient district; wildfire evacuation planning and alerts with Fire Chief Eric Saylors, Johnny Valenzuela and Police Chief Mike Gancasz (plus updates on their departments, interagency cooperation, wildfire risk reduction requirements/ recommendations, and other security issues); the district General Managers on finances and police location; and Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia's updates on tree view obstruction and how the county is serving Kensington. A link to the Zoom meeting and an invitation to join KPOA as a member has been mailed to each Kensington address. You can also find the link and invitation on www.kpoa.net. The meeting is posted on the Arlington signboard. All Kensingtonians are invited.

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 onal 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.

JULY/AUGUST 2023 **DEADLINES** Advertising Deadline * June 8 Editorial Deadline * June 10

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

OUTLOOK

LINNEA DUE

ALMA KEY

PUBLISHER KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL Kensington, CA 94707-1307

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

Editorial editor@KensingtonOutlook.com ...510-508-3241 advertising@KensingtonOutlook.com

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Letters to the Editor

Consolidating the KPPSCD & KFPD has gained a lot of popularity since the fire board decided (correctly, in my opinion) that there is not enough room for both in the renovated PSB. Several years ago this issue was investigated by an ad hoc committee. At that time my conclusion was that the two districts had distinct issues to deal with, and that it took a lot of knowledge to be well informed about both. We now have two boards—ten unpaid, volunteer members of the public thrashing out problems. These boards rarely finish even routine business, let alone complicated ones, in the three- to four-hour oncea-month meeting each has.

Consolidation demands that the ten (remember—unpaid, volunteer) members be reduced to five. It is not easy nowadays to find those ten. Do you think it will be easy or possible to find five willing to do double the work investigating the issues and probably have to meet twice or more a month? I doubt it.

Mabry Benson

Blake Garden Appreciates Its Neighbors

Thanks to our Kensington community for their generous donations to our green waste fund drive. So far we have raised \$2,400!

This winter was especially challenging in terms of downed trees and large limbs. The funds we collected will go to help the garden staff remove woody debris from our site to keep the garden safe and beautiful.

It's not too late to donate! Checks can be made payable to UC Berkeley Foundation. Include fund #FN7561 or donate on the UC-Berkeley website: https://blakegarden.ced.berkeley.edu/donate

Meghan T. Ray

Ham Radio Field Day at Park

Dear Editor:

KARO ECHO is the amateur radio emergency communication club that has served both Kensington and El Cerrito for almost three decades. In the event of a major disaster that knocks out telephones and the Internet, these ham radio operators will be a vital link to communicate with first responders and to relay information from residents using two-way radios. On June 24, several members of the club will be in Kensington Park with their ham radios and will communicate with other ham radio operators at the group's annual Field Day event. The club welcomes members of the public to come and see their operations and learn about the importance of emergency communication. The event will start about 11 and end before sunset.

Correction: In the letters in the Outlook's May issue, names were misspelled and a name was missing from the signers. David Bergen signed the letter asking the KPPCSD board to explore options for the police department at sites other than the Public Safety Building, and Marina Gutierrez's name was misspelled on that same letter. We regret the errors.

Support Women Students

By Candy Capogrossi

Soroptimist International of El Cerrito is holding a fundraiser, Art, Wine, and Chocolate in the Hills, on June 18, from 3-6pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. The purpose of the fundraiser is to support the scholarship programs that assist young women starting college and single mothers returning to college after experiencing challenging life events. Funds are also used in the last year of doctoral studies in fields underrepresented by women or fields



The Albany High School Jazz Band prepares for a quality set at

that aim to improve the lives of women and girls. Additional programs of the club include preparing kits with sustainable, reusable menstrual products that are sent to developing nations to help girls stay in school and support to the Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley

Art, Wine, and Chocolate in the Hills includes many works of art from local artists such as Ruth Block, Amei Peppito, Pam Fingado, Sue Otten, Sandy Lee Potter and more. Work from the late artists Rob M. Harper and Michael Kron is being offered by their wives Georgia Harper and Nancy Kron. Mosaic art by Alicia Taylor Low and crafts will be on display as well, including one piece of photography by Linda Connor, a well known artist from San Francisco Art Insti-

tute. Works from NIAD Art Center, an art studio for adult artists with developmental disabilities, will be displayed,



SUNDAY MORNINGS In-person & Online Worship at 11:00 a.m. followed by Coffee Hour (in-person)

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The cost of the event is \$35 per ticket. The ticket will include one glass of wine but fathers will receive two glasses in honor of Father's Day. All in attendance can enjoy chocolate samples, tasty snacks, music by the El Cerrito String Quartet, the Albany High School Jazz Band, and a short dance piece by Natica Angily's Poetic Dance Theater Company. Rob Firmin will talk about his sculpture of Rosa Parks in the Capitol Building



Lou Ann Texeira chooses her words as carefully as her eyeglasses. Photo by David Berger

Consolidation—or Reorganization?

No one expected pornography, the N word, or disembodied shrieking to begin a sober meeting with Contra Costa County's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) executive director Lou Ann Texeira, but that's what happened at the April 24 joint meeting of the two special districts that manage Kensington's services. The occasion for the meeting was to hear Texeira discuss what it would take for those two districts—the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) and the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD)—to become a single district.

Texeira has addressed this issue in public meetings as well as interacted with residents who see a move to one district delivering services as more efficient and cost-effective than our current two-district solution. But nobody foresaw this chaos.

As the roll call of the ten directors (five on each board) began, the meeting was Zoombombed by an unknown actor who stopped the action for twenty minutes while people tried to figure out how to delete his photos, objectionable words, and streams of gibberish. How to foil bombers? "Once a meeting begins and all attendees are in the meeting, one of the most effective ways to deter Zoombombing is by locking the meeting," says a queried Google. Another: "End the meeting."

Neither answer fit the bill because as a publicly noticed meeting, residents could not be locked out of any of it. And getting all directors to a meeting was hard enough without trying again some other night. Finally someone figured out how to dropkick the interloper while still letting Kensingtonians access the meeting. As the meeting kicked off anew, about 24 people sat in the audience, with 60 residents joining on a now-tamed Zoom call.

Looking festive in hot pink cat-eye glasses on a projected screen at the front of the Community Center, Texeira held up a green Post-It on which she had printed, "Please unmute me." Once that was accomplished, she delivered a clear overview of what residents call consolidation but is more likely a reorganization that would dissolve the fire district while the CSD would take over fire services to join its other functions: police, parks and rec, and solid waste. Texeira said that since LAFCO began in 1963, the agency, which oversees boundaries, preserving open space, and the delivery of efficient public services, has only approved nine consolidations, while Texeira herself has facilitated

Meeting highlights: The KPPCSD can absorb the fire district, but the fire district cannot emerge as the successor district, as its only function is to deliver fire services. The KPPCSD, on the other hand, can handle multiple services, including fire. A worry that has plagued the idea is that we could lose tax revenue assigned to the fire district. Texeira is cautious in everything she says: "This is a question for the assessor," but she believed no taxes would be lost. Fire district director Daniel Levine, who always seems a step ahead, had already talked to the assessor's office, as had 2017's ad hoc committee, when it examined becoming one district. In each case, the opinion is that no taxes would be lost, and special taxes tied to each district would stay with that service. In other words, a special tax collected by the fire district would stay with fire services, not be absorbed into a general fund or go to police.

KPPCSD director Cass Duggan raised concerns about the gradual drawdown of directors. At the start, the new district could have eleven, nine, or seven directors, but as those terms expired, the directors would get down to a final count of five. Duggan worried that no one could vote for new directors for four years as terms phased out. A couple people suggested having a larger number of directors, but the number of directors of community service districts is set by statute.

Texeira said that if both districts submitted substantially similar requests for reorganization, LAFCO would approve it. She estimated the process would take six to twelve months. That, however, is after both districts file requests and the KPPCSD submits a plan for delivering services and a financial analysis. If residents protest the idea, there would be a protest hearing. The protest hearing would be held within 30-60 days. during which signatures can be gathered on petitions. If a quarter or more of either registered voters or landowners sign a protest petition, then the reorganization would go to a special election. If there is no protest or the 25 percent figure is not met, the reorganization would go through, always assuming that the fiscal analysis and service delivery plan

The last conundrum was time. Could five directors handle fire on top of police, parks and rec, and solid waste? Levine drew laughs when he pointed out, "We spend a lot of time writing letters to each other, so it's not strictly additive." Sarah Gough said she'd be glad to move to deciding policy as opposed to doing a great deal of district business; the assumption is that a single district could employ a full-time general manager with a part-time staff, so directors would be freed from managing the district. Newly appointed KPPCSD director Dave Spath advocated for committees, especially a return of the finance committee and an emergency preparedness committee to coordinate with police and fire (the fire district has an EPC, but the KPPCSD does not).

Residents who asked questions or spoke were mostly supportive of reorganization. Of the directors, the fire board's Larry Nagel was most dismissive, ending the meeting by stating, "I don't think this will save a nickel."

Finding a Home

By Alena D. Larios, DDS, MS

Community means more than the place you live—it means belonging. Oddly, my first experience with this sense was in an orthodontist's office. Going to the orthodontist felt like entering an exciting world filled with Gameboys and rows of Highlights for Children magazines, where I would see friends from dance and others I recognized from the school halls in the dental chairs next to mine. We were a community, and our common characteristic was a small, shiny metal nub called a bracket glued to the surface of our

The second time I felt that belonging was at UC Berkeley's Cal Day. As soon as I saw masses of spirited college kids in their Cal gear, I wanted to be one of those people so proud to represent their Golden Bear community and was lucky enough to become one. My most memorable moments at Berkeley were not the times I spent in a cubicle poring over my Molecular Cell Biology textbook. Instead, they were the nights my freshman year floor mates and I spent talking until way too late at night and the days I



put an obnoxious glitter sticker on my face for Game Days. Years later, I maintain that tenacious enthusiasm for my school mostly because of the lifelong relationships I formed

After Cal, I found myself at UCLA for dental school and then at UCSF for my residency in orthodontics. When I finally had the freedom to ask myself where I wanted to settle down, the obvious answer was at my old stomping grounds around Cal. That's not what happened. I ended up working at offices around the bay where I only had the opportunity to see the same patient if that person made their appointment at that office on the one day that I worked there. I was frustrated with being unable to follow through with patients' treatment.

Then I received a text from a friend: "Hi, is there any chance you want to work in Kensington?" When you get a message from someone asking you something that you a thousand percent want to do, the immediate response is that of disbelief followed by euphoria. That's when my stars aligned and brought me to work exclusively alongside

Claire Ferrari at Ferrari Orthodontics on the

I have always absolutely loved what I do, but now there is a heightened sense of excitement as I drive to work each morning. Maybe it's the "Welcome to Kensington" sign or the smell of Raxakoul coffee paired with the eggs sizzling at the Kensington Inn, or the thoughts of treating myself to sushi from Sakana for lunch, but something about that little stretch of the Arlington makes me feel like I'm home.

People often consider orthodontics an elective treatment that focuses on creating Hollywood-looking smiles, but in reality we are looking at the relationship between the teeth and jaws and how that connects to an individual's ability to breathe properly.

Recently I've had a surge of patients in my chair with red eyes, blocked noses, and mouth-breathing as they shake their fists at their allergies caused by California's super blooms. What many don't realize is that for many humans this physical state is a constant. Our jaws have evolved to be smaller in size in all dimensions, and this is directly tied to a lack of space for our teeth as well as a lack of space for air to flow and nourish our bodies and minds. We can alleviate these outcomes with orthodontics while aligning the teeth in their proper positions to achieve a functional bite.

The people of this community and their ability to breathe and live well is something I think about daily. If I can do this while making someone look like they belong on TV, then hey, why not? As neighbors, we all play an integral part in bettering each other's lives, and I take my role as a healthcare provider and educator seriously in this pursuit.

nunity captured my heart when I was eighteen, and your charm continues to do so today. Don't change, but please...check your ability to breathe through your nose!

Head to the Library this June

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

June 1 Summer Reading kicks off! Starting June 1 adults and kids of all ages can pick up their Summer Reading Passport at the front desk. Track your reading all summer long to earn free books & library swag and to be entered into a drawing for big prizes.

June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 Baby and Toddler Storytime Fun stories, songs, action rhymes, shaky eggs, and more! Great for increasing early literacy skills and making friends. Two identical sessions. 10am & 11am.

June 3, 10, 17 & 24 Math Club for grades 3-6 Each meeting covers a different math topic using puzzles and fun problems. No math skills needed, just a little curiosity. 11:30am.

June 6 Conservation Ambassadors' Wild Things Come to the library for a fascinating live animal experience! Conservation Ambassadors never fail to deliver a fantastic and informative show. Not to be missed! 6:30pm.

June 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 & 29 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.

June 13, 20 & 27 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun!

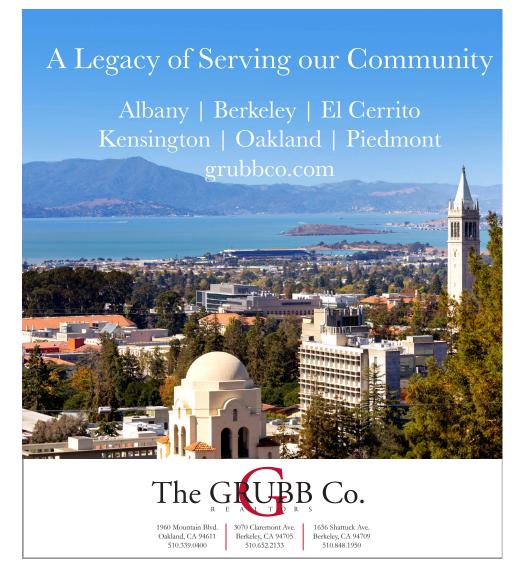
Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. 6:30pm.

June 15 Green Screen Fun! Kids and teens can use our green screen to take photos and short videos in front of wacky backgrounds. Friends and family won't believe their eyes.

June 23 Python Ron From 18-foot pythons to 4-foot lizards, you will be amazed by all the scaly creatures that travel with Python Ron. Get up close and learn about reptiles, spiders, and insects from around the world. 12:30pm.

June 24 Art of the African Diaspora Exhibit Reception Meet some of the local artists whose work it currently displayed on the library's back wall. 2pm.

June 26 Kensington Library Book Club This month's selection is Victory by Joseph Conrad. Online. Contact the library to join. 6:30pm.



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Police Board Abandons Effort to Move PD into PSB

Shortly before 6pm on May 11, the five directors of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District sat in front of their laptops. Board president Alex Aquino-Fike and vice president Sarah Gough, the committee to investigate landing spots for the police department, would give their first presentation of conclusions after their deep dive into the realities and possible consequences of collocating the fire and police departments in the Public Safety Building.

Fire board directors Larry Nagel and Don Dommer, who oppose collocation, sat in the front row. Dommer asked Nagel, "Do we know what they're going to say?" and Nagel shook his head. No accompanying documentation had been posted on the district website, so whatever Aquino-Fike and Gough concluded was a mystery.

Gough began the presentation (now posted on the KPPCSD website) by posing two questions: Can the police department go back into the PSB? And should they go back? She then proceeded through a series of slides, starting with the department's bare minimum space needs. Those needs, non-negotiable for a functioning police department, include a chief's office, all-gender locker room, shared sergeants' office, patrol room with two workstations, computer/server/IT room, bathrooms, secure parking for seven vehicles, and more. The next slide showed what would be standard for a police department of our size, which would have gender-specific locker rooms and showers, an interview room, an armory, and more.

Gough said that Chief Mike Gancasz considers the absolute minimum size at 2000 square feet (SF), while the Moraga PD, which is the same size, gets by with 1800SF but only by renting off-site storage for evidence and files. Gough and Aquino-Fike went with a bare minimum estimate of 1600-2000SF. And, Gough said, the most space that can be eked out of the PSB's first floor is 1144SF, per Jim Watt's several plans. Aquino-Fike and Gough did not consider the second floor, as changes at this point would be too costly; construction is too far along.

How to make up the shortfall? The two investigated putting some functions elsewhere. They interviewed Gancasz, past chiefs Steve Simpkins, Walt Schuld, several other chiefs, and Candice Wong, an architect and public safety building expert. All agreed that the smaller the department, the more it would suffer from a separation of functions. Separation is found in large cities, where an entire division might have a building or floor, such as a traffic division. In tiny Kensington, efficiency, effective supervision, and staff morale would be impacted, perhaps ruinously.

Gough and Aquino-Fike examined the collocation plans proposed by community members, including now fire board director Jim Watt and architect Bart Jones. The pair concluded that the plans eliminated core functions and underestimated space needs. Their summary of the first question? "With sufficient early planning, robust collaboration between the two agencies, and adequate square footage, a reasonable PSB with two agencies is possible. Unfortunately, that is not our situation now."

Should the Police Move Back into the PSB?

The realities were no less daunting for the second question. Gough and Aquino-Fike estimated costs (both made it clear that these are ballpark estimates, as they were unable to talk to the building's architects or consultants). The Jim Watt plan proposed the district pay 19 percent of renovation cost for a lease in perpetuity. That figure would come to about 1.3M. The cost of tenant improvements to the shell downstairs, if the police moved in, was estimated at around 1.2M. But since there is not enough space, a second location would need to be rented, purchased, and renovated, which the committee estimated at between 1-2M. This put the Watt plan at 3.5-4.5M.

In contrast, resiting the modulars the police are in now would cost \$417,195 (figure from the modular company). Leasing land (for example, the Unitarian Church parking lot where the temporary fire station is now) would cost around \$1300 per month for a 20-year lease, while buying land would be in the neighborhood of 1-1.5M. For the lease, the costs come to \$730K, while buying land puts it up to 1.5-2M. The committee also looked at other options: a steel building, which with land might come to 1.35-2.15M and new construction, around 3.4-3.9M. Returning to the PSB has been touted as the cheapest option, but the committee's research showed that is not the case.

The committee also spoke to financial experts, who echoed earlier warnings from Matt Freedman and others, that attempting to alter plans could push building costs over the 50 percent replacement margin mandated by the Alquist-Priolo Act. Delays also could jeopardize the leaseback agreement signed by the fire board. Either or both could "present unjustifiably high risks to both districts," said Gough.

Apart from all this is the morale problem. Neither fire nor police want to be together in the building, as both have stated repeatedly. Gough discussed how difficult it is to recruit and retain police across the state. She noted that anecdotally several officers stated they would not move back into cramped quarters. Given that the community now has the most professional force we've had in ages, few want to put that at risk by trying to put the department back into the PSB.

The committee's conclusion? "Continuing to seek police space in the PSB is no longer a reasonable path forward. Therefore, this Committee will not recommend a return of the KPD to the PSB. Instead, we will focus our Committee efforts only on options that that will allow our police department to remain together in one location in Kensington and able to provide the level of service we now expect."

Aquino-Fike said that she was disappointed. "The table had already been set," she said, referring to the decision by the fire board to begin construction on a fire-only building. County planners mandating the elevator and its mechanicals helped sound the death knell of the police in the building. And the police board did not have access to financials, the architects, or the consultants that the fire board used.

The other KPPCSD directors and residents congratulated Aquino-Fike and Gough on the time-consuming work that went into producing the study. Several saw the conclusion as a call to the districts to consolidate, saying that we would not be in this fix with a single board answerable to the entire town and its taxpayers rather than to its own district. Fire board president Julie Stein called in on Zoom to object, saying that neither she nor Jim Watt, who had spent hours on the two-by-two committee with Aquino-Fike and Gough, had been informed of the KPPCSD committee's conclusions before the meeting. Stein said that as far as she was concerned, this experience was "a huge disincentive to

But most in the audience seemed to agree with Kensington Property Owners Association president Rob Firmin: "In this meeting, we've seen a rational, empirical analysis at last. It is greatly appreciated."

April 2023 Patrol Log

• On April 5 at about 4:11pm, officers were dispatched to the 100 block of Arlington Avenue on a report of an extremely intoxicated person who had passed out and was lying face-down on the street. KPD contacted the person and cited and released the person for violation of Drunk in Public into the care of AMR, who transported the person to the

PAGE 5

• On April 6 at 1:20pm, KPD towed a vehicle from the 200 block of Columbia Avenue that appeared to have been abandoned.

• On April 8 at 9:36am, KPD responded to the 100 block of Franciscan Way on a report of a violation of a Restraining Order. The situation was deescalated, and the report was forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for review.

• On April 11 at 8:45 PM, KPD responded to a solo vehicle collision in the 200 block of Arlington Avenue. Upon arrival, officers determined that the solo juvenile driver was intoxicated and was subsequently arrested for DUI. It was later determined the same vehicle was possibly linked to three Hit & Run Collisions in Berkeley.

• On April 13 at 2:40am the homeowners in the 100 block of Cowper Avenue heard power tools and when they looked outside, they saw a red sedan speeding off after stealing their catalytic converter.

• On April 13 between 5:50am and 6:45am, a van was stolen from the driveway in the 200 block of Willamette Avenue. Two weeks later the vehicle was recovered in Berkeley.

• On April 14, KPD was dispatched to an auto burglary in the 100 block of Purdue Avenue, where the car window was smashed, and about \$500 worth of miscellaneous items were stolen from inside of the locked vehicle.

• On April 17, KPD took a report of an Identity Theft case in the 100 block of Jessen Court, where \$5,559.00 was fraudulently obtained from the victim.

• On April 17 a Toyota was stolen from the 200 block of Los Altos Drive.

• On April 19 at 3:55 PM, KPD arrested an extremely intoxicated female in the 100 block of Colusa Avenue.

• On April 25 at about 4:4 am, a jogger was running in the area of Yale and Princeton avenues, when they saw four subjects rummaging through a truck. As soon as the suspects saw the jogger they sped away in a black sedan at a high rate of speed. It was later determined that \$2,300 worth of power tools was stolen.

• On April 26 at about 4:50pm, KPD was dispatched to a fraud case in the 100 block of York Avenue. It was determined that the suspects pretended to be Microsoft security and scammed the homeowners of \$1,560.00.

• On April 29, KPD was dispatched to the Hilltop Elementary School on a report of a "cold" malicious mischief. Overnight somebody tore out a few plants, emptied a bag of mulch, threw several cones onto the roof of the school, and ignited some garbage. The investigation is ongoing.

Grads who couldn't make the photo shoot



Matthew Tong ECHS, SF State

Paloma Akiwenzie Incline HS, U of Oregon

Aidan Phimister ECHS, St.Mary's

Mayali Shogren, ECHS, UC Albany HS, **UCSD** Santa Cruz



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Fundraiser ...from Page 3

as well as share information about other pieces of art. One of the Soroptimist clubs' scholarship winners will share a brief talk on what the scholarship meant to her future as

Buy tickets at auctria.events/SIELCerritoArtWineChocolate. Businesses and donors can find sponsorship opportunities on the same site. The auction web site includes not only many of the art pieces, but also interesting crafts, restaurant, theater and museum gift cards from local grocery stores, golf outings from Berkeley and Richmond country clubs and so much more. For further questions, please contact Candy Capogrossi, Event Chair at CandyCapogrossi@gmail.com .

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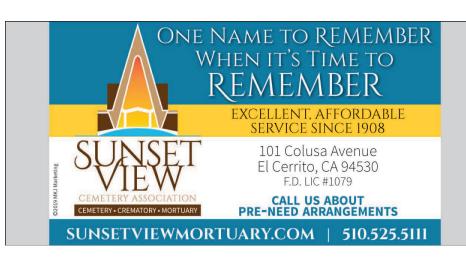
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Zip Code East Bay (ZCEB) is thrilled to commemorate our one-year anniversary at our new expanded office in Colusa Circle! To mark this special occasion, we invite the community to join us for a free succulent planting pop-up event on Sunday, June 11. This anniversary celebration is our way of expressing gratitude for the community's support as we have grown our real estate team, services, and presence.

The succulent planting pop-up promises to be an enjoyable and educational experience for all ages. All materials will be provided, though we welcome & encourage participants to bring their wn pots or containers to up-cycle & repurpose as well. Pop in on June 11 from 10:00am-1pm at 388 Colusa Ave for a fantastic time of gardening, community bonding, and celebration. Let's grow together!



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KENSINGTON Community Education



Summer Camp is almost here! We have a wonderful and talented staff waiting to greet your campers upon arrival. Kelly Barry is returning as the KCC Summer Camp Director for the third year in a row. Kelly grew up in Kensington and attended Hilltop School. During the school year she works with the KEF PE program and teaches several dance classes at Katie's Dance studio. When she is not hanging out with the kids she dances with SJ Dance Company. We are thrilled to have Kelly return for another fun summer at KCC.

KCC Summer Camp is filled with outdoor team games, arts & crafts, dance, sports, Olympic week, cooking, tennis, and much more. Teacher Vicky Brodt will host a craft project every week and create some yummy food creations in the Community Center kitchen. Each week tennis instructor, Kim Roots, will host the campers on the tennis court practicing their swing and playing some games. Our enthusiastic camp counselors, many of them former campers, will engage the campers in a variety of sports and games making sure there is plenty of laughter, team work, and fun! We still have space in a few of the camp weeks.

Register Online: KensingtonCommunityCouncil.Org/summer-camp



Blood Drive - Tuesday June 6th -Kensington Community Center sign up at Vitalant.org

Adult Yoga Class at the Community Center

Strength & Balance Yoga-Tuesdays 8:30am Gentle Yoga-Thursdays 11:30am-will be on hiatus starting June 1st

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

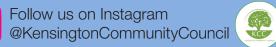
Register at KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/adult-and-family-classes

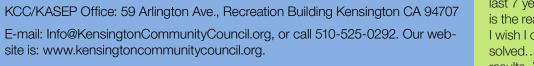
Keep checking our website for updated adult class schedules.

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

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

E-mail: Info@KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org, or call 510-525-0292. Our website is: www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org.







Message from KASEP Environmental Science Teacher Veronica Medina-Ross

Students learning about oil spills in the ocean-so they understood firsthand how it is close to impossible to clean the oil from the water and how the best solution is to use less fossil fuels

Earth week (4/17/23) and every week!

This has been the case for me during the last 30 years of my life as I have been working to help solve the serious environmental problems on our planet. I have been a consultant, government official, researcher, worked in NGOs and for the last 7 years teaching environmental science. Lately I have been wondering what is the real impact of my current work?

I wish I could see more immediate results, the crisis on our planet quickly solved...This is the process of education, planting the seeds and waiting for great results...When I teach these enthusiastic kids I have hope for the future...I keep motivating and explaining to them that the time to act is now and we are all part of the solution...I hope you join in the fight!



KENSINGTON EATS-OUT

Kensington Eats Out Local, Very Local By Ittai Shiu

When the pandemic hit, Kensington Eats was created to crowd-source large orders from local restaurants with the intention of helping restaurants just like the Inn Kensington. At that time, our program focused on providing dinners in the middle of the week so families could get a break from cooking while still enjoying some restaurant-quality food.

Unfortunately, the challenges associated with finding staff during that turbulent time forced the Inn Kensington to cut back its hours and focus on breakfast and lunch, which meant that they could never participate in our program. Despite requests from the community to collaborate with this local business in the heart of Kensington, we simply couldn't make it work.

Fortunately, Inn Kensington's decision to move away from dinner service was a great long-term decision that allowed them to stabilize their finances and focus on their

strengths. Phu, its host and chief barista, is very optimistic. He gave me a thumbs-up when I asked how business has been. He added that it's been stable and that the new hours are a good balance for their much-loved neighborhood restaurant.

Since 1981, Inn Kensington has been at the same location serving consistently good food with genuine and friendly service. Regulars, typically Kensington residents, recognize beautiful original lithographs on each wall through their connection with Masterworks Fine Art (https://www.masterworksfineart.com).

I made my first visit since the pandemic on a rainy May morning. For me, ordering a latte never seemed to make much economical sense because a third of the drink is mostly foam and just doesn't hit the spot when I'm craving that morning caffeine pick-me-up. The Inn Kensington understands this predicament, serving it steaming hot, in a large, pint-sized glass.

Pre-pandemic, my go-to breakfast dish was always the corn cilantro pancake, and I was so happy to see it still on the menu. Served with black beans and sour cream, the pancake is wrapped around salsa fresca, avocado and feta cheese, which



makes it a savory, slightly sweet, and tangy start to the day.

When our kids were younger, they'd split Inn Kensington's trademark buttermilk waffle. Classically oversized, it's both crispy and fluffy and served with fruit and sausage, a balanced and kidfriendly breakfast.

Finally, their selection of omelets doesn't disappoint. Options featuring seafood, chilies, grandmere, avocado and so much more occupy a third of their breakfast menu. Fluffy eggs are perfectly folded over fresh ingredients that I can never seem to replicate at home.



I recalled with melancholy the days when the Inn Kensington offered dinner service, which created a very modest evening buzz in the middle of our little community. Then I realized that even though the Inn Kensington doesn't have dine-in dinner hours, they still have a commitment to dinner service!

Available on their website is a menu of dinner entrees available for take-out Wednesday through Sunday. Orders placed by phone between 11am-2pm can be picked up before 2pm. Current entrees include baked salmon, spinach & cheese ravioli, and Thai coconut curry, all designed to be reheated and enjoyed at home.

When the Kensington Eats program was active, we wanted to give families the restaurant experience at home. I'm happy to see that businesses like the Inn Kensington have never stopped!

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