KENSINGTON OUTLOOK 59 ARLINGTON AVE KENSINGTON, CA 94707-1037

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND CA
PERMIT NO. 8058





MARCH 2023

PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 81 NUMBER 2



Let There Be Light

By Camden Richards

Thanks to the Colusa Circle Merchants Association (CCMA), Colusa Circle has been beautifully decorated during the holidays. We are excited to announce that the stately oak tree at the center of Colusa Circle will now be illuminated year-round, thanks to CCMA members Daniel and Narsai David. The CCMA, Colusa Circle businesses, and many Colusa Circle neighbors came together to raise the necessary funds to bring electricity to the circle median in 2019. Having electricity in the median has facilitated keeping our oak tree lit for the holiday season.

Having it lit throughout the year will continue to bring warmth and beauty to the neighborhood and encourage traffic-calming for both pedestrians and cars traveling safely through the circle. CCMA looks forward to the continued growth of our annual holiday festivities in partnership and collaboration with our local business owners and surrounding community.

No Closer to a Solution

By Linnea Due

The fireworks anticipated at the February 15 fire board meeting fizzled out, but a few sparklers still popped off. On the agenda was a presentation from directors Larry Nagel and Don Dommer entitled "Errors in the Watt Presentation on Proposed Alternatives for the Renovation of the Kensington Public Safety Building."

Fellow director Jim Watt had his own item on the agenda, seeking to relocate the first floor restroom from the south side of the elevator to its west side, which, Watt maintains, makes the first floor plan more efficient. A motion to relocate that bathroom would be the opening salvo in a battle to move the police department back into the renovated PSB.

At the beginning of the meeting, board president Julie Stein said that Watt's item was dropped from the agenda.

After the meeting, Watt said that he had been asked to pull it. "I was going to be recommending the possibility of putting a hold on the construction of the first floor area for a period of time while we worked through discussions with the KPPCSD about allowing [the police] to use the downstairs area."

Watt and Stein are on the two-by-two committee that is meeting with the police board's own reps, board president Alex Aquino-Fike and vice president Sarah Gough. The two-by-two committee has met several times to try to determine if it

See Public Safety Building, page 2

Kensington | Market Update

January 1, 2023 to present

Median DOM



Detached

Single Family

Pending Sales Closed Sales

Median List Price Median List Price Median List Price \$1,496,000 Median Sq. Ft. Median Sq. Ft. 1,946

Median Sales Price \$1,300,000 Median Sa. Ft. Median DOM 1.880

Median DOM

The Truth about Home Pricing

Ironically, instead of getting more money...Overpricing usually stigmatizes a property and reduces the eventual sale price to less than it would have been had the list price been realistic in the beginning.

Neither agents nor sellers determine market value: Only the market itself – willing and able buyers – establishes value. A comprehensive comparative market analysis is the best way to estimate the current fair market value prior to listing the home for sale. Agent and seller then work together to create a plan – pricing, preparation, and marketing – to maximize the conditions that reliably achieve the highest possible sales price.

Overpricing wastes the optimum moment of the buyer and broker's attention: Which is when the home first comes on the market. This is the seller's window of opportunity to achieve the highest sales price. This moment cannot be recaptured. Overpricing helps sell competitive properties since they stand out as good values in comparison.

If a listing has inadvertently been overpriced (or market conditions suddenly cools), the



sooner it is recognized and the price adjusted, the smaller the negative impact. The action must be swift enough to regenerate interest and sell, preserving the seller's equity.

Well-priced homes create a sense of urgency in the buyer/broker communities to act quickly with strong, clean offers and often lead to competitive bidding between buyers to achieve the highest and

Interested in knowing the value of your home in todays market call me. The appointment is confidential and complimentary.

Ruth Frassetto, CRS | 510.697.8606 | ruth.frassetto@compass.com | DRE 00779030 Over 25+ years of experience you can count on

COMPASS

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 and Beyond Update

March 2023



SOLD | 425 Yale Avenue, Kensington | 4 BR | 3 BA Ceilings, bay views, and a delightful garden. To view online, visit 425yale.com. Offered at \$1,895,000 | Sold at \$1,825,000



LISTING | 55 Kingston Road, Kensington | 5 BR | 3 BA Expansive gorgeous home with custom improvements on a rare large-level parcel. Bay views. To view online, visit: 55kingston.com | Offered at \$2,440,000

I specialize in Residential Real Estate and trust sales. I facilitate sales that are unbiased for multi-party splits and dissolutions. I thoughtfully sell homes in financial distress or unusual circumstances, with an emphasis on preserving equity and credit. If you are a seller who does not wish to sell your home publicly, I work with a network of agents who represent fully qualified buyers who will pay market value if the circumstances require a quiet sale. My client representation is tailored to address the client's unique and specific needs. What is your home worth in our current market? Contact me I am happy to provide you with a 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.

COMPASS

Public Safety Building

...from front page

is possible to include the police in the PSB.

Watt did not say why his item was pulled, though he did mention that the police board would need to get Police Chief Mike Gancasz to agree to move the police back in. "He has so far proven to be totally opposed to this," Watt said.

And so, it develops, are both unions. Stein read letters from the Kensington Police Officers Association and the fire union (see that letter on page 3) listing reasons why the unions oppose collocating fire and police together. Firefighters worried about security and that their sleep was interrupted by police comings and goings all hours; they could hear police interviews of suspects through the building's too-thin walls, and much was made of the dangers of stored evidence, such as synthetic opiates, possibly impacting firefighters. On the police side, the union related instances of good officers leaving because of uncertainty and poor working conditions in the cramped spaces of the old building.

Nagel presented his and Dommer's list of problems in Watt and Bart Jones' alternative plans, which boils down to too little room, opposition from both fire and police, unknown costs, and noncompliance with codes (see district website for the 24-page report). Nagel pointed out that in Watt's plan, another site is required for evidence and other needs, arguing that each agency in its own building made more sense than siting separate functions in two buildings.

Much public comment followed. Police board director Cass Duggan said, "This report is in denial of a landslide election. The voters told us what they wanted." Later on, fire board director Daniel Levine offered a more nuanced view: "The voters asked us to take another look" at whether the police could realistically return to the PSB, while Mabry Benson said, "Just because the electorate wants something doesn't mean it's right morally or for any other reason."

Matthew Freedman asked sobering questions about whether changes in the plans could jeopardize the 4 percent interest rate on the loan, if the job would need to be rebid, and whether costs would jump the remodel over the 50 percent threshold mandated by the Alquist-Priolo Act that requires renovation on an active fault not exceed 50 percent of a building's value. "[Bringing the police back to the PSB] could end up creating an unaffordable price tag though it is touted as saving money," he

In other district news, six-year KPPCSD director Eileen Nottoli resigned on February 10, the day after the police board's regular February meeting. Alex Aquino-Fike posted a notice on the KPPCSD website explaining that the process to fill her seat will be announced soon. See Nottoli's letter on page 3.

At that February 9 meeting, a new interim general manager was hired, David Aranda, who has been active in special district governance for decades and served as general manager for Kern County's Stallion Springs for 16 years. Aranda lives in Portland, Oregon, and part of his package is a \$600-plus weekly allowance for travel, rental car, and lodging during the two days per week he is required to be on-site in Kensington. Aranda, like Tony Constantouros, is a retired annuitant and thus limited to 960 hours per year.

STOPPING FIRE IN ITS TRACKS



Fire extinguishers are a valuable safety tool. They can stop the spread of a cooking fire (use Class B for flammable liquids such as grease). But it's critical to keep your fire extinguishers in good condition so they'll work when you need them. Fire extinguishers become depressurized over time. The needle on the gauge should point into the green, indicating optimal operation. Don't throw expired extinguishers in the trash or recycling. Kensington residents can now use El Cerrito Recycling Center at 7501 Schmidt Lane for hazardous materials disposal. Bring expired fire extinguishers to the center on Tuesdays from 9-4pm with your ID to prove residence. To purchase new fire extinguishers, use the CERT Emergency Supply Sale: www.kensingtonfire.org/supplysale.

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 icational 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.

A P R I L 2 O 2 2 **DEADLINES**

Advertising Deadline * March 8 Editorial Deadline * March 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@ $kensing to noutlook.com.\ No\ press\ releases\ or\ PDFs;\ Word$ documents or text in the body of an email are acceptable.

Use one space, not two, after all periods.

K E N S I N G T O N OUTLOOK

LINNEA DUE

ALMA KEY

PUBLISHER KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

59 Arlington Ave. Kensington, ČA 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 Advertising......510-508-3241

Classified Advertising

advertising@KensingtonOutlook.com

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. 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

Nottoli Resigns as Board Director

This letter, copied to the Outlook on February 10, was sent on the same day to board president Alex Aquino-Fike and outgoing interim General Manager Tony Constantouros: I have enjoyed my tenure on the KPPCSD Board over the years but feel it is time for me to get back to my prior endeavors. Thus, my service as a member of the KPPCSD Board of Directors will end today, Friday, February 10, 2023.

I am proud to have served on Boards which have achieved many significant accomplishments including splitting the combined General Manager and Chief of Police position, hiring the first professional General Manager, supporting the development of improved financial accounting and budgets, renovating the Community Center for seismic safety without the need for a bond, developing professional administration staff, modernizing the payroll system, improving our police department, shepherding the contracts with police to increase salaries while saving the District money, moving dispatch services to a less expensive and more reliable dispatch provider, purchasing new hybrid vehicles for the police, purchasing body cameras and new desktop and laptop computers for the police, adopting a new logo, lowering attorneys fees, improving the website to be searchable and ADA compliant, adding new garbage containers in commercial areas, and revising the Policy and Procedure Manual.

We have been fortunate to have excellent directors and dedicated employees. I leave with many fond memories and new friendships. It has been my honor to have served our community.

Eileen Nottoli

Fire Union Supports Fire-Only PSB

This letter from the firefighters' union was read into the record at the February 15 fire board meeting. The letter below has been slightly edited to fit maximum word count. Kensington Fire Protection District Board of Directors,

As the renovation of Kensington Fire Station continues, I would like to voice our support of the current, board-approved plan for a Fire-only Public Safety Building. This renovation will support a proper working environment for firefighters while ensuring the seismic and general safety measures that are necessary for continued, high quality emergency response to the community. While fire and police shared the PSB for several years, both agencies agreed that the space available to properly perform all functions of public safety left much to be desired. For Fire District staffing, issues such as lack of dorm room space for regular and increased staffing models, insufficient office and records space, and a cramped exercise area were a few of the physical challenges. In terms of basic safety, prisoners/detainees were handcuffed to a bar near a bench in a patrol room that easily accessed the fire station's day room, kitchen, and dorm areas. Additionally, the differing shift schedules between fire and police often resulted in unintentional, yet undesirable disruption of rest periods for those that were on-duty for multiple 24-hour work periods.

Lastly, costly delays of altering the current plan not only postpone the readiness of a proper working environment, but potentially places the District in a poor financial position. This could have a negative effect on the El Cerrito contract and the nine union members employed through the agreement.

Through the years, this building has unsuccessfully undergone several renovations attempting to provide a suitable workspace. Several studies and subject matter experts were consulted in determining the need for a Fire-only Public Safety Building. This included a Joint Needs Analysis that determined that square footage provided through this renovation was still less than recommended for use by the Fire District alone. Additionally, the chiefs of both agencies have voiced concerns regarding the inadequacies of jointly occupying this space. On behalf of the members of the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County, I urge you to use the expert information solicited by the District and those who will occupy the PSB to continue with the renovation plans currently in progress.

Vince Wells, President of IAFF Local 1230

The Benefits of Consolidation

Dear Editor:

There is lots of discussion about consolidation, meaning having a single board for our police and the fire departments. The winners of last year's election for both boards ran on a platform of consolidation.

There is also talk about the financial savings to be realized if we consolidate the two boards. I worked with a group to work on consolidation. In contrast to higher estimates, my figures show that annual savings will likely be below \$200,000, very possibly well below.

While the short-term financial savings may be relatively modest, consolidation will result in a much better run community. We can hire a single general manager rather than having a different general manager for each district as we do now. This can be a permanent, full-time hire rather than a part-time, short-term hire. A full-time manager can help us craft a vision for our town under the direction of a single, integrated government to carry out that vision. The general manager can hire office and accounting staff. We can finally get away from duplicating staff in two separate districts, with police and fire personnel managed by a coordinated government.

While short-term savings may not be huge, the longer-term benefits of a better-run government with permanent staff will result in substantial savings over the long term as well as better service to the community. We will not have to suffer the latest casualty of divided government, which is the takeover of the Public Safety building by the Fire District, resulting in our police department treated like a squatter subject to eviction.

I served on the Police Board's finance committee for ten years, and I also analyzed the financial issues of the Fire Board. It is abundantly clear that the long overdue consolidation of our government promised by our newly elected members of both boards will help us to stabilize our finances and decrease the odds of taxes having to be raised to support poorly coordinated decisions of a divided government. We must all come together to support delivery of that essential campaign promise to the best of our ability.

Karl Kruger

Time to Deliver the Goods

Dear Editor:

The election last November sent a strong message to the citizens of Kensington. There was a three-person slate running for the Kensington Police Protection and Community

Services District (KPPCSD) Board of Directors and another three-person slate running for the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) Board of Directors. These two boards constitute the divided government of Kensington.

Both slates ran on the promise to unite the boards and create a single government for Kensington, and the voters gave them a decisive thumb's up. Having been a KPPCSD Board Director for almost six years and the Board's President for three of those years, I have been waiting for this moment for a long time.

However, I have often found Kensingtonians surprised to understand that these two boards are not two departments under a single authority, but completely independent and often at odds with each other, as if they were running two separate towns. Where in the world can you find a town governed by two sparring entities?

To this perplexing arrangement the voters have finally said "Enough! Time to have one unified government." Sale made, time to deliver the goods, and it is urgent that the two boards move forward and deliver on their promise.

The best way for them to begin to do that is to focus on the Public Safety Building (PSB), which for decades has housed both the police and fire personnel. The last blow dealt to us before our election promising a new unity was the Fire Board, the legal owner of the PSB, booting the police out of the PSB. Construction is now underway to make the PSB serve only the Fire Department, and that needs to stop immediately in favor of a more unified approach to serving our need for coordinated police and fire protection.

The two boards, if they truly want to cooperate, can find a way to continue accommodating the police and fire departments in the PSB. This will continue and improve cooperation between these two essential agencies and best serve our One Town. **Len Welsh**

Who Wouldn't Want to Thank a Retiring Board Member for Service? Dear Editor.

I am astonished that the Kensington Fire Board chose to fail a motion (2 yes, 3 no) to thank Janice Kosel after 28 years of service. It was mean, outlandish, and unthinkable. Janice Kosel served on the KFB with more than enough years of service that her willingness to serve so long means she must have served well enough over the years as evidenced by Kensington voters to have believed in her over time. The vote should have been unanimous in addition to the vote for Kevin Padian (3 yes, 2 absentias) who served one term. Just being willing to serve on KFB is service enough to earn a "thank you."

I read there was a resolution made to review and correct this egregious error, but the damage was done, it never should have happened. One doesn't need to like the retiring board member, and some who are voting may not have served with her or him yet can vote in favor. This is not about a popularity contest! Rather it is appreciation of another's service and willingness to do so. This was appalling and embarrassing for our town of Kensington. What happens when more urgent and/or priority votes are needed to pass a resolution?

Thank you El Cerrito/Kensington firefighters for doing the right thing and giving Janice Kosel a well-deserved commendation for her 28 years of service. Kensington Fire Board should be even more embarrassed after seeing the wonderful photo in the *Outlook* of Janice Kosel with the El Cerrito/Kensington firefighters.

Donna Breger Stanton

ARE KENSINGTON HOMES APPRECIATING?

Despite the recent slowdown, Kensington reached an all-time high median price in 2022 at \$1.6M, and those who purchased in 2021 or prior have likely experienced positive appreciation.

Red Oak continues to be the largest independent brokerage in Kensington. Reach out if you would like a custom report specific to your home.

MEDIAN SALE PRICE OF SINGLE FAMILY HOMES IN KENSINGTON APPRECIATION SINCE 2018



Data is sourced from the Multiple Listing Service (MLS), MLS data is provided by individual listing brokerages. These are sources we deem reliable We have no reason to doubt their accuracy, but we do not guarantee them. Past performace does not guarantee future performance.



► #1 IN KENSINGTON · redoakrealty.com





Photo by Zip Code East Bay

Run for a Reason at the Colusa Circle 5K

By Rae Quigley, Zip Code East Bay

On Saturday March 18, Zip Code East Bay will hold its fifth annual Colusa Circle 5K. This community fun run is open to participants of all ages and abilities and will happen rain or shine!

Racers will start in Colusa Circle at 8am and follow the sidewalk course as it leads through the quaint streets of Kensington and El Cerrito. This year's race will raise money for KIDS for the BAY, a local organization that provides environmental education opportunities for under-resourced school communities.

To register or for more details, please visit ColusaCircle5k.org.

Zip Code East Bay is also collecting used running shoes and new socks for donation to BOSS. Donations can be dropped off at the Zip Code East Bay office (388 Colusa Ave) during the Kensington Farmers' Markets on Sundays or on race day.

Events for Every Age at the Library

By Kara Sheetz

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

March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: Baby and Toddler Storytime Fun stories, songs, action rhymes, shaky eggs, and more! Great for increasing early literacy skills and making friends. New! Two identical sessions: 10am & 11am.

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 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 an appointment.

March 4, 11, 18, 25: 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.

March 7, 14, 28: Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. 6:30pm.

March 14: Birding is for Everyone with author, activist, and local bird enthusiast, John C. Robinson. Part of the Outdoor Explorer Online Program Series running through June 2023. Online, 4pm. Contact the library to join.

March 16: Medicinal and Edible Flowers with Clinical Herbalist Anna Marie Beauchemin RH(AHG). Explores the medicinal properties and health benefits of local wildflowers. Includes an introduction into herbalism and ways to use flowers in teas and cooking to support our health and well-being. Online, 11am. Contact the library to join.

March 16: March Madness Cornhole Tournament for teens and kids 9+. Come find out if you've got what it takes to win the title! 3pm.

March 18: Kapla blocks and KNEX colorful building sets. Create amazing things with thin 4" blocks, and build 2D or 3D creations with KNEX. Best for ages preschool to grade 6. 3pm.

March 21: Coventry and Colusa. Come see the two-person circus at the library! For all ages. 6:30pm.

March 27: Kensington Library Book Club. This month's selection for discussion is *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner. Online, 6:30pm. Contact

Not a Drop to Drink

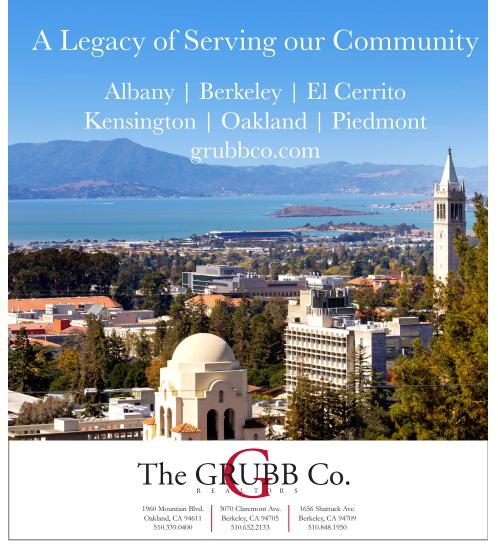
A Notice from the Kensington Fire Department

When an earthquake hits, one of the most important things to have on hand is drinking water. EBMUD expects to have most residential services restored within a month of a major quake. To be prepared for that month, 1 gallon of potable water and 1 gallon of sanitation water per person per day is recommended.

We highly recommend purchasing water storage items as a complete package as they contain everything needed for a single location, including FDA approved food-grade plastic water barrels or totes, wrenches, dispensing method (spigot or pump), bleach, a bleach-dosing syringe, and instructions.

We partner with the Lamorinda CERT organization for sales of complete packages. You must preorder before noon on Thursday, April 27. In order to correctly route your order for pickup, please note El Cerrito CERT on the checkout page! An email will be sent confirming your purchase. To begin your order, visit www.kensingtonfire.org/supplysale.





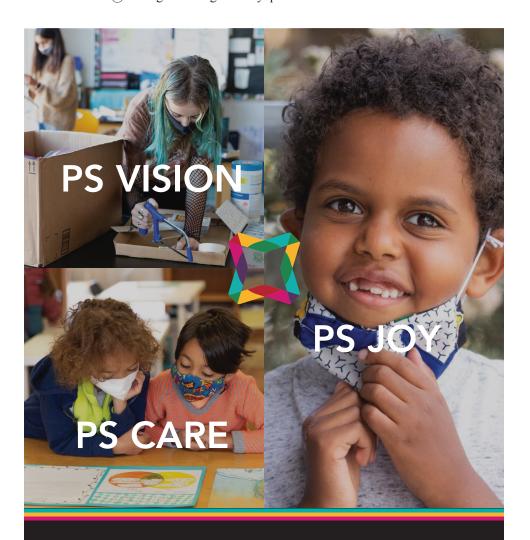
Joint Board Meeting on Consolidation April 24

By Sarah Gough

The KPPCSD and KFPD boards have voted to call a Joint Special Board Meeting on April 24 at 7 pm to hear a presentation on consolidation of the two districts from Lou Ann Texeira, chief executive of the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO).

The meeting will be held in hybrid format, allowing participation via Zoom or in-person at the Community Center. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

If residents have questions they would like to see answered at the presentation, it is strongly encouraged that they be sent to directors Gough or Levine prior to the meeting so that answers can be included in the presentation. Please check the KPPCSD web site for meeting details or contact KPPCSD Director Sarah Gough at sgough@kppcsd.org or KFPD Director Daniel Levine at dlevine@kensingtonfire.org with any questions.



Prospect Sierra students engage in deep academic work, practice skills to hone greater self-knowledge, and demonstrate compassion and care for others. Immersed in a joyful school community, they develop a lifelong love of learning.

PRISPECT SIERRA

prospectsierra.org

CITIZENAFORUM

Storms Amplify Urgency to Take Public Ownership of the Paths

By Rodney Paul

Damage to Kensington's Ardmore Path during the storms in early January underscores a threat to the continued access and safety of these popular thoroughfares. One side of the path remains closed, and we could see this problem on more of the paths in the near future if our community doesn't take steps to acquire and maintain them for public use.

The Ardmore closure is on the upper portion of the path below the staircase that leads to Arlington Ave. A tree on an adjoining property was badly damaged in the storm, and this impacted another tree on the path, resulting in damage to the concrete sidewalk, which is now broken and turned up at an angle. Contra Costa County and the KPD cordoned off the area



with caution tape and a "Sidewalk Closed" sign.

Responsibility for repairing the path is unclear. An adjacent homeowner received an email from the county stating that "the paths are privately owned at this time and that adjacent private property owners are responsible for maintenance." This is inconsistent with the previous county position that there is no known owner of the paths. It would set a terrible precedent for the paths, resulting in unfair responsibility and potential liability that adjacent property owners should not be expected to bear.

Like our streets and parks, the paths will need some level of ongoing maintenance and repair. Without public ownership, there is no possibility of public funds being available for upkeep, and when problems such as this one arise, as they will, our community can expect to face the same quandary.

The original developers of Kensington created the paths in the early 1900s. They were intended as a way for residents to walk directly up and down the hills to reach public transportation and shops. Along with the streets, the developers offered the county ownership of the paths. The county accepted ownership of the streets but did not accept ownership of the paths. The county has previously stated that the successors in interest to the original developers legally own the paths, but they have gone out of business and therefore, there is no known owner of the paths.

Thus, despite their popularity, the eleven paths in the original survey of Kensington have never been legally acquired for public use. Adjoining neighbors have already blocked two of the eleven. The situation on the Ardmore Path could be the catalyst for this to happen to others.

The Kensington paths have long been popular for getting around Kensington by foot. Many use them to walk to shopping, Arlington Ave. bus stops and other destinations. They're great for those who enjoy walking for exercise. And they could also be vital evacuation routes in the event of a wildfire or other disaster.

Our Kensington Pathkeeper group feels it is fundamentally unfair to burden adjoining homeowners with responsibility for maintaining the paths and the potential liability for their use. The paths are an asset that should be owned and maintained for the benefit of the entire community. Just as public agencies own and take responsibility for maintenance of streets and parks, it is reasonable to expect public ownership of the paths.

Our group has advocated for public acquisition of the paths so that this responsibility is clearly delineated and budgeted. In 2012, the KPPCSD unanimously passed a resolution to begin the process of public acquisition. But this ultimately was not pursued as that board became consumed with other issues. We continued our advocacy at meetings of the 2020-22 KPPCSD. But several directors opposed moving forward, and the board took no further action, continuing the current situation in which path ownership and upkeep is neglected.

The good news is that Supervisor John Gioia is heading up a Kensington Working Group with citizens and Public Works staff. This group is investigating what would be required to own and maintain the paths, including the costs and funding options to do so. We have also had promising discussions with the current KPPCSD directors and believe there's a new impetus to gather the needed information to move forward on public

acquisition and path upkeep. Doing so will require the board to work in concert with the county. It will also require funds to be budgeted for improvement and maintenance of the paths, most likely from a property assessment that Kensington voters would need to approve.

Path acquisition is a question Kensington can no longer avoid. We need to work together to finally resolve a community need that has gone unaddressed for nearly 110 years. Doing so will result in a community that is safer for pedestrians. But failure to take this necessary step could result in the ultimate loss of these local treasures.

We therefore urge the county and the KPPCSD to work together to rectify the Ardmore Path closure and at long last achieve public ownership of the paths.



License B444427

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

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

KENSINGTON REFERENCES

510.655.9267

www.aurora-painting.com



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

510.654.3339

www.omnipainting.com

HOME REPAIR EXPERT

I love fixing things, all things well,
and am very good at it.
I can also do quality auto body
repair work. My skills include
carpentry, painting, color matching,
small electric and plumbing jobs,
windows, glass, doors, locks, drywall,
fences, sprinklers, decks & any odd job.

Kensington • Berkeley • Oakland

RICK PARIS 310-630-9829





YOU ARE NOT ALONE!Connect with us throughout the week.

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

Check our website for details and more ways to connect:
www.uucb.org

— Supporting beloved community —





5451 BARRETT AVENUE, EL CERRITO

3 BEDROOMS · 1.5 BATHS · OFFERED AT \$1,149,000

Fall in love with this Mediterranean dream home featuring classical Spanish Revival architectural details.



· Living in and loving Kensington for over 18 years ·

KENSINGTON

Community Education



Spring KASEP Registration opens **Tuesday, March 7th** at 7pm for kindergarten and 7:30 for grades 1-6. Spring KASEP class brochure will be available online beginning February 15th.

KASEP Registration Tuesday, March 7thSpring Classes Start Monday, March 20th

No Classes Week of April 3-7 - Spring Break

Friday May 26th Monday, May 29th

Last Class Friday, June 2nd

KCC Summer Camp Begins Monday June 12th





Summer Camp

Join us for KCC

Summer Camp 2023 where kids can enjoy the outdoors with exciting team games, arts & crafts, dance, sports, Olympic week, cooking, tennis and much more! Each week KCC Camp offers a 9am-5pm camp day filled with adventure and fun. KCC Camp is located at the Kensington Park, Community Center and Recreation Building.

Register Online: Kensington-CommunityCouncil.Org

Registration Starts: Tuesday, February 28th at 7pm and is ongoing KCC Summer Camp 2023

Week 1 June 12- June 16

Theme: Pod Pride

Specialty: Made from Scratch w/ April Schlanger

Week 2 *June 20 – June 23 (no camp Monday 6/19)

Theme: Superheroes Specialty: Sport Medley

Week 3 June 26– June 30
Theme: Under the Sea
Specialty: Carpentry w/Vicky

Week 4 *July 3- July 7 (no camp Tuesday 7/4)

Theme: Stars & Stripes

Specialty: Dance Fitness

Week 5 July 10 – July 14

Theme: Zoo Life

Specialty: Fun with Food

Week 6 July 17 - July 21 Theme: Dino Days Specialty: Wizarding World Legos

Week 7 July 24 – July 28

Theme: Space Explorers

Specialty: Creative Creations w/ April Schlanger

Week 8 July 31 - August 4
Theme: Olympic Week
Specialty: Camp Olympics

Week 9 August 7 - August 11
Theme: Beach Week
Specialty: Sports Medley

Online enrollment starts Tuesday, February 28th at 7pm and is on-going. More details available on our website.

Scholarships are available. You can fill out an application through our website.

KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org

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

Adult Classes

Yoga Class at the Community Center

Strength & Balance Yoga -Tuesdays 8:30am

Gentle Yoga -Thursdays 11:30am

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 Keep checking our website for updated adult class schedules.

Tennis Court Reservations: For weekends and holidays only. Call the KCC office to book your reservations 510-525-0292 KPPCSD Court Fees: 1 hour reservations- residents: \$7 non-residents \$10.

The Kensington Outlook can now be found at: KensingtonOutlook.com Archive copies can also be found on our website dating back to 2003.

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





KPD Receives Award from Department of Justice

On January 27, the Kensington Police Department received a notice of certification of compliance from the California Incident-Based Reporting System team. Said the congratulatory letter accompanying the announcement, "We know this is a big undertaking, and there are many challenges in making a transition of this magnitude."

The state's crime data reporting is part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), instituted by the FBI in January 2021. According to the website of the Bureau of Justice, "NIBRS data more accurately reflect the types of crime addressed by police agencies, like simple assault, animal cruelty, destruction of property, intimidation, and identity theft. The broad scope of the information collected in NIBRS will greatly improve the nation's understanding of crime and public safety."

As a small agency, Kensington was faced with special hurdles to clear in transitioning to the state's incident-based reporting. Larger departments have recordkeeping departments with staff, while Kensington personnel must wear many hats, including that of recordkeeping. Sergeant Amit Nath spearheaded the transition to incident-based reporting and according to Chief of Police Mike Gancasz, deserves the lion's share of the credit. Every individual has bought into the system, which promises to provide much more context to crime reporting. To put Kensington's impressive effort into perspective, as of the end of 2021, California had the second lowest percentage of compliance in the country, with only seven percent of the population covered by agencies using the new reporting system (Florida was lowest).

Wrote Chief Mike Gancasz in an email, "Sergeant A. Nath supervised the program from the beginning. He communicated with our dispatch center, coordinated training for our officers, and was the liaison with the Department of Justice to ensure we were on the right path. Without the officers' accurate reporting and Sergeant Nath's attention to detail, I doubt we could have achieved compliance. We are fortunate to have such an exceptional staff."

January Patrol Log

- On January 5 at about 1:10pm, KPD was notified of an online scam in the 100 block of Arlington Avenue. The victim received a call indicating their account had been hacked and was requested to go purchase gift cards at a nearby store in order to rectify the problem. They followed the instructions and only after sending \$2,000 dollars did they realize they had been a fraud victim.
- On January 6 at about 2:30pm, KPD was dispatched to a possible road rage incident on Anson Way. Responding officers contacted both parties and determined a Hit & Run collision took place on Sunset Drive near Arlington Avenue. The incident started when the unlicensed driver thought they had the right-of-way and fled without stopping because they were scared. The other involved vehicle quickly called 911, followed the suspect vehicle and waited until Kensington PD arrived on scene. At the conclusion of the investigation, the suspect driver was arrested on numerous charges that included violations of CVC 20002(a)-Hit & Run, CVC 12500(a)-Unlicensed Driver and CVC 21661-Uphil Right-Of-Way.
- On January 11, KPD was notified of an online scam in the 100 block of Lenox Road. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that the victim had been notified by the IRS of some unpaid taxes. As a result, the victim contracted with a fictitious firm that specializes in Recovery Tax Relief. They followed the instructions and after sending \$8,400, they realized they had been a victim of fraud.
- On January 12, KPD was dispatched to a stolen catalytic converter theft that took place overnight in the 200 block of Stanford Avenue.
- On January 18, KPD was notified of an online scam in the 200 block of Columbia Avenue. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that the elderly person had been notified that their grandson had been arrested for DUI and was currently being held in the Alameda County Jail. The victim was told to withdraw \$6,500 from their bank account to bail their grandson out of the Jail. Later, a representative of the fictitious bail bonds company met the victim and collected the money. Only after the suspect took the money did the victim realize they had been a victim of fraud.
- On January 18, KPD responded and took a report for a COLD hit & Run report that took place in the area of Stanford Avenue and Yale Avenue.
- On January 23 at about 7:45am, KPD responded to a report that a white BMW had been stolen sometime overnight from the 100 block of Arlington Court. KPD responded and worked with the homeowner who had a home tracking device for his car via a mobile app. The vehicle was recovered later in the day by Oakland PD.
- On January 24 at about 1:35, KPD responded to a solo, non-injury collision in the 200 block of Willamette Avenue.
- On January 26 at 11:36am, KPD was dispatched to a Hit & Run collision between a silver-colored Porsche and a parked vehicle in the area of Wellesley Avenue and
- On January 30, KPD was notified of an online scam. The investigation determined that the personal identifying features of the victim was accessed via their email, from an old access code for a Cash APP, which resulted in the victims' personal information also being located on the Dark Web.
- On January 31, at 6:40pm, both KPD and KFD were dispatched Code-3 to a house fire in the 200 block of Stanford Avenue. The fire was extinguished before it spread to another dwelling, and nobody was injured. The investigation into the origins of the fire is ongoing.

BEAUTIFUL CEMETERY PLOT FOR SALE: VIEWPOINT GARDEN, Sunset Cemetery

· Overlooks Golden Gate and SF Bay · Accommodates two burials • \$6495. • Photos Text: (512) 287-9612

Classified A

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

FOR SALE- 2004 VOLVO 4 CYLINDER Well-maintained with all records. Runs great - highly dependable. 153,000 miles. \$4,000. 510-527-5661.

HANDYMAN BRUCE, Small jobs and repairs, fences, decks, painting, and around the House repairs. Also replace locks and locksmith repair. 510-528-3419

HELPING HANDS, PERSONALIZED CONCIERGE SERVICES. Help around your home to make things easier for you. Organize, errands, de-clutter, home care. Ongoing or short term. 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

YOUR GREEN GARDENERS Unique, Beautiful, Sustainable Garden Designs. Garden Maintenance, Clean-Ups & Tree Pruning. Email: y o u r g r e e n g a r d e n e r s @ g m a i l . c o m w w w . y o u r g r e e n g a r d e n e r s . c o m

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



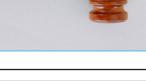
Caring for trees since 1978.

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

510·549·3954 or 888·335·TREE



KPPCSD 2nd Thursday of the month KFPD 3rd Wednesday of the Month Both at the Community Center, 7pm



PHOTOGRAPHY

MARCH CLASSES AT NAN PHELPS PHOTOGRAPHY

1. IPHONE+PHOTOGRAPHY=IPHONEOGRAPHY

The iPhone is the camera that you always have with you. This amazing camera continues to improve and add new features every year. In this class you'll learn the basics and the new features, as well as how to edit, organize and share your favorite pictures. iPhone 8 or later recommended for this course. Formerly a news photographer, Mark is a graduate of the Berkeley Digital Film Institute and has worked on numerous

www.markaltenberg.com/iphone

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 10:00-1:00 P.M.

2. FUNDAMENTALS OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Discuss the basic settings and functions of the camera in order to shoot in manual mode: shutter, aperture, ISO. Utilize exposure, lighting and lenses on a camera. Learn about intentional composition and the post production process. Apply skills to turn good photographs into great ones. Bring your cameras, manuals, and questions. Jessica is an award-winning photographer, published in the New Yorker and in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 10:00-1:00 P.M.

www.jessicaeverattner.com 3. FINDING LIGHT

www.gingerfierstein.com

Light is sustenance for photographers. It's everywhere, playful and magical, defining our world. First, we'll look at the work of photographers that effectively find and use light. Then we'll look at Indoor and Outdoor light. Cameras optional. Nan is a Fine Art Silver Gelatin photographer. She celebrates families, individuals and pets through the Art of Portrait Photography. www.nanphelps.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 10:00-1:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 10:00-1:00 P.M.

4. FILM PHOTOGRAPHY AND REFRESHER

This class will facilitate your confidence about using your analog camera, covering basic camera functionality and films, how to expose film properly, and what to do after shooting. Bring your own film camera and be ready to download a light meter app - \$4. Black and white film will be proviced. Ginger Fierstein is a seasoned photo lab technician as well as a freelance photographer specializing in colorful, kaleidoscopic portraits and scenes of nature.

> Each Class: \$95 payable at nanphelps.com/classes or at the class Location: Nan Phelps Photography 398 Colusa Ave., Kensington Phone: 510-528-8845 • Email: nan@nanphelps.com



KENSINGTON EATS OUT

LA Style Street Food Served Up Tall at 310 Eatery By Ittai Shiu

In the days of the pandemic, Kensington Eats featured a new restaurant every few weeks, crowd-sourcing a large community order in an effort to generate revenue for local restaurants by picking up and delivering restaurant-quality meals to participating families.



the opportunity to work with them.

Fast forward to a couple of years after the pandemic when Yelp! once again acknowledged 310 Eatery. This time the spot earned a new accolade in a different category: 310 is ranked #33 in the Top 100 Best Brunch Spots in California for 2022.

This was the reminder I needed to pay a visit to 310 Eatery, and it fell on a day that I had promised my son a burger after band practice one damp afternoon. Coming out of the rain, we were promptly greeted by Gill, 310's warm and patriarchal host.

Tiffany and Erin, the masterminds of this Los Angeles-inspired restaurant, have been serving Asian-influenced, street-style comfort food since 2014. Their "Krazy Delish"

Breakfast/Brunch on weekends features winners like Temescal Sunrise French Toast with buttermilk brined and breaded fried chicken covered in country gravy or the aptly named Chocolate Monster Pancakes.

While there are many options to choose from, I ordered the 405 Traffic Jam. Often called the best burger in the East Bay, it's named after a busy Los Angeles freeway (like the 310), but it's one traffic jam you'll want! It starts with a short rib and bacon patty that's layered with a breaded portobello mushroom and crispy



onions for that crunchy texture. Jalapenos and 310's signature "Kalbi Aioli" provide a little heat and some dipped pastrami to round it all out. There doesn't seem to be anything missing, but if Gill asks if you'd like a fried egg on it—don't think about it, just say "yes" because it's a perfect complement to the artisan brioche bun.

This is where you might understand the need for a 6-inch toothpick to keep all that goodness together. With such an elaborate burger, it would have been wise to order plain fries...or a salad. However, a large picture of their Bacon Jam Fries framed directly and most definitely strategically behind our table convinced me that a plate of fries topped with kettle-cooked bacon, sweet grilled onions, and melted mozzarella was worth the "research." Because who isn't a sucker for fries that need to be eaten with a fork? Crispy, savory, sweet, and satisfying—it brought the burger and fries experience, as my son put it, "to another level."

If you're not craving a burger, 310 Eatery offers plenty of options like the Tokyo Po' Boy Soft Shell Crab Sandwich or the Cross-Town Bowl, which features Puck fried rice, a Temescal fried chicken cutlet, and 310's original curry jam. In other words, there are plenty of reasons to come back for another visit.

310 Eatery/747 San Pablo Ave, Albany, CA 94706

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

When Kensington Eats started up in 2020, Yelp! had just named 310 Eatery

#55 in the Top 100 Best Places to Eat

in America! I couldn't have been more

of my favorite burgers in the area. How-

tribulations of take-out and delivery, the

unfortunate truth was that delivery logis-

tics would have hindered and not helped in this case. Part of the 310 Eatery experience

is attempting to sink your teeth into one of

its towering burgers, which is held together

with a 6-inch toothpick and often accom-

panied by fries, fresh off the fryer, topped

with melted cheese and bacon jam. Thanks

to our previous experiences of transport-

ing food up and down the windy roads of

Kensington, we were confident that what

we would have delivered wouldn't have done 310 Eatery justice, so we never had

thrilled for them because they serve up one

ever, once we quickly learned the trials and

Floor
Dimensions
where beautiful rooms begin

30% -75%
Off SALE
going on now!

"Low price guarantee!"

CARPET | VINYL | WOOD | LINOLEUM | TILE

BETWEEN GILMAN & BUCHANAN ST.

CL#78885

510-525-5656

www.floordimensions.com

1081 Eastshore Hwy. Berkeley

PLEASE JOIN ZIP CODE EAST BAY FOR THE FIFTH ANNUAL

COLUSA CIRCLE 5 K



REGISTER AT COLUSACIRCLESK.ORG

RACE ORGANIZATION & FUNDRAISING BY ZIP CODE EAST BAY