

## Glorious...from page 1

revenue from online sales or direct donations from community members. Nor does it reflect the satisfaction of watching books fly off the children's and trade fiction tables, or of seeing Boy and Girl Scout volunteers walk off with several pounds of new reading material. Book sales keep books circulating."

*Stratford Path could use some help—and Kensington Pathkeepers has scheduled a cleanup November 23, from 10am-noon. Meet at Coventry and Lenox. Photo by Mark Attenberg*



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Bringing the Community Together

# K E N S I N G T O N O U T L O O K

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

NOVEMBER 2019

PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 77 NUMBER 10

## One Glorious Day, So Many Volunteers



Volunteers organize books for the fall sale (left); musicians from the Korematsu Middle School Jazz Band display admirable chops. Photos by Mark Attenberg



By Linnea Due

Freed at least momentarily from the specter of electrical shutdowns and Red Flag warnings, Kensington residents hiked, listened to great music, bought books and food, and celebrated our village past and present. The events slated for Sunday, October 13, began much earlier, as Kensington Community Council and Arlington Community Church volunteers prepared for the parade/picnic and Blessing of the Animals to be held Sunday, October 13. Then add the many afternoon hours that Friends of the Kensington Library spent gathering, pricing, and organizing the books for the FKL book sale.

Sunday dawned mild and sunny, with a slight cooling wind that reminded people that fall had arrived. Just as the Farmers Market at Colusa Circle began to roar, over twenty people met Rodney and Sarah Paul and others involved in advocating public ownership of the public paths. Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia joined the group as it began a walk through lower Kensington, traversing paths that were established in the 1920s and '30s. The paths perform so many functions: shortcuts through our winding turns, exits in case of roadblocks during emergencies, wildlife corridors away from cars. As Rodney Paul

pointed out, using a needed throat mike, as Kensington was developed, the first houses were built along the paths.

Pathkeepers member Lisa Caronna ([kensingtonpathkeepers.org](http://kensingtonpathkeepers.org)), writes by email: "Rodney Paul was an amazing guide, reporting on the history of the region, the development of Kensington, the oldest houses along the route, and of course the paths and the issues facing our community leading to the need for public ownership. John Gioia was a wealth of information on the history of the paths and the county."

At the same time, up at the Kensington Library, the fall book sale attracted a large group of buyers. People walked off with file boxes full of books donated by residents to fund the FKL, which purchases library books and puts on programs at the library for adults and children.

Writes FKL's Jim Fisher, "Business was brisk at the cashier tables, and volunteers and shoppers alike were clearly happy to have a place to browse and catch up with neighbors. Gross receipts were higher than for past Fall Sales, though below what they were ten years ago. Such a comparison, however, does not reflect the FKL's growing

See Glorious, back page

## Parade and Picnic Takes a Village—and Lots of Dogs

By Anne Forrest

Kensington's Parade and Picnic and the Blessing of the Animals shared Kensington Park's big field on a beautiful fall day as the Blue Angels flew in the distance. Leading the parade were KFD fire engines and Grand Marshal Arlington Community Church's Reverend Nate Klug, his wife, and young daughter. After arriving at the park, Reverend Nate switched gears to perform the Blessing of the Animals in the tradition of Francis of Assisi. At least two-dozen dogs and their owners were on hand to participate in this tradition.

The party continued with Tiffany Carrico leading the excellent Korematsu Middle School Jazz Band while people lined up to be served lunch by KCC board members and Kensington Hilltop's Dad's Club. Girl Scouts from troops #30189 and #33556 sold beautifully decorated homemade cookies and cupcakes. Community groups such as the Kensington Improvement Club, the ACC, Kensington Public Safety Council, Kensington fire board, Kensington 360, and Therapy Pets answered questions and passed out literature around the themes of human and animal safety and care.

At 1:30pm everyone turned their attention to the middle of the field where Officer Michael Brown and his K9 partner, Odin, demonstrated how Odin was trained and what it looks like when a dog is commanded to engage with a suspect. The crowd was visibly impressed with Odin's precision training. The officers were nice enough to stick around and answer many questions asked by children and adults.

See Parade, page 6



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## Letters to the Editor

### We Need Solutions First

Dear Editor:

The Kensington Property Owners Association (KPOA) board does not support the preliminary space plan by RossDrulisCusenbery Architecture Inc., which is part of the assessment to determine the feasibility of renovating the Public Safety Building (PSB). That plan calls for the displacement of our police from a renovated PSB.

Co-location of fire and police operations has served the community well due to a central location and ability to coordinate. There are limited options for relocating the PSB to another site, and the KPPCSD has yet to identify options for relocation. Both departments are required to be located in buildings meeting the “essential services building” code, which adds substantial construction cost. Kensington property owners would have to cover these unbudgeted, unforeseen costs to construct a new police headquarters.

Given the identified space requirements of the fire department, the police department can no longer expect to retain its present PSB space allocation. KPPCSD must reassess the police department’s future space needs and work in concert with KFPD and the architect to identify the minimum space required for police operations to remain in a renovated PSB.

The current committee structure between KFPD and KPPCSD is inadequate to resolve the co-location of fire and police in a renovated PSB. There is not full transparency in the discussions between the board’s representatives. We urge the boards’ building committees to meet jointly in conformance with the open meeting act (Brown Act)—to hold all discussions in public about planning, design, and financing for the PSB. Critical decision points for both districts need to be discussed openly. For instance, the KPPCSD is currently determining how to provide best police services within realistic constraints. It seems only reasonable to await that determination before a decision on renovating the PSB is made.

KPOA urges both districts to continue working on a solution that will allow, at a minimum, both the fire and police departments to occupy a renovated PSB. Such a solution is in the best interest of both districts and, most important, in the best interest of the Kensington community.

David Spath, KPOA president

### Dollars and Sense

Dear Editor:

The Kensington Fire Protection District board appears determined to spend taxpayer money on changes to the Public Safety Building (PSB) that will provide no community benefits at considerable community expense. Over the past four months the fire board has authorized \$115,000 for concept drawings to convert the existing 5,800 sq. ft. PSB from a combined fire/police station to an enlarged 6,300 sq. ft. fire only station. If completed, the second floor living quarters for the three firefighters will increase from about 1,800 sf to 2,500 sf—larger than many Kensington homes. The expansion will include a 400 sq. ft. fitness center, three bathrooms, and an expanded dining and living room. The downstairs will include a conference room for eight people and three very large offices.

The estimated cost for this conversion will be \$5.0 million with construction starting next year. Additionally, both fire and police will need to find temporary quarters during construction that could add \$1.0 million to the project. These are just the costs tied to the PSB and do not include the costs of finding a new police station versus possibly contracting out police services. A new police station will be very expensive and time-consuming

See Letters, page 8

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020  
DEADLINES:

Advertising Deadline ❖ NOVEMBER 8

Editorial Deadline ❖ NOVEMBER 10

The Kensington Community Council is dedicated to the improvement, development, and education of the community, and to the promotion of social welfare in Kensington. It enriches the community by providing educational and recreational programs for all ages and by publishing the Outlook, a monthly newsletter that covers local events and issues.

KCC also provides a forum for all Kensington community groups to meet and coordinate their respective efforts toward the common good of the community.

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

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O U T L O O K

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# K E N S I N G T O N

## Community Education

### KASEP

#### Kensington Afterschool Enrichment Program

Happy Holidays Families! Our Winter Online Registration is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00pm for Kindergarten and 7:30pm for grades 1-6. You can register on your laptop, desktop and on your mobile device. Please make sure your account is up to date: #1 phone number should be the best contact number (usually a cell phone #), email address and your child's grade should be current. KASEP Winter Brochure and class schedule is on-line: [www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org](http://www.KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org) by late November.

If you haven't yet registered on Curacubby, please create your account before registration opens. Go to <https://kccrec.curacubby.com/fst/createaccount>.

A one page smaller brochure will be sent to the students late November.

Staff will be in the KCC office the evening of registration to take walk-in registrations for families paying with cash or check and to provide support for anyone having difficulty online (525-0292).

Winter KASEP session starts the same day as Hilltop School, Monday, January 8, 2020 and continues for 9 weeks, ending Friday, March 13th. Your enthusiasm for our new Fall classes: Adventures in the Garden, Beginning Mandarin, Crafty Creations, and Skyhawk's Kinder Sports Medley will continue to the Winter session. We are excited to offer a new piano class taught by our current mandarin and craft teacher, Elain Chu who has taught many Kensington children piano in the past. We are also bringing back Recorder taught by Jane Webber.

Fall KASEP session ends on Friday, December 13. Our office will be closed for winter break, Monday, December 23, 2017 - Sunday, January 5, 2020.

Follow us on Instagram for updates @thecommunityofkensingtonca



#### Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

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

The tai chi class is based on Dr. Paul Lam's Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention program, which has been taught to millions worldwide. In the United States, it has been recommended by the Arthritis Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for its effectiveness in bringing pain relief, improving balance, and significantly reducing falls. The class is suitable for all people, regardless of physical condition. It is however, especially helpful for people who may be experiencing some health difficulties. The exercises incorporate all the health enhancing benefits of regular tai chi, but focuses on movements that are safe and relatively simple to do.

**For further information, contact Nobuo at: [nnishi50@gmail.com](mailto:nnishi50@gmail.com)**

#### Tai Chi Chuan

**Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, RECREATION BUILDING ROOM A, \$10**

A gentle martial art, tai chi is a safe, rewarding activity for people of all ages and all levels of health. Tai chi incorporates both mind and body. Nobuo Nishi, instructor, has been teaching for 18 years.

**KCC/KASEP Office:** 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg. E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. E-mail: [kccrec@yahoo.com](mailto:kccrec@yahoo.com), or call 525-0292. M-F, 1:00-5pm.

**Tennis Court Reservations:** For weekends and holidays only, beginning at 9am. Call the KCC office for info. Court Fees: 45-min. singles reservation: Residents: \$2; Nonresidents: \$5. Kensington Community Center

**Rental Info:** Please call Andrea at the KPPCSD (Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District) at 510-526-4141.







for training have been moved to the Watch Office on the first floor. The fitness room is no longer co-located with the building’s electrical utilities. This floor also contains a room housing the emergency generator and radio equipment for KARO/ECHO to use in an emergency.

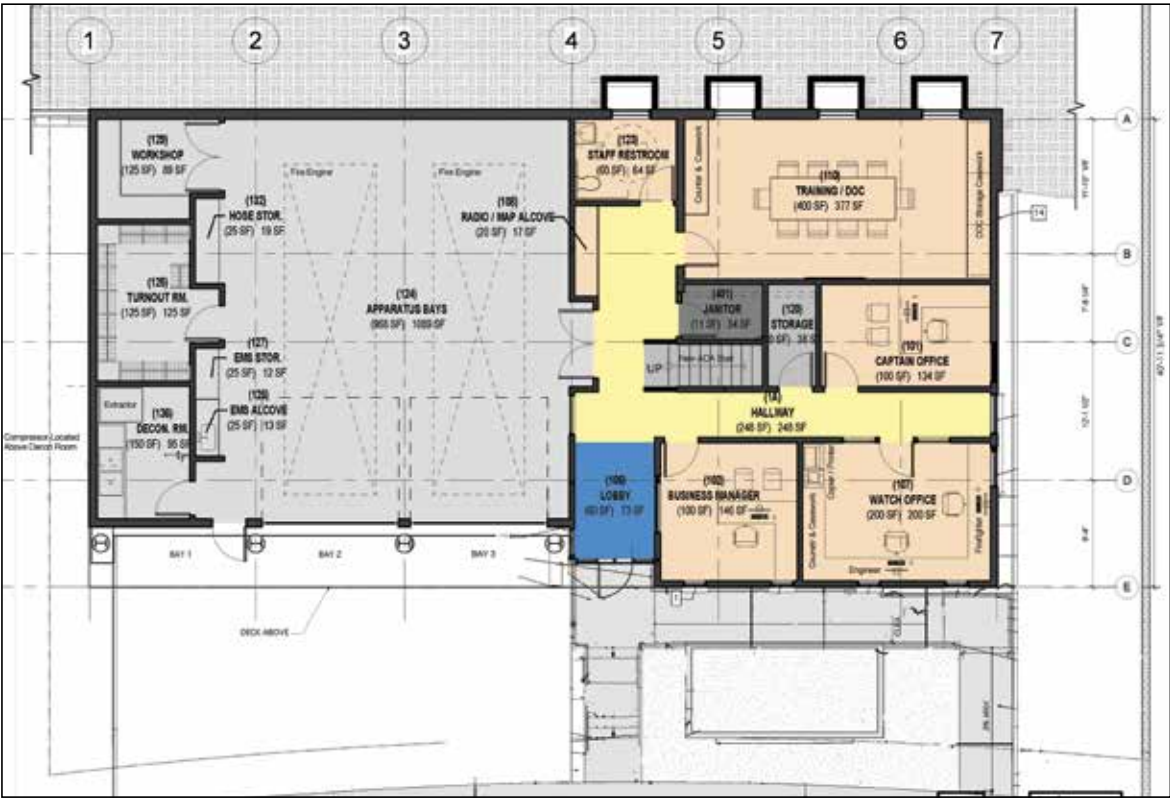
Comparing Stations

Two-story fire stations are common in denser and more urban areas. Most single crew stations with shifts of a captain and two firefighters have two or three drive-through apparatus bays. These stations range in area from 7,000 SF with limited amenities up to 10,000 SF for a more generous space that includes conference rooms or a battalion chief on the shift. The average-sized single crew fire station is approximately 8,000 SF. Kensington’s PSB is a two-story building with 1,200 SF allocated to police and KPPCSD administration and 4,400 SF allocated to KFPD for fire apparatus, fire personnel, and administration. The total building area, including utility space, is 5,800 SF. Both agencies are undersized by 50 percent or more. It is not uncommon for municipalities to elect to house fire protection services separately from police protection services.

Please plan to attend the open house tour of the Public Safety Building on November 9 from 10am-noon and the KFPD public meeting on November 16 from 9am-11am at the Arlington Community Church.

TOP: The three apparatus bays have been replaced by two wider bays to house Engine 65 and Engine 365, allowing more space around engines to allow easier maintenance of equipment. The third apparatus bay has been converted into a workshop, storage, and a decontamination room. The training room has been expanded so that it also can function as a Department Operations Center (DOC) in case of a major emergency. Offices have been moved to the first floor to satisfy public access requirements.

BOTTOM: The second floor is used only for living quarters for fire personnel, thus eliminating ADA requirements. Training workstations have been moved to the Watch Office. This floor also contains a room housing the emergency generator and radio equipment for KARO/ECHO to use in an emergency. Both images courtesy of RossDrulisCusenbery Architecture, Inc.



On the Web

Please see extra pages of the November *Outlook* for the PSB’s current floor plans, more letters, September’s police log, and more photos of the parade, picnic, book sale, and Pathkeepers’ hike on October 12.

Go to [kensingtonoutlook.com](http://kensingtonoutlook.com) to see November’s PDF.

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## Navellier Steps Down as KFPD Manager

By Janice Kosel

On October 31, Brenda Navellier is stepping down as the half-time manager of the Kensington Fire Protection District. In 2009 she began working half time for Kensington and half time for the El Cerrito Fire Department. She has done an outstanding job during her twenty years of public service. Brenda is a native of the Bay Area. She and her husband Guy live in El Cerrito—on Navellier Street! They have two grown children. Before joining the KFPD, she worked at an architectural firm in Oakland. The KFPD will hire a search firm to help find her replacement. All agree that Brenda will be a very tough act to follow. We wish her well.

## Astrophysicist Speaks on Global Warming

By Leslie Moorjani

Kensington will host noted astrophysicist, author, and lecturer Dr. Jeffrey Bennett on November 5, 7pm, at Arlington Community Church. In his talk, "Global Warming Demystified," Dr. Bennett will tackle some of the toughest issues surrounding global warming, demonstrating how we can (and must) move beyond partisanship in addressing these complex problems. Dr. Bennett is the lead author of best-selling college textbooks on astronomy, astrobiology, mathematics, and statistics. His numerous books have sold more than 1.5 million copies. One of Jeffrey Bennett's most visible achievements has been his work to develop educational scale models of the solar system. One such model, the Voyage Scale Model Solar System, has been installed at the National Mall in Washington, DC. The event, sponsored by Person of the Planet, is free to the community.

## Passings

On August 29, 2019, longtime Kensington resident Sharon Louise (Talbot) Beaucage died unexpectedly at her second home in Chester, CA. She is survived by her son Nicolas Beaucage of Kensington, whom she loved dearly. Sharon, the only child of Robert and Cleo Talbot, was born in Washington, DC on September 23, 1942. A veteran of the Navy, she moved to Kensington in the 1970s, working for the Oakland A's as the team photographer during their championship years and later for the Navy as a civilian.

Photography was not just her profession; it was her passion. Her many friends remember her fondly as the enthusiastic chronicler of their lives. Her ever-present camera captured decades of celebrations, holidays, hot air balloon races, Sierra ski trips, and the school milestones of her son Nick and his classmates from Skytown Preschool through college. For several years, Sharon took the annual town photograph of college-bound Hilltop Elementary alumni.

Sharon was fun-loving and adventurous. In her fifties she completed AIDS/LifeCycle from San Francisco to Los Angeles. In her sixties she took a six-month solo road trip exploring America in her RV. Sharon loved bluegrass music and for many years was a regular at the Strawberry Music Festival in Camp Mather.

Sharon's kindness and creativity brought joy to all who knew her. She is deeply missed by those whose lives she touched in Kensington, Chester, and throughout the US. Above all, she will be remembered as a steadfast, loving friend and mother.



## West Wing Reboot

By Sylvia Hacaj

Given today's headlines, many of us might wish for a reboot of *West Wing*, the TV series that became a ratings juggernaut. This progress report is about a "reboot" of the Kensington Community Center's west wing—actually the southwest wing, to be precise. The structural steel columns for the new portico have been delivered and installed. Once completed, the overhang will offer shelter from sun and rain while people wait to pick up children from afterschool classes or chat after gatherings.

The structural work at the roof is finished. After inspection, the rest of the roof work will progress. On October 8, El Cerrito's Sunshine Gutter arrived at the site with a seven-inch fascia gutter machine. It unspooled sheet metal and formed five gutters right on the spot, in lengths spanning 20-57 inches, just shy of the maximum length of five feet. The gutters were installed the next day. The contractor has also started rerouting the irrigation lines in preparation for grading and paving work. Electrical and mechanical work continues, and the project is still on track to finish in January.



## Fire Contract Signed

On October 12, an open house complete with cake celebrated the renewal of the ten-year contract with El Cerrito to provide EMT and fire services to Kensington. Fire board directors Julie Stein and Larry Nagel flank departing district manager Brenda Navellier. Photo by Sylvia Hacaj.

## Parade

...from page 1

The Richmond Police Department has had a K-9 unit since 1961—the second longest in the state after Stockton, and they assist neighboring communities when called on, primarily to search for suspects. The unit also assists in finding lost children and the elderly. Mechanics Bank, one of the event's sponsors, announced the winners of the coloring contest. Winners of \$25 gift certificates: in the 4-6 age group Jaden K., 7-9 age group Shaya Bearman, and 10-12 age group Isabella Chan. As always, we want to thank our sponsors Mechanics Bank and Red Oak Realty for helping to make this annual event such a success.

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# Kensington Calendar

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

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

**November Events**  
**November 1 Interfaith Vigil against Gun Violence** Music, words, and silence. 12-12:30pm. ACC.  
**November 3 Bill Garrett speaks on "The Enemy of the People."** Professor of philosophy and religion Garrett taught at JFK University, SF State, and more. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**November 4 Kensington Library Knitting Club** "The Castoffs" All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. 6:30pm. Free.  
**November 5, 12, 19 & 26 Family Storytime** Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.  
**November 5 Jeffrey Bennett.** "Global

**Warming Demystified,"** lecture by astrophysicist Jeffrey Bennett, author of *A Global Warming Primer*. 7pm, ACC. Free.  
**November 6 The Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters** will meet to discuss local issues at 1:15 pm at 631 Parkside Ct. RSVP 510-527-1266  
**November 7, 14 & 21 Baby & Toddler Storytimes** Stories, songs, puppets, scarves, shaky eggs, and loads of fun! Kensington Library, Two identical sessions 10:15 & 11:15am. Free.  
**November 7, 14 & 21 Read to Dogs!**  
Each week one to three calm & gentle therapy dogs will be at the library, waiting for kids to read to them (or parents of younger kids can do the reading). Call or come by to schedule an appointment. Drop-ins often also work. Kensington Library, 2:30-3:30pm. Free.  
**November 7 Community Potluck.**  
"A Parting Gift: Providing for your Heirs." Reece Halpern, of the Halpern Law Office in Albany, will walk us through the estate planning process and also provide some self-help steps you can take. 6pm, ACC.  
**November 8 Lawrence Lecture:** Tim Wise, "Not Giving Up: Maintaining Our Commitment to Justice in Unjust Times." Tim Wise, author of numerous anti-racism books, is called "one of the most brilliant, articulate, and courageous critics of white privilege in the nation." UUCB, 7pm. \$20/\$10.  
**November 9 Awakening the Dreamer Symposium.** The Social Justice Council presents Pachamama Alliance's inspiring and interactive program. We will renew our deep appreciation for the interdependent web of life and each other, inspiring commitments to wise actions within our communities. UUCB, 12-4pm. Free.  
**November 10 Murshid Kiran**

**Rana speaks** on "Two Stories: How Kiran and Jeanne Found Sufism Found Them." He is a senior teacher in the Sufi Way, a mystical community that has its origin in the teachings of universal Sufism introduced in the West in 1910 by the Indian mystic Inayat Khan. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**November 14 Floral Design Presentation** Raffle, silent auction, plant sale, refreshments. El Cerrito Garden Club, El Cerrito Community Center, 9:30am. Floral arranging program starts at 11am. Members free, guests \$7.  
**November 17 Kiran Rana and Jeanne Rana speak** on Sufism and the line from Ibn 'Arabi, "I follow the religion of love: whatever way love's camels take, that is my religion and my faith." UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**November 17 "Singing for Dummies"**  
ACC Music Director Shanti Moorjani leads a conversation about the transformative power of singing, including guided chanting. Free CD giveaway with holiday music. 11:30am. ACC.  
**November 18 Memoir Group** Monthly Memoir Group led by Ruth Robinson in the Fireside Room. 10am, free. ACC  
**November 18 Polydrons & Tangram Blocks** Polydrons are fun hinged interlocking geometric shapes used to build 3D creations. Tangram-style blocks are flat colored pieces in geometrical shapes. Come design & create with these fun sets. Best for ages 5 through elementary school. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.  
**November 18 Seeds of Resistance**  
Author Mark Schapiro will discuss his book *Seeds of Resistance: The Fight to Save our Food Supply*, followed by a book signing and Q & A. Kensington Library, 6:30pm Free.  
**November 19 Afternoon Craft: Map Button Making** Come and make your own buttons using images punched

out of old atlases. Have buttons with famous landmarks or places you want to go. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.  
**November 21 Bridge Night** Monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACC'ers and guests. 6pm, ACC.  
**November 24 Cordell Sloan speaks** on "My Toolkit For Self Reinvention." Cordell is a UUCB Trustee, technology guru, dream expert, jazz musician and son of Rev. Cordell Sloan, Sr. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**November 25 Kensington Library Book Club** Join the discussion! This month's selection is *Unmarriageable* by Soniah Kamal. Book Club is open to all. 6:30pm. Free.  
**Save the Date**  
**December 1 Colusa Circle Annual Tree Lighting** Event starts at 4.45pm, tree will be lit at 5.15pm. Please join Colusa Circle neighbors & friends for the third annual Tree Lighting. Enjoy beautiful lights, festive music, delicious hot chocolate, and community spirit.

## Town Meetings

**KCC**-Nov. 4, Kensington Community Council, 6:30pm. 525-0292 Building E  
**KPSC**-Nov. 11, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165  
**KARO/ECHO**-New time, new location! Nov. 11, Amateur Radio Operators, 2nd Mondays, 7pm. 524-9815  
**KFPD**-Nov. 13, Fire Protection District 2nd Wed., 7pm Building E, 527-8395  
**KIC**-Nov. 25, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30. 524-7415  
**KPPCSD**-Nov. 14, Police Protection and Community Services District 7:30pm. ACC. Check website for updates 526-4141  
**Kensington Farmers' Market**  
Live produce & live music every Sunday, 10am-2pm, Colusa Circle

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Letters

...from page 2

to complete, while contracting out will raise significant community debate.

Since the PSB was constructed almost fifty years ago the fire department has occupied about seventy percent of the space and the police thirty percent. This has served the community well, and even the El Cerrito fire chief is not advocating for an expansion of the fire department. The fire board needs to stop spending money on an unnecessary expansion project and focus on making the existing PSB safe for both the existing fire and police departments.

Jim Watt

No Conspiracy

Jim Watt’s October *Outlook* letter contains dismaying falsehoods. Most damaging is the claim that Kensington’s fire board directors conspired to force the KPPCSD board to let them build a gigantic new building (housing both police and fire) in Kensington Park (which the KPPCSD owns) by threatening instead to renovate the existing Public Safety Building (which the fire board owns) so as to accommodate only fire and “kick out” the police.

As a director of the fire board, though not speaking for it, I can verify that at no point, publicly or privately, did the fire board conspire to concoct this ruse. Rather, that board voted to drop consideration of a site in the park because the KPPCSD board showed so little interest in it, and the fire board had to move on. The KPPCSD directors listened to a small band of residents, including Mr. Watt, with his evidence-free charges that schoolchildren would be run over by careening fire engines dashing out of Kensington Park road (which is actually 400 feet north of the proposed site).

The fire board has stated it will do what it can to accommodate the police department (if we still have one). But since the PSB was built, many new space and logistic renovation requirements, federal and state, have evolved and were explained by KFPD’s architect publicly. These are indeed required by code and approved by the fire chief, contra Mr. Watt; see the article by KFPD directors Stein and Dommer in the October *Outlook*. Similar modern requirements apply to the police, but Mr. Watt did not disclose this. Each unit is calculated to require prohibitively more space in a renovated PSB than it now occupies.

Kevin Padian, KFPD director

KFPD Celebrates Its Contract

Dear Editor:

The Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) announced that it would celebrate the renewal of its contract with the El Cerrito Fire Department (ECFD) with a cake-cutting at its annual Open House on Saturday, October 12. Amid all the controversy around contracting for police services, it’s worth examining the benefits of this partnership in light of some of the claims made by opponents of contracting.

Some twenty years ago, the KFPD was in a similar place to where the KPPCSD is today. Costs were high, unsustainable and increasing, and budget reserves were shrinking. The board informed residents of the situation and voted to contract with ECFD. And we’ve been winning ever since.

What evolved was a mutually beneficial contract where we reap the benefits of a larger, more stable organization and sufficient staff to cover unscheduled absences. The district paid off the CalPERS pension liabilities, enabling the KFPD to put savings aside to purchase a million-dollar fire truck every ten- to twelve years, as required.

Of concern to some at the time, similar to today, was whether we would “lose control” of the department. We did not. The contractor is obligated to maintain staffing levels, recruiting, training, and back-office support. We keep our branding, logo, and identity through uniforms and signage.

Contracting offers a way to contain costs with a larger department. Costs are going up for salaries, retiree benefits, pensions, operating expenses, regardless of contracting. The contractor is motivated to keep its own costs down, so increases must be within bounds for them as well.

One common myth is that we would lose our staff when there are shortages. In fact, the opposite is true. Because you pay for a contract, you are ensuring that you will have staff on hand. Our in-house KPD operation is rarely fully staffed due to sick time, injury, vacation as well as turnover and unpaid leave. As part of a larger department, our officers would be fully supervised at all times.

I applaud the KFPD in celebrating its ongoing working partnership with the El Cerrito Fire Department. It truly is a win-win.

Mabry Benson

The Voting Ordinance

Dear Editor:

In response to a recent mailing to Kensington residents, more than 350 households (representing over 500 residents) responded in favor of the need to vote on any decision to outsource some or all police services. A big thank-you to those who took the time to respond.

The voting ordinance, filed by following county procedures, requires a vote on this issue, and the response from residents supports this requirement. Even if you don’t like an ordinance or think it might be invalid, it is current law and can’t simply be ignored.

A vote on a decision as critical to property values and safety of the community is simply part of the democratic process, and the board should welcome the opportunity to let Kensington residents determine how to proceed. Then, however the vote goes, we can put the controversy behind us and focus on supporting whatever path the community chooses.

Meryl Natchez Rafferty

Turnabout Fair Play

Dear Editor:

There seems to be much community concern about the KPPCSD ordinance regarding voter ratification of any contracting of police services.

Hopefully individual members of the board are confident with the wisdom of Kensington voters in selecting themselves for board membership. This same confidence in Kensington voters’ wisdom should be extended by the board to ratification of any potential contracting agreement for police services. If the board is unwilling to accept voter review and ratification of any potential contracts, I feel the board is expressing doubt in voters’ wisdom in selecting themselves to the board.

Ray Barraza

A Hard Rain

Dear Editor:

Perhaps Kensington residents recall that very brief “rain” we had on Sept. 16 following weeks of a funky dry fog that produced zero moisture. I speak of that preceding fog because it was perplexing. Normally my beautiful redwood trees “fog drip,” meaning that the condensation collected in their branches and needles rain down onto the woodland garden below. I don’t even have to water!



Yet during this “fog,” the ground below was disturbingly bone-dry. My hair, which normally curls in humidity, was straight. Hmm. So what was this stuff?

Then we were told to expect “rain” on the 16th. That of course had me watching the sky, which filled with trails behind planes and created a whiteout by day’s end on the 15th. I then noticed the signature microwave cloud pattern that looks a bit like a zebra sky, and decided to put out a glass water catchment container to collect this “rain” and let Basic Lab in Chico tell me what was in it.

The results are back. Measured in ug/l units: Aluminum 49.5, Barium 6.32, and Strontium 10.1. These are the only heavy metals included in Basic Lab’s Geoengineering package. I would have liked to include sulphur and glyphosate. Yes, glyphosate has been documented in airplane emissions by scientist Anthony Samsel, who was the first to alert us to glyphosate in vaccines—remember the gelatin petrie dishes that specimens are grown on. Anything made from corn, like bioethanol fuels, can contain glyphosate.

What exactly are these heavy metals doing in our rainwater? Well, aside from the fact that they are a desiccant, which should have our hair standing on end, they also synergistically combine with glyphosate to provide expedient travel right straight to our brain as together they have no trouble crossing the blood/brain barrier. I suggest research for anyone interested in this Pandora’s box. It is high time we connect the dots and scream about this! Our lives are utterly dependent on our becoming aware.

Marcy Cravat



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On Good Governance

Dear Editor:

It will be twelve years since my arrival in Kensington, my first experience in choosing a small town over a larger city. I loved this village in the hills with its cheek-by-jowl mixture of housing and windy streets, shopkeepers, and Sunday Farmers’ Market. And I love it still. Unlike most communities, where governing is more often delegated to elected representatives due to sheer numbers, Kensington’s size makes for a true participatory democracy; residents have the opportunity to weigh in more directly on matters deeply affecting us.

And Kensingtonians did weigh in more directly in 2009, when nearly 1,000 signed an ordinance spelling out that there be a vote in the event of any movement toward contracting out our police department. That ordinance was adopted by our then KPPCSD Board in a 4-1 vote. Today, the legitimacy of that ordinance is being questioned—much as we see at the federal level—where treaties and voting rights laws are being broken or shredded—creating pervasive distrust in government.

Good governance requires not only that citizen-residents be active, but that those governing reflect their input, that there be transparency in spending tax funds and in translating plans, regulations and, yes, ordinances into practice. Yet, a request for proposals for contracting out was crafted and sent by the current board without mention of Kensington’s 2009 ordinance—disregarding the law.

Now, it is time that we vote. Or we turn to the courts.

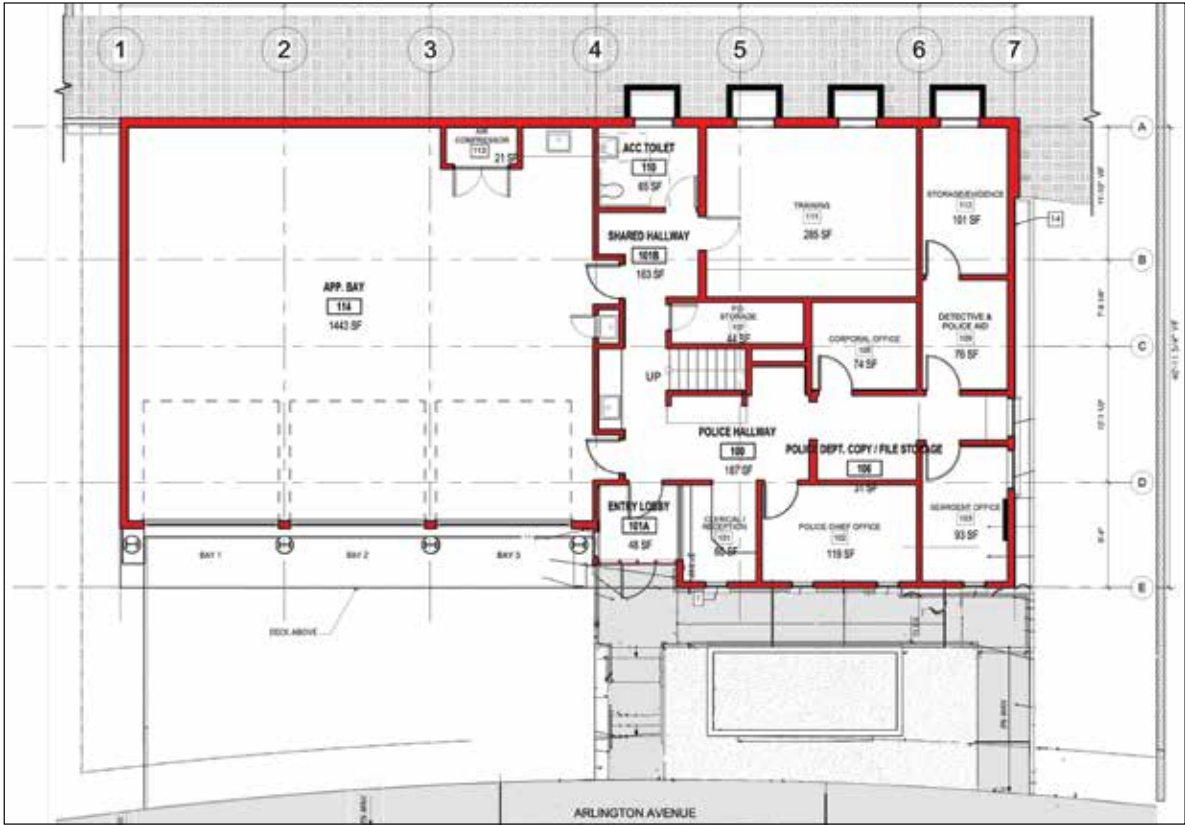
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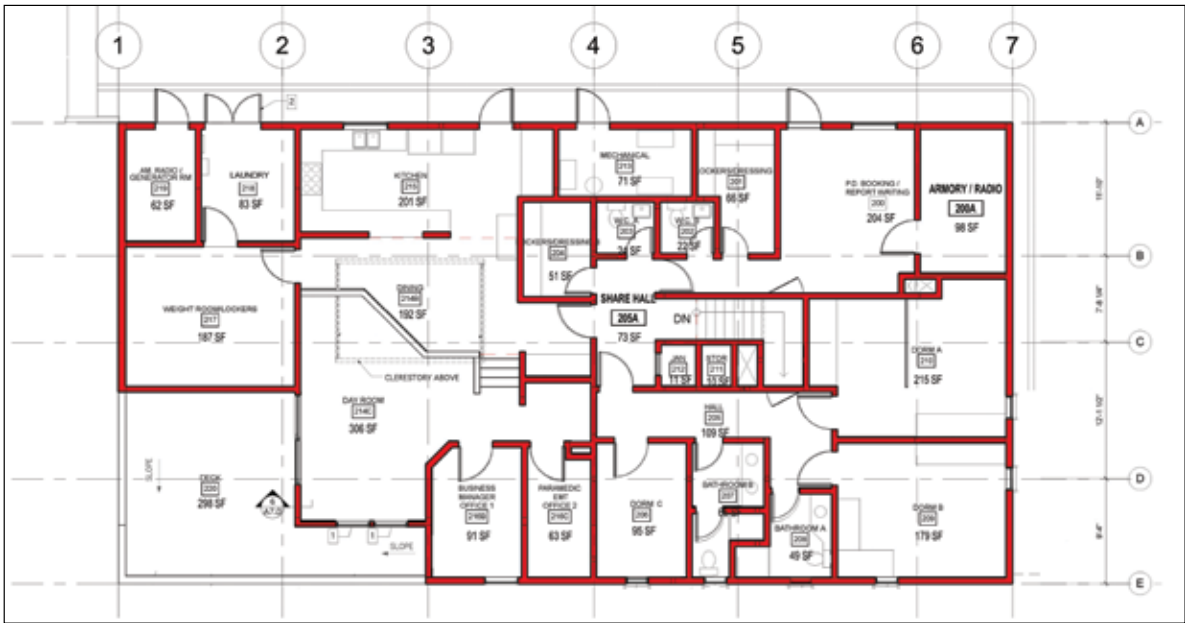
Photos by Patricia Hosmer, Jim Fisher, Vida Dorroh, Sylvia Hacaj, Lisa Caronna, and Mark Altenberg. Thanks to all our photographers.



PSB current ground floor



Current second floor



Proposed ground floor



Proposed second floor





## September Police Log

**1** Citizen Assist, Highgate Ct. RP requesting dead animal pickup. Dead fox in the carport. Animal Control is closed Sun- Mon and can't do the pickup. RP is requesting a phone call.

Suspicious Circumstance, Coventry Rd. 10 mins, ago. RP says that her back door was messed with and saw someone leaving as she was arriving , unknown if related. Nest cam on the gate.

**2** Suspicious Circumstance, Coventry Rd. Someone walking around the lower portion of the house through nanny cam. RP's dog is barking, growling, and RP sees shadows/reflections in the windows through the nanny cam in the dining room. RP is upstairs in the guest bedroom with the door locked.

**6** Misc Pub Auto, Ardmore Rd. Wants to speak with officer because he believes cars are getting dumped ifo his home since vehicles have been towed from that location recently. .

**8** Found Property Report, Arlington Ave. RP reporting that he found a box IFO Arlington with jewelry and checkbooks inside of it.

**9** Citizen Assist, Highland Blvd. Tree branches cut last week by unk subj unk reason.

**10** Disturbance of Peace, Lenox Rd. Noise. Person play electric guitar. Unable to locate.

**11** Vandalism, Arlington/Wellesley. Auto, broken driver side window.

Disturbance of Peace, Lawson Rd. Noise complaint, RP says tenant has pulled up to the driveway and playing music very loud intentionally. RP says her parents live in down-stairs unit. UNK vehicle, RP too scared to look at vehicle for description.

**12** Burglary, Windsor Ave. Auto.

Suspicious Circumstance, Peralta Ave. Occurred 2100 hrs. Person knocking and banging on her door yelling "hello" "hello."

**13** Animal Call, Oak View Ave. Dog left outside for several hours, between Coventry/Grizzly Peak, dog is debarked would like a call back.

Suspicious Person/s, Arlington Ave. WMA, 20s-30s, lean bld, brown hair, white shirt and jacket running around in the middle of the street trying to stop cars. Heading toward FD, then went into a driveway. PD contacted and subject was taken to hospital on a hold..

**15** Burglary, Berkeley Park Blvd. From unlocked veh wallet bkpk workout bag and school laptop taken after 10pm last night, use of debit card attempted in Hayward.

Petty Theft, gas station Arlington. Stolen cigarettes and sunglasses WMA, 30s 6'7 black shirt with paint on pants dragging under his knees l/s walking southbound Arlington towards Marin Circle.

Suspicious Person/s, Grizzly Peak Blvd. WMA, 30s 6'00, medium build black shorts and black shoes w/ glasses and tank top going through boxes to be picked up by donation and talking to himself. Sitting on a chair ifo RP's residence. Been there for about 3 hours.

**16** Citizen Assist, KPD. RP advising that she was staying with a friend of a friend in a vacant home near Colusa Circle and friend is refusing give her property back which was left in the home. Unknown address of the home and is asking for assistance to get her property back.

Animal Call, Williamette Ave. RP reporting an injured squirrel in her backyard.

Suspicious Circumstance, Los Altos Dr. RP is advising that his desktop computer is possibly being hacked and on the screen it says "Coonectwise control" unsure if it is in connection to a unauthorized PayPal purchase that occurred two weeks ago.

**17** Vehicle Accident, Franciscan Way. WMA, white grayish hair and blue eyes yelling at the driver, no injuries.

**18** Enter & Occupy Property w/out Consent of Owner, Yale Ave. RP says her boyfriend is at her residence. Subject in upstairs room WMA 6'00 230 lbs wearing only boxers.

Vehicle Accident, Coventry Rd. Postal truck vs. tree and sidewalk.

**21** Disturbance of Peace, Richardson Rd. RP says a party is being held by juvenile residents at Richardson, RP saying over a hundred juveniles, drinking and smoking marijuana. RP is stating her friend saw party posted on social media. Calling 911 multiple times thinks alarm may have been set off by a juvenile entering her residence. UNK if anyone went into house or not or if someone still in home. KPD officers advised, they will check in. Officers cleared out partygoers.

**22** Vandalism, Berkeley Park Blvd. RP called PD in the morning to make a report of damage to his vehicle.

Disturbance of Peace, York Ave. Possible loud report, gunshot. North of residence one pop. Did not hear anyone in distress within a block.

Hit and Run - Property Damage, Coventry Rd. Possibly occurred today w/paint on it.

**24** Found Property Report, Columbia Ave. RP advising that when she walked outside her home at 0745hrs and found two suitcases.

Suspicious Person/s, Arlington/Kensington Park. Occurred around 0830 hrs WMA 5'0s 5'10 thin build short grey hair transient wearing dark clothing and dark long sleeve shirt holding large cardboard box near the playground area.

Disturbance of Peace, Beloit Ave. RP wanting to speak to an officer regarding a loud motorcycle driving by every day and is wanting to know what can be done about the loud noise.

**25** Citizen Assist, Coventry Rd. RP requesting an officer talk to his neighbor regarding putting cones ifo his residence so no one can park there. Advised construction is going on in the area and parking is very limited. Neighbor lives 5 to 6 houses down from RP.

**26** Enter & Occupy Property w/out Consent of Owner, Ocean View Ave. RP says a WMA black hair stocky build long sleeve shirt with a rake in her backyard, possibly a neighbor who is putting up a fence. She's frightened since she didn't receive a notice.

**28** Animal Call, Kensington Park. Below the school and above tennis and basketball courts RP has a service dog distracted by off-leash dog on field.

Suspicious Circumstance, Grizzly Peak, south side of reservoir. Transient male subj longish hair and beard all green clothing with two meth pipes and a butane canister, BPD advised. . questions regarding extra patrol incidents so she would like a call back from an officer.

**30** Suspicious Circumstance, Los Altos Dr. Door knocker 5 ago RP suspects casing, checked the area, nobody seen or no vehicles.