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OUTLOOK

Bringing the Community Together

Available Online at www.KensingtonOutlook.com

NOVEMBER 2021

PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 79 NUMBER 9

Amidst Pandemic Challenges, KCC Needs Your Help More than Ever



Two budding gymnasts at KASEP's Tuesday gymnastics class practice moves you can make on a bar—such as pretending to be a bat. Photo by Shira Skloot.

By Becky Stephens, KCC president

Wow—what a year! The Kensington Community Council (KCC) was able to continue to provide outstanding enrichment programs, and we couldn't have done it without the support of our friends and neighbors! But the crisis still remains, and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge our programs and our bottom line.

The KCC relies heavily on community members to sustain its programs and the *Outlook* through advertising in the *Outlook*, class fees, and generous donations from gracious neighbors and local foundations. We are reminded frequently that in these unpredictable times every dollar matters as we work to keep our beloved KCC operational.

We worked hard to provide invaluable pro-

grams and also kept our treasured *Outlook* publishing in-depth community news without missing a single issue this year!

This past spring, our KASEP (Kensington After School Enrichment Program) provided online classes for students and adults. We also began to provide a few outdoors, in-person classes like tennis and Judo, Dance Fitness, and Zumba.

We were thrilled that our Summer Camp was able to be run in-person, even if it meant that our capacity was lower than previous years. We kept our groups smaller than usual, offering health-mandated pod space to 54 kids instead of the usual 65 to 75 campers KCC traditionally welcomes each week. After being eerily silent for a year, our beautiful Kensington Park was full of laughter and joy for weeks throughout the summer!

Many thanks goes out to the camp director, Kelly Barry, our recreation director, Jenny Parks, and the great counselors for providing a full camp experience without a single incidence of COVID! Our safety measures were followed by one and all, and we had a very successful summer!

Unfortunately, our annual fall events and our only fundraisers, such as Movie Night and the annual parade and picnic, were canceled because of the highly contagious Delta variant. Safety must be our first priority, and we felt that it would have been difficult to organize and manage such a large group of mostly families with children under 12.

We are pleased that the KASEP fall classes are once again in person (while we continue to maintain strict COVID proto-

cols), and the kids and teachers are happily back to cooking, woodworking, coding, and playing sports and games.

Though we are able to provide programs and run the day camp, this has not been without new challenges. The extra cost of running the KCC because of the pandemic means that we relied heavily on our rainy day fund to cover unexpected expenses and to purchase additional cleaning supplies. We also had to lower the number of day campers and students in our classes and offer scholarships to families in need for Summer Camp and KASEP classes each session. The KCC continues to be committed to providing the same enriching and fun programs for our community.

That is where your help is needed! If you have ever used our programs for your kids or yourself or value the information that you find in the *Outlook*, please consider making a donation to the KCC. In times like these, we are reminded of the importance of community and resilience. Thank you for being a valuable member of this wonderful community. Without you, none of this is possible!


Please use the green KCC Annual Fund Drive envelope in this edition of the *Outlook* and make checks payable to the KCC. Or you can donate online through the donor button at the top of our webpage: Kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org.



Now that's a tow truck! Story on page 6. Photo by Jenny Parks.

Kensington | Market Update

September 2021 to present

	13	8	6
Detached Single Family	New Listings	Pending Sales	Closed Sales
	Median List Price \$1,199,000	Median List Price \$1,260,000	Median List Price \$1,200,000
	Average Sq. Ft. 1,943	Average Sq. Ft. 2,203	Average Sq. Ft. 1,744
		Average DOM 17	Average Sales Price \$1,512,500
			Average DOM 13

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Kensington Update

September 2021



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Please Do This Now!

The Community Warning System (CWS) and Nixle are the only official communication channels fire and police use to keep Kensington residents updated in an emergency. CWS will send the initial notification, and both CWS and Nixle may provide critical follow-up information (e.g., traffic directions during a wildfire emergency). You should be enrolled with both resources! If you haven't yet registered, sign up with CWS at [cwsalerts.com](https://www.cwsalerts.com) (takes less than five minutes); for Nixle, sign up with your cell phone. Text 888-777, enter your ZIP code and you're done! Or visit [nixle.com](https://www.nixle.com). Stay warned, informed, and be safe!—Paul Moss, KFPD Emergency Preparedness Committee

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.

DECEMBER/JANUARY
DEADLINES
Advertising Deadline ❖ NOV. 8
Editorial Deadline ❖ NOV. 10

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

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Thank you!

Letters to the Editor

Good Governance

Dear Editor:

When I moved to Kensington after working for 34 years and retiring as Deputy Executive Director for the Santa Clara County Housing Authority, I was very interested in knowing what the governance model in Kensington looked like. My property taxes had increased \$11,000. from San Jose, and I was needing to understand how it all worked.. As an “outsider,” it didn’t make much sense to me.

The textbook qualities of good governance include the following: the rule of law, being responsive, participatory, inclusive, accountable, and transparent. Quite the balancing act. My observation through my work experience is that biggest problems arise when an area of governance becomes so “siloeed “ because of their self-interests they no longer can appreciate what the other areas need. Getting done what needs to be done is more manageable with a consolidation of interests and a uniform leadership team. None of this is easy, but the status quo may need to be revisited.

I’m currently reading the consolidation report prepared several years ago, and it stands the test of time. We are unique in many ways including size, lack of industry, both beauty and hazards, and involved and caring citizens. I’m looking forward to seeing what the future governance model could look like.

Candy Capogrossi

Consolidation Fallacies

Dear Editor:

The October *Outlook* opened with a two-page piece explaining the view that Kensington’s Police (KPPCSD) and Fire (KFPD) districts should be consolidated, because this would save money and positions and eliminate administrative dysfunction and inefficiency. The editor interviewed four residents who support these arguments but no one who does not. Gail Feldman listed two arguments against consolidation and then disagreed with them.

Consolidation is being pushed by a small number of people who have long pushed it. It’s a useful question if properly posed. I don’t care how this comes out (vox populi rules), but residents deserve balanced perspectives.

The main fallacy is that consolidation would save positions and money: one GM instead of two, and so on. This is incorrect. The time allotments of the positions you need depend on the amount of work to be done, not on the number of people performing it.

Currently our KFPD GM mostly works 2/3 to 3/4 time. If you combined that with the half-time position at the KPPCSD, you would still have to hire two people. You don’t pay accounting and other consulting firms benefits; they handle that for their employees. The HR, bookkeeping, and so on for both districts maybe could be done by single people or firms, but where are the savings? The work doesn’t go away. Proponents of consolidation need solid numbers.

It is incorrect that our districts are losing employees because we won’t offer benefits and retirement contributions. This is an individual preference. Our last two GM hires at KFPD were offered benefits, but they declined in favor of higher salary because they had prior benefit arrangements. KFPD’s temporary “executive assistant” worked only 10-15 hours a week on basic clerical matters. I can’t speak for why so many employees have been leaving the KPPCSD, but it’s informative to watch their board meetings.

Talk about raising taxes is unnecessary. No financing scenario for the PSB requires this. Both boards have engaged long-term municipal finance consultants to project what can be afforded based on expected income and expenses.

Disclaimer: I’m on the fire district board, but I write as an individual.

Kevin Padian

Restore In-Person Meetings

Dear Editor,

Thank you for writing about consolidation. Far sooner than pursuing that option, we need the district boards to open their meetings to public, in-person participation once more. Zip codes 94707 and 94708 have high vaccination percentages, and we can certainly space our chairs far enough apart for social distancing and continue to mask in public.

As Paul Dorroh suggested, we need to be thinking about how we govern ourselves once more. I do not know that consolidation is the answer; indeed I have opposed it for many years. However, the fire district board’s decision not to include the Kensington Police Department in a remodeled Public Safety Building calls their performance into question, for being adversarial regarding the KPD and dismissive of public participation and public consensus.

It is this lack of public participation that concerns me so much. Democracy requires participation, and to a much greater degree than afforded by Zoom meetings. For one thing, it is so much easier to be dismissive of the public when they are not in front of you, where they can witness the dynamics of board politics and policymaking. This holds true for both boards, and both boards need to reacquaint themselves with the will of this community.

I urge both boards to return to public meetings or a combination of online and public participation before the frustration that the community already feels over evicting the police from the Public Safety Building becomes even more palpable and divides our community even more.

Ciara Wood

A Better Solution

Dear Editor:

We, the undersigned, are longtime Kensington residents with considerable familiarity with Kensington financial management. We believe the Kensington fire district (the KFPD) is embarking on a very costly and unnecessary plan to convert the Public Safety Building (PSB) to fire use only.

At its October 2021 meeting, the fire board reviewed a proposal to expand the current PSB from 5,800 square feet (SF) to 6,100SF for fire personnel use only. The KFPD contractor-estimated construction costs are \$5.9 million assuming work starts in early 2022. In addition, there will be architectural costs, permits, new furnishings, relocation during construction, and probable delays. These additional costs could add more than \$2.0 million, bringing the total investment in the PSB to over \$8.0 million. The KFPD only has about \$5.0 million in unrestricted cash so they could likely need a \$2.6-\$7.0 million bond, adding as much as \$1.1 to \$4.4 million more in debt service. This would bring total PSB costs to about \$10.0 million. All this forces the KPPCSD to find new and expensive quarters for the police department.

Kensington should have a PSB that meets seismic safety codes, which, including relocation during construction, could cost \$4.0 million. We see no reason why three firefighters working a 48-hour shift need up to 2,800 SF of upstairs living space, which is far larger than many Kensington homes. Nor do we need a large conference room downstairs or space for part-time administrative staff who can be located off-site. Keeping the police in their current quarters will also save Kensington taxpayers significant unnecessary costs to relocate the police department.

The obvious solution is to keep the police in the PSB after it has been seismically upgraded, revamp the area where fire trucks are located, and do minor upgrades to the current firefighter living quarters.

Garen Corbett (ad hoc committee member), **Paul & Vida Dorroh**, **Dave Fike** (former KPPCSD director), **Rob Firmin** (KPPCSD finance committee member), **Bart Jones** (architect for 1987 Community Center remodel), **Kristine Hafner**, **Karl Kruger** (KPPCSD finance committee member), **Linda Lipscomb** (former KPPCSD director), **Ed and Shirley Spiller**, **Julie Stein** (KFPD board director), **Jim Watt** (KPPCSD finance committee member), **Len Welsh** (former KPPCSD director)

Newly Formed Democratic Club Kick-off

Dear Editor:

The Kensington Democratic Club Board of Directors Kath Delaney, Peter Liddell, Catherine de Neergaard, and Irene Tait invite you to a community kick-off for the 2022 midterm elections. The Kensington Democratic Club’s next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 3 at 7pm via Zoom. We will be joined by Michael Nye, a local Democratic activist who will speak about the lessons learned from the Stop the Recall campaign and how we can bring that success forward into the midterms.

Shoshana Wechsler of Sunflower Alliance will also join us to talk about supporting a greener Contra Costa by preventing new oil and gas permits in the county. I encourage you to join us and become a Kensington Democratic Club (KDC) member today. The best way to join the KDC is to visit kensingtondemocraticclub.org/join-us/ or email info@kensingtondemocraticclub.org to RSVP for the November 3 meeting. We will have general meetings every other month in odd months (January, March, etc.) on the first Wednesday of that month. Please join us as we work together to increase local democratic participation and defend our fragile democracy. Thank you!

Irene Tait, President, Kensington Democratic Club

Monday Morning Blues

Dear Editor:

I would be interested to hear from any Kensington residents along the Westminster-Kenyon corridor as to whether they are adversely affected by the early morning (5:30-6:30am) arrival of garbage/recycling trucks. I have specifically noted this on Monday mornings on an ongoing basis.

Having attempted to find a possible remedy, I have contacted the likely company responsible, a representative of Supervisor John Gioia’s office, and an official from the WCCUSD (for the possible involvement of the Kensington Hilltop School)—none of which have yet produced any information.

I would appreciate hearing from any residents who wish to share their experience. Thank you.

Richard Freeman (rfree@sonic.net)

Time Changes



Nov 7-Turn back one hour

Photo: Djim Loic, Unsplash.com



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Sticking Close to Home During COVID

By Rodney Paul

We in Kensington are fortunate to live near some of the most scenic and interesting sections of the Bay Trail, and I have long enjoyed riding my bike along the Emeryville waterfront, Albany Bulb, and Richmond Marina Bay.

As the COVID-19 crisis worsened in Spring 2020, one of the ways I coped with the restrictions and worries was to jump on my bike and ride along the bay. It was during those rides that I began paying attention to the Bay Trail signs one sees along its route. With travel to distant places out of the question, I resolved to explore all the sections of the Trail, which now has 350 miles completed but will eventually circumnavigate San Francisco and San Pablo bays and span 500 miles.

My ambition to bike all the way around both bays stems from a project I launched last year to encourage people to explore more places on the Trail. I have been working as a guide since 2015, and until the pandemic, I regularly led tours in places such as Oracle Park, the Haight Ashbury, and our wonderful walking paths in Kensington. With the pandemic, my in-person tours came to a halt.

But I adapted quickly by presenting much of my material on Zoom. And this led to my launching a monthly show on Zoom called Bay Trail Confidential.

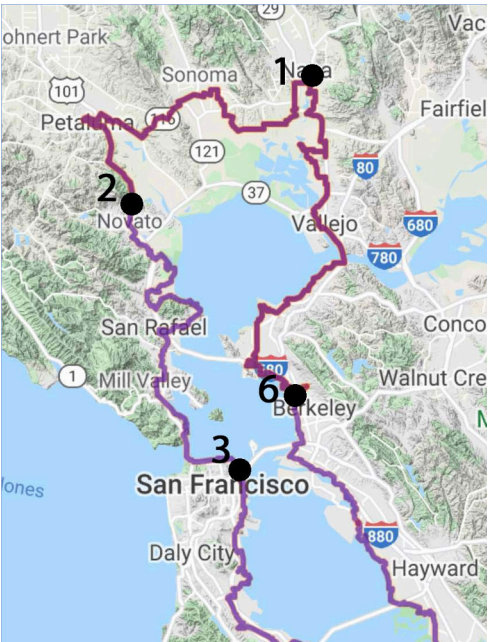
My first show was over a year ago, and we have ended up spotlighting great places

along the Bay Trail, including our nearby Richmond waterfront, San Francisco’s brand-new Crane Cove Park, another terrific new public space in Oakland called Brooklyn Basin, and, most recently, the intriguing and sometimes bizarre art found throughout the Albany Bulb.

By the time I decided to circumnavigate the bay, I had visited all 350 miles of the Trail, and I had good knowledge of what to expect. Most importantly, I understood that significant gaps in the Trail remain and had a good sense of best ways to navigate these areas and stay safe. I also decided that I would return to Kensington after each day’s ride to keep my COVID risks low and enjoy time with my wife Sarah. Fortunately, our area is very well served by public transportation, and I resolved to take advantage of this each day to get to and from my route around the bay.

Tuesday, August 24 was the first day of the trip. I set off from my house near Colusa Circle and met up with a friend from Berkeley at Pt. Isabel Park along the Trail. In an effort to stay hydrated and add a little challenge, I decided to count and photograph all the drinking fountains I encountered on my route. On a recent visit to Pt. Isabel, I noticed that their fountain was turned off. But when I arrived to start my trek, I found that it was fixed, which I took to be a good omen.

My Day 1 trek took me 56 miles to the transit center in Napa. It included some beautiful sections of the Trail around Richmond, which believe it or not has 36 miles of Bay Trail, making it the city with the most. At Pt. Pinole, we found another working drinking fountain but got detained by a slow-moving freight train that crosses Atlas Rd. We crossed the bike-friendly Zampa Bridge and had a lunch with fabulous views at the charming marina in Vallejo. I made a detour to ride along the bay in American Canyon, which has some gorgeous sections of dirt trail and is rich in bird life, particularly during the spring and fall migrations. In Napa, I caught the Napa Valley Transit Vine-29 bus back to the El Cerrito Del Norte BART station and rode the short distance back home.



The next day, I did that transit route in reverse and picked up where I’d left off in Napa. The most challenging gap in the Bay Trail is in the north. Although it is legal to ride a bicycle from Vallejo to Novato on Hwy 37, doing so in my opinion is both unsafe and, with a constant stream of high-speed traffic, quite unpleasant. My alternative was to ride from Napa through some beautiful, serene back roads in the Carneros region to Sonoma. From there, I had to get on the much busier Hwy 116. Though it also has a large volume of fast-moving trucks and cars, there’s a good shoulder with a rumble strip. While certainly not my favorite stretch of the ride, I was able to traverse it in around an hour and arrive safely in Petaluma. From there, I followed a low-volume frontage road along Hwy 101 and arrived in Novato to end my day.

Only a few of the people I know are familiar with the spanking new SMART Train that connects Larkspur to the Sonoma County Airport. It is excellent for transporting bikes and a scenic and very pleasant ride. As an added bonus, it even has tables where you’re welcome to relax and refuel. To get home, I took it to San Rafael and there connected to a Golden Gate Transit bus that returned me once again to the Del Norte station.

I began Day 3 by doing that transit in reverse and heading south from Novato. I added some extra miles by going around the peninsula that includes China Camp State Park



Rodney Paul took a selfie at one of the 72 water fountains he found along the route.

because this is a gorgeous location that shouldn’t be missed. I then continued over the Golden Gate Bridge to end my 49-mile day at the Embarcadero BART station. On day 4, a Friday, I returned to San Francisco and rode from the Ferry Building to Millbrae, where I took time to visit my father and recount some of my adventures so far.

The Peninsula turned out to be my least favorite section of the ride. Key sections of the Bay Trail there are currently closed as levee repairs are being made, and a sea wall is being constructed to protect residences from sea level rise. As an experienced cyclist, it’s my opinion that this part of the Bay Area has the least impressive bicycle infrastructure. I know many drivers complain about the things bicyclists do. But I hope they know that many of us would be very happy not to ride many miles in their midst. The less contact between cars and bikes, the better things are for everyone. Unfortunately, the Peninsula is an area where staying away from cars is often impossible. So I was happy to wrap up a 44-mile day in Redwood City and use Caltrain and BART to get home.

Day 5 was a Saturday and started off great. Friends visiting from my hometown of Wilmington, DE were staying in Menlo Park, and I stopped at their AirBnB to enjoy a terrific breakfast of bagels and coffee. The South Bay is another area with wonderfully scenic sections of the Bay Trail, and you often find yourself riding on levees where cars are neither seen nor heard. There are terrific views of Moffett Field and the historic town of Alviso. I imagine many in Kensington have never visited these places, and I strongly recommend that you take the time and go.

It was on this day that I literally ran into what I came to call Plan Bee. I had been planning to put in a very long day and was thinking I might make it to the Oakland Airport, for a total of 70+ miles, my longest day. But riding through a business park near Fremont with almost no one around, I felt something hit my lip and then a sharp sting. The temperature was 95 degrees, and my water supply was running low. I pulled over and felt my lip start to get very large. Since I was by myself, I thought it prudent to call my wife. When I told her what was going on, she urged me to call Kaiser. Their advice was to call 911 and get transported to their ER as quickly as possible. This resulted in my first-ever ambulance ride (which thankfully included my beloved bike) and an anti-histamine shot that resolved things quickly but also required a couple hours on a gurney for observation. My riding day was over, and I was compliant when my wife insisted I let her and our friend Barbara pick me up and drive us home.

Later, I decided that the bee’s purpose was to urge me to slow down and enjoy the ride. On my last day, I took BART to Milpitas and continued where my unexpected rendez-vous had stopped me in my tracks. It was a gorgeous, cool morning and I found myself ecstatically taking in the South Bay sights. My ride took me over the toll plaza for the Dumbarton Bridge and into the Coyote Hills Regional Park, which was the first place we spotlighted on Bay Trail Confidential and a spot I consider one of my favorites on the Bay Trail. After taking a bike/pedestrian bridge over Hwy 92, I rode levee trails along the water with abundant bird life but few people. I stopped for lunch at a friend’s office in a hangar at the Oakland Airport and then continued on to the end, snapping a photo of the 72nd drinking fountain of the trek at Berkeley’s Tom Bates Sports Fields.

Unbeknownst to me, Sarah and Barbara were waiting for me at the Albany Bulb to celebrate my completion of the ride around the bay. They brought sparkling wine and snacks, and we had a celebration. By chance, another friend was on the beach there, and I learned that she swims there every afternoon. Though tired at the end of a 61-mile day, I enthusiastically mustered the energy to ride the final 2.5 miles back to Kensington.

I am working to document the route I took, and my hope is to inspire others to orbit the bay. Because I used public transit, each day’s ride can be done as a point-to-point ride that can be done with or without a car. My adventures along the Bay Trail since the start of COVID have convinced me that there is a great deal for us to enjoy locally. While traveling safely to distance places may again be possible, the threat posed by carbon emissions is another reason to make the most of what we have right here.

My odyssey taught me some valuable lessons. I now make sure to ride with my epi pen so I’m ready for my next encounter with a stinging insect. I also have a greater appreciation of the network of public transit that’s at our disposal. And as much as I’ve enjoyed living in the Bay Area these past 35 years, my experience reinforced how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful region with so many varied and interesting places nearby.

I hope many of you can check out my Bay Trail Confidential program, which is offered for free each month on Zoom. You can register, find recordings and other information from past shows and learn more at <http://BayTrailConfidential.com>

Shred and Meds Slated for November 13

By Johnny Valenzuela, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, KFPD

It’s back! After a year-long hiatus due to COVID protocols, the Kensington Fire Protection District will hold a paper shredding and pharmaceutical collection event on Saturday, November 13, from 11am until 2pm.

This free event helps Kensington residents make their homes and communities safer by collecting paper and pharmaceuticals—and this year we’ve added community organization booths, so you can learn more about a variety of safety issues. The event will take place at the north end of the library/Community Center parking lot, across from Arlington Community Church.

It is not necessary to remove staples or clips from your papers. Shredding is done on-site, and all shredded documents are recycled at a paper mill. We look forward to seeing you!

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KIC's Town Hall to Address Paths, Undergrounding, and Much More

By Linda Lipscomb

The Kensington Improvement Club’s annual Town Hall and KIC membership meeting will be held virtually this year. See the Zoom address at the bottom of this article. The event will be on Saturday, November 6, from 10-11:30am.

This year’s speakers include: Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, who will update us on county issues and undergrounding of utilities; Kensington Police Chief Mike Gancasz, who will discuss recruiting and retention in law enforcement in our challenging environment, as well as the current state of affairs and future of policing and public safety in Kensington.

El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department Battalion Chief Kevin Janes will focus on fire department issues in the current wildfire and drought environment; Rodney Paul, of the Kensington Path Keepers and Johnny Valenzuela, Kensington Fire District Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, will jointly discuss the issue of public ownership of the Kensington Pathways and the role they can play in emergencies.

Patrick Tahara, Chair, Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, will talk about KMAC’s important role in the ongoing development of our community; Kara Sheetz, Kensington librarian, will bring us up to date on library programs available at our very popular branch of the county library system; and Becky Stephens, president of the Kensington Community Council, will discuss KCC’s vital role in our community for everything from after school classes, to recreation and fitness programs, to the popular Summer Camp.

Serving Kensington for Ten Decades

Now in its centennial year, KIC has been a vital community advocate and continues its mission to advance and create various projects of public improvement for Kensington. The generous contributions and dues paid by members of the club have enabled KIC to contribute toward the Community Center remodel, Colusa Circle irrigation and lighting improvements, landscaping, and road and path signage.

Board members also wrote and published the book, *Kensington, Past and Present*. The updated Centennial edition is available at a discounted price of \$10 for KIC members. (KIC annual dues are only \$10.00!) Our members make it all possible!

The KIC Town Hall Meeting provides an informal setting for citizens to hear from their local representatives and community boards. All Kensington residents are invited to the Town Hall meeting, so settle in with a ‘cuppa’ and join us for an informative Zoom meeting! We hope to see you there! Please use this Zoom link on Saturday, November 6, at 10am: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83356829329>

Rachelle Sherris-Watt Receives Award

At a Zoom party on October 16, members of the Fix Our KPD group awarded KPPCSD director Rachelle Sherris-Watt the inaugural “Fix It” award. Said the Fix Our KPD website: “She stood on the shoulders of many reformers who sounded the alarm and withstood abuse for their efforts.... Working together with residents and experts, she initiated the process of complete overhaul that now includes new policies, profes-

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sional administration, and 100 percent turnover of officers.”

At the Zoom meet, Police Chief Mike Gancasz described the department as being “in remission,” while Tom Dean said, “We can feel comfortable now that our police department is functioning smoothly.” Sherris-Watt received accolades for her integrity and grace under pressure. About 25 people attended, including district directors Eileen Nottoli, Larry Nagel, Sylvia Hacaj, and past GM Tony Constantouros, who said, “It was a pleasure to serve with someone like [Rachelle]. To be an excellent board member, you first have to be an excellent person, and that speaks to who Rachelle is.”

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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

September Police Log

- On September 1 at about 1:15am, a vehicle was blocking the middle of the roadway on Franciscan Way, near Sunset View Cemetery. Upon contact, it was determined the driver had a \$5,000 dollar warrant from San Mateo Superior Court for a previous DUI arrest. The driver was booked into the county Jail and the vehicle was impounded.
- On September 1, a resident in the 200 block of Arlington Avenue reported being a victim of fraud totaling \$38,543.
- On September 3 at about 10:45pm, the graveyard officer spotted a few people acting suspiciously in the 200 block of Lake Drive. When the officer doubled back to contact the suspects, they took off quickly, and it was later determined that they were trying to steal the vehicle being thwarted by the on-duty police officer.
- On September 8 at about 6:24pm, a vehicle was traveling near York and Oberlin avenues when it encountered mechanical failure and crashed into a house. It was than determined the driver had no insurance and was driving with a suspended license. The driver was arrested for CVC 14601-Driving on a Suspended License and cited for CVC 16028C-No Proof of Insurance and CVC 22107-Unsafe Turn.
- On September 10, sometime during the middle of the night, a catalytic converter was stolen from underneath a parked vehicle in the 100 block of Stratford Road.
- On September 10, about 4:05pm, a resident in the 600 block of Beloit Avenue had their house burglarized. During the investigation, the suspect was positively identified. As such, a Ramey Warrant for the subject's arrest was placed into the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS). The following week the suspect was arrested by SFPD on a different charge. The suspect was then interviewed in the SF Jail and information was obtained that turned into a new Bench Warrant. He was kept in custody and transferred to the Contra Costa County Jail to be held on burglary charges that originated in Kensington.
- On September 14 at 10:19pm officers reported a solo vehicle collision in the 100 block of Arlington Avenue.
- On September 20, at about 2:45pm a Hit & Run took place in the 200 block of Coventry Road.
- An online scam was reported to the PD that took place via the internet that resulted in a resident reporting \$17,500 in losses from the victim's bank account.
- On September 23, a non-injury two-vehicle collision took place at the intersection of Arlington Avenue and Rincon Road.
- On September 24, a non-injury two-vehicle collision took place in the 200 block of Purdue Avenue.
- On September 25, KPD was coincidentally driving by when a neighbor in the 200 block of Yale Avenue frantically flagged down the passing officer. Then together, entry was made into the house, and the homeowner was found alive on the kitchen floor, after almost 18 hours, after suffering a serious medical issue.
- On September 26, a missing person report was taken regarding a juvenile. The juvenile was entered into the Missing Unidentified Missing Person system (MUPS) and safely located several hours later.
- On September 28, an online scam resulted in the financial loss of \$4,000 from a resident.
- On September 28 a Hit & Run collision was reported in the area of Amherst and Princeton avenues.

Our Own Thelma and Louise


As reported by the Kensington Police Department

On Friday September 24 at 9:32 am, a driver was attempting to park in the upper parking lot at the Kensington Park. While pulling into a parking stall, the driver inadvertently stepped on the accelerator instead of the brake. This caused the vehicle to propel forward, over the sidewalk, down a 25-foot embankment on a 20-degree slope, then crash through the eight-foot-tall cyclone fence, until it pancaked from three feet off the cement retaining wall and onto the Kensington Park tennis courts.


Both seats broke backwards and luckily, both occupants were wearing their seatbelts, which helped prevent major injuries. The vehicle placed the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD), the Kensington Police Department, and the tow company in a conundrum. The vehicle was stuck inside the completely enclosed and fenced-off tennis courts. With no gate wide enough to get the vehicle out, it appeared that the fence would have to be cut to tow the vehicle off the courts. This option would have caused further damage to the community services district, which owns and manages Kensington Park, and delay people who planned a lively tennis match without a car as a surprise hazard.

With no way out of the tennis courts, Oliver's Tow responded with its new seventy-ton, rotator tow truck to help hoist the vehicle up and over the fence and gently place it into the parking stall the driver wanted in the first place, all while avoiding no additional damage to the park or to the community services district.






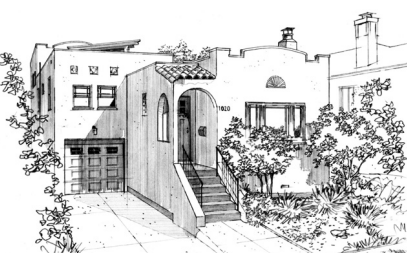
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SHARING THE LOVE OF GYMNASTICS

Judy and Jean are identical twins who grew up in Kensington and attended Kensington Elementary School. They started gymnastics at age 10 and excelled at it so they joined the Berkeley YMCA gymnastics team and competed throughout high school. Following high school they danced at the Shakespearean Festival in Ashland, Oregon for two years where their gymnastics and dance training helped them in their performance. They passed the love of gymnastics on to their combined eight children who also excelled and competed in gymnastics growing up. Judy and Jean have run the KASEP Gymnastics program for the last 30+ years. They love children and they love teaching gymnastics.

The love has been passed onto Judy's daughter Bindy, who has been running the KASEP Gymnastics program for the last five years. Bindy's background is teaching competitive gymnastics and has successfully taught girls' teams that competed locally in the Bay Area and also qualified to State Championships. Bindy feels that gymnastics is a great sport that can be enjoyed by all children no matter what level they are; it's about achieving your personal best.

This year, an exciting new addition to the KASEP Gymnastics program is Jody, Bindy's sister. Now the team of 4 ladies, Judy, Jean, Bindy, and Jody, work together to share the love of gymnastics with the students of KASEP.

Fall KASEP

Kensington After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) classes are in full swing, offering more than 50 after school enrichment classes each week for grades K-6.

Our small class sizes are a great opportunity for kids to learn and explore in a friendly and safe environment and are conveniently located just down the hill from Kensington Hilltop School. If you didn't get into your favorite KASEP class this session, the registration for our winter session of classes opens on Tuesday, December 7th at 7pm to Kindergarten and 7:30pm to grades 1-6

The Kensington Outlook *The Outlook* can now be found on our website. <https://kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org/outlook/>

And also at KensingtonOutlook.com. Archive copies can also be found on our website dating back to 2003.



KCC Adult Classes are now happening inside the Kensington Community Center

Yoga Classes

Tuesday evenings 5:30-6:30pm with Dani and Joanna
Wednesday mornings 10:00-11:15am with Barbara Voinar
\$15 drop-in fee

Tai Chi with Nobuo Nishi

Fridays 9:30-11:00am
Drop-in fee is \$15
Register at KensingtonCommunityCouncil.org/adult-classes

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

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, or call 510-525-0292. Our website is: www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org.





The lovely Colusa Circle oak tree shines bright at CCMA's 2019 in-person tree lighting event. CCMA sponsored the lighting of the tree in 2020 as well, but did not host a commemorative event. CCMA looks forward to resuming this lovely winter tradition this year. Photo by Nan Phelps.

Light Up that Oak

By Camden Richards

The Colusa Circle Merchants Association (CCMA) is excited to invite you to join us on November 28 from 4:30-5:30pm for the fifth annual lighting of the oak tree at Colusa Circle.

As a symbol of gratitude to our community, the lights will shine throughout the darkest part of the year into late January. We look forward to celebrating the season with our customers, neighbors, community members, and friends.

Please visit colusacirclemerchants.org/events for details.

Explore How to Be a Good Guest

By Laura Callen

Beautiful Kensington lies on the ancestral and present-day homeland of the Lisjan Ohlone people. If we are non-Indigenous, how can we live here in a good way? Attend "Living on Indigenous Land" on Tuesday, 11/16, from 6:30-7:30pm to explore this question through history, current events, and a clear vision of the future. It's an important perspective to have in mind as we head towards Thanksgiving.

Speakers are members of Good Guest: Kensington, a group of Kensington residents who encourage our neighbors to consider that our town is built on colonized Lisjan Ohlone land and to take action to live here as good guests, including by paying Shuumi. Shuumi means "gift" in the Lisjan Ohlone language of Chochenyo. It is a voluntary land tax that non-Indigenous people who live in the East Bay can pay in support of the Lisjan Ohlone people's work to purchase their land, revitalize their culture, and protect sacred sites. The Kensington Library is hosting this program via Zoom. See the library website for the Zoom link.



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