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Come to the Book Sale

By Jim Fisher

“In truth, a library is as much a portal as it is a place—it is a transit point, a passage,” writes Susan Orlean in last year’s *The Library Book*. The same may be said of Friends of the Library book sales, which provide for a tradition of discovery and serendipity.

Books arrive from enthusiasts of all kinds, with larger collections leading the curious down a sort of yellow brick road of subjects and

specialties, skipping from title to title and world to world.

The sales themselves, held twice yearly here in Kensington, regularly bring together more than 50 volunteers. Volunteers look forward to the sales each spring and fall as a time to catch up with their neighbors and fellow helpers.

Enjoy the tradition Sunday, Oct. 13 from 10am-4pm, when the Fall Book Sale of the Friends of the Kensington Library (FKL) will be held in the parking lot behind the library.



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Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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Parade and Picnic Goes to the Dogs



ACC minister Nate Klug serves as Grand Marshal of KCC’s annual Parade and Picnic. After the parade, Klug will give the Blessing of the Animals at Kensington Park. See story of the Blessing on page 11.

By Anne Forrest, KCC president

This year the Kensington Community Council (KCC) is shaking things up and breaking with tradition! The KCC is joining forces with the Arlington Community Church (ACC) to merge the Annual Fall Parade and Picnic with ACC’s Blessing of the Animals. Look forward to one big parade, picnic, and puppies event!

The picnic and dog activities will take place on the big field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park Sunday, October 13 from noon to 3pm. This new look at an old tradition was brought on by the much-needed renovations to the Kensington Community Center, the tradi-

tional location of the annual Parade and Picnic for over fifty years.

Parade participants are asked to gather at the ACE Hardware parking lot at Amherst and Arlington at 11:30am. Our Grand Marshal this year will be the Arlington Community Church’s Nate Klug and his family. As usual, local organizations and groups are invited to participate in the parade.

This year, in keeping with the theme, we are inviting local animal organizations such as Guide Dogs for the Blind and Therapy Dogs and families with well-behaved pets to join the parade. (See related article on the Blessing of the Animals and other animal groups at the event.) Halloween costumes are always encouraged for both pets and their humans. On arriving at the park, ACC’s Reverend Nate Klug will start the festivities by performing the Blessing of the Animals. The amazing Fred T. Korematsu Middle School jazz band, under the direction of Tiffany Carrico, will provide the music.

The picnic this year has gone to the dogs! We will be serving sausages, hot dogs and veggie dog lunches. Tickets can be purchased at the event. One of our local Girl Scout troops will be selling sweet things to eat.

The showstopper of the day will be the Richmond Police Canine demonstration at 1:30 so plan to stick around! Sgt. Joe Vigil and Officer Ahmed Khalfan and his K9 partner, Kita, will demonstrate just how important dogs can be to police officers. The Richmond Police Department has had a K-9 unit since 1961, the second longest in the state after Stockton. They use Belgian Malinois because they are athletic and even-tempered.

After the police dog demo, we’ll award prizes for the coloring contest. To enter the Mechanics Bank Coloring Contest, drop by the Kensington branch of Mechanics Bank to pick up your coloring sheet on or after October 1. The deadline to return your masterpiece to the bank is Friday, October 12. The prize for the winners this year is a \$25 gift card for each age group: 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

Special thanks to our KCC Parade and Picnic sponsors: Marvin Gardens/Red Oak and Mechanics Bank. If your organization is interested in participating in the parade please contact the KCC Office at 525-0292.

Public Safety Building Options Down to One - Stories on pages 4,6-7

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Come Walk the Paths

Dear Editor:

I want to invite residents to join our Kensington Pathkeepers group for a walking tour that will include the paths and connecting streets. We will meet on Sunday, Oct. 13 at 10am and hike until noon, finishing in the business district on Arlington Ave.

On this walk, we will discuss the history of the paths and other points of interest. The Pathkeepers are working to secure public ownership of the paths so they can continue to be enjoyed for safely traversing Kensington on foot. They would also provide vital routes to safety for some residents in the event of a wildfire or other emergency.

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, who continues to support public ownership of the paths, plans to join us. Our walking tour will go at a moderate pace. But since much of our route goes uphill, participants should have a level of fitness to comfortably ascend stairs and streets such as Berkeley Park Blvd.

There is no need to RSVP. Just show up by 10am on Oct. 13 near Semifreddi’s Bakery on Colusa Circle. Questions can be sent to rodney paul510@gmail.com. The Pathkeepers website is kensingtonpathkeepers.org

Rodney Paul

Out of Control

Dear Editor:

The approach proposed by the fire board to remodel the 6,000-sq.-ft. Public Safety Building solely for fire services involves enhancements that are not required by code, are not deemed essential by the fire chief, and will not be partially reimbursed by El Cerrito, even though over 30 percent of the calls from this station go into El Cerrito. Instead, this recommendation by the fire board shows a total disregard to work out space needs between two sister agencies and, if implemented, would leave Kensington with unknown public safety concerns and costs for police services.

But let's not be fooled. This plan to kick out the police department is just a ruse, with the real goal to force the KPPCSD to allow a large 11,000-sq.-ft. building in Kensington Park. Such a building could easily cost \$20 million given that a similar structure is now under construction for \$12 million on flat land in the town of San Pablo—a town with a population of 30,000 and far from the Hayward fault.

Moreover, Kensington Park is adjacent to two daycare classes with 100 students, a library, a playground with lot of young kids, and a church. Emergency vehicles should not be pulling out of a location where these uses exist, and the Kensington taxpayer should not be saddled with a debt that could easily run \$15,000 per parcel.

It's time to bring the current building up to seismic safety requirements at a probable cost of \$2.0 million while retaining both the existing fire and police services.

Jim Watt

Hamstringing the KPPCSD Board

Dear Editor:

Many of us received an undated letter recently, and I reject its contents for the following reasons. The letter is very interesting as it claims that the 2009 Voting Rights Ordinance binds all future boards of the KPPCSD to comply with something that was not approved by the voters. We find it unacceptable that the group that sent the letter continues to suggest that this is a valid ordinance as the board’s legal counsel indicated they thought it was not something that could bind future boards.

Your group continues to try to hamstring the current board through their various activities including but not limited to sending letters to the four districts that were requested to respond to the RFP that in fact the “Dorroh Ordinance” was valid and required the vote of the public. We don’t believe the “Dorroh Ordinance” is law, and therefore it does not need to be followed. I guess the group that sent the letter is working on making sure that Kensington needs to retain lawyers to show that what was passed in 2009 is not law. If not law, then it need not be followed. The boards of the past continue to haunt us today.

We elect a board to determine what is best for the community. We do not expect each citizen to look to the potential of outsourcing all or part of our policy services with its pros and cons but rather rely on our elected representatives that have access to far more information and facts to make an informed decision.

Craig Rice

The Bigger Issue Is at Hand

Dear Editor:

There is some debate about whether outsourcing the police services to an adjacent community is allowed without a community vote. The KPPCSD board maintains that it can act upon a contract at will, ignoring a KPPCSD-adopted ordinance that requires contracting out police services be approved by the community in a plebiscite. This controversy may lead to another lawsuit as citizens try to enforce the ordinance, and taxpayers will sadly foot resulting legal bills. This power struggle misses the larger point: This moment is an opportunity to build cohesion and community. Citizens should have a

voice in such a serious matter—and the board should want to know it has the support of the broader community rather than a vocal faction.

Should the community guide the board towards contracting out police services, it deserves facts regarding the problems we are trying to solve and at what cost. If the problem is the improvement of management, the better solution is to restructure our services so we can afford dedicated, full-time management of fire, police and park. Fobbing off police services alone will not do this.

If the problem is money, we can solve this issue by having only one district for all services so this would balance needs with tax receipts...and reduce the likelihood of future police district tax increases.

If the community votes to contract out our police (and forego a police station location in Kensington) we might instead consider allowing El Cerrito (the likely sole respondent to the RFP) to annex Kensington. That is the logical future assuming El Cerrito’s management of all key services and continuation of our bifurcated and inefficient district structure. It would allow us an organized city government that we seem unable to adopt upon our own.

Let’s have a town hall meeting and debate whether we should organize ourselves more efficiently and retain control of key services or be subsumed into a more properly run governing structure as citizens of El Cerrito. Write to your board members and ask for the meeting. This is the moment to get involved and work for the best outcome for Kensington residents.

Andrew Reed

The “Dorroh Ordinance” Makes No Sense

Dear Editor:

Some residents are insisting that the KPPCSD board cannot enter into a contract for police services without first going to the voters because of an ordinance passed by the 2009 board. We disagree. A legal opinion written for the 2015 KPPCSD board stated that a legislative body such as the KPPCSD may not permanently bind its own power as chartered by state law, and the ordinance is therefore invalid. The opinion further concluded that contracting was an administrative decision, not subject to initiative language.

The ordinance was a bait-and-switch scheme on the 22 percent of voters (864 valid signatures of 3,841 registered voters) who signed the petition in 2009. They were told the petition was to go on the ballot as an initiative measure. The proposed ordinance was never debated in a public meeting. Instead, the ordinance was adopted by a vote of 4-1 by the 2009 KPPCSD board without the presence or advice of legal counsel. One of the organizers of the initiative petition was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the board just prior to the vote.

In our view, the ordinance was designed as a poison pill to scare away potential contracting partners and stymie any negotiations. The result is that the ordinance distracts from productive measures to improve the structure and professionalism of the KPD and to negotiate for better and possibly lower-cost KPD services. Lastly, the authors of the ordinance threaten expensive legal action if the current KPPCSD rescinds or ignores the ordinance.

We vote every two years to elect directors to the KPPCSD board. Contracting has been a topic in every election going back ten years. The board reflects the will of the people. That is how democracy works in a special district such as the KPPCSD. For more information go to www.FixOurKPD.org

John Gaccione

Eyleen Nadolny

Draw Your Own Conclusions

Dear Editor:

Letters to the Editor have always been popular among *Outlook* readers. Last month’s batch is typical of where things stand these days. Some writers say the KPPCSD board has achieved impressive “reforms,” while others detail the board’s “farcical dysfunction.”

On neighborhood social media, residents discussing local police and governance concoct a stew of wildly polarized innuendo and opinion garnished with the occasional dollop of hard data, and sometimes a dash of common sense. In snail mail we find fliers, signed and unsigned, some meant to educate, some to indoctrinate.

With many weighty issues of long-term consequence before us, residents should go to the sources and draw their own conclusions. Kensington is governed by two volunteer boards, one for Fire and the other for Police/Parks/Services. If like me you can rarely go to meetings, listen to the audio (Fire) and watch the videos (Police), found on the two districts’ websites (click “meetings”). They are not as boring as you might think and will quickly bring you up to speed with what’s going on in town.

Sylvia Elsbury

All Those Ks

Dear Editor:

I just took a look at the *Outlook* for the first time and found that the very short cover story of the September issue had seven acronyms, with not one of them introduced. I was editor of my high school paper nearly five decades ago and never would have let that slide! If a high school newspaper from fifty years ago can have higher standards, it would seem that a sophisticated Bay Area community could up its journalistic game. You're presumably trying to impart information, and you can't assume that all of your readers know what acronyms stand for.

Doug Herring

Past Consultants Costly Too

Dear Editor:

To address Dane Gillette’s admonishments over consultants’ fees, in 2013 the directors paid a consultant 35k to poll residents’ appetite for taxing ourselves ahead of the June 2015 2M general bond measure, didn’t follow their advice, and the bond didn’t pass. In 2014 they paid a consultant 90K to prepare a garbage RFP, but started so late they didn’t get a product in time to put the contract out for bids before the Bay View contract ran out. 90K paid for nothing, and we were lucky Bay View was willing to re-contract. The year Mr. Gillette picked for comparison was the year the Reno story broke, when the directors were kept busy paying legal counsel. Not to mention suing residents at the cost of 230K, not covered by their liability insurance carrier, rather than retaking one vote?

This board is a breath of fresh air. We should thank our lucky stars for their competence.

Anne Shane

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KPPCSD Working with Fire Board to Find Landing Spot for Police

By Rachelle Sherris-Watt and Christopher Deppe, KPPCSD directors

The Public Safety Building at 217 Arlington Avenue has been the home of the Kensington Fire Department and the Kensington Police Department since 1970. A series of seismic upgrades and spatial design improvements have kept the building in operation for almost fifty years. Capital assets do not last forever, and like the Community Center, the Annex, and Building E, keeping the PSB operational into the 21st century is going to require serious modifications. To this end, the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) and the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) have been working together to find a long-term, safe and cost-effective solution to our infrastructure needs.

By 2014 it was apparent that our public buildings were in need of help. The Community Center renovation, begun with engineering reports in 2015, should be completed by the end of the year. Building E had smaller scale improvements last month. The KFPD, owner of 217 Arlington, alerted the KPPCSD that there were concerns about seismic safety in 2015. Engaging an architectural firm, the KFPD began a series of interviews with staff to determine needs and wishes for a public safety facility. It was understood that due to management and board changes within the KPPCSD, there would be little participation by the district board in the early days of deliberations.

In June of 2017, the KFPD had two rival plans. Plan 1 involved improving the current building with an expansion and seismic and ADA upgrades. Plan 2 was constructing a new building in Kensington Park, to the south of the library. The first project was roughly evaluated at around 3 million dollars, the second at approximately 10 million.

As the KPPCSD was running budgets barely in the black, the board did not advocate for either plan. Options were explored over the next year, often during discussions on improvements to other capital assets. What was the necessary dollar amount to finance the KPPCSD’s long-term lease? Would the park bond passed in 1998 allow building in the park? Would selling parkland to the KFPD be a way to finance the KPPCSD’s participation in the building? Would the community desire for a new building result in the passing of a large tax increase?

The KPPCSD attorney determined that bond counsel would have to be hired to clarify the issues surrounding use of parkland. The reaction to spending for the Community Center renovation led some board members to think that passage of a tax increase was unlikely. Vocal members of the community advocated for and against the use of Kensington Park as a new home for police and fire. In January 2018, Rockridge Geotechnical, presented findings of possible trace faults near the 217 site.

Throughout the process, the KPPCSD and KFPD have had ad hoc committees meeting to discuss options. The KPPCSD board representatives are Chris Deppe and Rachelle Sherris-Watt. In August, KFPD directors Don Dommer and Larry Nagel revealed that a new architectural team, after examining the space needs of the fire department, determined that there would not be sufficient space to house fire and police together.

Directors Deppe and Sherris-Watt have been planning presentations to our board and the community with options for the successful housing of district administration and the police department in Kensington. The ad hoc committee is confident that alternatives exist in Kensington that will be convenient for both staff and residents, and the KPPCSD is committed to ensuring a safe and comfortable working environment for its employees.

Deppe and Sherris-Watt are committed to continue to work with the KFPD for the most prudent solution to this challenge. On Thursday, January 23 and Saturday, January 25, at the newly renovated Community Center, the KPPCSD board will present developments and decisions regarding a home for the police department and the district’s administration. Please plan to attend; we desire input from residents.

CITIZEN FORUM

Contracting Out Quandaries

By Richard Karlsson

As a resident of Kensington for 37 years, I have tried to avoid taking a position on contracting out. However, as an attorney who spent more than 33 years representing public agencies, I want to provide my insight into the contracting out debate. By way of background, I represented Alameda County and its Sheriff’s Office in contracting out services as well as representing various agencies that contracted out enforcement services, mainly the Alameda County Medical Center. In addition, I represented the Alameda County sheriff in disciplinary hearings for 18 years and handled numerous grievances before the PERB (Public Employment Relations Board).

First and foremost, contracting out public services, particularly to another city, is not an easy process. The residents of that contracting city are going to have input into the process, and the first question they might ask is why is our city contracting out its police services, especially for an entity that, based upon the letters to the editor in the Outlook, has so many problems. It would also be argued that each of the cities considered has more serious business to attend to than the problems of the "wealthy enclave" of Kensington. Thus in my view Kensington's best bet would be either the Highway Patrol (who patrolled Castro Valley for many years) or the Contra Costa County sheriff, since their respective "citizens" are the state of California or the unincorporated area of Contra Costa County, of which Kensington is a part.

Apparently Contra Costa County is now not interested in contracting based upon what has been referred to as the "Dorroh" ordinance. And while the legality of that ordinance may be in doubt, how long do you think it would take the citizens of Kensington to adopt another similar voter initiative to be placed on the ballot should the validity of the original be overturned in court? I think that can be easily answered by the number of signs still on display urging residents to "keep our local police.” And, if the requisite signatures were obtained, holding a vote on the issue would be both expensive and entirely borne by Kensington.

As far as the letters to the editor about the number of "bad" police officers, my question is a simple one. If they are that bad, why have they not been removed by the current board? Like most public employees, police officers are entitled to due process—a full evidentiary hearing as to their competence and liability. I can assure you from prior experience handling such hearings that unless you have considerable evidence to support the proposed discipline imposed, this board, or any other board, would have little chance of success. Additionally, the process is not an inexpensive one.

So next argument, can we contract out the police force and get rid of the officers in question that way? In response I would refer your readers to the opinions of the Public Employment Relations Board and the rights of existing officers if their positions are put up for contract. They have a legal right to meet and confer on the issue of their continued employment with the new agency, and unless the new police department can establish that they can service Kensington without hiring more officers, which I doubt, I can assure you that those same Kensington officers would wind up working for the new police force. And if they are indeed so "awful" as alleged in the Outlook letters to the editor, why would the residents of an existing force want to assume liability for hiring those officers?

One final note about contracting out: Kensington residents have been quite vocal in the past regarding wages and benefits of the existing officers. Clearly they want to be involved in the process. Based upon my experience, if you contract out police services, those negotiations would be carried out by the entity that employs the police force: El Cerrito or Albany, etc. Those negotiations would be conducted in closed session between the City Council labor representatives and the labor unions. Once a contract was established, Kensington would be presented with a contract and billed for the new services, going forward, take it or leave it. And if Kensington cannot afford the increase, where would it turn next? Good question, especially if it no longer has its own police force. Yes, Kensington can attempt to put whatever it feels it needs in the form of a contract with the new agency. I would only ask, who has the better negotiating position, Kensington or the new police agency?

My advice? Hold an election and ask the residents of Kensington whether they want to contract out for services or retain their existing force, after a full discussion of the pros and cons of each choice. I would also add that in my humble opinion either choice is eventually going to result in increased costs for Kensington. If the choice is contracting out, that additional cost will be determined by the contracting agency. If the choice is retention of existing services, Kensington residents will determine that additional cost.

Town Meetings

- KCC-Oct. 7, Kensington Community Council, 6:30pm. 525-0292 Building E

KPSC-Oct. 14, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/Disaster Preparedness 2nd Mondays, 6pm. 501-8165

KARO/ECHO-New time, new location! Oct. 14, Amateur Radio Operators, 2nd Mondays, 7pm. 524-9815

KFPD-Oct. 9, Fire Protection District 2nd Wed., 7pm Building E, 527-8395

KIC-Oct. 28, Kensington Improvement Club 4th Mondays, 7:30. 524-7415
- KPPCSD-Oct. 10, Oct. 24, 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



Remembering Julia Robinson

Julia Robinson, the first woman elected to the mathematical section of the National Academy of Sciences, first woman president of the American Mathematical Society, and groundbreaking developer of the J.R. hypothesis (which would lead to the solution of Hilbert’s 10th problem), was a longtime Kensington resident. This December marks the centennial of her birth, and the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival is holding a conference in her honor.

If you have photos, memories or special anecdotes to share about Julia and Raphael Robinson as mathematicians or as neighbors, please contact Rachelle Sherris-Watt at juliarobinsonmemories@gmail.com.



Happy Anniversary to the Fenders

Hearty recognition is due to Charles and Clavel Fender as they celebrate their 77 years of marriage. On September 26 our mom and dad celebrated all those years of love. They live independently in the home Carole and I were raised in on Coventry Road. Mom plays bridge, is an amazing puzzler, does lovely adult coloring, watches tennis and sports and mysteries on TV, reads, cooks lunch and attends Arlington Community Church.

Dad also plays bridge, is an avid reader, watches sports, takes daily walks, rides his stationary bike, handles the bills, makes breakfast and also attends ACC. Dad will be 101 years young in November and mom is 98 years as of May 28.

We are the joy of their lives as well as our extended families, and they are the joy and the admiration of our lives. We celebrate their most meaningful anniversary. —Louise and Carole Fender



Passings

Longtime Kensington resident (1962-2017) Jane Sturman was born April 19, 1926 and died July 15, 2019. Jane Elizabeth Orr was born to John Myers Orr and Evelyn Helquist Orr in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She attended Peabody High School and Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon University), majoring in secretarial studies. She worked as a secretary at Gulf Oil and Allegheny Ludlum Steel in Pittsburgh and also spent a year working at the Pineapple Research Institute in Honolulu. In 1960, she moved to Berkeley and married Ivan Sturman. She had one child, John. John and his wife Elizabeth have two children, Jane’s granddaughters Ceci and Lucy.

She enjoyed gardening, reading, crossword puzzles, walking, dogs, sewing, and skiing. She was active in First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. She was also a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Kensington Republican Women’s Club, and volunteered at many school and community activities in Kensington.

She and Ivan were married 56 years until Ivan died in 2016. In 2017, she moved to Leesburg, Virginia to be near John and Elizabeth. For her last two years, she resided at Morningside House of Leesburg and joined Brambleton Presbyterian Church. She died from the effects of a stroke.

She will be remembered for her positive spirit, her kind heart, sense of humor, her faith, and being a loyal friend. She is deeply missed by her family and many friends. A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley on October 4.



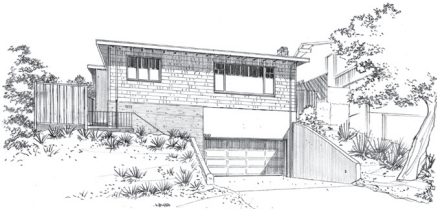
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628 SPOKANE AVE, ALBANY
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Originally offered at \$1,198,000



539 COVENTRY RD, KENSINGTON
Just Sold! Elegant c.1956- an open, airy home with a flexible floor plan. Full of light & oriented towards Bay views. Spacious living room, open dining room & updated kitchen & baths.
Originally offered at \$1,028,000



1145 ARLINGTON BLVD, EL CERRITO
Just Sold! All on one-level modern updated CA ranch-style home. Walls of glass, updated kitchen facing garden, open dining room and spacious living room.
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RUTH FRASSETTO, CRS

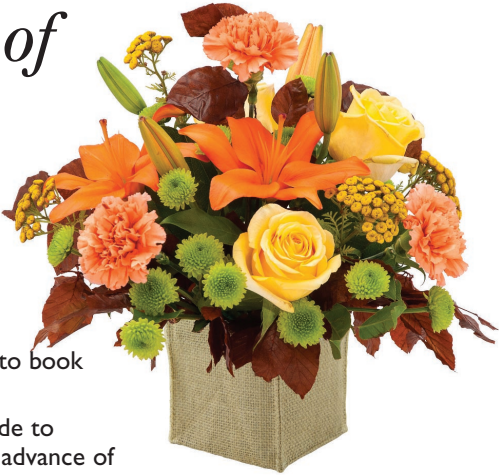
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Renovating the Public Safety Building Is an Essential Project for the Community

By Julie Stein and Don Dommer, KFPD board directors

There are a number of significant deficiencies with the current 49-year-old Public Safety Building at 217 Arlington, which presently houses Kensington’s Fire Protection District (“KFPD” and “fire board”) and Kensington’s Police Protection and Community Service District (“KPPCSD”). Many of these deficiencies could impact the building’s ability to perform its core mission during a critical emergency—and worse, could grievously injure those inside, the very people we need to help us during that emergency.

The state mandates that fire and police stations meet what are called “essential facility standards,” seismic criteria aimed at providing a building that will remain operational and able to be occupied following a major disaster. The current building, which is close to the end of its fifty-year useful life, does not meet current standards and is situated between one active fault that runs along the Arlington and one likely trace fault under the retaining wall behind the building.

Renovating and retrofitting the Public Safety Building (PSB) is an essential project for the community. In a major disaster, because of the existing seismic deficiencies, the building may be compromised at the very time that the community needs it the most. Other operational deficiencies include inability to accommodate state-of-the-art upgrades to fire engines due to space constraints, resulting in reduced response times; security and safety issues; inadequate space for critical police functions; and unacceptable interior overcrowding. The goal of this project is to analyze renovating and retrofitting of the PSB to meet all mandated requirements for a building of this type, and to support current operational standards. The fire board manages the PSB and is conducting the full analysis for presentation to the community on Saturday, November 16.

Community members might rightfully ask: Is it a better option to construct a new facility than to retrofit and remodel the current building? From an operational standpoint, a new facility is the only way to effectively address the existing building’s deficiencies while maintaining all current operations within the building, and it provides the smoothest transition of services from the old facility to the new one. A solution to retrofit and remodel is not optimal but is the only option presently available for the fire board to consider. From a seismic standpoint, remodeling can strengthen the existing facility to the required standard; however, the fire board determined and communicated several years ago that a remodeled building is unlikely to be able to house the functions of both districts, KFPD and KPPCSD, that presently reside in the building today.

A Look at How We’ve Gotten Here

The analysis and design process has been underway for this project since 2016. In early 2016, KFPD retained the firm of Biggs Cardosa Engineers to analyze the building for structural integrity. Their seismic integrity recommendations called for either a major seismic upgrade or replacement of the building. The building does not meet current codes, which have been upgraded over the years.

Later in 2016, KFPD retained RossDrulisCusenbery Architecture (“RDC”) to develop design proposals for upgrading or replacing the building. RDC has extensive experience with public safety structures.

The first phase, completed in early 2017, consisted of a thorough review of the existing fire and police functions, supported by in-depth interviews with staff of both districts to determine the needs of fire, police, and community services. The outcome was a conceptual and cost analysis of three design options: Renovate, expand, and seismically upgrade the existing building; build a new, larger building on the existing site; or build a new building at an alternate site.

To house the services and personnel of KFPD and KPPCSD in a single location, it was determined that increasing the size of the building was a fundamental requirement in order to bring all existing program functions of fire services and police services up to code and modern standards. This included separating police functions from public access, securing evidence storage and providing facilities for detaining suspects under arrest. The current building does not have holding cells or a secure restroom for suspects brought in for booking, and it does not provide the required capacity to separate adult suspects from juvenile suspects.

The fire board held a public meeting on June 24, 2017 to present the analysis of constructing a new, larger building on the existing site at 217 Arlington. The KPPCSD was engaged during this period, having participated in detailed interviews, planning, and space reduction exercises to help achieve a minimum size for the proposed new building. Then-president of the KPPCSD board, and chair of its building committee, Rachelle Sherris-Watt, expressed her gratitude for this initiative to construct a new public safety building and for the willingness to invest in it for the safety of public safety officers and citizens. She cited the sobering Grenfell Tower mass-casualty fire disaster that had just occurred in North Kensington, London. Then-president of the KFPD board, Don Dommer, discussed how the fire board offered to find a way to lead on financing and executing the project, allowing the KPPCSD to pay back its fair share on an annual basis over time, like a mortgage.

Progress slowed after a December 2017 geotechnical survey reported a finding of a likely earthquake fault about 40’ underground behind the building, underneath the large retaining wall that supports the homes above the PSB. Trenching to verify the fault was deemed to be very risky and expensive because it would have required the removal of the retaining wall. Given this scenario, the KFPD is required to proceed under the assumption that an active fault exists. This finding abruptly eliminated any option to construct a new building or expand the footprint of the existing building on the current site. The Division of the State Architect Agency (DSA), by code, disallows new construction within less than 100’ of an active fault but allows renovation with limitations.

A change in course became necessary.

The fire board continued to try to engage the KPPCSD during 2018 to discuss the option of constructing a new building on the Arlington at the edge of the park next to the library, but with far less success than in 2016-17. This lack of engagement on what the fire board had hoped would continue to be a mutually beneficial project effectively stopped the project until the fire board restarted it in early 2019.

These renewed efforts have included better public engagement and education. The KFPD building committee, Don Dommer and Larry Nagel, gave a thorough presentation at the KPPCSD board meeting on March 28, 2019 to reiterate the challenges that have resulted with limited renovation options. They emphasized that a renovated building with the same footprint would likely result in a significant reduction in the space available for the KPPCSD after implementing mandated code and functional upgrades. This point was emphasized again by the fire board president, Julie Stein, at the KPOA annual meeting on May 4; at the fire board meeting on May 8; in a public presentation

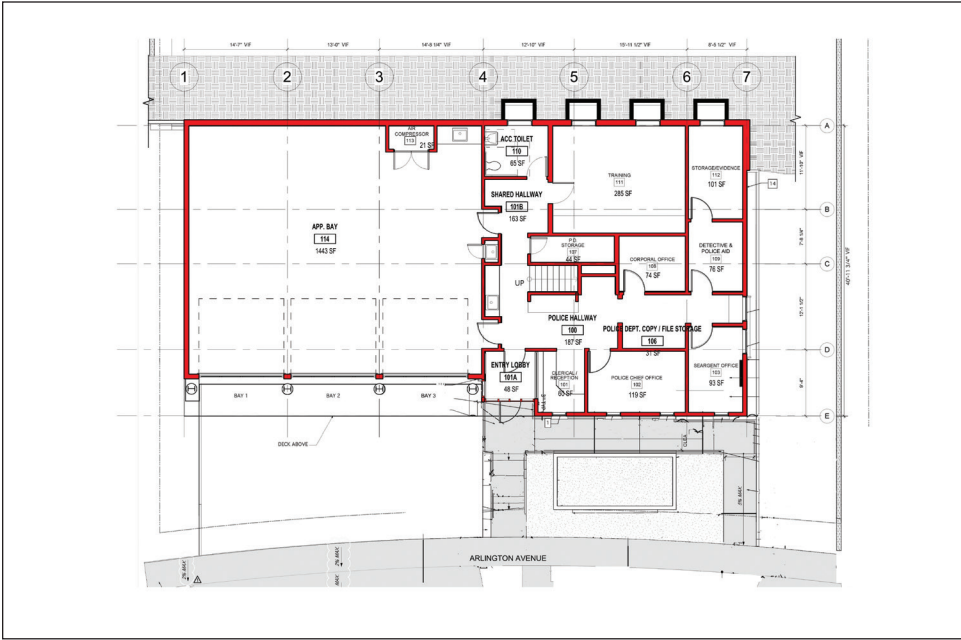
by the fire board president to KPPCSD on May 23; and most recently at the fire board meetings on July 10 and August 14.

In anticipation of this renewed public engagement, the fire board developed a structured decision plan to present on May 8, 2019 in order to clearly outline necessary steps to analyze concurrently the two remaining options:

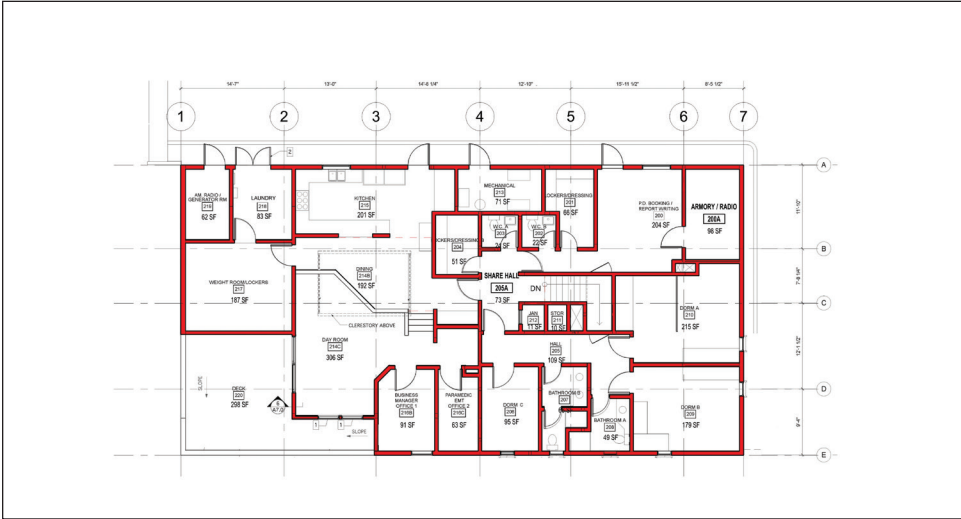
- 1) renovation of the building within its existing footprint, and
- 2) construction of a new building on the Arlington, on the edge of the park, south of the library, on property managed by the KPPCSD and owned by the community.

After renewed attempts in committee meetings and in recent public meetings to engage the KPPCSD in the analysis of constructing a new building on the Arlington, the KPPCSD responded on June 23. KPPCSD directors Christopher Deppe and Rachelle-Sherris Watt asked the fire board to “provide a thorough analysis of all possible safety building sites in Kensington and details of determining viability for locating a public safety building on a particular parcel” and to conduct “an exhaustive search for all possible sites.” The parcels suggested for evaluation in the letter from KPPCSD are located on the outskirts of Kensington, are owned by private or other public entities, and would be costly to purchase even if for sale. More importantly, none of the suggested locations have been judged by past and present fire chiefs Steve Cutright, Lance Maples, and Michael Pigoni to meet the most important criteria for locating fire and emergency services: response time.

On July 10, the fire board reluctantly decided to pursue analysis of the single remaining option to renovate the existing public safety building. The fire board will present its findings at a community meeting on November 16, 2019.



Existing first floor of the Public Safety Building. Apparatus Bay 2 and Bay 3 house fire engine 65 and engine 365. Bay 1 is used to perform necessary functions related to fire and emergency services, including storage of turnout gear for the firefighters, a shop for repairing and servicing equipment, and decontamination of hazardous materials. The training room serves public safety meeting functions for fire and police. It can be used for joint command meetings, interviewing victims or witnesses; it is also used for meetings with district directors and the public. The training room is accessible only through a shared hallway and is not securely segregated from police department spaces. This floor does not contain an ADA-compliant restroom for staff and the public.



Existing second floor of the Public Safety Building. One shift of three fire personnel lives in this space during their 48-hour shifts (there are three groups of personnel). This space is presently shared with fire administration staff and with the police. In the present configuration, compliance with ADA accessibility requires the installation of an elevator and ADA-compliant restrooms. Firefighter workstations are situated in dorm rooms. The weight room also houses the building’s electrical utilities. A shared hallway serves fire, police, and administration, and it is the sole access route for firefighters responding to an emergency. Schematics courtesy of RossDrulisCusenbery Architecture, Inc.

Analysis of a Renovated PSB

The fire board has reengaged RDC to build upon its prior work from 2016 and focus solely on analyzing the feasibility of renovating and retrofitting the public safety building within the existing footprint. RDC has produced a seismic structural analysis and a preliminary conceptual plan that is suitable for cost estimating. This analysis must also report on the feasibility and cost of temporarily relocating fire services, apparatus, and living quarters during the renovation because of the extensive nature of the seismic work.

There are at least five elements of the full analysis, in the following order:

1. Space feasibility (code, program, and function): RDC gave the first report on September 11, 2019. The fire board plans to fully describe the space plan in the November Outlook.
2. Seismic feasibility to meet essential services standard (code): On September 11, RDC confirmed that seismic goals can be met but will be expensive enough to require that the entire building be brought into ADA-accessibility compliance.
3. Cost feasibility for remodeling and seismic work: a costing report is planned for delivery at the fire board meeting on October 9, which may include an appraisal of the building because renovation costs are limited in relation to the value of the building.
4. Temporary relocation feasibility: Pending approval from the Arlington Community Church to locate a temporary fire station on its parking lot, RDC will begin work on a preliminary schematic of a temporary fire station.

5. Cost of temporary relocation: On October 9, the fire board will consider authorizing an analysis of the cost of constructing, operating, and deconstructing a temporary fire station.

Any one or any combination of these analyses could result in a finding that renovation is not feasible or that it is too costly relative to the cost of constructing a new building. The results of the full-spectrum analysis will be presented to the community on November 16.

Building Usage

The KFPD owns and operates the 49-year-old PSB. The building presently houses the Kensington Fire Department, Kensington Fire Protection Administration, the Kensington Police Department, and all KPPCSD staff who work on parks, recreation, finance, and general management.

The public safety building is the sole location for KFPD administration. It houses its half-time district manager and all fire district records. Kensington-specific training and public education are also conducted from this building.

KPPCSD currently operates a full-service police department from the building, including suspect booking, evidence handling, ammunition storage, police reporting, vacation watch, key storage program, and secure work stations for police investigative and administrative functions. The general manager, police specialist, and district administrative staff also work in the building.

A Look at the Existing Building

The comprehensive analysis of alternatives performed by RDC in 2016 included an analysis of the existing building. While some minor repairs have been made since 2016, the over-arching analysis of the building condition is still valid. Based on initial analyses presented on September 11, the construction costs for the seismic upgrade alone, which includes piers and new shear walls, will exceed \$166,000, triggering a full-scale ADA accessibility code compliance upgrade. The overall scope of the project will require upgrades to current 2015 California Building Code (CBC).

Building Conditions and Needs:

- Structural system does not meet current CBC Structural Essential Facility Chapter 11. Even a structural upgrade, in the absence of any other remodeling, will substantially impact use of the building for a year or so.
- The building is out of compliance with the California Building Code (“CBC”) accessibility requirements, which require equal access for all members of the public.
- Roofing is more than 20 years old, is breaking down, and needs to be replaced.
- Exterior sidings and windows are about 10 years and do not need to be replaced, except as part of any structural upgrade work to meet seismic code.
- HVAC equipment is 20 years old, fails to meet current CBC Mechanical Code, and is inefficient.
- Fire personnel dorm rooms, which are viewed in the CBC as a hotel function, do not have the required separate HVAC systems.
- The building does not have a solar panel system, which could be considered.
- Electrical upgrades may be necessary because lighting and switching fail to meet current CBC Electrical Code.
- The emergency generator is about 20 years old and probably does not need to be replaced, but it has usage limitations.

- A fire sprinkler system should be added.
 - KFPD administrative office must be moved to the ground floor to meet current CBC Chapter 11B Accessibility and avoid the requirement to install an elevator.
 - The overhead doors result in a low clearance of only a few inches.
- Outstanding issues, still under analysis include:
- Determining CBC upgrades associated with renovating the main spaces, including restrooms and showers upstairs and on the first floor, kitchen and dining room, day room, exercise room, and dorms.
 - Determining whether KFPD captain’s office, firefighters’ workstations, and other spaces should to be moved to the ground floor.
 - Making the conference and training space larger.

Perhaps most important is that the present building does not begin to meet adequate functional and operational needs for modern fire and police operations.

Functional issues include, for example:

- Required separation between the agencies of fire and police does not presently exist, and the public has more access than allowed to the police service spaces.
- The bays that house our two fire engines are narrow, which reduces the response time because fire personnel have to open and close the engine doors to maneuver into boarding the engine.
- Lockers, the physical training room, evidence storage, the lobby, and circulation spaces are all smaller than current best practices and some are co-located with utilities.

Improve Work and Living Standards

The fire board’s goal is to seismically upgrade to essential services standard, and to optimize functions and the program of the fire station within the limitations of the existing building to ensure the value and longevity of any potential investment in the existing building.

It is useful to provide background about comparable fire stations to frame the analysis. Two-story fire stations are common in denser and more urban areas. Most single crew stations with shifts of a captain and two firefighters will have two or three drive-through apparatus bays.

These stations will 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. Small sites, such as Kensington’s site, most likely will require the firefighters to back in the engines to shorter bays, using reverse gear. The average sized single crew fire station is approximately 8,000 SF.

The Kensington PSB is a two-story building with 1,200 SF allocated to KPPCSD police and 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.

Finally, it should also be noted that 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 PSB on November 9 from 10am-noon and the KFPD public meeting on November 16 from 9am-11am at the Arlington Community Church.

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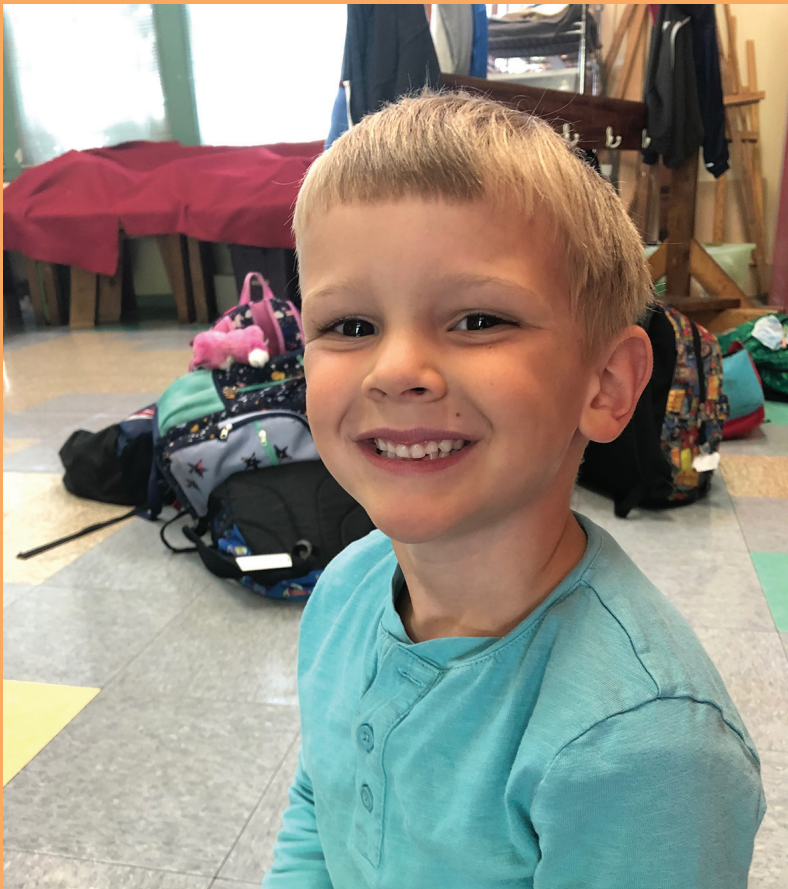
Community Education



Fall KASEP

Fall Kasep classes began Sept. 16 with a robust turn out, and many new classes, such as Coding, Judo, flute, Lego, Aloha Math along with fall favorites such as gymnastics, carpentry, environmental science, tennis, art and cooking.

Thank you parents for your understanding as we rolled out a new software system that has many internal benefits as well as an overall easier interface for parents.



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

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, 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.

KASEP

Kensington Afterschool Enrichment Program

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

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). \$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

October Events

October 1, 8, 22 & 29 Family Storytime Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. 6:30 pm. Free. 524-3043.

October 2 The Kensington Unit of the League of Women Voters will meet to discuss local issues at 1:15pm at 21 Camelot Ct. RSVP 510-527-1332

October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Baby & Toddler Storytime Stories, songs, puppets, scarves, shaky eggs, and loads of fun! Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave. Two identical sessions 10:15am & 11:15am. Free. 524-3043.

October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Read to Dogs! Each week one to three calm & gentle therapy dogs will be at Kensington 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. 2:30-3:30pm. Free.

October 3 Community Potluck. Fatih Ates, director of the Pacifica Institute, will speak on “A Common Word between Christians and Muslims.” Social Hour at 6, Potluck dinner at 6:30, Speaker at 7. ACC, free.

October 4 Interfaith Vigil against Gun Violence Music, words, and silence. 12 - 12:30pm in the sanctuary. ACC. Free

October 4 43rd Annual Art Show Reception 7-9pm, features a showcase for local artists. Unframed art for sale Saturday 11-5 and Sunday 11-4. El Cerrito Community Center.

October 6 Dr. Steven Herrmann, Jungian psychotherapist; author, poet, teacher. Steven will give an overview of Jung’s spiritual vision as it developed over time and encompassed many fields of religion and a variety of myths across the world. "Carl Jung’s Spirituality: Living the Symbolic Life.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

October 7 Kensington Library Knitting Club “The Castoffs” All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. Learn new stitches, share your talents, and meet new friends. 6:30pm. Free.

October 10 Succulent Gardens Big and Small David Boniske designs succulent gardens for special events and gives workshops on succulent garden design and care. 9:30am, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane.

October 12 Fall Book Sale 10am-4pm in basement of library at 6510 Stockton, El Cerrito. A fill-a-bag sale will be held Oct. 19 from 10am-4pm in the basement.

October 13 Terry Patten, a personal coach, teacher, and author of four books who has worked for thirty years to integrate ancient and modern practices for raising consciousness. "What’s Really Happening in Our Crazy World, and How Can We Be the Change We

Want to See?” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

October 13 Pathkeepers Host a Hike Come join John Gioia and the Kensington Pathkeepers on a hike around Kensington’s paths. Meet at 10am at Semifreddi’s at Colusa Circle. See Letters to the Editor for more information.

October 13 Fall Book Sale The Friends of the Kensington Library will hold its annual Fall Book Sale from 10am–4pm in the lot behind the library at 61 Arlington Avenue.

October 13 KCC/ACC Parade, Picnic, and Blessing of the Animals. Parade starts at Arlington and Amherst, line up 11:30am. Blessing of pets on Kensington Park’s big lawn, 1pm. Live music and lunch, free. See stories in this issue.

October 15 Norcal Bats Come for an informative talk by Corky Quirk of Norcal Bats on why bats are awesome. The presentation will include live bats! Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

October 17 Bridge Night 6pm, ACC. Monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACCers and new guests. Donation.

October 19 Laura Hydeman, Senior Library Literacy Assistant, Contra Costa County Library system, will talk at the AAUW West Contra Costa Branch meeting about Project Second Chance, new adult literacy program. Christ Lutheran Church, 780 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito, 10am, free.

October 19 World Famous Homegrown Monastery Pumpkin Sale The Discalced Carmelite Nuns at 68 Rincon Road (by Blake Gardens) will hold their annual pumpkin sale 3-6:30pm.The renowned Holy Pumpkin Carving Service will also be available. Proceeds to benefit urgently needed repairs to monastery building. Monastery-made treats and other items will also be available.

October 20 Ifasina TaMeicka L. Clear is a queer, hood, Southern Bell who resides in Oakland. Ifasina is a spiritual artist passionate about creating meaningful spaces to engage the body, heart and

mind in the plight of personal liberation and deepened community connection. "All Bodies Centered.” UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

October 20 Poets Examining Their Faith Rev. Nate Klug, author of two poetry collections, leads a discussion. We’ll look at poems by Gerard Manley Hopkins, Elizabeth Bishop, and others. 11:30am, ACC. Free

October 21 Think Like a Naturalist Learn how to get more out of every nature ramble! Naturalist and illustrator John Muir Laws will demonstrate simple techniques you can use in your own recreational nature study or family outing. Jack’s talks are ideal for all ages and levels of interest. Kensington Library, 6:30pm, free.

October 22 Afternoon Craft: Light-up Papercraft Sugar Skulls Using conductive tape and button batteries, participants will make and decorate their own light-up paper sugar skulls. Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.

October 26 Kensington Symphony Orchestra Concert. UUCB, 7:30pm, \$20/\$15.

October 27 Dr. Markate Daly has a PhD in Ethics from the University of Wisconsin. Her research has been a cognitive science-supported vision of social connection and what that means for theoretical ethics and social organization. She will talk about how the science coming out is supporting a deeply social rather than individualistic understanding of human nature . . . and how ethics will have to change to take account of this social reality. "An Ethics of Trust." UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

October 28 Scratch Art Masks & Drawings Using a scratching stick reveal rainbow colors beneath the black coating. Create your own personal designs! Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 3pm. Free. 524-3043.

October 28 Kensington Library Book Club Discussion of *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. Open to all. 6:30pm. Free.

Garden Party Supports Kids

By Joy Dey and Brenda Lee

Kensington Hilltop will be hosting its most anticipated annual Garden Party Fund-raiser Saturday, November 2, starting at 5pm. This annual benefit for the Kensington Education Foundation (KEF), which supports Kensington Hilltop Elementary, is the biggest party of the year, and the entire community is encouraged to come. We are delighted that this year’s party will be at a new location, the Richmond Country Club.

The theme of this year’s benefit auction is indeed a “Garden Party,” taking the event back to its roots when it was held at Blake Gardens—and was truly a garden party. Come to the party in your favorite garden chapeau. Kensington’s own Ruth Frassetto of the Grubb Company, Arlington Wine & Spirits, ZipCodeEastBay, Mechanics Bank, Derek Suring—New Leaf Realty, El Cerrito Martial Arts, Kensington Vet, and Dr. Ching—Children's Dentistry have been key supporters of the Garden Party for years. In a time-honored tradition, Hilltop’s newest alumni, now braving seventh grade, will work the room, passing hors d’oeuvres, selling raffle tickets, and finally getting a glimpse of this event their parents have been dressing up for since they started kindergarten.

As the evening progresses, bidding in the silent auction heats up, as people get serious about nabbing artwork, special outings like a night out at the SF Symphony or at the Claremont Hotel, and many different experiences you can enjoy as a family. Teacher Treasures, donated by Hilltop’s beloved teachers, always see a competitive burst of bidding. Art lovers won’t want to miss the chance to nab a real masterpiece donated by Masterworks Fine Art. While you’re placing silent auction bids, be sure to also add your name to the guest list of parties hosted by Hilltop parents.

All eyes will turn to the stage for the live auction, when paddles pop up for events such as a private tour of Pixar HQ and “Principal for a Day,” when the child of the winning bidder gets to shadow Hilltop principal Judy Sanders for a behind-the-scenes day at school. Another hot item is the mighty Dads’ Club work party, when a team of handy Hilltop dads descends on the winner’s home to tackle a formidable home or yard project.

Advance tickets are on sale now for \$70 at kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty/, or you can pick them up at the door for \$85.

While you wait for the big night, don’t forget to shop the online auction. From October 22–30, a whole slew of goods and services donated by local businesses, such as beauty treatments, exercise classes, home services, movie passes, restaurant and store gift certificates, will be open to bidding. You needn’t be present at the Garden Party to shop online, so if you can’t come to dance the night away, shop the online auction or make a donation at kensingtonhilltop.org/gardenparty.

August Police Log

1 SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Grizzly Peak Blvd. RP says a vehicle has been in the neighborhood twice. At 1300 hours car parked ifo and a HFA white top jewelry came out of vehicle and appeared to be attempting contact. Driver is HMA unk clothing. Subjects departed in vehicle when RP asked if they needed directions. Just now RP was walking home and saw same vehicle at Beloit/Grizzly peak however male counterpart not present. SB on Grizzly Peak. Unable to Locate.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Highland Blvd. 5-15 mins ago. WMA slim build jumped into the bushes and pulled out what possibly could have been long guns. Two females in the car with him light skinned BFA and also WFA 30s-40s. Officers overall contacted 6 subjects. Four were on probation or parole for various violent crimes and weapon charges.

2 BURGLARY, Kains. Albany. Suspect: unknown male. Suspect entered residence from rear bedroom window, walked through the residence and then entered the master bedroom where the sleeping resident was in bed. Victim confronted suspect who then fled through the front door and continued on foot s/b on Kains. KPD Officer assisted with search for subject.

3 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Edgecroft Rd. RP is elderly and received a phone call by someone posing as her family member and spent \$4000 on gift cards.

4 MISSING PERSON REPORT, Hilltop School.25 mins unable to locate 3 children 12yr old female 9yr old boy 8yr old female. Children found and Case Report Taken.

5 BURGLARY, Los Altos Dr. Occurred approx 2 hours ago, entry through lower level windows. RP has been through the home. Items missing. RP standing by.

VEHICLE TAMPERING, Berkeley Park Blvd. Catalytic converter theft.

6 SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE, Lawson Rd. White pickup parked ifo since earlier in the evening. Possibly someone inside sleeping.

DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Colgate Ave. Dogs barking for 1hr, RP would prefer to remain anon. Unable to Locate.

7 MISC PUB AUTO, Norwood Ave. White Lexus sedan w/ extensive rear end damage parked across from RP's res since Thursday morning. RP adv. the vehicle had a note on the windshield but it's now gone.

8 BURGLARY, Edgecroft Rd. RP says there were no weapons stored in the home.

MISC. CIVIL MATTER. Arlington Ln. Houseguest work trade agreement for 2 years ended 6 months ago. Subject has not left and RP wants advice on her options.

MISC CIVIL MATTER, Arlington Ln. RP wants to speak with officer regarding dispute between landlord and herself and says landlord threatening to throw out all her belongings.

PETTY THEFT, Ardmore Rd. RP's father left his wheelchair ifo his home and had multiple signs saying not to take. Caretaker was taking walk with RP's father and when they returned to the residence wheelchair was gone.

9 VEHICLE THEFT, Highgate Ct. 5 AGO, RP is second hand and has no veh description or suspect description, advising one of his worker's vehicles was stolen .Black Ford f-150 black tool box black roof rack, black liner.

11 ANIMAL CALL, Highland Blvd. Dog barking for several hours.

12 PETTY THEFT, Arlmont Dr. Landscape vandalism. RP says that a passerby had a knife and cut his aloe plants.

13 FOUND PROPERTY REPORT, Highgate Rd. RP says that he found a bike ifo of his residence on Friday evening. Identity Theft, report given at KPD.

15 HIT AND RUN, Columbia Ave. RP stepped out of his residence and found damage is on bumper front side.

16 HIT AND RUN, Beloit Ave. Car unkwn veh description vehicle screeching. Unable to locate.

17 ANIMAL CALL, Windsor Ave. RP is above tennis/ball courts in grassy area with her service dog on leash, advising another subject is there with his dog (golden retriever) unleashed and scaring her service dog. Situation corrected by PD.

See Police Log, page 10

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Police Log...from page 9

REQUEST FOR EXTRA PATROL, Colusa Circle. 15 ago, RP called 911 about vehicles speeding in Colusa Circle and being nearly hit. Advised her to call non-emergency line and she said "I would've called that, I didn't know it's an active # on the weekends."

18 DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Rincon Rd. Amplified music going on for over 4 hours, RP would like it to quiet down.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Ocean View Ave. Both vehs flat tires. Found nail in tire 3 days ago. Believes resp is her neighbor who has been hostile to her and other neighbors in the past. RP also wants to ask about video cameras.

19 VANDALISM, Cowper Ave. One veh w/ driver's side window smashed on driveway. Nothing taken. Resp is possibly RP's brother's ex.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Stratford Rd. Phone fraud. Caller pretended they were PG&E notifying him power would be turned off today at 1400hrs gave # to call for further info. When he called the number they said he owed money and needed to make a cash payment at a kiosk in 13065 San Pablo Ave Richmond. RP disconnected. No private info was given. No cash was given.

PETTY THEFT, Kensington Rd. Package theft. RP has video/pics of car/person.

20 BURGLARY, Franciscan Way. Window smash, backpack taken.

21 RECKLESS DRIVING, Arlington/Moeser. Vehicle speeding and driving past other vehicles over dbl yellow lines.

DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Stratford Rd. 2 barking dogs for the past 2 hours. Unable to locate.

23 MISSING PERSON REPORT. RP says he received call from school that his daughter never made it to Kensington Hilltop. 11 years old. His wife will stay at PD to file report.

24 VEHICLE ACCIDENT—DUI crash, Arlington Ave. 3-vehicle collision, DUI arrest. RP just got back from Lake Tahoe and says veh that was parked ifo his home is no longer there. RP was giving wrong plate, after correct plate was given veh found to be towed.

HIT AND RUN, Berkeley Park Blvd. RP did not see the veh but has camera that may have caught part of the veh.

26 WELFARE CHECK, Coventry Rd. RP wants to remain anonymous, concerned about his friend who is making alarming social media postings on FB and Instagram. No specific threats to harm self or others.

27 MISC CIVIL MATTER, KPD. Wants to speak with an officer regarding an item he purchased on Amazon.com. Parties advised.

28 SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S, Blake Gardens. Son was approached by a suspicious subject yesterday.

29 BURGLARY, Kensington Ct. RP came to his residence at 1900 and discovered his computer was missing. He spoke with his wife and she advised she was asleep during those hours and doesn't know what happened to the computer since she left it on the table. RP searched his residence last night w/negative results.

RECKLESS DRIVING, Colusa to Arlington. 15 mins ago, RP says the driver was following her from Colusa Circle and tailgating her and attempting to cut her off. l/s going north on Arlington going into El Cerrito.

30 HIT AND RUN, Arlington Ave. Driver side mirror knocked off and dent in bumper.

31 VANDALISM, Arlington Ave. Driver rear passenger window shot out.

DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Yale Ave. Ex bf at house refusing to leave pinched and grabbed RP's face still on property saying he will never leave her alone, that he will kill her. Situation Corrected by PD.

BURGLARY, Oberlin Ave. Discovered by contractor on site, front door pry attempted, entry gained via side door.



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Blessing of the Animals Returns to Prime Time

By Nina Harmon

After a brief hiatus, the Blessing of the Animals is back! Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 13, noon to 2pm in the large upper yard of Kensington Park. This year, the Blessing of the Animals coincides with the Kensington Community Council’s annual parade and picnic—and it all starts with the parade.

Bring your friendly pets and walk in the parade, which begins at the ACE Hardware parking lot at 11:30am. Halloween costumes for pets and people are encouraged!

We will have many important service groups at the event, such as Dog Scouts of America, Therapy Pets (therapypet.org), and Pennngrove’s Bergin University of Canine Studies. Bergin U trains and works with service animals for those with physical challenges.



WildCare, a wildlife rescue hospital and nature education center located in San Rafael, will have an informational display and maybe a small critter. KPPCSD board president Eileen Nottoli will bring one of her foster dogs from the Guide Dogs for the Blind, and we might even be lucky enough to entertain some puppies raised for the guide dog program.

Arlington Community Church’s the Person of the Planet, a local environmental group that works to advocate for a sustainable future locally and globally, will also be part of the program, and the Kensington Public Safety Council, led by Katie Gluck and Peter Liddell, will show us how to protect our pets during a disaster.

This year the ACC’s new minister, Reverend Nate Klug, will give the blessing to the animals—after he and his family ride in style as the parade Grand Marshal. Klug grew up in Massachusetts and is a graduate of the University of Chicago and Yale Divinity School. He previously served UCC churches in Iowa and Redwood City. Klug is the author of two books of poetry, and his writing appears in *The Nation*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *The Best American Poetry 2018*.

Whether you’re a pet or a pet lover, join us for what promises to be one of the highlights of the year! Check out the events link at ACC’s website. For more information call Jacob Day in the church office at 510 579-4634 or email him at acc.staff@sbc-global.net.




A blown fuse couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of the hundreds who showed up at the park for KCC's Family Movie Night. Full moon, warm night, good movie—what could be better? Photos by Anne Forrest.

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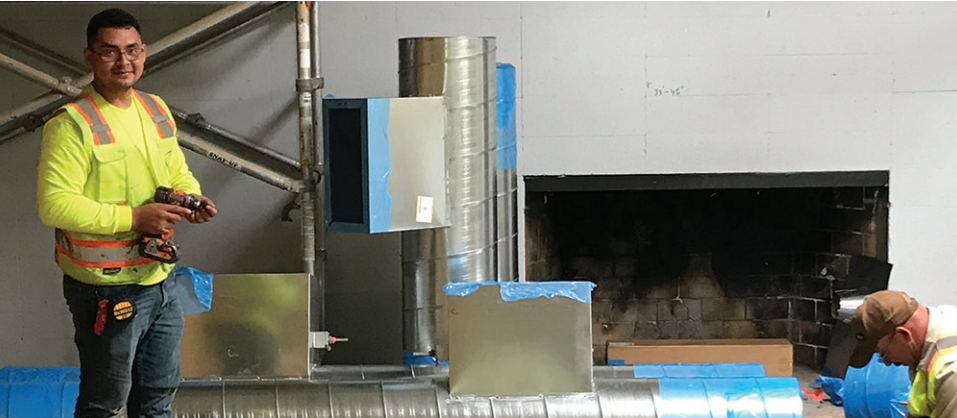
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Demo time in the main hall at the Community Center. Flooring, ceiling tiles, and front facade have been removed to prepare for upgrades. Photo by Sylvia Hacaj.



Two tradesmen examine ducting for the new, more energy-efficient heating system that is part of the renovation of the Community Center. Photo by Sylvia Hacaj.

Community Center Progress Report

Dishing the Dirt

By Sylvia Hacaj

Have you heard the latest? No, I am not talking about the latest gossip from your next-door neighbor. Approximately 100 cubic yards of soil, or eight to ten dump-truck loads, have been excavated around the Community Center to prepare for new foundations and concrete work. That’s really dishing the dirt!

The fencing around the perimeter of the Community Center (Youth Hut) is a very visible sign that work on its renovation has begun in a big way. Since the groundbreaking ceremony held for the community by the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD), progress has proceeded apace. The general contractor, KCK Builders, began its demolition work the very next day after the ceremony.

Following demolition and removal, crews started with the roof since it was exposed after the abatement work wrapped up. Workers have installed hardware related to seismic requirements and new shear plywood on the upper and lower roofs.

They have also been working on the seismic bracing work inside. The cinderblock wall that made up the front facade was demolished, and new structural steel for this wall is currently being assembled at an offsite metal shop. After inspections, the cutting and welding work can commence.

The all-important electrical and mechanical work has also started, including work on an upgraded energy-efficient heating system. The asphalt concrete paving in the parking area and in front of the building has been broken up to prepare for re-grading. Those new grades will allow for a wide and level handicapped-accessible parking spot and accessible paths to building entrances. For a change, digging up dirt in Kensington is going to be a positive thing for everyone.

KPPCSD director Sylvia Hacaj will provide a monthly report in the Outlook on the Community Center renovations. Two more follow in the November and December/January issues. A much-improved center is expected to be open for business in January.



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Letters

...from page 3

Devastating a Neighborhood

Dear Editor:

My wife and I, along with a core group of neighbors, organized our community to protect and preserve our environment around the EBMUD plant on Berkeley Park Blvd. and Coventry Road. PG&E, which leases land by its substation from EBMUD, said it was going to cut down twelve trees on Berkeley Park Blvd., saving three of the big pine trees close to the sidewalk. Though those trees were saved, PG&E, along with EBMUD, devastated the whole area. Not only did they remove more trees than they said they would, they also cleared away all of the greenery, leaving the area depleted of any vegetation! Ironically, PG&E and EBMUD completed their vegetation removal (to use their words) on 9/11. Take a walk on Berkeley Park Blvd and look at the devastation.

My wife and I bought our house at 309 Berkeley Park Blvd. in 1997. We moved here as we loved the quiet and peaceful beauty of this neighborhood. Up until EBMUD started its upgrade project several years ago, the area across the street was a thriving ecosystem with deer, foxes, squirrels, hawks and owls. There were beautiful trees and greenery all along Berkeley Park Blvd. and Coventry Road. It gave a wilderness feel to this urban environment.

In the last five years, we have witnessed a continuous destruction of the environment by EBMUD that escalated last week when they razed the area. To date, EBMUD has cut down 249 trees, and the agency has not even begun the major work they'll be doing on Coventry Road.

We’ve pleaded with EBMUD to respect our peace, to protect the environment, and to bring landscaping up to the neighborhood standard by planting fire-resistant greenery and trees. We have also repeatedly asked EBMUD and PG&E to manage construction noise before 8am and after 6pm.

My wife and I will be organizing a meeting at our house in the coming weeks to discuss next steps for us as a community. I will also create a Facebook Page for our cause. Express your concerns directly to Andrew Katz andy.katz@ebmud.com, the elected official for Kensington on the board of directors at EBMUD.

Douglas and Virginia Gostlin

Your To-Do List Can Save Your House

Dear Editor:

With October comes the height of our East Bay fire season, which generally hits with the “Diablo winds” out of the east. Living in a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, as we do, these early October days offer the opportunity for us to do a bit more defensible space work around our homes.

There’s time for one more weed-whacking of dried grass and time to get the pine needles off our roofs and out of our rain gutters; time to move whatever we have stored under our decks and time to sweep up the piles of leaves and debris close to our homes. There’s probably even time to clean out the trunks of our cars—in case we might need that space, suddenly, in the event of fire and evacuation.

I know I have a number of things I can do to protect my home; perhaps you do as well.

Ciara Wood

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