

Kensington, CA Boards and Community (“K”) Groups

By Kris Hafner

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD)

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District provides police protection services including patrol, response to crimes in-progress, traffic enforcement, first aid and CPR, investigations, warrant and subpoena service, and other law enforcement duties. KPPCSD also manages Kensington Park grounds and facilities (including rentals of the community center). The KPPCSD owns and manages the Kensington park and has a longstanding agreement with the Kensington Community Council (KCC) for use of the recreational building and community center in the park and for providing community recreational services. KPPCSD also contracts for garbage collection and solid waste disposal and recycling programs.

The District General Manager works under the oversight of a five-member board elected by the Kensington community to serve staggered four-year terms. Board committees include: finance, solid waste and recycling, parks and recreation, police liaison, community outreach, policies and procedures, intergovernmental affairs, and emergency preparedness. KPPCSD is funded primarily via property and special police tax assessments and occupies part of the public safety building under a rental arrangement with the KFPD. The Board meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue. Further information: <http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/>

Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD)

The Kensington Fire Protection District contracts with the City of El Cerrito for all fire prevention, fire suppression and emergency services provided to the Kensington community and maintains automatic response agreements with other West Contra Costa County fire agencies. The District public safety building houses two Kensington-owned fire engines, one specifically engineered for the steep, narrow streets of Kensington and the other, a wild land engine for use during high fire season. The District recently completed a series of water system improvements (with the East Bay Municipal Utility District) to enhance the provision of water along the wild land interface and to optimize the placement of hydrants throughout the community. KFPD provides paramedic and advanced life support services and delivers a Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT) program. Funding for District expenses is provided by property tax revenues and a special tax approved by voters.

A five-person Board of Directors elected by the voters of Kensington governs the District. Board meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at the Kensington Community Center. Further information: www.kensingtonfire.org

Kensington Community Council (KCC)

The Kensington Community Council is a 501c3 non-profit corporation that publishes the *Kensington Outlook* community newsletter and sponsors community classes and programs for adults and children. The *Kensington Outlook* is published ten times a year and covers local news, issues and events. It is mailed free of charge to every Kensington residence, made available to every business in the commercial districts on Arlington and Colusa Avenues and is posted on the web at: <http://www.aboutkensington.com/outlook.html>. The

Outlook is funded by classified and display advertising and the KCC's annual fund drive.

KCC provides educational and recreational programs for the community such as the Kensington After School Enrichment Program ("KASEP"), Summer Day Camp and adult classes. KCC sponsors two annual fundraising events: the Spring Celebration and the Fall Picnic and Parade.

A Board of Directors oversees KCC. KCC has traditionally served as an "umbrella" for Kensington community organizations that share information annually at the January KCC board meeting. KCC is funded by contributions from the community, class fees, and the *Kensington Outlook* advertising.

KCC Board meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:30PM at the Community Center. Further information: (510) 525-0292; kccrec@yahoo.com; editor@kensingtonoutlook.com; <http://aboutkensington.com/kcc.html>

Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC)

The Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC) is an appointed advisory body to the Board of Supervisors with a broad charge to advise the Supervisors on county services, community concerns, and to serve as a liaison between the community and the District One Supervisor. KMAC collaborates with and provides input and recommendations to the County Community Development Department on matters related to land-use, planning, zoning, variance applications, code enforcement, and code changes.

KMAC has five members and two alternates from the Kensington community who serve staggered four-year terms. KMAC meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Community Center. Further information: (510) 273-9926; <http://www.aboutkensington.com/kmac.html>

Kensington Property Owners Association (KPOA)

The Kensington Property Owners Association is a non-profit organization that collects and disseminates information on issues affecting Kensington property owners. KPOA publishes an annual Kensington directory, hosts an annual meeting of Kensington property owners, serves as key liaison to Contra Costa County and other bodies on infrastructure-related issues such as road resurfacing, undergrounding of power lines and other topics which require Kensington property owner input and coordination. KPOA also collaborates regularly with the other K groups on matters of interest to the Kensington community.

KPOA is governed by a board of 7 directors who meet periodically at the Community Center. Membership is open to all property owners and annual member dues are used for educational outreach and to promote civic projects. Further Information: KPAassoc@gmail.com

Kensington Improvement Club (KIC)

The Kensington Improvement Club is dedicated to promoting and fostering the general welfare of the community and to cooperating with county and local authorities on necessary community improvements. Among the many KIC initiatives are: installation of the Kensington Kiosk and the community sign boards on the Arlington; community landscaping design, planting and maintenance projects; hosting an annual Kensington Town Hall Meeting and an annual Forum for Candidates and Issues; publication of *Kensington Past and Present* which recounts Kensington's history; publication and distribution of the Kensington Earthquake

Booklet; replacement of trash cans in Kensington's business districts; conference room furnishings, memorial benches and plantings at the Community Center. KIC is currently looking into the issues of undergrounding of power lines and a Kensington Centennial project.

The KIC is administered by a Board of Directors of up to 15 community members and welcomes the involvement all Kensington residents and property owners. Regular Meetings are held the 4th Monday of the month, 7:30 PM, in the Kensington Community Center Conference Room. Further information: <http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/kensington-improvement-club>

Kensington Library

The Kensington Library is a branch of the Contra Costa County Library System and houses a collection of over 34,000 books and periodicals, and a continually refreshed selection of recorded books, movies, and music CDs. The Kensington Library also offers a variety of programs for all ages, including book clubs, crafts, story time for babies and toddlers, and a family story time for older children. Further information: <http://ccclib.org/locations/kensington.html>

The **Friends of the Kensington Library (FKL)** is dedicated to improving library services in Kensington. Through membership donations and book sale earnings, the Friends provide the library with books, tapes, magazines, and compact discs and support children's and cultural programs for the community. Friends help with exhibits, programs, membership development, volunteer coordination, fundraising, book sales and sorting, and publicity. Further information: <http://www.aboutkensington.com/fkl.html>

Kensington Amateur Radio Operators / El Cerrito Ham Operators (KARO/ECHO)

Kensington Amateur Radio Operators (KARO) join forces with El Cerrito Ham Operators (ECHO) to provide assistance to community emergency response teams in the case of natural disasters or other emergencies with a major impact on the Kensington community. Kensington residents who participate are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to operate ham radios, including Kensington's six (6) emergency radios, to provide communications links between neighborhood groups and service providers from the community and surrounding area during an emergency.

KARO/ECHO is actively soliciting new members interested in operating amateur radios as a community service. It meets the second Monday of every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November) at 7:30 PM at the Kensington Community Center. Further information: Marian Gade, (510) 524 9815

Kensington Education Foundation (KEF)

The Kensington Education Foundation (KEF) is a 501c3 non-profit that provides enrichment programs for Kensington Hilltop Elementary School. Programs have been offered in science, art, reading, music, computer skills, math and physical education. KEF also provides funding for supplemental classroom supplies, a discretionary grant to each teacher for curriculum enhancements and one-time funding for special school projects each year.

The KEF Board is elected by KEF members and includes the principal, a teacher representative, and representatives of the Dads Club, the PTA, and The School Site Council.

Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 8 pm in the Kensington Library, and are open to all KEF members. Further information:
<http://www.kensingtonhilltop.org/kef>

Other Kensington Community Resources

- Kensington Hilltop Elementary School: <http://www.kensingtonhilltop.org/>
- Kensington Nursery School: <http://www.kns-ca.org/>
- Skytown Parent Cooperative Preschool: <http://skytown.org/>
- Growing Light Montessori: <http://www.growinglight.net/>
- Arlington Preschool: (510) 524-8689
- Claremont Day Nursery:
http://www.claremontkids.com/html/aboutus_kensington.html
- Arlington Community Church: <http://accweb.org/>
- Universal Unitarian Church of Berkeley: www.uucb.org/
- Kensington Symphony Orchestra:
<http://www.kensingtonsymphonyorchestra.org/index.htm>
- Kensington Business and Professional Association:
http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/community/community_organizations/Kensington-Business-and-Professional-Association
- Kensington Seniors:
http://www.kensingtoncalifornia.org/community/community_organizations/kensington-senior
- <http://groups.google.com/group/kensingtontips?hl=en> (online neighborhood newsgroup)

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