KENSINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Quarterly Newsletter

This newsletter provides updated information regarding the KCSD and your community.

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Committed to Keeping Kensington Residents Informed

A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM INTERIM GENERAL

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve Kensington and work for the Community Services District over the past four years. Your new General Manager will begin on December 1, 2026, and I will leave the District at the end of January 2027.

I have always believed that it takes a team to make good things happen, and I have been fortunate to work with a Board of Directors deeply committed to Kensington. The time and effort each director contributes is remarkable. They have been open-minded, listened thoughtfully to one another and staff, and made sound decisions for the community.

District staff has been exceptional. It has been a pleasure working with people who are respectful, communicate well, and are dedicated to getting the job done.

I am equally grateful to the Kensington residents I have met and worked with. Your willingness to share your time, ideas, and knowledge reflects a genuine commitment to improving and protecting this special community. I also appreciate the consultants and partners who continue to provide valuable expertise.

The consolidation of the Fire District and Community Services District will benefit Kensington for years to come. The District's ownership of its beautiful community pathways is another unique asset worth preserving.

As the District moves forward, I ask for your patience and support as the new General Manager and Board work to find a permanent home in Kensington for the Police Department.

Serving this community has been rewarding and enjoyable. Thank you for the opportunity to work on your behalf.

– David Aranda

WELCOME INCOMING GENERAL MANAGER, JOHN TULLOCH

John O. Tulloch is an East Bay native with more than 20 years of experience in state and local government. A positive experience working with his city government while in high school inspired him to pursue a career in public service.

Before joining the KCSD, John spent 17 years with the City of Piedmont, most recently serving as Assistant City Administrator and City Clerk. He oversaw communications, information technology, risk management, elections, business licensing, and other administrative functions. He also managed the Administration Department's operating budget and supported emergency preparedness and response efforts involving COVID-19, windstorms, landslides, and power outages. Throughout his tenure, he focused on improving services and streamlining processes for residents and staff.

"I am energized by the chance to roll up my sleeves and continue the tradition of excellent service provided to Kensington residents," said Tulloch. ***"I look forward to getting to know the community!"***

RACISM HAS NO PLACE IN KENSINGTON

At the November 12 Board of Directors meeting, several residents expressed concern and fear following the discovery of a racial slur at the local elementary school. This deeply troubling incident serves as a reminder of the importance of fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive community. Watch for upcoming announcements about opportunities for community discussion and how residents can come together to address racism and support one another.

WHY FALSE ALARMS MATTER: PROTECTING POLICE RESOURCES & COMMUNITY SAFETY

A Message from Kensington Police Chief Mike Gancasz

Home security alarms are an important tool for protecting residents and property. However, when alarms are triggered unnecessarily, they can divert valuable police resources away from other public safety responsibilities.

Over the past two years, Kensington Police officers responded to **227 false alarm calls at 130 different addresses**. With each response taking **approximately 30 minutes**, these calls accounted for more than **110 hours of patrol time** that could otherwise have been spent patrolling neighborhoods, investigating cases, or responding to emergencies.

The Importance of Reliable Alarm Systems – Officers treat every alarm as a potential emergency. Repeated false alarms create a "cry wolf" effect, diminishing their urgency. Proper alarm maintenance helps preserve police resources for real emergencies.

Continued over

False Alarm Fees Begin January 1, 2027 – In May 2025, the KCSD Board adopted a false alarm fee schedule under **Resolution No. 2025-10**. Since its adoption, the District has provided an extended grace period during which residents have not been billed.

Beginning January 1, 2027, the District will begin invoicing for false alarm responses according to the following schedule:

FALSE ALARM		FEE PER RESPONSE
1st false alarm	.....	No charge
2nd through 5th	.....	$50 each
6th and beyond	.....	$100 each

Simple Steps to Prevent False Alarms – Residents can reduce unnecessary police responses and avoid fees with these preventive measures:

- **Maintain your alarm system.** Schedule regular servicing and check motion sensors near pets, plants, and heating vents.
- **Check batteries and contacts.** Replace backup batteries as needed and keep your alarm company's emergency contact information current.
- Know how to cancel an alarm. Ensure everyone authorized to use the system knows how to operate it and cancel accidental activations.

Preventing false alarms saves patrol time and keeps Kensington safer.

QUESTIONS? Contact KENSINGTON POLICE at 510-526-4141.

GET STORM READY: CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

Get Ready for Atmospheric Rivers: Prepare Your Property — Now is the time to start preparing for winter storms. One of the simplest things residents can do is keep storm drains clear by cleaning up their own property before the rain starts.

Keep roofs, gutters, and downspouts clear of leaves, pine needles, and debris to prevent rainwater from overflowing.

- Rake and properly dispose of yard waste, and secure loose materials that could wash into streets and block storm drains.
- Keeping your property clear helps protect your home and improves neighborhood drainage.

Visit the **Costa County's Public Work Storm Preparedness** webpage for resources and safety information. For drainage or storm preparedness questions, contact Public Works at **925-313-2000** or FLDcontr@pw.cccounty.us.

SANDBAGS AVAILABLE FOR KENSINGTON RESIDENTS

Sandbags are available to Kensington residents at the top of Kensington Park Road. If your home is low-lying, on a slope, or prone to flooding, pick up sandbags before storms arrive. Atmospheric rivers can develop quickly, so preparing early helps protect your home, street, and neighbors throughout winter.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Planning a Gathering? – Have friends or family visiting? The Community Center is a great place for celebrations, reunions, and special occasions. For rental information, contact Rosa Ruiz at the KCSD office.

Bits and Pieces from KCSD

- **District Office Information** – The KCSD office is located at 217 Arlington Avenue, on the first floor of the Public Safety Building. Schedule appointments by calling or emailing Rosa at rruiz@kppcsd.org.
- **Community Pathways** – The Board approved repairs to three District-owned pathways and discussions about acquiring four more.
- **Thank You, Directors!** – KCSD thanks **Sarah Gough** and **Jim Watt** for four years of service. The Board will be reduced to seven members in December.

SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

3.4% Solid Waste Service Price Increase

Per the contract with Bayview Refuse Service and the District, rates are set to increase effective **January 1, 2027**, according to the Consumer Price Index increase of **3.4%**. The new rate for a standard 32-gallon cart will **rise $2.18 per month**. For a complete list of all rates please visit **www.bayviewrefuse.com**.

The 2026 Great Kensington Clean-up Numbers Are In!

Kensington residents were excited and ready to discard unwanted material. The total amount of material collected was approximately **103 tons**. Of that total, Bayview was able to **recycle 17.92 tons of scrap metal, 1.75 tons of E-Waste**, and **52 mattresses**. This year, we made an effort to work with **Urban Ore**, who collected reusable items during the clean-up and was able to keep items from going to the landfill. Similar to last year, the customers on the route were super nice and appreciative of all the help they received. The week was another success!

Shredding Event/Compost Giveaway, Saturday October 24th

Residents turned out for the 2nd annual shredding event at Kensington Community Center's parking lot. There was a steady stream of cars throughout the morning. Residents will be glad to know approximately **3,200 pounds of material was shredded**. Residents also stocked up on compost for their gardens during the event. All in all the event was a success!