

# The Fire Plug



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

## KFPD Celebrates 20 Years Contracting with ECFD!

*By Janice Kosel, KFPD Director*

The Kensington Fire Protection District contracted for services with the City of El Cerrito in 1995. At that time, the fire district's finances were in perilous condition. The Board consulted with neighboring cities and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District before electing to contract with the City of El Cerrito. We are proud that when we contracted with the city not a single Kensington firefighter lost his or her job; all transferred either to the City of El Cerrito or the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.



Under the contract, the Kensington Fire Protection District continues to own the public safety building and all equipment, including two engines. El Cerrito provides personnel and administration. Today the District has only one employee – a half-time administrator.

Pursuant to the contract, our local station is staffed round the clock with three firefighters, at least one of whom is a paramedic. The Fire Chief operates the two El Cerrito stations and the one Kensington station as one functional unit. As a result, our engines may respond to calls in El Cerrito and El Cerrito's engines may respond to calls within Kensington. We are proud that the median response time in Kensington is 4 minutes, 59 seconds.

This current fiscal year our contract fee to El Cerrito is \$2,319,185. Not surprisingly given the nature of the contract, almost ninety per cent of that fee is personnel costs. Kensington has one-third of the firefighters on duty in a fire station. We share with the city a Fire Marshal, Training/EMS Director, Operations Chief, Support Service Chief and Fire Prevention Officer. Yet we are charged only 27.75% of El Cerrito's personnel cost.

The contract can be terminated by either the city or the Fire District giving the other one year's notice of their intent to end the relationship. The notice period is designed to give each entity time to adapt to this dramatic change in operations.

Under the contract the Fire District is required to set aside an amount equal to the annual contact fee in a reserve account in order to assure the city of its financial ability to pay for the services.

If you have any questions about our contract with El Cerrito, please feel free to call Director Janice Kosel at 524-9761 or Fire Chief Lance Maples at 215-4450.

KFPD will be commemorating our 20-year relationship with ECFD at our upcoming Toy Drive/Pasta Feed (see page 3).

Shredding Event on 11/7/15	2
CERT Schedule for 2016	2
Toy Drive/Pasta Feed on 11/14/15	3
CPR/First Aid Training	3
Defibrillators throughout Kensington	3
Holiday Fire Safety	4

### KFPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- *Larry Nagel, President*
- *Nina Harmon, Vice President*
- *Joe de Ville, Secretary*
- *Janice Kosel, Director*
- *Don Dommer, Director*

### KFPD STAFF:

- *Lance Maples, Chief*
- *Brenda Navellier, Manager*



## Fall Shredding Event

Due to popular demand, the Kensington Fire Protection District will be offering a second shredding event this year on **Saturday, November 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

This free event is open to all Kensington residents to dispose of excess papers (fire hazards) in your household.

A mobile shredding truck will be parked at the Community Center/Library parking lot during the designated time and can destroy all papers on

site. There is no limit to the amount of shredding material that you may bring.

All paper shredding is recycled by returning it to a paper mill. If you have any questions about this event, please contact us at (510) 215-4450.



## Change Your Clock—Change Your Battery

Remember to change the batteries in all of your smoke detectors when you change your clock for Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, November 1st.

## CERT Schedule for 2016

Following a very successful community-wide CERT drill in August, The Kensington Fire Protection District is again offering training opportunities to prepare yourself and your family for a major disaster—CERT Training and CERT Boot Camp. To sign up for either of the following classes or to receive the full 2016 training calendar, please contact Kensington Fire at (510) 215-4450 or email



fire@kensingtonfire.org. Please note all 2015 classes are full at this time.

to complement their training. Sign up now or make-up a missed class to receive your training certificate.

1/6/16	Introduction to CERT
1/13/16	CERT Organization/DSW
1/20/16	Fire Suppression and Utility Control
1/27/16	Search and Rescue
2/3/16	Disaster Medical Part 1
2/10/16	Disaster Medical Part 2
2/17/16	Disaster Psychology
2/24/16	Terrorism Awareness
4/23/16	Simulation/Drill

(All Day at Fire Training Facility)

### **CERT BOOT CAMP:**

Training opportunities include our day-long CERT Boot Camp which will take place in the spring on **Saturday, April 9th**. This class is from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Arlington Park Clubhouse (1120 Arlington Blvd.) in El Cerrito. This class is a non-certified, condensed format of our 8-week long CERT class but touches on all of the same topics. Classes are free of charge.

### **CERT TRAINING:**

Utilizing the national CERT curriculum, this 20-hour program is designed to assist residents of Kensington to be self-sufficient in the event of a disaster. The first session will take place at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito on **Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** The final drill will take place on a Saturday. CERT participants receive free emergency preparedness items

## Come to KFPD's Toy Drive/Pasta Feed!

KFPD will be hosting a pasta feed in support of the Richmond/El Cerrito Fire & Police Holiday Toy Program.

On **Saturday evening, November 14th**, you are invited to attend a pasta feed at the Kensington Fire Station (217 Arlington Avenue). Price for admission is a minimum of one new, unwrapped toy per person. (No stuffed animals please!) . Toys are needed for all ages from two to 12 year olds, boys and girls. If you are unable to go shopping, we will accept cash/check donations on behalf of the charity of a minimum of \$5.00 per person for the pasta feed.

A celebratory cake in honor of our 20-year contract with El Cerrito will be served for dessert. This fun, family oriented event will take place from **5:30 until 8:00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome!

The Fire & Police Holiday Toy Program exists to assist underprivileged children specifically in the west Contra Costa County area. If you are unable to join us on November 14th, donations can be made to this long standing, local charity by visiting [www.toyprogram.org](http://www.toyprogram.org). or dropping off a toy donation at any Kensington, El Cerrito or Richmond Fire Station before December 15th.



## Defensible Space Funding Available

The Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) is sponsoring defensible space fuel reduction projects for 2015-2016. Cost share assistance of up to \$5,000 per project is available to groups or groups of individuals to hire a contractor to remove junipers and to reduce fuel loads and create defensible space

on your property. Many Kensington residents have taken advantage of these grants through DFSC.

For more information, go to [www.diablofiresafe.org](http://www.diablofiresafe.org) or contact Cheryl Miller, at [DFSCMiller@comcast.net](mailto:DFSCMiller@comcast.net).

## Defibrillators throughout the Kensington Community

Thanks to KFPD's on-going CPR/First Aid classes and the willingness of community organizations and businesses to place automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) at their locations, Kensington has been recertified as a "Heart Safe Community".

Do you know where the nearest AED is to you? Following is a list of AEDs that have been placed in our community.

- Kensington Community Center/Youth Hut (located near the bathrooms—59 Arlington Ave)
- Kensington Library (61 Arlington Ave)
- Arlington Community Church (52 Arlington Ave)

- Unitarian Universalist Church (1 Lawson Road)
- Neighborhood School Daycare (90 Highland Blvd.)
- Chevron Service Station (304 Arlington Ave)
- Kensington Fire Engines
- Kensington Police Cars



**KENSINGTON FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Kensington Public Safety Building  
217 Arlington Avenue  
Kensington, CA 94708

Phone: (510) 527-8395  
Fax: (510) 527-8396  
E-mail: [fire@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:fire@kensingtonfire.org)

*When in Doubt—  
Call Us Out!*

We're on the Web!  
[www.kensingtonfire.org](http://www.kensingtonfire.org)



## Holiday Fire Safety

The holiday season is one of the most dangerous for household fires. By taking a few safety precautions, you may save your family from the devastating effects of a house fire.

Many artificial trees are fire resistant and much safer than cut trees that will eventually dry out. However, if you pick a cut tree, a fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. Tips on choosing a fresh cut tree:

- Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches. When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.
- The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.
- When the trunk of a tree is bounced

on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that a tree is too dry.

Once you have selected a fresh cut tree:

- Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption, and keep it well watered.
- Place trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources.
- Check light strings for frayed or damaged wires. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Never use candles on or near trees!

