



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**  
**AGENDA**  
Thursday, April 22, 2021 3:00pm-5:00pm  
Via Zoom Teleconference

Due to COVID-19, and in accordance with California Executive Orders N-29-20, the District Board meeting will not be physically open to the public and all Board Members will be teleconferencing into the meeting. To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can observe the meeting by attending the Zoom webinar (on the day and time of the meeting) and may provide public comment by sending comments to the Board President and Board Clerk via email at [public.comment@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:public.comment@kensingtonfire.org). Comments will then be read into the record, with a maximum allowance of 5 minutes per individual comment, subject to the Chair's discretion

Instructions on how to make a public comment during the meeting: At points in the meeting when the meeting chair requests public comment, members of the public participating in the live meeting either via internet or telephone shall indicate their desire to speak. If participating via internet, please click the "raise hand" feature located within the Zoom application screen. If connected via telephone, please dial "\*9" (star, nine).

Any member of the public who needs special accommodations should email [public.comment@kensingtonfire.org](mailto:public.comment@kensingtonfire.org) 48 hours prior to the meeting. This will enable the Kensington Fire Protection District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title 1).

Public comment will be taken on each agenda item. Each member of the public will be allotted the same maximum number of minutes to speak as set by the President before or during its consideration, except that public speakers using interpretation assistance will be allowed to testify for twice the amount of the public testimony time limit (California Government Code section 54954.3(a)).

**Internet Address:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83226938946?pwd=QzVwWTlIQXhOVSS4NCtiT0pBQjZFQT09>

**Telephone Access:**

(669) 900-9128 or (346) 248-7799 or (253) 215-8782

**Webinar ID: 832 2693 8946**

**Passcode: 112233**

**TIMING OF AGENDA ITEMS:** *Approximate times are included below but may vary to accommodate appropriate discussion time and attention to the individual items.*

**1. (3:00pm) CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

*Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian*

*Public Members: Ms. Lisa Caronna, Ms. Katie Gluck, Mr. Peter Guerrero, Mr. Peter Liddell, Ms. Danielle Madugo, Mr. Paul Moss, Mr. David Spath*

**2. (3:01pm) PUBLIC COMMENT**

This place on the agenda is reserved for comments and inquiries concerning matters that do not otherwise appear on the agenda.

**3. (3:04pm) ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

Items listed below are consent items, which are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. Reports and recommendations prior to assigning consent item designations to the various items have been received and considered. Copies of the reports are on file in the Fire Protection District Administrative Office at 217 Arlington Avenue and are available to the public. The disposition of the item is indicated. There will be no separate discussion of consent items. If discussion is requested for an item, that item will be removed from the list of consent items and considered separately on the agenda. (Supporting material)

**a. Approval of Minutes** of the regular meeting of March 25, 2021 (Approve)

**4. (3:05pm) OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Continued Items from Previous Meeting** (30 mins)

- i. Suggested priorities for the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (supp info)
- ii. Refrigerator magnets project (supp info)
- iii. Emergency Radio Program
- iv. Proposed items for the next edition of the *Fireplug* (supp info)

**b. Priorities for informing the public about Emergency Preparedness** (10 mins)

**5. (3:45pm) NEW BUSINESS**

**a. CWS Alert Drill May 2 and next steps toward a full Evacuation Drill and Evacuation Plan for Kensington** (15 mins)

**b. Wildfire Safety Efforts in El Cerrito** (15 mins)  
Sue Duncan, Make El Cerrito Fire Safe

**c. Should the KFPD participate in the AC-CCC Wildfire Regional Protection Plan?** (15 mins)

(Supp Info) Download the slides from the kickoff meeting here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1ue4lacbi7xncje/Stakeholder%20Meeting%201-20Introductions%20%20%26%20Existing%20Conditions%204.7.pdf?dl=0>

**d. Update to Cooper-Nagel letter to EBRPD about progress on fuel reduction.** (10 mins)

- e. **Should the KFPD participate in the 2021 State Fire Assistance Competitive Grant Program?** (5 mins)  
(Supp Info) Link to the program is here:  
<https://cafiresafecouncil.org/grants-and-funding/21-sfa-grant-program/>
  - f. **Reports from Committee Members** (10 mins)
- 6. (4:55pm) CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ADJOURNMENT**  
The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on May 27, 2021 at 3:00pm via Zoom Teleconference.



**KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE/TIME:** March 25, 2021 / 3:00pm to 5:00pm

**LOCATION:** Via Zoom

**PRESENT:** Directors: Larry Nagel and Kevin Padian  
Committee: Lisa Caronna, Katie Gluck, Peter Guerrero, Peter Liddell,  
Danielle Madugo, Paul Moss, David Spath  
Staff: GM Bill Hansell  
Public: Chris Hilliard

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

Director Padian called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and called roll.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Chris Hilliard noted that water barrel pickup is this weekend.

**3. ADOPTION OF CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. **Approval of Minutes** of the regular meeting of February 25, 2021 (Approve)

<b>MOTION:</b> M/s Caronna/Nagel: To adopt consent items.
<b>VOTE:</b> Unanimous
Motion passed.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Report from Committee Members on previous agenda items (20 mins)**
  - 1. Proposed hires of Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Grant Writer
    - o Bill Hansell is working on the RFQs for the two positions and will report back at future meetings.
  - 2. Refrigerator magnets project
    - o Kevin Padian reported that he has contacted several vendors and the cost is not yet settled because there are so many moving parts. Kevin will be doing some more research and will report back.
  - 3. Emergency Radio Program
    - o Kevin Padian reported that there was no further progress on this project.

4. Update on Report from KPD on progress with evacuation procedures
  - Kevin Padian reported that the Kensington Police Department, in particular Traffic Officer Brad Harms, has not been able to devote a lot of time to this project because they are short-handed and pandemic duties have increased.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Priorities for informing the public about Emergency Preparedness

- The discussion was combined with **5b** below.

### b. Possible Projects to Inform Residents about EP in Advance of Next Fire Season (Fire Plug Issue, Articles, Websites, Social Media, Etc.)

- The committee had a brainstorming session on how to best inform Kensington residents about Emergency Preparation.
- Kevin suggested that the EPC take a lead role in preparing the Fire Plug mailer which is mailed twice a year. The articles need to be tailored to Kensington.
- Several members suggest more articles in the Kensington Outlook. Paul Moss already is doing a fine job of submitting very brief articles on Emergency Preparedness.
- It was agreed that the website could be more informative, but nobody had any ideas on how to improve the website. It was suggested that perhaps we could hire a (very) part-time webmaster to help us.

### c. Form 700 Compliance

- Kevin Padian noted that all EPC members are required to file a California Form 700 by April 1. The form is straightforward and should require no more than about a half an hour to complete.

## 6. EPC MEMBER REPORTS ON OTHER ITEMS

### a. Status of the Paths with respect to vegetation management and improvements (Lisa)

- Lisa Caronna talked to people in Mill Valley where they have 350 paths. Two different agencies are working together for safety and recreation of citizens.
- Lisa noted that actual vegetation management is costing \$40,000 for 100 of the 350 paths.
- Paul Moss questioned if the Mill Valley project will scale down to Kensington's 11 Paths.

### b. Other reports

- Peter Guerrero reported on status of Vollmer Peak cameras.
- Bill Hansell reported that there will be a joint meeting of two Boards and encouraged everyone to attend.

**7. CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND ADJOURNMENT**

- Paul Moss suggested having sirens on next agenda.
- Paul also suggested having Hal Graboske give a presentation on the role of CERT in Emergency Preparedness.

The next regular meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Kensington Fire Protection District will be held on April 22, 2021 at 3:00pm via Zoom Teleconference.

The meeting was adjourned by Director Padian at 4:29 PM.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Larry Nagel

These minutes were approved at the Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting of the Kensington Fire Protection District on April 22, 2021.

Attest:

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Emergency Preparedness Committee Member

## Suggested priorities for EP Coordinator

A recent article in the CSDA newsletter emphasized the importance of a communications strategy for special districts, and nowhere is that more important than Kensington. Improvement in mass communications will get the word out faster, cheaper, and more effectively to more residents than other important actions can. Some options:

### Complete overhaul of the District website (substance, not style)

-- At present the "Announcements" section of "News & Events" is populated by a very few, mostly self-serving notices of district awards and new firetrucks, most greatly outdated. This should be replaced by announcements related to what the District is doing to improve the safety of residents, including new advances, instructions about new modifications especially related to evacuations, new and upcoming initiatives, coordination with the Police, and where else to go on the website for important information.

-- "Resources" currently features "Links" and "Reports." The "Links" provide only names of sites with no guidance on what one would find there or why it would be valuable; there is also no organization or hierarchy of importance to the listing. This needs to be more user-friendly and expanded to truly useful sites. "Reports" currently contains only the documents relevant to the Traffic Evacuation Study. The Board has been presented with other analyses of the hazards of spreading fires and the somewhat perilous prospect of evacuating the streets. These and other reports should be included.

"Resources" is too vague a category. We recommend to retitle it "Emergency Preparedness" with subsections that contain information on earthquake preparedness, wildfire preparedness, evacuation, and so on. "Links" can be largely subsumed within these subsections. "Reports" can contain traffic reports, various publications from the County, EC, CalFire, etc. There is a wealth of information on the website but it is so poorly organized that it is impossible to find.

-- Much more has to be provided about topics such as (1) neighborhood organization in preparation for evacuation and earthquake; (2) vegetation management and mitigation; (3) house hardening; (4) procurement of emergency supplies from go-bags to radios; (5) planning for evacuation routes, assembly points, emergency contact people; (6) emergency contacts in the area and how to report incidents or find out about them; (7) monitoring real-time conditions during DWEs and other hazards; etc. (Much of this can be lifted from the brochure distributed to Kensington residents in about 2019.)

-- Advice about emergency supplies for residents to acquire: radios, go-bag supplies, water and food, electric storage batteries, headlamps, etc.

-- There needs to be a main section that contains all the relevant District documents that are fundamental to District business: the Policies and Procedures Manual (in fully updated form), the latest version of the Fire Contract with EC; the Traffic Evacuation Report; etc. This should not be for generic preparedness documents imported from elsewhere.

### **Developing messages through media**

- Print: *The Outlook* and other venues
- NextDoor, District email, Twitter, FaceBook
- "Community Programs" really needs an overhaul

### **Organizing neighborhoods**

Obviously this can't be done until some COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

- CERT training is not part of this job; residents can be encouraged to take CERT training in EC. Can encourage the "one-day boot camp" if a full course is impracticable for people.
- It is not part of the Coordinator's job to organize evacuation drills; that responsibility is with the Police and Fire Departments. The Coordinator can help, like EPC members, with implementation as requested.
- Same with any planned "tabletop exercises" regarding public safety, evacuation, etc.

What the Coordinator encourages in neighborhoods:

- Get to know your neighbors and the limitations of some; make plans to evacuate them
- Make sure you have supplies in your home, an evacuation plan, an assembly point, etc.
- Educate about off-street parking during DWEs and Fire Season in general
- Provide information about house-hardening, FireSafe neighborhoods, etc.

*Proposed text for refrigerator magnet:*

**KENSINGTON EMERGENCY CELL NUMBERS**  
**Medical and Fire: 925-933-1313**  
**Police: 510-525-7573**  
**LAND LINES call 911 for both Police and Fire**

*Proposed text for half-page insert in mailing:*

**KENSINGTON EMERGENCY NUMBERS: A BRIEF GUIDE**

Our instinct is to call 911 in case of emergency (Police or Fire). **This is still the best option if you have a land line.** However, it may be less efficient to call 911 from cell phones because, depending on the type of phone and your settings, your location may not be transmitted correctly, and your call may be routed to a distant agency (such as the California Highway Patrol in Vallejo). It can take a while to get you rerouted, and that increases response times.

Simply put, **the best option for cell phones in Kensington is to use these emergency numbers below.** Please enter them RIGHT NOW into your phone contact lists and speed dials.

**KENSINGTON EMERGENCY NUMBERS**  
**Medical or Fire: 925-933-1313**  
**Police: 510-525-7573**

**REMEMBER!** Register cell phones with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS). CWS will alert you of emergency situations. Go to [www.cwsalerts.com](http://www.cwsalerts.com). Also register for Kensington Police and Fire **Nixle** Alerts: Text your zip code to 888777. **STAY SAFE!**

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**Estimates and procedures:**

1. Kensington has about 5500 people in about 2200 households. Figure one mailing per household, and we should assemble 2500 mailings to be safe.
2. Small magnets cost 8-10 cents each, with tax 9-11 cents, let's say 10 cents times 2500 mailings for \$250.
3. If we include stickers, they are surprisingly expensive, about 15 cents each including tax, and if we include two per household that's 30 cents times 2500 mailings for \$750.

4. The half-page sheets will have to be printed (two per sheet) for about 1250 copies, at maybe 3 cents per copy, for a total of \$37.50. These will have to be cut in half-sheets for an additional cost.

5. Envelopes: these should be printed with a B&W Kensington Fire logo that should also say "EMERGENCY STICKERS INSIDE!" (or something) so people don't think it's junk mail. The envelopes have to be purchased and printed, and mailing labels have to be put on them. Then the envelopes have to be stuffed with the half-sheet, the magnet, and the stickers.

6. Mailing labels: these have to be merged with a program and printed. Brenda may have used Mailstream.net but this may be an unnecessary step because it's possible that CopyCentral and other vendors can do this as part of their operation. What's important is that you have the database and whether it can be read by their program.

7. Mailing rate: we have to ask the Post Office about this. The mailing can be bulk rate and it should weigh less than an ounce. But this is likely by far the greatest expense. Let's say each mailing costs 30 cents, then that would be another \$750, but just a guess. Actually, the copy place we use may have the best idea about this.



125 Mason Circle, Suite K  
Concord, CA 94520

# ESTIMATE

DATE	ESTIMATE NO.
4/6/2021	413587

Mail Stream does not advance postage. Payment of postage is required prior to delivery to USPS. Mail Stream accepts checks and all major credit cards. Postage payment by credit card is subject to a 4% fee.

Postage payment is only an estimate and should not be considered firm. any underpayment or overpayment will be applied to final invoice.

Mail Stream DOES NOT advance postage

NAME/ADDRESS
Kensington Fire Protection District Brenda J Navelier 217 Arlington Avenue Kensington, CA 94708

Attention	Terms	Phone No.	Rep.
	Due on receipt		CHRIS
DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	RATE	TOTAL
Kensington Fire District Mailing Project			
Data processing; Import and Cass Certify Data ( Anytime beyond 30 minutes will be billed at \$25.00 per 1/4 hour)	1	55.00	55.00
National Change of Address (\$35.00 Minimum)	1	35.00	35.00
#10 Regular Envelopes - Raw Cost - Machinable Envelopes	3,000	0.038	114.00
Printing B&W return information onto Outside of envelope	3,000	0.05	150.00
***2 Print options Detailed Below - Only choose 1*****			
Printing of letter: 3.67" X 8.5" Stock: 60# Text Printing: 4/4 (full color, double sided)	3,000	0.09	270.00
Printing of letter: 8.5" X 11" Stock: 60# Text Printing: 4/4 (full color, double sided) Tri-fold letter	3,000	0.23	690.00
Inkjet Set-up (Flat Fee)	1	35.00	35.00
Inkjet Addressing #10 regular envelope, Presort to USPS Specifications, Tie and Tray or Sack **Include Nonprofit indicia (stamp)	2,500	0.08	200.00
Hand Insert 4 pieces (letter, 1 magnet, 2 car stickers) to #10 regular envelope and seal	2,500	0.12	300.00
<b>Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this estimate!</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>

Note: Additional Services, Rush Turn-around & Overtime will be charged at an additional cost.

Estimate signature approval needed: \_\_\_\_\_

We currently accept checks and any credit or debit card with a MasterCard or Visa Logo.

Estimate valid for 30-days.

Upon receipt of all data, material and postage, please allow 3 to 5 business days to complete mailing projects. Standard printing time is 5 business days upon approval of artwork. Turn around time is dependant upon quantity, approval of final artwork and projects currently in-house.

**Unless otherwise requested, all over-runs of material will be recycled within 15-days from completion of project.**



125 Mason Circle, Suite K  
Concord, CA 94520

# ESTIMATE

DATE	ESTIMATE NO.
4/6/2021	413587

Mail Stream does not advance postage. Payment of postage is required prior to delivery to USPS. Mail Stream accepts checks and all major credit cards. Postage payment by credit card is subject to a 4% fee.

Postage payment is only an estimate and should not be considered firm. any underpayment or overpayment will be applied to final invoice.

Mail Stream DOES NOT advance postage

NAME/ADDRESS
Kensington Fire Protection District Brenda J Navelier 217 Arlington Avenue Kensington, CA 94708

Attention	Terms		Phone No.	Rep.
	Due on receipt			CHRIS
DESCRIPTION		QUANTITY	RATE	TOTAL
Prepare Statement of Mailing (Each)		1	10.50	10.50
Postal Delivery (Each)		1	50.00	50.00
Postage Nonprofit permit (Postage payment is required prior to delivery to the USPS) Please note: Postage is only an estimate. Actual Postage will be determined upon completion of project and reflected on final invoice.		2,500	0.125	312.50
<b>Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this estimate!</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,222.00</b>

Note: Additional Services, Rush Turn-around & Overtime will be charged at an additional cost.	Estimate signature approval needed: _____
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We currently accept checks and any credit or debit card with a MasterCard or Visa Logo.

Estimate valid for 30-days.

Upon receipt of all data, material and postage, please allow 3 to 5 business days to complete mailing projects. Standard printing time is 5 business days upon approval of artwork. Turn around time is dependant upon quantity, approval of final artwork and projects currently in-house.

**Unless othewise requested, all over-runs of material will be recycled within 15-days from completion of project.**

**PROPOSED ITEMS FOR THE FIREPLUG****How the Fire Board is Working to Make Kensington Safer**

In 2019 the Board commissioned a Traffic Evacuation Study (TES), engaging experts from UC Berkeley's Institute for Transportation Studies. They measured all the roads in town, assessed the population, vehicle loads, and possible evacuation routes. They issued a 125-page report with dozens of useful recommendations that the Board is gradually implementing in concert with our Police and Fire Departments. The report has been held up as a model to other local agencies. You can find it (including a 6-page Executive Summary) on the District website homepage ([kensingtonfire.org](http://kensingtonfire.org)). It provides a guide to how we are trying to make Kensington safer.

**New Emergency Evacuation Route through Sunset View Cemetery**

Last year the Board's Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC), along with Ofc. Brad Harms of the KPD, contacted the owners of the Cemetery to ask about the possibility of opening their gate at Sunset and Franciscan in case of emergency to allow traffic to evacuate via their roads to Fairmount and Colusa. The TES estimated that up to 30% of traffic could be relieved by passing through the Cemetery. Mr. Scott Pennington, the Cemetery president, graciously agreed, and last spring representatives from the EPC, the KFD, and the KPD installed emergency evacuation signs on the Sunset gate and two new EXIT signs inside the Cemetery to guide traffic. Our deepest thanks go to Mr. Pennington and the Cemetery owners.

**Making Hilltop Schoolchildren Safer in Emergencies**

Our EFC members have been working with the KPD and the leadership of Hilltop School to help devise plans for evacuating Hilltop schoolchildren in orderly and effective fashion in the event of an emergency. The TES recommendations indicated a general problem with traffic flow and parking configurations in the general neighborhood of the School, especially the neighborhoods southeast, which are the most congested in town. To improve traffic flow, the immovable concrete bollards on Kensington Park Drive, Highland Ave., and elsewhere were replaced with removable chains.

**New Parking Configurations for Better Evacuation Traffic Flow**

Based on the TES recommendations, the KPD and KFD are and will be proposing new parking configurations to provide better traffic flow and emergency vehicle access during an

evacuation. The proposed new parking configurations would affect a variety of Kensington streets, mainly by changing the direction of parking to facilitate evacuation. The goal is to minimize roadblocks and bottlenecks while residents try to turn around and reverse the directions of their cars, wasting precious minutes. The KPD is working with residents and the County to try to implement the Study's recommendations.

### **New Fire Danger sign in front of the Public Safety Building!**

Last Fall the Fire District erected a Fire Danger sign on the median strip near the PSB at 217 Arlington. Notifications of low, medium, high, and extreme fire danger are adjusted by our firefighters daily, and now viewed by many hundreds of people who travel up and down the Arlington each day, hopefully bringing awareness all along our hilly corridor!

### **Fire Surveillance Cameras are now on Vollmer Peak and elsewhere**

During Diablo Wind Events (DWEs) a fire in our heavily overgrown region could sweep into Kensington from Tilden Park in a matter of minutes. Two video cameras were installed last year to monitor wildfire on a 24/7 basis in Wildcat Canyon and surrounding areas. Because there is no proven automated method of detecting fire, a local group of about 40 trained Kensington volunteers take turns monitoring these cameras during DWEs to provide an early warning to fire officials should a fire ignite. Find out more about this group and volunteer to help protect your neighbors at (<https://wildcatwatchgroup.blogspot.com/>). The KFD's EPC and community volunteers are working to place additional cameras to give more complete coverage of the Canyon. We hope to have these operational in time for this year's fire season.

### **We Support the Kensington Pathkeepers**

... in their efforts to resolve the issues of ownership and maintenance of our paths. These are of great potential importance, especially in evacuations and for firefighter access. For information go to [kensingtonpathkeepers.org](http://kensingtonpathkeepers.org).

### **Register with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System and local NIXLE!**

Our Police and Fire Chiefs, and our Fire Board, ask you to take a moment to register your cell phones with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS). CWS will alert you of life-threatening incidents such as wildfire and power shutdowns, occur. Register at [www.cwsalerts.com](http://www.cwsalerts.com). It's easy! Also, for NIXLE text your cell phone number to 888777 or sign up at [nixle.com](http://nixle.com) and you will be registered with Kensington Police and Kensington Fire, who can provide even more local alerts.

**(Items for future mailings to be considered:)**

- Hiring of an EPC Coordinator to boost our education efforts and (eventually) to help organize neighborhoods for hazard awareness
- Hiring of a Grant Proposal Writer to take advantage of State, Federal, and local funding opportunities for public safety improvements.
- Emergency magnets and stickers to be mailed out soon!
- Alert residents once the evacuation plan is finalized with proposed traffic flow directions; direct residents to website with map of plan and proposed traffic flow.

If there is space sometime, it might be good to take a page to explain some of the calculations and projections we have made about the traffic load on our streets in case of emergency (B/C Grupalo's major concern), the importance of considering pre-evacuation during DWEs, and the very limited warning time we may have once a fire is detected. Some will say this is alarmist but every second is going to count, and it's our job to get people thinking about this.

## Fire-Safe Dos and Dont's

Walking around the neighborhood you'll notice a variety of landscapes, some lovingly tended, others, well, no so much. But whatever best describes your yard, everyone can practice fire safety in the landscape. If you feel uncomfortable or uncertain what to do, contact one of our fine nurseries (*Berkeley Hort, East Bay, Westbrae*, etc.) for professional gardener recommendations.

Here's some tips for you or your gardener, liberally borrowed from Pacific Horticulture's excellent Fall 2012 article, *Fire-Safe Favorites: Year-Round Interest from Choice Plants*:

- Limb up trees 10 feet above the ground, particularly if they're close to the house.
- Don't overplant. Provide generous spaces between plantings. If the landscape has become crowded over time, don't hesitate to remove plants.
- Remove old, dried-out, or drought-stressed plants in favor of healthy ones.
- Clear dead material from mature trees and shrubs. Reinvigorate shrubs and perennials with regular pruning to remove masses of dry growth.
- Keep soil covered with mulch, groundcovers, bulbs or wildflowers to control invasive weeds.
- Keep weeds, litter, woodpiles and flammable materials away from the house.
- Water plants close to structures to keep moisture levels high in fire season. Do this in the cool of early morning or evening so as not to lose the benefits of watering to evaporation.
- Choose non-flammable outdoor furniture (e.g., a wrought iron patio table in lieu of a wood one). Avoid plastics. Keep propane grills far from the house.
- Remove flammable non-native plants such as juniper, eucalyptus, acacia, broom and tall ornamental grasses. Replace them with natives from local sources including the *Native Plant Nursery in Tilden, the Tilden Botanic Garden, and Annie's Annuals*. Our local nurseries also carry large selections of native plants and can advise you on which ones to choose for fire safety.