

The Fire Plug



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October is Fire Prevention Month

Commemorating the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, October is recognized as National Fire Prevention Month. The National Fire Protection Association's theme this year is: *Protect Your Family From Fire*.

The Kensington Fire Protection District will be recognizing Fire Prevention Month with a Fire Station **Open House** on **Saturday, October 15** from **12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.**

Come by the fire station and meet your local firefighters and, Pluggie, the robot fire hydrant, receive a tour of the station and learn important fire safety tips



Sparky the Fire Dog greets visiting children at an Open House.

to help keep your family and community safe. Refreshments will be served.

Did You Know?

- Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and injuries. Unattended cooking is by far the leading cause of cooking fires.
- Heating is the second leading cause of home fires, fire deaths and fire injuries.
- Almost all U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm, but almost 2/3 of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes without *working* smoke alarms.

Log on to FirePreventionWeek.org for more fire facts and tips, and check out www.kensingtonfire.org, *Kids Links* for fun, fire educational web pages for children.

Pharmaceutical Drop Off

The Kensington Fire Protection District and the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District will be again jointly participating in the Drug Enforcement Agency's second annual National Take Back Initiative.

The date for this event is **Saturday, October 29th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** at the Public Safety Building, 217 Arlington Avenue, Kensington.

By both Kensington agencies joining together, the program will be able to take *all* unwanted and unused

pharmaceuticals (narcotics as well as other pills, sharps, syrups and inhalers).

Drop off is welcome only during event hours. We do not accept household hazardous waste items—only pharmaceuticals.



Firefighter/Paramedic Murphy and Officer Barrow collect unwanted pharmaceuticals from the Kensington community.

Clean out your medicine cabinets of expired and unused medicines to keep them out of the possession of those they were not intended for. Do not flush unused medicines down your toilet, as those chemicals will make their way into the bay.

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Public Safety Building Construction

In July 2011, KFPD embarked on a list of long-planned for renovations to the Public Safety Building.

The construction project, which is partially evident from the exterior of the building, involves corrective foundation work, new siding, ADA/sidewalk improvements, replacement windows, corrective work to the driveway, and other miscellaneous repairs.

The building, which is over 40 years old, has undergone two other renovations during the last 15 years. During each of these, structural improvements were made to the building to bring it up to current code. Even with those past improvements, the south side of

the building was showing stress, resulting in noticeable cracking on the interior walls.

Current construction includes six new piers drilled and poured underneath the south side to help stabilize the building. A sump pump was added in the front of the building to help with constant hillside water run-off.

Removing the 40+ year old wood shingle siding, and replacing it with a cement-based siding product makes the building more resistant to fire. Also, many of the old, single pane or louvered windows are being replaced with energy efficient, double pane windows.

In addition, work on the driveway will stop the police vehicles from scraping on the street and being damaged.

And lastly, new exterior paint will be applied, the deck will be refinished, and new landscaping installed, chosen specifically for the east bay climate and limited space available.

The improvements are currently scheduled to be completed by the middle of November, 2011.

The budgeted cost of the construction contract is \$504,000. KFPD puts aside funds every year to keep the building in good repair. The District will be able to pay for the entire project without incurring any debt.

Drop by during our Open House on October 15, 2011 between 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. to see some of the work in progress.

Change Your Clock—Change Your Battery



Your Kensington Fire Protection District recommends changing the battery in your home smoke detectors every six months. Daylight Savings Time is a perfect time to remember this potentially life-saving task. We also recommend replacing any smoke detector unit that is over 10 years old.

KFPD Provides CPR/First Aid Classes

If you would like to take a CPR and/or First Aid class, your Fire District is here to help. Classes are taught in very small groups and priority registration is given to Kensington and El Cerrito residents. CPR begins at 9:00 a.m. There is a break from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. for lunch on your own. First Aid resumes from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m.

Kensington classes are held at Arlington Community Church,

52 Arlington Avenue. El Cerrito classes are held at Fire Station 72, 1520 Arlington Blvd. There is a \$26 fee for CPR and a \$26 fee for First Aid.

To register for a class, call (510) 215-4450 or email us at kensingtonfirepd@aol.com.

Our class schedule is also posted on our website at www.kensingtonfire.org. This is *not* a healthcare provider course.



CPR/First Aid Schedule

October 29	El Cerrito
November 19	Kensington
December 10	El Cerrito

Fire Fighter Toy Program Pasta Feed

Please join your Fire Chief and the Kensington Firefighters on **Saturday, December 3, 2011** when we welcome the Kensington community to a Pasta Feed to benefit the Firefighters Toy Program. The event will take place at the Kensington Fire Station, 217 Arlington Ave, from **5:00 until 8:00 p.m.** In exchange for the donation of a new, unwrapped toy or a monetary donation of at least \$10 per person, the firefighters will serve you a pasta dinner!



Toy Program coordinators, Captains Keller and Pace, display donations received during the last KFPD Pasta Feed.

The Kensington station has been participating with the El Cerrito and Richmond Fire Departments collecting and delivering toys to

the needy every holiday season since 1995.

Place the date on your calendar and plan to join us for this family-style pasta feed. We are looking forward to this fun event that will help other less fortunate families in West Contra Costa during the holiday season.

If you are unable to attend, the Kensington Fire Station will have a toy barrel to accept donations for the 2011 holiday season through December 21st.

Sign Up for CERT Boot Camp

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is provided by the Kensington Fire Protection District to better prepare our citizens and neighborhoods in the event of a major disaster. CERT classes will teach you:

- Disaster First Aid Training
- Disaster Preparedness
- Basic Firefighting
- Light Search and Rescue
- Damage Assessment

A CERT Boot Camp will be held on **Saturday, November 12** at the

Kensington Community Center (Youth Hut), 52 Arlington Avenue.

Boot Camp is a condensed version of the full CERT program for those that are not able to commit to the regular 20-hour course. Boot Camp is an 8-hour class and will take place from 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a break for lunch. KFPD encourages its constituents to prepare their families and neighborhoods by participating in the CERT program.

To sign up for the November 12 class, please call (510) 215-4450 or email kensingtonfirepd@aol.com.

If you are interested in our full 20-hour CERT Training, please check our website in the near future (www.kensingtonfire.org, CERT Training) for our complete 2012 schedule.



24-Hour Emergency Preparedness Kits



During both our Open House on 10/15/11 and the Pharmaceutical Disposal on 10/29/11, Kensington residents may pick up individual 24-hour emer-

gency kits that are being provided by KFPD.

These kits are a convenient small size to keep in your car or as part of your household preparedness kit. The kits include a mylar blanket, rain pouch, whistle, light stick, sanitary hand wipes, high calorie food bar, and six water pouches.

The kits will be distributed to residents only on a first come, first serve basis. If you have already received your kit at a previous KFPD event, please allow your neighbors a chance to be prepared also. Proof of Kensington residency will be required; two kits per household.

KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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217 Arlington Avenue
Kensington, CA 94708

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Fax: 510/527-8396

E-mail: kensingtonfirepd@aol.com

*If There's a
Doubt—
Call Us Out!*

We're on the Web!

www.kensingtonfire.org



Prepare Your Pets for Emergencies

If you are like millions of animal owners, your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your pet will survive an emergency depends largely on planning done today. Some of the things that you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what's best for you is



Remember to consider your pets when making a family disaster preparedness plan!

typically what's best for your animals.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. Remember, if it's not safe for you, it's not safe for your pets. If you are going to a public shelter it is important to understand that your pet *may* not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that work for both you and your pets.

If you stay put, stay safe. Bring your pets indoors if there is an imminent problem and keep them under your direct control. Make sure all animals are wearing collars and tags. Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends, or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to. Planning ahead can ensure that you can keep the whole family together when disaster strikes.