

### County To Sweep Kensington Streets

**From Supervisor John Gioia's Office:**  
 For years we've had requests from the residents to sweep the streets in Kensington. We've been told residents have discussed this at neighborhood meetings and all agreed that sweeping would be beneficial. Their primary concern is sweeping leaves in the winter to prevent storm drains from being clogged and creating local flooding. Our staff reviewed the roads in the field and can sweep certain streets, but other streets are too steep for sweeping. At right is a map showing the streets that can be

swept and that have been added to the street sweeping program. We also notified residents by mail, informing them of the new program. We have since received several phone calls complaining about having to move cars for the street sweeper. We will not be installing street signs prohibiting parking, nor will there be any enforcement of parking. The bottom line is that the street sweepers will sweep whatever portions of the street they can, go around any parked cars that are not moved, and do the best they can. *(Good enough! - Ed.)*

### Everything You Wanted to Know About the Public Safety Building But Were Afraid to Ask

Discussions about the terms of the recent renewal of the Police District's lease of space in the Public Safety Building has prompted some residents to wonder about the history of the building – and the landlord/tenant relationship between the two Districts. (The Fire District owns the building and leases out part of it to the Police District.)

We caught up with Fire District Administrator, Brenda Navellier, and asked her to tell us what she knew about the building. Here's what we found out:

The Kensington Public Safety Building, located at 217 Arlington Avenue, was constructed in 1970 by the Kensington Fire Protection District. The 5,790 s.f. facility currently houses both the community police department and fire departments.

Extensive renovation for seismic strengthening was completed in 1999 at a cost of approximately \$600,000. Total construction costs were paid by KFPD from its general fund. The KPCCSD agreed to pay \$127,000 of the costs - \$12,700 payable every year for ten years in lieu of rent during that period.

In 2005, KFPD renovated the living quarters and office space of the firefighters and administrator. Each firefighter now has his or her own bedroom. The 35-year old kitchen was modernized and better equipped to accommodate rotating shift usage. The administrator now has an office, rather than occupying a seat in the conference room. The total cost for the renovation, which included structural

strengthening over the apparatus bay, was approximately \$320,000.

KFPD is currently proceeding with seismically shoring up the front of the building, correcting the parking area driveway to street grade, and upgrading the building siding and windows. The building requires several piers to be placed under its west side where it is pulling toward the street. The driveway grade is currently not conducive to police patrol car traffic and causes the cruisers to scrape the street as they enter and exit.

The 40-year old wood shingle siding will be replaced with fire-rated cement board shingles and many of the original windows will be replaced with dual pane. The estimated cost for these improvements is approximately \$350,000 and has been provided for in KFPD's FY 09-10 budget.

All of the improvements to the Public Safety Building have been paid from general funds. No bond indebtedness was incurred...and thanks for asking!

### Thirstbusters Still Hungry

Last month in these pages we invited readers to check out local Kensington lad, Ryan Thomas, his Berkeley band boys – *Thirstbusters* – and their wildly popular YouTube video. Ryan has just informed us that the Disney Channel will be airing their video for the next 3 to 6 months! Coincidence? We don't think so! Go Ryan! Remember – we knew you when!



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