

K E N S I N G T O N O U T L O O K

JULY/AUGUST 2008

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 6

These Hazy Days of Summer.....



Yennie Lee holds up a name plaque she made for her little sister, "Bora," at camp.



Sarah Giles and Perry Nalle practice their card game at KCC Camp, at left, while Aiden Bernal plays ping-pong, above.

It's summertime, and the living is – hectic. Children who are out of school are finding themselves in camps all across the East Bay, including Kensington kids who have opted for the summer camp program run by the Kensington Community Council. Camp counselors are keeping the campers happy with a variety of programs, from board games to carpentry projects to sporting activities, from tennis to golf.

In the carpentry shop, builders as young as 5 clamp boards to saw-horses and pick up a saw. The ping-pong table is busy all the time. And the card games seem extremely popular.

There is still room in many of the programs this summer. See Page 5 for details on how to register. Perhaps next year, the registration may be done completely over the Internet. But for now, you have to pick up the phone.

KFPD Launches First Drug Recycling Program

Do you have unused medications you need to get rid of? Expired cough syrups, vitamins, empty inhalers, and used sharps will be accepted at Kensington's first pharmaceutical drop-off on Saturday, July 19, from noon to 4 p.m., the first such community-based program in the county. It aims to help dissipate the amount of drug compounds that are appearing in tests of San Francisco Bay waters, where all of our wastes ultimately end up, even after water sewage treatment.

"This is something we can do something about," said Janice Kosel, of the Kensington Fire Protection District. "It's amazing that all these drugs are ending up in the bay, and they don't have to."

Drugs and other pharmaceuticals may be dropped off

at the Kensington Fire Protection District at 217 Arlington Ave.

Many people dump prescription drugs into the toilet or cough syrups down the drain when a loved one dies or when drugs have expired. These, according to officials, are bad practices. Most waste treatment processes cannot remove all the chemical compounds in the drugs, which end up in the bay.

Kensington's recycling program will entail a team of paramedics and other trained personnel who will take whatever leftover drugs are in the cabinet – marked or otherwise – and dispose of them properly without them landing in the bay. Even unmarked containers will be

Drug Recycling continued on page 11.

Property Tax Bill Unlikely to Include Hike in Police Tax

The Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District appears unlikely to give final approval to a ballot measure that would have asked voters to raise taxes by \$200 per property parcel after several interested citizens – some in support of the initial measure – came to the June meeting expecting additional information.

While no vote was taken at the meeting on June 12, the board did not move forward to put the tax measure on the ballot, which would have raised parcel taxes from the current \$300 to \$500 to do two things that had been requested by the board in April: The ability to add two new officers to the Kensington Police Department roster, and to help balance the operations budget of the district, which was deemed to be in arrears in a year or two. The board could still approve a measure by the end of August, but no such vote appears likely.

"We would be well-advised to postpone the decision," said KPPCDS Director Pat McLaughlin, the finance and administration director and police liaison on the board, in an interview days later. Board member Paul Haxo agreed. "At this time the justification for the size of the tax, which is \$200, does not seem to have community support," Haxo said.

After taking a further look at the projected shortfalls for the budget, which pays for not only the police department but for general operations for the park and its maintenance, the board seemed unanimous that immediate shortfalls in the budget had been over-estimated, and that the budget appeared safe through the fiscal 2008-2009 year. After that, an additional tax might be needed.

"We (had) believed we would be in a deficit," said Director Bill Wright. After budget numbers were reviewed and crunched, the board – while not directly voting to halt the ballot measure – also did not move forward to put a tax increase on the ballot. "The deficit was definitely not as large as originally thought," Wright said later.

If the ballot measure had been authorized by the board, a tax increase of \$200 would have required a two-thirds majority of votes to pass this coming November. Once passed, the line item for the KPPCSD would have gone up from \$200 to \$300 on 2009 property tax bills, and thereafter.


As it stands now, that line on the property tax bill will remain the same.

New Police Officer

Police Chief Greg Harman administers the oath to Kensington's newest police officer, Doug Wilson, at the June meeting of the Kensington KPPCSD.

To find out more about Wilson, see Page 11.





Select Listings

56 Arlington Ct., Kensington. Gracious traditional home on a large level lot. Ornamental metal fencing around front garden, 3 br/1.5 ba. \$TBA
Celia Concus

2244 Mira Vista Dr., El Cerrito. Well-maintained 2-story home with bay views, refinished hardwood floors, 3 brs, 2 baths. \$639,000. Herman Sun

971 Jones St., Berkeley. Coming in July: 2br/2ba w/family room & deck. Near 4th Street, Acme Bakery & Cafe Fanny. Low \$500,000s. Sheri Madden

Recent Pending Properties

68 Richardson Rd., Kensington. 3+br/2.5ba on wooded site. Bay views. Offered at \$975,000. Listing agents: Todd Hodson & Ron Eggherman

69 Norwood, Kensington. Craftsman w/attached cottage. Main house 3+br, 2ba. Offered at \$899,000. Selling agents: Todd Hodson & Ron Eggherman

25 Kerr Ave., Kensington. Inviting 3br/2ba mid-century home. Offered at \$799,000. Listing agent: Celia Concus


2 Quail Avenue, Berkeley. Inviting 3br/2ba mid-century home. Offered at \$799,000. Listing agent: Arlene Acuña

Recent Sold Properties

1536 Oxford St., Berkeley. Gorgeously preserved three-level, 12-unit 1889 Queen Anne. Offered at \$3,750,000. Listing agent: Mark P. Choi

1051 Park Hills Blvd., Berkeley. Inviting 3br/2ba mid-century home. Offered at \$1,175,000. Listing agent: Gloria Polanski

2312 Valley St., Berkeley. Handsome 3br/2ba Craftsman on cul-de-sac. Offered at \$679,000. Listing agent: Sheri Madden




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EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of the *Kensington Outlook* has been written and reported by interim editor Chris Lavin. The letters to the editor are included in this issue as received, and edited only for clarity and punctuation. The position of a full-time editor is still open, and candidates will be interviewed in July. Inquiries regarding interviews may be emailed to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com where they will be forwarded to the selections committee.

CORRECTIONS

We apologize to Lance Maples, who carries a much-superior name than that of "Vance," a name by which the *Outlook* referred to him in the last issue. No need to change the nameplate on his door that opens to his office as the chief of the El Cerrito Fire Department.

We also mixed up the positions held by board volunteers Cindy Kimball and Janice Kosel. Kimball very capably sits on the Kensington Police Protection & Community Services District board, while Kosel is on the Kensington Fire Protection District. We hope we got that right, now.

We apologize for the errors. Let us know about the ones we didn't catch, and we will publish them in the September issue.

Seen and Heard Around Kensington

Wildfires north and south and even west have been more prevalent, due to spring lighting strikes, so there is nothing such as pure sunshine. The sunsets have been spectacular, at the cost of the communities that are being evacuated and spent, making those sunsets melancholy at best. Thankfully Kensington has been spared, and has a big firebreak to the north and east, thanks to the Kensington Fire Protection District, which has been working for more than three years to make sure a firebreak and adequate water availability are possible.

East Bay MUD has declared a water shortage, so some in Kensington are considering less lawn, plus less watering. Those with established gardens are happier, because they need less water.

The political signs for Senator Hillary Clinton for president are still staked throughout town, although Clinton herself has regretfully conceded her place on the Democratic ticket to Senator Barack Obama. They have both asked for unity, and some in Kensington have begun to switch their lawn signs.

A Tribute to Gus

Editor's Note: We asked in the last issue for deer stories. Here is one.

His name was "Gus," at least at my household. I occasionally saw him roaming the Arlington with his grand 12-point rack. I suspect he had a home in the thicket down near Norwood, and lived there with his family. He was an older buck, about 250-plus pounds, silver-faced and majestic.

We had multiple encounters on a seasonal basis. He found a way into my back yard and would nest between my newly planted magnolia trees. He scratched against the one, denuding it of bark, and leaned on the other so it began to lean... list, actually. He munched on the fallen apples from my apple tree, and probably kept a mental calendar of when the fruit in my yard was ripe and accessible. I have lived in this house for only three years. He had probably been coming here for much longer.

K E N S I N G T O N

OUTLOOK

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Bound copies of the newspaper going back to the 1940s are available at the Kensington Library.

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Classified ad rates are \$6 a line with a minimum of 2 lines at \$12. A line consists of 45 spaces or characters. An online ad form is available at: www.kensingtonoutlook.com at the bottom of the back issues listings. Send all display and classified advertising mail to:

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Deadlines

Advertising deadline	August 8
Editorial deadline	August 10

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Gus was a funny beast. I drove down Berkeley Park one afternoon and saw him coming up the sidewalk, trying to get his footing on the steep incline, hoofs clunking on the concrete. He was walking like a drunken sailor, as though he had consumed one pint too many at Graham's fine pub just below.



We had a good relationship, me and Gus. I tolerated his munching on my hydrangea, topping off the new buds. But then I found a way to keep him out: 10-foot stakes (typically used on the side of the road for measuring snow pack, purchased at Pastime Ace), with rolls of chicken wire running eight feet high. I installed 20 feet of this inside my back hedge so that Gus could no longer step down from the neighbor's yard. I regret that I never saw Gus in my yard again.

I read in the *Outlook* a few months back that a deer was killed further down on the Arlington. I thought of Gus and worried about him. It may have been his time. He was a geriatric of the deer world, after all - not as sprightly as the younger bucks in the neighborhood. If so, he had a good run and a good life on The Arlington. I will likely see his successors chomping on the lemons at street level again, and our mutual appreciation will continue in the years to come.

- Lara Farnham

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



New Sign
Some people love it, some people hate it. The newest sign to welcome people into, and say good-bye when they are going out of, Kensington has drawn controversy and support. It replaces the old sign, and a not-yet-functioning fountain.

New Sign An Eyesore

I am a 30- year resident of Kensington. I love our town and take great pride in living here. But the new sign and the monstrous planter/fountain (or whatever it is) have ruined the entrance to our neighborhood.

Who approved taking down the understated, unpretentious, wooden sign? And who thought it would be a good idea to put up that cement “thing,” that is not only unattractive but is too big for the space? (The only good thing is that it blocks the equally unattractive sign.)

I have no idea who paid for these two eyesores, but regardless, the community should have had some veto power. Residents of Kensington cannot change our houses without jumping through several hoops to ensure that the community approves of our design. So how is it that something that impacts all of us as we come home just appears without any vetting or approval process?

These tasteless, tacky eyesores should be removed. And, the sooner the better.

— Pat Gillette

Colusa Circle Development

Plans to develop the vacant lot at 401 Colusa Ave. on the Circle are moving ahead quickly despite serious questions raised by residents and

a recommendation against the project by KMAC. If unchanged, the proposed building on this site threatens to drastically alter the character of the Colusa Circle, exacerbate the area’s parking shortfall and negatively impact traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

The plan is to erect a three-story, 38-foot-high building on the lot, with no setback, that would tower above nearby houses and block residential views of downtown San Francisco and the Bay Bridge. The building would also largely block scenic views of the surrounding hills from the Circle and make the area more canyon-like, with far less light. Because it lacks a setback, it will make traffic flow on the Circle far more hazardous for drivers and pedestrians. Its metallic, modernist design is wholly at odds with the character of the neighborhood.

The developers plan to create three condominiums and two retail commercial spaces. County guidelines require them to provide 15 parking spots but their plan only includes eight off-street stacked spots and two new on-street spaces, created where the AC Transit bus currently stops. As a result, they seek a variance for the five-space shortfall, representing 33 percent of the requirement.

The Colusa Circle Improvement Association strongly opposes granting this variance and asks that the County enforce its own parking guidelines. It is clear to us that this parking strategy will have a big impact on the surrounding neighborhood. Why do parking regulations exist if not to protect nearby res-

Letters to the Editor continued on page 4.



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46 Roanoke Road, Berkeley
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15 Garden Drive ~ Lot, Kensington
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Kensington Market Update

Address	Beds	Baths	List Price	Sold Price
Arlington Avenue	2	1	\$495,000	\$495,000
Kingston Road	3	1.5	\$520,000	\$651,000
Avon Road	3	1.5	\$749,000	\$750,000
Kerr Avenue	4	2	\$1,150,000	\$1,110,000

This information is taken from public records and deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

• For additional information about the Kensington market, please give me a call.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR cont'd

idential communities from this kind of development?

We raised these objections at the April 2007 KMAC meeting, and they voted 4-0 to recommend denial of the application for this project. But the county planning department seems to be ignoring our input and KMAC's advice and nevertheless is recommending approval. This project calls into question how responsive the county is to the needs of our community.

We advocate a smaller-scale project with a design more compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. We do believe the site should be developed and would welcome a plan that integrates better with the community. While we understand the desire of developers to maximize their economic potential, we believe that reasonable limits and the impact on existing residents must be acknowledged and respected.

Outlook readers should understand that the decision on this project will have a long-term impact on the Colusa Circle, determining its character and quality of life for many years to come. Please email me at rodney.paul510@gmail.com for more information on efforts to find a better solution for developing 401 Colusa.

— Rodney Paul

Colusa Circle Improvement Association

New Sign an Improvement

The "new" city sign is a great improvement over the sign that it covers, which in turn was a great impairment over the "old" sign, which served perfectly well for years. As someone who drives past this tableau every morning, I'm very grateful to whoever was responsible for this latest enhancement.

Since the city has spent a sizeable sum on the garish green giant, I don't suppose there'd be a problem spending even more on a weatherproof exact replica of the old sign. After that, maybe then we can spend a bit more to remove the fountain which, when operational, will both waste water and obstruct the view of the sign.

— Wayne Wong

What the Outlook Needs

I am writing you with several story ideas that I would like to see covered in the Outlook. I am busy with work and with family, and I need the Outlook to supply me with unbiased, current and accurate news. There is a lot here that needs to be covered. Here

are some story ideas:

First, bring back Letters to the Editor, which are much preferred over carnival pictures and home renovations done by The Dad's Club. I was disappointed that Letters to the Editor had to be published online in the May edition.

Hilltop school is full, I believe, in all grades. This makes at least the third year in a row that the school is full. Many families move here for the school. What is being done to accommodate their needs?

Parcel Tax for WCCCUSD. It failed last time around. Please write an article about what Parcel Tax pays for and why it is necessary to fund our schools.

California State Budget Cuts. How are they affecting our school? What kind of cuts are we going to see in the future? There are going to be many, and they are going to be painful. Once again, many people move here for the school.

I hear that our library is going to get some renovation. I'd like to know what is going to be renovated and when.

I hear that the farmer's market was being run without permits, without insurance?

What is that mess of dirt and traffic cones and yellow police tape by the buildings where the day care is supposed to go? What happened to the day care that was supposed to go there?

Please write an article about the new fountain and sign that now welcome all to Kensington. Most importantly, there are many, many people who believe that these structures were paid for with taxpayer money. This makes people question the current increases in police and park fees. In fact, the fountain and sign they were paid for with private donations. I am afraid that if this perception is not corrected, there will be no chance for other increases to be approved. I am hoping you will look into some of the aforementioned issues.

— Leslie Reckler

Thanks for New Sign

First, a thank you for the very informative June issue of the Outlook. I also want to thank the community for the cheerful sign at the entry and exit to/from Kensington, but what can you do with that bowl that blocks our view of what's happening in Kensington?

— Valborg Thomas

Donations

The 2008 graduating seniors of the Kensington community have donated \$150 to the Kensington Community Council.

Jim and Dorothy Walker have donated \$50 to KCC.

Joe and Val Paola have donated \$50 to KCC, as well.

Thank you to these donors.

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Looking for Tennis Racquet Donations!

Do you have dusty tennis racquets filling your closet or garage? KCC is looking for racquets for both children and adults to use in our summer camp program. Please call 510-525-0292.

KCC Summer Camp 2008

Located in the East Bay hills at 59 Arlington Avenue in Kensington, the Kensington Community Council (KCC) Summer Day Camp is for children entering first through sixth grades in fall 2008. The camp started June 16, but still has room for sessions through August 22, 2008, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Campers may enroll on a weekly basis. To ensure the best experience for each child, our camp has a maximum of 62 children per week. We employ one director, a head counselor, eight counselors, a tennis instructor, and a “specialty consultant” each week to work with the campers. Extended care 8 – 9 a.m. and 5 – 5:30 p.m. is also available with the head counselor and camp director.

Each week the campers will enjoy: Field trip by private bus to points of interest around the Bay Area such as Scandia, Water World, the Exploratorium and the Jungle (no field trip week 3 due to July 4). Special activities such as carpentry, gymnastics, dance, and drama. Tennis with Kim Roots, three days per week. Games, arts and crafts, hiking, and fun!

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE*		FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE*
Week 4	July 7–11	July 9
	<i>Gymnastics with Judy Baker</i>	<i>The Exploratorium</i>
Week 5	July 14–18	July 16
	<i>Gymnastics with Judy Baker</i>	<i>Scandia</i>
Week 6	July 21–25	July 23
	<i>Sports and Games with Kim Roots</i>	<i>Lake Anza</i>
Week 7	July 28–Aug. 1	July 30
	<i>Hip Hop with Jackie and Jenna</i>	<i>Oakland A’s game</i>
Week 8	Aug. 4–8	August 6
	<i>Drama with Kelly Donahue</i>	<i>Waterworld</i>
Week 9	Aug. 11–15	August 13
	<i>Drama with Kelly Donahue</i>	<i>Pier 39/Alcatraz/Aquarium</i>
Week 10	Aug. 18–22	August 20
	<i>Cooking with Janet Martorano</i>	<i>The Jungle</i>

*Changes in the schedule may be made for unexpected circumstances

COST

The cost for the Kensington Summer Day Camp is \$205 per week (with the exception the 4th of July week at \$155). This fee covers all transportation costs, snacks, entrance fees, activities, and a KCC Summer Camp T-shirt for field trips. A limited number of partial scholarships will be available. All fees must be paid and all forms completed by July 1, 2008, for the last five weeks of camp.

For further information, please call Esther Hill at the Kensington Community Council office at 510-525-0292. The KCC office is located at 59 Arlington Ave. in Kensington. KCC office hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PLEASE REGISTER FOR CLASSES AT

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KASEP

Interested in learning more about our after school enrichment classes? We’ll hold a KASEP open house on Monday, September 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m., for parents and students to meet our teachers and discuss classes. Registration for the fall session will be held on Wednesday, September 10, and classes will begin on Monday, September 22.

ADULT CLASSES

Please note summer schedule class times!

YOGA FOR HEALTH

Harmonize your body, mind, and spirit. This class involves basic yoga poses, correct body alignment, breathing techniques, and relaxation. Develop strength, flexibility, endurance, and grace. Therapeutic concerns such as wrist, knee, neck, and back pain, and stress reduction will be addressed. No prior experience required – all ages welcome. Please bring a mat to the class.

Instructor Nicole Becker, a registered yoga teacher, was trained in Anusara Yoga and has studied acupressure and Qi Gong. She describes her teaching style as light-hearted and welcoming and strives to make each student feel cared for in his or her practice of yoga. For more information about the class, please contact Nicole at 510-527-6443.

When: Classes are Tuesdays, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m., starting June 17! Class will return to 9:15 on August 26.

Fees: For residents: \$15 for drop-in; \$75 for a series of 6 classes. Nonresidents please add 10 percent (\$16.50 per class/\$82.50 for six classes). To register, call the KCC office at (510) 525-0292.

Where: Classes are held in the Community Center.

Thursday Hatha Yoga: 6:30-7:30 p.m. (NOTE new start time for summer)
Classic yoga postures and breathing practices for revitalization. On the second and the final Thursdays of the month, relax in a blissful Restorative practice. All levels of experience welcome.
Fees for residents: \$12 for drop-in
One-month pass: (4 classes) for \$40
Non-residents: please add 10% (\$13.20 for drop-in and \$44 for month pass)

For questions about the Vinyasa or Hatha Yoga class content, please contact Instructor Claire Lavery at 681-3077.
For questions about registration or location, please call KCC at 525-0292.

Classes are held in Room A in the Recreation Building (Building E).

TENNIS

Kim Roots offers classes for youth and adults.To register, call Kim at 526-6730.
Adult classes: 5 classes/\$40 per resident; \$45 per non-resident

TENNIS COURTS: West Court



KIM ROOTS’ SUMMER TENNIS CLINIC 2008

Grades 1 - 6

Session 3: July 7-11	1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Session 4: July 14-18	1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Session 5: July 28-Aug.1	1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Session 6: August 4-8	1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Session 7: August 11-15	1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Session 8: August 18-22	1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Location: Kensington Tennis Courts

Cost: \$75.00 /session (Kensington resident)
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Minimum: 5 students per class

Maximum: 10 students per class

Clinic includes stroke instruction, play, and ball-machine practice. For information, please call Kim Roots 510-526-6730.

Children are registered on a first come first served basis in the KCC office, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Emergency card, registration and waiver forms must be completed prior to the beginning of the session. For further information or to request an application, please call the KCC office at 510-525-0292.

Colusa Circle Cell 'Tower' Plan Appears Unlikely to Resurface

More than 100 mostly outraged residents came out for the May meeting of the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council to encourage the members to give the T-Mobile cell antenna on Colusa Circle a firm thumbs down vote, and they did just that, voting 4-0 against recommending the project to the county for the proper permits.

T-Mobile had contracted with Al Caruso to put a "tower" – more like two thick pipes flush to the outside of his building at 367 Colusa Ave. – on the roof. But word of the project launched a campaign to nix it, and Caruso eventually relented, canceling the contract that would have netted him and his family \$1,200 per month.

"I wanted to be a good neighbor," Caruso said. Yet T-Mobile had not officially received a cancellation of the contract, so two T-Mobile representatives appeared at KMAC's May 27 meeting to make their official presentation, and many of the activists had not heard of Caruso's decision.

Members of the board said they were worried that property values near the area could be affected, and were also concerned about wording in the contract that would allow T-Mobile to sublet space on the roof to other cell companies in a "co-location" clause.

Prospects for the proposal, however, are still uncertain. County planners have not received an official notice from T-Mobile to pull out of the project, although activists appear happy with the current status.

"We raised so many red flags for them. Just saying we would go forward with an epidemiological study is enough in some cities to scare off a cell company," said Marilyn Stollon. There have been some

concerns that T-Mobile would try to force Caruso to honor his signed agreement, and many protestors at the meeting said their group would stand behind him and provide whatever support he needed to fight back.

A T-Mobile spokesperson did not return calls for comment.

Only two residents at the meeting expressed any support for it. One was Bryce Nesbitt, who said he had to twist around on his back porch to get cell coverage. A dozen other residents expressed difficulty in believing him, because they had gone "house to house" in all of the nearby neighborhoods and had no difficulty in getting clear coverage.

The T-Mobile representatives presented photographs of an artist's rendering of what the so-called "tower" would look like, if built, but the photos showed nothing sticking up from the top of the roof. Rather, two large pipe-looking pieces, which appeared to be about three feet long, were shown installed vertically, side by side, near the roof.

Several health studies about proximity to boosters or towers were cited by members of the audience.

"If I lived in that apartment," said one, pointing to a window next to the antenna, "I would move."

Meanwhile, T-Mobile is likely to continue looking in the nearby area to place a tower. El Cerrito, Albany, and Berkeley all have local ordinances regarding cell towers, and many at the meeting expressed a concern that because Kensington is unincorporated, efforts by cell companies would continue.

In a related story, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has agreed to rehear a case in which Sprint sued San Diego

County over its cell phone regulation ordinances. The first trial resulted in the court saying the county's regulations were so onerous that they amounted to an insurmountable barrier to cell companies. Group members are watching the case in hopes that the court will overturn the original ruling in support of local governments.

Group Gears Up for Next Project

"Just after we finish one thing, now

we have the Chisholm project," Stollon said. "It's unbelievable how the county can move ahead with that project forward when it goes against the KMAC vote."

The council voted against the development project at the vacant lot at 401 Colusa Ave. Plans are to develop a three-story building, but some people are worried that the project does not provide adequate parking.

The *Outlook* will carry an update on that issue in the September issue.

Snakes at the Library

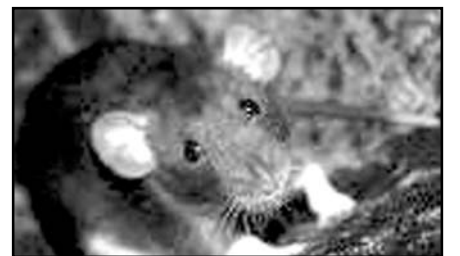
Python Ron is ready to introduce big and small patrons alike at the Kensington Library this summer. Ron will teach about the world of reptiles, insects, and arachnids on Tuesday, August 26, at 6:30 p.m. Huge snakes and lizards and all sorts of insects and animals will meet anyone willing, age 3 and up. There will also be a drawing for a grand prize – and finishers

of the children's summer reading program are eligible. All attendees are eligible for several other prize drawings, as well. The library is open Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 8 p.m., closed Wednesdays, open Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays 1 to 5 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number is 524-3043.

Second 'Ratapalooza' Adoption Event a Success

The second annual Ratapalooza event was held last month, with lots of pet rats that had been rescued going home to new families.

Adoptees included dumbos, rexes, adults, hairless rats -- and lots of babies. A rat specialist was on hand to offer information. More adoptees are available at RabbitEars, 377 Colusa Ave.



Potential adoptee

Pet of the Month



Delphine is a beautiful fawn-colored girl rat with a lightning bolt of white down her face. She is a little shy, but very gentle and accepting of all admirers. Her favorite dish is veggie omelet and spaghetti, and she enjoys green tea every afternoon. She loves to read cookbooks late at night and sleep till noon. Secretly, she'd like to be a chef and star on the Food Network. But it's no secret that she would love a forever home. If you want to visit Delphine, please come to RabbitEars' new location, at 377 Colusa (pubside off the Circle), open 7 days a week, 525-6155, or visit www.rabbitears.org.

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Neighborhood Notes

Local Athlete Heads to Beijing

Sayaka Matsumoto, a 24-year-old Kensington, has been selected to be on the U.S. Judo Team, and will compete in summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

“I am really excited,” said Sayaka Matsumoto, who made the team at finals in Las Vegas last month. Her good friend Nate Torra of El Cerrito made it through all the rounds but the last of the finals. Both work in Kensington.

Judo is a system of self-defense that was first contested at the Olympic Games in 1964. It teaches self-confidence – at least that is what Matsumoto discovered.

“It defines you,” she said.

Matsumoto is happy about making the team, and plans to keep the *Outlook* abreast of her Olympic experiences.

ACC Preaches With Help from John, Paul, and Ringo

What do the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans have in common? Well, you might find out through an innovative summer worship program at Arlington Community Church.

The Rev. Felicity Wright and the Board of Deacons have planned what they are calling “an unusual and exciting series” in which they meld the lyrics of popular music from the 1960s and 1970s with themes of justice and Christian community, as expressed in the epistles of Paul.

Worship will be in the Social Hall, in the half-round format. The “altar” will include a growing list of letters, including postcards, emails, and other communications. Hymns and scripture passages will be chosen to reinforce the themes of the popular music selection for the day. They will also include other famous letters (including those of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Lincoln, John and Abigail Adams, and the like.)

For more information, call the church at 510-526-9146.

Kensington Dentist Receives Award

Louie B. Mendoza’s Kensington Dental Practice was recently featured on KRON 4’s “Best of the Bay” series, and named “Best General Dentist,” making him the first dental practice in Contra Costa County to appear on the prestigious list.

“We’re very proud to have been recognized in this manner,” said Mendoza, who provides preventive, restorative, and cosmetic care to adults and children. The practice focuses on prevention, he said, because he wants all of his patients’ teeth “to be functional and last a lifetime.”

Mendoza bought the existing practice in 1998. It is located at 296 Arlington Ave.

Book Club Taking Stock

The Kensington Library Book Club has grown to so many members – often as many or more than 20 people come to each meeting – that the club is conducting a survey to figure out how to manage the meetings.

An email survey to members asks whether the group should be divided, with two groups discussing the same book, and whether separate groups should meet on different Monday evenings with the same book or a different one.

Discussions are spirited and active. The Kensington Library Book Group usually meets on the fourth Monday of every month in the library, beginning at 7 p.m. Each meeting starts with a poem selected and read by a member, following a book discussion. Call 524-3043 for more information.

Learning Different Cultures



Kensington residents Sophia Ma feeds Margot Kelley as part of the Hindu evening at Arlington Community Church. The “Spirit and the Arts” program is a key part of the church’s interfaith program to teach universal values along with differing religious traditions and language. The program is covering religious and spiritual practices from countries throughout the world.

Government Web Addresses Updated

It seems that some people trying to reach Kensington board members on various commissions and employees are still using the old Internet addresses with the dot-us extension. To reach someone on a board and an employee, most can be reached by using the first letter of the first name, followed by the last name, and the extension, such as pmclaughlin@kensingtoncalifornia.org.

Popular Instructor Returns to Camp

Longtime camp instructor Alex Brown will return to the Kensington Community Council camp in July for some special golf seminars. “He was a beloved instructor,” said Esther Hill, administrator of the camps program. While his initial session was arranged too late to make press time, more sessions may be scheduled. For more information call Hill at 525-0292.

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Greyhounds and Cheetahs in Kensington Exhibit

A Kensington studio is going to host a benefit photo exhibit July 19, with the focus on saving two sprinters: greyhounds and cheetahs.

"It's really great of Nan to do this for us," said Barbara Judson, president of Greyhound Friends for Life, who will be helping to host a photograph exhibit, "Grace and Joy," at Nan Phelps Photography Studio on Colusa Circle.

Judson has spent much of her life helping rescue greyhounds, which face a large threat of euthanasia because of over-breeding. Cheetahs, too, face similar problems, but also include loss of habitat, disease, and increasing cub mortality.

The Kensington-based rescue organization works with a foster facility in Auburn run by two avid photographers, Shana and Andy Laursen, who have specialized in taking pictures of both animals. Shana Laursen is on the board of trustees for the African Wildlife Foundation, and Andy Laursen is an accomplished photographer. Their photographs for the Kensington exhibit were taken in Tanzania, Botswana and Kenya.

All the photographs included in the



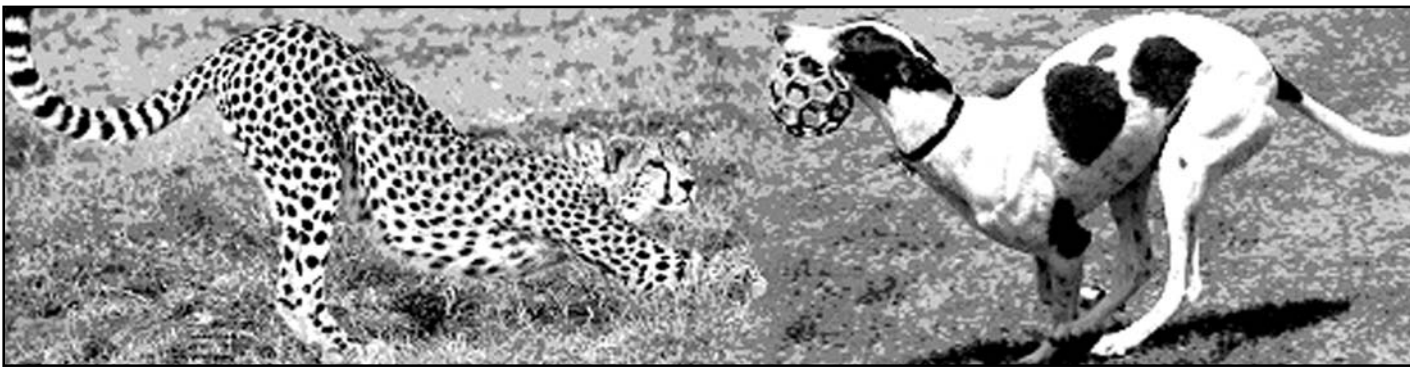
Barbara Judson has spent much of her life rescuing greyhounds no longer able to race. She is shown here with Jubilee, Rory, and Squeak.

exhibit have found homes through Greyhound Friends for Life, and all photographs exhibited will be available for purchase at the event, which is a benefit for the organization.

Greyhound Friends for Life is a non-profit organization that has been rescuing

greyhounds for more than 15 years. All sales from the show will go toward the rescue, care, and adoption placement of the dogs as companion pets.

For more information, call Judson at 525-3844, or visit www.greyhoundfriendsforlife.org.



This is an example of photography by Shana and Andy Laursen, who specialize in photographing these animals. Some of their work will be displayed at Nan Phelps Photography on Colusa Circle in a benefit for greyhounds on July 19.

Six Cars Disappear in Kensington

With the Kensington Police Department fielding calls for as many as six stolen vehicles in May – one from a locked garage – officers have redoubled their efforts to look closely at all suspicious vehicles, especially Hondas. They have also issued some warnings and a plea for

cooperation from the public to reduce the number of stolen vehicles.

Officers recommend:

- ⌚ Being more vigilant, and report anything you think is suspicious, such as open garages or an unknown person

looking into or around a car you know does not belong to him.

- ⌚ Lock the cars – even if it's parked in the garage.
- ⌚ Definitely lock all cars not left in a garage.
- ⌚ Take advantage of good lighting. Park beneath a street light, if possible.
- ⌚ Use devices that make thefts difficult. Use a club if you have one, and set your alarms.
- ⌚ Report suspicious vehicles immediately.

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Water Rationing Hits Hard

The amount of snow that falls in the Sierra is within no one's immediate control, yet it does affect everyone in California on a seasonal basis, including Kensington. Rain and snowfall levels came in dismally low this year, which resulted in EBMUD asking that all of its customers conserve.

The water shortage is the biggest water supply threat in 20 years, according to the utility. To safeguard its shrinking supply, EBMUD has declared an emergency in an attempt to reduce overall reduction in water use by 15 percent. Single-family residences are required to reduce by 19 percent. Multi-family residential units are asked to curtail 11 percent of their use, and commercial establishments by 12 percent.

Use restrictions include:

- Decorative ponds, lakes and fountains, unless the water is recycled.
- Washing cars with hoses that don't have shut-off nozzles.
- Washing sidewalks, patios, and other hard surfaces.
- Irrigating outdoors on consecutive days or more than three days a week.
- Lawn or garden watering that runs off.
- The use of potable water for construction or dust control if another source is available.

All local nurseries can help make selections of drought-tolerant plants, but most plants take lots of water to get them established – so gardeners planning additional upgrades to their properties might consider waiting a season, or asking for advice on the water needs for a particular new plant.

EBMUD does offer a variety of programs to help residents reduce their water consumption, including rebates on low-impact washing machines and toilets, which can do the same job with far less water than conventional models. The utility also offers landscaping programs, and free water-saving devices such as shower heads and aerators that can help households reach their reduction goal.

Information on all the programs is available at www.ebmud.com, or call 1-866-40-EBMUD.

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KENSINGTON CALENDAR

- July 5 – Knucklehead the Clown**, 2 p.m., Kensington Library. 524-3043.

July 7 – Castoffs Knitting Circle, 7 p.m., Kensington Library. 524-3043.

July 10 – Kensington Police Protection and Community Services meeting, 7:30 p.m., Community Center. 526-4141.

July 10 – Story times especially for toddlers, 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. on Thursdays through August 14, Kensington Library. 524-3043.

July 12 – Arts & Crafts Lover’s Sale, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Hillside Club, Berkeley. 527-6399.

July 18 – “Grace and Joy,” a photograph exhibit and benefit for cheetahs and Greyhounds for Life, at the Nan Phelps Gallery on Colusa Circle. 525-3834.
- July 28 – Discussion of Persuasion by Jane Austin**, 7 p.m., Kensington Library Book Club. 524-3043.

July 29 – Kensington Municipal Advisory Council, 7 p.m., Community Center. 273-9926.

August 2 – Sandi & Steve Bug Songs, 2 p.m., music program at Kensington Library, 524-3043.

August 16 – Bingo! for children with book prizes, 2 p.m., Kensington Library, 524-3043

August 21 – Drawing event for submission into a library contest, 3 p.m., Kensington Library, 524-3043.
- Send calendar items for the September issue to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com, or mail a release or information to Kensington Outlook, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707*

New Web Site Aims at Being Interactive

A new web site has been launched with the aim of keeping Kensington residents informed about meeting agendas and allowing them to make comments regarding particular items. Aaron Gobler of PagePoint Web Solutions unveiled the site to the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services (KPPCSD) last month.

The site, which can be found on the Internet at www.kensingtoncalifornia.org, offers an overview of the KPPCSD, as well as interactive features. While parts of

the site are still under development, the ultimate aim is to post agendas for the board well before the meeting to allow citizens who want to attend to become familiar with the issues beforehand, and ultimately to allow visitors to the site to make comments on issues through the web site, without attending the meeting.

PagePoint has partnered with an organization called Peak Democracy, an online forum facilitator organization, to create what Gobler has dubbed Open City Hall in Kensington. “We think this will increase participation,” he told the board.

The site provides links on the left of the home page for information about towed cars, animal control, the fire district, and Megan’s Law – which offers a link to a state database where visitors may check their neighborhood for the existence of registered sex offenders.

Phone numbers and links on the left of the page provide information about renting public facilities, police numbers, waste pick-up, and more.

The KPPCSD usually meets on the second Thursday of the month. To check for sure – that’s right, you can check the web site.

Government Web Addresses Updated

It seems that some people trying to reach Kensington board members on various commissions and employees are still using the old Internet addresses with the dot-us extension. To reach someone on a board and an employee, most can be reaching by using the first letter of the first name, followed by the last name, and the extension, such as pmclaughlin@kensingtoncalifornia.org.



Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers blares through a boom box to woo campers around and around in a game of musical chairs, above, while other campers work on their project inside during a session. Spots for the camp, sponsored by the Kensington Community Council, are still available. See Page 5 for details.



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Farmers' Market Grows, Attracts Vendors



Live music has become a regular feature at the market.



The number of artisans at the Farmers' Market has increased. Diane Lake comes from Pinole on Sundays to sell her photographs, greeting cards and paintings. The market is open every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Amilia Gioa, the daughter of Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioa, stops to smell the flowers at the Kensington Farmer's Market. Amilia turned 4 last month.

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New Officer for Force

Wilson Sworn In by Harman

Kensington has a new police officer. Officer Doug Wilson joined the force in June, joining three sergeants, five officers and a reserve officer. The department is still looking for a second reserve officer.

Chief Greg Harman swore Wilson in at the June meeting of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District.

"We're glad to have you," Harman told Wilson, who was honored with a small reception after the meeting.

Harman said the beginning of the background process has begun for Calvin Chang, who is being considered for the position of reserve police officer.

Also at the meeting, Harman reported hearing good news from residents regarding the new stop sign on Westminster, and thanks for monitoring the traffic during school hours. The department also received a thank you from the family of a 5-year-old in Tilden Park in May for his safe return.

He also announced that the department is investigating a "hostile work environment" complaint made regarding two members of the department.

Wilson said he is looking forward to working in Kensington, where officers respond to a variety of complaints, from wounded deer to the occasional serious crime.



Officer Doug Wilson

National Night Out August 5

Kensington neighborhoods are gearing up for the 25th Annual National Night Out, the crime and drug prevention event scheduled for Tuesday, August 5.

National Night Out involved 11,000 communities from all the states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world.

Some Kensington neighborhoods practically throw block parties that night, with barbecues and get-togethers, although the official hours for the event is 7 to 10 p.m.

National Night Out is designed to

heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts (like neighborhood watch); strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

For more information, to get involved, or to invite a fire official or police officer to your neighborhood, call the Kensington Police Department at 526-4141.

OBITUARIES

Katherine Trundle Fleming Harris Ligon

Kay Ligon, 92, of El Cerrito passed away suddenly in the late afternoon of Tuesday, June 10 while with her husband Charles R. ("Chick") Ligon in El Cerrito Plaza.



Kay Ligon

Her death was the result of a massive heart attack that immediately followed a massive stroke suffered by her husband.

According to reports, Kay and Chick had gone shopping when he complained about feeling poorly. He began to stumble and the store attendants found a chair and called 911. Just as he collapsed with a massive stroke, Kay suffered a major heart attack and fell to the ground. Kay died en route to the hospital. Chick suffered a massive hematoma in his brain and was in a coma until it was decided to end life support the next morning.

"They basically died instantaneously and in each other's arms," said Rev. Felicity Wright, pastor of Arlington Community Church, where both had been members.

Kay was born and raised in Sandy Springs, Maryland and attended Northwestern University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Throughout her life, she was active in many types of sports, being an active golfer and bowler until her death. She was a past president (and the only female to hold the position) of the Mira Vista County Club and was often seen carrying her own clubs, even playing nine rounds on the morning of her death.

She and her first husband Jack Fleming

moved to El Cerrito in 1949 with their two daughters Gail and June. A third daughter, Carol, was born in 1951. After the premature death of Jack in 1969, she married Mel Harris, who joined Kay in sports and civic activities, founding the local senior center until his death in 1988. Ten years later, she married Chick Ligon, who was recently widowed from his first wife. Although they had been sweethearts in high school, Kay and Chick had gone separate ways until reconnecting years later.

Kay was an active member of Arlington Community Church for 57 years, where she sang in the choir and served as Clerk of the Church, a member of the Board of Trustees, and a member of the Church Council. She and Chick were active with the Read-Aloud program and also



Kay and Chick Ligon

were regular volunteers at the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program, feeding the homeless as part of the SOUP Center. An avid gardener, Kay kept a beautiful yard and shared her knowledge, energy, and flowers with the church and the Country Club.

She is predeceased by her parents Dawson and Lucy Trundle, her first and second husbands, her daughter Gail Fleming, and her twin sisters Lucy Ormsby and Lula Trundle. She is survived by her brother Jim Trundle of New Jersey, her daughters June Lacy of Watsonville and Carol Sisk of Santa Cruz, her grandsons Aaron Sisk of San Francisco and Trevor Sisk of Santa Cruz, her niece Jackie Fonken of Richmond and many other nieces and nephews throughout the U.S.

Memorial Services will be held at Arlington Community Church, 52 Arling-

ton Ave., Kensington, CA 94707 on Saturday, July 12, at 2 p.m. Donations in her memory may be sent to the church or to the Greater Richmond Interfaith Project at 165 22nd Street, Richmond, Calif., 94801.

Memorial services for Charles R. Ligon will be held in Sandy Springs, Md., at a time and place to be determined.

Carole Busby Travers

Carole Busby Travers, a former resident of El Sobrante and longtime secretary at Hilltop School, passed away at Santa Teresa Hospital on June 10. She was 72.

Travers was born May 6, 1936 to Harold and Helen Busby of San Jose. She retired in 1999 from a 30-plus year career as a school secretary, with her last position being at Kensington School.

She returned to San Jose in 2000 to be near to her sister after living in El Sobrante and Richmond for many years. She was preceded in death by both of her husbands, Richard (Dick) Miller in 1973, and Richard (Dick) Travers in 1990.

She is survived by her sister, Diane Stephenson and husband Bob of San Jose; nephews, Clint, Jeff and Lance Evans; and her children, Laura Miller of San Jose, Paul Miller and wife Bambi and their children, Zachary and Samuel of Concord, and Mike Miller and wife Joe Anne of Helmsville, Mont. She will be missed by all of her loving family and friends.

Drug Recycling *cont'd from page 1*

accepted, because trained paramedics will be on hand to figure which pill is which, and will type and mark them. Many of the pills will be incinerated. However, the department will not be able to accept controlled substances, such as narcotics and those with the potential for addiction or abuse.

"We expect that the program will be very popular, especially for the first time, like the e-waste collection program," said El Cerrito Fire Chief Lance Maples. In the e-waste situation, residents who have had old computer components sitting in the garage or basement happily get rid of them, making such recycling programs popular in the early stages. Maples expects that dozens of residents will take advantage of this first-time drug recycling program.

For a list of medications KFPD cannot accept during its drop-off, check the USDEA website at www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/alpha/alphabetical.htm

Medications that are thrown into the trash or flushed down the toilet end up in a landfill or the water table, ultimately contaminating our drinking water and food. In addition, leaving expired medications in the medicine cabinet leaves everyone in the family vulnerable to a harmful mistake.

For more information, contact the Kensington Fire Protection District at 510-527-8395.

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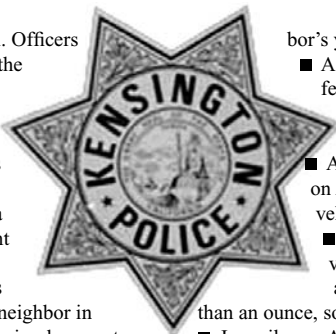
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From the case files of the KPD

This report is based on the many reports in the police logs of the Kensington Police Department. The Outlook is solely responsible for the writing and editing of this report.

Events in May

- Watch out for that – camper shell. Officers responded to a complaint of one in the middle of Eureka Ave., evidently lost by someone who prefers a convertible effect. But the driver came back and got it before officers arrived.
- A search warrant was served on a residence on Rodeo, and the resident was arrested.
- A resident on Trinity Avenue was worried when she had not seen her neighbor in some time, but it turned out she had simply gone to church. Prayers answered.
- Someone called in saying there was smoke at Berkeley Park and Colusa, but neither firefighters nor police could find it.
- Apparently unaware of statutes of limitations, a resident reported a suspicious event – that happened four years ago.
- A Nissan Pathfinder was stolen from a driveway on Anson Way.
- A man on Yale evidently doesn't have a spare key hidden outside, and locked himself out. Police helped him get back in.
- A resident's home on Arlmont got vandalized. Since tomatoes aren't quite ripe yet, a child resorted to simply throwing sticks into the middle of Arlington.
- Juveniles were caught skateboarding on a roof on Arlington Ave. Police got them to stop.
- An injured deer was humanely killed on Highgate Road.
- Oh, those annoying wind chimes – police had to intervene between neighbors on Highland Blvd. when one simply couldn't take it any more.
- A closed and locked garage didn't help on Trinity Ave. The car got stolen, anyway.
- A thief with a momentary inspiration to work out stole a gym bag from a car on Coventry, but thought better of it. The bag was found in a nearby trash can.
- A resident on Arlington found a neighbor trimming her trees. She told them to stop, and they did.
- A loud party had to be stopped on Edgcroft Rd.
- An Acura Integra was stolen on Highland Blvd., but police got it back.
- A transient who needed a cup of Joe was stopped for stealing coffee on Colusa Ave., but police thwarted his fix.
- Graffiti was found on the Community Center shed door, and on another day, the hose was cut.
- No more cannonballs: A pool flooded a neighbor's yard on Reed Place.



- A deer who tried to go through a fence on Lake Street tried and failed – and promptly got stuck. Animal control helped it out.
- A thief stole beer cans from a yard on Arlington, then fled in a stolen vehicle.
- Officer stopped a car for a code violation to find both the driver and passenger with marijuana. Less than an ounce, so both were cited on the scene.
- Juveniles on Arlmont, having apparently read "Dennis the Mennis," started throwing rocks, sticks and pine cones over a fence and broke a window to a home.
- A sex offender came into the office to change the record of his residence from one place in the district to another.
- Officers helped El Cerrito with a pursuit and subsequent crash.
- Alcohol was stolen from a storage container in the Arlington store group.
- A missing 5-year-old girl was found on the trails behind Hilltop School.
- Officers helped out with a shooting at Albany Bowl.
- Usually it's hard to get a bus – but a bus had a hard time getting around a parked car on Arlington Ave. Crunch.
- Someone tearing down Valley Road hit two parked cars, and sped away.
- Six cars, in all, were stolen in Kensington. A recovered one yielded some fingerprints, and the investigation is ongoing.
- A trespasser on an empty residence on Purdue Ave. was called in, and had sped away by the time officers arrived. Several things were checked for fingerprints, which were sent off to the Contra Costa Crime lab. So far, no matches.
- A senior resident got mad when a neighbor started building a fence on what she said was her property. The resident decided not to take civil action.
- Graffiti magically appeared on EBMUD property on Grizzly Peak Blvd.
- A sharp-eyed adult spotted a bunch of kids with fireworks, went and grabbed them by the ears, and waited for an officer to arrive. Officer made appropriate confiscations.
- Yet another deer hit on Arlington Ave. Put out of its misery.
- A roommate acting whacky had to be taken in for a psych evaluation. Meanwhile, other roommates were granted emergency protective orders.
- Twenty-two unfortunate people received tickets for doing something dopey with their car, like sliding through a stop sign.

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