

Bringing the Community Together

KENSINGTON OUTLOOK

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The Coventry Kazoo Club demonstrates how to socially distance while tooting their own horns. The group meets every Thursday evening to encourage camaraderie in the 700 block. Writes member Kay Reed: "We play songs from the Great American Songbook, Beatles favorites, and whatever comes to mind." Participants include Jess, Kai, and Zane Daugherty, Lee Mitchell, Kay Reed, the Kuehnl family—Amanda, Eric, Freddie, and Thom, Gary and Denise Van Kuiken, and Gretchen and Gayle Gillfillan. Photo by Andrew Reed.

Officer Brad Harms Wants to Educate... Or Give You a Ticket, Your Choice

By Linnea Due

When Interim Kensington Police Chief Steve Simpkins heard that his old friend, Dixon's Traffic Supervisor Brad Harms, was set to retire, he suggested that Harms come to Kensington. "He said, 'Why don't you come out and help with traffic here? I need a traffic officer, and this is a little slice of heaven, you'll love it.'" Harms was not convinced until he visited with Simpkins, and the two drove around the 'hood. "My wife said if you want to have fun, do it. I decided I would have fun here."

This is Harms' sixth posting with Simpkins. An Army brat, Harms was born at Fort Knox, Kentucky. His father, one of the last surviving members of the Green Berets, brought his family to various postings, including Germany and memorably, Izmir, Turkey. Harms

was between ages ten to twelve when he lived in Turkey, and he loved being there. When his father received a posting to Tehran, he opted out, and the family moved to Sacramento. Harms graduated from UC Davis; he was a good enough ball player to play semi-pro and played right field in junior college and at Davis.

Harms worked for 21 years with the Contra Costa County sheriff's department. He worked on county patrol in North Richmond, El Sobrante, Bethel Island, and others. And like Simpkins, he worked as a contract officer. He spent five years in San Ramon as a traffic officer with INPACT, which investigates serious or fatal accidents. "Not fun," Harms said. He wrote the traffic manual for Orinda, Dixon—and now for Kensington. Among

[See Brad Harms, Page 5](#)

From Quilts to Masks and Gowns

By Linnea Due

In 1978, the East Bay Heritage Quilters Guild came together to make quilts. The guild has met at Kensington's Unitarian Church all the years since—or at least they did until the coronavirus scotched in-person meetings. Now members of the group are using their skills and fabrics to create masks and hospital gowns.

Longtime quilter Mabry Benson explains that the transition to masks was surprisingly easy. "For at least the last twenty years, the guild has been distributing quilts we've made to hospitals and other facilities," she explains. Berkeleyan Carolyn Wild is the main distributor of the group's crafts. Benson says that they have donated quilts to neonatal units, fire victims, kids going through chemotherapy, nursing homes. Benson has made quilts for cancer victims, some decorated with the names of family members. "Those people told me how much that meant to them," she says, "to know that someone was thinking of them. It's such a tangible reminder that someone cares."

Benson says that when the group realized that health care workers were short of masks, it was very natural for their members to leap right in. "We thought that we could make masks to cover [health care workers'] good ones so the good ones would last longer," she says.

"Someone sent out a mask-making video and then another compiled about twelve videos and sent them to us. I settled on a simple pattern. We're not making them hospital quality—they can't protect you

[See Masks, Page 7](#)

K E N S I N G T O N

Community Education

KCC Summer Camp

Cancelled for Summer 2020

It is with great sadness that we must cancel all sessions of our KCC Summer Camp. Our staff and Board members have carefully reviewed guidelines from the American Camp Association, Contra Costa Health Services, and the CDC as we weighed our options. Unfortunately, as we gained more information and a better understanding of our present circumstances, we realized that we could not insure a completely safe environment this summer.

We would have loved to have provided a welcome diversion on Kensington's big lawn for your children, especially after months of quarantine. Sadly, we now recognize that we cannot guarantee a safe environment while providing a fun, freewheeling summer camp experience under the necessary constraints placed on us until our health professionals have a better understanding of COVID-19. Our first responsibility is always the health and safety of our children, their families, and our staff of wonderful counselors and teachers. This is something we felt we could not guarantee while the virus is still spreading through our community with insufficient means for isolating it.

Unlike our big city neighbors, the KCC Summer Camp is operated by the Kensington Community Council, a nonprofit organization, with more limited resources. Beyond our limited physical resources there are the logistical restrictions that daily health screening, constant disinfecting, and social distancing of campers would demand. The logistics of keeping cohorts of 12 campers together with no mingling with other cohorts for sessions of three weeks at a time would radically change the spirit of camp for everyone. Many of the activities that our campers have come to expect, such as fieldtrips and camp-wide Olympics, would not be possible.

We understand that this is a blow to parents who were hoping to provide their children with a fun activity after months of quarantine. We feel your disappointment deeply. Presently enrolled families will be contacted and full refunds will be made. If you have any questions contact: kccrec@yahoo.com. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please stay well this summer and we hope to see you on the big lawn in the near future.

Kensington Path Scavenger Hunt

Our local path expert Rodney Paul was scheduled to do a field trip scavenger hunt for our campers this month but since that has been cancelled we are posting a family scavenger hunt here and will give away prizes to the first 10 families to submit their correct answers to kccrec@yahoo.com. Deadline to submit answers for the scavenger hunt is August 1st

Instructions:
Please go to the Kensingtonpathkeepers.org website and find the map of the walking paths. You will walk the paths and look for answers to the questions below. You should use a mask or cloth facing covering while using the paths if social distancing guidelines are in place. Please respect guidelines and be considerate of others using the paths.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The two paths in red on the map are closed. It is not safe to use them, and they are not part of the scavenger hunt. The Westminster and Marchant paths are unpaved and steep, and you don't need to go on either to answer these questions. There are 7 total paths you should visit.



1. How many steps on all the Kensington Paths?
2. Which path has the most total steps?
Which path has the fewest?
3. Which paths have round utility holes about 2-feet in diameter (not including Westminster and Marchant paths)?
4. Which path has two lanes (and is therefore well suited for social distancing)?
5. Which path has the most wooden railroad ties?
6. Which paths have railings? Which do not?
7. On which path or paths can you see the Golden Gate Bridge?
8. There's a large metal gate on the Beloit steps. Find it and tell us which animal figures you see on it. How many people are on it?
9. There's a green sign on one of the paths. What does it ask path users to do?
10. Which path has a sign with the path name on it (not a number)?

Extra credit: Time yourself and report back on how long it took you to walk all 7 of the scavenger hunt paths in the same day.

Bubble Art Activity



- What You Need:
- Food Coloring
 - Bubbles
 - Cardstock paper
 - Small Clear Cups
 - Bubble Wand
- Directions:
1. Pour a small amount bubbles in each cup.
 2. Add about 5 drops of food coloring to each cup, make each cup of bubbles a different color.
 3. Stir your bubbles well.
 4. Lay your paper onto the grass or sidewalk, dip your wand into the colored bubbles and blow onto your white card stock.
 5. Let dry



Rock-'n-Roll Backlash

KCC, taking cognizance of a Rock-'n-Roll backlash, will sponsor a Spring Equinox dance, featuring record music 10 years old, or older. March 21, the first Saturday of spring vacation, will be the date of the informal fun affair. All community residents who prefer the music of other years are invited to bring their favorite records and to dance their favorite steps in the Youth Hut. KCC directors discussed the need



Volunteering service in KCC are: Back row, from left, Bob Johnson, Jacqueline Kinder, C. Judson King, Ernie Lageson, Annabelle Denham, Ivan Shuman, Marge Chapman, Andy Polese; Front Row: Larry Ruby, Dorothy Scott, Marguerite Wright, Marcia Crawford, Glen Kinder, and Outlook Editor Marion Martin. Edwards photo

KCC/KASEP Office: 59 Arlington Ave., Bldg. E (Across the grassy field above the tennis courts in Kensington Park), Kensington CA 94707. E-mail: kccrec@yahoo.com, or call 525-0292. Our website is: www.kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org.





Third Time’s the Charm

By Linnea Due

Newly hired interim chief of police Walt Schuld has retired a couple of times already, which makes his new post the third time he’s rejoined the work force. He retired in 2014 after a long career with the city of San Pablo’s police department, where he served in a number of positions before becoming chief in 2010. He came back as San Pablo’s assistant city manager, then again, when the then-current chief left suddenly, returned as chief for a spell. “I really wanted to help them out,” Schuld said in a phone interview June 4.

Does he not care for retirement? “I was liking it a lot,” he said. But apparently Steve Simpkins, now back with the county sheriff’s department after his own tour as Kensington’s interim chief, was very persuasive.

“Steve and I were good friends when he was chief at Danville,” Schuld said. “He talked to me about how great Kensington was and how great the police department can be. He asked if I would come back for another six months [following Simpkins’ interim]. It’s kind of like giving back to the profession that’s given me so much. My wife Christina said go for it if you really want to do it. I’m happy to be here to help out the department.”

Schuld worked with Simpkins for about a week, then began officially May 18. “I like the community. It’s very engaged and very caring. People ask a lot of thoughtful questions. I like that.”

Schuld grew up in a police family; his grandfather and father were officers. His grandfather spent his career in Detroit, and his father, starting in Detroit, moved the family to Santa Rosa during Schuld’s childhood.

The new interim chief has plenty on his plate, with some tasks made harder by the pandemic. “I’m pleased that officers are responding very well to the change,” Schuld said. “Police officers don’t like change, but these officers have been great.” Schuld plans to review departmental orders and policies, plus professionalize record-keeping by digitizing records. “We’ll look at upgrading the cars, the cars are pretty old. And there is the Public Safety Building.” Lately it has appeared more promising that the police will have a place in the renovated building, but while renovation is underway, the police must relocate to a temporary space.

“We have computer infrastructure that will take some planning [for the move],” Schuld said. “That will be the hardest part. The connection with Albany and the other links need to go off and come on simultaneously.”

Schuld is also developing emergency evacuation plans. Officer Brad Harms is spearheading that effort. Based on the study that the fire board commissioned, which showed the vital importance being able to access the top of the cemetery in an evacuation, Harms has partnered with the cemetery to allow traffic. “Brad is taking the lead on that and doing a good job. We’re also going to get the word out on parking. Some parking is facing the wrong way. We’re getting a basic plan done, and then we’ll get it out to the community.” There is also a volunteer program in the works, but that has been shelved by the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Schuld and Simpkins continue to look for a long-term chief. “We’re keeping our eyes and ears open. We want Kensington to have a good permanent chief for a lot longer than six months or a year.”

Schuld prefers a force of ten officers. “I would like ten so we aren’t seeing overtime. If we budget for ten, we can keep recruiting if we have nine. It will probably average out to eight or nine. If they just give you two weeks’ notice, it takes six to eight months to hire someone between the recruiting, background checks, psychological and medical exams. Recruiting is very difficult these days.”

On that note, Schuld said, “This is a very difficult time for police. Nobody likes to see what’s going on and the strain it puts on all officers, even though it was done by a few.”

Schuld may be able to serve for longer than six months if the search for a permanent chief is prolonged. “This time doesn’t count,” he explained—as a retired annuitant, Schuld can work 960 hours per fiscal year, and the new fiscal year begins in July. After July, “CalPERS is giving some dispensation,” Schuld explained, “If the employee is needed during the COVID emergency, then hours don’t count until the emergency is over with.”



Five-year-old Elana Feller takes daily walks with her family. She noticed that the grassy knoll bordered by Santa Fe and Oak View was littered with cigarette butts, bottles, and other detritus. She made it her mission to organize neighbors, including Nidaan Chekuri, age six, to pick up the trash. On a bright and gusty Saturday morning, several bags of litter were collected and disposed of. Thank you, Elana! Photo by Eileen Nottoli.

CITIZEN FORUM

A Pandemic Forces Rethinking KPD Alternatives

By Marilyn Stollon

In mid-May, a sea change hit Kensington. Steve Simpkins, the Interim Chief of Police, who metaphorically rode his horse into town to clean it up, has departed. Departing with him will be his version of peace-making and vision-setting in our divided town.

Residents will be faced with the question of “What’s next” in the long-running conflict over the future of the police department. Shall we pursue the goal of full or partial contracting for police services or maintain an in-house department?

Will the lawn signs come down as we move towards a new phase post-Simpkins’ rehabilitation? Are we closer than we think to some type of preliminary short- or long-term resolution? What are the realistic options going forward?

The Coronavirus pandemic will likely put a fiscal monkey wrench in future plans, not only for our town but everywhere else. Without a doubt there will be major budget shortfalls and impacts from lost revenue. CalPERS financial losses, for example, will likely increase our annual pension obligation payments. We do not know how our property tax revenue projections will ultimately shake out, because we have yet to see what will occur in the real estate market in terms of home values, foreclosures, and job losses over the long term. All of this uncertainty suggests taking a more conservative fiscal path.

You might ask how we got here and where did this standoff at the OK Corral begin. While not everyone remembers the 2014 incident we call Renogate, the officer misconduct was only a symptom of a deeper problem. Briefly, it arose out of management negligence stemming from a combined General Manager/Chief of Police position for many years. This led to poor staff oversight, conflicts of interest, cronyism, lawsuits, and abuse of power within the department. The combined position led to disastrous results in terms of managing the district’s daily administrative affairs and the KPD. Simply put, the residents took sides, those who preferred things as they were, and those who wanted reform.

District management improved over the past few years with the split of the GM/COP, hiring an experienced GM, a review of policing and district operations, the GM’s reorganization of staff, and most recently the temporary hire of Chief Simpkins, a “turnaround specialist” in law enforcement management. Simpkins instituted changes and acknowledged that KPD made “colossal” mistakes, but he believes the department is salvageable and would require a very experienced chief to build on and sustain the changes Simpkins

Simpkins met with residents on both sides and believes we are closer in more ways than apart.

made. He met with residents on both sides of the conflict and reports we are closer in more ways than apart. Both sides can agree that professional, well-managed, cost-effective police services is desirable.

In many ways KPPCSD is at a turning point—and unfortunately without the luxury of a growing economy as far as the eye can see. Triggered in part by the Coronavirus pandemic, we have significant known and now unknown liabilities, including the renovation of the public safety building. Add in competing demands for limited space by the fire department and KPD, and we have a capital expenditure that could go into the millions.

CalPERS has been struggling to match returns on its investments with its payout obligations for years. With the hit to the stock market, we can be sure that our obligations for retirees will increase.

Other known costs that will place demands on our town’s residents for years to come include hiring of a new GM. We got away on the cheap by hiring a retiree whose hours were capped by his state retirement plan and probably put in a lot more hours than he would acknowledge. Can we afford to let this critical position be downgraded with a part-time, less experienced GM?

For all his problem-solving and leadership skills, Simpkins was expensive—running \$300,000-375,000 with his extension. How far will our dollars go on the open market? We know we can’t go back to hiring unqualified chiefs, but even market rates will be hard on our budget.

People also want composting, and we should have composting. But it will be a new charge to the family budget that along with increasing water rates and electricity charges to clean up the mess at PG&E will squeeze us even further.

The question for residents becomes not what we’d like to have but what must we have to enjoy professional, well-managed, cost-effective police services? At the very least, it seems that partial contracting (property room, major crimes, internal affairs investigations, HR) may be the most fiscally viable option for the short term to free up space.

I stress short term because if problems resurface with the KPD, which unfortunately is characteristic of small departments nationwide, then full contracting should be revisited. At that time, the district’s financial situation will need a hard look at the costs and benefits.

But for the present, partial contracting may be the more reasonable way forward in these uncertain times and get us all out of the OK Corral alive.



Graduates continue to be celebrated: On June 4, neighbors at Kensington Court gathered to honor block grads Ford Whitefield-Brewer and Ari Libenson. During the festivities, KFD's Engine 65 and the KPD drove by to applaud the graduates. Photos by Elisabeth Cornu. Pictured below: Ari Libenson, Berkeley High, UCLA, and right, Miles Turman, El Cerrito High, UC Berkeley.

Passings

Esther Oswalt, née Esther Mary Smith, passed away on April 26. Thinking it would be the best path to helping society, she majored in sociology at the University of Cincinnati and to Berkeley for a masters in economics. She met her husband Robert at the International House in Berkeley. She worked for the Heller Committee for Research in Economics and organized programs at the YWCA.

She was active in the Kensington PTA, including work with the carnival, and was a longtime member of the Unitarian Church and the AAUW.

Amid racial strife in the summer of 1969, she organized KPEG, a day camp for the primarily white graduating sixth graders of Kensington Hilltop and the primarily black students of Pullman Elementary (now King) who would attend middle school together the following year. Near the bottom of Rifle Range Road in what is now Wildcat Canyon Park, the kids got to know each other in activities including music, nature walks, and native culture. Esther considered this her greatest achievement.

Once her younger child was a teenager, she felt she could return to her efforts to help the world and became a high school teacher for 14 years. Upon her retirement she became a docent at the UC Botanical Gardens.

She was a pioneer of Kensington's unique neighborhood on Purdue Avenue and helped finish the house. Up until the end of her time there in 2008, she slept on a back porch to be close to the owls and all of nature. She spent her final years at Piedmont Gardens in Oakland.

She is survived by sons John of Sebastopol and Edward of Kensington, and grand-daughter Ariel. Her husband Robert predeceased her in 2007.



Brad Harms
...from Page 1



his earlier countywide duties coordinating the Avoid the 25 program, referencing the county's 25 police departments. "It was a don't drink and drive program. We set up DUI checkpoints, performed saturation patrols on holidays, Christmas week, Memorial Day. And we coordinated with other officers from different jurisdictions."

Suffice to say that Brad Harms has had almost thirty years experience focusing on traffic. So what has he noticed about Kensington since he started February 5?

"Drivers are predictably noncompliant during commute hours," Harms reported during a phone interview April 8. "People drive too fast. They come on the Arlington to bypass commute traffic. They come up the hill to Fish Ranch Road and come down on the other side. They cut through our fine city."

He has noticed that drivers tend to accelerate quickly on straight-aways because they know they have to slow down for the next segment of road. "I've also seen a slight uptick in road rage," he said. "It's because the roads are narrow. People have to share the road. If one person is in a rush and doesn't pull over to extend normal courtesy to the oncoming driver, there are verbal altercations."

Parking is also at a premium. "When someone calls to complain about a parked car, you simply move the issue down the road. By fixing the first complaint, you generate another complaint from someone else. We need to be tolerant and understanding. There is no clear-cut solution for some neighborhoods."

Harms exhibits all the tolerance that he wishes for in others. He has a protocol for speeders, stopping the driver and giving him two choices: "Option A: we give you a citation that will cost you a couple hundred dollars. Option B: we give you a written admonishment. Guess what they choose."

But that choice has teeth. "A warning ticket is not a real citation, but it is a ticket that is entered into a database. If you're stopped again, the tolerance is greatly diminished. The point is to identify repeat offenders."

Harms says the virus has added to the challenge of stopping people. "I hand them the citation to sign and they don't want to take the pen," Harms said. "Some agencies are buying boxes of cheap pens and let the driver take the pen from the box. The good news is that you get a free pen. The bad news is that it comes with a citation."

Having such an experienced traffic safety officer is a boon in another way: Harms knows how to raise funds. He and Simpkins have talked about strategies for making Colusa Circle safer. Drivers on Colusa tend to think that they have the right of way and often horn in on drivers already in the roundabout. Harms is trying to put Kensington into a competitive position to get money to enhance the safety of the circle.

Harms said that controlling traffic depends upon the Three E's. "Enforcement, which isn't popular. Engineering, which is very expensive. And education. The chief and I are big into education. We're not big on writing a lot of tickets. But again, the idea is to identify repeat offenders, those for whom education is not working." Moral: drive as if your life depends upon it.

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And on Top of Everything Else... It's Fire Season!

By Kevin Padian and Larry Nagel
Kensington Fire Protection District Directors

As if you didn't have enough to worry about! But we never know when disaster will strike. So try to take a few minutes to begin some preparations. Now is the time to check your supplies of batteries, flashlights, battery-powered radios, and bottled water and quick portable energy foods. Pull out your go-bag (or find a good canvas duffel) and stock it. Browse "go-bag essentials" for ideas and suppliers. And plan your evacuation routes and destinations!

Keep your cell phones on and near you when you retire at night. An emergency warning will wake you. We all hate robo-calls at night, but newer phones can block numbers automatically. And make sure you're signed up for our county warning system! Go to cws.cccounty.us and enter your phone number and the zip codes for which you'd like to receive alerts. You can also sign up for Nixle, an alert system that gives you other police and fire warnings, sorted by zip code (up to five). Go to local.nixle.com/register/ or text your zip code to 888777.

Once you're alerted, how do you keep in touch? Cell phones and laptops are great until the power goes out. Many cell towers have only a few hours of back-up battery (50-80 percent of the service went out in some Bay Area counties during PG&E's last planned shutoff). You need one or more portable power stations. These are not gas-powered generators; they're electrical storage units that you charge by plugging them into the wall overnight (a charge usually lasts about six months). They have ports for USB, micro-USB; larger ones even have AC outlets. These can keep phones, laptops, lamps, modems, and even refrigerators going for an extended time. Plan on about 240 watt-hours of power per person per week. Please order these NOW and charge them right away so that you'll be prepared for an outage!



And we hate to sound like old fogies, but an old-fashioned battery-powered AM/FM radio is a cheap, efficient, and reliable source of information. Some radios (like the Vondior VX-W going for about \$25) also have a NOAA weather radio band that can alert you to dangers. Local frequencies include 1610 AM (Berkeley emergency information only), KCBS (740 AM), KQED (88.5 FM), and KSOL (98.9 FM, Spanish). Some radios (like the Midland ER-210) can be set to wake you automatically with noise and light when a NOAA emergency is activated. Don't forget the batteries! For questions and information, visit kensington-fire.org or email fire@kensingtonfire.org. Stay safe!



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Masks

...from Page 1



from everything. But just keeping your mouth covered is a good way to keep it from spreading around.”

Benson makes hers with pleats and elastic. She explains that the pleats are necessary because the masks must be wide enough in the front to cover the nose and mouth but can’t be wide at the ears. “We’re using quilting material to make the masks,” she says. “We’ve got far more fabric than our lives will allow us to use. Once the mask-making took off, elastic has been the problem in the supply chain.” A couple members scored some large rolls, which eased that difficulty.

“Some people use cute fabrics,” she says, “but our goal was to get things made. We’re into mask production, not fashion.” Benson alone has made over a hundred adult masks and seventy masks for kids.

But for now, she says, she has turned her attention to gowns. One person’s relative works as a nurse at Highland Hospital; the nurse asked if the group could make gowns. “She had a pattern, and there’s a store on Solano called Hello Stitch where people are cutting fabric to the patterns for gowns. The first ones I made went directly to the nurse, but some are now going to Children’s Hospital in Oakland.” Benson makes her own clothes, so sewing gowns is not a stretch.

Quilters, says Benson, have a long history of making quilts for others. “It’s an easy extension to be sewing up these masks. It’s just something we can do.”

SIP Perfect for Sisyphus

Not everyone is making masks—some are digging into other worthy tasks. Writes Jim Gasperini: “My project while sequestered at home: rid a small corner of Tilden Park of certain invasive weeds. An hour or so a day, armed with trowel, shovel, leather gloves, and ear buds playing NPR podcasts, I get a little outdoor exercise digging up young sprouts of French broom, two kinds of thistle, and bristly oxtongue.

“Last year a group of Plateau and Canon Drive neighbors hired crews to remove dangerous accumulations of brush, using grants from the Diablo Fire Safe Council. Our efforts, with the permission of the East Bay Regional Parks fire marshal, extended into a large Tilden meadow along the north side of Canon Drive. These plants are a lot easier to remove when newly sprouted in damp soil, so there I am.

“I suppose you could say that with this Sisyphean labor I’m just making room for other weeds, notably poison oak and blackberry. Those pose less fire danger, at least. Also poison oak is native, and I don’t mind blackberry as long as it doesn’t snake through my garden.”

Experience Counts: Fire District Hires Interim GM

By Linnea Due

After longtime fire district manager Brenda Navellier left Kensington last year, fire-board directors took on a lot of work themselves and then hired consultants Regional Government Services for planning and administrative duties. Meanwhile, former Tracy mayor Brent Ives, who has worked with the California Special Districts Association, began looking for a general manager to take Navellier’s place. In May, interim general manager Mary Morris-Mayorga came on board.

Born and raised in Roseville, Morris-Mayorga majored in business at American River and Sacramento State, and then received a masters in business administration from Sac State. She said during a phone interview June 11 that she started out in the private sector at small engineering and service firms. Her first public agency was with Sacramento County’s Department of Airports. “I jumped out of the private sector,” she said, “because I wanted to do my part in eliminating the stigma that government and public sector is not as good as private.”

She was soon promoted to an air quality management district. “They wanted to form their own special district,” Morris-Mayorga said. “It’s really like forming a new agency, looking at service providers, setting up protocols. That experience helped me with coming here.”

“Then I got a promotion into a larger agency, Vallejo Flood and Water district.” There she tackled HR challenges: “I had a department with a lot of employees who had been there a long time. We had to upgrade their skills and effect a lot of culture change.” After working 35 years, she retired in 2019 and did some consulting before Ives gave her a call.

Morris-Mayorga expects her greatest challenge will be dealing with the intricacies of the Public Safety Building renovation. “Bill Lindsay [police district interim GM] and I have had a couple of conversations. We both have similar ideas for working with our separate districts. I want to collect all the relevant information that our board needs. That’s my plan and his plan as well. We need to get all the information in front of them so they can make good, thoughtful decisions.”

Morris-Mayorga is happy to be on the job—which, unlike CalPERS retirees, is not limited by the number of hours she can work per year. After only a month, she put together a complicated budget accompanied by a narrative to make the budget comprehensible to the community. She plans to hire an intern and a part-time financial assistant. “There are different types of policies I want to update; I want to meet the board’s expectations. My goal is to get that done while they [the directors] go through the process of recruiting a permanent GM. My stay depends upon how long that takes.”



Morris-Mayorga relies on her passion for tackling difficulties. “My experience is to come into organizations that could use some help. That’s what I live on. I think those things that are challenging end up being the most rewarding.”



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MAY POLICE LOG

2 PERSON SEEKING ADVICE FROM PD, Colusa Ave. RP has questions regarding the resp who appears to be violating restraining order. He has been heard going up to the RP's floor during the night. RP would like to know if KPD could do anything to help prevent this from occurring (extra patrols or a PD veh parked ifo around 0400hrs).

3 BURGLARY, Stratford Rd. Auto, occurred last night. Driver side keyhole damaged to make entry. Nothing of value taken.

MISSING PERSON, Grizzly Peak. Walked away from residence within the last 2 hrs at risk due to Alzheimer's disease 72yro female 501 medium build long blk hair l/s wearing a gry sweater wht pants green tennis shoes usually carries a blk bag or purse which is not at the house no phone, does not drive, used to walk school trail w/ husband. Located walking in El Cerrito by a good Samaritan after search was conducted by county and local PDs.

RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLE, Lessen Ct. Three BMAs or HMAs 20s, smaller 2D silver Chev. going up the hill across from abandoned house for over an hour w/flashlights. Three males arrested for probation violations, pos-session of stolen vehicle and No Bail Warrant out of Alameda.

4 ENTER & OCCUPY PROPERTY W/OUT CONSENT OF OWNER, Colusa Ave. Interrupted. Woke up and saw some-one inside his res. BMA , 30s, 510, long jacket, backpack, mostly dark clothing. Did not see what direction he left in. Unknown how sus made entry. No items appear to be taken. Unable to Locate.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S, Berkeley Park Blvd. Occurred early this morning, approx 0500 hrs. Male subject came onto RP's property and appeared to be prowling. Ring doorbell footage available.

VEHICLE THEFT, Lexington Rd. Poss occurred between yesterday evening and today. No broken glass in area. Veh was locked.

CASE/INCIDENT FOLLOW-UP, Lexington Rd. Car stolen 0655 this morning, neighbor has video.

7 IDENTITY THEFT, Ardmore Rd. RP found a Craigslist listing of a rental property in Emeryville. RP already gave personal information but no financial information yet says that the “scammer” is now requesting for him to send him a \$1200.00 check.

8 DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Dewey Rd. Neighbor yelling at construction workers and chasing them off obstruct-ing construction to repair a pool. RP says that they have county permits to do the work.

BURGLARY, Grizzly Peak. Residence broken into again, RP hasn't been there for the past 2 weeks, gained entry into garage.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Sunset Dr. WMA 60s, gray hair, shoulder length, beard, walking in circles, asked RP's 12-year-old son to “come here.” When he didn't, the subject lunged at RP's son, a runner in area intervened. Unable to locate. Next day possible subject located.

9 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, Colusa Ave. RP reporting finding her neighbor's (whom she has a restraining order against) motorcycle helmet by their front door. Subject not seen going onto their property.

PETTY THEFT, Highgate Rd. Unlocked veh, rummaged through, insurance papers, registration taken and tools value up to \$300.

10 WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE OF COURT ORDER, Colusa Ave. Downstairs neighbor is restrained against RP, she has camera footage of him on her back stairs.

PERSON SEEKING ADVICE FROM PD, Colusa Ave. Subject came onto RP's property. Has a restraining order. KPD was dispatched but did not arrest the resp. RP asking why arrest didn't occur.

DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Colgate Ave. Friend taking care of RP's stepfather, friend's father tall WMA 70 yro is also there yelling and behaving erratically inside and outside the house. Parties advised.

11 VEHICLE TAMPERING, Anson Way. Catalytic converter theft.

17 GRAND THEFT, Arlington Ave. Catalytic converter taken between 11am-3pm yesterday or sometime last night, misc tools left behind.

18 VEHICLE TAMPERING, Arlington Ct. Attempt catalytic converter theft interrupted RP has photo of responsible l/s e/b onto Arlington 3 mins prior unk description faced covered w/handkerchief. Subjects identified and case is under investigation.

CASE/INCIDENT FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY, Highland Blvd. Female trespasser leaving things on property, looking into and kissing windows left package today with message about poisoning hearts or similar.

23 SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S, Grizzly Peak Blvd. Person unk descript seen from upstairs window, walking down the street walked across their front yard with a flashlight, departed in an unk descript n/b.

26 IDENTITY THEFT, Arlington Ave. Someone was able to contact RP's bank and request a replacement credit card be sent overnight via UPS to the subjects res.

28 911 CALL, Colusa Ave. CHP transfer...RP has a restraining order against former downstairs neighbor, he is restrained from RP. has only heard someone downstairs. Subject was not in the area.

29 DISTURBANCE OF PEACE, Coventry Rd. Neighbor hosting a gathering and being loud, it's a weekly occur-rence, they are in the back yard with food a lot of kids, RP cannot see if they are wearing masks or social distanc-ing, due to the pandemic it is making RP anxious. Advised RP we could tell neighbors about noise complaint and remind them of social distancing but not much we can do if they are on their own property.

30 BURGLARY/OUTSIDE ASSIST, Eastshore, Albany. At 2145 hours, a commercial burglary was discovered at the Target store. A suspicious vehicle in the area was stopped, and the occupants were detained but ultimately released. Investigation ongoing. KPD officer assisted and secured Target until other officers arrived.

Kensington residents who live on Arlington Ave. showed support for Black Lives Matter by standing on their driveways on June 7. Pictured here is the Gawlikowski family. Photo by Sacha Kawaichi.

RIP Medical Debt

By Linnea Due

What better deed than to reduce or eliminate someone’s debt? So many people become homeless or declare bankruptcy because of medical expenses that they cannot possibly pay.

In late February, a group of East Bay UCC churches, spearheaded by our own Arling-ton Community Church, began to fundraise to pay off medical debt of people in Alam-eda and Contra Costa counties. Nine area churches contributed, in an effort made far more difficult by the pandemic, managing to raise \$44,000, thus erasing \$2.6 million in medical debt for residents of Contra Costa County and slightly less in Alameda County.

Reverend Nate Klug, minister of ACC, said that non-ACC members contributed as well as congregants, and that the amount was sufficient “to retire all the medical debt cur-rently available for purchase in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.”

Added Rev. Molly Baskette of the First Church Berkeley, “While we know that current economic conditions and public health emergency will soon create more medical debt, we are glad to be able to give so many neighbors a clean slate right now.”