



January Newsletter

Last day to renew and save!

If you have not yet renewed your WDDNA membership, today is the last day to do so and save. Renew today and your fee will be just \$275.

To renew online, just click on the button below. If you prefer to pay by mail, send your check for \$275, along with a note with your name and address and mail it to WDDNA, P.O. Box 2273, Carmichael, CA 95609. Or you can download a mail-in renewal form by CLICKING HERE.

If you have any questions about your membership, feel free to contact our membership chairwoman, Maria Talcott, at mariatalcott@gmail.com or call her at (916) 716-4046.

CLICK HERE TO RENEW NOW

Virtual annual meeting was a success

As you know, because of COVID-19 concerns, we were unable to hold our annual member meeting this year. Instead, we recorded ZOOM video presentations and emailed this virtual meeting to all members, along with a digital board election ballot.

To our delight, 764 WDDNA members opened the annual meeting email. Nearly 100 of those members watched the 15-minute interview with Ron Linthicum, supervising deputy district attorney at the Community Prosecution Unit of the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office. He discussed the prosecution of burglars, the challenges of dealing with offenders who are homeless and suggestions for protecting yourself from criminal activity. If you did not have a chance to see it, CLICK HERE to watch it now.

In addition, 151 members voted in our election and approved our slate of board members.

We wish each of you a healthy and safe new year and we thank you for your continued support of our association.

Recycle your Christmas tree Jan. 9-10

Give your holiday tree a new life! Sacramento County residents can drop off their live holiday tree for recycling on Saturday, Jan. 9, and Sunday, Jan. 10. If you take your tree to one of five locations around the county, it will be mulched or used as biofuel to generate electricity. You also can recycle the tree by cutting it up and placing it in your curbside green waste cart.

Keep your dog under control

A few years ago, Bill Davidson, a supervisor with Sacramento County Animal Control, was walking his small dog on a leash through his neighborhood when he spotted an unleashed dog racing toward them.

Fearing a confrontation that could injure them both, he quickly scooped up his dog and looked for a way to protect him. It was trash day on his street, so he made a flash decision. He lifted the lid of a nearby garbage can and dropped his dog in.



"When the other dog was gone, I opened the lid of the can," Davidson recalls with a laugh. "My poor dog looked up at me with total confusion, but at least he was safe."

According to Davidson, this type of confrontation is all too common. Most often, it occurs when a dog owner is in his front yard with his unleashed pet. The animal spies another dog walking on a leash with its owner and charges off the property to investigate. The confrontation can be frightening for the leashed dog and its owner and sometimes ends badly.

"People have been faced with this problem for eons," said Davidson in a recent interview. He said such events are very common and can create a real dilemma for both dog owners.

"Many people don't believe that their family pet could ever be threatening to others," Davidson explained. "They believe that their dog is friendly and just wants to say hello. But any dog can be a threat, because dogs are dogs. They can react in unexpected ways."

According to animal behavior researchers, when an unleashed dog greets a leashed dog, the contact can quickly turn bad. Certified dog trainer Cathy Madson noted on PreventiveVet.com that the dynamics between a leashed dog and off-leash dog are different than if both dogs were leashed or off leash.

https://www.preventivevet.com/dogs/what-to-do-when-approached-by-an-off-leash-dog Because a dog on a leash feels constrained and less able to protect himself, he may cower, become frantic or react with fearful aggression. His reaction can elicit a hostile reaction from the unleashed dog. In moments, the whole thing can get out of control.

Davidson noted that Sacramento County's ordinance allows dog owners to have their dogs off leash on their own property. However, as soon as the dog leaves that property, the dog owner may be legally liable for whatever happens.

"It's a very common issue," he explained. "If the dog bites another dog or its owner, there may be legal consequences." He said the owner of the unleashed dog may be sued. Or his dog may be injured in a fight or struck by a car.

"When we receive reports of dog confrontations, we usually visit the owner of the unleashed dog and explain that they are liable when their dog leaves their property. We

find that education is our best tool in these situations." To protect all concerned, he urges dog owners to keep their animal on a leash or a tether whenever they are in an un-fenced yard.

So, what's a dog owner to do if he sees an unleashed dog racing toward him? According to Madson, stay calm.

"The calmer you are, the calmer your dog will be. If you have time and enough distance, simply walk in a different direction with your dog. Avoiding contact with the off-leash dog is the best option!"

If that is not possible, Madson offers the following tips:

- Tell the unleashed dog in a loud, firm voice to "Go Home!" or issue a command, such as "Sit."
- Step forward and put your hand out in a stop motion. Use your body to block the approaching dog. Continue to stay between him and your dog as you make your way out of the area.
- Throw treats at the unleashed dog as a distraction. While they are searching for the treats on the ground, you have time to get away with your dog.
- Block and startle. You can carry an umbrella and pop it open in the direction of the approaching dog. This may startle him enough to scare him away. Some dog owners carry a can of compressed air or citronella spray for the same purpose. Avoid using pepper-spray. It's inhumane, can blow back towards you and can trigger or intensify aggressive behavior from the approaching dog.

Finally, Davidson advises that you report such incidents to the county. "I have had people tell me that this problem had been going on for years, but they never reported it. We can't help you if you don't report it. If you file a report, we can try to address the issue with the dog owner."

To report dog incidents, call 311. Sac County 311 customer service representatives are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Be sure to let them know you live in the county, so they know which agency to contact. For more information about county animal regulations and ordinances, <u>CLICK HERE</u>.

Parks with leash laws

Leashes required at Ashton Park
Ashton Park, located at 4251 Ashton
Drive, is operated by the Mission
Oaks Park and Recreation District. It
is a 9.8-acre park with a variety of
amenities and serves the Wilhaggin
and Del Dayo neighborhoods.



Because of its open, grassy playing fields, many dog owners are tempted to turn their pets loose for a run there. However, Ashton Park is NOT a dog park. All dogs must be kept on a leash. There are no exceptions and park patrols routinely enforce this rule.

Keep dogs leashed in county parks

Sacramento County Code states that dogs must be kept on leashes within county regional parks. Why must dogs be on a leash?

- For the safety of your dog Your dog can become trapped or injured while in unfamiliar territory, bitten by rattlesnakes or other animals or exposed to wildlife hazards, including ticks, poison oak or other plants that have thorns or burrs. Your pet will be less likely to encounter these dangers while on a leash.
- For the safety of wildlife Animals may be flushed out of nesting sites or have their homes destroyed by digging dogs.
- For the safety of people Some people, particularly children, are afraid of dogs, even friendly ones.
- It's the law. Sacramento County Code 9.36.061 (d) requires dogs to be on a leash. Leashes, even retractable ones, must be six feet or less in length.

American River Parkway doggie waste stations

For the health of the American River Parkway and those who use it, the county asks that you clean up after your dog. Doggie waste stations with Mutt Mitts can be found at the following locations along the American River Parkway:

- Arden Way
- Estates Drive
- Jacob Lane
- Kadema Drive
- Mira Del Rio Drive
- Paradise Beach
- Rod Beaudry Drive
- Sailor Bar
- Gold River

Dog Parks

Sacramento County

If you are looking for a park where your pet can run free, here are some off-leash dog parks in Sacramento County.

- Carmichael Park Dog Park - 5750 Grant Ave.
- Phoenix Park 9050
 Sunset Ave.
- Howe Avenue Park 2201 Cottage Way
- Westside Park 6601 West 2nd St., Rio Linda
- Bark Park 3839 Bradshaw Rd., near Bradshaw Animal Shelter
- Hagan Park 2197 Chase Dr., Rancho Cordova
- Elk Grove Park Off-Leash Dog Park,9950 Elk Grove-Florin Rd.
- Laguna Community Park 9014 Bruceville Rd.
- C Bar C Park 8275 Oak Ave., Citrus Heights

City of Sacramento

The City of Sacramento also has a number of dog parks. Following is a list of city dog parks:

- Barandas Dog Park, 2805 Grasslands Dr.
- Blackbird Park Dog Parks, 3765 Hovnanian Dr.
- A 0.6 acre small dog park, a 1.6 acre large dog park. Both dog parks contain turf areas, shade canopies, benches, dog drinking fountains.
- Glenbrook Park, 8500 La Riviera Dr.
- Granite Regional Park, 8200 Ramona Ave.
- Jacinto Creek Park, 8600 West Stockton Blvd.
- Lynn Robie Dog Park, 7895 Freeport Blvd. (at Bill Conlin Youth Sports Complex)
- The small dog park is 0.21 acres, and the large dog park is 1.34 acres. Both dog parks contain turf areas.



- North Natomas Regional Park, 2501 New Market Dr.
- Partner Park, 5699 South Land Park Dr., behind Belle Cooledge Community Center
- Regency Community Park, 5500 Honor Pkwy., North Natomas
- Sutter's Landing Park, 20 28th St.
- This 2.5-acre Park includes areas for large & small dogs.
- Tanzanite Community Park, 2220 Tanzanite Way
- Truitt Bark Park, 1818 Q St.
- This park contains separate fenced areas for large and small dogs, public "BARK" art; lighting and trees.
- University Avenue Dog Park, 1900 University Ave.
- Valley Oak Dog Park, 2780 Mabry Dr. in the Natomas area.
- The small dog park is 0.54 acres, and the large dog park is 2.0 acres. Both dog parks contain turf areas, benches, tables and dog drinking fountains.

Sacramento City Dog Park Rules

- Dog owners/handlers are personally and legally responsible for their animals. You are using these facilities at your own risk.
- Dogs may be off a leash only within the designated fenced area.
- Owners/handlers must clean up after their dogs.
- Dogs must have a current license, license must be on dogs' collar, the collar must be on the dog.
- Aggressive dogs are not allowed. The owner/handler of any dog exhibiting aggressive or unruly behavior are required to immediately remove the offending animal.
- For every two dogs brought to the park, there must be at least one owner/handler.
- Children less than 14 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Female dogs in season are not allowed at the facility.

Check before you burn

Now through February, wood burning is restricted in the unincorporated county, as well as in the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento in accordance with air quality regulations.

The restrictions are applicable to fireplaces, wood stoves, fire pits or chimneys.

To check on whether burning is allowed on a particular day, go to http://www.airquality.org/Residents/Fireplaces-Wood-Stoves/Check-Before-You-Burn.

Implementation of these restrictions have helped reduce pollution and allowed our area to stay in compliance with federal air quality standards. Fine particle pollution from smoke poses a serious health threat, including:

- Decreased lung function
- Aggravated asthma
- Development of chronic respiratory disease in children
- Irregular heartbeat
- Premature death in people with lung or hear disease
- Reduced blood clotting ability

From a WDDNA member: Jury duty and COVID-19

I recently received a Sacramento County jury summons. With the COVID-19 situation and

being in my 60s, I did not want to wait in the county courthouse for hours to see if I might be needed for a jury panel. On the juror summons letter, it mentioned that I could obtain a physician's excuse to postpone my service. I called my doctor, who emailed me a short letter asking that I be granted a six-month postponement from jury service. I emailed the letter to the courthouse and was excused for six months.

Other WDDNA members may be relieved to know that they, too, can do as I did and avoid the risk of visiting the always crowded county courthouse during this pandemic. (If you are 70 or older, you may be able to be excused without a doctor's note. Contact the Jury Commissioner at juryduty@saccourt.ca.gov for information.)

Protect yourself from fraud

AARP recently offered a list of advice for protecting yourself from fraud in the new year. Following are some of their tips:

Better password protection

Many online retailers and financial institutions offer dual factor authentication. That is, you must enter your password information then enter a unique code that they send to you to confirm that you are really you. Experts highly recommend that you turn on this feature and use it.



Protect your mail

If you are concerned about snail mail theft, you can sign up for the US Postal Service "Informed Delivery" service. This service emails you images of all the letter-sized mail they have processed for delivery to your address. That way you can monitor what should be turning up in your mailbox. To sign up, go to <u>informeddelivery.usps.com</u>.

Check your credit report

All three major credit reporting services – Equifax, Experian and TransUnion – are offering free weekly online reports through April because of COVID-19. Checking with them can reveal whether someone has been using your credit. Go to AnnualCreditReport.com to use the service. You may also consider freezing your credit altogether, if you don't plan to use it for any major upcoming purchases or to open any credit accounts.

Do a Facebook privacy checkup

If you want to lock your profile so only your friends can see it and scammers will be blocked, you can go to the upper right corner of your Facebook page, click on Settings & Privacy and Privacy Checkup.

Copy all the contents of your wallet

Make copies of the front and back of all the ID and credit cards in your wallet or purse then store the copies in a safe place. If you should lose your wallet or if it is stolen, it will be easy for your to refer to the copies to find account numbers and to reach customer service lines.

Cyber security for 2021

According to ZDNet.com, the business technology news website, "everything from our web browsing to mobile devices and the Internet of Things (IoT) products installed in our

homes have the potential to erode our privacy and personal security, and you cannot depend on vendors or ever-changing surveillance rules to keep them intact." In a recent article, ZDNet asserted that "We must all do whatever we can to safeguard our personal privacy." It said the key to cyber security is good data management. That is, protecting everything from your personally identifiable information (PII) to your internet browsing habits, message and email content, online purchase history, financial information, medical records and DNA profiles.

The ZDNet article offers a detailed list of things you can do to protect your data. To read the article, entitled "Cybersecurity 101: How to protect your privacy from hackers, spies and the government," <u>CLICK HERE</u>.

In addition, ZDNet has produced a 30-minute video about maintaining a safer online connection if you are working remotely from home. <u>CLICK HERE</u> to watch it.

Member Q&A - Trouble logging into WDDNA website?

Q: I am having trouble logging into the association website. Who should I contact for help?

A. Our WDDNA webmaster, Brian Smith, is happy to help members having trouble with the site. You can email him at casigns28@outlook.com or call him at (916) 709-5209.

Choose reliable sources for COVID-19 information

In times like these, it is critical to avoid random searches of the internet when you are looking for facts. Always choose authoritative sources. If you want the latest and best information about coronavirus (COVID-19), we suggest these sites:

California Department of Public Health https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx

U.S. Centers for Disease Control https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Sacramento County Department of Health Services https://www.saccounty.net/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, led by Dr. Anthony Fauchi https://www.niaid.nih.gov/

UC Davis Health Center coronavirus information and resources page https://health.ucdavis.edu/coronavirus/index.html

Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center. Johns Hopkins has nationally recognized experts in global public health, infectious disease and emergency preparedness.

https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/

Johns Hopkins coronavirus global map https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html

The Mayo Clinic COVID-19 Newsnetwork page https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/category/covid-19/

HOW TO CALL FOR HELP

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you have an immediate emergency - if your life or property is in immediate danger, if you feel threatened by someone on or near your property, if you have just become the victim of a crime or if you are witnessing a crime in progress:

CALL 911 from a land line.

Or, if calling from a cell phone within Sacramento County, call (916) 874-5111.

TO REPORT A CRIME

There are two ways to report a crime to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department:

- 1. Call the Sheriff's Department NON-EMERGENCY LINE at (916) 874-5115. To bypass the recorded messaging when you call, dial 0 after the line is answered.
- 2. File a report online through the Sheriff's Department website. Click on this link to begin the process: https://www.sacsheriff.com/Pages/Services/ReportCrime.aspx

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

(Not an emergency)

If you see someone engaged in suspicious activity but it is not an emergency, call 916-874-5115 (Sheriff's Department non-emergency line).

GENERAL CONCERNS, REPORTS OR QUESTIONS

If you have an issue that can be addressed later, you may contact our neighborhood patrol officers about it. The best way is via EMAIL at wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com

Email: wilhaggindeldayona@gmail.com

Website: www.Wilhagginna.com

Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association | P.O. Box 2273, Carmichael, CA 95609

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