



2021
March Newsletter

Rio students offer vaccine signup help

If you or a neighbor close to you are 65 years old or older and need some assistance signing up for COVID-19 vaccine online, a group of local teens is here to help.

Chris Dobbins, the 18-year-old Rio Americano High School student who recently launched the Senior-to-Senior project we wrote about in our February newsletter, said he and his team of volunteers are eager to assist seniors who may be having trouble using online COVID-19 vaccine signup forms. Some seniors who are not experienced in the online world have found the process difficult.



“That is a fantastic use of our skills and we would love to help people get vaccine appointments,” Dobbins said. He said he and his team, working from their own computers, are ready to help anyone who needs it and urged seniors to contact him via email at senior2seniorproject@gmail.com.

Dobbins organized his Senior-to-Senior project through Rio’s CIVITAS program to provide students with a volunteer opportunity to help seniors in our neighborhood. Besides assisting with vaccine signup and other computer or online tasks, he and his team can help with such things as health and safety checks, light yard work, accompanying seniors on walks or simply staying in touch with them regularly on the phone.

Cold reality

Are we safe from a Texas-type storm?

*By Kathleen Newton
WDDNA Communications*

Since the recent freak cold weather events that froze power generation equipment and water lines in Texas, you may have wondered whether California’s central valley might suffer a similar event.

Could climate change one day bring Sacramento a crippling winter storm, extreme freezing temperatures and the destruction of our power and water infrastructure?



According to a UC Davis climate scientist, there is a low probability of such an event in Sacramento.

Prof. Paul Ullrich is a PhD in the Climate Global Change Group within the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at UC Davis. In an interview with WDDNA, he explained that the movement of the jet stream and air currents on the West Coast mitigate against freak “Polar Vortex” type events here.

“While California has had some damaging cold air events in the past, unique aspects of North American topography tend to make the central states far more susceptible to the extreme events seen recently in Texas,” he said.

Ullrich explained that when the so-called “Polar Vortex” begins to dip down out of Canada and is confronted by the Rocky Mountains, the rotation of the winds causes the cold front to turn south and dip into Midwest and Southern states.

“Here in California, we can be subject to the impact of cold air that flows down from Alaska,” he noted. “But the ferocity of such events is not like that seen recently in Texas. In the past, the damage from such cold air events has mainly affected agriculture.

“California is an extreme place,” Ullrich said. “But our weather extremes tend more toward heat and drought. Air flowing in from the Pacific Ocean has a moderating effect against extreme cold events here. In our area, we have more to fear from fires and floods.”

For instance, he said, if we get a lot of mountain snow followed by a heavy warm rain that sends water and snow melt pouring down into the rivers, flooding can be a real danger, particularly in our neighborhood.

Weather safety tips

Heat, drought and potential flooding are the main types of extreme weather-related emergencies most likely to be experienced in our area. Experts offer the following suggestions for preemptive measures homeowners can take to protect themselves and their property:



Flood protection

Given that our neighborhood borders the American River and is crossed by small tributary streams, homeowners may wish to consider investing in flood insurance, depending upon their home’s location on the flood zone map. To determine if your home is in the flood zone, [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the Sacramento County Water Resources Department flood zone information page. To find out if your parcel is in a flood zone [CLICK HERE](#) and fill out the form. For information about flood insurance, [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the FEMA flood insurance information page.

Dealing with heat

To deal with increasing heat and drought conditions, you should evaluate your home’s current level of insulation. Some homes that were built decades ago may not have been adequately insulated. Increasing the R value of your insulation and ensuring good air flow through attic vents may help reduce your air conditioning demands. Use of a whole-house fan in the cool of the morning or in the evenings when the delta breeze kicks in can also reduce the impact of heat on air conditioning.

Roofing issues

High heat can degrade roofing materials and can increase the heat load in your attic. If your roof is due to be replaced in the near future, there are new “cool roof” materials available that reflect more of the sun’s rays and help keep the home cooler. For more information about cool roofing, [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the U.S. Department of Energy’s “Cool Roofs” information page.

Green shade

The advantageous placement of shade trees can greatly protect our homes and budgets from summer heat. Trees are plentiful in our neighborhood. However, many have suffered from multiple drought years and may need to be replaced by more drought-tolerant varieties. In other cases, tree placement may not be optimal for effective shading.

The Sacramento Tree Foundation partners with SMUD to help homeowners plant the best trees to shade their homes. Together, they created the Sacramento Shade program in 1990 and have planted more than a half-million trees since then. The Sacramento Shade Program offers both deciduous and evergreen trees that can be planted on any qualifying open area on your property. All Sacramento County residents and SMUD customers can qualify for a free landscape assessment and up to 10 free shade trees. For information, [CLICK HERE](#).

Health and high temperatures

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), more than 700 people die each year from heat. Those who are at highest risk include people 65 and older, children younger than 2 and people with chronic diseases or mental illness.

The CDC has a page dedicated to protecting you and those you love from hot weather. It includes links to special pages about the impact of high temperatures on older adults, young people, those with diabetes, athletes, infants and children.

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit the page.

Extreme weather tips from the FTC

The [Federal Trade Commission](#) has a webpage offering measures for dealing with weather emergencies of all types. Click on the following highlighted links to access the information.

The [Dealing with Weather Emergencies](#) page has four sections:

- [Preparing for a Weather Emergency](#)
- [Staying Alert to Disaster-related Scams](#)
- [Getting Back on Your Feet Financially](#)
- [Resources](#)

The FTC also suggests that you bookmark this page so you can refer to it in the future.

How reliable is our SMUD electrical service?

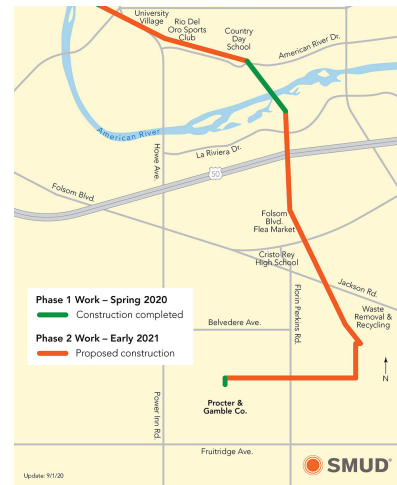
Power failures happen for a variety of reasons. How reliable is the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) electrical grid in the face of weather events?

According to its website, SMUD’s grid delivers power to more than 1.5 million customers. The company



maintains approximately 10,900 circuit miles of power lines, overhead and underground. It is the nation's sixth largest community-owned electric service provider. On multiple occasions, SMUD has received a "Reliable Public Power Provider" designation from the American Public Power Association for providing reliable and safe electric service.

In late January, residents throughout Sacramento County experienced extended outages following a rain and wind storm. At one point there were more than 1,000 active outages across the Sacramento area affecting 71,000 SMUD customers. Some residents in the Wilhaggin area were without power for three days.



WDDNA recently spoke with SMUD spokesperson Lindsay Vanlaningham about that incident. She said the extensive damage to the county's urban "forest" was the primary reason it took so long to restore power. Most of the damage was caused by downed trees and limbs on power lines and poles.

"We had more than 300 lines down and more than 100 poles to replace," she explained. "It was just the gravity of the damage that led to the delays in restoring power. For instance, we estimate that replacing just one pole takes a crew about eight hours. We had more than 100 of them to replace."

Vanlaningham explained that SMUD tackles power outages according to a priority ranking.

"The first thing we work on is public safety, such as fires and sparking lines," she said. "Next, we restore the power to flood control pumps. They run on electricity, too. Then we work on outages that affect the largest number of customers – cases in which a quick repair may restore power to the largest number of people."

She said the most difficult cases in the recent storm involved damage that only affected a few homes, but were time-consuming to repair. "That is why some small pockets of customers were without service for a longer time than others," she said.

Would under-grounding power lines help prevent major outages in future? Vanlaningham noted that about 60% of SMUD's lines are already underground. However, burying the rest – most of which, like ours, are in areas developed decades ago – is extremely expensive.

"One figure we came up with ... and that was some time ago ... is that it costs at least \$1 million per mile to underground existing lines," she noted.

One SMUD project designed to improve reliability is currently underway. It is the replacement of three wires on the towers that run between the Hurley large bulk substation on Hurley Way and the Procter & Gamble co-generation plant on 83rd Street. Some of the work borders American River Drive between Howe Avenue and Oak Meadow Park in the Sierra Oaks neighborhood.

SMUD employees or contractors are replacing the existing all-aluminum wire with an advanced aluminum composite wire along the 6.25-mile stretch. (See image.) This is expected to allow SMUD to increase its overall transmission system flexibility to help ensure more reliable electrical service, particularly in the summer months.

Is SMUD's electrical grid in danger from potential fire events?

“Most SMUD facilities are in urban and suburban areas,” she noted, “so the risk of wildfires is limited. But we do have lines from our [Upper American River Project](#) and we have cut wide fire lines in the hills and even hired goats to keep the vegetation under control in those areas. We also use helicopters to patrol our lines and target trees for cutting and pruning.”

To view SMUD’s wildfire mitigation plan, [CLICK HERE](#).

For floods and other threats, SMUD has a hazard mitigation plan. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to that page on the SMUD website.

WDDNA annual report

In 2020, despite the impact of COVID-19 on some of WDDNA’s operations – such as an increase in absences by patrol deputies – WDDNA’s membership continued to grow and now stands at 972 households, a 4% increase over 2019.

We wish to thank all those members who continue to support us and to welcome all those who have joined us to support our off-duty Sheriff’s Department deputy patrols.

2020 Revenue

Total 2020 revenue generated by dues was \$263,586. Expenditures for 2020 were \$220,006. The surplus of approximately \$43,000 was accrued because we opted to not fill some deputy absences during the year so that we would have extra funds available to cover an anticipated 2021 rate increase by the Sheriff’s Department.

2020 Expenses

A total of \$208,472, or 94.8%, was used to pay for our patrols by off-duty Sacramento County Sheriff’s deputies. The remaining expenditures were as follows:

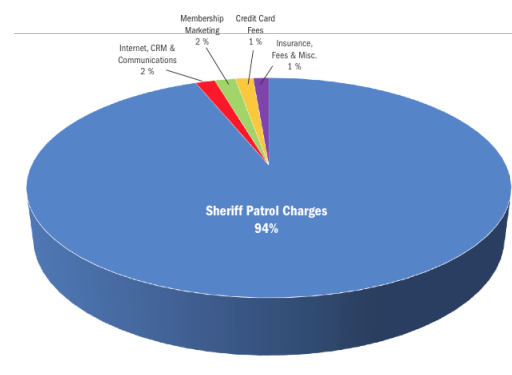
- \$5,811 or 2.6% was spent for such things as insurance, CPA and legal expenses and to cover the cost of credit card fees charged to us when members pay their dues online.
- \$3,420 was used to cover the cost of marketing materials and postage. This represented just 1.6% of the total budget.
- \$2,303 or 1% was spent on the association website, our Post Office box, to pay fees to our Constant Contact email provider, for the cost of Zoom services for meetings and to cover the cost of printing and mailing copies of our newsletters and patrol reports to those members who do not have or use computers.

2021 Budget

This year, because of our increased membership, we have determined that we can go ahead and spend the 2020 surplus on our patrols. As a result, this year we will **increase four of our daily patrols by two hours each, bringing them up to a full eight hours.**

Our combined revenue available for 2021 will be \$297,808 (\$270,000 from 2021 dues and \$27,808 residual from 2020).

Expenditures in 2021 will begin with a one-time \$3,000 cost for the setup of web-based Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software to improve the efficiency and accuracy of our membership data.



Why is this needed? Simply put, WDDNA is managed by a nine-member volunteer board of directors. These board members devote long, unpaid hours to such things as handling member inquiries, solving problems, keeping track of member payments and services, communicating with the Sheriff's Department, maintaining the website, writing and distributing timely communications, soliciting new members, managing the budget and keeping track of data that is essential to any organization.

As WDDNA has continued to grow, this work has increased as well. Last fall, the board began looking for better ways to automate and track our operational data and communications. A great many companies and nonprofits have turned to CRM software in recent years to improve efficiency, reduce errors and automate data management so that less time is spent filling out spreadsheets, leaving more time for human interactions.

Sometime in March, WDDNA expects to go live with a new CRM software interface, which will also involve combining it with our website, our email communications and a credit card processing service. We will be able to integrate all our operational data through this CRM.

Besides the one-time \$3,000 CRM setup costs, our expenditure budget will be as follows:

- \$280,000 for deputy patrols (94% of all expenditures)
- \$5,000 for membership marketing
- \$4,303 for credit card processing fees
- \$1,700 for insurance
- \$700 for a CPA
- \$650 to deliver printed newsletters to members who do not have computers
- \$500 to mail renewal invoices to members
- \$1,958 for such things as web costs, software, postage, meetings and supplies

Total 2021 budgeted expenditures: \$297,808. [CLICK HERE](#) or on the image to view or download the budget document.

Juvenile justice virtual workshop March 8

On Monday, March 8, the Sacramento County [Probation Department](#) in conjunction with the newly established Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) Subcommittee, will host a virtual workshop on Zoom for individuals interested in helping to develop strategies for the rehabilitation of youthful offenders.

The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment Community Workshop is designed to educate the public about Senate Bill (SB) 823 - DJJ Realignment, and to facilitate community participation in filling membership positions on the JJCC Subcommittee.

The JJCC Subcommittee is responsible for the development of Sacramento County's SB 823 DJJ Realignment Plan (DJJ Realignment Plan) describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision and reentry strategies needed to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for youth who are realigned from the state DJJ.

[CLICK HERE](#) for further information, including how to apply for the JJCC Subcommittee.

The virtual workshop is set for March 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Virtual sign on begins at 5:15 p.m.) The Workshop agenda will include:

- Opening remarks and introduction of JJCC Subcommittee members.
- Purpose of the DJJ Realignment Community Workshop.
- Overview of SB 823 - DJJ Realignment: the announcement of open positions on the

- new JJCC Subcommittee.
- Overview of the JJCC website and instructions for applying to the open positions.
- Public question and answer session.

To register for the Zoom workshop, [CLICK HERE](#).

Mosquitoes among us

Mosquitoes are already bugging us. That is the word from the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District.

“These mosquitoes are ones that had been hibernating during the past few months. The warm temperatures have brought them out of resting and they are aggressively biting,” said District Manager Gary Goodman. Fortunately, he said, these mosquitoes are not the same species that can pose a threat for West Nile virus and are considered a seasonal nuisance, common this time of the year. District crews have been looking for and inspecting areas where these mosquitoes can breed.

Goodman advised that homeowners should inspect their property and drain any stagnant water in flowerpots, buckets, bird baths or other small containers. Reducing mosquito breeding sites now will help later in the season.

To report mosquito breeding sources, request a home inspection or if you are being bothered by mosquitoes, call 1-800-429-1022 or fill out a service request online www.FIGHTtheBITE.net.

Member Q&A - Do we pay for out-of-area patrol work?

Q: I have noticed that our deputies are sometimes called away from our neighborhood by the Sheriff's Department dispatcher to respond to criminal activity elsewhere. Do we have to pay for the time they spend away?

A: No, we don't. When deputies are called away, they make a notation on their time sheets and go “off the clock” for us while they are out of the neighborhood. Most of the time, they are not away long. When they return, they resume working for us. The time they spend away is paid for by the Sheriff's Department.

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](mailto:wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com) at wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com

Email: wilhaggindelayona@gmail.com

Website: www.Wilhagginna.com

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

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