Monthly Newsletter
April 2023

Volunteers plan encampment cleanup Sunday

This Sunday, April 1, volunteers with the River City Waterway Alliance (RCWA) will be doing a cleanup and removal of the encampment that was recently occupied near the Assessor's office on the levee road and in the American River Parkway.

The group is encouraging neighborhood residents to take part in the cleanup, which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The group will meet at 3638 American River Drive.

In response to reports by association members, WDDNA recently reported the encampment to county officials. On March 4, our WDDNA deputy detained a man and two women at the encampment, cited them for littering and advised them to move on. The campers left garbage everywhere.

RCWA will provide bags, but volunteers are encouraged to bring sturdy footwear, grabbers, buckets and gloves because RCWA only has a limited number of supplies available. Sacramento Regional Parks will be providing support for the cleanup. Supervisor Rich Desmond also may attend.

For information about the cleanup, contact Mark Baker at **rivercitycleanup@gmail.com** or call (916) 492-2249.

WDDNA meets with county about traffic

Speeding and stop-sign running are two major concerns for residents in our neighborhood. The boldness and carelessness exhibited by some drivers – many of whom live here – pose a real danger to the rest of us.

Although the California Highway Patrol is responsible for enforcing traffic laws on all Sacramento County streets and highways, they generally do not patrol our neighborhood. WDDNA has asked our patrol deputies to monitor traffic as time permits. However, they cannot focus on it exclusively and they cannot be everywhere at the same time.

Meeting with officials
In recent years, WDDNA's traffic committee has met periodically with Lu Li, principal civil engineer with the Sacramento County Department of Transportation (DOT), to discuss methods to improve the problem. We met with him this March to discuss several possible options:
- Installing more speed limit signs and improving sign visibility, particularly on some of our longer streets;
- Painting 25 mph speed limit legends on the pavement at strategic locations;
- Painting "Stop Ahead" legends on the pavement at key intersections;
- Enlarging speed limit signs on American River Drive.

As in the past, Li and his team were extremely receptive to our suggestions and agreed to look into our request. However, they also advised that improved signage is only as effective as the willingness of drivers to obey traffic laws.

County programs
One of DOT's programs designed to address speeding is its **Neighborhood Speed Watch Program** (NSWP). Under this program, residents may borrow county radar equipment and use it to identify speeders. Then the county sends letters to the registered owners of speeding vehicles urging them to obey the law. The program can be particularly effective in the case of speeding teenagers whose parents receive the letters.

To volunteer for the Speed Watch program, call 311 or 916-875-4311.

Speed bumps
Some neighborhood residents have worked to get speed bumps and speed tables installed on their streets to slow the traffic. According to Li, the process is time consuming but the result can be effective.

A speed bump is designed to bring speed down to 15 to 20 mph. According to the DOT website, on average, a speed bump achieves a 22% reduction in speeds. Speed tables are wider and flat on top. They reduce speeds by about 18%.

Other speed control devices available include a speed hump, raised crosswalks and rumble strips. Descriptions of these and other tools can be found on the DOT website at **https://sacdot.saccounty.net/Pages/NTMP-ToolBox.aspx**.

According to Li, the process for obtaining speed bumps or tables requires neighbor cooperation:
1. About 10 people in the vicinity of the bump need to sign a letter or a petition

requesting it.
2. The DOT then evaluates the technical feasibility of the project.
3. If there are no physical or legal impediments to installing the speed bump, the county sends out letters to all the neighbors around the site; 75% of them must express support to proceed.
4. If the requisite neighborhood support is obtained, the county seeks funding for the project.
5. When funding is identified, the work is scheduled.

To inquire about getting a speed bump, you may call 311 or 916-875-4311 or go to **www.311.saccounty.net**.

While WDDNA has no role in the speed bump process, feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance in reaching DOT officials. You may email traffic committee member Kathleen Newton at **knewton761@att.net**.

Who pays for fallen trees?

By some estimate, more than 1,000 trees have been brought down in Sacramento County due to our recent storms. Our neighborhood has not been spared. Many of our area's old and beautiful trees have come down.

When a tree falls due to wind and heavy rain, who pays the cost?

According to the Insurance Information Institute, whether your homeowner's insurance policy includes coverage for fallen trees typically depends on a number of factors, such as what caused the tree to fall and what kind of damage resulted.

Damage to your home
A homeowner's insurance policy typically protects your home and other structures, such as a fence or shed, against specific causes of loss, known as perils. Covered perils typically include damage caused by wind. So, the situation that caused the tree to fall is important. If the tree was otherwise healthy and damaged your home because of wind, a typical homeowners insurance policy may help pay to repair damage.

However, homeowner's insurance usually won't cover damage caused by negligence or a maintenance-related issue. So, if the tree was rotting and ready to fall down before the storm, homeowner's insurance likely would not cover the damage.

If the tree simply fell into your yard and did not destroy anything, in most cases your insurance company would not cover the cost of removal. However, insurance companies may help cover the cost of removal if the fallen tree becomes an obstacle for drivers.

Damage to your car
Tree damage to cars is another matter. A homeowner's policy typically will not cover damage to your car from a fallen tree. However, you can file an auto insurance claim if you have comprehensive coverage on your policy.

Who pays for damage to a neighbor's house?
If your tree falls on a neighbor's house, you're typically only considered responsible if

neglect on your part was a contributing factor to the tree's demise. If a storm knocked your healthy tree onto your neighbor's house, your neighbor will need to file a claim through his or her own insurance.

Similarly, if your home is damaged by your neighbor's tree, your homeowner's insurance may help pay to repair the damage to your house or other structures. In some situations, your insurance company may try to collect from the neighbor's insurance company in a process called subrogation. If this happens and your insurer is successful, you may be reimbursed for your deductible.

Click on the above image to watch WDDNA lighting video

Security lightng: Good & bad

According to experts, most burglaries and home invasions happen during the day. That means that any intruder working at night has probably chosen to do so. And, for that reason, just the presence of light may be enough to make your property a less desirable target.

Security lighting makes it easier for your family, neighbors, passing traffic and security cameras to see a burglar at work. But not all lighting improves security.

According to a recent article in **"Family Handyman"** magazine, lighting intensity and placement are important factors to consider.

Lights that are too bright can constrict your pupils and prevent you from seeing what's in the shadows. If the lighting is pointing away from important target areas, such as doors and access points, it does no good. And if your lights illuminate areas that cannot be seen from the street, they may simply help your burglar see what he's doing.

Best lighting options
Experts recommend the following lighting options:
- Motion-activated wireless lights. They're easy to install and you'll still have lights during a power failure. Because they turn on from motion and are not constantly on, they are less likely to annoy neighbors. And the sudden surprise of a light turning on is often enough to scare off a would-be burglar.
- Floodlights on a motion sensor that can light up nooks and crannies around the home such as entryways, porches and the garage.
- You should absolutely have a good porch light that illuminates your house number (in case a first responder needs to find your home at night).

- Lights should shine down on target areas, never upward or sideways.
- Low-powered landscape lighting is a way to eliminate dark areas where a burglar could hide.

Other considerations
- **Leave a visible light on inside your home at night.** WDDNA deputies tell us they notice many dark homes on their evening patrols. Seeing lights on in your window(s) can deter criminals. Add one or two timers to turn lights on and off at appropriate times while you are on vacation.
- **Light vehicles and gates.** Your security lighting should protect vehicles parked in driveways and gates into back yards. Landscape, porch and pathway lights should be controlled by timing devices so they switch on and off automatically.
- **Call to have street lights fixed.** To report dark or malfunctioning street lights, call 311. If possible, when reporting a problem have the pole number or property address available. The pole number can be found on a sticker approximately eight feet up the pole. For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

Sheriff's Department seeks volunteers

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office is looking for citizens who want to volunteer to work with law enforcement professionals.

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Volunteer Program consists of groups with specific roles that complement the work of the Sheriff's Office. These volunteer groups include:
- Sheriff's Amateur Radio Program (SHARP)
- Sacramento County Sheriff's Explorers
- Volunteer reserve officer
- Volunteers in Partnership with the Sheriff (V.I.P.S.)
- Search and rescue.

For information, go to **https://www.sacsheriff.com/pages/volunteer_services.php**, email **volunteers@sacsheriff.com** or call (916) 874-7339.

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/crime_report.php**

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.**

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