



August 2021 Newsletter

Be careful of road rage

On Thursday, our WDDNA patrol deputy took a report that illustrates the importance of avoiding potential road rage incidents. The deputy responded to a local resident's home (a WDDNA member) to take a report of a traffic encounter.



The WDDNA member was driving on American River Drive when an older white vehicle (possibly a hatchback) raced past him using the middle turn lane. According to our deputy, the WDDNA member did what we all would like to do in these cases: He honked at the offending driver. Then he went a step further. He followed the other driver, continuing to honk his horn. He thought the driver was just a teenager. His plan was to yell at the lad and tell him to slow down.

To our member's surprise, however, the other driver pulled over and got out of his car. He was not a teenager; he was a man in his 20's with long hair. More importantly, he grabbed a large stick from the back of his vehicle and headed toward our member's car. Fearing the worst, our member quickly drove away and headed home.

But that was not the end of it. The other driver got back in his car, followed our member home and sped by, giving a one-finger salute as he did. Our member is now fearful because the other driver knows where he lives.

The WDDNA deputy who took the report offers the following advice to all of us: "Although it is tempting to honk, yell at or follow another driver after a road rage incident, it is just not safe" he said.

"Nowadays we just don't know what the other driver is capable of. He may even be armed with a firearm. Road rage incidents are on the rise and some of them end tragically," he warned. "So, the next time someone cuts you off, honks at you or curses you out while driving, just let it go."

Report traffic issues to CHP's POP unit
We have all seen it: speeders on Fair Oaks Boulevard, scofflaws running stop signs on American River Drive, reckless drivers endangering bicyclists and pedestrians. What can be done?

Recently, members of the WDDNA board of directors met with Sgt. Jeff Carlisle, head of the Problem Oriented Policing (POP) unit of the California Highway Patrol for our area. The CHP has the primary responsibility for enforcing traffic laws in the unincorporated areas. Carlisle works out of the North Sacramento office at 5109 Tyler Street in Old Foot-hill Farms.

According to Carlisle, although traffic problems have been growing in recent years, things have gotten worse as a result of the pandemic. It's all about staffing, he explained.

"Attrition has taken place through retirements and various reasons" over the past year, he said. "Then the academy was shut down for 16 months due to COVID, so we didn't have graduates to replace the attrition. Now the academy is up and running again, but it will take time to get back to normal staffing levels."

POP unit handles targeted problems

Carlisle said the staffing issues have impacted many of CHP's units. His POP unit has been hard hit. "At one time, we had 10 officers," he noted. "Then it was five, then four. Now it is just two: me and one other officer."



He explained that the North Sacramento office is responsible for patrolling the county north of the American River. “From eight to 12 field officers get deployed on a regular shift to cover an area that includes Arden Arcade, plus Carmichael, Fair Oaks, everything up to Sunrise, as well as North Highlands and Antelope.”

He explained that the POP team traditionally focuses on traffic hot spots reported by citizens. However, when things get tight, they may be assigned elsewhere. “It is sometimes a question of do we use our officers for targeted problems or do we use them in the field to handle traffic accidents.”

Even so, Carlisle said his unit is still functioning. “We are going to respond to your neighborhood’s issues,” he asserted. “We won’t ignore a request to deal with a problem. We definitely will get out there, but, for now, it just a question of how often or how quickly.”

How to report

Carlisle said the best way to ask for help is to communicate directly with the POP team via email at 250POP@chp.ca.gov. Provide as much detail about the situation as possible, he said.

Give detailed information about the offenders, such as make and model of the car, the color, the license number, any distinguishing markings, a description of the driver.

If possible, get a picture or video of the vehicle and its license plate.

Provide information about the usual time of day and direction of travel of the offender.

Do not attempt to stop or confront drivers yourself. This can be dangerous.

Sacramento County issues mask mandate

Due to the continued day-over-day case rate increases of COVID-19 from the highly infectious Delta variant, the Sacramento County Public Health Officer has issued a health order requiring masking indoors regardless of vaccination status. In less than a month, Sacramento’s daily case rate has risen drastically, from 5.2 on June 24 to 18.3 on July 20.

While cases continue to surge and until vaccination rates have increased in Sacramento County, all residents are now required to wear masks in all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and workplaces, such as, but not limited to: offices, retail stores, restaurants and bars, theaters, family entertainment centers, conference centers and State and local government offices serving the public.

According to public health officials, only 49 percent of the county’s population is fully vaccinated. Those who are not vaccinated or only partially vaccinated remain highly vulnerable to the infectious Delta variant.

For a list of vaccination clinics, visit the Sacramento County Public Health Vaccination website, call 2-1-1 or visit www.MyTurn.ca.gov. Homebound residents can call 2-1-1 to request in-home vaccination services.

<https://dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/Vaccine-Registration-for-Eligible-Individuals-in-Sacramento-County.aspx>

Patrol deputy shift update

WDDNA is experiencing a temporary challenge keeping some of our patrol shifts filled.

The Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department deputies that we employ to patrol our streets do so on their days off from their regular patrol responsibilities. They sign up with us for particular days and times and generally work the same shift week after week. They do so based on their regular work schedule with the department.

In recent months, however, the Sheriff’s Department

has experienced some staffing challenges and is short-handed. We have been told that, due to retirements and other factors, there are some 92 vacancies. As a result, there have been staff realignments. Many deputies have been working overtime or have had their regular shift days or times changed. As a result, they have had to quit their off-duty jobs.

This is affecting us and most other organizations that routinely hire off-duty deputies. All of us are finding it difficult to fill our off-duty shifts. The bottom line is that four of our 10 WDDNA shifts are currently unfilled.

To compensate for some of this, we have increased the number of hours our remaining deputies are working. Each is now working a full eight-hour shift. And, where possible, we are changing some days and times of the vacant shifts in hopes of making them easier to fill.

We are told that two classes are currently underway at the Sheriff's Academy, with graduation expected in November. Depending on how many of those graduates join the department, it likely will free up some of the experienced deputies to begin working off-duty assignments again.

In short, we fully expect this to be a temporary challenge. We will keep a close eye on the situation and continue to update our job openings with the Off-Duty office.

We appreciate your patience as we work through this unforeseen difficulty. Thank you for your support of the Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association.

Rio traffic is topic for meeting with principal

Classes at Rio Americano High School are scheduled to resume on Thursday, Aug. 12. According to Cliff Kelly, the new principal at Rio, it is anticipated that the total school enrollment will be approximately 2,000 students and that Rio is expected to become San Juan School District's largest high school in the not too distant future.

Because of the considerable traffic impact upon our streets by neighborhood schools and by commuter



cut-through traffic, the WDDNA board established a traffic committee early last year. The goal of the committee is to communicate with school, county and law enforcement officials to seek potential mitigations for traffic problems.

Members of the WDDNA Traffic Committee met July 29 with Principal Kelly to introduce him to our association and share with him our experiences with school traffic and parking issues.

Kelly was very receptive to us and said he will be spending the first few weeks of the school year observing school-related traffic and student behavior. We agreed that we would share reports by our WDDNA patrols with him and that we would set up future meetings after he has had a chance to get his bearings and study the situation first-hand.

In the meantime, Kelly requested that we alert our members to the fact that, for security reasons, any members of the public who come onto the campus between 6:45 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. for any reason are required to check in at the front office. This includes residents who use the campus to access the levee and the American River Parkway.

If you wish to view a monthly calendar of Rio school

activities (to be aware of potential traffic events) go to

<https://www.sanjuan.edu/Page/124#calendar65/20210829/month>

You also can download a PDF of the full annual calendar if you go to

<https://www.sanjuan.edu//cms/lib/CA01902727/Centricity/Domain/8783/2021%2022%20Student%20Calendar%20-%20ADA.pdf>

The Rio bell schedule has not yet been printed. However, Kelly said the general school hours will be from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., except on Thursdays, when students leave campus at 1:35 p.m. to accommodate teaching staff professional development activities.

Water district calls for conservation

Although no official water-use restrictions have yet been imposed due to California's serious drought conditions, Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD), which serves our neighborhood, is calling on all customers to voluntarily conserve.

Customers are being asked to water only three days per week. SSWD is offering up to \$500 in rebates for replacing old, inefficient sprinklers with more efficient models. You also are being asked to cover your pool to reduce water evaporation. The district offers up to a \$100 rebate for this.

In addition, SSWD asks that we wash only full loads of laundry and dishes, repair water leaks within 48 hours of discovery, take advantage of the district's various rebate programs (including for new washers, weather-based irrigation controllers and rain/soil sensors) and to set weather-based sprinkler controllers to 80% of evapotranspiration (ET) for the Sacramento region.

SSWD customers are also being encouraged to schedule a free Water-Wise house call during which technicians will evaluate your indoor and outdoor water use and suggest ways you can save water. To request a Water-Wise House Call go to <https://www.sswd.org/departments/conservation/water-wise-house-call/water-wise-house-call-request-form>

If you observe someone routinely wasting large amounts of water, you may alert the water district through its website. Go to the reporting page at <https://www.sswd.org/departments/conservation/report-water-waste>

Contact the district with any questions you may have at (916) 972.7171 or feedback@sswd.org.

Member Q&A

Q: I recently saw a dog locked in a car in a local parking lot. It was hot outside and I didn't know what to do. Fortunately, the driver eventually returned. What should I do if this happens again?

A: According to a 2017 California law, if you're concerned for a vehicle-bound animal's safety and can't find its owner, you're legally allowed to break into the car to rescue the dog. However, in order to be shielded from criminal and civil liability, you must act in good faith, contact law enforcement first, and reasonably believe the animal is in immediate peril, among other conditions.

So, to be on the safe side, Sacramento County officials suggest the following instead:

- To report an emergency, such as to rescue a dog in a hot, locked car, call 9-1-1 immediately. A law enforcement officer will respond to free the animal.
- To report a non-emergency animal abuse and neglect incident, dial 3-1-1 or call (916) 874-4311.