



## Monthly Newsletter

### December 2021

## *WDDNA ANNUAL MEETING*

### *WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8*

The Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Assn. will host its annual meeting at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 8, in the Welcome Center in the gym at Jesuit High School.

This year's program will address a growing problem we are all facing: Traffic. Our speakers will be Sgt. Jeff Carlisle, head of Problem Oriented Policing (POP) for the California Highway Patrol in our area, and POP Officer Greg Zumstein, who was recently assigned to cover our neighborhood.

We also will hold our annual board of directors election at the meeting. Information about our board members can be found at the end of this email.

Jesuit is generously providing the meeting space to us at no cost. [CLICK HERE](#) to view a Jesuit campus map. The meeting will be held in the building marked "E" on the map. And in compliance with the school's COVID protocols, we ask that you **wear a mask to protect yourself and others.**

We look forward to seeing you there! And if you have neighbors who have not yet joined, please feel free to invite them, too. It is a good way to introduce them to our association.

## Computer security gift ideas

If you are looking for a gift that your loved one will find useful, you might consider one or more of the digital security devices on the market.

A security systems consulting firm – [SwatSystems](#) – suggests the following:

### **USB Data Blockers**

These inexpensive devices are useful whenever data (computer, tablet, phone) "travels," in a plane, to college or to a friend's house. Public charging stations, such as those at airports, restaurants and other public places are not secure (far from it!). Hackers can use those public charging stations to gain access to your data — phone numbers, contacts, texts, emails, photos ... everything.

USB data blockers allow you to charge your device while blocking the part of the charging cable that transmits data. Most cost less than \$10. They even come in colors. Search online for “USB data blockers” for product options.

### **USB Port Blocker**

A USB Port Blocker performs the same function as the USB data blocker, but gets there in a different way — by physically blocking the data port. Some even use a physical key to lock and unlock it. Because of this, Port blockers not only protect your data, but also prevent someone from physically damaging the port. You will find them for less than \$25 on Amazon.

There are models that don't have keys and are just as protective...unless you have a curious youngster who wants to see what happens when a pointy object such as a pencil is lodged in one of your ports. Keys are mandatory in those cases.

### **Portable Power Banks**

Skip the need to plug into a public charging station at all by carrying a portable power bank! These devices range in price from \$10 to over \$100 depending on the number of times it can charge a device before needing a recharge and how many devices it can charge at once.

### **Portable Security Locks**

These protect data by protecting a device, such as a laptop or tablet. Locks keep someone from physically running away with a device by locking it down to a stationary object like a pole or a desk. Think of them like a bicycle lock for a computer. There is usually a four-digit locking code that the user creates and can be reset. Portable security locks are typically less than \$50.

### **Subscription to a Password Manager**

There are many password managers online. Most are free with an option to subscribe to a “premium” version: Last Pass, 1Password and Dashlane are a few of the industry leaders. You could get your loved one a year's subscription to the “premium” version.

### **Physical (Hardware) Password Manager**

These physical devices are the size of a flash drive and often look like a key fob. They securely encrypt and save all your passwords rather than using a cloud password manager. They commit them to memory or use an Excel file. The cost is about \$50 and some also have multi-factor authentication.

## **Marathon set for Sunday, Dec. 5**

The 38th California International Marathon will be held Sunday, Dec. 5 and, as usual, will skirt our neighborhood on Fair Oaks Boulevard.

The race begins at 7 a.m. in Folsom near the Folsom Dam and travels the same route as it has for 30-plus years along Oak Avenue, Fair Oaks Boulevard and J Street, finishing at the Capitol.

There will be aid stations on Fair Oaks Boulevard at Arden Way and Saverien Drive. Between 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. there will be road closures or traffic control at other streets in our neighborhood that intersect with Fair Oaks Boulevard. It is recommended that local residents plan their trips accordingly.

For more information, go to <https://runsra.org/california-international-marathon/course-information/>



## How to avoid charity scams

The holiday season is prime time for charitable fundraising campaigns. As you plan your charitable giving, there are things you can do to avoid being a victim of a charity scam.

The Federal Trade Commission offers tips for protecting yourself from bogus charity solicitations. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the entire article.

**Search online for the cause you care about**, plus phrases like "best charity" or "highly rated charity." Once you find a specific charity you're considering giving to, search its name plus "complaint," "review," "rating," "fraud" or "scam." If you find bad reviews, it might be best to find another organization.

**Check out the charity's website.** Does it give you details about the programs you want to support or how it uses donations? How much of your donation will go directly to support the programs you care about? If you can't find detailed information about a charity's mission and programs, be suspicious.

**Use one of these organizations that help you research charities:**

- BBB Wise Giving Alliance. <https://www.give.org/>
- Charity Navigator. <https://www.charitynavigator.org/>
- CharityWatch <https://www.charitywatch.org/>
- Candid. <https://candid.org/>

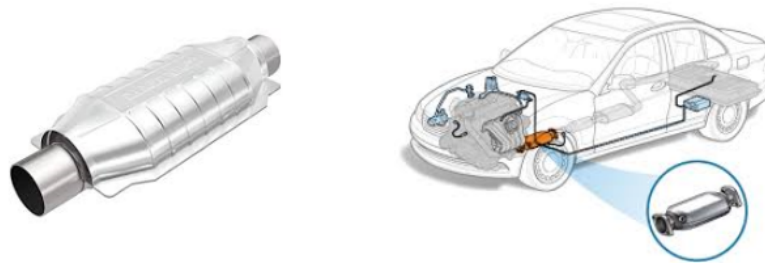
**Keep scammers' tricks in mind**

- Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation.
- Some scammers try to trick you into paying them by thanking you for a donation that you never made.
- Scammers can change caller ID to make a call look like it's from a local area code.
- Some scammers use names that sound a lot like the names of real charities. This is one reason it pays to do some research before giving.
- Scammers make lots of vague and sentimental claims but give no specifics about how your donation will be used.
- Bogus organizations may claim that your donation is tax-deductible when it is not.
- Guaranteeing sweepstakes winnings in exchange for a donation is not only a scam, it's illegal.

**California Charity Search Tool**

When you decide to donate to a specific organization, unless you are personally familiar

with it, it is always wise to check on its legitimacy. In California, the attorney general's office oversees the regulation of charities. The department has a registry search tool through which you can verify whether a charitable organization or fundraiser has complied with state requirements. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the search page.



## Catalytic converter thefts skyrocketing

Local news stations recently reported that there has been a 1500% increase in the theft of catalytic converters in the past few years.

These thefts are not just a nuisance to victims. According to experts, it can cost up to \$2,000 to replace a catalytic converter and it is illegal to drive your car without one.

We wrote about this issue in the May edition of our newsletter. If you missed it, following is a discussion of the problem and suggestions for protecting your vehicle.

### **The appeal of catalytic converters**

Thieves steal catalytic converters because of the value of the metals in them. Catalytic converters contain platinum, rhodium and palladium. The metals are expensive and thieves sell the converters to scrap yards for several hundred dollars per piece, depending on the size of the converter and the current rate on the metals inside it. Price increases typically result in an increase in thefts.

According to [Edmonds.com](#), an automotive information site, thieves can remove a catalytic converter quickly, often in less than two minutes, so theft can even occur in broad daylight. The only tools a thief needs are a wrench (for converters that are bolted on) or a reciprocating saw (for converters that are welded in). Some thieves bring a mechanic's creeper. Then all they do is slide under the vehicle, remove the bolts holding the converter and take it.

Typically, catalytic converters are stolen from cars and trucks in driveways, strip malls or in parking garages. The most commonly hit vehicles are SUVs and trucks, especially late-model Toyotas, because they sit higher off the ground (making for easier access) and the bolts that connect the converter are easily removed. Nissans also may be targeted.

### **Symptoms of converter theft**

According to Edmonds, you'll notice a loud rumbling or roaring sound as soon as you turn on the engine if your catalytic converter is missing. This gets louder when you hit the gas. The exhaust will not work properly, so the vehicle will drive rougher than usual, often sputtering as you change speed.

To see if the theft has taken place, go to the back of the car and look underneath. The catalytic converter is a round canister that connects two pieces of piping in the exhaust.

You will see a gaping space in the middle of your exhaust line if the converter is missing and you will likely see signs of the piping being cut away.

### **Preventing catalytic converter theft**

The easiest way to protect your vehicle is to simply park it in your garage. Taking the time to clean out a parking space in the garage can save you a lot of frustration and expense later.

When you are away from home, park in well-lit areas when possible. Park close to a building entrance or an area with lots of pedestrian traffic when parking in a public lot.

Security devices are available that attach to the converter, making it harder to steal. Having the converter welded in place also makes it more difficult to remove. If you have a security system on your car, calibrate it so vibration sets it off. This ensures the alarm activates if a thief tries to saw off the converter. Video surveillance around your garage or driveway is also useful. Engrave your VIN number onto your catalytic converter to make it easier to identify in case it does get stolen.

Some mechanics suggest welding the heads on the catalytic converter bolts — or simply shearing them off.

The aftermarket has designed products to deter and prevent catalytic converter theft. The idea behind such devices is that if it takes too long to make the steal, the thieves will move on to easier pickings. The [CatClamp](#), for example, which starts at \$150, is a cage installed around the catalytic converter. It can be installed by a mechanic or at home with an included specialized tool and is backed by a money-back guarantee.

Another aftermarket device is the CatStrap. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch a video about this product.

## **Q&A – How to check on 2022 dues**

**Q:** I can't be sure if I have paid my WDDNA dues for 2022. How can I find out if I did?

**A:** It is very easy. Just go to the WDDNA website at [WilhagginNA.com](http://WilhagginNA.com) and log in. After you log in, you will automatically find yourself on our Welcome page. On the lower left, you will see two links, one of which is "Renew/Pay Dues." Click on that link. If you have paid, there will be a blue button that says "Paid" on last line of your account information. If you have not paid, you may do so by using the "Click here to pay your invoice" line.

If you prefer to pay by check, you may mail it to WDDNA, P.O. Box 2273, Carmichael, CA 95609. Be sure to include your name and address. Your dues will be just \$275 – a \$25 savings –if you pay before Jan. 1.

## **WDDNA Board of Directors**

### **Paul Blaise**

Board President

Paul Blaise recently retired after a career as a Sacramento producer/writer of marketing media since 1976. Along with his wife, Lizz, he operated one of Northern California's

premier video marketing companies. The Blaises have two children and moved to Wilhaggin in 1992. Blaise joined the Wilhaggin Neighborhood Association at its inception in 2006. He became board president in 2011 and helped orchestrate the merger of Wilhaggin and Del Dayo into the current neighborhood association.

### **Pat Landgraf**

Vice President

Pat Landgraf has lived in the Del Dayo area for more than 30 years. She and her husband have three boys who attended Del Dayo School, Our Lady of Assumption School and Jesuit High School. She attended a Sheriff's Department neighborhood training session in 2011 and became block captain for her area. When the Wilhaggin Neighborhood Association expanded into Del Dayo, she got involved and joined the WDDNA board.

### **Debbie Desselle**

Secretary

A native of Dallas, Texas, Debbie Desselle has a degree in photography with a minor in journalism from the University of North Texas. She has lived in Wilhaggin since 2012, enjoys daily walks on the American River Parkway and is a do-it-yourselfer, taking on many of her own home repairs. She is studying guitar and enjoys traveling with her family. Her daughter graduated from Rio Americano High School and is a student at Chico State.

### **Kathy Rodriguez**

Treasurer

Kathy Rodriguez and her husband, Larry, moved to the Wilhaggin Del Dayo area in 2012 after she retired from Kaiser, where she had worked as a financial analyst in capital projects. She chose the neighborhood because it was close to the bike trail and she joined WDDNA's board of directors in 2016 because she wanted to contribute to the neighborhood.

### **Kathleen Newton**

Communications Director

Kathleen Newton moved to the Wilhaggin area in 2011 after a career as a newspaper journalist, editor and publisher. She was a reporter for several northern California newspapers, an editor at the Modesto Bee and the Los Angeles Times and managing editor of the Los Angeles Times Syndicate. She ran several newspapers in California and owned two weekly newspapers on the Oregon coast. She also operated her own marketing and custom publishing firm. She joined the WDDNA board in 2012 and is in charge of all the organization's communications.

### **Brian Smith**

Sheriff's Liason & Website Administrator

Brian Smith has lived in Del Dayo since 1981 and retired after a 35-year career in auditing and budgeting. Since 2013, he has been on the WDDNA board of directors, serving as the organization's website administrator and liaison with the Sheriff's Department. He also manages the association's street signs. "I serve on the board because I want to be involved with my community and contribute to the safety and security of our neighborhood," he explained.

### **Maria Talcott**

Membership Team

A Sacramento native, Maria Talcott graduated from Rio Americano High School and has worked in accounting, finance and real estate. She and her husband, Paul, moved to the area in 2001 and love living in a neighborhood with friendly neighbors who look out for each other.

### **Adam Anderson**

Membership Team

Adam and Raffaella (Raffie) Anderson moved into Wihaggin in October of 2020 after living in College Greens for the previous nine years. They moved to Sacramento in 2011 from Kansas City after buying a small business here. They have one son, Reilly, who lives in Denver. Adam plays golf at Northridge Country Club and Raffie enjoys tennis and plays at Rio Del Oro.

### **Richard Goore**

Membership Team

Richard is a local real estate agent with Coldwell Banker. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Zoey, and their two children, often taking part in such outdoor activities as skiing, biking, hiking and running. He is a graduate of Rio Americano High School and attended UCLA.

### **Steve Swatt**

Member At Large

Steve Swatt is an author and former journalist. He and his family have been Wilhaggin residents for more than 30 years. Steve was a reporter for United Press International and spent more than two decades covering politics, government and public policy for KCRA-TV. He also was a partner in a statewide public affairs firm and taught political communication at Sacramento State. Steve is the lead author of two books: "Game Changers: Twelve Elections that Transformed California," and "Paving the Way: Women's Struggle for Political Equality in California."

### **Fern Waddell**

Member at Large

A native of El Dorado County, Waddell graduated from CSUS with a BS in business. She became a CPA and partner in a local accounting firm. She was active in the California Society of CPAs, serving on the board and as president of the Sacramento Chapter. In 1980, she was active in the formation of Point West Bank and served as a director until the bank was merged with First Interstate Bank in 1988. She served on the board of KVIE and the Child and Family Institute. She retired after 40 years in her profession and became active in the Neighborhood Accountability Board under the guidance of the Sacramento County Probation Office. She has four children, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Her hobbies include quilting, needlepoint, knitting and taking piano lessons.

## ***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](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](mailto:wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com).

Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association | 761 Cortland Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864

[Unsubscribe knewton761@att.net](mailto:knewton761@att.net)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by knewton761@att.net in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!