



Monthly Newsletter

December 2022

Sheriff-elect Cooper to speak at Dec. 6 annual meeting

Jim Cooper, who will take office as the new sheriff of Sacramento County in January, will be the featured speaker at WDDNA's annual membership meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The event, which will begin at 7 p.m., will once again be held at Jesuit High School. Jesuit has generously offered WDDNA the use of space in the Harris Center building adjacent to the gym at no cost to the association. [CLICK HERE](#) to see a Jesuit High School map.

Cooper is expected to speak about homeless issues, as well as rebuilding the department, which remains short-staffed as a result of the pandemic. Following his presentation, he will answer questions from the audience. One of our WDDNA patrol deputies also will appear and answer questions.



The Dec. 6 gathering is free and open to all residents in the Wilhaggin and Del Dayo neighborhoods. Residents need not be members to attend.

Just a reminder ...

It's membership renewal season again. As in the past, if you renew on or before Dec. 31, your dues will be just \$275, a \$25 discount.

You may renew from the invoice you received earlier this month or you can login and go to your Profile Page on the WilhagginNA.com website and pay online. <https://wilhagginna.com/>

Or, if you prefer, just enclose your check for \$275 made out to WDDNA along with your name and address and mail it to WDDNA, P.O. Box 2273, Carmichael, CA 95609. And

thank you again for supporting our association

California Marathon Sunday, Dec. 4

The 39th California International Marathon will be held Sunday, Dec. 4 and as usual will create street closings in our neighborhood.

The race begins 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.

Street closures along Fair Oaks Boulevard will be as follows:

- Paloma (near Arden Way) – from 7:30 to 11:55 a.m.
- Saverien – from 7:30 a.m. to noon.
- Watt Avenue – from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For additional information, go to <https://runusra.org/california-international-marathon/relay/>.

Holiday shopping safety tips

Local law enforcement agencies recommend the following safety precautions to ensure that you remain safe during the holiday season:

When shopping

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Park in a well-lighted space and be sure to lock the car, close the windows and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages.
- Do not carry your Social Security Card or PIN numbers in your wallet or purse.
- Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.
- When possible, avoid walking alone to your car after dark.

Purse/wallet protection

- If possible, don't carry a purse. Never carry anything you can't afford to lose in it.
- Carry your purse across the front of your body, with your forearm across the front of the purse and your elbow held tightly against your side.
- Carry your keys, wallet or other valuables in pockets in your clothes and not in your hand.
- Carry minimum amounts of cash and credit cards. Keep a record of all of your card numbers.

ATM awareness

- Always watch for suspicious persons or activity around an ATM.



- If you notice anything strange, leave and return some other time.
- Even if you have already started a transaction, cancel it and leave if you feel unsafe.
- After dark, take a companion along, park close to the ATM in a well-lit area and lock your car.
- If the lights around the ATM aren't working, don't use it.
- Use your body as a shield while you enter your access code, so no one can see you type it.
- Take all of your transaction receipts with you; don't throw them away near the ATM.
- If you get cash, put it away right away; don't stand at the ATM and count it.
- Never accept offers of assistance with the ATM from strangers; ask the bank for help.
- If you use a drive-up ATM, your vehicle's other doors should be locked with the windows up.
- Memorize your access code. Don't write it down and/or carry it with you.
- Don't use an access code that is the same as other words or numbers in your wallet.
- Never tell your access code to ANYONE (including bank employees, the police, etc.).
- Never lend your ATM card to anyone; treat it like cash or a credit card.
- If you lose your ATM card, notify your bank or credit union immediately.

After you've opened holiday gifts

- Burglars know that many households have new and oftentimes expensive items in their homes following the December holidays – especially items such as new computers and peripherals, stereo components, televisions, cameras and other electronic equipment.
- In many cases, people make it easy for burglars to figure out which homes to target by putting boxes that identify their new gifts in plain view with their other garbage. Avoid becoming an easy target: Don't leave intact electronics boxes in the garbage or recycling carts. Instead, break them down, put them in garbage bags and place them inside the cart.
- Think about keeping broken-down boxes inside – in a garage, for example — until the evening before your regular recycling pick-up. Some burglars actually look inside the carts for evidence of holiday gifts.

Smart license plates may offer security

You've heard of smart thermostats, smart refrigerators, even smart light bulbs. Now there is yet another smart device on the market: a smart license plate.

It is called the RPlate and it is the creation of [Reviver](#), a company with headquarters in Granite Bay. In October the California Legislature authorized the use of the RPlate technology on California roadways and the company can now work directly with the DMV.



According to company co-founder Neville Boston, who began working on the technology in 2008, the RPlate is a digital license plate that electronically displays your plate number and allows you to use an app to pay your annual DMV registration fees with your credit card.

Boston noted that the plate has geo-tracking, mileage and speed metric features built in, among other things. He said Reviver worked “hand-in-glove” with California DMV officials and state and local law enforcement agencies as it designed and rolled out its system.

Boston said the plate allows you to add personalized messages under your license number and you can choose your license plate to either display white on black or black on white. Using your cell phone, you can monitor your car when it is parked, including geolocation – helpful if you can’t remember where you parked in a large lot.

More importantly, if your car is stolen, law enforcement can easily track its location using the plate’s geolocation feature and you can activate a feature that displays the word “STOLEN” on the plate instead of the license number.

Boston said that, in the past few years during the RPlate’s trial period, several vehicles equipped with the plate were stolen and police were able to track and recover them using the RPlate. “One of them was from the Fairfield area,” he noted.

If the plate itself is stolen, he said it will automatically send a message to your phone and email, the word “DETACHED” will display on the plate, it will deactivate so it cannot be revived by the thief and police will be able to track the thief’s location.

Boston said the plate will soon link electronically to systems nationwide to pay bridge and highway tolls and the company is working with several parking companies to make it possible to pay parking fees through the plate at lots that have digital payment options.

What about plate data security?

According to Boston, the data collected by the RPlate system is “safer than when you do online banking. We test it regularly to ensure that our systems are safe and secure. We don’t sell your information or your data.”

For vehicle owners interested in replacing their existing plate with an RPlate, Boston said you can go to the Reviver website at <https://reviver.com/> Once you purchase the plate, you will receive a link to download the Reviver app. Then you will be asked to show your vehicle registration card. Reviver can use that to verify the VIN on the vehicle and duplicate the plate image on your new RPlate and send it to you. The plates also are sold at some local dealerships.

“The process is actually really fast,” Boston noted. “If you are ordering a battery-operated plate, it will probably only take you about five to 10 minutes to install.” He noted that the plate is only available for use on the rear of the vehicle. A static plate is still required on the front.

According to Boston, purchase of the plate is structured on a lease-to-own basis, similar to that for cell phones. An after-market plate powered by a five-year battery is available for \$19.95 per month. Participating car dealerships can install hard-wired versions as an option at purchase. Boston said among local dealers offering them are the Future group, Von Housen Automotive Group, Audi Rocklin and Epic Chevrolet & Cadillac.

Boston said he began having conversations with the California’s Department of Motor Vehicles in 2008 and found that the agency was receptive to the technology. He also had conversations with the California Highway Patrol and began drafting legislation to

authorize the use of digital plates on California roadways. The original authorizing legislation passed in 2013 and Boston's company launched a pilot program to test the technology and work on integrating with the DMV's systems.

Boston said the pilot program was a success and the Reviver plates received full legislative authorization through a bill passed in October requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to allow vehicle owners in California to use such plates on their cars.

County buys Watt property for homeless

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors has approved the purchase of a \$23 million property that will serve as the county's largest Safe Stay Community for the homeless.

The property is located at 4837 Watt Ave. near Watt Avenue and Roseville Road. It is close to McClellan and several existing large encampments.

The property consists of approximately 13 acres with a 129,491-square-foot industrial building and parking lot. The space is initially expected to shelter up to 140 cabins for 160 people inside the building, with additional space for 50 cars and RVs in the parking lot for those wishing to transition from homelessness while remaining in their vehicles.

County staff and supervisors conducted a series of community meetings to get feedback from business owners and residents near the site before developing a preliminary plan for the property. They estimate that additional capital improvements will cost \$17 million.

The purchase will be funded from the county's federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation, including \$1 million from our Third Supervisorial District ARPA funds.

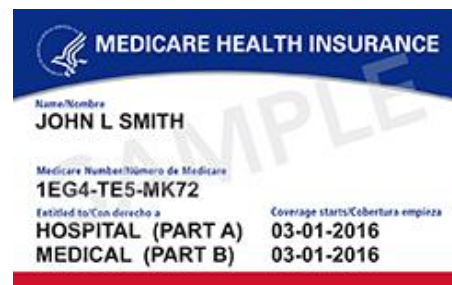
County officials report that Safe Stay Communities are full-service shelters located near existing unsheltered encampments. The shelters provide spaces where people can stay while receiving supportive services to help them recover from homelessness. As with all Safe Stay Communities, the Watt Avenue facility will provide accommodations for pets, places to store possessions and the ability to shelter with partners.

Help stop Medicare Fraud

Officials report that Medicare fraud costs billions of dollars each year and raises the cost of healthcare for everyone.

Experts with the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP), which provides free Medicare counseling services in our region, recommends the following:

- Protect your personal information. Guard your Medicare, Social Security and bank account numbers carefully. Don't give these to anyone over the phone or in person, unless you initiated the conversation or know the person and you have written down their name, title and contact



information.

- Don't leave your Medicare number in a phone message and don't carry your Medicare card with you except to doctor's appointments, hospitals, clinics or pharmacies.
- Don't accept offers of money, free food or gifts for medical care.
- Don't accept any offer of "free" services or supplies in return for your Medicare number.
- Don't accept medical supplies from door-to-door salespeople. Medicare will never call or visit to sell you anything.
- Don't let anyone convince you to see a doctor for a service you don't need.
- Keep track of your doctor visits, tests and procedures by taking notes in a healthcare journal or calendar.

Learn to spot fraud

HICAP notes that you can detect fraud by examining both the Medicare Summary Notice you receive from Medicare after your claims are paid and the Explanation of Benefits you receive from your Part C and/or Part D plan. (You can access your Medicare account at mymedicare.gov). HICAP suggests that you check the following:

- Did you receive all the services/prescriptions listed?
- Were you billed for something you didn't get?
- Did your doctor order these services?
- Do the prescriptions listed match your prescriptions?
- Were you billed for the same thing twice?
- Are the dates of the services/prescriptions correct?
- Are the dollar amounts shown the same as those on your bill?

Report

If you suspect Medicare fraud, report it. Call the health care provider listed on the Medicare Summary Notice or Explanation of Benefits and inquire about questionable item(s). In many cases, it may be the result of a billing error.

If your question is not resolved and you think the charges are fraudulent, call Senior Medicare Patrol at (855) 613-7080. For more information, go to <https://cahealthadvocates.org/fraud-abuse/>

For questions about Medicare plans and options, contact HICAP. The nonprofit agency provides free, one-on-one Medicare counseling in our region. Its trained volunteer counselors are registered by the California Department of Aging. The agency is not affiliated with any insurance company.

To contact HICAP's Sacramento office, call (916) 376-8915 or go to HICAPservices.net.

Member Feedback

Thanks for the article on rattlesnakes in the November newsletter.

About 10 years ago I actually had one inside my entry way. It was a very hot day and it came in via a gap under my front door that I didn't know was there. I scooped up the snake in my pool skimmer net (with a six-foot handle) and threw it back outside. Needless to say, I had the gap under the door fixed right away.

I've had many encounters with rattlers in my yard since my home backs up to the river. One tip I always give to new neighbors is this: I learned early on that rattlers will hide under garbage cans on hot days. I always park my cans so that moving them involves raising them up and pulling them backwards. That way I don't take the chance of rolling the can forward and accidentally walking on a snake. This almost happened once, which is how I learned the lesson.

From a member on North River Way

Member Q&A

Q: There is frequent speeding and cars doing "donuts" on Harrington and running stop signs at high speeds at Harrington/Kingsford and American River Drive. What can be done?

A: Yes, speeding and stop-sign running is a serious problem everywhere in our neighborhood. Unfortunately, unless one of our deputies actually sees the offender do it, there isn't much we can do about it. Our deputies do stop and cite stop-sign runners when they see them.

Speeding is an even more difficult problem. Technically, traffic enforcement is the responsibility of the California Highway Patrol on all surface streets and freeways in the county. For that reason, Sheriff's Department vehicles are not equipped with radar, so deputies cannot issue a viable speeding ticket unless they can actually chase the cars and record the speed on their cruisers' speedometers. That can be very dangerous on narrow residential streets. So, it is very difficult for our deputies to cite speeders, although they can stop them and give a warning.

As with other crimes, deputies cannot cite drivers for doing donuts unless they catch them in the act or have other forms of proof. That said, if you can safely write down a license plate number, a description of the car, the day and time of the event and any other relevant information, you should email it to our deputies for possible follow-up.

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**.

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

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