



Monthly Newsletter

January 2022

WDDNA to meet with county officials

A large audience turned out for WDDNA's Dec. 8 annual meeting which focused primarily on the problem of speeding, stop sign violations and reckless driving in our neighborhood.

The association's board of directors is keenly aware of these issues. Members of our traffic committee are currently arranging meetings in early 2022 with Supervisor Rich Desmond and with representatives from the county's Department of Transportation, among others, to discuss solutions.

We welcome input from members that we may use in those meetings. You may direct an email to WDDNA Communications Director Kathleen Newton, knewton761@att.net, with your concerns and comments that we may share with officials.

Annual meeting report

More than 100 people attended WDDNA's annual meeting in the Welcome Center at Jesuit High School.

Featured speakers were California Highway Patrol Officer Greg Zumstein of the CHP's Sacramento County Community Response Team, and Sgt. Ray Forsyth, a long-time WDDNA patrol deputy. We recorded videos of those presentations and posted them on the WDDNA website.

To watch those videos, [CLICK HERE](#).

Both speakers responded to questions from the audience about speeding and stop-sign running in our neighborhood. In addition to what can be viewed in the videos, we have compiled the following information as a follow-up to audience questions.

How can we get drivers to slow down?

The most frequent audience comments were about speeding on neighborhood streets, particularly Kingsford, Jacob and American River Drive. Most questioners asked what could be done to slow drivers down.

There is a very informative video online about how to slow traffic in residential neighborhoods. [CLICK HERE](#) to view it.

The Sacramento County Department of Transportation uses a variety of tools to deter speeding. The most common methods requested by neighborhood residents are adding more speed signs, stop signs and speed bumps.

A list of the various speed mitigation measures used by the county (and their relative effectiveness) can be found on the DOT website. [CLICK HERE](#) for that information.

Speed tables were mentioned by several people at the meeting. In some spots, the wide speed tables have replaced speed humps. According to DOT officials, the tables are generally preferred because they are smoother for fire trucks to go over but are less effective at reducing traffic speeds. The higher “speed humps” are considered more effective.

Please explain speed surveys and speed limits

Zumstein noted that the CHP has problems writing speeding tickets because they are difficult to enforce unless the road on which the speeding occurred has a current speed survey. According to CalTrans, speed zone surveys are generally valid for five years. If there is no current speed survey, a ticket can be challenged in court.



However, on nearly all of our neighborhood streets, the speed limit is 25 mph and speed surveys are not required.

In California, on streets other than highways there are two basic speed limits that do not require speed surveys. These are called “prima facie” speed limits:

- 15 mph is applicable to uncontrolled railway crossings; blind, uncontrolled intersections and alleyways.
- 25 mph is applicable to business and residential areas without other posted speed limits; school zones and areas immediately around senior centers.

Other streets, such as American River Drive (35 mph) and McClaren (30 mph), require an up-to-date speed survey and WDDNA is working to find out whether there are current speed surveys on those.

On every other street in our neighborhood, however, the speed limit is 25 mph, including such heavily traveled roadways as Jacob Lane, Wilhaggin, Saverien and Kingston drives. What’s more, even on American River Drive and McClaren, speed limits around the schools are posted at 25 mph.

If you are interested in checking the speed limit on Sacramento County streets, there is a tool for that called the County Online Speed Limit Utility. [CLICK HERE](#) to check it out.

Click on these links for more information about speed surveys:

- [CalTrans website page on Setting Speed Limits](#)
- [Frequently asked questions about setting speed limits](#)
- [Caltrans Manual for Setting Speed Limits](#)

Can traffic be slowed down by more enforcement?

The answer is likely “yes,” but enforcement is



limited in our area. The CHP is responsible for traffic enforcement in Sacramento County. However, Zumstein noted that the CHP staffing is inadequate to give consistent coverage to residential neighborhoods like ours.



The Sheriff's Department is not tasked with traffic enforcement. The exception is our WDDNA off-duty deputies. Because they work for us, we have assigned them to monitor traffic when they are not engaged in other activities. So, our deputies do issue citations when they observe serious traffic offenses.

However, enforcing speed laws is difficult for our deputies because they are not equipped with speed measuring devices. So, most citations they issue are for other types of observable traffic violations, such as blowing through stop signs.

How are WDDNA patrol shifts scheduled? Can we have more night-time shifts?

At present, WDDNA supports 10 patrol shifts a week by off-duty deputies. Each is eight hours long; seven are in the daytime and three at night (Tuesday, Friday and Saturday nights).

The association board of directors sets the patrol schedule and provides the Sheriff's Department with a list of shifts we wish to fill. The department provides that list to its regular patrol deputies. We are only able to fill a shift if there is a deputy interested in working it on his or her own time.

The board has indeed sought to schedule more nighttime shifts. In the past, we eliminated our Sunday shift and replaced it with a Wednesday night shift. However, when the Sheriff's Department changed the schedule of our Wednesday night deputy, he was no longer able to work for us on Wednesday nights. We advertised for a replacement for many weeks without success, so we restored our Sunday shift. The Wednesday night shift is still open. We have had similar problems filling night shifts other days of the week.

If we sought to add additional night shifts to our existing schedule and were able to fill them, we would face budgetary constraints. Each shift costs us approximately \$86 per hour or \$30,000 a year (after deducting for deputy absences due to vacation, illness, court appearances, etc.). That is the equivalent of about 109 memberships, which is the number of new members we would need to recruit for each additional 8-hour shift. Either that, or we would need to increase member dues. All previous feedback indicates that raising dues could dramatically decrease membership, thereby reducing revenue.

Given all these realities, we have chosen to schedule the bulk of our shifts in the daytime. In neighborhoods like ours, home burglaries are more frequent in daylight hours when residents are at work. Daylight patrols have proven to be very effective in deterring would-be home burglars. In addition, our daytime patrols monitor traffic at key intersections.

It is true that crimes against vehicles are more common at night when unattended cars are parked on streets or driveways. However, given our budgetary and scheduling constraints, we have chosen to maintain a robust daylight schedule during the work week in the belief that protecting homes is of highest priority.

We welcome your feedback on this issue. Email knewton761@att.net.

Driver donuts in Rio parking lot

A couple of residents noted that residents living near Rio American High School are

frequently disturbed at night by the sound of screeching tires as teen drivers spin donuts in the school parking lot.

Unfortunately, it is very difficult for our night deputies to catch such drivers in the act. The perpetrators invariably are gone by the time our deputies receive the call and head to the scene. In addition, although our deputies do take it upon themselves to monitor questionable night activity on the Rio campus, we do not have a financial agreement with the San Juan Unified School District to provide security services.

If you wish to contact officials, the superintendent of the San Juan Unified School District is Kent Kern. His phone number is (916) 971-7104. His email is kkern@sanjuan.edu. The principal of Rio Americano High School is Cliff Kelly, (916) 971-7494, email cliff.kelly@sanjuan.edu.



Concerns about River Walk Way

A member who lives at the corner of Sand Bar Circle and River Walk Way expressed concern about groups that gather late at night in the River Walk Way area. She is worried that some of them may pose a security risk to local homes.

WDDNA will alert our night shift deputies to the problem and ensure that the area is monitored. In addition, we will inquire with county officials about the possibility of adding an additional night-time gate across the road.

Who to call?

A member said she had difficulty contacting law enforcement officials about neighborhood traffic issues. Following are some guidelines for contacting law enforcement for a variety of issues:

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

If you need medical help, are witnessing a crime taking place or feel that your life and/or property are in immediate danger in any way, call 911 immediately.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

The California Highway Patrol is responsible for traffic law enforcement on all streets and roadways in Sacramento County. If there is a dangerous traffic problem recurring frequently on your street or nearby, you should provide a complete description of the problem along with all your contact information to the CHP Sacramento County Community Response Team via email at 201POP@chp.ca.gov.

Regular-duty Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputies generally will not be dispatched for traffic calls. However, you may alert our WDDNA patrol deputies about ongoing neighborhood traffic issues by sending an email to Wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com. Because we do not have deputies on duty 24/7 and because deputies do not monitor this email continuously, do not use this option for an immediate problem. In any life-threatening situation, always call 911. Otherwise, for an immediate problem call the non-emergency line at (916) 874-5115.

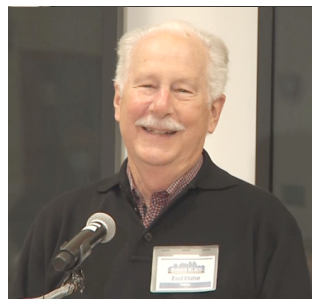
NON-EMERGENCY SAFETY OR SECURITY ISSUES

If there is a homeless camp setting up on your lawn; if you see what looks like someone casing the neighborhood or peeking in windows; if you believe someone may be selling drugs at a park or if you are concerned with any number of other safety or security issues that are not life threatening, you can call the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department non-emergency number at (916) 874-5115. When you call, if we have a deputy on duty, that deputy will be dispatched and he or she will likely respond within two or three minutes. Otherwise, the case will be referred to regular patrol units, which may take more time to arrive.

Is property crime on the rise here?

*By Paul Blaise
WDDNA Board President*

There is little argument that we live in unusual times. There have been so many changes in our lives, including a growing awareness of an increase in criminal activity around the state. Snatch-and-grab theft from retailers, gun-related violence and homicides seem to fill media reports.



Magnus Lofstrom, a researcher and policy director of criminal justice at the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California, recently spoke with The Sacramento Bee. According to the Dec. 17 Bee article, since 1960 the overall property crime in our state has decreased. In 2020, it reached its lowest level on record. Although slightly higher than national trends, theft rates fell in 2020 and then increased in 2021 to pre-pandemic levels driven primarily by car break-ins.

But, how do these changes affect our own neighborhood?

In the Wilhaggin and Del Dayo neighborhoods, there has been a decrease in property crime from the previous year. According to the Sheriff's Department crime map, property crime was down from 43 incidents in 2020 to 28 this year – a 35% decrease. Most incidents were thefts from vehicles, garages and exterior structures. We believe our WDDNA patrols have contributed to the decrease.

Although it is difficult to point toward a particular factor behind crime data trends, it's a reminder of the importance of building our awareness. What trends might we anticipate? How should we coordinate our patrols accordingly? How do we prepare our members to better protect themselves and their homes?

Our association leadership will continue to weigh these questions and look for ways to provide our members with the best available information to help keep our neighborhood one of the safest in Sacramento County.

Thank you for supporting the Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association and our commitment to neighborhood safety and security. We wish you health and happiness in the year ahead.

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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