



## Monthly Newsletter

### January, 2023

### *Two days left to renew*

If you have not yet renewed your WDDNA membership, you have just two more days to do so at the \$275 rate. If you have not renewed by Jan. 1, your 2022 membership unfortunately will expire. Your fee to rejoin will then be at the annual rate of \$300.

Those of you who have not yet renewed recently received emailed reminder invoices that make it very easy to pay with just a simple click. No need to go to the website. So, check your email folder or your spam folder if you would like to use that option.

If you prefer to renew on our [WDDNA website](#), just login as always. When your profile page comes up, click on "Renew/Pay Dues." It will take you to the payment page, where you can click on the "Pay Now" button and pay by credit card. To check if you have already paid your 2023 dues, go to the same page. If you have renewed, the invoice will say "Paid."

Thank you for supporting WDDNA and helping to keep our neighborhood safe.

### *A WDDNA Christmas story*

We recently received the following heart-warming email from a WDDNA member.

*"On Friday, Dec. 16, my 14-year-old son met 'Officer Sam' in front of our home while playing basketball.*

*"Sam took a couple of minutes to play with him and his buddy but noticed that the ball was a little flat.*

*"Last night (Friday, Dec. 23), Sam again came around the house – with lights flashing! – and delivered a brand-new basketball to replace the old flat one!*

*"That was better than any visit Santa could have made!*

*"His outreach and thoughtfulness have created an exciting buzz within our family and the*



*neighbors.”*

The deputy, Sgt. Sam Flores, is one of the off-duty Sheriff's Department deputies who patrol our streets and practice old-fashioned community policing – which simply means that they get to know our neighborhood and the people who live here.

Sgt. Flores' generosity is proof that our deputies care about us. Over the years, WDDNA deputies have

- Checked our homes while we are away
- Let us know about open garage doors or damaged fences
- Stopped strange vehicles cruising our streets late at night
- Arrested burglars in mid-day
- Once reported a fire in the back yard of a home before it became a tragedy
- And have twice saved the lives of elderly homeowners in medical distress.

Your support of our association is what makes all this possible. And deputies like Sgt. Flores are the reason your WDDNA board of directors continues to work to keep our association strong and growing.

We wish you all a bright and happy New Year.

## *WDDNA's December membership meeting*

Newly-elected Sheriff Jim Cooper was the featured speaker at WDDNA's annual membership meeting on Dec. 6, and the event was a great success.

More than 150 people were on hand in the Harris Center at Jesuit High School as Cooper detailed some of his plans for the Sheriff's Department in 2023.



Cooper said he will be keenly focused on dealing with criminal activity related to the homeless community. In particular, he said camping on the American River Parkway is illegal, so he will make a concerted effort to move all the campers out of the parkway.

He acknowledged that, due to the pandemic – which forced the closing of the department's training facility for two years – the Sheriff's Department is currently understaffed by more than 25 percent. He plans to hire recruiters to seek out new enlistees, as well as experienced officers from other agencies, to help fill current vacancies. Then he plans to have Sheriff's deputies patrol in the parkway to support the work of park rangers.

Cooper also shared information about the impact of recent state ballot measures that he believes have contributed to increased retail crime.

To view a video recording of Cooper's presentation, [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the Annual Meeting page on the WDDNA website.

Following Cooper's presentation, WDDNA patrol deputy Sgt. Ray Forsyth described how our deputies manage their patrols and answered questions from the audience about

neighborhood traffic and crime issues. To watch a video recording of his presentation, [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the Annual Meeting page on the WDDNA website.

We wish to thank Jesuit High School for generously donating at no cost to us the use of the Harris Center for our meeting.

## *2023 Sheriff's Department rate hikes*

WDDNA has just been notified of upcoming 2023 increases in the rates we will be charged to employ off-duty Sheriff's Department deputies to patrol our streets in department vehicles. It will be the first increase since 2020.

The notice explained that fee increases are necessary due to recent staff contract negotiations. There will be two separate increases -- one Feb. 1 and the other July 1.

WDDNA currently pays a total of \$85.59 per hour for each patrol shift. That includes \$64.59 per hour for the deputy, \$10 per hour for an administration fee to run the off-duty office and \$11 per hour for use of the vehicle. Together, that is a cost of \$85.59 per hour.

On Feb. 1, the administration fee will jump by 50 percent to \$15 per hour; the vehicle fee will rise by nearly 55 percent to \$17 per hour. Then on July 1, there also will be a 16.7 percent increase in the rate we pay for the deputy from the current \$64.59 to \$75.36.

So, beginning on July 1, the total hourly rate we will pay for each patrol shift will rise from the current \$85.59 per hour to \$107.39 per hour, an increase of 25.4 percent from our current rate.

Due to the recent pandemic-related shortage of deputies to fill all our shifts, WDDNA has accumulated a reserve fund that we believe will be sufficient to cover this increase for the 2023 year.

However, in 2024 we expect it may be necessary to consider one or more options to accommodate the additional costs. Those options may include such things as raising annual dues, decreasing the length of each shift and/or eliminating one or more of the weekly shifts.

We will carefully analyze our budget through the coming year and share our findings with members.

## *Irrigation restrictions still in place*

A WDDNA member recently contacted us to note that many homeowners in the neighborhood have not yet reset the timers on their sprinkler systems for the winter season.

"Almost every day when I'm walking my dog I see sprinklers watering lawns," he explained. "What bugs me the most is seeing them on when it is raining. California has a serious water supply problem. Please help save water."



Despite our recent rains, northern California is still experiencing drought conditions. Sacramento Suburban Water District, which serves our area, still has irrigation restrictions in place and our deputies report that late-night irrigation enforcement checks are routinely made by district staff.

Following are the irrigation mandates for our area:

**Mandatory Watering Schedule:**

Watering three days or less per week is mandatory:

- Customers whose address ends with an odd number are to only water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
- Customers whose address ends with an even number are to only water on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- Watering on Mondays is prohibited

The following requirements also are in force:

- Water must not be permitted to run into any gutter, water course or storm drain from any tap, hose, faucet, pipe, sprinkler or nozzle
- Irrigation of landscaping within 48 hours of measurable rainfall is prohibited
- Customers may register their Weather Based Irrigation Controllers (WBIC) with the District. Customers with a registered WBIC are exempt from any watering schedule, provided the WBIC is in good repair and set to operate off of its intended weather based operating instructions
- Customers watering food grown for personal consumption are exempt from watering day restrictions
- Customers utilizing a drip irrigation system to irrigate their landscape (including subsurface drip irrigation systems for turf/lawn areas) are exempt from watering day restrictions.

To contact Sacramento Suburban Water District, call (916) 972.7171, email [feedback@sswd.org](mailto:feedback@sswd.org) or go to <https://www.sswd.org>.

## *It's a good time to do a home inventory*

Experts suggest that the beginning of the New Year is a good time to create or update your home inventory. Creating a home inventory ensures that you have sufficient homeowners insurance coverage and assists you in filing a claim if you suffer a loss.

Forbes Magazine recently published a summary of things to include in a good home inventory and included a list of popular home inventory apps.

The article suggested that that you go room to room and make a list of everything of any value. The lists should include:

- A description of the items, including the make and model (if applicable)
- Estimated value of each item
- Purchase dates
- Receipts
- Serial numbers.

Another method is to organize the list by category, such as furniture, musical instruments, jewelry, artwork, collections, etc. Clothing can be listed by the number of each type of garment.

Photographs of household goods are especially helpful when an item is hard to describe on paper, or if a purchase receipt cannot be obtained. Each photograph should be labeled with date stamps and any additional pertinent information. And taking a video survey of each room and storing it on a thumb drive in the envelope with your list can also be useful.

Don't forget to list and photograph any off-site items, such as belongings kept in a storage facility. Your homeowner's insurance policy may cover theft and fire of items at off-site facilities.

### **Re-evaluate your insurance on valuable items**

Make sure your homeowner's insurance is sufficient to cover your high-value items, such as jewelry, musical instruments, artwork and electronics. Your ipolicy may put a special sub-limit on certain types of items.

For example, a common policy puts a \$1,500 limit on theft coverage for jewelry and watches. If you have valuable items, you can "schedule" them. Scheduled personal property is an add-on to insure high-value items for their full value.

### **Other considerations**

- Check your policy's declarations page to see what your contents limit is. Does it appear to be enough to replace all of your furniture, rugs, curtains, clothes, appliances and other possessions?
- Make sure your policy covers the replacement value of your possessions, not the current cash value.
- Depending on where you live in our neighborhood, you may wish to consider flood insurance. And many Californians also opt for earthquake insurance. Without special policies for these specific disasters, your home and belongings won't be covered.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full Forbes story.

The California Department of Insurance provides an excellent 40-page home inventory guide booklet that you can download for free. [CLICK HERE](#) to view and download it.

State Farm offers a very basic free downloadable and printable Home Inventory Checklist. You could use it for routine items, then create your own list of high-end or complex items, such as electronics, tools, jewelry and collections. [CLICK HERE](#) to download it.

Don't forget to update your inventory whenever you acquire, sell or gift valuable items. And when your list is complete, put it into a large envelope or box along with your photos and/or videos and store it in a secure location, such as a waterproof and fireproof container or with other important papers in a bank safety deposit box.

## ***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).

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