



2021  
July Newsletter

## *WDDNA updates its technology*

WDDNA has just installed a new email and secure database management system and we are in the process of switching to a new [website](#). All of this is designed to improve our ability to keep track of our growing member database, merge it with our communications and allow association volunteers to focus on our mission while spending less time record keeping.

The whole process began last fall as our membership approached the 1,000-household mark. WDDNA's volunteer board of directors celebrated that growth because it allows us to continue our robust employment of off-duty Sheriff's Department deputies to patrol our streets. But we also recognized that the time had come to develop a more efficient method for managing our data.

As with many volunteer nonprofit organizations, our membership record keeping had grown piecemeal as our membership grew. It consisted of a collection of spreadsheets, email lists, off-line bookkeeping and sometimes inconsistent communications. We knew we needed better technology to efficiently and accurately record, track and manage all our data, link it to our communications program and tie everything into our financial and billing system.

To accomplish this, we have spent the past few months customizing software from a leading Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform to fit our needs. It will now automatically record all our interactions with members in a secure database and keep track of our emails, billing and member data.

We also built a new website as part of this change. (The new site is in the process of going live at this writing.) Among other things, it allows us to add a helpful digital assistant that members (and site visitors) can use to get simple questions answered right away, day or night. And when our members pay their dues on the website, that payment will automatically be recorded in our secure CRM member database.

If all of this technology sounds a bit impersonal, we assure you that your volunteer board members are still fully engaged and available to solve problems, answer questions and help you one-on-one, whether via email, over the phone or in person. We hope reducing our manual record keeping will allow us to do our jobs more efficiently and spend more time focusing on neighborhood security.

As with any new technological system, we fully expect that there may be a few settling-in glitches. Please feel free to contact us at [wilhaggindeldayona@gmail.com](mailto:wilhaggindeldayona@gmail.com) if you experience any difficulty and one of our board members will be happy to help.

As always, we truly thank you for supporting the Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association. Together, we will continue to work to help keep our neighborhood safe and secure.

## What Are State-Approved Fireworks?



### *Fireworks especially dangerous this year*

Because of our region's serious drought conditions and recent periods of intense heat, Sacramento County officials are warning that fireworks are especially dangerous this year and urging residents to take extra precautions as they plan their July Fourth celebration.

Better yet, because of our neighborhood's proximity to the parkway, WDDNA suggests that this would be a good year to forgo backyard fireworks altogether, if possible.

Fire officials are particularly concerned about the use of fireworks – even those deemed “safe and sane” – anywhere near the American River Parkway and its highly flammable vegetation. In particular, using illegal aerial fireworks near the parkway could ignite the tinder-dry grasses causing a blaze that could quickly spread to nearby homes.

County officials note that calls for service throughout the county increase dramatically on July 4th and emergency response resources are stretched extremely thin. During the holiday weekend, they ask that people use 9-1-1 for emergencies only, such as for an active fire or injury.

Fire experts offer the following advice:

#### **Know the Risks**

- The unsafe use of fireworks can cause severe burns, amputations, blinding and even death.
- Damaging fires occur when children use fireworks unsupervised by adults.
- Parents are responsible for any property damage or injuries caused by fireworks.

#### **Keep it Legal**

- All legal fireworks in California are called Safe and Sane Fireworks and must bear the State Fire Marshal's seal.
- Any firework that goes up in the air or explodes is illegal and dangerous.

#### **Keep It Safe**

- Always have a bucket of water to dispose of fireworks and leave them in the water overnight before disposing.

- Always have a hose connected to water available in case of fire.
- Do not use fireworks near dry grass or other flammable materials.
- Do not use fireworks while under a canopy, covered balcony, covered patio or under a tree or bushes.

#### How to report illegal sale and usage

- Call (916) 874-5115 or email [reportfireworks@saccounty.net](mailto:reportfireworks@saccounty.net)
- Or call 3-1-1 to be connected to the proper agency

#### Fireworks Shows

Instead of backyard fireworks, you may choose to attend a professional fireworks show. The following sites will be hosting shows:

- SUTTER HEALTH PARK – West Sacramento will once again host a fireworks show at Sutter Health Park. This year, it will include a concert by Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera. For information, [CLICK HERE](#).
- RANCHO CORDOVA – The city will hold a July 3-4 celebration with a mile run, a parade, concerns and fireworks at Hagan Park. [CLICK HERE](#) for information.
- ELK GROVE – The city of Elk Grove will be the site of a fireworks spectacular called Salute to the Red, White and Blue at Elk Grove Park from 6 to 10 p.m. on July 4. [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

## Use 311 mobile app to report problems

If you see a pothole, find an abandoned shopping cart or vehicle, spot some illegal dumping or see a stray animal, Sacramento County has an app for that.

According to Sacramento County Regional Parks Public Information Officer Ken Casparis, the best way to report such problems is by using the SacCounty 311 Connect app on your smartphone. You can use it to create a service request and send a photo of the thing from your phone.



The app has a GPS feature that will identify your location and the request will be routed automatically to the appropriate county department.

“Residents who report issues through 311 will receive a case number with an estimated time of completion and will be able to track their service requests online,” Casparis added.

For WDDNA members, the app may be of particular interest as it relates to the chain-link fence along the American River Parkway.

Recently, members saw a large hole in that fence at the end of Jacob Lane that they feared could be a security issue for nearby homeowners. They reported the hole to parks officials and the maintenance staff repaired it. However, it took some time because folks were not sure who to contact about the problem.

Casparis told WDDNA Communications Director Kathleen Newton that the best way to get the problem solved in the future is by using the app.

If you would like to add it to your phone, [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the mobile app site and download it.

For more information about the app, go to <https://www.saccounty.net/news/latest-news/Pages/311Connect--NewAndImprovedLinksToServices.aspx>

## *Grill safety tips from Sac Metro Fire*

Before starting your grill for the Fourth of July celebration, there are several safety precautions Sacramento Metro Fire suggests you keep in mind to prevent possible gas explosions or fires.



Many accidents occur after the grill has been unused over a period of time or after a grill's LP gas container has been refilled and reattached.

### **SAFETY CHECKS FOR THE GRILL**

- At least once every year, check the Venturi tube for blockage by insects, spiders or food drippings. Clear any blockage, either with a pipe cleaner or with a wire. Push any blockages through the tube to the main part of the burner.
- Check the grill's hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. Make sure there aren't sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Make sure hoses are as far away from the hot surface as possible. Make sure to keep hoses away from areas where grease could drip on them. If you can't move hoses, have a heat shield installed.
- Check for LP gas leaks whenever you reconnect the grill to the LP gas container or if you smell gas. To check for leaks, open the LP gas supply valve fully and apply a soapy solution (one part water, one part liquid detergent) with a brush at connection points. If bubbles appear, there is a leak. Turn off the LP gas and tighten the connection. If this does not stop the leak, close the container valve, and take the grill to your LP gas dealer or a qualified appliance repair person.
- If a leak is detected, don't attempt to light the grill until the leak has been repaired. If you are using the grill, turn off the LP gas

### **TIPS FOR SAFE GRILL USE**

- Make sure there are no lighted cigarettes, matches or open flames near a leaking grill.
- Never use a grill indoors due to carbon monoxide (CO) and fire hazards. Use the grill at least 10 feet away from your house or any building. Do not use the grill in a garage, breezeway, carport, porch or under a surface that will burn.
- Always follow the instructions that accompany the grill.
- Never leave a grill unattended.
- Keep children away from the grill. The outside surface of the grill can get hot and burn when touched.
- Keep a kitchen fire extinguisher nearby.

### **LP GAS CONTAINER TIPS**

#### **When Storing:**

- Always keep containers upright.
- Never store a spare LP gas container under or near the grill.

- Never store or use flammable liquids, such as gasoline, near the grill.
- Never use or store an LP gas container indoors.

**When Transporting:**

- Transport the container in a secure, upright position.
- Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk.

**When Refilling:**

- Have the container refilled only by your LP gas dealer or by a qualified service station operator. **DO NOT FILL THE CONTAINER YOURSELF.** Consider using a cylinder exchange.

**When Connecting:**

- Remove the container valve plug from the container valve.
- Thread the container connector securely into the container valve outlet (turn counterclockwise).
- Tighten, but do not use excessive force.
- After connecting, check for leaks.

**When Disconnecting:**

- Before disconnecting, turn off the grill's burner and container valve.
- Disconnect the container (turn clockwise).
- Place the container valve plug securely into the container valve outlet.

## *County Parks announces fire risk plans*

The [Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks](#) has announced a multi-pronged plan to reduce fire risk, defend wildlife habitat and protect natural resources and neighborhoods adjacent to the parks.



For its 2021 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan, the Department of Regional Parks lined up cattle, sheep and goat grazing contracts; is utilizing maintenance crews to maintaining fire breaks and is issuing fuel break maintenance permits to properties bordering park properties.

“We have already seen a higher fire frequency this summer than in recent years past,” said Deputy Director Mike Doane of Sacramento County Regional Parks. “It is important for park visitors to remember that open flame fires are not allowed; barbecuing is only permitted in designated picnic areas and smoking is only allowed in developed picnic areas, asphalt surfaces, golf courses and levee tops in the American River Parkway”

To decrease the number and size potential of wildfires in the county's parks, the techniques being used include:

- **Firebreaks** – A combination of mowing, soil discing and targeted herbicides are being used where appropriate to create perimeters around open fields, along fence lines and behind neighborhoods.
- **Ladder Fuel Hand-Crews** – In limited, hard-to-reach areas, hand-crews are removing vegetation that allows the potential for a fire to climb up or move into urban areas.
- **Grazing** – There are hundreds of acres of undeveloped or protected land in the county's regional parks. This vegetation can be a costly and deadly fire hazard.

Goats and sheep are being used to eat down weeds, bushes and grass that manned crews cannot get to.

- **Annual Encroachment Permits** – Residents who live adjacent to regional parks properties can apply for free annual encroachment permits to maintain fire breaks behind their property lines. These allow residents to string-trim grass and weeds for up to 50 feet beyond their private property lines. To request a permit, provide your name, address and contact information to regional parks managers at [parksinfo@SacCounty.net](mailto:parksinfo@SacCounty.net).

Visit the [Regional Parks website to learn more the 2021 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan](#) for Sacramento County Regional Parks. If you see a fire burning in a park, call 9-1-1 immediately.

## *Free trees from SMUD & Tree Foundation*

Shade trees not only protect us from the heat of summer, they also reduce evaporation in our gardens, produce oxygen and store carbon.

Since 1990, [SMUD](#), in partnership with the Sacramento Tree Foundation (Sac Tree), has planted more than 600,000 shade trees in the Sacramento area.



As the temperatures increase in our region, the need for sustainable urban and community forests also increases. The Sacramento Shade program has evolved to address these new concerns by expanding both the number and types of trees offered. Up to 10 free trees are available per customer and there are more than 30 varieties to choose from.

You can set up an appointment with a community forester to visit your home. They'll assess your property, review your tree options and determine the best locations to plant your trees. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and get information on planting, care and follow-up stewardship.

[CLICK HERE](https://www.sactree.com/shadetrees) for information. <https://www.sactree.com/shadetrees>

## *Summer heat risks for medication users*

With the summer heat, [Sacramento County health officials warn](#) that some medications can impair the body's ability to regulate temperature. During hot weather, individuals taking medications can be at increased risk of developing excessive body temperature or hyperthermia.

"Individuals taking certain medications, including those used to treat mental illness, need to take extra precautions to ensure they have a plan for staying cool and hydrated," says Dr. Ryan Quist, Sacramento County behavioral health director.

Those with chronic medical conditions are especially vulnerable, including those with heart and pulmonary disease, diabetes and who suffer from alcoholism. Heat exhaustion is the most common heat-related condition, which is most likely to occur in people who are involved in physical activity outdoors during heat waves.

Quist urged vulnerable individuals to be particularly careful to stay cool and hydrated: drink plenty of water; avoid spending time outside, especially during the hottest part of the day, and limit outside activities as much as possible. He explained that cooling down a few hours a day will allow the body to recover and tolerate the heat better for the rest of the day.

“It is important for individuals to continue taking their medications as prescribed,” Quist noted. “Those with questions or concerns regarding medications and heat should contact their doctor.”

## ***Beware of rental car scams***

As summer holiday travel takes off, the [Federal Trade Commission](#) (FTC) warns that rental car scams are on the increase.

Scammers are posing as rental car companies, setting up their own websites and advertising fake customer service phone numbers, all to convince travelers they’re legit. Then, they’re asking people to pre-pay for the rental with a gift card or prepaid debit card.

To avoid rental car scammers driving off with your money:

- **Research the rental car company** by searching for the name of the company and words like “scam,” “complaint” or “review” to check if other people have had a bad experience.
- **Verify deals with the company directly.** If you need customer support, look for contact info on the company’s official website. Don’t use a search engine result. Scammers can pay to place sponsored ads in search results so they show up at the top or in the sponsored ad section.
- **Pay with a credit card if possible** and never pay with a gift card or prepaid debit card. You can dispute credit card charges, but gift cards and prepaid debit cards can disappear like cash. Once you give the number and PIN to a scammer, the money is gone.

Before you rush to book that miraculously available rental car, read about [things you should consider when renting a car](#). If you spot a rental car scam, tell the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#).

## ***Member Q&A - Who to call for parkway problems***

**Q:** *I have seen homeless people who may be a problem in the American River Parkway. Who should I call about it?*

**A:** County park rangers oversee all enforcement on the parkway. Call (916) 875-PARK (7275) for law enforcement issues, accidents, maintenance or vandalism issues, fires, potential wildlife issues, off-leash dogs and other safety concerns. You can also report crimes through the Sheriff’s Department by calling 911 for emergencies or the non-emergency line at 916-874-5115.

## ***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/Services/ReportCrime.aspx>

### 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](mailto:wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com) at [wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com](mailto:wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com)

Email: [wilhaggindeldayona@gmail.com](mailto:wilhaggindeldayona@gmail.com)

Website: [www.Wilhagginna.com](http://www.Wilhagginna.com)

Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association | P.O. Box 2273, Carmichael, CA 95609

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