



## Monthly Newsletter

### July 2022

# *Rio student parking update*

According to San Juan Unified School District officials, plans are in the works to potentially add as many as 85 or 90 additional student parking spaces at Rio Americano High School in hopes of reducing the impact of off-campus student parking on the neighborhood.

San Juan district officials shared their plans with members of the WDDNA board during a recent meeting at Rio.



The Rio parking lot has room for only about 350 vehicles to serve the school's nearly 2,000 students, many of whom drive their cars to school. The resulting overflow has heavily impacted nearby residential streets, including Morris, Bailey, Wixford and Whitehall Ways. In May, the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education assigned [Chief Operations Officer Frank Camarda](#) the task of looking into the problem.

On June 9, members of the WDDNA board, along with one of our WDDNA patrol deputies, met with Camarda and [Rio Principal Cliff Kelly](#) to discuss the problem, offer our insights and gather information about the school district's plans.

At the meeting, Camarda said he has already engaged a civil engineer to assess the current parking lot layout and develop a plan to improve it. He and Kelly listed the following among items under consideration:

- Remove an old motor home currently located at the rear of the campus. That spot will temporarily be used to store construction materials and equipment needed in the renovation of several Rio classrooms. When that work is finished, the site will be converted to parking.
- Perhaps include smaller parking spaces for compact vehicles.

- Designate staff parking at the rear of the campus when the new lot is constructed.
- Kelly said he has already cut back on the number of spaces that will be sold to seniors. (Some parking spaces are sold to seniors to raise money for the annual grad night event.) “When I first became principal, I immediately reduced the number of sold spaces,” Kelly said. “I have recently reduced it again for the coming school year.”
- Some spaces have remained unused because seniors have begun spending most of the day taking advanced college classes off campus. Kelly said his staff is developing a policy that any space not occupied by the start of second period will be available for use by others.
- Kelly said he recently discovered that 10 spaces had been accidentally left unused because the students were no longer attending Rio. He said he is implementing a system to monitor and re-allocate such spots.
- Camarda said he would look into ways to mitigate traffic problems arising from parents dropping off students, possibly by making use of a Safe Schools officer to monitor traffic at the beginning of the fall term.

Camarda said he expects a workable plan will be ready within six months. “I don’t think we can solve the problem 100%,” he said, “but with concentrated and committed effort we should be able to improve it.”

WDDNA will continue to monitor the situation and report on progress.

## *Fireworks disposal safety tips*

**REMINDER:** A new county ordinance was recently adopted imposing hefty fines on anyone who uses illegal fireworks on private property or the American River Parkway. The fine for a first offense is \$1,000 for use on your own property or \$10,000 for shooting them off within the American River Parkway.



Even if you wisely choose to use “safe and sane” fireworks for the coming holiday, following are the recommendations of [Sacramento County’s Waste Management](#) officials for disposing of them when you are done:

**Used or “dud” fireworks** – Place used fireworks into a bucket of water for at least an hour to be sure they are cold and thoroughly saturated, then seal them into a plastic bag and place them in your garbage cart, not in the recycle bin.

**Unused fireworks** – If you have old or unwanted fireworks that have never been used, submerge them completely in water overnight. Then DOUBLE BAG them in plastic and dispose of them

If you have any large fireworks that you believe may be illegal, you may contact our patrol deputies at [wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com](mailto:wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com) or call the Sheriff’s Department’s non-emergency number at (916) 874-5115. A deputy will pick them up and properly dispose of them.

## WDDNA's new membership guide

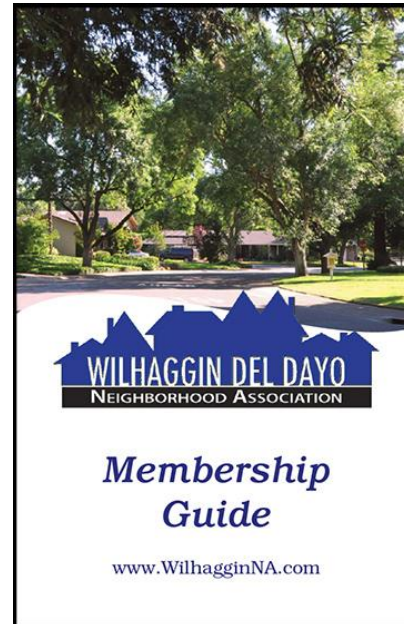
This week, all WDDNA member households received a handy Membership Guide booklet in the mail.

We created the 16-page booklet to provide information about WDDNA services, who to contact about security issues, answers to common membership questions, as well as a description of all the various resources you will find on our website.

We hope you have found it interesting and that you save it for future reference.

If you would also like a digital copy of the booklet, you may [CLICK HERE](#) to download a pdf.

If your mailed copy was damaged or lost, you can pick up a replacement from WDDNA's communications director, Kathleen Newton. Contact her at [knewton761@att.net](mailto:knewton761@att.net).



## Protect your trees from drought

As drought and high heat continue to plague us, many homeowners rightfully choose to reduce the water they use on their thirsty lawns, or even stop watering them altogether.

If you do so, however, take care to save your trees. Besides their shade and beauty, trees add considerable resale value to our homes. According to the Sacramento Tree Foundation, it takes far more water, time and money to replace a mature tree lost to drought than to keep it alive. Following are some helpful watering tips from California's ["Save Our Water"](#) website:

### Check your soil

Check soil moisture to see if it's time to water. The easiest way is to use a long screwdriver and poke the soil. It will pass easily into moist soil, but not into dry soil. If you can't poke it in at least 6 inches, it's time to water.

### **Established trees**

For established trees (three years old or more), slowly soak the root zone under the canopy until water soaks in 12-18 inches below the surface. Do not water close to the trunk. Use a soaker hose or a sprinkler hose attachment on a low setting.

### **Young trees**

Young trees (less than three years old) need five gallons of water two to four times per week. Create a small watering basin with a berm of dirt. Drill a small hole in the bottom of a five-gallon bucket, place it near the tree, fill it with water and let it slowly drain. If your soil drains slowly, knock berm down in winter.

### **Mulch, mulch, mulch!**

From four to six inches of mulch or leaf litter improves vigor and helps retain moisture, reducing water needs and protecting your trees. Keep mulch away from trunks and stems. Mulch also does not compete for water (as lawns do) or radiate heat (as rocks will).

### **Soak slowly to avoid run-off**

Watering faster than the soil can soak it in leads to runoff and waste. Long, slow soaks allow water to go deeper. If a tree is on a slope, place the watering system uphill from the tree (but not close to the trunk) so the water will flow down and soak in around the tree. Use a hose timer so you don't leave the hose on too long.

### **Limit Pruning and Fertilizer**

Avoid pruning or fertilizing trees during the dry season. Lack of water and too much pruning both stress trees. Fertilizer encourages leafy growth, which requires more water.

## *Watering to prevent cockroaches*

A WDDNA member recently told us that their pest control worker urged them to water their lawns in the morning instead of the evening in order to control cockroaches. He also mentioned that the Sacramento Area Sewer District (SASD) has had a program for dealing with cockroaches in sewers.

"I can't say that I've ever seen a cockroach around my home or the general neighborhood," said our member, "but, in the absence of information to the contrary, we intend to take his advice and alter our watering schedule."

Because we had not heard about any of this before and because cockroaches can be a health threat, we did some research.

Turns out, the pest man was correct. Cockroaches can become more active in the heat of summer as they look for water and food. According to [GardeningKnowHow.com](https://www.gardeningknowhow.com), roaches do live in the garden and can find their way into the house if given the opportunity. Furthermore, SASD has a program to deter cockroaches in its system.

[GardeningKnowHow.com](https://www.gardeningknowhow.com) states, "Outdoor roach problems can soon become indoor roach problems, which means that garden roach control should be a priority." The website offers methods for controlling cockroaches in the garden, including the suggestion that lawns be watered in the morning.

SASD reports that it “owns and operates 4,600 miles of sewer pipelines, including 67,000 sewer manholes. Many dark and damp environments, including landscaping, storm drains, crawl spaces and sewer systems, can attract cockroaches. Over the years, SASD has used several cockroach control methods to address customer concerns and discourage cockroaches from inhabiting the sewer system.”

[CLICK HERE](#) To learn more about the SASD program.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the GardeningKnowHow.com article.

## *WDDNA is looking for a membership volunteer*

If you are comfortable working on a computer and would like to help WDDNA's membership team, WE WANT YOU!

As a membership volunteer, you will be helping us keep our database up to date on new homeowners in the neighborhood and sending them information about our association and our patrols. You will be trained how to use our database system and how to manage our “Welcome Wagon” materials. The time commitment is just four to six hours every two months and you will be helping us spread the word about the benefits of membership to new residents in our neighborhood.

If you think this might interest you, please call Maria Talcott at (916) 716-4046 or email her at [mariatalcott@gmail.com](mailto:mariatalcott@gmail.com) for more information. She will be glad to answer your questions and tell you all about the program.

## *Q&A*

**Q:** What regulations govern curbside fruit vendors such as the one that often sets up on American River Drive?

**A:** WDDNA interviewed a variety of county officials, who provided the following information:

- There is no requirement that transient roadside fruit vendors obtain a business license and the county does not issue such licenses.
- There are no zoning regulations specifically addressing the issue of street-side fruit vendors and code enforcement officials are not tasked with monitoring or abating them. The only exception would be in the case of vendors who set up on and block a public right-of-way.
- The primary agency charged with overseeing food safety through permitting and inspection of retail food vendors is the [Sacramento County Department of Environmental Management \(EMD\)](#). Vendors are required to obtain a permit from the EMD and adhere to various food safety regulatory requirements. Such regulations are enforced by EMD inspectors. For information, go to the [EMD website](#) or call (916) 875-8484.

## ***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

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