



Monthly Newsletter

July 2023

Window smash-ins reported recently

In recent months, homeowners in the Sierra Oaks neighborhood just west of Watt Avenue have reported a series of home burglaries in which the thieves entered by smashing sliding glass doors or large windows.

According to reports from the Sierra Oaks Neighborhood Association, the perpetrators jump over a fence into the backyard. Then they break a sliding glass door or a large window to gain entry. This works because it generally will not activate a house alarm unless the connection between the door frame and the sensors is broken. Then the burglars cram valuables into a pillowcase from the bedroom, pack up any safe that is not bolted down and get away the same way they got in.

Protect the glass

How can you protect your home from this type of burglary? One solution is to install security window film over any large window or glass patio door.

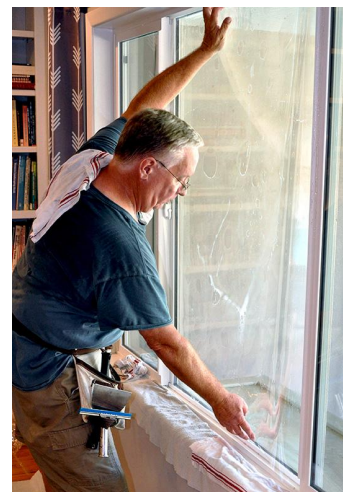
In 2017, WDDNA Communications Director Kathleen Newton invested in security film at her home and wrote about it for our newsletter. Following is her report:

*By Kathleen Newton
WDDNA Communications*

I studied the various options for the film. Some of the light-weight versions can be installed as a DIY project. But we preferred to have it professionally done by a local contractor.

Dave Tennow of Sac Tint Shop installed a 7 mil Solar Gard film on our sliding patio door and a large rear window. We could have chosen a tinted version to block sunlight, but that was not necessary in our situation.

Tennow said none of his residential installations have ever had a successful break-in through the covered glass. "It is very effective for security. I've installed it in law enforcement offices and commercial buildings for years," he said.



The process for our installation took a little over an hour. The film is installed on the inside

of windows and doors. Tennow first cleaned the glass. Then he cut the film slightly larger than the pane of glass and sprayed the glass with a soapy solution. He removed the backing on the film to expose its adhesive side and applied the film to the moistened glass. Finally, he squeegeed the window to force out all the solution and trimmed the excess film along the edges of the window frame.

The result is a totally invisible protective surface that also has the benefit of cutting out 99% of the UV rays from the sun.

We now have the peace of mind in knowing that any burglar who tries to get in by smashing through the glass will have a noisy struggle on his hands and likely will decide to look elsewhere for an easier target.

Be sure to register your WDDNA password

Registration is necessary to login to WDDNA's updated system

So far only about 440 of the more than 1,000 households who are paid members of WDDNA have registered their passwords so they can access our website.

As we have written in previous emails, WDDNA has installed a system update that was necessary to correct some system failures we had last fall and also to provide improved service to our members. That new system went live on Saturday, May 13.

When we installed the new system, it was not possible for technicians to transfer the passwords from our old system to the new one. Therefore, before members can access the new system, they must register their passwords so that the system will recognize them.

On May 13, everyone received an email inviting them to register their passwords so they could log into the new system. That email came from our WDDNA email address, wilhaggindelayona@gmail.com. In some cases, it may have gone into your spam folder or you may have deleted it by mistake.

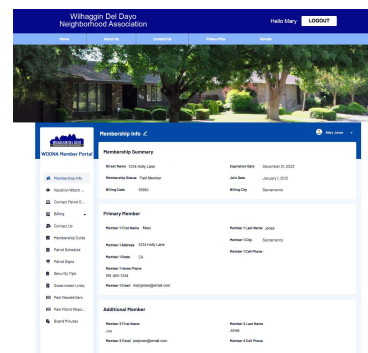
The registration process takes only a moment or two to complete. If you cannot locate your registration invitation email, you may contact us at wilhaggindelayona@gmail.com and we will resend it.

Thank you for your patience during this transition period.

Hefty fines for using illegal fireworks

As the Fourth of July approaches, [Sacramento County](#) officials are reminding us that recently adopted ordinances now result in hefty fines for using illegal fireworks.

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors has adopted an ordinance that levies fines, starting at \$1,000, against property owners who either use or allow the use of illegal



fireworks on their property, in addition to fines for use in places like the American River Parkway.

Penalties for violating the ordinance are as follows:

- \$1,000 for the first violation
- \$2,500 for the second violation within one year of the first violation
- \$5,000 for each additional violation within one year of the first violation
- \$10,000 for each violation that occurs within the American River Parkway

Who to call to report

Do not call 911 to report illegal fireworks. Instead, call the Sheriff's Department non-emergency number at (916) 874-5115 or go to repportfireworks@sacounty.net. Call 911 for emergencies only, such as for an active fire or injury or immediate threat to persons or property.

Keep it legal

- All legal fireworks in California are called Safe and Sane Fireworks and must bear the State Fire Marshal's seal.
- Safe and Sane Fireworks may only be used and sold from noon on June 28 through midnight on July 4.
- Any firework that goes up in the air or explodes is illegal and dangerous.

Be safe

- Always have a non-combustible bucket of water to dispose of fireworks and leave them in the water overnight before disposing.
- Always have an available hose connected to water 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.

Don't fall for fake check scam

By Kathleen Newton

WDDNA Communications

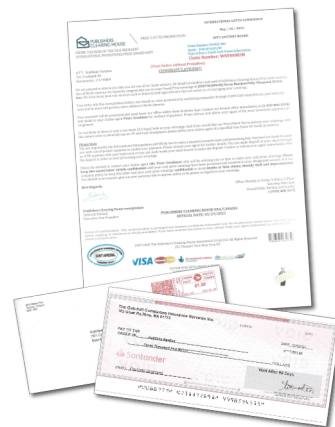
The envelope was innocuous. It was addressed to me personally, with a return address in Toronto and a Canadian postmark for \$1.30 Canadian.

I was certain it was some kind of marketing letter, but out of curiosity I decided to open it.

Inside I found a letter claiming to be from Publishers Clearing House with a "congratulations" headline saying I had won \$750,000. Right, I mused. I'm a big winner even though I never entered anything.

I was about to toss the whole business into recycle when I found one more item in the envelope that I had never seen before in a marketing piece: a check for \$7,000.

It was not the typical fake check printed with various marketing offers on it. This one looked real. It was dated and printed with "PAY TO THE ORDER OF" me. "Payment Approved" was on the memo field and an unreadable signature was scrawled in the corner. There were even endorsement lines on the back as there are on real checks.



Of course, I knew it had to be fake, but I wondered how this particular scam could make any money for the scammer if I decided to just cash the check without doing as the letter instructed, which was to contact the PCH claims agent.

The first clue was outlined in the letter, which said I could cash the check and use part of the funds to pay my out-of-pocket expenses. What expenses? The second clue was the letter's insistence that I tell no one about my good fortune until the news could be released by PCH.

Never tell a journalist to stay quiet. I immediately did some research. The [Federal Trade Commission](#) had the goods on this caper.

According to the FTC, the fake Publishers Clearing House checks are a well-known prize scam. If I had contacted my "claims agent," I would have been told that to collect my prize I would need to deposit the check and then send PCH part of the funds to pay fees and taxes. The catch is, even though the bank would likely have accepted and "cleared" the check, it would have eventually bounced.

The FTC explains that fake check prize scams work because fake checks generally look just like real checks, even to bank employees.

By law, banks have to make deposited funds available quickly, usually within two days. When the funds are made available in your account, the bank may say the check has "cleared," but that doesn't mean it's a good check. According to the FTC, fake checks can take weeks to be discovered and untangled. By that time, the scammer has your money and you're stuck paying the bank back for the loss.

The FTC offers the following advice:

- Never send money to collect a prize, sweepstakes check or lottery winnings. If you have to pay, it's a scam.
- Never deposit a check and send back money, even if the funds appear in your account. That's a sure sign of a scam.
- If anyone calls asking you to pay for a prize, hang up and report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#).



How to report a scam

Have you or a family member or friend ever lost money to a scam? You're not alone: last year scammers pulled in over \$8 billion. But there's a way you can help.

If you think you've spotted a scam, tell the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#) to help fight fraud.

The FTC uses reports from the public to investigate and bring cases against fraud, scams and bad business practices, and to spot trends and educate people about scams.

To get started, go to [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov) and click on "Report Now." You can give as much or as little detail about yourself as you wish. After you submit a report, you'll be given steps you can take to protect yourself or try to get your money back.

Watch the video for more information about reporting fraud.

Please report neighborhood crime

While our patrols are very effective at deterring most serious criminals from striking homes in our neighborhood, we are not totally immune from all crime.

While our deputies are able to respond within minutes when they receive reports of suspicious or criminal activity, they cannot be everywhere all at once and we do not have shifts 24/7. So, deputies also rely heavily on information supplied by our members.

If you see highly suspicious activity or if you have been the victim of a crime, be sure to report it as follows:

- To provide information that will help our deputies know of particular areas to keep an eye on, you should login to the website and send your information via the "Contact Patrol Officer" link on your member page.
- If you see activity that you believe may indicate possible criminal activity, call the Sheriff's Department non-emergency phone line at 916-874-5115. (When the line answers, you can click 0 to get past the recorded messages.) If we have a deputy on duty when you call, he will be dispatched. If not, a deputy from out of the area will be alerted.
- If you have an immediate emergency - if your life or property is in immediate danger or if you have been the victim of a crime: CALL 911 from a landline. Or, if calling from a cell phone within Sacramento County, call (916) 874-5111.

New hate crime reporting system

If you or someone you know has been the target of an incident of hate, there is a new reporting system now in place in California.

The California Civil Rights Department has established the non-emergency [CA vs. Hate Resource Line and Network](#) to support individuals and communities targeted for hate.

California vs. Hate is a non-emergency hate incident and hate crime reporting system that operates in partnership with organizations around the state.

According to its website, the goals of California vs. Hate are to:

- Help individuals and communities targeted for hate
- Identify options for next steps after an act of hate



- Connect people targeted for hate with culturally competent resources and care coordination services and
- Improve hate incident and crime reporting data to enhance prevention and response

Any victim of or witness to a hate incident or crime in California can report it and receive support any time at CAVsHate.org. You can also call (833) 866-4283 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a voicemail, or you can call 211 to report hate and seek support.

You can currently submit reports online in 15 languages and, when calling the hotline, you can get access to support in over 200 languages.

If you want to report a hate crime to law enforcement immediately or you are in present danger, call 911.

WDDNA Member Q&A

Q: We found an abandoned shopping cart next to our property. We called 311 to take it away, but I was told that the county could not do that. Can a WDDNA patrol deputy take it away? If not, what should we do?

A: Unfortunately, our patrol deputies are not able to provide shopping cart pickup and disposal. An option that can be effective is to inspect the cart to find out from which supermarket it was stolen, then call that store and ask them to take it away. Some retailers (Raley's among them) will do so as a public relations gesture. In 2015, the county adopted an ordinance requiring retailers to develop a plan to help prevent carts from being stolen. The law does not require them to retrieve abandoned carts, but in several cases in our neighborhood they have done so.

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](mailto:wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com).

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

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