



Monthly Newsletter

June 2022

County adopts new fireworks code

Just in time for 4th of July, a new county ordinance was recently adopted imposing hefty fines on anyone who uses or sells illegal fireworks or stages a fireworks exhibition on private property or the American River Parkway.

On May 24, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted a "host ordinance" to add liability and penalties for violations of the county's fireworks code. The ordinance takes effect June 24.



According to a county press release, the term "host" refers to a person who owns or controls private property and knowingly allows fireworks to be used or sold on that property.

The new code states, "It is the duty of any person who permits, allows, aids or abets any discharge of illegal fireworks at his or her place of residence or other private property or any other premises under his or her control to take all reasonable steps to prevent the discharge of illegal fireworks at the premises."

The new code sets the following fines for violations:

- \$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

In addition, the code allows the county to charge the host for the cost of county personnel who respond to a report of illegal fireworks being used. That could include the cost of staff time, medical treatment for any injuries to emergency personnel or damage to county equipment.

The county offered the following guidelines for identifying illegal fireworks:

- All legal fireworks are called Safe and Sane
- All legal fireworks bear the state fire marshal's seal

- Anything that goes up in the air, travels or explodes is illegal and dangerous.

To read the full text of the ordinance, go to https://www.saccounty.gov/news/Documents/Ordinance_4.54_Relating_To_Fireworks_.pdf

To report illegal fireworks sales or usage, call (916) 874-5115 or go to reportfireworks@saccounty.net

WDDNA sets Rio parking meeting

On Thursday, June 9, members of the WDDNA board of directors will meet with representatives of the San Juan Unified School District to discuss possible mitigations for off-campus parking by Rio Americano High School students.

WDDNA has heard from many of our members that Rio student parking on neighborhood streets has become a serious problem in the past few years.

On May 24, several homeowners spoke about the problem during the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education meeting. At that meeting, members of the school board expressed a desire to find ways to reduce the impact of student parking on the neighborhood. District Chief Operations Officer Frank Camarda was assigned the task of looking into the problem.

After that meeting, WDDNA's board of directors contacted district Superintendent Kent Kern and offered to provide input to the district as one of the stakeholders in the neighborhood. Kern agreed and Chief Operations Officer Frank Camarda scheduled the June 9 meeting.

At that meeting, we will share our observations about the parking issue and gather information about the district's planning process. We will share meeting details with our members and encourage dialogue between the district and neighborhood stakeholders, whether or not they belong to the association.

About student parking

The student population at Rio this year totaled nearly 2,000. Half or more of those students may be of driving age, but Rio's student parking lot has room for only about 500 vehicles. Those students who cannot find a space in the lot must park on nearby residential streets, such as Morris, Bailey, Wixford and Whitehall Ways.

By law, unless a street has been designated as a no-parking or short-term parking zone, it is legal for students to park there all day. Tickets cannot be issued unless a student parks facing the wrong way, blocks a driveway, impedes handicapped access to a corner or parks too far away from the curb.

That said, when both sides of a residential street are filled bumper-to-bumper all day with student vehicles, the situation can disrupt life on that street. It can be difficult for a homeowner to have guests visit during the day, for postal carriers to deliver mail and for garbage trucks to pick up cans efficiently.

In some cases, it might even complicate the ability of emergency responders to access a home. For that reason, WDDNA's board of directors determined that the association should get involved in the mitigation planning process.

We will share the outcome of our June 9 meeting with WDDNA members and keep you

apprised of future interactions we have on the subject with the San Juan Unified School District.



New Rio gate deters late-night activity

The student parking lot at Rio Americano High School has often been the scene of illegal late-night student gatherings and the screech of tires as drivers spun donuts around the lot.

WDDNA's night-shift deputies have often had to spend time dispersing these gatherings – sometimes several times during a shift.

This year, members of the WDDNA board of directors met with the new Rio principal, Cliff Kelly, to discuss installing a gate across the main entrance to the parking lot that could be closed at night to keep vehicles out.

In that meeting, Kelly promised that the gate would be installed this summer. To our great pleasure, it went up in early May and has already had a positive impact.

We congratulate and thank Principal Kelly for his timely response and we thank San Juan Unified School District for investing in this lot security measure.

WDDNA membership team needs help

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 for more information. She will be glad to answer your questions and tell you all about the program.

Protect your home while you're away

The vacation season is underway. If you are planning a trip, don't forget that, as a WDDNA member, you can request security checks on your home by our patrol deputies while you are away. Just go to the WDDNA website at WilhagginNA.com, log in and click on the "Vacation Watch" link under the "Members Only" menu.

When you fill out the request form, be sure to include such information as whether the alarm system will be on, if gates will be locked, who may be stopping by the house while you are away, what day your gardener or pool person will be there and any other information you want the officer to know. Also, include contact information about how to reach you while you are away and who to contact here in Sacramento - such as a neighbor - if necessary.

More helpful hints

Following are some additional safety tips from the [City of Sacramento Police Department](#):

- Have good locks on all doors and windows, and use them!
- Make sure to repair any broken windows, and any door or window locks.
- Even if you sign up for a WDDNA vacation watch, you also should ask a neighbor to watch the house while you're away. It's a good idea to leave your vacation address and telephone number with the neighbor so you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside your home.
- Stop all deliveries or arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail, newspapers and packages.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves and maintain the yard to give the home a lived-in look.
- Have a neighbor place garbage cans at the curb on your normal pickup days and return them after the garbage pickup is made.
- Use timers to turn lights and a radio or television on and off at appropriate times. This helps to disguise the fact that you are away.
- If you have a landline telephone, turn the bell or ringer down low. If a burglar is around, he won't be alerted to your absence by a ringing phone.
- Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages; leave your normal message on the machine.
- Leave your blinds, shades and curtains in a normal position. Don't close them unless that is what you do when you are home.
- Close and lock garage doors and windows. Ask a neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway. If you leave your car at home, park it as you normally would. Vehicles parked outside should be moved occasionally to appear that they are being used.
- Secure storage sheds, attic entrances and gates.
- Consider taking valuables to a bank safe deposit box.
- Engrave your valuables. This simple step will allow your stolen property to be identified and returned to you if recovered by the law enforcement.

Elder abuse on the rise



June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month and the problem of elder abuse – particularly financial abuse – has been rising in recent years. Experts predict the problem will continue to grow with the graying of the Baby Boom generation.



According to Irene Chu, program planner for Sacramento County Adult Protective Services (APS), elder financial abuse, self-neglect, psychological abuse and neglect by others make up the bulk of APS cases.

Chu said financial abuse can include internet or telephone scams involving identity theft, investment swindles, computer virus schemes and charity or family-member-in-need scams. Even worse, swindles and theft by caregivers may leave the victims destitute.

Self-neglect cases can range from elderly people failing to take their medication to not being able to maintain healthful conditions in their homes or suffering from physical or mental disabilities that make it difficult for them to care for themselves. Homeless individuals are particularly vulnerable to self-neglect and abuse by others, Chu said.

She stressed that in nearly all cases of elder abuse and neglect, isolation is the key risk factor.

“It’s not just for those people living by themselves. Even if an elder is living with family members or friends, he or she can be isolated. In some extreme situations, caregivers may take away their Social Security checks, block their contact with outsiders or keep them confined to the house because they don’t want people to know what they are doing.”

Chu said it is critical that people maintain constant contact with their elderly loved ones. “Keep calling them,” she said. “Make sure when you talk to your loved ones that you don’t sense any hesitation when they are talking to you. Without communication, you won’t be able to see the signs of possible abuse.”

She urged people to learn and watch for the signs of elder abuse in their loved ones. She noted that APS social workers can link clients to services to help them live safely in their own homes.

If you have questions or suspect a problem, contact Sacramento County Adult Protective Services at (916) 874-9377.

Learn more

To learn more about how to prevent elder abuse, visit the Sacramento County Adult Protective Services website at <https://dcfas.saccounty.net/SAS/Pages/Adult-Protective-Services/SP-Adult-Protective-Services.aspx>.

Member Q&A

Q: How do I change a vacation watch?

A: Send an email to our deputy at wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com. Be sure to include your

name and address in the email and a phone number so you can be reached in case there is a question about the change.

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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