



Monthly Newsletter

March 2022



The best of community policing!

Deputy Anna Vo patrols for our association every other Saturday. On Feb. 12, she wrote the following in her patrol log: "I stumbled upon a lemonade stand off Kipling Drive and stopped to chat with the kids. A young lady was raising money for a pet cat. I purchased a drink and gave them stickers. We took a group photo together and her mom allowed me to share it with the association."

As they patrol, our WDDNA deputies get to know our streets, our homes and the ebb and flow of life in our neighborhood. Thank you, Deputy Vo, for being a part of our community.

WDDNA 2022 budget

The Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association has crossed two major thresholds for 2022:

1. WDDNA's paid membership now exceeds 1,000 households.
2. For the first time, this year's estimated budget will exceed \$300,000.

Membership

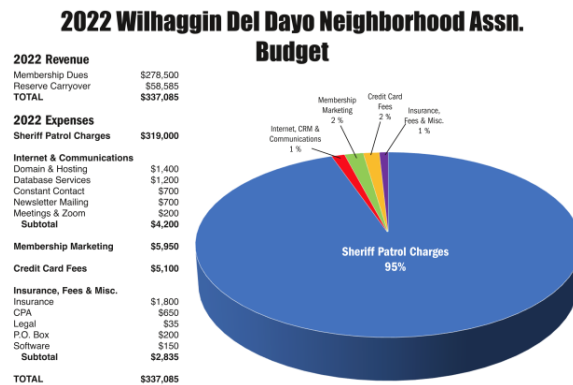
As of this writing, our paid membership totals 1,020 households, nearly 48% of all homes in our service area!

WDDNA has grown steadily since it was founded in 2006. That year, a group of homeowners in the Wilhaggin area held a town hall meeting to discuss an uptick in property crime. Some 100 people attended and agreed that they wanted to hire off-duty Sheriff's Department deputies to patrol.

The group formed the Wilhaggin Neighborhood Association, wrote bylaws, obtained a 501(c)4 tax designation, set up a bank account and collected dues. Volunteers went door-to-door soliciting members. Some 300 homeowners signed up and their dues were sufficient to pay for several patrols each week. Property crimes went down.

Then, in 2010, residents of the Del Dayo area approached the board to incorporate their neighborhood into the association, as well. The board agreed. We changed our name to the Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association. By 2012, membership totaled 425 households and the additional revenue allowed us to increase patrols.

Since then, with the help of a robust communications and marketing program mounted by our volunteer board of directors, our membership has grown every year to its current total of 1,020. With the additional revenue, we support 10 patrols a week, each of them a full eight hours in length.



Budget

WDDNA's projected budget for 2022 is \$337,085, the first time it has exceeded \$300,000. This assumes we would maintain 10 weekly eight-hour patrols. It also assumes a rate increase from the Sheriff's Department, likely to be effective in July.

The \$337,085 budget figure exceeds our membership revenue for the year. However, due to the large number of deputy absences and unfilled patrol positions we experienced during the pandemic, we accumulated a substantial reserve. So, we will be drawing from that reserve to cover the \$58,585 difference.

Because the Sheriff's Department is still recovering from staffing shortages caused by the pandemic and the year-long closure of its training facility, we are still experiencing challenges in filling all of our budgeted patrol shifts. Three of those shifts remain open and we continue to advertise for deputies to fill them. Our 2022 budget assumes we will fill them all. As the year progresses, our board of directors will monitor the situation and make shift adjustments as needed.

Click on the image above to view and download the 2022 budget chart.

Traffic committee update

As pandemic restrictions have eased in recent months, WDDNA's traffic committee has resumed its efforts to tackle our ongoing traffic safety concerns.

Deputy actions

Due to the recent increase in stop-sign running and other traffic violations, WDDNA has reminded our deputies that they are free to issue traffic citations when such action is warranted, rather than relying primarily on verbal warnings. In response, there has been an increase in citations. In the past four months, our deputies have issued more than 20 traffic citations, including tickets for running stop signs, reckless driving and illegal parking.

Speed trailer

In January, the committee met with representatives of the County Department of Transportation (DOT). In response, the county has been positioning its radar speed signs at various locations in our neighborhood in an effort to encourage drivers to observe the speed limit.

According to Sonia Hernandez, senior transportation engineer with the department, "Due to the high demand for our radar trailers, we can only schedule them at locations on a weekly basis and they are typically out from Monday through Thursday."

Hernandez said her department only has four radar trailers to cover the entire county, so they need to be moved around frequently. She said she plans to schedule one of them to be positioned on American River Drive near Rio Americano High School sometime during the month of March.

Another DOT effort to reduce speed is a new traffic sign recently installed on American River Drive just east of Wilhaggin Drive advising drivers to slow to 30 where the road bends.





River Walk Way

In the same meeting with DOT officials, our committee also expressed concerns about vehicles congregating on River Walk Way late at night in an open area adjacent to the American River Parkway. In response, DOT has just posted two “No Loitering” signs there. (See images below)



In addition, members of the traffic committee will meet with Liz Bellas, director of Sacramento County Regional Parks District, on Tuesday, March 1, to discuss possible options for erecting a gate across the River Walk parkway access to improve security for homes in the Sand Bar Circle neighborhood.

Check your electrical panel



Every home has a service panel that distributes electricity to switches, outlets and appliances. In our area, the panel is most often located on an outside wall or in the garage.

Because the panel is out of sight, most of us seldom think about it. But, according to experts, we should.

Sacramento County building inspectors advise that homeowners should check the circuit breakers in their panels periodically to be sure they are working properly. According to one county inspector we interviewed recently, every year or two we should activate the breaker switches to keep them in good condition.

The inspector explained that breakers have springs inside that release when there is a short, shutting off the power to that circuit. If the spring is not in good condition, the circuit may not shut down when it should, resulting in a possible fire. To keep the springs in good condition, he advised the following:

1. Turn off computers and other sensitive electronics in your home.
2. Go to the electrical panel and flip each individual circuit switch off, then back on.
3. If any of the switches do not return to the "on" position properly or seem loose, contact an electrician to check the breaker for possible replacement.

If you have an older home that still has its original electrical panel, you also may want to have it inspected by a certified electrician. If your panel is an older Zinsco panel, many experts advise that it be replaced with a new panel. Zinsco equipment is considered obsolete due to a design flaw in which the circuit breaker's connection may become loose, causing electrical arcing and overheating.

According to the county inspector, Zinsco breakers can be replaced with after-market products. However, because the replacements are costly and may be difficult to get, most experts advise replacing the entire panel with an up-to-date unit that has the new arc fault circuit interrupters. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) notes that the new devices are so effective that since 2008, the National Electrical Code has required that they be used to protect almost every circuit in the home.

For more information:

Electrical Safety Foundation International Home Electrical System Safety Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XA_Ukj026w&t=3s

U.S. consumer Product Safety Commission booklet on home wiring hazards: <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/518.pdf>

National Fire Protection Association Electrical Safety Checklist: https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Community-tool-kits/electric-kit/Electrical_Safety_Checklist.pdf

How 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 an inventory ensures that you have sufficient insurance coverage and assists you in filing a claim if you suffer a loss.

There are a number of software packages and smart phone apps on the market to help you organize your list. Before you buy, however, be sure to check their online user reviews. Forbes published a summary of things to include in a good home inventory and included a list of popular home inventory apps. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the Forbes story.

The California Department of Insurance has information about creating a home inventory. [CLICK HERE](#) to view it.

The website also provides an excellent 40-page home inventory guide booklet that you can download for free [HERE](#). The booklet comes complete with a page on which to record your insurance policy information, room-by-room grids and suggested information you should include.

You also can order this document in booklet form from the Department of Insurance. The consumer education and outreach phone number is 1-877-401-9550. Ask for a copy of Form 408 / Home Inventory Guide. Or write to Consumer Education and Outreach Bureau, 300 South Spring St., South Tower, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

AARP and The Hartford Insurance offer home inventory tips. [CLICK HERE](#) to see them.

The Insurance Information Institute (III) offers tips for creating your inventory on its website at <https://www.iii.org/article/how-create-home-inventory>.

Beware of possible SMUD scams

In recent weeks there was a report of would-be thieves coming to a home in the neighborhood dressed in yellow vests, carrying walkie-talkies and claiming to be from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD).

If you are approached by anyone claiming to represent SMUD or any utility, security experts advise you to check credentials and refuse access until you are certain of their identity. If possible, do not open your door until you have done so.

If you are approached by such people, SMUD offers the following advice:

- SMUD field crews carry photo identification cards at all times. Ask to see an ID card. A true SMUD employee will be happy to show it to you.
- Ask for a name, SMUD employee number and supervisor's name and call 1-888-742-7683 to verify the field worker's identity.

If contacted by phone

- SMUD will never call and direct you to a non-SMUD payment facility or require a specific method of payment (such as wire transfer or money card) to pay your electric bill.
- If you are concerned about the balance or status of your account due to a phone call you have received, call 1-888-742-7683 to check with an authorized SMUD representative.

If contacted via email

- If you receive a suspicious email, DO NOT respond to the request, click on any links in the email, open any attachments or give out any personal information. Instead, call SMUD at 1-888-742-7683.
- SMUD will never email you and direct you to a non-SMUD payment facility or require a specific method of payment (such as wire transfer or money card) to pay your electric bill.

- If you are concerned about the balance or status of your account as a result of an email, call 1-888-742-7683 to check with an authorized SMUD representative.

[CLICK HERE](#) for additional security information from SMUD.

Social media scams

According to the Federal Trade Commission, in 2021 more than 95,000 people reported being scammed with a con that started on social media. More than one in four people who reported to the FTC that they lost money to any scam said the transaction started with a post, an ad or a message on a social media platform. The losses amount to about \$770 million.

To learn more about how such scammers operate and how to protect yourself, [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the FTC article on the topic.

Q&A

Q: A neighbor recently rented his house to an organization and there now appears to be a large number of people living there. Are there restrictions in our area for how a home in a residential neighborhood can be used?

A: Homes in your area are zoned RD-4, low-density residential. If a single-family house has been turned into some sort of group home, it may require a conditional use permit from the county. You can call 3-1-1 if you wish to inquire or to report a suspected code violation.

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).

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