



Monthly Newsletter

March 2024

AT&T seeks to abandon landline service

If you depend on a standard AT&T landline for your telephone service or as a backup for emergencies, you should know that AT&T is petitioning the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) to abandon traditional copper landlines in favor of digital and fiberoptic service.

AT&T recently sent letters to residents throughout our area announcing that the company has applied to the CPUC for permission to cease providing standard landline phone service to most homes in California, including our neighborhood.

At present, California requires AT&T to provide traditional copper wire landlines to all homes that want them. Under this requirement, AT&T is considered to be the “Carrier of Last Resort” for providing emergency telephone service, including 911 calls. If the CPUC grants AT&T’s request, AT&T would be allowed to abandon those landlines in favor of other technologies, except in a few mostly rural areas where no other telephone service is available.

Ironically, when AT&T recently experienced a nationwide cell service outage, company officials urged the public to use their copper landline to get them through the emergency.

CPUC will hold two virtual public forums on Tuesday, March 19 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., during which the public may comment on AT&T’s proposal. If you wish to express your opinion to the CPUC, following is the contact information:

- For information about AT&T’s application and the upcoming public forum, [CLICK HERE](#).
- For information about the March 19 2 p.m. forum go to <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/events-and-meetings/pph-att-2024-03-14-2pm>
- For information about the March 19 6 p.m. forum, go to <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/events-and-meetings/pph-att-2024-03-14-6pm>

You can also provide feedback and read the comments of others on the CPUC online Docket Card comment section for the proceedings at apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2303002 for AT&T’s application to withdraw its eligible telecommunications carrier designation; or

apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2303003 for its application for relief from its carrier of last resort obligation.



Safetyville teaches kids rules of the road

Speeding traffic, busy intersections, confusing traffic signals and bike lanes ... teaching young children about traffic safety can be a challenge.

Fortunately, there is a nearby resource that has been providing just that kind of training for nearly 40 years. It is a child-size village called **Safetyville** where youngsters can have fun while learning about traffic signals, street signs, pedestrian and bike safety.

Safetyville USA, located at 3909 Bradshaw Road near the county animal shelter, covers a little over three acres. It is part of the nonprofit Safety Center, Inc.'s children's safety program. The one-third scale town features real sidewalks, crosswalks, streetlights, a police, fire and sheriff station, as well as a variety of business buildings.

According to Safetyville Executive Director Mindy Johnston, the program provides a hands-on, interactive experience for youngsters rather than boring classroom lessons.

Johnston said her staff and trained volunteers work with schools throughout the Sacramento County region. "We host class field trips during the week," she explained. "We typically see children who are third grade and younger. We do pedestrian safety, bike safety, fire safety.

"We also have a 911 simulator machine. It's all pre-recorded. We have the kids listen and experience what the 911 operator would sound like if they called to get help and the questions they might ask. It's about a 40- to 45-minute tour."



For teenagers, the center also has a driving simulator and offers defensive driving classes.

Monday play days

Johnston said the center recently added “free play and exploration” days for the public on Mondays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. “It is great for parents whose little ones only have half days in school. For a small fee, the parents can come and bring their kids, along with their bikes or scooters or whatever they want and ride around. We watch to make sure they are following the rules of the road and they have their helmets on. It’s a chance for parents to bring their kids to just play and see the facility.”

In addition, on weekends the entire village is available for rent for private parties and corporate events. And the organization does two large community events each year: A Halloween trick or treat event where sponsors and vendors bring candy and the kids come in their costumes; and a winter holiday event, complete with decorations and a snow machine.

Johnston noted that the facility was shut down for nine months during the pandemic while schools operated remotely. It reopened in the spring of 2023 and is now working to rebuild its school field trip program.

Free public bike events

Thanks to a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, Safetyville is offering a series of free Family Bike Ride safety events this spring.

“Kids can come here with their bikes or scooters,” Johnston explained. “There is an obstacle course and safety lessons. We issue helmets to youngsters who may come without them or if their helmets are damaged. The grant provides helmets for 225 kids a year.”

She said each bike safety event has room for 100 participants. There is no age restriction. Participants go through an obstacle course, a red light-green light contest and free-range riding with traffic guards who help teach them the rules of the road.

“Each rider gets a card that gets punched each time they violate a traffic rule,” she explained. “Kids can get violations for speeding, jumping off the curbs, overall unsafe practices. If they get two violations they have to go to bike traffic school and watch a safety video.”

The upcoming bike safety events are scheduled for March 10 and 24, April 18 and May 2 and 16. They are free to the public, but pre-registration is required. Go to <https://safetycenter.org/safetyville-usa/events/> for information.

Safetyville sponsor program

Although grants can fund some programs, the operation also depends on donations and corporate and business sponsorships.

“When we were shut down during the pandemic, some of our business sponsors did not renew and we have a lot of deferred maintenance on the structures and the streets,” Johnston explained. “We are looking for corporate and business sponsors for some of the buildings and donors to support our overall site improvements.”

Johnston also has plans for future expansion of the safety program to include more technology and services for older children. Her fundraising goal is \$250,000.

“We hope to invest in activities for the kids from third to seventh grade, including such topics as social media safety, personal finance, budgeting and life lessons. We also would

like to get teens involved to help teach the older children who are more likely to listen to a teenager than an adult.”

In addition, she hopes to get funds to complete a small house that was built on the grounds to teach children about safety at home. “I would like to get that completed so we can teach kids how to use a fire ladder and other home safety practices.”

For information about sponsorships and donations, go to <https://safetycenter.org/safetyville-usa/support-safetyville/>.

WDDNA 2023 annual report

The year 2023 was a landmark for WDDNA. Our membership rose to an all-time high of 1,050 members: nearly half of all the homes in our service area.

In March, members of the WDDNA board met with Sacramento County Department of Transportation officials to discuss ways of reducing speeding and stop-sign running in our neighborhood. Among our suggestions to officials were:

- Installing more speed limit signs and improving sign visibility, particularly on some of our longer streets;
- Painting 25 mph speed limit legends on the pavement at strategic locations;
- Painting “Stop Ahead” legends on the pavement at key intersections;
- Enlarging speed limit signs on American River Drive.

Department officials agreed to look into our suggestions.

Then in the fall, WDDNA was named the best residential neighborhood in Carmichael in the 2023 Best of Carmichael competition sponsored by the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce.

Six neighborhoods were nominated in the category. Chamber members and the general public were invited to vote for their favorite nominees. When the votes were counted, WDDNA was declared the winner.

System improvements

The year was also extremely busy for our volunteer board of directors. Beginning in January, we spent several months working with a consultant to upgrade our online database software. That project corrected flaws in our previous database configuration and added some new features to better serve our members. Key among these additions were the following:

- The creation of discrete member portals which provide members with improved records of their dues payments and easier access to the full list of member-only benefits, including links to the vacation watch form and the “contact patrol deputy” form;
- Partial automation that reduces some of the manual labor required of our volunteer board of directors as we work to manage the record keeping for our growing member base;
- A new system that prorates annual dues for new members the first year that they join.

The new system has worked very well, despite an unrelated credit card processing company failure that caused some headaches in early November.

In 2024, we plan to make further improvements to our system by adding more automation to some of our behind-the-scenes functions and to make it possible for members to sign up for online auto-pay, if they wish. That would allow members to ask that their dues be automatically charged to their credit card each year.

Deputy scheduling

In 2023 we continued to recover from the impact the COVID crisis had on our patrols. Because of the pandemic, the Sheriff’s Department had to shut down its training academy for many months, which dramatically reduced the number of recruits available to fill vacancies caused by retirements and staff turnover. This severe deputy shortage not only affected the department, but also the number of deputies available to work for us during their off-duty hours.

By late 2023, we were able to fill most of our vacant shifts. However, we still have some trouble finding deputies willing to give up one of their days off in order to work for us on weekends.

2024 WDDNA budget

There is good news and bad news about WDDNA’s 2024 budget.

The good news is we did not need to increase dues when we sent out our 2024 member invoices. We still had sufficient reserve funds (created by deputy shortages during the pandemic) to cover our revenue deficit. As a result, despite very large rate increases by the Sheriff’s Department in recent years, your dues have remained unchanged since 2020.

The bad news is that by the end of 2024, we will have exhausted most of the reserve funds that we built up during the pandemic. We anticipate that a dues increase will be necessary for the year 2025.

As in past years, more than 90% of your dues are spent on deputy patrols. And, although we work diligently to grow our membership to cover rising costs, every year some members choose not to renew (48 of them this year). This limits our ability to keep pace with rising patrol costs.

Member dues revenue for 2024 is expected to fall nearly \$55,000 short of our projected expenses. That is the equivalent of approximately \$55 per member household. To balance our budget in 2025, we will be weighing our options, including:

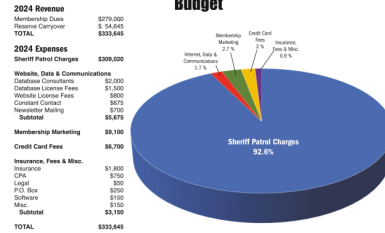
- Increasing dues,
- Decreasing the number of patrols,
- Decreasing the length of patrols,
- Or a combination of some or all of the above.

We plan to evaluate things mid-year and seek feedback from WDDNA members before making a final decision for 2025.

Sheriff rate increase

For 2024, we have learned that the Sheriff’s Department’s July 1 rate increase will be much lower than in recent years. It will be limited to just an additional \$5.38 per hour for

2024 Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Assn. Budget



the patrol deputy, bringing the deputy hourly rate to \$95.74. So, as of July 1, our full hourly rate for each patrol will be \$127.74, which includes a \$15 hourly administrative fee and \$17 per hour for the vehicle.

To help mitigate the impact of the rate increase, our 2024 patrol schedule will be nine shifts per week, each eight hours long. Given that schedule and allowing for the usual deputy absences for illness, vacations, training and court appearances, we have budgeted \$309,020, up from the approximately \$278,000 we spent in 2023.

Our remaining 2024 expense budget is as follows:

- Website, Data & Communications \$5,675
- Membership Marketing \$9,100
- Credit Card Fees \$6,700
- Insurance, Fees & Misc \$3,150

[CLICK HERE](#) to view and download a detailed copy of the 2024 budget, or go to our website at <https://wilhagginna.com/financials/> .

Member Q&A

Q: Over the past few weeks we've heard cars doing donuts a couple times a week anywhere from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. What can be done about this practice?

A: We have heard about this issue several times in recent months and we have told our deputies about it. When they get reports about these incidents, even if they arrive within minutes, the cars are always gone.

As to how to stop this behavior, that's a tough one. Unfortunately, this is happening all over the country. If you and your neighbors all have security cameras that can see the street and can capture images of the cars as they do their donuts, it may be possible for deputies to identify them and then speak to them about it. But deputies cannot cite a traffic law breaker based on videos. They must personally witness the event.

There are two options available to you. One is the CHP. They are actually the agency responsible for controlling traffic on all streets in Sacramento County. You can report the frequency of these incidents to them and they may send one of their POP (problem-oriented policing) units to the area to identify the best location and set up to catch an offender. That number is (916) 348-2341 or email 250pop@chp.ca.gov .

Or, if you hear someone doing donuts, instantly call the Sheriff's Department non-emergency number. If we have someone on duty that night, that deputy will be alerted and will respond. The non-emergency number is (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/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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