



Monthly Newsletter

May 2022

Curb numbers may help first responders

In years past, members of nonprofit organizations traveled around offering to paint your address number on the curb in front of your home for a small donation.

Since the advent of satellite GPS, painting a house number on the curb may seem obsolete. However, many first responders still encourage the use of curb addressing. Recently, one of our WDDNA deputies commented on the need to keep curb numbers in good condition.



"I have found that there are numerous homes with address numbers that are so faded they are difficult to read," noted the deputy. "A new paint job is an easy fix to make it easier and faster for us to respond to a house, especially at night."

Although some cities actually forbid curb painting, many jurisdictions still support it. Scottsdale, Ariz., even offers free curb painting kits to its residents. "Many house numbers are often obscured by landscaping, are on different places of each home and commonly are unlit," noted the city's website. "This can make it difficult to find a house address, especially at night. To help emergency personnel find your house more quickly, add painted house numbers to your curb."

The City of West Hollywood actually has crews that periodically paint reflective addresses on curbs at no cost to the property owners. The work is done as part of the city's street maintenance program.

Sacramento County, on the other hand, has an ordinance requiring a permit to paint an address number on a curb. But don't rush out to get one. Department of Transportation officials admit that, despite the ordinance, no such curb painting permit process was ever set up. Instead, DOT staff simply respond when someone files a complaint about bad curb painting.

That said, it would seem that a simple black-and-white house number on a curb is unlikely to result in a regulatory response. If you are considering adding a curb number or refreshing an old one, there are two options: do it yourself or hire a professional curb addressing company.

If you want to do it yourself, Amazon offers simple kits for less than \$15. Custom kits that provide a template with your specific house number cut into it can be found for \$30 or \$40. In both cases, you also would need to purchase the paint.

If you prefer to let the pros do it, one company that services our area is Curb Appeal Addressing headquartered in Oakland. WDDNA has no affiliation with the company and does not endorse vendors. According to company officials, Curb Appeal's fee is \$35 and they use reflective glass beads in the paint to make the numbers more readable at night. They also use high-gloss paint for the background. You can contact the company at paint@curbappealaddressing.com, (415) 429-3388.

Wild turkey safety

In early March, a mail carrier in the Creekside area reportedly felt threatened by an aggressive turkey and was forced to kill it.

While no such events have been reported in our neighborhood, we often hear about wild turkey problems, particularly during the spring mating season. The birds turn up everywhere: strolling on the street, perched on roofs, clustered on walkways and patios, feasting on berries in trees. What's a homeowner to do?



The bad news is, there are no state or county agencies (and no nonprofits, either) that will step in to deal with nuisance wild turkeys. California's Department of Fish & Wildlife may respond to problems with large predators, such as coyotes or mountain lions, but does not offer any services regarding nuisance turkeys. Likewise, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services only reacts to protect people, livestock or endangered species from large predators or to protect levees from beaver dams and burrowing animals.

In other words, if you are having a turkey problem, you're on your own. However, according to experts, there are several things that can be quite effective against turkeys.

Don't feed wild turkeys

Many conflicts with turkeys occur in areas where they're being fed by people. Eliminate all sources of food, such as handouts from people, unsecured garbage and spilled bird seed. Consider removing bird feeders (especially in the spring and summer) until the turkeys move on.

Scare away problem turkeys

Wild turkeys have a "pecking order" of dominance and may view people or pets who act fearful as underlings, chasing them or blocking the entrance to homes or cars. If wild turkeys have invaded your yard or driveway, you must establish your dominance by hazing them. It's easy to scare turkeys away by making noises (try waving your arms and yelling or blowing a whistle), popping open an umbrella, throwing tennis balls or dousing the

turkey with water from a hose or squirt gun. A leashed dog may also be effective in scaring a turkey away.

During mating season (February-May), male turkeys may venture into the neighborhood looking for females to mate with. They may respond aggressively to reflective surfaces (such as windows, automobile mirrors or polished car doors), thinking that their reflection is an intruding male turkey. In this case, haze the turkey away and then temporarily cover the reflective surface, if possible.

Encourage roosting turkeys to move elsewhere

Wild turkeys usually roost in trees, but in urban areas they are also known to roost on roofs or on decks. To break up turkey roosts on decks or roofs, making loud noises or spraying them with a water hose is usually all that's needed, although sometimes a follow-up treatment might be necessary.

You may also use motion-activated sprinklers that will scare turkeys away with a sharp burst of water. Or you can install anti-perching devices, such as coiled wire that creates an unstable landing surface on fences. Both are available online.

Don't feed wild turkeys

Most of the garden damage blamed on wild turkeys is actually caused by animals such as raccoons or squirrels. But if turkeys are scratching around your petunias, a motion-activated sprinkler can be effective or you can protect plants and vegetables with hardware cloth. Avoid the use of netting, which can entrap birds and other animals.

For more information, you can download a brochure from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=57515&inline>

Springtime home security ideas

It's natural to think about spring cleaning and gardening this time of year, but it's also a good time to evaluate your home security. Following are some security upgrades you may want to consider:

Prune your shrubs and trees

We all love beautiful flowering trees and shrubs around our homes, but burglars also love them. Large plantings close to windows and doors provide an attractive screen that bad guys can use as protection while they break into your home.

Crime prevention experts suggest that you keep all greenery pruned low enough so that your doors and windows can be easily seen from the street. And it is wise to avoid planting dense shrubbery across the front of your property. While it may provide a sense of privacy for you, it does the same for burglars.

Upgrade your locks

If you haven't changed your front or back door lock sets in years, spring is the ideal time to make the change.

There is a wide variety of locks, both standard and digital, available these days. Whatever you choose, be sure that your exterior deadbolt locks (including the one on the door leading from an attached garage into your home) are attached with long screws that bite into the 2x4 framing around your door. For extra security, you also should use long screws

on the door hinges.

Finally, because the weakest part of any door is the thin wood doorjamb around it, consider installing a metal reinforcing plate on the doorjamb to prevent kick-in burglaries and home invasions. Such hardware is available online and at home improvement stores from \$60 to about \$100 for a kit.

Security lighting

Crime prevention experts say that one of the best investments you can make on your home is to improve your exterior security lighting.

You should have your front porch light set on a timer to turn on at dusk and off after first light. This porch light should be on all night to illuminate both your door and your house number.

In addition, you should consider installing motion activated security lighting strategically around your property in both front and back yards. There are now powerful LED lights that run off batteries or solar power and require no special wiring.

Protect Your Car from Burglars

Car burglaries are the most common crime in our area. While you can get some protection by ensuring that you leave nothing of value inside your car, the most effective protection for any car is to park it inside a closed garage. This will also protect your car from catalytic converter theft.

If you still must park one or more vehicles in your driveway or on the street, be sure that you NEVER leave anything of value in the car – including in the trunk. Even spare change in the cup holder will attract a car burglar. And, of course, never leave a garage door opener in a car parked outside the garage. Burglars can use it to get into the garage and into your home if the garage is attached.

Improve Your Gate Security

The best deterrent to a backyard intruder is a sturdy fence and a locked gate. Most of us in this area have wooden fences and gates. Spring is a good time to inspect them for weak spots and to check the gate latch and hinges.

Locking your gate or gates while you are away from home is a good security measure. The simplest way is to use a padlock. However, if you prefer a unit that has the locking device built in, you can find one on [Amazon for about \\$30](#).

[CLICK HERE](#) for the installation video:

Home Security Checklist

To download a more complete WDDNA home security checklist, [CLICK HERE](#).

Scammers may be texting you

According to the Federal Trade Commission, scammers have added a new medium to their bag of tricks: they're sending spam texts to you from your own phone number. They change (spoo) the caller ID to look like they're messaging you from your number. It is bound to get your attention, but don't fall for it. It's a scam.

How does the scam work? In one version, you'll get a text thanking you for paying your bill

with an offer to get a gift if you click on a link. Don't click. Clicking could expose you to scams, download malware or get your phone number added to lists that are then sold to other scammers.

To filter out unwanted text messages or stop them from reaching you, here are some options:

On your phone

Your phone may have an option to filter and block spam or messages from unknown senders. Here are links to help you.

- On an iPhone <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201229>
- On an Android phone <https://support.google.com/phoneapp/answer/6325463>

Through your wireless provider

Your wireless provider may have a tool or service that lets you block calls and text messages. Check out ctia.org, a website from the wireless industry, to learn about options from different providers.

With a call-blocking app

Some call-blocking apps also let you block unwanted text messages. Go to ctia.org for a list of call-blocking apps for Android, BlackBerry, Apple, and Windows phones.

You can also search for apps online. Check out the features, user ratings, and expert reviews.

How to report an unwanted message

- Report it on the messaging app you use. Look for the option to report junk or spam.
- Copy the message and forward it to 7726 (SPAM).
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

Q&A

Q: Recently I tried to call the Sheriff's Department non-emergency number, but all I heard was a recording. How do I reach an actual person?

A: If you wish to speak to a dispatcher at the non-emergency line, call (916) 874-5115. When the recording begins to play, hit zero (0) to bypass it and speak to a dispatcher.

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**.

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