



Monthly Newsletter

November 2021

WDDNA ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, Dec. 8

Now that COVID concerns are easing, the Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Assn. will once again host its annual meeting IN PERSON at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 8, in the Welcome Center in the gym at Jesuit High School.

This year's program will address a growing problem we are all facing: Traffic. Our speakers will be Sgt. Jeff Carlisle, head of Problem Oriented Policing (POP) for the California Highway Patrol in our area, and POP Officer Greg Zumstein, who was recently assigned to cover our neighborhood.

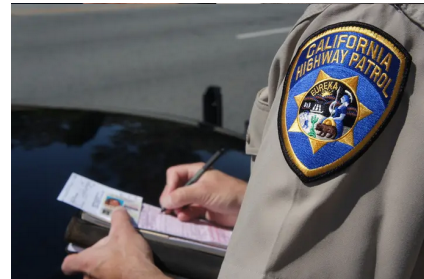
Jesuit is generously providing the meeting space to us at no cost. [CLICK HERE](#) to view a Jesuit campus map. The meeting will be held in the building marked "E" on the map. And in compliance with the school's COVID protocols, we ask that you wear a mask to protect yourself and others.

We look forward to seeing you there! And if you have neighbors who have not yet joined, please feel free to invite them, too. It is a good way to introduce them to our association.

Traffic violations are costly

Speeding is getting worse everywhere, including on our neighborhood streets.

What's more, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, the phenomenon is widespread. "Tickets issued by the California Highway Patrol for speeding in excess of 100 m.p.h. from January to June 2021 were nearly double pre-pandemic levels and the number of tickets for reckless driving citations grew, as well," the magazine reported.



Similarly, the incidence of drivers ignoring our neighborhood stop signs has increased

dramatically.

As a result, our WDDNA deputies are spending more of their time stopping and citing drivers. And those citations can be costly.

If you have not received a traffic ticket in California recently, you may not be aware of the fines you must pay. Although there are base rates for fines throughout the state, each county also adds on its own assessments and surcharges. So, depending on such things as your past driving record, your age and the severity of your offense, your fine for a single violation can total hundreds of dollars.

For instance, the speed limit on American River Drive is 35 m.p.h. If you were cited for humming along at 45 m.p.h., your base fine would be \$35. But, depending on the facts of your case and with the addition of state and local surcharges and fees, your total fine could be anywhere from \$200 to \$600, according to a clerk at the Superior Court's traffic court office.

How Traffic Ticket Fines are Determined

Traffic ticket fines and penalties in California vary depending on the type and severity of your offense, your driving record and your age.

Each violation listed on a citation is assessed a base fine. In addition to that, there are additional assessments added to make up the total fine amount due to the court.

The total fine amount due can be increased by priors or points on a person's driving record. If traffic school is allowed, there is an additional \$52 added to the total amount due.

Additionally, fines can be further enhanced for committing an offense while driving in a highway construction or maintenance area and for violations committed in a Safety Enhancement-Double Fine Zone.

There are special violations with higher fines for violations committed in a school zone, a business district, a senior center zone or at a railroad crossing.

Surcharges

The state charges a 20% surcharge on all traffic tickets.

Auto insurance rate increase

Depending on the traffic infraction, one of the penalties may include points being added to your driving record, resulting in a jump in your car insurance rates.

California point system

A conviction for a moving traffic violation will bring points to your driving record. The severity of the infraction determines how long the point or points remain on your record.

- 1 point is assigned to violations like speeding, making an unsafe lane change or an at-fault accident.
- 2 points are assigned for more serious violations like reckless driving, hit-and-run, DUI or driving with a suspended or revoked driver's license.

A high number of traffic tickets and/or points could lead to the suspension or revocation of your driver's license. The DMV will suspend your driver's license for accumulating four points or more in a 12-month period. In some situations, the court may waive points in exchange for completing a court approved traffic school program.

A court judge may suspend your driver's license, regardless of point count, if you are convicted of one of the following:

- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (DUI).
- Failure to stop as required at a railway grade crossing.
- Driving above the posted speed limit.
- Reckless driving.
- Hit-and-run.
- Assaulting a driver, bicyclist or pedestrian on a highway (road rage).
- Committing a felony or misdemeanor offense.
- Fleeing a law enforcement officer.

More information

[CLICK HERE](#) for a description of how Sacramento County fines are calculated.

[CLICK HERE](#) to download the state's Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule.

Make sure your house number is visible

As the days grow shorter, it is a good time to make sure your house numbers are visible both day and night.

In the event of an emergency, visibility ensures that first responders can find your home.

For daytime visibility, you should make sure your house numbers are large enough to be seen clearly from the street and are in a dramatically contrasting color from the surface on which they are mounted. You should also be sure that shrubbery or fencing does not block them from view.



At night, in a neighborhood like ours where street lights may not be present, it is essential that your house numbers are illuminated from dusk to dawn. This can be done by a porch light, a directional flood light or by illumination built into the number display.

You also may help first responders by having your house number painted on your curb in reflective paint.

For more tips, watch our [WDDNA lighting video](#).

The latest scams

From the Federal Trade Commission

Google voice scam

Scammers target people who post things for sale on sites like Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace. They also prey on people who post that they are looking for help finding their lost pet.

The scammers contact you and say they want to buy the item you're selling or that they found your pet. But before they commit to buying your item or returning your pet, they feign hesitation. They might say they've heard about fake online listings and want to verify that you're a real person. Or they might say they want to verify that you are the pet's true

owner.

They send you a text message with a Google Voice verification code and ask you for that code. If you give them the verification code, they'll try to use it to create a Google Voice number linked to your phone number. (Google Voice gives you a phone number that you can use to make calls or send text messages from a web browser or a mobile device.)

So, what's the harm? The scammer might use that number to rip off other people and conceal their identity. Sometimes these scammers are after a Google Voice verification code and other information about you. If they get enough of your information, they could pretend to be you to access your accounts or open new accounts in your name.

If you gave someone a Google Voice verification code follow these [steps from Google to reclaim your number](#).

No matter what the story is, don't share your Google Voice verification code — or any verification code — with someone if you didn't contact them first. That's a scam, every time. Report it at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#).

[New Amazon scams](#)

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), there are some new scams that target Amazon customers in a variety of ways.

In one version, scammers offer to give you a "refund" for an unauthorized purchase but "accidentally transfer" more than promised. They then ask you to send back the difference. What really happens? The scammer moves your own money from one of your bank accounts to the other (as in from your savings to checking account, or vice versa) to make it look like you were refunded. Any money you send back to the scammer is your money (not an overpayment) — and as soon as you send it out of your account, it becomes theirs.

In another version of the scam, you're told that hackers have gotten access to your account and the only way to supposedly protect it is to buy gift cards and share the gift card number and PIN on the back. Once that information is theirs, the money is, too.

The FTC urges consumers to avoid such scammers:

- Never call back an unknown number. Use the information on Amazon's website and not a number listed in an unexpected email or text.
- Don't pay for anything with a gift card. If anyone asks you to pay with a gift card or buy gift cards for anything other than a gift, it's a scam.
- Don't give remote access to someone who contacts you unexpectedly. This gives scammers easy access to your personal and financial information, including your bank accounts.

If you think someone has gotten access to your accounts or personal information, visit [IdentityTheft.gov](#). There, you'll find steps to take to see if your identity has been misused, and how to report and recover from identity theft.

Q&A

Q: In the past, I recall that the Sheriff's Department wanted to know the location of neighborhood security cameras that had a view of the street. I recently installed some

security cameras. Is the department still interested in knowing about them and what should I do?

A: Yes, the department always wants camera information. To provide it, just go to their website and fill out the form. Here is the link: https://www.sacsheriff.com/pages/see_surveillance.php.

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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