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# September 2021 Newsletter



## Parkway fire protection efforts

The Park Ranger Division of the County Department of Regional Parks reports that it has increased education and enforcement related to illegal fires and cooking along the parkway in an effort to curb the number of new fires in an already record-breaking fire season.

The Park Rangers note that increased education and enforcement is playing a key role in the department's overall fire reduction strategy. The 2021 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan included cattle, sheep and goat grazing contracts; maintenance crews to maintain fire breaks and issuing fuel break maintenance permits to properties bordering park properties.

“We have really stepped up our efforts to get illegal incendiary devices out of our parks,” said Regional Parks Chief Ranger Leonard Orman. “When our rangers encounter individuals who are using barbeques or other cooking devices in unauthorized areas, we issue the owners a recovery slip, confiscate the devices and move them to a secure storage facility where the owner can recover them later if they choose to.”

Visitors to Sacramento County Regional Parks – including the American River Parkway – should be aware of the following regulations:

- Open flame fires are not allowed and barbequing is only permitted in designated picnic areas.
- Smoking is only allowed in developed picnic areas, on asphalt surfaces, golf courses and levee tops in the American River Parkway.

Visit the Regional Parks website to learn more about the 2021 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan for Sacramento County Parks at <https://regionalparks.saccounty.net/Rangers/Pages/FireRiskReduction.aspx>

If you see a fire burning in our Regional Parks, please call 911.

## DA announces response to drug epidemic

District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert has announced that her office is taking steps to address an epidemic increase in fentanyl-related deaths caused in large part by counterfeit prescription pills which contain fentanyl.

She reports that the national fentanyl epidemic has hit the Sacramento community and has increased during the pandemic. She noted that, from January 2020 to July 21, 2021, there have been 140 fentanyl-related deaths in Sacramento County. The rate of fentanyl overdose deaths is now on a par with homicides and spans all age groups.

The District Attorney's Crime Lab, which tests all narcotics seized by local law enforcement agencies, reports that 92% of oxycodone pills on the street are counterfeit. Of those pills, 75% are straight fentanyl. The lab notes that counterfeit pills are virtually impossible to distinguish from prescription pills. Investigations have also found counterfeit OxyContin, Percocet, Xanax and Adderall.

Schubert said the main focus of the response will be countywide public service announcements highlighting the theme of “1 Pill Can Kill.” Several of the fentanyl-related deaths involved teens and young adults targeted on social media who ingested a single pill or half a pill.

Schubert said she has requested funding from the County Board of Supervisors as part of the federal American Rescue Plan Act to pay for the campaign.

To read the full announcement, go to <https://www.sacda.org/2021/08/24/da-anne-marie-schubert-announces-sacramento-fentanyl-epidemic-response-efforts/>

## School hours

With classes back in session at our three local schools, it may be helpful to know the bell schedule in order to avoid getting caught in a traffic jam.

Following is the basic bell schedule for each school:

### Del Dayo Elementary School

\* Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:15 am to 2:15 pm

\* Thursday 8:15 am to 1:25 pm

### Rio Americano High School

\* Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:05 am to 3:05 pm

\* Thursday 8:05 am to 1:50 pm

### Jesuit High School

\* Hours – Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 3:05 pm

For a more complete schedule, including special events, here are the links for each school:

\* Del Dayo Elementary –

<https://www.sanjuan.edu/domain/1978>

\* Rio Americano High School –

<https://www.sanjuan.edu/domain/9480>

\* Jesuit High School –

<https://www.jesuithighschool.org/pod/bell-schedule-collaborations-and-calendars>

## Latest COVID scam

The Federal Trade Commission has issued an alert that scammers are impersonating FTC Chair Lina Khan in a new phishing scheme.

The email says the FTC wants to send you Coronavirus relief funds and tells you to send some personal information, such as your name, address and date of birth.

The FTC is not distributing Coronavirus economic stimulus or relief money to anyone. The email is a scam. Don't reply.

If you get an unexpected email that asks you to reply – or call or click a link – to give somebody personal or financial information, don't. It's probably a phishing scam trying to steal your money.

Report the phishing email to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud) and forward it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group at [reportphishing@apwg.org](mailto:reportphishing@apwg.org).

## Managing the Drought

### Water-saving tips from SSWD

The following water-saving tips and others can be found on the Sacramento Suburban Water website at

<https://www.sswd.org/departments/conservation/outdoor-water-conservation>



- Save 30 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet by installing compost or mulch to prevent runoff and to retain moisture in and around plants, in flowerbeds, around trees and/or any non-turf landscaped areas. Mulch will also help slow the evaporation rate of water from the soil.
- Save more than 40 gallons of water every time you water by making sure sprinklers cover the landscaped areas without spraying onto paved areas or running water onto paved areas or gutters. This will also prevent fertilizers and other unwanted contaminants running into the storm drain.
- Save up to 50 gallons each time you water by watering during the cool parts of the morning which will help prevent water loss and evaporation.
- Set the mower blade to three inches. Taller grass will shade the soil allowing for more moisture retention and can save up to 50 gallons of water per day.
- Quickly repairing leaks can save 20 gallons per day, per leak.
- Save 90 gallons per day per 1,000 square feet by planting low-water use trees and plants.
- Save 15 gallons per 500 square feet of landscape by installing a water-efficient drip irrigation system for your trees, shrubs and flowers.
- Save 80 gallons per day by reducing each irrigation cycle by two minutes (five stations, watering three times weekly) or eliminate one cycle per week.
- Save about 13,500 gallons per year by installing a Water-Sense labeled, "Smart" irrigation controller that adjusts watering based upon weather, soil type, sun

exposure and plant type.

- Save 2,300 gallons by replacing older sprinklers with high-efficiency nozzles.

## Protect trees and shrubs

During the current drought, as we reduce the frequency and/or duration of lawn irrigation, it is important to protect trees and shrubs, which add value to our homes and are difficult to replace if lost.

According to the University of California Center for Landscape and Urban Horticulture, most established landscape trees tolerate dry soil for a few weeks to a month with little or no injury. However, the impact of drought conditions can vary widely depending on temperatures, plant health and soil conditions. The University of California provides a wealth of information about water conservation and irrigation management. To visit the Center for Landscape and Urban Horticulture site to [https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/Water\\_Use\\_of\\_Turfgrasses\\_and\\_Landscape\\_Plant\\_Materials/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/Water_Use_of_Turfgrasses_and_Landscape_Plant_Materials/)

## Rainwater harvesting for your garden

One way to protect your garden from potential damage if and when we are faced with serious landscape irrigation restrictions is to install a rainwater collection system that can provide water for your trees, ornamentals and/or your vegetable garden.



In 2018, California voters overwhelmingly (84%) approved Proposition 72 to give a tax break to people who install rainwater capture systems on their property.

Sacramento County has published a bulletin about installing rainwater collection systems. According to the bulletin, “rainwater harvesting is a viable option when living in an area such as Sacramento County that receives on average 18 inches of rain per year. Just one inch of rain, collected from a 1000-square-foot roof, can produce 620 gallons of water.

So, even if you are only collecting water from a portion of your roof, you have the potential of collecting a lot of water. How much? In 2020, if you were collecting water from just 1,000 square feet of your roof, the total amount of runoff you would have collected that year would have been just under 5,000 gallons.

No, you don't have to set up a system to collect all that water. Perhaps you only plan to use the rainwater on your potted plants, which can benefit from soft water. Or you may choose to use it on your vegetable garden in the summertime.

For such limited uses, one or two 50-gallon barrels may be all you need. Once they are filled, the excess will run out through the built-in overflow valves. Or you can install a diversion gate in your downspout that allows you to control where the runoff goes.

To learn more about how to harvest rainwater, the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, a joint powers authority government agency of 16 cities and Los Angeles County, has produced an authoritative “Homeowner’s Guide to Rainwater Harvesting.” To download a copy, go to <https://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/Rainwater%20Harvesting%20Guide.pdf>

## Q&A

**Q**: I accidentally unsubscribed to WDDNA newsletters. How can I sign back up.

**A**: First, check the email that you received right after you unsubscribed. It contains a link to restore your email service. Click on that link and you will be able to get our emails once again.

If you did not save that email, please contact our membership chairperson, Maria Talcott at [marialcotti@gmail.com](mailto:marialcotti@gmail.com). She will send you a link to a signup form that you can fill out to re-subscribe. After you fill out the form and submit it, you will receive a confirmation email verifying your desire to re-subscribe. Please watch for that email. When you receive it, IT IS ESSENTIAL that you click the link to complete the re-subscribe process.