



Monthly Newsletter

February 2026

WDDNA board votes down Flock LPR proposal

After much study and discussion, WDDNA's board of directors has voted against contracting with Flock Safety to set up several license plate reader cameras in our neighborhood.

The vote, taken during the board's Jan. 13 meeting, followed months of communications with Flock Safety representatives and research into the company's systems and practices.

As most members recall, WDDNA has considered installing LPR cameras at key access points around our neighborhood for years. We believed they could be a useful tool to record images of license plates on vehicles leaving the neighborhood and potentially help investigators identify vehicles used in burglaries and other crimes.



Early last fall, the Flock Safety company presented a lease agreement proposal to WDDNA through which they would have installed and maintained several cameras at key neighborhood locations. That proposal would have allowed us to restrict access to the license plate and vehicle images to Sheriff's Department investigators. The company also asserted that all images would be deleted from storage after 30 days.

The proposal at first seemed ideal, but nationwide news reports of improper Flock image usage by other jurisdictions led members of the board to pause and look more deeply into the company's policies.

During our research, privacy issues became a serious concern. A growing number of communities that had installed Flock cameras had begun cancelling their agreements and, in some cases, lawsuits claiming unconstitutional warrantless surveillance and privacy concerns were filed. Some sources also expressed concern that, even though the license plate images were deleted after 30 days, the underlying metadata associated with the images may be stored and potentially sold to other data aggregators.

The board also had concerns that some future lawsuit by a local entity might drag us into litigation, as well.

Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, the WDDNA board concluded that the investigative value of installing Flock Safety cameras was outweighed by potential privacy concerns.

We appreciate the support we have received from WDDNA members and we will continue to seek additional ways to serve the safety and security needs of our neighborhood.

2026 WDDNA budget finalized

At the January meeting, the board of directors approved the association's 2026 budget.

The total anticipated spending for the year will be \$318,900. Total revenue is projected to be \$309,000, leaving a deficit of approximately \$10,000, which will be drawn from our reserve fund.

As always, more than 90% of our revenue will go to pay for our off-duty Sheriff's Department patrols. The second largest anticipated expense is expected to be credit card fees, followed by marketing expenses, website and data management software fees, insurance and professional services.

We also will be investing in improvements that we hope will make using our system easier. Many of you have had trouble accessing your annual invoice or making a payment. Some members have found it difficult to navigate our website.

We hear you!

In response, we will be investing in improvements to simplify both our website and our payment systems. PLUS, we will be adding a new option that will allow you, if you wish, to switch from paying your dues annually as you do now, to paying automatically each month by credit card.

We deeply appreciate your support for our association and our daily patrols. It is an honor to serve a community that works together to help keep our homes and our neighbors safe. If you have any questions about the budget or our services, contact us at wilhaggindeldayona@gmail.com.

Donate your excess citrus

Do you have a citrus tree loaded down with fruit you know you will never eat? Will it end up on the ground attracting rats or get caught in your lawnmower?

If so, you may want to consider donating that fruit to those in need. And you don't even need to pick it yourself.

Sacramento's Soil Born Farms, which is located just across the American River in Rancho Cordova, has a [Harvest Sacramento](#) program that engages volunteer gleaners to pick citrus from urban trees. The fruit is then provided to food assistance agencies. There are two volunteers who live in our neighborhood and pick fruit for that program. According to a program representative, more volunteers are needed, as well.



To donate your fruit, [CLICK HERE](#) to fill out the donation form. If you would like to volunteer to help, you can contact the program volunteer team at harvestsacramento@soilborn.org.

Another gleaning organization is [Community Fruit](#) in Oak Park. This organization prevents edible fruit from going to waste by getting it to those who need it. The

organization has a small group of volunteer gleaners. Or, if you are able to pick your own fruit, they will come and carry it away.

[CLICK HERE](#) to fill out a form requesting a gleaner.

Crisis lines out of service

Sacramento County Department of Health Services is urging residents **not to use** the former National Warm Line at (855) 642-6222, which is out of service and no longer a resource for individuals seeking emotional or behavioral health support.

Warm lines are designed to provide emotional support for people who may be experiencing distress but are not at the point of calling a suicide crisis line. This does not mean the individuals who reach out are not at risk; many choose warm lines because they do not want to take critical emergency resources away from others. For this reason, the loss of this number as a trusted support option is being taken seriously.

Sacramento County Department of Health Services is working to remove the former National Warm Line number from all county materials, websites and resources to help protect the safety and well-being of residents. The county emphasizes that this was a national line and is not operated by Sacramento County.

As this work continues, residents in need of emotional or behavioral health support are encouraged to contact:

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988.
- Consumer-Operated Warm Line: 916-366-4668
- Mental Health Urgent Care Clinic: 916-520-2460
- [Behavioral Health Services Screening and Coordination \(BHS-SAC\)](#): 916-875-1055

The 988 Lifeline works in coordination with [Sacramento County's Community Wellness Response Team \(CWRT\)](#) to connect individuals with local, in-person support when needed, without law enforcement involvement.

Landscaping for security

February is landscape pruning season. So, if you plan to prune your shrubs or install new plants ahead of spring, now is the time to consider using landscaping to enhance your home's security.

According to many law enforcement professionals, well designed landscaping can be more critical to securing your home than replacing doors, locks and windows. According to researchers at Tulane University, burglars prefer homes surrounded by large hedges and shrubs because they block visibility from the street.



Security experts advise keeping your shrubs trimmed to three feet or less below windows and prune trees so that the canopy starts at least six feet off the ground.

Plants that are prickly and covered in thorns can be a security asset. Planting these around entryways, windows and the perimeter of your lawn can deter intruders. Cacti, roses, agave and blackberry plants are good choices.

Gravel paths can also be an unexpected security measure. Adding rocks to mulch around entryways, especially windows can make an entry attempt noisy. Using larger river rock can deter a burglar by creating shaky or slippery footing. And, an additional benefit of using such rock around your home is that it may reduce the risk of fire.

Improving mailbox security

Mail theft continues to be a problem in our neighborhood and around the country. As a result, you may be considering replacing your old curbside mailbox with a locking one. Or, if you are among those homes in the neighborhood served by cluster boxes, you may be wondering how to improve the security of your unit.



According to Miguel Rodriguez, assistant postmaster for the Sacramento region, there are good options regardless of what type of mailbox you use.

Rule No. 1

The first rule of mail security according to experts is to NEVER put an outgoing letter containing a check in your mailbox. Putting up the flag on your curbside mailbox or sticking the letter onto your porch mailbox with a clothespin is a sure way to have it stolen.

Outgoing mail containing checks or any other secure document should ONLY be handed directly to your mail carrier or – better yet – inserted into the indoor slot at your local post office. (Outdoor post office mailboxes are sometimes targeted by thieves, too.)

Home mailboxes

Many homes in our neighborhood are served by individual curbside mailboxes. If you have an old mailbox mounted on a post and you want to replace it with a new locking unit of similar design, Rodriguez said you may do so without special permission from the post master as long as you follow standard USPS specifications.

The exception would be if you plan to move the location of the box or if you want to build a custom unit, such as a mailbox built into a brick pillar. In that case, you should contact your local post office first for approval. For residents in the 95864 area, that would be the Arden Way office, and for 95608 homes, that would be the Carmichael office on Fair Oaks Boulevard.

Even if you are simply replacing the existing mailbox, be sure to adhere to the following USPS regulations:

- Mailbox manufacturers must meet all applicable USPS mailbox standards.
- Custom made mailboxes will be approved by the postmaster if they meet established standards.
- Any name put on the mailbox should be at least one inch high.
- Generally, the boxes should be installed with the bottom of the box at a vertical height of between 41 and 45 inches from the road surface.
- A mailbox with a lock must have a slot large enough to accommodate the customer's daily mail volume.
- Customers must keep the approach to their mailboxes clear of obstructions to allow safe access for delivery. If USPS employees are impeded in reaching a mail receptacle, the postmaster may withdraw delivery service.
- Advertising on a mailbox or the supporting post of the mailbox is prohibited.

Every curbside mailbox must bear the following address information:

- A house number inscribed in contrasting color in neat letters and numerals at least 1 inch high on the side of the box visible to the carrier's regular approach or on the door if boxes are grouped.

- If the box is on a different street from the customer's residence, the street name and house number must be inscribed on the box.

Front porch delivery

Some older homes in the neighborhood have either mail slots through the front door or wall-mounted mailboxes on the front porch. While mail slots provide secure delivery of letters, older wall-mounted mailboxes are generally not secure.

Wall-mounted mailboxes are not addressed on the USPS website. However, there are a variety of locking wall-mounted units that can be purchased online or at home improvement stores to replace older models. Prices range from approximately \$50 to \$250, depending on size. Some are even large enough to accommodate small packages.

Cluster mailboxes

There has been a rash of mail thefts from cluster mailboxes in apartment complexes and neighborhood group residential boxes.

According to Rodriguez, USPS has developed improved locks that are more secure than in the past.

If your cluster mailbox is newer, you can request a lock replacement. If, however, you have an older unit, USPS won't install new locks in the old boxes. Instead, you should request that a completely new cluster box be installed.

If your home is part of an HOA, that HOA needs to be the entity to request the box. If not, a homeowner can make the request at the local Post Office.

Protecting your mail

Postal officials recommend the following safety precautions to protect your mail from thieves:

- To send any mail that contains checks, official forms or personal account information, use the letter slots inside your Post Office or hand it to a letter carrier. Don't leave it in your home mailbox for pickup.
- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery.
- Do not leave mail in your mailbox overnight. If you are expecting checks, credit cards or other negotiable items and will be out of town, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- If you are expecting but did not receive a check or other valuable mail, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- If you change your address, immediately notify your Post Office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.
- Do not send cash in the mail.
- Tell your Post Office when you will be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return..

For more online resources and report forms, visit the [U.S. Postal Inspection Service](#).

If you see a mail thief at work, or if you believe your mail was stolen, call the Sheriff's Department immediately at (916) 874-5115, then call Postal Inspectors at 877-876-2455 (press 3).

Tax refund scams

From the Federal Trade Commission

Tax season is here. If you're getting a refund, scammers are looking to steal it. So, before you respond to a text or email about a "tax refund" — especially one that asks you to click a link — know that this could be a scam designed to get your personal information and steal your tax refund.

These scams often start with a text or email that looks like it's from the IRS or the state saying they've "processed" or "approved" your tax refund claim. (Note: that's not how you find out about a real tax refund.) To "verify your identity" and "send you money," they ask you to click a link to enter details like your Social Security and bank account numbers. This is a phishing scam. If you click and share your info, the scammer might steal your personal information to get your tax refund or even steal your identity to open other accounts.

If you get a message like this:

- Know that the real IRS and California's Franchise Tax Board won't reach out by text, email or on social media to get your information. Only scammers will.
- Don't respond or click any links. To check the status of a pending tax refund, never use the link from the message. Instead, visit [USA.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to learn how to find out if you're really getting a federal or state tax refund.
- Report and delete the message. Use your phone's "report junk" option or forward unwanted texts to [7726 \(SPAM\)](https://www.fcc.gov/complaints) and mark unwanted emails as spam or junk. Once you've checked it out and reported it, delete the message.

Visit [IdentityTheft.gov/steps](https://www.identitytheft.gov/steps) to learn how to protect yourself before identity theft happens. And if you spot a scam, tell the FTC at ReportFraud@ftc.gov

Member Q&A

Q: I repeatedly am receiving emailed bills that claim to come from "Sacramento County Sheriff's Alarm Bureau" stating that I owe them money. Initially I thought that this was just spam. Is this spam? Or do I need to pay this bill?

A: We spoke with Alarm Bureau Manager Lea Solano. The good news is that the emails you have received are legitimate. They are not spam. And the P.O. Box address to which you are asked to send your check is in Los Angeles because that is the location of the bank that handles the transactions.

The Sheriff's Alarm Bureau used to have a staff of three people to respond to inquiries. However, at present only Bureau Manager Solano is there to handle the huge volume of calls and emails the office receives. Therefore, if you try to call the bureau's phone number – which is (833) 203-4891 – you are likely to have a very long wait. The bureau manager suggests that the best way to reach the bureau is via email at sacramentocountyca@alarmbilling.com.

If you are uncomfortable receiving your invoices via email, you can send an email at that same email address and ask them to send invoices through the mail.

To register a new alarm or learn more about the alarm bureau, go to <https://www.crywolfservices.com/sacramentocountysheriffca/>.

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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