



Newsletter

June 2025

Be sure to lock your gates

According to our WDDNA patrol deputies, a large number of homeowners do not lock their gates when they go away on vacation. As a result, a number of people have recently reported that strangers have entered their back yards while they were away. In one case, a pool sweep was stolen.



Burglars can easily enter through an unlocked gate and, once inside your fence, can take their time breaking into your home or out buildings without fear of being seen.

Many homeowners choose not to lock their gates because they want their gardeners or pool people to easily access the back yard. But leaving gates unlocked can turn out to be a very expensive convenience if it results in burglary.

The solution to gate security is to lock your gate using a padlock that can be opened by using a code, either manually or by a smartphone command.

One of the simplest, strongest and least expensive dual-sided gate latches we have seen is made of steel, works for either a right- or left-hand installation and can be used with a padlock on either side of the gate. The cost of this device is about \$18 on Amazon. [CLICK HERE](#) to see it.

Once you have installed a dual-sided latch, you can secure it by buying a keyless padlock that unlocks by punching in a code (which can be shared with service personnel and/or WDDNA deputies), or even a smart padlock that can link to your phone and allow you to monitor and unlock it remotely via your smartphone.

Whatever your choice, the goal should be to secure your gates while you are away so intruders cannot enter and you can enjoy more peace of mind during your vacation.

Use only safe & sane fireworks July 4th

The use of illegal fireworks for the July 4th

celebration continues to be an issue. As a reminder, Sacramento County now has strict rules about the use of fireworks.

According to Metro Fire, it is unlawful to possess or sell, “safe and sane” fireworks outside of the time period beginning at noon on June 28 and ending at 9 p.m. on July 4. During this time period, “safe and sane” fireworks may only be used, displayed or discharged between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 p.m.



It is also unlawful for any person to sell “safe and sane” fireworks without a valid business license authorizing such sales. Retail sales are only allowed from temporary fireworks stands. Legal fireworks are not sold on the internet or from other buildings and structures, and they’re not delivered in the mail to California residents.

Any person who discharges dangerous fireworks that ignite a fire that results in the loss of property to another person or that causes great bodily injury could face felony criminal charges up to and including arson, punishable by imprisonment in state prison for from two to nine years. Parents are liable for any damage or injuries caused by their children using fireworks. If convicted, a violator of California fireworks laws could be fined up to \$50,000, as well as be sent to jail for up to one year.

Penalties for using illegal fireworks are as follows:

- \$1,000 for the first violation
- \$2,500 for the second violation within one year of the first violation
- \$5,000 for each additional violation within one year of the first violation
- \$10,000 for each violation that occurs within the American River Parkway, schools, and parks

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Whether you're facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, caring counselors are available to help.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a nationwide, free and confidential service available 24/7 for individuals experiencing mental health, substance use or suicidal crises. In California, including Sacramento, this service connects callers with trained crisis counselors who provide immediate support, guidance and referrals to local resources.

When you call, text or chat 988, your call is routed based on your area code to one of [California's 12 crisis call centers](#). If a local center is unavailable, the call is directed to a national backup center to ensure timely assistance.

In Sacramento, [WellSpace Health](#) operates the regional 988 call center, providing confidential support via talk, text or chat around the clock. Another local resource is [NAMI Sacramento](#), offering crisis information and support for individuals and families dealing with mental health issues.

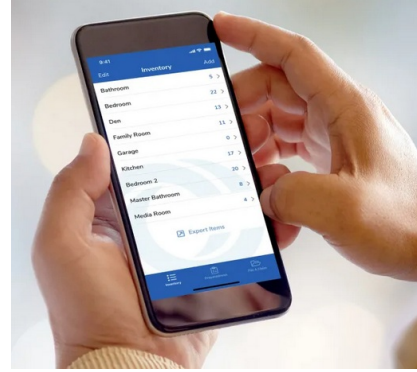
Save the serial numbers

If you have ever had to report the theft of a bicycle or something taken from your car or garage, you may recall that the Sheriff's Department asks you for such details as the make, model and serial number of the

stolen item .

Unfortunately, many victims are unable to provide those details, which may make it difficult for you to claim an item if it is ever recovered.

"Sadly, our property warehouse collects many bicycles throughout the year that could possibly be returned from crimes, but their serial numbers were unknown," says one of our WDDNA patrol officers, former assistant sheriff Leandra Marchese.



In addition, insurance companies urge us to keep information about our valuables in case we need to file a claim after a theft or fire.

That said, we all have busy lives and keeping track of such details can be difficult. One way to simplify the process is to use a digital app. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners provides a free app called NAIC Home Inventory. According to NAIC, the app:

Allows you to capture pictures of your belongings and group them by room or category. Scan barcodes for accurate information about your items and export your inventory at any time.

If you need to file an insurance claim, the app provides details about steps to take and resources to help you through the claims process.

The NAIC app is available on Google Play and Apple's App Store. For more information, go to <https://content.naic.org/consumer/home-inventory>.

WDDNA needs volunteer secretary

The Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association is seeking a volunteer to serve as our board secretary.

Our secretary takes minutes of our monthly meetings, sends them to the board via email and participates fully in board discussions and decision making.

In addition, the secretary maintains WDDNA's key documents, including our bylaws and past minutes.

As secretary, you would attend our board meetings on the second Tuesday evening of each month. During the meeting, you would take part in board discussions and decision making, take brief notes of the proceedings, then prepare the minutes. The minutes usually fill just one page and follow a simple format.

The job of secretary requires just three or four hours each month.

To see a recent sample of our minutes, go to the WDDNA website, login and click on the "Board Minutes" link to the left of your membership information.

Contact us

Please let us know if the secretary position interests you. Just email us at wilhaggindeldayona@gmail.com and someone will get back to you. We will be happy to answer all your questions and you are under no obligation to commit unless you wish to.

Incorporation discussions

Although a proposal to incorporate Arden Arcade was turned down by voters in 2010, there has been growing interest in revisiting the issue and potentially expanding the proposed city boundaries to include other areas, such as Carmichael and Foothill Farms, into a new city.

The concept of incorporation is currently supported by Supervisor Rich Desmond, who endorsed the idea when he was the featured speaker at WDDNA's 2023 annual membership meeting.

"I think we would be much better served in these unincorporated communities if they were cities," said Desmond.

"Arden Arcade has 102,000 people in its boundaries and you have just one elected official advocating for this area. As a city, you not only would have five elected officials who would be there to respond to issues in your community, but also to be out advocating for you with regional entities, advocating with our state and federal elected officials to pull down more dollars for the community. What we have now is an inherently ineffective governance structure. I call myself a born-again incorporation advocate because I think it is a better governance structure."

Informational meeting

One of the leaders of the incorporation concept is Michael Seaman. Seaman spoke to the WDDNA board of directors during the May board meeting and answered questions.

He said an informational meeting on the topic of incorporation will be held on Saturday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Carmichael Library, 5605 Marconi Ave. It is free and open to the public.

For more information on the topic of incorporation, go to <https://www.advocatesforardenarcade.com>.

Free compost from the county

Sacramento County is again offering free compost through early fall at a self-serve site on the county's branch facilities property off Bradshaw Road.

The compost is free to all county residents for home landscaping and gardening projects. The compost is not for commercial use or commercial landscapers. It is made from the food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings that we provide in our curbside green waste bins.

The county orders compost as needed Monday through Friday and restocking is based on vendor availability.

To get the compost, you should bring a shovel and containers. No mechanical loading is allowed and there is no staff available to assist you.

There are two sites where you can get the compost. The closest to our neighborhood is in a parking lot at 3800 Branch Center Road. For a location map, [CLICK HERE](#).



Protect pets from summer heat

Extreme heat waves continue to affect Sacramento County and it's crucial for pet owners to ensure their furry friends stay safe and comfortable. When temperatures rise, pets face increased risks of heat-related illnesses. Here are some essential tips to help your pets beat the heat:

- **Never leave pets in parked cars.** Even on mild days, the temperature inside a parked car can rise rapidly, turning it into a deadly trap. Leaving pets unattended in cars is both dangerous and illegal in California.
- **Hydrate.** Always provide fresh water for your pets to keep them hydrated. If your pet is experiencing a heat-related illness, never give them cold water to drink or soak in. This could shock their system.
- **Avoid peak heat hours.** Schedule walks and outdoor activities during cooler parts of the day, such as early mornings or evenings. Hot asphalt and concrete can burn your pet's paw pads, so test the surface with your hand first.
- **Provide shade and cool environments.** Ensure outdoor pets have access to shaded areas and fresh water. Indoors, keep them in air-conditioned rooms or use fans to improve air circulation.
- **Use sunscreen.** Pets with light skin or fur are susceptible to sunburn. Apply pet-safe sunscreen to sensitive areas like ears and noses.
- **Be cautious with swimming.** Supervise pets when swimming in pools or natural bodies of water. Use life jackets and avoid swimming in strong currents or water that is too cold.
- **Recognize heatstroke symptoms.** Watch for signs like excessive panting, drooling, glazed eyes, rapid pulse, lethargy, vomiting and collapse. If you suspect heatstroke, move your pet to a cool area and seek immediate veterinary attention. Gradual cooling helps stabilize their internal temperature without causing additional stress or shock to their systems.

Secure your home before you travel

The vacation season is underway. If you are planning a trip, don't forget that, as a WDDNA member, you can request security checks on your home by our patrol deputies while you are away. Just go to the WDDNA website at WilhagginNA.com, log in and click on the "Vacation Watch" link in your member portal to the left of your membership information.

When you fill out the request form, be sure to include such information as whether the alarm system will be on, if gates will be locked, who may be stopping by the house while you are away, what day your gardener or pool person will be there and any other information you want the officer to know. Also, include contact information about how to reach you while you are away and who to contact here in Sacramento - such as a neighbor - if necessary.

More helpful hints

Following are some additional safety tips from the City of Sacramento Police Department:

- Have good locks on all doors and windows, and use them!
- Even if you sign up for a WDDNA vacation watch, you also should ask a neighbor to watch the house while you're away. It's a good idea to leave your vacation address and telephone number with the neighbor so you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside your home.
- Stop all deliveries or arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail, newspapers and packages.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves and maintain the yard to give the home a lived-in look.
- Have a neighbor place garbage cans at the curb on your normal pickup days and return them after the garbage pickup is made.
- Use timers to turn lights and a radio or television on and off at appropriate times.

- This helps to disguise the fact that you are away.
- Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages; leave your normal message on the machine.
- Leave your blinds, shades and curtains in a normal position. Don't close them unless that is what you do when you are home.
- Close and lock garage doors and windows. Ask a neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway. If you leave your car at home, park it as you normally would. Vehicles parked outside should be moved occasionally to appear that they are being used.
- Secure storage sheds, attic entrances and gates.
- Consider taking valuables to a bank safe deposit box.
- Engrave your valuables. This simple step will allow your stolen property to be identified and returned to you if recovered by the law enforcement.

Member Q&A

Q: How do I change my vacation watch request?

A: You may send an email to our deputy at wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com. Be sure to include your name and address in the email and a phone number so you can be reached in case there is a question about the change.

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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