



Monthly Newsletter

May 2025



Package shipping scams

Have you ever gotten a text message about a package coming via the United States Postal Service or some other delivery service?

Maybe the message confirmed your order, said a package is out for delivery or said there's a problem such as unpaid postage, a missed delivery, or that you need to update your shipping preferences. That text message will say to click a link to learn more or fix the problem.

Unfortunately, there's a good chance that text message is a scam.

Scammers want you to click the link in their message. If you do, the click will take you to what looks like a legitimate website for USPS or another delivery service, where you are asked to enter personal or financial information to solve the delivery problem. If you pay, all the information you provide through the payment window (your credit card number, name, address, etc.) will go straight to the scammer.

To avoid this scam:

- **Verify delivery information independently.** If you think a text is about a real delivery, don't give information or click on any links in the message. Instead, go to the online retail site or account from which you ordered the item and look up the shipping and tracking information for your package.
- **Use filters.** See what options your mobile phone has to filter and block texts from unknown senders.
- **Report unwanted text messages and scams** on the messaging app you use. See if your phone has an option to report junk or spam. If not, forward the message to 7726.

Check out these resources to help you weed out [spam text messages](#), [phishing emails](#), and [unwanted calls](#). If you spot what you believe is a scam, report it to the Federal Trade

WDDNA seeks board members

We need you!

The Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association is run 100% by a small group of board members. We have no paid staff, no office. Our board members do everything from their homes.

Most of WDDNA's board members have been in place for a dozen or more years. We love what we do, but some of us are ready to move on. We are seeking members who are interested in stepping up to add new ideas and energy to our board roster.

More importantly, without willing volunteers, there may come a day in the not too distant future when we might be forced to shut down the association for lack of human resources.

At the moment, there are two key positions for which we are seeking volunteers: secretary and treasurer.

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.

As secretary, you would attend our board meetings on the second Tuesday evening of each month, take brief notes, then prepare the minutes. The minutes usually fill just one page and follow a standard format. The total number of hours required is likely just three or four hours each month.

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

Treasurer

The job of treasurer is a very important position. As treasurer, you will be in charge of managing an annual budget in excess of \$300,000.

While it would be helpful if you have a bookkeeping background, it is not essential that you be a CPA or work professionally in the bookkeeping field. However, you should feel comfortable with online bookkeeping software and with financial terms and data.

The treasurer is responsible for managing and recording all the association's deposits and expenditures, managing our bank and savings accounts, paying bills, developing and presenting monthly financial reports and working with the board to develop our annual budget.

To do this, you would record financial activities and produce reports of monthly and annual financial data using our QuickBooks software to manage revenue and expenditures and interfacing with our online Zoho software to ensure accurate processing of member dues.

In addition, the treasurer heads a small annual subcommittee to develop the coming year's budget and prepares tax information to be used by our CPA.

Our current treasurer will train you in our operations and you will work on a WDDNA laptop computer that is dedicated to the purpose.

Contact us

Please let us know if one of these positions interests you. Just email us at wilhaggindeldayona@gmail.com and someone will get back to you right away. We will be happy to answer all your questions and you are under no obligation to commit unless you wish to.

Home security tips for travel

If you are planning a trip this summer, don't forget to protect your home before you leave. Following are some suggestions for home security from insurance companies Allstate and State Farm:



Eliminate signs you are gone

The key to protecting your home from burglars is to make it appear as if you've never left.

- Either stop your mail and newspaper or make arrangements for someone to take them in.
- Postpone any parcel deliveries until after your return. This is very important and is often overlooked in our neighborhood. Leaving packages unattended not only risks theft, it also signals that nobody is home.
- Make sure your regular gardening and pool maintenance services will continue.

Sign up for a vacation watch

As a member of WDDNA, sign up for free vacation watch checks by deputies. Go to the website at www.WilhagginNA.com and log in. Then go to "Vacation Watch Request" in the menu to the left of your Membership Information in your Member Portal.

You will be presented with instructions and an electronic form. Simply fill it out and submit it. When you do, be sure to include such information to officers 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. This information helps officers to know who is supposed to be there, who is not and how to reach someone when needed.

Enlist the neighbors!

Encourage them to park in your driveway. And don't forget to provide them with:

- House keys
- Alarm codes
- Keys to any cars left at home
- Emergency contact information

Ask neighbors to watch your home and take care of small tasks such as:

- Taking in flyers or door hangers left on the front porch
- Opening and/or closing drapes and curtains
- Checking for phone messages
- Placing your garbage can at the curb on garbage pickup day

Other measures to protect your home

- If you have a security system, alert your alarm company that your home will be unoccupied.
- Set up timers to lamps and a radio and schedule them so that they mimic your normal routine.
- Plan some exterior lighting. Set these lights on timers as well, to deter burglars.
- Disconnect small appliances, computers, televisions and media centers to protect them from power surges.
- Turn off the water to the washing machine and any other appliances as appropriate.
- Don't leave spare keys outdoors.
- Check that the toilets are not running.
- Adjust the furnace and water heater.
- Turn down the ringers on the phones.
- Do not change the greeting on your answering machine to reflect that you're away.
- Lock up valuables, important papers and firearms. If you don't already have your

jewelry or other valuables in a safe deposit box, now might be the time to do so. Doing this also ensures that you don't leave out anything valuable in plain sight that a burglar might be able to see from a window.

- Lock the garage. Even if there is no entrance to your house from the garage, there's still a chance for numerous things to be stolen. Secure the door and any entrances to the garage. Double check locks on all doors and windows, including the door into your garage.
- Make sure the door leading to your garage is as strong and secure as your front door so it can't be easily kicked in.
- Cover your garage windows so thieves can't see that you are gone.
- Install a padlock on the throw latch on your garage door or use a C-clamp on the door track to prevent the door from being lifted.
- Don't use social media to announce to the world that you're on vacation. Caution your family that they should not include any discussion of your pending vacation in their online chatter.

Video game hidden ads

From the Federal Trade Commission

While your kids are looking for video games in the app store, when they download games and during game play, they are being bombarded by advertising encouraging them to spend money – sometimes without your knowledge or approval.

Some kids' video games say they're ad free, but according to the Federal Trade Commission, they may not be.

Perhaps you have paid for a game subscription thinking it'll give your kid full access to the game. Then, while your youngster is playing the game, he will see ads for parts of the game he can only get to if he clicks. What the game might not make clear is that each click is a payment.

To protect your child and your checkbook, the FTC offers the following steps to find games that work for your family and reduce the chance of unexpected purchases.

- **Read online review and ratings** before you download an app or video game. Watch online videos of people playing the game. See what other people are saying about it. Consider looking at reviews with your kid to see if the game is a good match.
- **Use parental controls** to disable in-app purchases or require a password for all purchases on your phone or tablet. For example:
 - [iPhone and iPad](#)
 - [Google Play](#)
 - [Microsoft](#)
- **Discuss family rules** with your kids when using apps and games.

Keep up with FTC cases by signing up for [Consumer Alerts](#). And check out the FTC's [kids and video games](#) page for more advice.

Sheriff's office volunteer opportunities

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office is looking for citizens from within our communities who want to volunteer to work with our law enforcement professionals. Volunteers bring their experiences and skills to enhance the services provided by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

Since 1993, the department has had a volunteer work force that helps foster the partnership between the Sheriff's Office and the community. Department volunteers assist in the following programs:



Community service center – Volunteers help citizens with neighborhood and law enforcement related issues and questions, crime reports, fingerprinting, safety fairs and general office assistance.

Volunteer patrol – Volunteers patrol neighborhoods providing illegal sign abatement, reporting of code enforcement violations, parking violations and other directed patrol requests.

Investigations – Volunteers assist with missing person follow up and child abuse data entry.

Clerical support – Volunteers are placed in different areas in the Sheriff's Office to provide computer data entry, filing, scanning, organizing and customer service to citizens and staff.

Volunteer requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Have a valid California driver's license or I.D. Card
- Possess a clear criminal history
- Pass a required background investigation
- Be available to work 16 hours a month (preferably volunteering one or two days a week for from four to six hours each day).
- Complete the office orientation and all required training
- Have a good moral character and reputation
- Must be able to demonstrate good judgment
- Have the desire to assist your community

To apply, go to https://www.sacsheriff.com/pages/volunteer_services.php

Member Q&A

Q: I expect to have some remodeling done to my home in the near future. I've spoken to several general contractors and some have noted that nearby properties they were working on had been broken into in the early morning hours. What are your suggestions on keeping my home secure during the remodel?

A: Yes, it is true that vacant homes under construction are a prime target for burglars. Most burglars are looking for things they can easily sell — things they can either quickly carry away or that they can strip off valuable appliances or electronics, such as copper wiring and plumbing.

One obvious thing that you can do is to remove everything from the home of any value and store it off site. If you do that, even if a burglar gets into the home, you won't suffer a significant loss.

If you are remodeling the kitchen, it is wise to remove all the appliances. If you are reusing any of them, store them with everything else.

Your contractor may want to store tools on your site. If so, make sure he does not store them inside your home. Require him to rent a storage container that he can padlock. He should also store any valuable materials in the container, such as copper wiring and

plumbing materials.

To protect the home at night, you should set up good exterior lighting front and back. Burglars hate that. Your contractor may be able to advise you on that.

As for security, most experts advise that you board up every point of entry that you can – both windows and doors. If you want to do it and still let light in through the windows, you can buy sheets of heavy plexiglass that can be screwed on instead of plywood. (Note: check your insurance. It may require you to board up the house during construction.)

As to security, you can of course put a vacation watch on your home for the entire length of construction. That will help. But you also should ensure that your home is protected electronically.

An audible alarm system can be helpful because the noise may scare most burglars away if they try to break in. You also should have security cameras strategically placed outside and inside. Putting security cameras inside the home that will alert you or a monitoring service if someone is in the house after hours will make it possible to alert the Sheriff's Department. You should consult an alarm company about the best temporary system that can be installed.

If you cannot board up the doors and windows, and if you have sliding glass doors or large plate glass windows, besides installing extra strong locks, you might consider applying security film on the glass. The film makes it virtually impossible to break the glass.

And, finally, talk to your neighbors. Let them all know what is going on at your home and ask them to keep an eye on things and report any suspicious activity to you and to the Sheriff's Department non-emergency line. If they have security cameras, suggest that they sign up with the Sheriff's Department's "SEE" program so that the department will know they can contact them for video if there is a burglary.

And, if you wish, we can arrange for one of our deputies to meet with you and survey your home and property and offer suggestions for dealing with specific issues.

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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