



Monthly Newsletter

May 2026

WDDNA tackles illegal Rio parking

In response to consistent illegal parking in the no-parking zone on American River Drive near Whitehall, we have asked our deputies to check that area daily and ensure that all cars parked illegally are ticketed.

Almost daily, our deputies have either cited cars parked illegally near Rio Americano High School or called in the Sheriff's Department's parking enforcement teams to do the job.

We also have contacted Rio Principal Cliff Kelly to let him know about the problem and suggested that he inform his students that our deputies will be checking that area daily. We also provided information that he can share with his students about the danger they face if they receive daily parking tickets.



According to authorities, accumulating numerous parking tickets in California typically results in heavy fines, vehicle towing (usually after five or more tickets) and the inability to renew vehicle registration. While parking tickets do not directly add points to a license, unpaid tickets can trigger license suspension and hurt credit scores. Following are potential penalties:

- **Registration hold:** The California DMV can place a hold on your vehicle registration, preventing you from legally driving it until all fines and penalties are paid.
- **Towing and impounding:** If you have five or more unpaid parking violations, your vehicle can be towed or impounded.
- **Escalating fines:** Failure to pay on time leads to penalty assessments, significantly increasing the original fine amount.
- **License suspension:** If parking tickets are ignored, they can eventually lead to a suspension of the driver's license.
- **Collections:** Unpaid tickets can be sent to a collection agency, negatively impacting credit scores.

Kelly said that he, too, has been working to address the problem.

"I have called parking enforcement multiple times this year for on-campus parking concerns," he explained.

He said he sent a comprehensive message with a warning to all families about the problem and he said at least 16 students were ticketed in late March and early April for

parking in the no parking zone.

"I will continue to message our community about these concerns and the need to respect our neighbors," he added. "And I will continue to support the ticketing of any car out of compliance."

Electric motorcycle regulations

The surge in youngsters riding high-speed electric bikes and motorcycles has become a real problem that can result in serious injuries, reckless behavior and legal risks for parents.

Injuries, often involving head and facial trauma, are being reported as young riders streak along the American River Parkway or rush through intersections without observing traffic signals or speed signs.

The California Highway Patrol has released guidance about a new state law (SB 586), which went into effect on Jan. 1. The law relates to electric off-highway motorcycles.



SB 586 defines an "off-highway electric motorcycle" or "eMoto" as a vehicle that:

- Is designed primarily for off-highway use,
- Is powered by an electric motor that does not require a motor number,
- Has handlebars for steering, a manufacturer-provided straddle seat and two wheels,
- Is not equipped with manufacturer-provided pedals.

The bill also classifies an off-highway electric motorcycle as an off-highway motor vehicle (OHV) subject to the same rules and regulations as highway-rated motorcycles. This includes a requirement that a person operating an OHV wear a safety helmet and that every OHV not registered under the Vehicle Code display an identification plate or device issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

More importantly, according to Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond, the law specifies that the vehicles are off-highway vehicles, which means they are not allowed on public roads, sidewalks, bike lanes or parks. They can only be used in designated off-highway vehicle areas or on private property with permission.

Desmond said the law also requires that the vehicle display a California Green Sticker when used in off-highway areas. And now it is also illegal to advertise or sell these vehicles as electric bicycles if they do not meet the legal definition.

Desmond said he will be hosting a community meeting this summer on safety with e-bikes and e-motors.

County emergency alert tests

Sacramento County is now testing its emergency alert system twice a year, expanding efforts to keep residents informed and prepared during emergencies.

Sacramento County's Office of Emergency Services sent out the first of its bi-annual test alerts on April 22. Previously, alerts went out just once a year in the fall. The goal is to give

residents more chances to update their information.

Sacramento County is encouraging everyone to sign up for alerts. Those already enrolled are asked to review and update their contact details. The process takes less than five minutes and ensures that you receive important information quickly in case of a natural disaster such as a fire, earthquake or flooding.



To sign up or update your information, [visit the registration page](#).

DOT to install crosswalk at Ashton & ARD

In response to WDDNA's recent efforts to improve pedestrian safety on American River Drive, the County Department of Transportation has just agreed to add a crosswalk near Ashton Park.

DOT Principal Engineer Lu Li, whose team accompanied WDDNA board members on a March 26 tour of American River Drive intersections, has agreed to add a crosswalk at American River Drive and Ashton to improve pedestrian safety.

"Our team recently took another look at the all-way stop intersections along American River Drive," Li said. "We found that the Ashton/American River Drive location meets the necessary requirements (for a crosswalk)."

He agreed that such a crosswalk would improve the pedestrian connection between Ashton Park and the American River Parkway trail.

"Considering both the needs of the community and the practical aspects of construction, we've decided to move forward with some minor striping changes on the east leg of the intersection to accommodate a crosswalk," Li explained. He also promised that the work on the crosswalk be done very soon.

WDDNA is thrilled with DOT's decision. We have expressed our sincere appreciation to Li and his team for their continued cooperation and support.

Check your home's electrical panel

According to industry experts, outdated and recalled electrical panels may pose a fire risk to your home. They are most commonly found in older homes that haven't been updated, so you may want to check to make sure your home doesn't have one of these four recalled electrical panels.

The following panels are considered out of date or have been involved in an electrical panel recall:

- Federal Pacific Electric (FPE) Stab-Lok panels
- Zinsco panels, also known as GTE Sylvania-Zinsco panels
- Challenger panels made by Challenger Electrical Equipment Corp. or Eaton/Cutler-Hammer
- Pushmatic

If your home has one of those panels, you can work with a licensed electrician to replace it. Following is further information about the panels.

Federal Pacific Electric

FPE panels were widely used starting in the 1950s through 1990. However, the company's Stab-lok panels can fail to trip when a circuit is overloaded, causing the system to overheat and potentially ignite a fire.

This concern led the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to investigate Stab-lok panels in the early 1980s. In 2011, the CPSC stated that it could not make a "determination as to the safety of FPE panels or the accuracy of the manufacturer's position on the matter."

While FPE Stab-lok panels were not recalled, most electricians recommend removing them. Here are a few ways you may be able to recognize FPE Stab-loks:

- Federal Pacific Electric or FPE stamped into the metal cover.
- An information sticker on the inside that reads Federal Pacific Electric, Federal Pioneer FPE, or Stab-lock.
- Breakers with a red stripe on each switch.



Zinsco

Many California homes built or updated in the 1970s have electrical panels made by Zinsco. Unfortunately, these panels have several design flaws that experts say can create a serious electrical panel fire hazard, including:

- Insecure connections between breakers and bus bars (the part that distributes power)
- Components made of aluminum that need to be replaced at 30 years
- Bus bars that corrode easily
- Breakers that melt into the bus bar

Moreover, Zinsco panels may continue to conduct electricity even when the breaker appears to be off.

Zinsco was purchased by GTE Sylvania in 1973, so you should check your electrical panels for the following names:

- Zinsco
- Sylvania
- GTE-Sylvania
- Sylvania-Zinsco

You can also look for bright red, blue and green tabs on the individual breakers, but Zinsco electrical panels can also have black breakers.

Challenger

During the 1980s and early 1990s, Challenger electrical panels were installed in thousands of homes. However, they were recalled in 1988. That recall specifically focused on Challenger panels with 15- and 20-ampere circuit breakers made between February and April of 1988 that have a mechanical component that can detach leading to overheating, melting and fire.

Unfortunately, problems with these panels continued even after Eaton/Cutler-Hammer purchased Challenger. In 2014, Eaton/Cutler-Hammer recalled 1,000 panels because their easily accessed components presented a shock risk.

You may have a Challenger electrical panel that you need to replace if you see:

- Challenger stamped on the handle or door
- Challenger on the manufacturer's label (often found on the inside of the panel door)
- Circuits with yellow buttons and the word "test" on one side

Note that Challenger parts can show up in other electrical panels, including those made by GTE Sylvania and Zinsco.

Pushmatic

Pushmatic panels were popular from 1950 through 1980. During that time, the Pushmatic system was not known to be a fire hazard. However, Pushmatic is now considered an outdated system and should be replaced. Be forewarned that you can still buy new Pushmatic components. However, these parts may not be compatible with the original Pushmatic electrical panel.

Identifying a Pushmatic panel is relatively easy. Unlike most panels that have right-to-left switches, a Pushmatic has rectangular buttons that activate and deactivate circuits.

Additional safety tips

Do not remove your panel! Your panel should only be maintained by a licensed electrician. But it is smart to look for signs that yours needs to be replaced, such as:

- Rust
- Corrosion
- Evidence of melting
- Pest damage
- Poor panel access
- Nearby water or condensation

Any of these could indicate that you should leave your electrical panel alone and call a professional electrician. The same is true if you hear popping or crackling noises. Moreover, if you feel a tingle or charge when you touch your electrical panel, back away and call a professional.



Spring home safety checklist

Now that spring weather has arrived, you may be motivated to do some spring cleaning and fixup.

Following are some maintenance and safety tasks to consider:

- Get your air conditioning system checked and serviced.
- Vacuum your refrigerator cooling coils to improve efficiency.
- Clear debris from dryer vents.
- Make sure bathroom vent fans are drawing properly to reduce the chance of mold in the bathroom during warmer months.

- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and change batteries as needed.
 - Check window screens and replace as needed.
 - Test locks, handles and doorknobs for proper operation.
 - Inspect and flush your water heater.
 - Clean your water softener.
 - Confirm that your emergency fire extinguishers are charged. If the needle on the pressure gauge is in the green, you're all set. Otherwise, get it recharged.
 - Replace burned-out exterior light bulbs to ensure safety and home security.
 - Have pool pumps, filters and heaters inspected for proper operation. Double check pool safety fencing and gates.
 - Check the condition of patio furniture and umbrellas.
 - Review the list of devices connected to your Wi-Fi to make sure someone else isn't piggy-backing and sucking up your precious bandwidth. Check the list of devices that are connected to it by logging into the router's online dashboard. Delete any devices you don't recognize.
 - Reset the Wi-Fi password.
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Avoid investment scams

Get rich quick investment scams have been around forever and modern-day scammers continue to come up with new and inventive ways to steal your money.

The Federal Trade Commission reports that more than \$7.9 billion in losses to investment scams were reported in 2025, with a median individual loss of more than \$10,000.

Scammers might reach you through social media, WhatsApp or through online ads promising you'll make a lot of money quickly.

These messages might also come from a friend or love interest offering you "coaching" to learn how to make a fortune in stocks, forex or cryptocurrency. After you invest, they'll often say your investments are doing well, maybe even showing fake "proof" that you're making money. The reality? The investment isn't real and you end up losing all your money.

To avoid an investment scam:

- **Remember that investments always involve risk.** If anyone plays down the risk of an investment or acts like risk disclosures are just a formality, keep your money. Those are scammers who want you to think their opportunity is risk-free when it's not.
- **Check out the reputation of the investment company, its officials and its promoters.** Search online with their name plus words like "review," "scam" or "complaint." Go through several pages of search results.
- **Check for licenses and registrations.** Many investment scams start with unlicensed people or unregistered firms, so use the free search tool on [Investor.gov](https://www.investor.gov) to check out anyone recommending or selling investments. For investments in precious metals or coins, check out the [CFTC database](https://www.cftc.gov).

Report investment scams to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/idthelp/submit-report).

Member Q&A

Q: I just installed a new alarm system. Should we list WDDNA as a responder to call if the alarm goes off?

A: No, unfortunately WDDNA does not have staff or volunteers who could respond to an alarm, so our association should not be named as a responder. It is true that the county requires that you ensure that someone can respond to an alarm within 30 minutes after it goes off, but WDDNA is not capable of filling that role.

As you may know, in Sacramento County you are required to register your alarm with the Sheriff's Department's Alarm Bureau. Be sure to contact the [Alarm Bureau](#) to get an alarm permit within 30 days after it is installed. The permit is \$50 and is valid for two years. Failure to register can result in a \$250 fee.

The Sheriff's Department monitors and keeps track of all alarm activations in the county and can dispatch deputies to respond. That includes our WDDNA off-duty patrols. So, if your alarm goes off and if WDDNA has a deputy on duty when it does, that deputy is immediately dispatched to your home to check things out. However, a responsible person associated with your home is still required to respond, as well.

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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