Monthly Newsletter
October 2025

WDDNA may invest in LPR cameras

In 2018, WDDNA worked with the Sheriff's Department on a plan to purchase a number of license plate reader (LPR) cameras that the department could install at locations across our neighborhood and use them to identify vehicles associated with criminal activity.

WDDNA membership enthusiastically supported the project and a fund-raising campaign to purchase the cameras was wildly successful. Unfortunately, the Sheriff at that time ultimately decided not to proceed with the project and we returned the funds to donors.

Since then, LPR technology has advanced and improved. LPR cameras are now widely used by local law enforcement agencies, business and neighborhood groups throughout the country, including Sacramento County.

According to law enforcement experts, 70 percent of crimes involve a vehicle and using LPRs to track those vehicles is now playing a critical role in criminal investigations.

Modern LPR cameras gather license plate and vehicle data, electronically check it against criminal hotlists and provide real-time alerts to law enforcement. Data gathered can also be used to identify a vehicle that entered and exited the neighborhood around the time that a crime took place – thereby providing an investigative lead.

Because they are always on, LPRs serve as a law enforcement "force multiplier." They can dramatically increase the ability of officers to identify and track criminals.

For that reason, WDDNA is again considering an investment in LPR cameras. This time, if we determine that the project is financially feasible, we will lease the cameras from the same company that currently provides them to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. We would work with the company to determine the number of cameras we could afford and the best locations for them. The company would install and maintain the equipment and we would work with the Sheriff's Department to share the vehicle data.

WDDNA's board of directors is analyzing our budget to determine the LPR project feasibility.

Do you believe WDDNA should invest in LPR cameras?
To vote yes or no, click on the button.

LPR Camera Poll

No dues increase for 2026

Good news! Although prices are rising almost everywhere else, your WDDNA 2026 dues will not be among them.

As you know, last year – after five years without a rate increase – we were forced to raise our annual dues by $50. We had been able to avoid such increases until 2025 because the pandemic had left us with a lot of unfilled patrol shifts, and we had banked the savings during those years and used it to cover the annual rate increases the Sheriff's Department charges us for our patrols.

Through 2025, we continued to have more shift vacancies than anticipated due to Sheriff's Department staff shortages, plus the usual vacations, illnesses, training and court absences. Those vacancies, along with a more modest Sheriff's Department rate increase than usual, left us in a better financial position than we had anticipated.

Thus, there will be no change in your 2026 dues. As in the past, WDDNA dues invoices will be emailed to members **beginning Nov. 1**. If they are paid on or before Dec. 31, your dues for 2026 will be just $325, a $25 discount.

Thank you for your continued support of our association and for helping to keep our neighborhood one of the safest in Sacramento County.

D.A. to speak at annual public meeting

Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho will be the featured speaker at WDDNA's annual public meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Thien is expected to discuss the prosecution status of repeat property offenders and how Prop 36 is affecting criminal prosecutions of all types. We also have asked him to provide any information he can about prosecutions related to a series of violent front-door kicks that damaged homes in our neighborhood.

Thien, who took office in 2023, had been assistant chief deputy district attorney over the Justice and Community Relations Bureau prior to his election. Over his 25-year career, he prosecuted sexual assault, gang and homicide cases and was the supervisor of the Gang and Hate Crime Unit. Most notably, he successfully prosecuted the East Area Rapist/Golden State Killer, who committed 13 murders and over 50 sexual assaults in 11 different jurisdictions around the state.

Thien previously taught for the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) and was an adjunct professor for trial advocacy at McGeorge School of Law, where he helped to build a nationally ranked trial advocacy program.

Don’t miss the meeting in the welcome center at Jesuit High School at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

There will be a Q&A session, a prize drawing for a $100 Emigh Hardware gift certificate and refreshments will be available. A WDDNA patrol deputy also will be on hand to answer questions.

Credit freeze can protect you from ID theft

From the Federal Trade Commission

Did someone steal your identity? Or are you looking for ways to help protect yourself from identity theft? One place to start is freezing your credit.

A credit freeze is something you can do anytime, for any reason. But it's especially helpful if you're dealing with identity theft, a lost wallet or a data breach. While a freeze is in place, nobody can open a new credit account in your name.

A freeze

- is free to place or lift and doesn't affect your credit score
- is available to anyone for any reason
- lasts until you lift it.

To place a credit freeze, contact all three credit bureaus: **Equifax**, **Experian** and **TransUnion**.

When you need to lift the freeze to do things like get a credit card or buy a car, you only need to contact the credit bureau that the lender will use to check your credit. When you're done, you can freeze it again.

Along with a credit freeze, you can also get a free initial fraud alert if you are, or suspect you may be, affected by identity theft. Initial fraud alerts make lenders verify your identity before they grant new credit in your name.

There are also two other types of free alerts — extended fraud alerts and active duty alerts. Read **Credit Freeze or Fraud Alert: What's Right for Your Credit Report?** to learn more.

If your identity was stolen, be sure report it at **IdentityTheft.gov**, where you'll get a free recovery plan with next steps.

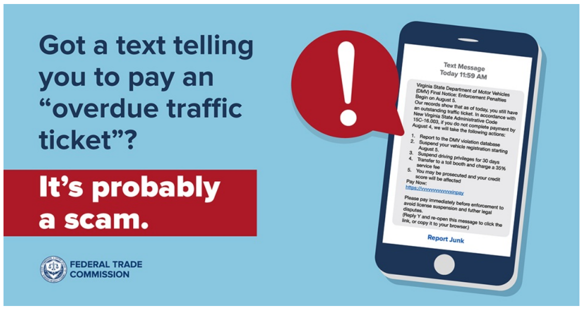
Fentanyl awareness

On Sept. 4, more than 400 people gathered for the annual fentanyl awareness summit hosted by Sacramento County Department of Health Services. It was reported that fentanyl-related deaths in Sacramento County have declined by 32 percent in the past year because of public awareness campaigns.

Even so, experts stressed that there is still work to be done. Following are steps individuals can take:

- **Help is available.** If you or someone you know is struggling with substance use, visit **Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services** for support and resources.
- **Be cautious.** Fentanyl is present in counterfeit pills and other street drugs. Never take pills that aren't prescribed directly to you.
- **Carry Narcan.** This life-saving medication can reverse an overdose. It's available through Safer Sacramento and the Sacramento County Opioid Coalition.
- **Get involved.** Join the Coalition at **sacopioidcoalition.org,** participate in outreach events, or share your story with the Department of Health Services.
- **Stay informed.** Learn more at **SaferSacramento.com** and read the *Ripple Effect* blog.

Overdue traffic ticket scams



Chances are, you’ve gotten a scam text about unpaid toll charges or know someone who has. Now scammers are going even further and pretending to be the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from states all over the country. They insist that you pay for an “overdue traffic ticket” and threaten to suspend your driving privileges (among other things) if you don’t.

Here’s how the scam works.

An unexpected text looks like it’s from the DMV, claiming you have an overdue traffic ticket. It might include a link to pay and warn that, if you don’t pay immediately, they’ll report you to the “DMV violation database,” suspend your vehicle registration, license and driving privileges, and charge you an additional service fee. The text might even threaten to prosecute you and tank your credit score. It’s all a scam to get your money and personal information.

To avoid a text scam like this:

- **Don’t click on any links** in, or respond to, unexpected texts. Scammers want you to react quickly to get your personal information before you realize it’s a scam. Stop and talk to someone you trust.
- **Reach out to the DMV if you’re worried.** The California DMV has its own page related to scams. **CLICK HERE** to go to it. And you can call the DMV directly at 1-800-777-0133.
- **Report and delete unwanted text messages.** Use your phone’s “report junk” option to report unwanted texts **to your messaging app** or forward them to 7726 (SPAM). Once you’ve checked it out and reported it, delete the text.

Learn more about spotting and avoiding text scams at **ftc.gov/textscams**. And report them to the FTC at **ReportFraud.ftc.gov**.

More senior scams

From the Federal Trade Commission
Scammers posing as government agencies or businesses are increasingly going after senior citizens. They strive to trick older adults into giving them tens of thousands of dollars.

The scams start with lies designed to create a sense of urgency and fear.

- **Lie #1: Someone is using your accounts.** Scammers pretend to be a bank employee with a warning about suspicious account activity. Or they claim to be Amazon reps following up on potentially fraudulent purchases.
- **Lie #2: Your information is being used to commit crimes.** Scammers might say they're with the government and tell their targets that their Social Security numbers are linked to serious crimes.
- **Lie #3: There’s a security problem with your computer.** This lie might start with a computer security alert that warns of a hacked computer with a phone number to call for help.

Once the scammers convince their marks that the crisis is real, they make empty promises and offer fake “help.” They say the only way to get out of the situation is to follow their very instructions — which always involve moving money. They tell their targets that doing so will protect the money in their accounts or clear their names. Some say they're helping catch the “real” criminals.

A new FTC data spotlight report, **False alarm, real scam: how scammers are stealing older adults’ life savings**, shows that such scams are soaring. Losses of over $100,000 per victim increased nearly sevenfold from 2020 to 2024.

How can you protect yourself from a business or government imposter scam?

- Never transfer or send money to anyone in response to an unexpected call or text message.
- Talk about it with someone you trust.
- If you think the message could be real, verify the story. Contact the organization in question using a phone number, website or email address you know is real. Don't use the contact information provided by the person who contacted you.

Government agencies will never threaten you and they’ll never tell you to transfer your money to protect it, deposit cash into Bitcoin ATMs, or hand off stacks of cash or gold to a courier. That’s a scam.

If you have been a victim of a scam, report it to the FTC at **ReportFraud.ftc.gov**.

For more advice, check out **How To Avoid Imposter Scams**.

Member Q&A

Q: I scheduled a vacation watch on my home, but I now expect to arrive early. How do I contact a deputy to let him know?

A: Just login to your member account and click the "Contact Patrol Deputy" link, fill out the form and submit it. Or, if you are able to let WDDNA know at least eight hours in advance of your return time, you can send an email to **wilhaggindeldayona@gmail.com** and a volunteer will forward your information to the deputies.

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.**