



Monthly Newsletter

October 2026

Watch for dues invoice Nov. 1

WDDNA's 2027 annual dues invoices will begin going out via email on Nov. 1. As usual, they will be sent to the email address of the primary contact person in your household. That is the person whose email address is the one you use to login to your account.

Those members on auto pay will, of course, have their credit cards charged automatically.

If you are not on auto pay and do not see your invoice by Nov. 3, you should check your spam folder. Those emails sometimes end up there. Or, you can login to your member portal and go to Billing/Invoices & Payments. You will be able to pay from the outstanding invoice you see there.

Contact us soon if you want to switch to monthly billing

If you wish to convert your annual membership to the \$31 monthly option, you must let us know BEFORE NOV. 1 and we will set up your plan to begin on Jan. 1, 2027.

If you don't tell us before Nov. 1, we may be unable to make the change. That is because we issue our annual invoices automatically on Nov. 1 and if you are set up for auto charge, your card will be automatically charged and we will be unable to provide a refund.

Mark your calendar!

Traffic & parking Town Hall event Dec. 9

WDDNA's annual member meeting in December will have a different format this year. Instead of a speaker, we have scheduled a Town Hall event focusing on neighborhood traffic and parking problems. We strongly urge you to attend.

Neighborhood traffic and parking issues are a major concern for many WDDNA members. They are the most common issues reported to our deputies and the source of frequent emails to WDDNA from members.

Traffic and parking issues are complex and are affected by through traffic from adjacent thoroughfares, drivers going to and from



neighborhood schools, road markings and signage, weekend visitors to the parkway, dangerous and illegal actions by some drivers and a growing lack of compliance with speed limits and stop signs.

Because of this complexity, WDDNA will devote this year's December meeting to a Town Hall focused on traffic issues and featuring a panel of local officials whose agencies either impact or deal with traffic in our neighborhood.

Officials who have agreed to take part in the panel include the following:

- Frank Camarda, chief operations officer for San Juan Unified School District, and Mike Jones, director of Safe Schools
- Dr. Michael Wood, principal of Jesuit High School
- CHP Capt. Jami Kenyon and a representative from CHP's local POP unit
- Lu Li, of the Sacramento County Department of Transportation (or his designated representative)
- Vanessa McCarthy-Olmstead, Rich Desmond's chief of staff
- A representative from the Sheriff's Department Parking Enforcement Division
- One of our Sheriff's Department patrol deputies

We will start the meeting by introducing the panel and asking them to briefly speak about their impact on or work to deal with traffic and parking in our neighborhood. Then we will break the meeting discussion up into several specific topics for panel discussion and audience questions and comments.

Our goal will be to help officials learn more about our neighborhood traffic problems and to gather information from panel members about their roles, plans and limitations in addressing the issue.

Please Be There

This year, because of the town hall format, we will not be recording the meeting on video. Instead, we urge everyone interested in this topic to attend and take part. The size of our audience and your input will help prove to panel members the importance of this topic to our residents. The larger the audience, the more impact it will have on decision makers.

Please plan to attend! The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9, in the Welcome Center at Jesuit High School. Refreshments will be available.

For further information, contact WDDNA communications director Kathleen Newton at knewton1947@gmail.com.

No dues increase, but we need help

Good news! Although prices are rising everywhere, your WDDNA 2027 dues will not.

Your dues invoice will be emailed to you on or about Nov. 1. If you pay it before Dec. 31, the total will still be just \$325.

How is this possible?

We have continued to use reserves that grew during the pandemic to manage our patrol schedule. This spring, we cut a couple of late-night shifts from that schedule to save money. We now support up to eight shifts a week. All are eight-hour shifts, except one. We reduced our Sunday shift to six hours. These reductions are helping us avoid that 2027 dues increase.

We also benefited from the fact that the Sheriff's Department did not increase the hourly cost of our patrols this year. We are certain that will not be the case in the future.

Unfortunately, 2027 will be the last year in which we can benefit from our pandemic savings. In order to keep our dues rate under control or avoid cuts in our patrols, we must grow our membership.

Earlier this year, with this reality in mind, our board of directors voted to add a monthly membership option to our service. We had our developer add that to our system while she was also improving our member portal. We launched it all in August.

Since adding the monthly option, we have mailed two marketing pieces to non-member households throughout our neighborhood. These mailings have helped us add a half dozen new members, including two who chose the monthly option. We will send out another marketing piece later in October.

Help us grow membership

The recent sign-ups are encouraging. However, we always have some members who fail to renew at the end of the year. So, the membership growth we accomplish during the year is often wiped out by this year-end loss.

Our current membership stands at approximately 960 households. We had an unexpected membership decline between 2022 and 2024. During that period, we lost more than 70 members. We want to erase those losses in the months ahead in order to avoid raising dues or eliminating some patrols (or both) in 2028.

Those numbers may seem daunting until you realize that there are more than 1,200 households in our service area that are not members. So, prospects are plentiful.

If you have a sales or marketing background or would just like to help us by going door-to-door in your local area to speak to your neighbors about our association and help sign them up, we would be profoundly grateful.

Let us know if this interests you. We will train you and provide you with a prospect list and marketing materials. For further information or to volunteer, please contact Kathleen Newton, our communications director, at knewton1947@gmail.com or call her at (916) 483-2034.

More rattlesnake information

In response to our recent newsletter item about dealing with rattlesnakes in you yard, we received additional information from a national organization that is based in Sacramento: [SavetheSnakes.org](https://www.savethesnakes.org).

Although the organization does not offer rattlesnake removal services, they told us that there are several individuals who offer the service in the Sacramento area. They recommend having a look at the Free Snake Relocator directory on Facebook. There is also [Placer Snake Removal](#), which is a paid service.



According to the organization, rattlesnake relocation falls into a complicated legal circumstance in California. Technically, it is illegal to relocate snakes a significant distance (less than a 1/2 mile) unless one acquires a Scientific Collector's Permit. One must also possess a valid fishing license.

Even with both the permit and fishing license, it is still illegal to accept payment for relocation. So, commercial relocation services technically operate outside the law, even as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife usually looks the other way, as they recognize the validity of the service.

For all of these reasons, Save The Snakes prioritize education, mitigation strategies and training homeowners to obtain the skill set to relocate rattlesnakes short distances themselves.

For more information, you may email the organization at contact@savethesnakes.org or call them at (916) 520-4382.



Protect Yourself and Your Community!
TIPS FOR FRAUD AND SCAM PREVENTION

- 1. Do Not Respond to Unknown Contacts**
 - a. Ignore anyone contacting you that you don't know - let it go to voicemail.
 - b. Do not click on links in emails or text messages.
 - c. Do not call phone numbers that are sent to you or left in your voicemail.
- 2. Do Your Research**
 - a. Always verify information and credentials.
 - b. Look for red flags like "pay with gift cards" or crypto assets.
 - c. Use information found only on official sources.
- 3. Take Your Time**
 - a. Scammers will urge you to act fast, bypassing your better judgement and ability to notice red flags. Ignore anyone who is threatening you, giving you a limited-time offer, or telling you not to share their information with others.
- 4. Do Not Share Your Personal or Financial Information**
 - a. Limit what you share on social media, websites, signup forms, phone apps, shopping sites, account profiles, etc.
- 5. Talk with Someone You Trust**
 - a. A different perspective can often help you recognize red flags.
 - b. Consider using a challenge and passphrase with family and friends.
- 6. Stay Vigilant**
 - a. Regularly check your financial accounts and credit reports.
 - b. Delete unused online accounts and have your data removed.
 - c. Use a shredder to dispose of mail and personal documents.
 - d. Deposit important mail directly to the post office.

Contact the DFPI to:

- Submit a complaint regarding one of our licensees.
- Report financial elder abuse.
- Report violations of California financial laws or abusive business practices.
- Verify the license, legitimacy, and status of a financial business or professionals.

1 (866) 275-2677

Learn more at dfpi.ca.gov



10 Common Scams That Target Older Adults

TYPES OF SCAMS TO WATCH OUT FOR

- 1. Grandparent Scams:** Scammers pretend to be a grandchild (or loved one) in trouble and ask for money quickly.
- 2. Government Imposter Scams:** Scammers pose as IRS, Medicare, or Social Security representatives demanding payments or personal information.
- 3. Tech Support Scams:** Calls or pop-ups claim your computer has a virus and request remote access or payment for fake repairs.
- 4. Romance Scams:** Scammers build online relationships and then ask for money, often for emergencies or travel.
- 5. Charity Scams:** Fraudsters pose as charities, especially after disasters, and pressure for donations.
- 6. Lottery & Sweepstakes Scams:** You are told you've won a prize but must pay fees or taxes to claim it.
- 7. Investment Scams:** If someone promises big profits with no risk, it's likely a scam.
- 8. Home Repair Scams:** Fake contractors demand upfront payments and disappear without completing work.
- 9. Phishing Scams:** Fraudulent emails or texts impersonating banks or companies to steal your personal information.
- 10. Utility Scams:** Callers claim your utilities will be shut off unless an immediate payment is made.



TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Don't send money to someone you don't know or have never met in person.
- Don't click on links in text messages or emails.
- Always do your research! Verify information and only use official sources.
- Talk to someone you trust — they can help identify red flags that you've missed.

REPORT SCAMS

If you think you've been scammed, don't be afraid to report it. Contact DFPI immediately by calling **1-866-275-2677** or going online at dfpi.ca.gov.

For more articles and resources on fraud prevention, visit the Aging in California Resource Hub online at aging.ca.gov.



Stay informed. Stay safe. Protect yourself and your loved ones from fraud.

Multiple agencies target scammers

According to one of our WDDNA members, fraud is rampant in our community.

"I am a volunteer for the Sheriff's [Volunteers in Partnership with the Sheriff \(VIPS\)](#)," the member told us recently. "I take crime reports from victims. I have been amazed with how many people, young and old, are getting ripped off by scammers."

Local, state and national authorities agree. Virtually every day a new and better scam pops up and, unfortunately, older adults are often the targets.

According to the [National Council on Aging](#) and the FBI's 2025 internet crime report, adults age 60 and older filed more than 201,000 complaints, with reported losses exceeding \$7.7 billion. This represented a major spike in elder fraud, as these losses were roughly 37% higher than the previous year.

The council said most of the scams follow the same tactics:

- pretending to be someone you trust
- creating urgency
- playing on fear or excitement
- asking for unusual payment methods

The council says the top scams targeting older adults are as follows:

1. Person-in-need and grandparent scams
2. Financial services scams
3. Tech support scams
4. Government impersonation scams
5. Romance scams

Other common fraud cases include:

- Sweepstakes and lottery scams
- Phone scams
- Business imposter scams
- Investment scams

- Medicare and health insurance scams
- Internet and email fraud scams
- Charity scams

While we often provide information about scams from the Federal Trade Commission and the FBI, the State of California has a little-known agency that deals with financial fraud of all types. That agency is the [Department of Financial Protection & Innovation](#). Its consumer division provides a raft of information about common scams and helpful tips for protecting yourself from fraudsters.

Among the educational materials available is a booklet entitled *Protect Yourself from Fraud*. It is packed with information about all types of scams and how to protect yourself from them. [CLICK HERE](#) to view or download that booklet.



Metro Fire CERT program

Even with summer ending, fires are still a danger and it is important to be prepared.

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has a program to help citizens be prepared for emergencies.

The volunteer program is a 28-hour course that equips participants with basic skills and covers such topics as emergency preparedness, emergency organization, disaster psychology and fire suppression.

The deadline for registering for this course is Thursday, Oct. 15. To register or find out more information, [CLICK HERE](#) to go to the CERT webpage. Or you can email the program at cert.program@metrofire.ca.gov, or call the CERT message line at (916) 859-3776.

Scammers spoof car dealership sites

[From the Federal Trade Commission](#)

Imagine that you have paid for a car you saw online. But when you show up at a car dealership, you find out that the dealer has no record of your order or your payment.

That's what's happening to unwitting car buyers who've been duped by scammers impersonating a car dealership.

How the scam works

Scammers set up bogus car dealership websites to trick you into paying up front for a car you'll never see.

- They clone a real auto dealer's website — often using AI to do so — copying the brand logos, vehicle listings and photos down to the last detail. Some websites even include fake customer testimonials.
- They might advertise rare muscle cars or hard-to-find classics to lure you in.
- They describe the buying process in detail and offer flexible return policies to put you at ease.

How to avoid the scam

To protect yourself from scammers that clone auto dealership websites, do the following:

- Search online for the dealer's name with words like "scam," "review" or "complaint." Any negative hits that come up are a red flag.
- Keep in mind that if the scammers are impersonating a real dealership, you might find glowing reviews. So, go the extra mile — ask to see the car and the dealership in person. If they won't let you, pump the brakes.
- If the car is too far for you to visit in person, tell the dealer you want to hire a mobile inspection service to check out the car. If they won't let you, consider taking your business somewhere else.

Report a scam

Walk away if the dealer insists on an upfront payment by wire transfer only. Report them at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).

Member Q&A

Q: Would it be possible for me to get a printed copy of our member guide?

A: While we cannot afford to provide a printed version of the booklet to every member household, we have printed 100 copies of the booklet and will have them available at our annual meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Welcome Center at Jesuit High School.

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).



Try email marketing for free today!