



## Monthly Newsletter

### September 2024

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## *West Nile virus in Sacramento County*

The dangerous West Nile virus is active in Sacramento County's mosquito population and officials are advising the public to take precautions to avoid being bitten during the remainder of the warm season.



"Mosquito samples and dead birds are still testing positive for West Nile virus," said Gary Goodman, Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District manager. He reported that 53 dead birds and 46 mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

"There is still a possibility of being bitten and becoming sick with West Nile. Stay protected by always using an effective repellent when spending time outdoors," Goodman added.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends using an insect repellent that contains the active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or the plant-based Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.

According to the CDC, there is no specific treatment for West Nile virus. Patients with severe meningeal symptoms often require pain control for headaches and antiemetic therapy and rehydration for associated nausea and vomiting.

Various drugs have been evaluated or empirically used for WNV disease. However, none has shown specific benefit to date. And no vaccines are licensed for use in humans.

In addition, the invasive mosquitoes *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* are present locally and are capable of transmitting debilitating diseases such as Zika, dengue and chikungunya.

To report a mosquito breeding source or for current information about any treatments planned within Sacramento or Yolo Counties, visit [www.FIGHTtheBITE.net](http://www.FIGHTtheBITE.net).

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## *Alcohol banned from parkway this weekend*

During this Labor Day weekend, there is a complete ban on alcohol consumption and

possession both on land and in the water along the American River Parkway between Hazel and Howe Avenue and at Sherman Island.

According to park officials, alcohol consumption on the parkway during summer holiday weekends had become a major problem, making the parkway less of a family-friendly outing due to fights, public nudity, profanity and littering. As a result, the Board of Supervisors enacted the holiday alcohol ban in 2006.

For questions, contact the Park Ranger dispatch office at (916) 875-7275.

## Burglary rates falling, but don't let down your guard

It can be very traumatic to discover that a burglar has broken into your home, ransacked your belongings and gotten away with valuable property and personal treasures.

Fortunately, modern locking systems and electronic technology are helping to reduce the incidence of home burglary.

| Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Crimes Reported 2014-2023 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
|                                                                  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  |  |
| <b>Violent Crimes</b>                                            | 2,079 | 2,117 | 2,797 | 2,622 | 2,451 | 2,408 | 2,579 | 2,511 | 2,731 | 2,747 |  |
| Homicide                                                         | 44    | 37    | 42    | 30    | 38    | 34    | 48    | 37    | 46    | 37    |  |
| Rape (Includes Rape prior to 2014)                               | 181   | 155   | 155   | 154   | 155   | 161   | 186   | 138   | 112   | 144   |  |
| Rape                                                             | 271   | 354   | 312   | 355   | 355   | 358   | 381   | 345   | 334   | 335   |  |
| Attempted Rape                                                   | 10    | 5     | 4     | 4     | 5     | 7     | 5     | 2     | 4     | 5     |  |
| Robbery                                                          | 916   | 1,026 | 880   | 777   | 617   | 680   | 560   | 539   | 680   | 687   |  |
| <b>Weapon</b>                                                    |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  |
| Firearm                                                          | 330   | 375   | 330   | 257   | 180   | 167   | 131   | 135   | 143   | 203   |  |
| Knife or Cutting Instrument                                      | 73    | 56    | 160   | 47    | 46    | 50    | 45    | 45    | 55    | 31    |  |
| Other Weapon                                                     | 113   | 181   | 174   | 174   | 172   | 171   | 81    | 80    | 100   | 83    |  |
| Storing Arms                                                     | 360   | 368   | 360   | 330   | 289   | 341   | 249   | 279   | 337   | 338   |  |
| <b>Location</b>                                                  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  |
| Highways                                                         | 213   | 235   | 201   | 164   | 122   | 114   | 88    | 147   | 244   | 117   |  |
| Commercial                                                       | 295   | 281   | 176   | 176   | 164   | 178   | 131   | 174   | 227   | 175   |  |
| Gas Station                                                      | 11    | 36    | 34    | 39    | 27    | 28    | 77    | 19    | 25    | 38    |  |
| Convenience Store                                                | 45    | 73    | 58    | 68    | 47    | 41    | 53    | 33    | 27    | 48    |  |
| Residence                                                        | 239   | 313   | 160   | 138   | 100   | 94    | 76    | 80    | 100   | 17    |  |
| Bank                                                             | 14    | 26    | 16    | 7     | 8     | 8     | 8     | 8     | 4     | 8     |  |
| Manufacturing                                                    | 239   | 262   | 234   | 200   | 199   | 232   | 147   | 77    | 35    | 155   |  |
| <b>Aggravated Assault</b>                                        | 1,817 | 1,699 | 1,729 | 1,694 | 1,511 | 1,526 | 1,795 | 1,803 | 1,900 | 1,879 |  |
| <b>Weapon</b>                                                    |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  |
| Firearm                                                          | 466   | 441   | 460   | 392   | 309   | 271   | 249   | 458   | 456   | 390   |  |
| Knife or Cutting Instrument                                      | 307   | 285   | 247   | 279   | 226   | 238   | 225   | 222   | 254   | 230   |  |

According to the California Department of Justice, there were 50,599 residential burglaries in the state of California last year, down 4.9% from 2022. And in Sacramento County, the change was even more dramatic. During the same period, residential burglaries here declined by 13.7%, totaling just 672 in 2023 compared to 779 in 2022.

What's more, residential burglaries in Sacramento County have fallen by 45.5% in the past five years, even better than the 41% statewide decrease.

(To download all county crime data since 2014, [CLICK HERE](#).)

Despite the good news, high-value neighborhoods like ours continue to attract the attention of burglars.

In the WDDNA area, there were a total of 11 home burglaries in 2023, eight of them in evening or early morning hours, three in the daytime. Six were in the Carmichael area, five were in Wilhaggin. December saw the most burglaries, with three.

This year, as of the end of July, 2024, there have been five burglaries within our service area. Two were at night and three during daylight hours. All were in the Wilhaggin area.

In many cases, burglaries reported in our neighborhood are crimes of opportunity. That is, the thieves get in through unlocked doors or windows or open garage doors. In other cases, the homes may be unoccupied.

We believe our WDDNA patrols are an effective deterrent to the most active professional burglars. In the past, our deputies often pulled over suspicious vehicles whose occupants appeared to be on the prowl for burglary targets. Such prowlers are seen less often, now. Experienced burglars tend to avoid well-patrolled neighborhoods.

That said, home security cannot be taken for granted. In addition to supporting our patrols, it is important to take actions to protect yourself from property criminals.

Local law enforcement officials offer the following tips.

- **Always lock doors and windows.** – Even if you only plan to be gone for a short

time, always lock all access points on your home when you leave. Burglars can get in and out in minutes.

- **Keep your garage door fully closed at all times** unless you are in the garage.
- **Keep hedges and trees trimmed** away from your house.
- **Prepare for vacations.** Park cars in the driveway. Use timers to turn indoor and outdoor lights on and off. Stop mail and newspaper deliveries. Have someone mow your lawn and move your trash carts in and out. Set up a WDDNA vacation watch and ask a neighbor to keep an eye on things.
- **Don't keep valuables in your bedroom.** Crooks know that people tend to keep cash and jewelry there. Keep your valuables in an unlikely place, but not in the linen closet or the freezer.
- **Have good lighting.** – Install lighting around the perimeter of your house. If you don't want your house lit up all night, install motion-activated lights.
- **Install a burglar alarm system and security cameras.**
- **Doors** – Have solid doors with strong locks and strike plates at all entrances. Metal doors are best; thick, solid wood doors are next.
- **Sliding glass doors** – Additional locks and security measures will prevent the door from being opened or lifted out of the track. Screws installed in the track above the sliding door frame will prevent the door from being lifted out of the track.
- **Double (French) doors** – These are easily jimmied or forced open. Flush lever bolts installed at the top and bottom of the doors are recommended.
- **Garage doors** – Standard locks on garage doors are easily pried. Cane bolts and hasps are excellent protection. Make certain each side of the garage door is secured. Before going on vacation, install padlocks in the door tracks to prevent lifting. The door leading from the garage into the house should be securely locked.



## *Great American River Clean-up Sept. 21*

The annual Great American River Clean-Up event sponsored by the American River Parkway Foundation will be from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 21.

A total of 20 locations will be targeted for the clean-up. Individuals, groups, families, students and company teams can volunteer to take part. For information or to sign up, go to <https://arpf.org/events/garcul/>.

## *Annual WDDNA meeting to feature investigations & drones*

What happens after you file a theft report? Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Dan Donelli, the featured speaker at WDDNA's annual member meeting in December, will answer that question.

Donelli, who is in charge of the department's Centralized Investigations unit, will describe investigative procedures and

answer questions.

But that's not all! Donelli also heads the department's drone program. And he will bring along one of his drones and give a live demonstration of its capabilities!

Don't miss WDDNA's annual member meeting in the welcome center at Jesuit High School at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3. As always, there will be a Q&A session, one of our WDDNA patrol deputies will be on hand and refreshments will be available.

Everyone in the neighborhood is welcome. You need not be a member to attend. Feel free to bring along non-member neighbors to give them a chance to see the advantages of membership.



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## *How to donate to fire victims*

The Park Fire has burned some 430,000 acres in Butte, Tehama, Shasta and Plumas counties and an estimated 637 structures have been destroyed.

If you are thinking of donating to support victims of the fires, following are organizations to consider:

### **North Valley Community Foundation**

<https://www.nvcf.org/>

### **American Red Cross Gold Country Region**

<https://www.redcross.org/local/california/gold-country/get-help/park-fire-response.html>

### **California Fire Foundation**

The California Fire Foundation has partnered with Northern Valley Catholic Social Services to distribute direct aid in the form of \$250 cash cards to households affected by the Park Fire. To donate, go to <https://nvcss.org/donations/>

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## *Waste cart safety requirements*

Sacramento County has reported that its curbside collection trucks need a minimum of 14 feet overhead clearance for the grabber arm to empty its carts.

Homeowners are asked to trim the trees nearest the curb to allow the 14-foot overhead clearance. In addition, carts should not be placed under low utility wires. And, when tree trimmings are placed in the green waste cart, they must be four inches or less in diameter and the cart lid should be closed.



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## *Don't fall for UltraLink antenna scam*

If you have recently received an advertisement in your email or on Facebook for UltraLink, claiming you will be

able to use it to cut cable and watch hundreds of programs for free, experts warn not to fall for it.

According to Malwaretips.com, the UltraLink TV Antenna scam “is a prime example of deceptive digital marketing designed to mislead and manipulate uninformed consumers.”

<https://malwaretips.com/blogs/ultralink-tv-antenna/>

Malwaretips.com states that UltraLink “is aggressively promoted all over social media and dubious websites using exaggerated claims and fake reviews. The goal is to trick users into purchasing an overpriced, basic digital antenna while believing they are getting an amazing deal.

“The promotions for UltraLink make wildly unrealistic assertions about the antenna’s capabilities, such as:

- Access over 100 free HD channels
- Developed with proprietary NASA technology
- Cancel expensive cable/satellite bills forever
- Crystal clear HD picture quality
- One-time payment only, no monthly fees

“However, these claims are completely fabricated to hype up the product and create unrealistic expectations. The UltraLink is simply a cheap, basic indoor HD antenna with very limited capabilities.”

For additional information and advice on what to do if you have been a victim of the scam, go to <https://malwaretips.com/blogs/ultralink-tv-antenna/>.



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## *Desmond sets land use meeting*

Supervisor Rich Desmond has scheduled a series of community meetings in which land use and economic development in our area will be discussed. On hand will be Todd Smith, county planning director, and Crystal Bethke, director of economic development. They will provide information about the county's efforts to attract businesses and infill projects in the unincorporated areas.

In our area, the meeting will be held from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12, at Howe Park, 2201 Cottage Way, in Sacramento.

For questions about the meeting, email Desmond at [richdesmond@saccounty.gov](mailto:richdesmond@saccounty.gov) or call (916) 874-5471.

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## *Member Q&A*

**Q:** I am planning to take a couple of short trips a few weeks apart. What is the best way to request vacation watch service for both of them?

**A:** You should create separate vacation watch requests for each of the trips. Our deputies will enter them into their calendar according to the dates you list.

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# 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](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).

Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association | 761 Cortland Drive | Sacramento, CA 95864  
US

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