

# Entry gates need time to sense approaching vehicles and time to close after each vehicle

Fall is here and with the cooler weather we can expect an increase in the number of residents and visitors. The number of bicycles, scooters, motorcycles and automobiles throughout the community also will increase, which means more traffic entering and exiting through the gates.

I have heard comments from residents and visitors stating that “the gate is not working properly” when these types of vehicles approach the gate. I believe a short “Gate 101 – How it Works” course will help everyone when interacting with the gates.

Here are a few helpful hints:

The opening of the entry gate is triggered by either holding your gate card parallel with the card reader board or pushing the button on the metal box located below the card reader board. The gate will open for you to proceed through.

As you pass through the gate, you travel over a wire sensor called a “safety and close loop” installed in the asphalt. You also break an electronic eye beam similar to the electronic eye of your garage door opener.

This sensor detects the metallic parts of your car, golf cart, motorcycle, etc. and serves two functions. The first is to hold the gate open if the vehicle has to stop in the gate opening. The second function is to close the gate after the vehicle has proceeded past the gate. The entry gates close after every vehicle.

The exit gates have two loop sensors and two electronic eyes. The first sensor is before you get to the gate and is called a “free exit loop.” This sensor and electronic eye trigger the gate to open.

The second sensor is located



SAM  
WARTINBEE  
COLUMNIST

at the gate itself and is called a “safety and time delay loop.” This loop and electronic eye will hold the gate open if a vehicle has stopped on it and will trigger the gate to close after the vehicle has proceeded past the gate.

The delay feature is set at three seconds at most exit gates and six seconds at gates adjacent to traffic signals such as Santiago/Alhambra, Polo Ridge/Buena Vista Boulevard and Morse Boulevard/County Road 466 to allow continuous flow with the traffic signal.

Please remember the entry gates will close after every vehicle. Please do not try to piggyback behind the vehicle in front of you. This behavior causes accidents, gate damage and car damage.

All entry and exit gates have cameras that record both a picture of the vehicle and the license plate. These videos are used to recoup costs for repairs to the gates because of damage caused by those who fail to use the gates properly or intentionally damage the gates.

Again, the entry gates are designed to close after each and every vehicle, so please make sure you allow the gates to work as designed in order to avoid damage or confusion. Also, when approaching exit gates, slow down so that the sensors have time to recognize that a vehicle is approaching.

Let me take this opportunity to give an update on some of the projects District Property Management has been working on. The construction of the new El Santiago Village Recreation Center is on schedule and it will open in December 2015.

The Schwartz Park renovation with a new picnic pavilion and additional cart parking will be advertised for bid next week. The removal of the two existing docks and construction of a new dock and gazebo on Golf View Lake behind Paradise Recreation Center will be advertised for bid next week as well. The new outfield grass at Knudson Softball field is growing in well and the field is expected to reopen in early November 2015.

The bocce courts at Paradise Recreation Center will reopen shortly. The family pool at Paradise Recreation Center was totally renovated, with new tiles, coping, ladders, lighting, pool finish and deck work. If you have not been by Paradise Regional Recreation Center, I encourage you to stop by and have a look. Paradise pool is a favorite for families visiting for the holidays.

Thank you for joining me this week. If you have any questions regarding this week’s topics or any other maintenance question, please phone my office at 753-4022 or send me an email at [sam.wartinbee@districtgov.org](mailto:sam.wartinbee@districtgov.org). Enjoy the cooler weather, please use caution at the gates, and be sure to meet us here next week at Our Place.

*Sam Wartinbee is director of District Property Management. He can be reached at [sam.wartinbee@districtgov.org](mailto:sam.wartinbee@districtgov.org).*