

# Pedestrians and Drivers Sharing the Road

## It's all about courtesy and safety

With the crosswalks along the beach road and the increase in foot traffic during this time of year, it's good to remember that pedestrians and drivers can share the road safely by following a few simple rules and practicing a little courtesy.

### Tips for Drivers

- You can encounter pedestrians anytime and anywhere, even in places where they are not expected to be found.
- Pedestrians can be very hard to see, especially in bad weather or at night. You must keep a look out and slow down if you can't see clearly.
- When entering a crosswalk area, drive slowly and be prepared to yield.
- Stop for pedestrians who are in a crosswalk, taking care to stop well back so that drivers in the other lanes can also see the pedestrian in time to stop.
- Do not overtake and pass other vehicles stopped for pedestrians.
- When you are turning, you often will have to wait for a "gap" in traffic. Be aware that while you are watching for that gap pedestrians may have moved into your intended path.
- Be especially attentive along the beach road and in neighborhoods where children are active.
- Be patient, especially with older pedestrians who need more time to cross the road.
- Always look for pedestrians, especially when turning.
- Remember to stay alert and slow down on residential streets.

### Tips for Pedestrians

- Where no sidewalks are provided, *walk facing road traffic*.
- Teach and reinforce the proper techniques for crossing the road safely with your child.
- Stress the importance of walking on the inside of the sidewalk, or where there are no sidewalks, *as far away as possible* from the travelled portion of the road. *If cars approach, allow room for them to pass safely by moving into single file rather than blocking the travel lane by walking several abreast.*
- Make it easy for drivers to see you by dressing in light colors and wearing reflective material. Carry a flashlight in dark areas.
- Be wary and watchful. Don't count on drivers to be paying full attention; make eye contact to be sure they see you.
- Alcohol and drugs can impair your ability to walk safely just as they do a person's ability to drive.
- Use extra caution when crossing multiple-lane, higher-speed streets.
- Stop before the edge of the sidewalk at all times.

Pedestrian safety is for all ages. Unfortunately, in traffic incidents involving pedestrians and motorists, it is the pedestrian who suffers, often with tragic results. It is the responsibility of *both driver and pedestrian* to ensure each other's safety by extending common courtesy and following some simple rules.

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

### POLICE

During June, there were 8 arrests; 50 911 hang-ups; 2 alarm activations; 18 animal calls; 3 larcenies; 2 breaking and entering events; 18 disturbance calls; 45 assist Fire/EMS calls; 5 motor vehicle collisions; 12 mutual aid calls; 291 traffic stops; 80 citations issued (18 speeding, 4 stop sign/stop light, 5 registration/inspection, 7 license revoked/expired, 38 other traffic violations); 3 narcotics violations, 4 alcohol violations, 1 other criminal offense); 56 beach patrols; 347 business checks; 481 foot patrols; 187 residence checks. Police personnel participated in 125 training hours. Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) worked 124 hours.

### FIRE AND EMS

In June, responders handled 2 fires, 35 rescue and emergency medical service calls, 1 service call, 2 good intent calls, 7 false alarms or false calls, and 2 severe weather and natural disaster calls. Personnel participated in 492 training hours.

**REMINDER:** Lock your doors, especially your vehicles, and don't leave valuables in sight. Report suspicious people or vehicles to dispatch (726-1911) so that the police can be notified. You are not "bothering" the police if you call to report something that doesn't look right. They prefer to assess the situation rather than find out after the fact that you had noticed something and didn't report it. Alert citizens are an asset to the community.

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The 19th of the month prior to desired issue

Articles always welcome.