

Forrest Farm: Family and Friends

Re: SAFETY ON OUR ROADS

As the days are getting shorter, we would like to take a moment to remind everyone of the need to practice good driver and pedestrian habits. We all share the same roads in our community be it for: driving, walking, running, biking, skateboarding etc. **It is everyone's responsibility to keep our roads safe for each other.**

Drivers:

- **The Speed limit is 25mph:** For all the drivers who conscientiously follow the 25 mph speed limit and adhere to general road safety, we thank you. For those who do speed, ask yourselves how much time you are saving. Are the **seconds** saved worth jeopardizing your neighbors, pets, yourself?
It is essential to reinforce this with all visitors, workers, delivery people, school bus drivers, etc., who drive through our neighborhood to follow the 25 mph speed limit to insure the safety and protection of us all. Report traffic violators, i.e., delivery trucks, garbage trucks or other vehicles to their companies.
- **Stop Signs:**
Remember to make a full stop at each stop sign as: it is the law, it promotes overall safety for all drivers and pedestrians and, very importantly, sets a good example for our young drivers.
- **Texting and hand held phoning while driving:**
We are all aware that this is against the law in Maryland. But, have you ever thought of what could happen in those few seconds you are looking down at your phone to text or dial. Consider the following: in a **3 seconds** quick glance at your cell phone driving at 25mph you will have traveled 110 feet; at 30mph 132 feet, at 40mph 176 feet. According to various websites the average time to look away from the road for texting is 4.6 to 5 seconds.

Pedestrians and runners:

- Running or walking **should always be against traffic.** It is for your safety to see on-coming traffic and move off the road.
- Wearing iPods and listening to music is enjoyable but also dangerous. Make sure that you are aware of your surroundings and the sound level is not too high to prevent hearing approaching vehicles.
- Wear reflective clothing during early morning or evening to ensure being seen.

Biking:

In Maryland, **bicycles are vehicles.** Bicyclists are authorized users of the roadway, and bicyclists have rights-of-way and the same duty to obey all traffic signals as motorists. For a complete description of the law reference: <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/Driver-Safety/Bicycle/default.htm>.

When biking:

- Ride in the **same direction** as traffic.
- Helmets are required for everyone under the age of 16,
- If you bike at night the law requires that your bike be equipped with a front light, and rear reflector.
- Consider wearing wear reflective clothing (i.e. vests) during the evening, night or when there is low visibility.

Scooters, Skateboards, Inline skates: Safety first – Always be aware of your surroundings.

Helmets are also required for everyone under the age of 16 who are riding on a scooter or on in-line skates. “An individual under the age of 16 years may not ride on a scooter or on in-line skates on any

highway, bicycle way, sidewalk, or other property open to the public or used by the public for pedestrian or vehicular traffic unless the individual is wearing a helmet..” (Maryland Statute: Transportation §21–1207.2.)

Young children should always be accompanied by an adult.

School bus stops: It is the time of the year where parents drop off or pick up young children and teens at designated school bus stops. Remember to socialize and catch up with neighbors and friends at the side of the road. It is both safer and respectful of other drivers who should not have to wait for you to move out of the road.

Everyone’s safety is our business!

Forrest Farm Board of Directors