

VOV Article  
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Michael Girbino, Council Member At-Large

With summer in full swing, it's great to see folks out and about enjoying the outdoors and the wonderful amenities our Village has to offer. My wife and I live the Eastgate/Meadowood neighborhood where many enjoy walking and bike riding. My neighborhood, like many throughout the community does not have a dedicated walking trail or path, or conventional sidewalks so when out for a walk we walk in the street. Walking in residential roadways is perfectly safe, provided everyone using the roadways realizes that pedestrian safety is everyone's responsibility.

As pedestrians walking in the roadway there are some things, we can do to keep ourselves, neighbors and friends safe. 1). Walk against traffic close to the edge of the road. This gives you a clear view of oncoming traffic. 2). Keep dogs leashed while out for a stroll. This gives you better control of your dog and is required by Village ordinance. 3). Wear bright colored clothing or reflective accessories even during the day, but especially if walking in the dark. 4). Be alert. Don't assume a driver sees you.

As drivers we can also take some measures to help protect those who are sharing the road without the use of a car. 1). Slow down. The speed limit on side streets is 25 mph and this is set in statute by the State, however it is the upper limit. Driving slower than the posted speed limit gives you more time to react and bring your vehicle to a stop more quickly which could help avoid a collision with a pedestrian or cyclist. This might be especially true during low morning and afternoon sun when the angle of the sun can be blinding. 2). Put your phones and devices down. Distracted driving is a substantial contributor to motor vehicle accidents. Use of handheld electronic devices in your vehicle is illegal in Ohio. 3). Be alert. Assume there could be people in the roadway any given hour of the day. When you see people in the road, don't assume they have noticed you.

If we work together, we can all enjoy what the Village has to offer safely!

Enjoy the rest of the Summer!