

OAK RIDGE

Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

July 2017



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*Oak Ridge Homeowners
Association, Inc*

*A Florida not for profit corporation
The Oak Ridge Homeowners'
Association, Inc. (ORHA) is
a voluntary HOA in a deed
restricted community located in
beautiful New Port Richey, Florida.*

<http://www.myorha.org>



Happy Summer Oak Ridge Residents!

Sizzling temperatures and tropical rains are here again. Hope this newsletter finds you and your family comfy and cool. The Oak Ridge Homeowners Association wishes you all a pleasant and safe summer season and a great 4th of July!



School's out!

Children and pedestrians are out and about more often now. Please remember the speed limit throughout Oak Ridge is 30 mph. Use courtesy when encountering pedestrians while driving. Slow down and ensure there is ample space between your car and residents on the street. Please ensure that your guests are aware of this as well. Thank you for keeping Oak Ridge a safe community!



We are fortunate in Oak Ridge to have nice paved roads to enjoy our walks on.

Here are some safety tips for your next walk!



Walking is a healthy activity, but you need to know the rules of thumb of pedestrian safety. This is especially true if you are walking in an area where there aren't sidewalks or paths separate from the road. To stay safe walking, follow these rules of the road:

1. Walk Facing Traffic When Walking on the Side of the Road

If there is no sidewalk and you must walk on the side of the road, choose the side where you are facing oncoming traffic.

2. Cross Safely

Mom was right: look both ways before crossing any street. At controlled intersections, it is wise to cross only when you have the pedestrian crossing light. But even then, drivers and bikers may have a green light to turn and won't be expecting you to be in the crosswalk. Make eye contact with any drivers who may be turning. Give them a wave. Make sure they see you. In a car-walker interaction, you can only lose. It can be tempting to simply jaywalk, but know the do's and don'ts as it can be an infraction and a safety hazard.

3. Walk Single File When Not Separated from the Road

Unless you are on a sidewalk separated from the road or you are in a wide bike/pedestrian lane, you should walk in single file. This is especially important on a road with lots curves and where traffic has only a split second chance of seeing you before hitting you.

While it can be enjoyable to walk down the road two to three abreast chatting merrily, drivers don't expect it and you may lose your best walking buddies.

4. Stay Aware of Bikes and Runners

Share the road and path with bikes and runners. Bike riders should alert you when approaching from behind with a bike bell or a "passing on the left/right." Listen for them, and move to walk single file, allowing them to pass safely.

Runners should also call out for passing. Bike-walker collisions can result in broken bones or head injury for either — and you aren't wearing a helmet.

5. Be Visible

Wear bright colors when walking in daytime. When walking at night, wear light-colored clothing and reflective clothing or a reflective vest to be visible. Drivers are often not expecting walkers to be out after dark, and you need to give them every chance to see you, even at street crossings that have crossing signals. Be just as cautious at dawn or twilight, as drivers still have limited visibility or may even have the setting or rising sun directly in their eyes.

6. Be Predictable

Make a practice of staying on one side of the path while walking rather than weaving randomly from side to side. Watch your arm motions, or you may end up giving a black eye to a silently passing walker, runner, or biker.

7. Keep the Volume Down

Don't drown out your environment when listening to your earbuds or headphones. Keep the volume at a level where you can still hear bike bells and warnings from other walkers and runners. Your audiologist will also thank you.

8. Hang Up and Eyes Up

Chatting, texting, or playing games like Pokemon Go on a mobile device while you walk is as dangerous as doing those things while driving.

You are distracted and not as aware of your environment. You are less likely to recognize traffic danger, passing joggers and bikers or tripping hazards. Potential criminals see you as a distracted easy target. Adopt habits that can keep your phone in your pocket, or at least stop in a safe place to complete your phone tasks before moving on. See more about the dangers of distracted walking.

9. Walk Dogs on Short Leashes

It is terrifying and tragic to witness dogs running out in to traffic or getting into a fatal dog fight, whether on leash or off leash. But there is also a danger when walking your dog on a long leash that you will trip other walkers or bikers.

Keep your pet and yourself safe by learning proper leash walking.

10. Know When to Stop Walking

Heat sickness, dehydration, heart attack or stroke can strike walkers of any age. Learn the symptoms of medical emergencies and carry a cell phone to dial 911.

11. Be Aware of Stranger Danger

Choose your walking route for paths frequented by other walkers, joggers, and bikers. If you see someone suspicious, be prepared to alter your course or go into a store or public building to avoid them. Acting alert and aware can convince bad guys to choose an easier target.



Are you interested in having an Oak Ridge phone directory? Would you like the contact information for other residents or business contacts? If so, please go to myorha.org and click on one of the HOA contacts and send an email. Please let us know what you would like to see in the directory and include your own information (name, phone, email etc).

OAK RIDGE COMMUNITY PICNIC



October 14th



Oak Ridge Park

2141 Seven Springs Blvd

Further details to follow

A few friendly reminders....



- Please remember to clean up after your pets when taking them for a walk.
- The gated road at the end of Overview Dr. near Bellingham Ct. is a privately owned road and is not open for traffic (pedestrian or vehicle) of any kind. Please be respectful and remember this when out and about.

When neighbors start talking,
good things happen.

 **Nextdoor**
join for free at nextdoor.com