

VILLAGE OF WOODSBURGH



Dear Village Residents,

As we kick off another beautiful summer in the Village of Woodburgh we have all noticed a huge increase in the number of bicycle riders and pedestrians in our Village. Therefore, we thought it was an appropriate time to share with you some very important facts and safety tips. Additionally, we ask all drivers in the Village to be extra vigilant for pedestrians, dog walkers and bicycle riders when driving in the Village, especially when coming out of driveways, turning corners etc. We also ask that you trim back bushes so that drivers and bicycle riders vision are not obscured and traffic signs are clearly visible. Together, we can all help to ensure that our Village is a safe place for everyone.

SAFETY TIPS AND FACTS

(The following is provided by the New York State Police)

- ❖ Head injuries cause 43% of deaths in children between the ages of 5 and 9.
- ❖ 70%-80% of all bicycle fatalities involve head injury.
- ❖ Last year, almost one-third of bicyclists killed in traffic accidents were between the ages of 5 and 15. The fatality rate for this age group is nearly double that for all bicyclists and the injury rate is nearly three times higher.
- ❖ The majorities of children's bicycle injuries do NOT involve cars, but occur from falls on driveways, sidewalks and bike paths.
- ❖ 85% of head injuries sustained in bicycle crashes could be prevented if cyclists wore helmets. Most bicycle helmets are made of extended polystyrene which is lightweight but very effective at dissipating crash forces.
- ❖ Good quality bike helmets can cost as little as \$15.
- ❖ A properly fitted bike helmet fits snug on the head and is level from front to back, resting just above the eyebrows.
- ❖ A bike helmet provides little or no protection if the chin strap is not properly adjusted and securely fastened.
- ❖ Approved bike helmets will display a sticker indicating conformance with safety standards established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the Snell Memorial Foundation.

THE LAW

- ❖ The law in New York State says that ALL children under the age of 14 who are either operators or passengers on bicycles must wear helmets. This includes two wheeled bicycles equipped with training wheels.
- ❖ All child passengers over 1 year but under 5 years must be carried in a specially designed child safety seat. The seat must be securely attached to the bike, equipped with restraints to secure the child in the seat and designed to protect the child from bike moving parts.
- ❖ It is illegal to carry a child under 1 year old as a passenger on a bicycle, even if the child is in a pack fastened to the operator.

PENALTIES

- ❖ An adult operator of a bicycle may be fined up to \$50 for each child bicycle passenger violation.
- ❖ Parents or guardians are responsible for all bicycle helmet violation by children under the age of 14. The parent or guardian may be fined up to \$50 for each such violation.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING BICYCLE SAFETY FOR CHILDREN AGES 10 TO 14 YEARS

- ❖ Make sure you and your child always wear properly fitted, approved bicycle helmets. This will reduce the risk of head and traumatic brain injuries.
- ❖ Follow the rules of the road.

RULES OF THE ROAD

- ❖ Ride on the right side of the road with traffic.
- ❖ Obey traffic signs and signals.
- ❖ Use correct hand signals when turning or stopping.
- ❖ Stop at intersections and crosswalks.
- ❖ Stop and look both ways before entering a street.
- ❖ Yield the right of way to pedestrians, in-line skater or those riding skateboards and non-motorized scooter when appropriate.

TIPS TO HELP KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE ON THEIR BICYCLE

Make sure your child has a bicycle that is in good working order; that the tires have adequate air; that the brakes are in good working order; that the chain is well oiled and secure and the bicycle has a headlight and a rear reflector. Your child should wear bright clothing while riding during the day and reflective clothing when riding at dusk or at night. Your child should not wear loose fitting or baggy clothing that can get caught in the bicycle chain and cause a fall.