

## Letter to the Hanover Community

The Hanover Police Department has recently responded to two incidents involving pedestrians in which one was injured and the other later died from injuries sustained.

As a community, Hanover supports activities such as walking, running, and biking. These outdoor activities are a great way to exercise or even provide an alternative way to commute to work. Many times, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motor vehicles may find themselves on the same roadway. It is important to remember that each of us is responsible to follow safety rules, ordinances, or state laws as it applies to each mode of travel.

Hanover Police is concerned about these recent incidents and wants to ensure that community members are aware of ways to make your outdoor activities safer and that individuals using these modes of travel are aware of the laws governing each. I have highlighted a few of the rules below:

### **BICYCLISTS**

- Bicycles **are not** allowed on public sidewalks in Hanover, or any other community in the State of New Hampshire, unless you are 12 years of age or younger.
- Bicyclists that are riding on the roadway must obey all motor vehicle laws which include stopping at stop signs and red lights.
- Bicyclists should stay to the furthest right of the roadway when possible and safe to do so. Only in some very specific instances can you ride left or right of the shoulder. (Reference RSA 265:144)

### **PEDESTRIANS**

- Do not have the right-of-way while walking on the paved portion of the roadway.
- You have the right-of-way when in a crosswalk.
- Remember to look both ways and make sure bicyclists and cars see you before crossing a roadway with or without a crosswalk.

## MOTOR VEHICLES

- Must yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.
- When passing bicyclists and pedestrians on a roadway, use caution.
- Be cautious when opening car doors toward traffic. A bicyclist, pedestrian or moving vehicle may be nearby and could be struck if the door is opened without care.

We have attached a brochure from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation about bicycles that lists important safety tips and state laws and another attachment regarding pedestrians' rights and duties. Please take the time to review these. If you are a driver in our community, please take the time to familiarize yourself with these as it lays out the rights that bicyclists and pedestrians have in sharing the road with you.

One of the most important things to remember is that whether we are walking, biking, or operating a motor vehicle, we should be respectful and courteous to each other; shared travel space is essential to the continued promotion of a healthy community.

We all love our Town and desire a safe and healthy environment. When tragic events occur, it affects all of our community. We owe it to each other to take cautionary measures to ensure each other's safety.

