

SAFE DRIVING TECHNIQUES

Although this story ran in our last issue, its message is important enough that it bears being repeated:

Neighborhood children have been back in school for several weeks now, and as part of the routine, they've probably logged-in their fair share of homework. But have we, as car-driving adults, done our homework? According to local authorities, there are some important lessons we should be learning that can help ensure our children's safety around school buses.

According to Phyllis Clark, a North Monterey County School District bus driver instructor, Oak Hills residents have had a record of being courteous and patient drivers with regard to their behavior around our community's school bus stops. However, she added there some areas of driver behavior that would benefit from review of the rules.

- **Amber Lights.** Auto drivers should slow down when they see the school bus amber lights on. Bus drivers engage these lights 200 feet before stopping. Amber lights mean slow down; you may pass or go around the bus if it can be done safely at this time.
- **Flashing Red Lights and Signal Arm.** Bus drivers use the flashing red lights and the stop signal arm when the bus is stopped to pick up and drop off students. Auto drivers must stay stopped, in front of the bus and behind, until the light has been turned off. Bus drivers are to report violators of the "stop rule" within 24 hours. And violators can be ticketed by local law enforcement authorities based upon the school bus driver's report.

12 foot Safety Zone. Bus drivers focus on a 12 foot safety zone around the bus. Parents should teach their children to cautiously clear away from the bus after they've been dropped off. The bus driver will not turn off the red lights until children are clear of the 12 foot safety zone.

STORY MATERIAL NEEDED

One of our Greenbelt Reporters is looking for information regarding residents of Oak Hills who own their own business. If you would like to provide the reporter with information about your enterprise with the likelihood it will end up in a story in our Greenbelt publication, call or email Cynthia Suverkrop at 633-2506 or csuverkrop@msn.com

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Wanted: Newsletter Editor

The OHHA is looking for a volunteer Newsletter Editor to compose and assemble the Greenbelt Newsletter on a bi-monthly basis. If interested, please contact the office at 633-0103

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