



September 2012
Issue 58

Increasing the Safety of Young Drivers

School bells have sounded for the 2012/2013 school year. As those bells sound, many teen drivers will once again be driving to school. Before they head out, parents need to take the time to talk to their teen about highway safety.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the No. 1 cause of death for teens. Teen drivers (ages 16 to 19) are involved in fatal crashes at four times the rate of adult drivers (ages 25 to 69). One of the most common, tempting, and deadly distractions for teens behind the wheel are cell phones. One in four American teen drivers admit to texting while driving, and 40 percent of 12- to 17-year-olds say they have been in a car where a teen driver used a cell phone in a dangerous way. Although teens and others may not realize it, any cell phone use, whether hand-held or hands-free, while driving is dangerous. In fact, researchers have found that it quadruples crash risk. Just the act of dialing a cell phone increases crash risk by three times. In a naturalistic study of truckers, Virginia Tech researchers reported a 23-fold increase in risk of a crash or near crash when drivers were text messaging.

Below are some facts regarding teens and highway safety that all parents need to know and discuss with their teen drivers.

- ▶ “Traffic crashes are the leading cause of teen fatalities, accounting for 44% of teen deaths in the U.S.”
- ▶ Young drivers are involved in fatal crashes at more than twice the rate of all others.
- ▶ The first year for a newly licensed teenage driver is the most dangerous with more than 1 in 5 involved in crashes.

- ▶ Each year nearly 11,000 teens are killed in vehicular accidents; more than 3,800 are drivers age 15-20.
- ▶ Annually, more than 326,000 young drivers are seriously injured.
- ▶ 164 young drivers in 2011 were killed in vehicle collisions in South Carolina.
- ▶ Nearly 50% or one-fourth, of the fatal accidents involving young drivers, were alcohol related. The average blood alcohol level (BAC) was 0.14; to legal limit is 0.08. Under 21=0.02 zero Tolerance.
- ▶ Exceeding the posted speed limit or driving at an unsafe speed is the most common error in fatal teenage accidents.
- ▶ More than 1,000 young drivers lose their lives each year in crashes because of an impaired driver, be it themselves or someone else.
- ▶ Young drivers are involved in nearly 28% of all crashes, even though they represent only 14% of the nations’ licensed drivers.
- ▶ In 2011, there were a total of 12 fatal automobile accidents. 50% were alcohol-related.
- ▶ One TEEN DRIVER is involved in a fatal or injury collision every 1.3 hours.
- ▶ One UNRESTRAINED (no seat belt) MOTOR VEHICLE OCCUPANT is killed every 22.7 hours. All passengers in a vehicle should always wear their seat belts.
- ▶ One FATAL COLLISION occurs every 10.7 hours.
- ▶ To increase your young driver’s safety on the highway; enroll them in an Alive at 25 class on www.scaliveat25.org. Next class in Barnwell is September 8, 2012.

For more information about how to reduce teen driving / distracted driving accidents, contact Pam Rush or Steve Deibel at the Axis I Center of Barnwell at 541-1245. The Axis I Center of Barnwell is striving to save the lives of young people and create a healthier / safer community.

Pam Rush/AXIS I Center Barnwell

Town Hall Closed, September 3, 2012

MEETINGS

- **September 6, BCDC**, Town Hall, 6:00pm
- **September 10, B-H Schools**, Board of Education, Board Conference Room, 7:00pm
- **September 10, Blackville Civic Club**, Edwards Heating and Cooling, 7:00pm
- **September 11, Barnwell County Council**, Agriculture Building, 6:00pm
- **September 17, Town Council**, CC, 6:30pm
- **September 24, Barnwell-Blackville NAACP**, Macedonia Baptist Church, 7:00pm
- **September 27, BDDA**, Russell's Pizza, 6:00pm

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 5, David and Joann Elmore
September 20, Billy and Olanda Johnson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 3, Marcus Sanders
September 5, Jamisha Roberts
September 6, Billy Johnson
September 6, Carneal Hammonds, Sr.
September 8, Kenneth Aiken, Sr.
September 11, Mrs. Janie Etheridge
September 12, Tiffany Aiken
September 14, Larry Elmore
September 14, Linda Roberts
September 14, Lawanda Brown
September 15, Mrs. Annie Lee Washington
September 16, Susie Miller
September 16, Willie "Lowe" Washington
September 17, Andre Patrick
September 19, Mayor Michael Beasley
September 19, M. Ann Pernell
September 20, Isabell Parmlee
September 21, Ashley Woods
September 30, Sterling Dunbar

LIBRARY NEWS

Pre-School Story Time
10:30am
September 11th and September 25th

SCHOOL NEWS

September 3, 2012 – No School
September 6, Open House, BHJH, 5:30-6:30pm
September 6, Open House, BHHS, 5:30-6:30pm
September 18, MES, Master and Miss Pageant. 6:00pm
September 21, BHHS, Homecoming Parade. 5:00pm
September 24, BHJH, PTSO/SIC 6:00pm
September 24, BHHS, PTSO/SIC 6:30pm

TOWN NEWS

COMMUNITY FORUM DISCUSSION
POLICE ISSUES and CONCERNS
Chief Holston and Sheriff Carroll
September 10, 2012 – 6:00pm
Come out and voice your issues and concerns!!

"CAROLINA BAYS" LECTURE

The "**Blackville Civic Club**" will host the "**Blackville Area Historical Society**" for a joint meeting, **September 10, 2012** at Edwards Heating and Cooling Building, **7:00pm**. Guest speaker for the program will be Christopher Moore, PhD., archaeologist, currently involved in a long term investigation of "Carolina Bays" in the CSRA.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

BARNWELL-BLACKVILLE NAACP **17TH ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND DINNER**

September 8, 2012 – 7:00pm
Blackville Community Center
Speaker, Wilbur Cave, Director Allendale Alive
\$15.00 donation

GRANDPARENTS DAY

September 9, 2012

Contact information: blackville@bellsouth.net and vstalston@bellsouth.net add "NEWSLETTER" to subject line. Please provide information by the 15th of the preceding month.

Published by Blackville Community Development Corporation and The Town of Blackville

