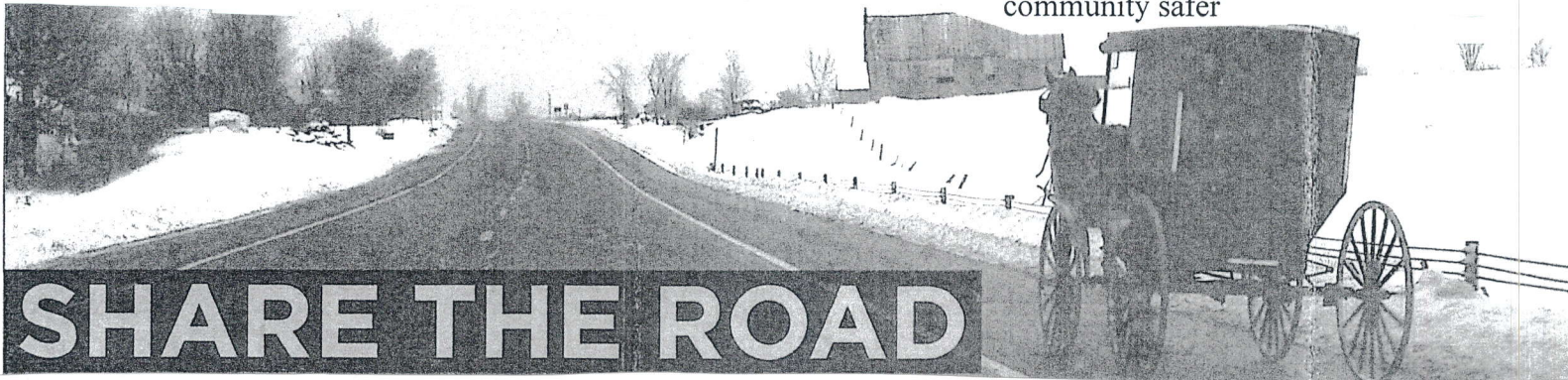


OUR AMISH NEIGHBORS

New York's Amish population is the fastest growing population in the state.

Understanding some of the Amish customs, such as the reliance of slow moving horse-and-buggies, can help keep our roadways and community safer



SHARE THE ROAD

Roads within the Town of Augusta may seem quiet and uncongested, but rural roads are not engineered for high speeds, and passenger vehicles share the road with trucks, cyclists, farm vehicles, pedestrians, and a growing number of Amish families who rely on horse-powered buggies as their main form of transportation. While the notion of sharing the road with an Amish Buggy may seem like a quaint notion, keep these facts in mind to avoid a tragedy.

AMISH BUGGIES...

Move much slower than other traffic, usually about 5-8 mph.
Are not equipped with side or rear view mirrors.
Are painted black.
May use grey reflective tape and one lantern mounted on the left rear in lieu of a "slow moving triangle".
The horses that draw the buggies are like other animals: they may be startled by loud noises or behave unpredictably.
Horses often back up a few feet when stopped at stop signs, lights, etc.
Noise of the clomping hooves may drown out the sounds of vehicles approaching from behind.

MOTORISTS SHOULD...

- Always expect buggies or other slow moving vehicles on rural roads.
- Slow down immediately and maintain a safe speed near buggies, so that they can stop quickly if needed.
- Maintain a space cushion of several yards behind buggies, even when stopped.
- Refrain from honking, revving engine, or making other loud noises.
- Dim their headlights when a buggy is oncoming, as they would for other vehicles.
- Remain patient and courteous.

RULES FOR PASSING A BUGGY...

- Motorist should only pass a buggy if it is safe and legal.
- On a two-lane highway, vehicles in the oncoming lane have the right of way.
- Drivers should wait until sight distance is good and lane is clear.
- Reduce speed and move to the left side of their lane, providing as much room as possible between their and vehicle and the buggy.
- Never pass on a hill or blind curve in the roadway.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

AMISH CHILDREN ARE NOT BUSED TO SCHOOL; THEY WALK, AS MUCH AS 1-1/2 MILES EACH WAY.

MOTORIST NEED TO BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN CHILDREN ARE WALKING ALONG THE ROADS TO AND FROM THEIR AMISH SCHOOLS