



MEDIA RELEASE

April 29, 2013

Driving on the shoulder, In Turn Lanes, or through Parking Lots to Avoid Traffic Signals

A St. Mary's County motorist recently contacted our Traffic Safety Unit with the following concern:

"Does the Sheriff's Office get many complaints regarding motorist who drive north on Three Notch Road (Maryland Route 235) after work? Many motorist use the turn lane to get to the next light and fly through the parking lots to get a few car lengths ahead. The drivers who turn at Millstone Landing are the worst because they jet through the bowling alley parking lot. Town Creek Drive is a close second. Drivers turn in and do a u-turn in the road just to get back out onto Three Notch Road."

The St. Mary's County Traffic Safety Unit would like to remind motors of the following Maryland Transportation Laws:

Article 21-201 (a) (2) – "Obedience to and required traffic control devices"

"The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection controlled by a traffic control device may not drive across private property or leave the roadway for the purpose of avoiding the instruction of a traffic control device." Drivers convicted of this offense are subject to \$90.00 fine and one point. If the violation results in a collision the punishment increases to \$130.00 and 3 points.

Article 21-309 (d) – "Driving on laned roadways"

"The driver of a vehicle shall obey the direction of each traffic control device that directs specified traffic to use a designated lane or that designates those lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular direction, regardless of the center of the roadway. Drivers convicted of this offense are subject to \$90.00 fine and one point. If the violation results in a collision the punishment increases to \$130.00 and 3 points.

The warm weather has arrived. Vehicular, bike and pedestrian traffic has increased. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is committed to traffic safety. Our Motor Units have completed their annual training and will be deployed to help keep our roadways safe. Be a part of the solution and commit to traffic safety. For more information on the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Traffic Safety efforts please contact Sgt. Michael Butler at 301-475-4200 extension 9006 or email at mike.butler@stmarysmd.com