

Drivers, watch out for walkers; walkers, watch out for cars

A Kenmure resident recently informed the KPOA Board of Directors that they had been forced off the road while walking their dog by a car that made no effort to give them some space, even though it was unsafe to step off the road and no other vehicles were approaching. Another resident has reported being harassed by a driver who stopped and loudly claimed that walkers with dogs had no business being on community roads.

Such behavior is unacceptable. Kenmure residents have the right to walk on the community's roads—most of which lack sidewalks, and many of which have very narrow shoulders—just as they do along most public roads. And it's a matter of common courtesy and consideration, especially in early morning or at twilight, when visibility may be constrained.

Drivers who may be short on courtesy, consideration, or attentiveness should note that the KPOA Board has the authority—and has used it—to impose sanctions including inactivation of gatehouse decals and imposition of fines in response to verified incidents of reckless or dangerous driving as well as for documented speeding.

Further, as KPOA's legally binding Declarations document notes, "The motor vehicle laws of the State of North Carolina shall apply as rules and regulations with respect to roads and drivers within Kenmure," including matters such as licensing and insurance.<1> Those laws, as summarized by the North Carolina DOT's Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, also provide that

Under North Carolina law, pedestrians have the right of way at all intersections and driveways. However, pedestrians must act responsibly,

using pedestrian signals where they are available. When crossing the road at any other point than a marked or unmarked crosswalk or when walking along or upon a highway, a pedestrian has a statutory duty to yield the right of way to all vehicles on the roadway. It is the duty of pedestrians to look before starting across a highway, and in the exercise of reasonable care for their own safety, to keep a timely lookout for approaching motor vehicle traffic. *On roadways where there is no sidewalk, pedestrians should always walk facing traffic.* <2>

In cases where credible evidence suggests statutory violations such as reckless or aggressive driving, speeding, operating under the influence, the KPOA Board can refer the matter to law enforcement, who may also prosecute offenders for injury or death by motor vehicle or for other offenses that can entail misdemeanors or criminal convictions appearing on a driver's record.

Pedestrians do have a duty of care for themselves, but motorists operating vehicles on narrow, curving, usually un-sidewalked roads within Kenmure also have reason to watch out for walkers. Let's all be more careful and considerate.

Notes:

<1> KPOA, *Rules & Regulations*, "Kenmure Roads and Traffic Safety," April 28, 2025, p. 39.

<2> <https://transportation.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/260/2019/01/wt-ped-laws.pdf> (Emphasis added.)

— Approved by the KPOA Board of Directors, 10/27/2025