With warm temperatures arriving, as well as the final weeks of school, area motorists will be sharing the road with other wheeled friends and neighbors.

Motorcyclists, bicyclists, four-wheeler drivers and dirt bike “racers” are taking to the highways, road shoulders, side streets and alleys, creating hazards and distractions that all motorists need to on the alert for.

Many of the safety tips that apply to motorcycle drivers also help diminish the danger of accidents for four-wheeler, dirt bike and bicycle drivers.

Wear protective clothing, especially helmets. Drive defensively. Young people especially need to learn the “rules of the road,” whether that be on a bicycle or four-wheeler. Inexperience is an accident waiting to happen.

Parents or an adult need to supervise youngsters learning how to operate their new “toy,” until they can demonstrate mastery of the vehicle. Common sense should tell you not to send anyone out into traffic until he or she knows how to drive.

If you’re a motorist, watch out for cyclists and motorcyclists. Many times, one’s vision simply doesn’t catch sight of a cycle—most drivers involved in a crash say they never saw the motorcycle. It’s also harder to determine the speed of a motorcycle because it is smaller.

Intersections are particularly dangerous in motorcycle-car crashes. Especially watch when making left turns, as this is a common cause of crashes.

Watch for kids on bicycles and dirt bikes, whose young drivers can easily lose control along a sandy or gravel shoulder. The standard caution around parked cars can never be stressed too heavily, either. Kids and older folks, too, pop out from between vehicles all too often.

Summertime is fun for all ages and outdoor activities. Make it a safe one, too.

--Marian Volek