
Residents demand traffic slowdown

By VICKI SMITH
Staff Writer

Residents in Chevy Chase Canyon are irate.

The traffic accidents along East Chevy Chase Drive continue to increase, along with the speed of the drivers.

And the homeowners want immediate action by the City Council.

"I don't want a child to be killed before the city acts," said Karla Leopold, who described herself as "one of the furious residents."

A woman driving a van crashed into a garage at 2410 E. Chevy Chase Drive Thursday, knocking

the building off its foundation and bringing out the cries of neighbors that "this happens all the time."

"Six to eight times a year, cars jump the curb, but this was the first time the house was hit," said Alicia Barbato, who pleaded with City Council members Tuesday to reduce the speed limit on East Chevy Chase Drive.

She said that on Jan. 7, a car jumped the curb and landed in the ivy near her bedroom wall. Three months later, to the day, the van crashed into her garage.

Because most of the accidents involve single cars when the driver loses control of the vehicle, the residents are pressuring the city to reduce the speed limit to 25 miles per hour. The current speed limit is posted at 35 miles per hour.

Barbato also suggested that the city paint double lines on the stretch of winding canyon road which would make passing illegal. She also requested more police surveillance of the area, and installation of stops signs at the

entrances to the Chevy Chase Country Club and the Chevy Oaks townhome development.

City Manager James Rez said that the request for the double lines would be reasonable, assuming there are no engineering or safety problems.

"Speed up those canyons has always been a problem," Rez said Wednesday.

Traffic engineer Kenneth Johnson is researching the city's options and will present a recommendation to City Council when his report is finished.

Rez said that the council could lower the speed limit, but such an action might cause police enforcement problems.

Lt. Mike Post, of the Glendale police traffic division, said the city had to increase the speed limit to 35 miles per hour when it began using radar to catch speeding drivers.

According to state law, radar can only be use in those areas where the posted speed limit reflects the prevailing or average speed driven on the stretch of road. "The law is based on safety — it's political," he said.

Lowering the speed limit to 25

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