Help Make Sea Pines a better and safer place to live...Please Slow Down!

As the Director of Safety, Security and Transportation, finding and supporting effective ways to improve community safety and reduce crime remains a top priority. We have made great strides in reducing property crimes within our community. Currently, property crime within Sea Pines is at a four year low. However, the #1 over-whelming complaint I receive involves vehicular traffic (speeding). Vehicle traffic in Sea Pines is at an all-time high. Gate passes, paid and unpaid, issued for 2016 exceeded 750,000 and 2017 is looking to surpass that mark. Sea Pines traffic is increasing, however our infrastructure is not.

With the increased number of vehicles in our community, traffic enforcement is one of those duties that must occur on a regular basis to help regulate traffic. Over the past three years we have added radar speed technology that directly combats driver inattention. I'm sure during your travels throughout the community, you have noticed the radar speed signs installed just above the speed limit signs. These radar devices were purchased in 2015 and are rotated around the community. The radar signs help control speeding in the most "citizen friendly" way without the interaction of security or law enforcement. The radar signs allow us to "self-police" ourselves and make corrective actions. We have found these devices to be an effective deterrent, however once removed, speeding is likely to resume. Although our major thoroughfares have the highest vehicle counts, we are looking at other locations within the community to place these radar signs.

Speeding on any roadway is dangerous. Speeding in Sea Pines is especially dangerous. Consider our narrow and winding streets, pedestrian proximity to the roadway, construction zones and driveways abutting the roadways. Sea Pines isn't immune from major traffic accidents. We have had motor-vehicle fatalities and accidents with severe injuries all reported within our community.

According to the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) for more than two decades, speeding has been involved in approximately one-third of all motor vehicle fatalities.

The consequences of speeding are far-ranging:

- Greater potential for loss of vehicle control;
- Reduced effectiveness of occupant protection equipment;
- Increased stopping distance after the driver perceives a danger;
- Increased degree of crash severity leading to more severe injuries;
- Economic and even psychological implications of a speed-related crash; and
- Increased fuel consumption/cost and lastly, <u>Traffic Citations</u>.

Traffic citations can be expensive and the effects could be long lasting when you factor in the potential increase in motor vehicle insurance. We ask you to help us make the community a safer place to live, work and visit. Please plan ahead to allow for extra time to get to your destination, take time to call ahead if you're running late, and drive safely!

Thank you,

Toby McSwain Director of Safety, Security and Transportation