

Pay Attention!!

All New Strawn Residents:

You have probably seen them: drivers speeding above the posted speed limit or people driving inattentively or recklessly.

Maybe you know one of these drivers.

Maybe you are one of these drivers.

After hearing complaints about speeding on our residential streets, the New Strawn governing body is trying to decide how to move forward in resolving this problem.

It's difficult to find a long-term solution. It's possible to install speed bumps, hire police to enforce speed limits, erect signs or use video surveillance to curb speeding.

Perhaps a better option is to raise awareness about the problem and give our residents an opportunity to change their driving habits.

We are a small community with a growing number of young families with children. Many residents enjoy taking daily walks or jogs on our streets.

We are asking drivers to drive more carefully on the road and pledge to be more cautious and aware. We are asking drivers to vow to pay more attention to the speed limits on the roads we travel.

After turning off of U.S. 75 onto Neosho Street, Main Street or Arrowhead Drive, it can be challenging to drive the posted 20 mph speed limit. For many people it takes extra attention.

Maybe these statistics will help. In 2011, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety released a report on impact speed and a pedestrian's risk of severe injury or death:

- At 16 mph, a pedestrian's average risk of severe injury is 10 percent.
- At 23 mph, a pedestrian's average risk of severe injury increases to 25 percent (10 percent death).
- At 31 mph, a pedestrian's average risk of severe injury doubles to 50 percent (25 percent death at 32 mph).
- At 39 mph, a pedestrian's average risk of severe injury increases to 75 percent (50 percent death at 42 mph).
- At 46 mph, a pedestrian's average risk of severe injury is 90 percent (75 percent death at 50 mph and 90 percent death at 58 mph).

A little extra speed can mean the difference between a cast and a casket

Let's be more considerate and slow down when you see bikers and joggers. When you see children and pets on the front lawn, or people mowing the grass, slow down so if they do come out into the street you're able to react.

Parents can talk to their teens about the responsibilities that come with being behind the wheel and the dangers and consequences of carelessness.

If you are a pedestrian, walk on the shoulder facing traffic. Stay alert; don't be distracted by electronic devices. Be cautious at night. Be visible. Wear bright clothing during the day and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night.

Thank you for your attention,
Mayor Mark Petterson