

Martin Dr. traffic woes addressed

Written by MARK JAEGER

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Authorities respond after neighbors complain about detour problems

It was inevitable — when traffic was diverted off Fredonia Avenue while water mains are replaced, those vehicles had to go somewhere.

That “somewhere” turned out to be Martin Drive, and problems immediately followed the resulting surge in traffic.

Martin Drive neighbors Kellee Sheik and Jodie Rodgers attended the Oct. 2 Village Board meeting expressing concern about the hazards the traffic has brought to their neighborhood.

“We knew traffic would be coming to Martin Drive, but it has been insane,” Sheik said.

“The speeding is out of control. There are a lot of kids in the neighborhood and we are concerned it is going to end badly.”

She said skid marks have been left where cars haven’t slowed while making the southbound turn onto Wilson Avenue.

Traffic is especially bad after parents drop their children off for school on the nearby campus of the Northern Ozaukee School District, and then race off to get to work.

“This has been life-changing. We are not used to living on a highway, and this is going to happen again next year,” Rodgers added.

The water main project will be completed this fall, but road reconstruction is scheduled to start in spring.

At the urging of the residents, Village Marshal Mike Davel made arrangements to have the Ozaukee County Sheriff’s Department speed board brought to the neighborhood — as a way to remind drivers the speed limit is 25 mph.

Temporary caution signs have also been placed in the roadway.

But the most significant measure has been the increased police presence in the area.

“We will be there when we are on duty,” said Davel of the priority he has given his part-time officers.

He said his officers would also follow up if neighbors provide his department the license plate numbers of vehicles racing through the area.

Contacted this week, Sheik said the efforts have made a big difference.

“It has definitely been better,” she said.

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