

March 31, 2016

Re: The Speeding Issue in River Wilderness

The most frequent complaint made by River Wilderness residents is speeders in the community. Residents express concerns that it is unsafe to go to their mailbox, that cars pass them at clearly unsafe speeds, that they fear walking in the neighborhood, that they have narrowly avoided being run over, that entering the street is dangerous, etc. Ten residents offered to personally pay for speed bumps near their homes. The HOA wants to avoid speed bumps/tables.

To address this issue, the HOA has been monitoring vehicle speed using the RadarSign speed monitor placed on the side of River Wilderness roads. RadarSign allows us to quantify the speeding problem. It does not identify specific speeders. The attached chart provides weekly summary data from the RadarSign over the last 15 months. The chart shows the speeding problem is serious and presents a danger to residents. Many speeders travel over 35/40 miles per hour, and random speeders travel more than 50/60 miles per hour. These speeds are unacceptable.

Initially, the HOA (along with the law enforcement personnel that we consulted) hoped that speeding could be managed by lowering the speed limit and use of the RadarSign. The data collected does show that the combination of these efforts did lower the average speed in the community, and it did lower the number of cars exceeding 30MPH. For example, we now average 10-12% of our traffic over 30MPH where initially we were tracking 25+% above 30MPH. However, the speeding problem is not solved. The chart also clearly shows that more action is needed to ensure that residents feel safe in our community.

Because we are a private community and we own our roads, the Manatee County Sheriff can only advise us in speed control and ticketing. It is totally an HOA responsibility. Therefore, the HOA has decided to deploy the speeder detection program we tested last fall. Starting in April, outside security agents will employ a radar gun to detect speeders and the HOA will levy a monetary fine on those speeders. We will also deny the convenience of gate bar code access to those speeders. The agents and radar gun will be employed on a random/unannounced basis at hot spots in the community using both marked and unmarked vehicles.

The HOA reminds residents that there is a cost associated with the speeding problem. Expenses accrue from hiring a firm to monitor speeding, obtaining license plate numbers and vehicle ownership information, the purchase and maintenance of our RadarSign, tracking violations, fines and bar code restrictions. Recovering these expenses must come from your annual member assessments.

The HOA hopes that these actions will find the specific speeding violators thus making the community safer and ultimately allowing us to spend less time, effort and money on speeding. We ask for your help. Please drive respectfully in the community. Don't let your driving be the cause of your neighbors feeling unsafe in our community. Your neighbors will thank you.

The HOA Board

HOA Policy for Speeding

Resident/Renter

- First offense will include suspension of the electronic gate privilege for that bar code for 7 days and a warning that the next offense for any car caught speeding from that household within the next 24 months will result in a \$100 fine charged to the homeowners HOA account.
- Second and subsequent offenses for any vehicle from a household that has received a warning or a fine within the last 24 months will result in an immediate \$100 fine per occurrence. The bar code assigned to that household for the vehicle caught speeding will be suspended for 7 days if it hasn't been caught speeding in the last 24 months and for 4 weeks if it has.
- Unpaid fines accrue late fee charges and are subject to a \$5,000 maximum as per the normal process for covenants violations that are not remedied. The collection policy for unpaid fines will also follow the normal process for unpaid HOA accounts.

Visitor Including Contractors and Outside Golfers

- First offense is a warning and includes notification that a 2nd offense will result in that vehicle, person or business not being allowed through the gate for 24 months.
- Second offense in a 24 month period results in that vehicle, person or business not being allowed through the gate again for a 24 months period.

Note 1.

Reference is made to Section 3.22 of the Master Covenants.

Reference is also made to the Amendment to the Master Covenants for River Wilderness for Article 2, Section 2.05 entitled "Enforcements" as the fining process defined there will be in effect for collection of any fines.

Note 2.

We previously tested the use of a radar gun and sent warnings, without a fine, to those people caught speeding. Households that have already been warned will not receive another warning if caught speeding again. They will be subject to the consequences of "Second and subsequent offenses" shown above.

Radar Sign Data									
Date	Location	# Vehicles	> 25		> 30		>35	>40	Peak
11/28/2014	3506 LCR	1,499	1,039	(69%)	368	(25%)	52	6	45
12/05/2014	3714 LCR	2,574	1,360	(53%)	250	(10%)	18		40
12/13/2014	3608 WBW	2,284	1,642	(72%)	658	(29%)	121	12	48
01/16/2015	3714 LCR	2,526	1,464	(58%)	346	(14%)	36	4	45
01/23/2015	3644 WBW	2,206	1,703	(77%)	838	(38%)	245	46	66
02/06/2015	3015 WFD	649	73	(11%)	5	(1%)			32
02/13/2015	2953 WBE	495	87	(18%)	4	(1%)			35
03/20/2015	2626 LCR	957	275	(29%)	38	(4%)		2	44
04/02/2015	3506 LCR	1,222	529	(43%)	149	(12%)	20	1	42
04/10/2015	3116 WFD	675	79	(12%)	13	(2%)	1		36
04/17/2015	3505 LCR	1,623	855	(53%)	215	(13%)	38	5	53
04/24/2015	2909 WBW	1,842	792	(43%)	181	(10%)	19	2	42
05/01/2015	2339 LCR	835	318	(38%)	75	(9%)	8	1	41
07/24/2015	3015 WFD	475	70	(15%)	9	(2%)	3		40
08/07/2015	2923 WBW	1,537	784	(51%)	181	(12%)	27	5	47
08/21/2015	3505 LCR	1,386	653	(47%)	157	(11%)	23	7	60
08/28/2015	2509 LCR	864	308	(36%)	65	(8%)	10	1	47
09/04/2015	2351 LCR	655	236	(36%)	40	(6%)	4		37
09/24/2015	3721 WBW	1,626	203	(13%)	28	(2%)	3		37
10/02/2015	3609 WBW	2,218	719	(32%)	111	(5%)	10	3	45
10/09/2015	2923 WBW	1,878	630	(33%)	98	(5%)	5		40
10/23/2015	2904 WBW	1,847	1,006	(55%)	280	(15%)	46	1	42
10/30/2015	3202 WBW	1,520	570	(37%)	104	(7%)	10		40
11/13/2015	3710 WBW	2,051	638	(31%)	83	(4%)	5	1	42
11/27/2015	2504 LCR	1,005	131	(13%)	14	(1%)			35
12/11/2015	3852 LCR	2,417	1,467	(61%)	491	(20%)	87	10	48
02/05/2016	2510 WBW	1,813	768	(42%)	164	(9%)	30	7	49
02/19/2016	3110 WBW	2,002	923	(46%)	204	(10%)	24		40
02/26/2016	3109 WBW	2,131	1,091	(51%)	247	(12%)	21	1	41
03/11/2016	3015 WFD	676	86	(13%)	13	(2%)	1		37
01/08/2016	11716 RST	430	92	(21%)	22	(5%)	5	1	44
01/15/2016	Lot 98 RST	568	185	(33%)	56	(10%)	9	2	42
01/22/2016	11806 RIR	373	43	(11%)	7	(2%)			33
01/29/2016	11803 RIR	271	22	(8%)	3	(1%)			34