

12 ½ Mile Road Cut-Through



It came to my attention while out walking during the recent lovely fall mornings that there seemed to be unusual amount of speeding traffic on Wellington, especially between 7:30 and 8:30. This I did not understand since it is clearly posted on all entrances to Woodcreek from Middlebelt, between 12 and 13 Mile Rd. So I spoke with my neighbor who lives at the junction where Spring St. joins Wellington and she granted me permission to park in her driveway so I could monitor and tally traffic between 7:00 AM and 8:30 AM to better gage traffic counts into our neighborhood. I was very surprised by what I learned.

Over three mid-week mornings in October and early November I tallied, 45, 66 and 54 total cars turning into Woodcreek, with the majority illegally turning between 7:45 and 8:30. I contacted City of Farmington Hills City Engineer Mark Saksewski to discuss my findings. We explored some possibilities and he suggested that he would investigate his files for some ideas and that I could contact Sgt Muller if I desired to discuss my data. Sgt. Muller explained his manpower concerns but was willing to speak with his traffic unit to investigate these turn violations.

After a three weeks, I then decided to resume my 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM shift to continue my research. My data had crashed to 24. So the following week I again resumed my post and again the numbers had declined to 21. What had happened? Then about 8:00 AM I observed a very inconspicuous Ford Explorer (i.e. unmarked city vehicle) rolling down the street at say 20 M.P.H. Although I'm no traffic expert witness, a light bulb did go off!

Later that morning I called Mark Saksewski to inquire about the latest developments. He shared that he had reached out to Sgt. Muller to confirm past traffic studies and provide background and possible solutions. I then spoke with Sgt. Muller to share my latest findings. He stated that his unit had positioned multiple police cruisers and had stopped over 50 illegal turning vehicles and informed these drivers that the next week they would start issuing citations without exception. Sgt. Muller also contacted the Woodcreek Elementary School principal who then sent a school-wide e-mail to parents, informing them of this new, strict enforcement program, so the parents could adjust their route.

That following week the traffic unit wrote many, many citations in the course of that week and Sgt. Muller also stated that his traffic unit would continue periodic, random enforcement to maintain the posted restrictions.

It gave me great comfort to know we live in a city with responsive government that is proactive and values the well-being of its neighborhoods and their citizens.

Tim Parvin