

Speed radars aid neighborhoods

By Laura Braddick

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Certain said the data he collected showed the shifting

speed of cars coming around a sharp corner and down a hill at the same time.

"When they get close to the radar, they [slow] down. It really works," he said.

Speed radar signs are enabling some Buckhead neighborhoods to gather traffic and speeding information on some of the community's busiest neighborhoods roads.

Wildwood Park and North Buckhead are just two of the neighborhoods that purchased signs last year with the help of the Buckhead Coalition.

Jud Ready of Wildwood Park convinced his neighborhood association to purchase a sign and buy an upgrade feature for a total of about \$1,400.

The sign flashes an automobile's speed as it passes the sign and also tabulates information with a software program. It was placed at the intersection of Howell Mill and Kipling roads, and Ready collected data for north and southbound traffic for about 50 days.

"The lesson learned is that everybody who complained about all the speeders needed to look in the mirror," said Ready.

He found that of the almost 2,500 cars that passed the sign per day, the majority were travelling more than 40 mph on Howell Mill Road, which is a 30 mph zone.

"If you hit a pedestrian at 40 miles per hour, it's an 85 percent chance the pedestrian will die," said Sally Flocks, president and CEO of pedestrian advocacy group PEDS Atlanta, who was present at the meeting.

Of the 42 tickets that were written by Zone 2 police officers in the area, 28 were for neighbors who lived two or three streets away.

Over the past six months, Ready said the speeding overall has been reduced.

"I don't know if it was due to the sign or the police," he said, noting the sign will be moved to the north end of the neighborhood soon to continue collecting data.

North Buckhead Civic Association President Gordon Certain also presented the information he gathered at the intersection of Old Ivy and Wieuca roads.

The average he found from several weeks of collecting data was that the average speed was five mph more than the speed limit, which is