

## **Good Neighbor Comments Stir Up Controversy!**

*Last months editorial comments regarding safety cones and children at play has stirred up a considerable amount of responses. Since this appeared to be such a heated subject I felt it deserved more attention and have therefore decided to separate it out from the other letters. The safety and concern for our young children must remain our highest priority. While no one wants to deal with speed bumps on every street, we must all exercise caution when driving through our neighborhood. With the holidays upon us this need is even a greater issue. Speed in our neighborhood especially with our young drivers- continues to be an issue. A regrettable accident will not only be devastating to the family of that individual, but to the driver's family as well. Let's all work together – remember this is a family oriented neighborhood and one that others desire to live in- it is our responsibility to act not only in our best interest--- but that of our neighbors as well. –Here are just a few of those comments- Katie*

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Hi, Katie,

I wanted to email about yet another letter in the Height News complaining about kids in the street and that people don't speed. We have lived in the Heights for 13 years and when we first moved in when my kids were little they begged for a park. My neighbors and I would sit in the front yard and watch the kids play....yelling for people to slow down even when the kids weren't in the street. We now do have a beautiful park, which we have been to many times. Now, that the kids are older however, Katharine and Robert are "over" swings and slides, all the time!! They want to play soccer and baseball in our yard!! I'm not lugging baseball equipment down to the park, just so people can fly down the streets at will. I have called the police many times about people speeding, ours is not the only street. I hear many people on other streets say the same thing. For the person who wrote in, to call us "lazy and irresponsible", I say shame on you!! How dare you?? Katie, you and I have known each other for 10 years and I can't imagine lazy and irresponsible as being 2 words that would describe me. I would love to know what street that person lives on; I'd like to live there!! I beg to differ, but, most people DO NOT drive under the speed limit. I just don't see why such a simple solution such as slowing down just a bit, causes such an uprising against kids!! Maybe we should have those speed bumps on EVERY street?? If people aren't speeding, there shouldn't be anyone against that, right??

Suzy C.

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Dear Katie,

I am responding to these good neighbors that feel like they need to make any comment on parents that decide to use cones to let drivers know that there are children playing in their front yards or driveways. It may not seem like a good idea to you because as you say, you are driving under the posted speed limit.... but I can assure you that there are way too many people flying down our streets with little regards of anything but getting where they need to be. I do not use the orange cones, but parents that do are trying to let drivers know that they need to SLOW down... which they should be doing anyway. Speeding on our streets has been a huge problem for the past two or three years and has prompted the town to install speed bumps on three streets and many more streets have requested them as well. We do appreciate having the park in our neighborhood, but it is unrealistic to think that our children will never be playing in their own yards. I agree

that parents should teach their kids how to be safe when they are playing outside and to never run out in the street. The Heights is full to the brim of children of all ages... some are playing, some walking home from their bus stops and some walking home school. Everyone needs to be cautious and drive with care.

I'm concerned too, on Barbara Street

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Katie,

I thought that some of the readers of this paper should think twice after recent responses to comments published about "Being A Good Neighbor"...Case in point-Safety Cones: a device used to alert oncoming traffic of potential hazards ahead, just like construction zones, a disabled driver, restricted speeds, etc... As commented earlier in this paper, and responded to by other readers, it is an inconvenience for drivers to "BE GOOD NEIGHBORS" and respect the potential tragedy that might occur had a child mistakenly run into the street. Condoning street play, laziness on the parents' part to discipline their children properly would seem irresponsible, too. Although accidental mishaps do occur, being behind the wheel of the car that took away someone's child just wouldn't fall under the curtain of "BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR" let alone the guilt that would follow, if you had a conscience, of course.

I am certainly not an advocate of street play by children, nor am I an advocate for not "BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR". I think we all should put down the cell phones, slow down a little, stop at ALL of the stop signs, offer a little friendly cheer to one another, and share the obvious joy of the FAMILY-oriented neighborhood that we all claim to love. The readers of this Heights publication continually praise the family feel that is the backbone of this community. Children (although some may chose not to have any) are a gift that should be celebrated, and understood that we all, at some time in our lives, have accidentally run into the street chasing a ball at one time or another, and are glad that we weren't run over by a driver that wasn't "BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR".

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Katie,

As for the comment in the paper about kids playing in the streets, etc and there being a park in the neighborhood...I really would like to address that person in saying "apparently you do not have kids!" The park is great and we use it a lot, but while it is very nice, it also has a few drawbacks. One being that there aren't any lights and when it gets dark so early in the winter it is not feasible...also, in the summer it is simply TOO HOT to be out there during the day all of the time. Another drawback...we working mothers and fathers cannot get laundry done, dinner made, the bathrooms cleaned, etc at the park! When you have kids, a job, a family, a home, etc. there is a lot of multitasking. I am not saying that children should be playing in the middle of the street, but they should be able to play in their driveway and front yard and walk to the neighbors, etc and parents should have the peace of mind knowing that if something happens to put them in the street (i.e. a ball in the street, riding bikes to and from friends, etc) PEOPLE ARE DRIVING SLOW ENOUGH to make adjustments!! I think if we all remember that we need to coincide peacefully as neighbors and friends we can keep this neighborhood as a place noted for friendly faces and a family feel.

Concerned on Barbara St.