

May 25, 2022

Dear City Council and Mayor Reardon

Recently one of my neighbors, Joan Steeves, 5 Woodman Way, was hit by a pick-up truck while she was walking to the supermarket. Joan has been avid walker. Many of her neighbors offered her rides but, with few exceptions, she preferred to walk. She wanted to stay strong and keep her independence. Joan was in the crosswalk at Noble St. a congested area when she was hit. Joan is 82 and is currently in Northeast Rehabilitation in Portsmouth. Please see the attached report which was printed in **The Daily News of Newburyport**, May 17, 2022.

The section of Low St, Woodman Way and Storey Avenue is dangerous. There is a traffic light at this intersection and another one near Shaw's Plaza but they are often ignored. The sidewalk and curbs on both sides of Storey Ave are in disrepair. Several neighbors have expressed concern about the safety when walking along Storey Ave. Many school aged children cross Storey Ave to go to 7-Eleven. My heart stops as I watch them even though they are at the crosswalk. I would like to walk to Panera or CVS safely and so would many neighbors.

I realize that sections of Storey Ave are maintained by the town and other sections by the State. Years ago, area resident, the late Olga MacFarlane, worked to get the traffic lights revamped for safety. I watched her effort. I began to speak to State and local officials to revamp the intersections. A traffic study was conducted, and some improvements were made. Seventeen years have passed since I moved to Newburyport. Traffic has increased. Drivers are distracted. Help is needed.

Mayor Reardon has a five-year plan but this area is not set for work until 2024. What can the city do now to ensure the safety of hundreds of residents who frankly pay a lot of taxes but get few services (no trash pickup, no plowing)?

I would appreciate your attention to this matter.

Regards,

*Ann*

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NEWBURYPORT — An 82-year-old woman was conscious and alert but sustained serious injuries Monday morning after she was struck by a truck on Storey Avenue, according to first responders.

Local firefighters and police officers responded to the intersection of Storey Avenue and Noble Street about 11:45 a.m. after the woman was hit. The victim was driven to an area hospital by an Amesbury Fire Department ambulance. An Atlantic Ambulance also responded to the scene.

City Marshal Mark Murray said the truck driver remained on scene and was cooperating with authorities. No charges were immediately filed but the incident remains under investigation.

The area where the incident took place is very close to ongoing utility work that has reduced Storey Avenue to one lane and diverted traffic to Noble Street.

Shortly after the incident, traffic getting onto Storey Avenue from Noble Street was backed up all the way to Ferry Road. Noble Street cuts through the sprawling St. Mary's Cemetery.

The name of the injured pedestrian was not released.

*Dave Rogers is a reporter with the Daily News of Newburyport. Email him at: drogers@newburyportnews.com. Follow him on Twitter @drogers41008.*