



Parking & Transportation Newsletter

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George Mason University Parking & Transportation Administration
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Welcome to our first newsletter...

By Josh Cantor

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With the growth of George Mason University, the Parking & Transportation Department has also seen tremendous growth over the past several years. From the construction of the new parking decks, to the rerouting of traffic patterns on campus, to the increasing shuttle options, the campuses have been changing with each semester. We hope this quarterly newsletter will provide you with information on the various programs and projects we are involved with, and bring you up to date with our services. If you have any questions please call our office at 703 993-2828 or email us at transpo@gmu.edu.



Rappahannock River Parking Deck Update

The largest parking deck at Mason, the Rappahannock River Parking Deck is on schedule and will be open in time for the Fall 2009 semester. This deck when finished will handle approximately 2,650 vehicles and will include a reserved section for faculty, staff, and students, and a general use section for students and visitors. The size of the structure allows for five entrance/egress locations and will permanently change the traffic flow on the campus, especially for major events. The deck is located off University Dr. at the north end of campus. For more information go to:

<http://parking.gmu.edu/DeckIII.html>.

Our parking decks are named after local waterways with Deck III's name Rappahannock River Parking Deck.

Arlington Construction Update

As part of the 7-story Founders Hall (Arlington II) project currently under construction on the site of the old Arlington campus parking lot, there is a 3-level below ground parking garage. This new garage contains 443 spaces and will connect to the existing Hazel Hall garage, which has been closed during construction. Founders Hall and the garage are scheduled to open in fall 2010. For the latest Founders Hall construction updates, go to:

<http://www.gmu.edu/arlington/newconstruction.html>.

Founders Hall is newest building under construction at Arlington and includes a below ground parking garage.



Gunston Go-Bus Newest Shuttle Service

Working with Student Government, Parking & Transportation is pleased to announce the addition of another bus service.

Providing free transportation to anyone with a GMU ID between the Fairfax Campus, Fair Oaks Mall, Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax Corner and University Mall this new service began the end of February.

The shuttle runs Thursdays through Sundays, with late-night service on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

The shuttle will depart the Sandy Creek bus stop on the hour, and proceed to University Mall. Please read the Go-Bus Schedule and FAQs at <http://shuttle.gmu.edu/gunstongobus.html> for details on pick-up and drop-off locations.



Shuttle Schedules Change during Spring Break

March 9 through 15

NO OVERFLOWS ON ANY ROUTE.

Field House Express: Not running at all March 9-12.

West Campus: Not running at all March 8-14. Regular Sunday service on March 15. During the week of spring break March 9th through 15th any student with a WEST CAMPUS permit can park in any general lot. Cars must be moved back to the west campus by 7am Monday March 16th. West campus permits are not valid in Lots I, G & H.

Mason to Metro: No weekend service March 7,8,14. Regular Sunday schedule March 15.

March 9 through 13 schedule is 6:00 AM through last departures at 6:00 PM.

Prince William: Two buses on regular schedule through last departures at 6:00 PM (no 9:30 or 4:30 departures).

Gunston's Go-Bus: Regular Service March 5, 6. No service again until Sunday, March 15 (regular Sunday schedule).



Shuttle Services During Inclement Weather

Hopefully, the snowstorm in early March is the last winter weather for this year. However, in case it is not, when the Mason campuses open late or close early due to inclement weather, the following general guidelines shall apply to the shuttle service hours:

1. If campus opens late, shuttle service on all routes will begin one hour prior (e.g. noon opening, shuttle service starts at 11am).
2. If campuses close early, shuttles will run for at least one hour after the scheduled closing time and longer if possible, dependent on road conditions (e.g. campus closing at 2:00, buses will run at least until 3:00. and longer and try to maintain normal service). However, due to road conditions and safety concerns, shuttle service may be suspended at any time after running the one hour after the scheduled closing time.

For information in any situation, the best source is to call the Mason Shuttle phone line at 703-993-2828 and select Option #2 for the automated status line which will be the first source to be updated with changes.

As well, it is advisable to sign up for the Shuttle System Announcements Group on the Mason Alert system so one can receive emails or text messages for shuttle announcements. Go to <https://alert.gmu.edu> to access the Mason Alert website, log in, and select the Shuttle Announcements on the Groups page.

Parking Permit Sales

As the spring semester zips along, it's almost time to buy Summer parking permits which will go on sale May 1st. Also, before the end of the spring semester, information will be available about early online sales for the parking decks and Lot I for the 2009-2010 academic year - stay tuned to your email or check the parking website at <http://parking.gmu.edu> for updated information.

Meet the Staff

Ann Moran Parking Services Coordinator
 Josh Cantor Director
 Bob Tennant Transportation Services
 Coordinator

We are here to help make your parking, traffic, and transportation options as accommodating as possible. Give us a call anytime at 703 993-2828. We are always ready to hear new ideas, address your concerns, and assist you with your parking and transportation needs.



Reston Limousine Offers Bus Trips & Tours

If spring fever is hitting you hard, take a day trip and get out of the Metro area congestion, see some new sites, meet new people, and have a relaxing day letting someone else do the driving. Our shuttle service contractor is offering the following day trips in spring:

Atlantic City, Saturday March 14 and Saturday, April 11 Departs 1:00PM Returns 2:00AM, \$39/person plus \$15 in coin to the Tropicana Casino & Resort

Charles Town Races & Slots, Sunday, April 15, Depart 9:00AM Returns 7:00PM, \$29/person

Charlottesville Wine Tour, Saturday, March 21 and Saturday, April 18 Depart 9:00AM Return 7:00PM, \$40/person (does not include tasting fee)

Colonial Williamsburg, Saturday, March 21 and Saturday, April 18 (includes a stop at Busch Gardens) Depart 8:00AM Return 8:00PM, \$35/person

New York City Day Trip, Sunday, March 29 and Sunday, April 26 Depart 7:00AM Return 10:30PM, \$25/each way

Wine Tours, every Saturday and Sunday \$35/person (does not include winery tasting fees; boxed lunch \$15 extra)

Please contact Kacy Norris at 703-478-0500, ext. 508 for details, pick-up locations, or to make your reservation.

Faculty/Staff/Students can receive a 10% discount by showing their GMU ID Card when reserving/paying for the trip.

With Spring Comes Motorcycles

Because a motorcycle is easily hidden in a car's blind spots or behind objects, some drivers unintentionally ignore motorcyclists when driving. According to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, here are a few of the most important things that car and truck drivers should know about motorcycles:

- Because of its small size, a motorcycle may look farther away than it is. It may also be difficult to judge a motorcycle's speed. When tracking traffic, predict that a motorcycle is closer than it looks.
- Turn signals on a motorcycle usually are not self-cancelling, thus some riders, especially beginners, sometimes forget to turn them off after a turn or lane change.
- Because of its small size, a motorcycle may seem to be moving faster than it really is. Don't assume all motorcyclists are speed demons.
- Motorcyclists often slow by downshifting or merely rolling off the throttle, thus not activating the brake light. At intersections, predict a motorcyclist may slow down without visual warning.
- Stopping distance for motorcycles is nearly the same as for cars, but slippery pavement makes stopping quickly difficult. Allow more following distance behind a motorcycle because it can't always stop "on a dime."
- When a motorcycle is in motion, do not think of it as a motorcycle; think of it as a person.



APEX Cycle Education offers motorcycle safety classes at the Fairfax and Prince William campuses each weekend from March through December. For more information go to: <http://apexcycleeducation.com/>

Motorcycle Permit Sales

Motorcycle parking is available on the Fairfax Campus in Lots C, J and by the Finley Building, in front of Enterprise Hall, in front of the Aquatic Center and next to the Northeast Modules, (across from the parking deck construction). Motorcycle permit pricing is as follows:

Spring Permit - \$35 Summer Permit - \$25

If you own a vehicle permit already, you can purchase a secondary motorcycle permit for \$10. In addition, we have a limited number of motorcycle permits valid in the Sandy Creek or Mason Pond Deck. These permits are valid in either deck or any of the areas listed above (the regular motorcycle permit is not valid in the decks). The deck motorcycle permit pricing is:

Spring Permit - \$105 Summer Permit - \$55

If you own a current vehicle deck permit, a secondary motorcycle deck permit is \$55 for Spring or \$30 for Summer.