



Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Plan ahead for convenient campus parking

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

The first few weeks of fall semester are typically the busiest time for motorists on Oakland University's campus. Besides increases in student enrollment, many students, faculty, parents and guests visit the campus early in the semester to tend to university business. Construction on roads surrounding the campus also can cause delays for motorists.

Unlike many other universities that have paid, restricted parking, OU provides more than 6,000 unrestricted parking spaces in lighted, convenient lots for students, faculty, staff and guests on a first-come, first-served basis. A limited number of restricted parking spaces to accommodate people with special needs also are available. OU recognizes the increased demand for parking and has responded by making the following improvements over the past year:

- Parking lot 36, located between Dodge Hall, Kresge Library, Elliott Hall and Varner Hall, was resurfaced this summer. The improved lot opened in late August.
- A 550-space parking structure, located at Pioneer Drive across from the Education and Human Services Building, opened last November. Two-thirds of the spaces in the three-level structure are covered. In addition to serving the Education and Human Services Building, the lot also provides spaces for Varner and Elliott halls and the Recreation and Athletics Center.
- Parking lot 11, located at Ravine and Pioneer Drives across from the George T. Matthews Apartments, was expanded in August 2002 to create an additional 168 parking spaces. The lot holds about 200 vehicles.

"The parking structure will relieve some of the pressure on that side of campus and people will be able to park closer to their destinations," said Rusty Postlewait, associate vice president for facilities management. "When your destination is O'Dowd Hall, the Oakland Center or the Recreation and Athletics Center, consider using parking lot 11. That parking lot typically has spaces and is just a five minute walk to any of those buildings."

To further minimize the amount of time it takes to find a parking space, Oakland University police officers will be on hand to direct traffic during the first few weeks of the semester.

The university offers the following suggestions to help minimize the parking crunch:

- Consider leaving earlier for campus, at least during the first few weeks of the semester.
- Students living in the new apartments and the residence halls are encouraged to walk to class to ease parking congestion.
- Study the **campus map**, especially the areas with additional parking spaces, so you are familiar with several parking options.
- Remember there is a difference between "no parking spaces" and "no convenient parking spaces."

For most people, any parking space is at most a 15-minute walk to any building on the main campus, so spending time circling for that "perfect spot" often takes more time than parking in a lot further away.

Students also should be aware that illegal parking of any kind is not permitted for safety reasons, and the Oakland University Police Department will issue tickets. The minimum cost of an illegal parking ticket is \$20 for a regular space and \$50 for a handicapped space. To pay your ticket online, visit the **OU Police Department** Web site and click on the link to pay online. The five-step program guides users easily through the payment process and accepts all major credit cards.

For the most up-to-date information on campus parking, visit the **Parking at Oakland University** and **News and Information** Web sites.

SUMMARY

The first few weeks of fall semester are typically the busiest time for motorists on OU's campus. OU recognizes the increased demand for parking and has made several improvements over the past year. The university also offers suggestions to help minimize the parking crunch. Students also should be aware that illegal parking of any kind is not permitted for safety reasons, and the Oakland University Police Department will issue tickets.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, September 3, 2003
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, September 3, 2003
Article Start Date: Monday, September 29, 2003