



Thursday, August 29, 2002

OU takes measures to ease parking crunch

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

The first few weeks of fall semester tend to be the busiest time for motorists on Oakland University's campus. Besides increases in student enrollment, many students, faculty, parents and guests visit campus early in the semester to tend to university business. The situation is made worse this year by construction on roads surrounding campus.

Oakland University recognizes the increased demand for parking in recent years and has responded by creating 1,348 new parking spaces since the fall 2001 semester:

- Parking Lot 37 (P-37) was established at the intersection of Pioneer and Library Drive, creating 170 additional parking spaces.
- An additional 460 spaces were created for the new student apartments.
- P-11, located at Ravine Drive across from the George T. Matthews Apartments, is being expanded to create an additional 168 parking spaces. The expansion is scheduled for completion by the start of fall semester.
- A new parking structure, located at Pioneer Drive across from the new Education and Human Services Building, is scheduled for completion in October. The three-level structure will provide an additional 550 parking spaces.

"The new parking structure has certainly been anticipated by just about everyone who has conducted business on our campus," said Lynne Schaefer, vice president for finance and administration. "Consistent with the university's 2010 profile, we anticipate growth to 20,000 students in the next eight years. The university is committed to providing the best in services to our students. We understand how important our roads, parking and access to buildings are to our students, and are expanding the campus infrastructure to meet those demands."

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.

Unlike many other universities that have paid, restricted parking, Oakland University 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.

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 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.
- Students are encouraged to remember that 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.

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

SUMMARY

The first few weeks of fall semester tend to be the busiest time for motorists on Oakland University's campus. The university recognizes the increased demand for parking in recent years and has responded by creating 1,348 new parking spaces since the fall 2001 semester.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, August 29, 2002
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, August 29, 2002
Article Start Date: Monday, November 3, 2003