

### 10 Ways to Prepare Your Ride for Winter

After the mild temps in December, it seems that winter is finally here. Now that the weather is colder, there are a few things you might want to do to get your vehicle ready for the chill:

- 1. Review your vehicle's maintenance schedule.** Consider an overall check-up. Be sure to have the brakes, transmission, heating, cooling, wipers, and exhaust checked.
- 2. Test your battery.** There's nothing like cold weather to make a weak battery fail to start the engine. Have your battery tested or replaced to make sure it can handle the task.



- 3. Inspect your tires or switch to snow tires.** Worn tires can't handle icy, snow or slush conditions and may be unsafe.
- 4. Check the Antifreeze.** Make sure you have enough antifreeze in the radiator and that it's the right type. Take care and do not unscrew the radiator cap when the engine is hot.

that your oil change is up to date.

- 6. Inflate your tires.** Cold air causes tire pressure to drop which leads to reduced fuel efficiency and unsafe driving conditions. Make sure your tires are inflated to the correct pressure.
- 7. Test the wipers.** If wipers leave behind a streak or squeak, it's time for new ones. Also, be sure to fill the windshield washer tank with fluid that doesn't freeze. There's even a fluid that helps melt ice.
- 8. Keep your gas tank filled above halfway** to avoid emergencies in bad weather.
- 9. Stuck on the ice** without sand or cat litter? In a pinch, you can **take the mats out of your car**, place them next to the tires, and slowly inch the car onto and across the mats
- 10. Have an Emergency Kit** containing items such as: blanket, battery powered radio, flashlight, bottled water and non-perishable foods, first aid kit, shovel, flares, booster cables, fire extinguisher, tire repair kit, and a spare tire.

### Announcements:

PARK ROANOKE OFFICES WILL BE OPEN AND TIMED PARKING ENFORCEMENT WILL OPERATE ON JANUARY 18, 2016.

PARK ROANOKE  
117 CHURCH AVE., SW  
ROANOKE, VA 24011  
(540) 343-0585  
PARKING@PARKROANOKE.COM

*Thank You for  
Parking with Us!*

Follow us on Twitter

@PARK Roanoke



### Who Are You Gonna Call.....?

*by Scott Leamon, Community Relations Specialist, Roanoke Police Department*

You'd be surprised at some of the calls PARK Roanoke receives. Folks call PARK Roanoke to report suspicious people, to complain about skateboarders, to report that someone was nice enough to give their taillight a love tap and didn't bother to leave a note. These types of calls need to go to 911.

Call 911 when you see that guy that looks suspicious near the stairs. Call 911 when you see that person sleeping in their vehicle in the parking garage... for the third night in a row. Call 911 to report that you spotted a person who seems to be peering into every car in the garage.

The City of Roanoke has a non-emergency telephone number to reach 911 dispatchers. The number is **540-344-6681**. Let's face it, who's going to remember that in a pinch? By the time you've seen something suspicious, get in your car, lock it, and then google the "Roanoke City Virginia Non-Emergency Number," the suspicious person or thing you've seen could be long gone. Just go ahead and call 911. Depending on the circumstances an officer may not be able to respond immediately but at least you've reported it so an officer can check it out.

Now, in the off chance that it's a life threatening event, officers are going to respond quickly. But if it's a non-emergency situation, and you don't feel like sticking around until the officer gets there, no problem, just leave your telephone number with dispatch and request that the officer call you back.

The bottom line is that you need to call in what you see and hear to 911 dispatchers instead of PARK Roanoke. All PARK Roanoke can do is put you in contact with dispatch. Valuable time may be lost that way. If you're worried about tying up the lines, that's understandable, just add the above non-emergency line **540-344-6681** to your contacts or email any tips to [police@roanokeva.gov](mailto:police@roanokeva.gov). Call 911 immediately if someone's hurt or it's something serious.

### Specials & Discounts

Early Bird Rate \$3 for all day parking with entry before 9 a.m. at Campbell Garage

Market Lot Lunch Rate \$1 for parking between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.



Payments for Monthly Parking may now be paid on-line or over a toll free telephone line.  
[www.PARKRoanoke.com/payments](http://www.PARKRoanoke.com/payments) or dial  
 1-888-272-9829 Use Jurisdiction Code 6246 A nominal processing fee of \$1.95 applies to credit/debit card payments.

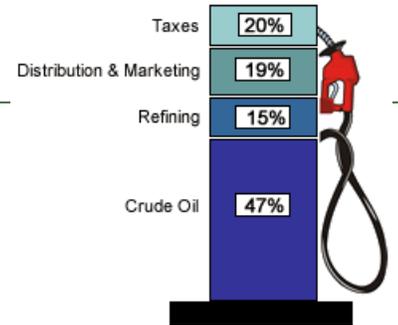
PARK Roanoke  
 P. O. Box 83  
 Roanoke, VA 24002  
 117 Church Avenue, SW  
 Roanoke, VA 24011  
 Phone: 540-343-0585  
 Fax: 540-342-6447  
 E-mail: [parking@PARKRoanoke.com](mailto:parking@PARKRoanoke.com)

IT'S EASY TO PARK ONCE AND ENJOY ALL THAT DOWNTOWN ROANOKE OFFERS!

## DRIVE SMALL

Submitted by Jeremy Holmes

Regular Gasoline (October 2015)  
 Retail Price: \$2.29/gallon



This holiday shopping season, you probably read something about the Shop Small movement. This effort promotes the importance of spending and keeping money in our communities by patronizing our small, locally owned businesses. But if you spent any time over the holidays stuck in rush-hour traffic or circling a mall parking lot looking for a decent space, you've seen another area where our local economies are bleeding money: the gas in our cars.

About 90% of what we spend on every gallon of gas leaves our local economies. According to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](http://www.eia.doe.gov), here's how the cost of a gallon of gas breaks down:

- 20% taxes
- 19% distribution and marketing
- 15% refining
- 47% crude oil

About half of what is paid in taxes goes to the Federal gas tax, so really only a little over 10% stays around in the form of state and local taxes. Fully 81% of what you spend on a gallon of gas leaves not only the local economy, but Virginia in some way. Even more importantly, that 47% dedicated to crude oil – much of that is probably leaving the country altogether.

When you save money on your transportation costs by using options like carpooling, bicycling, and taking the bus, that means more money in your pocket – and more money to spend at the amazing local restaurants, shops, and attractions right here in central and southwest Virginia. And every dollar you spend here is more likely to stay here and get spent again and again – about half of every dollar spent at a local business is reinvested locally, versus 14% spent at a chain store.

What are some ways you can drive small to help support the valley's economy? Here are a few ideas:

- Carpool to work with your coworkers on Mondays, then use what you save to take everyone to lunch at a local restaurant.
- Buy a monthly bus pass for commuting and other trips. Take what you'll save to visit a local bookstore and buy some reading material for your rides.
- Walk or bike to your neighborhood grocery store rather than driving to a big box store. Use what you'll save to splurge on a local craft brew.

### #DriveSmall

The holiday shopping season may be over, but your commute takes place every day. So, along with shopping small, consider driving small – this winter, and all through the year!

**Did You Know?** .....There are many ways to avoid getting a parking citation. The best way is to familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations. Here are some regulations to abide by that may help:



Disabled Zones and Fire Lanes may be enforced on private property such as at the doctor's office, the grocery store, the mall, strip malls, and even schools.

So if you stop for that Red Box and park in the Fire Lane, your vehicle may receive a citation. It doesn't matter if the lights are flashing, the motor running, or if you are sitting in the car, vehicles may not park at anytime in a Fire Lane or in a No Parking Zone.



Vehicles must always park in the direction of the traffic flow. Vehicles may not park against the flow of traffic, even if its in a neighborhood.

Vehicles should never park on a curb, on a sidewalk or on the grassy area between the curb and sidewalk. This causes damage to the curb and sidewalk— and its costly to repair. Repeated parking over the curb may cause unsightly damage that impairs the look of the neighborhood.



Disabled placards must always be hung from the rear view mirror and never placed on the dash—that's according to the Division of Motor Vehicles, the Code of Virginia, and the Code of the City of Roanoke.