



PARK Roanoke Newsletter

January 2014

www.roanokeva.gov/PARKRoanoke

January 8, 2014

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Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow.....

Well..almost.... Just when it seems we've barely put away the beach umbrella and sunscreen – it's time to think snow and ice removal strategies. Even before last month's holiday festivities began, it's never too late to be prepared. In fact, preparations have already been underway at PARK Roanoke since early November. Winter weather affects the operation of a parking system and structures, so removal of snow and ice is necessary for functional performance, the public's safety, and the long-term durability of structures.



View the Roanoke Valley from the Mill Mountain Star Camera at www.roanokeva.gov/StarCam

The goal of snow and ice removal is not only to enhance safety but also to provide adequate traction for pedestrians and vehicles. Each snow or ice storm is different, with varying temperatures, durations, precipitation rates, and accumulations creating conditions that may change our response to the storm.

There are several factors you've likely never thought about concerning parking structures along with snow and ice removal. For one, products such as "rock salts" can have a detrimental effect on porous concrete surfaces such as those in garages. Care must be taken with the product selection and application to minimize any damage. Next, snow and ice has weight which means generally that all of the accumulation cannot be maintained on the top floor of the garage. It has to be managed so that the weight does not cause any damage. In addition, since moisture is damaging to concrete, snow and ice accumulations must be kept clear of the drains and any melting precipitation must be swept into the drains daily.

PARK Roanoke maintenance staff work hard during winter weather events for the patron's safety and to prevent damage to the facilities.

Based on the amount of snow, it may need to be removed or plowed and pushed into places on the rooftops of garages to evenly distribute the weight. PARK Roanoke does not use rock salt because it melts snow and ice into "salt water" which in turn freezes at 0°F, making it ineffective in cold temperatures. Rock salt also causes steel rebar, as used in concrete construction, to rust and corrode. For these reasons, PARK Roanoke uses a product with a combination of calcium/magnesium/potassium/chloride. Maintenance staff looks for any puddles of melted snow during the day so that they can apply ice melt to prevent overnight freezing. PARK Roanoke monitors temperatures and forecasts so that they are prepared.

Although PARK Roanoke clears snow and ice accumulations to make their facilities safe for pedestrians and drivers, they would like for their customers to know that bare, dry pavement should not be expected after a snow or ice event. PARK Roanoke has a company under contract to remove snow from their surface lots and garages. Plowing begins after two inches of snow or ice has fallen and in the event of overnight snowfall, the lots are cleared by 6:30 a.m. that next morning. All snow must be pushed into one or two parking spaces in the lots in order to maximize the amount of open parking spaces for patrons. Additionally, snow is also plowed at the entrances and exits to garages and on the roof tops by 6:30 a.m. If, due to a snow/ice event, your parking space is unavailable, please contact PARK Roanoke for information on alternative parking arrangements. In the rare event that garage rooftop parking is restricted due to snow/ice, patrons may park in spaces reserved for daily parking.

Many people may not know that the Code of the City of Roanoke, Section 30-16 requires that property owners remove snow and ice from sidewalks within three hours after the precipitation has stopped falling or by 9:00 a.m. on the morning after an overnight snow/ice event. There's no exception for PARK Roanoke. Their maintenance staff works diligently to make sure that they adhere to the regulations for timely clearing of snow or ice on the sidewalks surrounding the garages or lots either by using shovels or snow blowers. Continued on reverse.

Happy New Year from PARK Roanoke!

PARK Roanoke's Scavenger Hunt!

PARK Roanoke offers a Scavenger Hunt to help you become more familiar with our parking facilities. Either pick up a form from our offices, from Downtown Roanoke, Inc. or from the Convention & Visitor's Bureau or download one from our website. Simply match the photo to the garage. Return your entry to our office or drop it off with any garage booth attendant to be entered into a monthly prize drawing through March 31, 2014. The prize is a \$15 Downtown Roanoke Merchant Gift Card. Details are on our website at www.roanokeva.gov/PARKRoanoke



Can You Name this Parking Location?

Did You Know?

- PARK Roanoke offers over 4,000 public parking spaces downtown! It's easy to **PARK Once** and enjoy all downtown has to offer.
- Parking is free at Gainsboro Garage for **Smart Way Bus** riders. Obtain a voucher from the bus driver and park for free only at Gainsboro Garage. www.smartwaybus.com
- **Signing up for monthly parking is easy:**— call 343-0585 for details or visit us on the web. With a short application form, we can have you on your way to safe, convenient parking!
- During the Market Square Renovation Project, parking is Free with a 2 hour limit at Market Lot with easy access from Kirk Avenue.

Visit our Facilities:

Campbell Garage
Center in the Square
Church Avenue Garage
Elmwood Park Garage
Gainsboro Garage
Market Garage
Tower Garage
Elmwood Lot
Higher Education Lot
Market Lot
Warehouse Row Lot
Williamson Lot

Thank You for
Parking with Us!

PARK Roanoke
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parking@roanokeva.gov



PARK Roanoke

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Need Directions? Use the Free Downtown Parking App

PARK NOKE designed for iPhones and iPads

www.roanokeva.gov/parking

Visit us on the Web at
www.roanokeva.gov/PARKRoanoke

Snow and Ice Removal, continued.

Here are some safety tips for driving and parking in winter conditions:

- Avoid parking on the street. Snowplows can't fully clear the street with cars in the way.
- Avoid unnecessary travel when crews are clearing snow and ice from the roadways.
- Do not attempt to pass snowplows and stay at least 100 feet behind them.
- Keep a safe distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles.
- Be aware of potentially icy areas such as shady spots and bridges, entrance and exit ramps.
- When driving on ice, turn slowly, and do not slam on your brakes. Sudden changes can cause your car to spin out of control.
- Watch out for black ice that may occur on the street, in a parking lot or in a garage. This can be dangerous to drivers and to pedestrians alike.
- Also, citizens or business owners should shovel snow to the right side of the driveway (looking toward the street). This way, snowplows will not push already-shoveled snow back into the driveway.

Tired of scraping ice and snow off of your car before the drive home?

Not wanting to track snow and ice residue into your car?

There's an easy solution....park in PARK Roanoke's conveniently located garages where your vehicle is protected from the elements.

Monthly parking is available at affordable rates. And, there's an early bird rate of \$3 at Campbell Garage for entry before 9:00 a.m. and only \$5 to \$6 at all other garages for a full day of parking.



Campbell Garage Monthly Rate \$35

DID YOU KNOW?.....

PARK Roanoke is writing a column entitled "Driving Business" that is published in the City of Roanoke's Economic Development Department's "BIZNews." to sign up to receive this newsletter email: econdevl@roanokeva.gov

If you missed it, you can find prior articles on our website at www.roanokeva.gov/PARKRoanoke and look for the *Business of Parking*

The Photo on the Front is from Church Avenue Garage



Stay tuned for updates!

PARK Roanoke is developing a new website with comprehensive information about on- and off-street parking. Stay tuned for updates:

www.PARKRoanoke.com

Follow us on Twitter

@PARKRoanoke

