

Newly-constructed parking building open for business!

Parking Woes At State Capitol Complex Eased



Harry Price, an employee with the Division of Natural Resources, poses a question during the October 13 meeting on the Capitol Complex parking situation. The meeting was held to answer questions about parking once the new parking building opened for business.

At long last, the much-awaited parking building at the Capitol Complex is a reality! It opened to employees and the public on Monday, October 25, 1999.

On October 13, 1999, a meeting was held in the Capitol Conference Center to inform State employees about the specifics of the parking situation once the garage opened. The meeting was conducted by State Purchasing Director David Tincher with assistance from Janice Boggs, Capitol Parking Manager.

Tincher provided those in attendance with a brief history of the parking situation at the Capitol Complex, stating that there were 19 lots around the Complex with parking for 2410 cars. To address the parking problems that have existed for many years, a 2-phase plan was adopted. The opening of the new garage (located on the northwest corner of the Division of Motor Vehicles Parking lot, adjacent to Piedmont Road near the Greenbrier Street overpass) marks the completion of the first phase. During the second phase, improvements to the remaining lots will be made, including reconfiguring some lots, restriping and renumbering spaces, and installing pay-by-space machines for visitors.

So what does all this mean in terms of how many parking spaces will be available? The new parking garage has space for 788 vehicles. Of these, 587 spaces are allocated for assigned employee parking, 194 spaces on the first

floor are designated for visitors, and 7 spaces are for use by the media representatives. As a result of the additional spaces in the building and the reshuffling of other lots at the completion of the second phase, there will be available parking for a total of 3,128 vehicles. This includes an increase in the number of both employee and visitor parking spaces.

Tincher stated that his agency, which is responsible for assigning blocks of spaces to agencies, will be reallocating spaces in an attempt to give employees spaces that are closer to the buildings in which they work. Also, additional handicapped spaces have been established near most buildings, bringing the State into compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Tincher and Boggs fielded a number of questions from those in attendance. Several questions centered on the new pay-by-space machines for visitors. The pay-by-space machines are a high-tech automated system which provides security and accuracy in the visitor parking fee collection process. The charge for the spaces is 50¢ per hour, except at Laidley Field, where the charge is 25¢ per hour. Parking attendants will be on duty during the month of November to assist visitors in using the machines.

If you have any questions about the parking building or the changes in parking at the State Capitol, please direct them to your agency parking coordinator.

Combined Campaign for 1999 Progressing Well

Although the West Virginia State Employees Combined Campaign for 1999 is progressing very well, the goal is less than one-third met. Your help is needed to ensure that West Virginia's citizens have access to the vital programs and services they need.

As of November 1, 1999, the West Virginia State Employees Combined Campaign (WVSECC) has raised \$32,158 toward its goal of \$100,000. Because the combined campaign raised \$88,000 in 1997-98 and \$93,000 in 1998-99, the current goal is well within reach, according to the campaign's new chairman Jack Buckalew, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Administration.

"Our responsibility as citizens, friends, and neighbors to those around us puts us all in the unique position of making a substantial difference by giving a little time, money, and compassion," Buckalew said.

The WVSECC is the only State-sanctioned fundraising effort in which employees can use payroll deduction. Employees who opt to give to the Combined Campaign can spread out the payment of their contributions throughout the year by deducting only a few dollars a month. (Pledge cards for payroll deductions must be in to your agency Payroll Office no later than December 16.)

Donations may also be deductible on itemized federal tax returns.

When you give through the WVSECC, you can be sure your contributions are being used effectively. Administrative costs are as low as 9%. The approved participating agencies have demonstrated that they provide needed services to all eligible people and are fiscally responsible. Also, you may target your contribution to a specific area of the State, or to a certain agency or umbrella group.

This year, there are several prize incentives for those who contribute. Employees who pledge \$1 per pay period – or a total of \$24 during the 12 months of the year 2000 – will be eligible to win a parking space on the ground floor of the new Piedmont parking building for a year. If you are not employed at the Capitol Complex, the space may be transferred (not sold) to another employee.

Those who pledge \$100 or more, will have the chance to win dinner for 2 with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bucka-

lew at a Charleston restaurant of their choice. There are additional drawings for gift baskets and a variety of other prizes.

Governor Cecil Underwood encouraged Combined Campaign volunteers to spread the word about the available incentives, but also asked them to convey the good feeling one gets by helping others.

"These investments do not provide personal returns or pay dividends that you can take to the bank. They pay off in a different way through community programs that reach and teach children, health programs that improve the well-being of both young and old and promote healthier living in all of us, human services that meet the needs of individual citizens and families who need some help, and charitable causes that make meaningful differences in the lives of our friends and neighbors," Governor Underwood said. "In each of these ways, we invest in our communities without the expectation of some personal reward in return, but instead, a reward through better communities and a brighter future."

If you haven't received a pledge card to make a payroll deduction for contributing to the State Employees Combined Campaign, please contact your benefits coordinator or Diana McGinnis at 558- 4997.

FLU PREDICTIONS, NEW MEDICATION II

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicts a normal to serious flu season. Beijing A & B and the more serious Sydney strains will be most prevalent.

If you get the flu, remember that the new prescription drugs are most effective if taken on the first day; by the third day, they are much less so.

A new inhaled prescription drug was introduced in October. It is very effective in keeping family members from getting the flu bug once a relative brings it home, according to a new study. Relenza (by Glaxo Wellcome Inc.) is a powder spray inhaled through the mouth. It's already been proven to reduce the duration of a flu bout by a day or 2. The study shows that it cuts the chances of catching the flu from an ill relative by 79%.

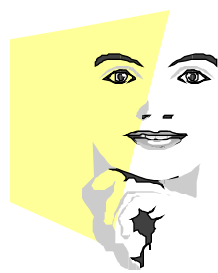
Dr. Frederick Hayden of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville says this is the first of a new class of antiviral drugs known as neuraminidase inhibitors. The new drugs are effective against the major strains of influenza A and B.

Some 25 to 50 million Americans get the flu each winter. Those who failed to get a flu shot could find help from the new medicines, but as always, a flu shot is your best defense.

Women's Commission Accepting Nominees

It's that time of year again! Here's your opportunity to bring recognition to a West Virginia woman or girl in one of a dozen categories, including arts, business, education, government, sports, science, labor, public service, professions, volunteer services, mountaineer spirit, and unsung hero.

Nominees must be current residents of the State or if deceased, must have been residents of the State at the time of death. Joyce Stover, Executive Director of the West Virginia Women's Commission, advises nominators to be specific in their reasons for making their nominations.



"Judges find it difficult to rank statements that are too general, therefore the more specific you can be about the person's accomplishments, the better the judges can evaluate the nomination."


The nomination deadline is changed. Previous years saw a deadline after the New Year; however, this year, the deadline has been moved back to December 1, 1999. The Women's Commission is requesting that all nominations be held until after it's move to the former Diamond Building is complete. They are set to move November 10. Stover advises that when submitting your nomination, you must be sure to send 3 copies along with the original (a total of 4).

Winners will be honored at a special recognition dinner to be held in Charleston on Friday, April 14, 2000. For more details or to obtain nomination forms, contact the West Virginia Women's Commission at 558-0070 or fax them at 558-5167.

Second Enrollment Period for Prepaid College Plan Under Way

The West Virginia Prepaid College Plan, designed to make paying for college tuition more simple and affordable, is in its second enrollment period. This second period will run through January 14, 2000.

The Plan offers a prepaid tuition contract that allows you to pay for college tuition, in advance, at a lower price than you would expect to pay at



- ✓ Lock in today's price for tomorrow's tuition.
- ✓ Receive tax breaks.
- ✓ Choose monthly payment options.
- ✓ Use the Plan at colleges across the United States.
- ✓ Still pays full benefits if the child receives a scholarship.
- ✓ Offers refund options if the child doesn't attend college.

Features and Flexibility

the time the student would actually attend college. It is managed by the West Virginia Treasurer's Office, which first offered it to the public in 1998. Since then, nearly 5,000 West Virginia children have been signed up. This represents a new commitment to college savings of somewhere around \$40 million.

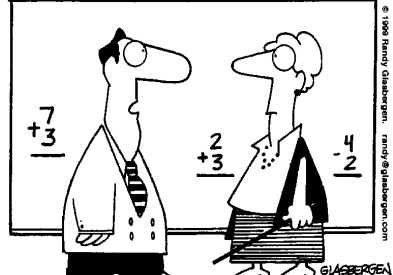
Any parent, grandparent, other adult, or business may purchase a Plan for any child currently in 9th grade or younger, as long as either the child or the purchaser is a resident of West Virginia. When the child attends college, the Plan will pay the child's tuition and mandatory fees at a State public college or university, or transfer the tuition benefit value to any fully-accredited college/university anywhere in the United States, whether private or public. If the child puts off going to college, decides not to attend, receives a scholarship, or transfers from school to school, the Plan's flexibility will accommodate your changing needs.

There are 3 types of Plan contracts and 3 payment options available. As an added convenience, most State employees can have their monthly Plan payment deducted from their paychecks. To obtain a Prepaid College Plan enrollment kit, call 1-800-307-4701 and select Option 1. You can also visit their website at www.wvtreasury.com.

HELP!!

If you received a service award at the May 1999 Public Service Recognition Week Governor's Ceremony and have not received your picture, please contact Jane Fouty (558-3950, ext. 206). We have several photographs for which we cannot identify the subjects.

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"My computer is going to die on January 1, 2000. Can you teach me how to add and spell again?"

Commissioner of Highways Scholarship Program Available

If you are a college or high school student and you need funding to pursue a baccalaureate degree in Civil Engineering or Computer Sciences, then this program may be for you!

The Commissioner of Highways may award up to 15 scholarships with each being worth up to \$12,000 dollars. Prospective candidates for the scholarship program must apply to the Commissioner on the prescribed forms. To be eligible for a scholarship, you must:

- **Be a West Virginia resident;**
- **Have a minimum overall (cumulative) high school grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 on a four-point scale or a minimum score of 850 on the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) or a minimum score of 21 on the ACT test or a minimum overall college grade point average of 2.00;**
- **Declare an intent to seek a baccalaureate degree in Civil Engineering or Computer Sciences at an accredited college or university;**
- **Demonstrate the need for financial assistance to attend the selected college or university;**
- **Declare an intent to work for the Division of Highways immediately following the date of the receipt of an eligible degree; and**
- **Complete and file an application by March 1, 2000, as well as comply with all other requirements adopted by the Commissioner of Highways.**

After receiving the application, the Commissioner selects applicants for further consideration. A personal interview is arranged and the applicant is notified of the time and place at least 10 days in advance. On the basis of the documented information and personal interview, the Commissioner may award a scholarship to such person or persons as he considers competent and entitled thereto. Afterwards, the Division sends a written notice to the applicants chosen for a scholarship to inform them of the awarded amount.

To receive the application packet you may or if you need additional information, you may call 304/558-3111 or write to:

West Virginia Division of Highways ▼ **Human Resources Division**
State Capitol Complex, Building 5 ▼ **1900 Kanawha Boulevard East**
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430

News From the Medical Front

The search for the causes of mental illness has primarily focused on genes as one cause and faulty DNA as another. While these factors do play a role in cases of anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, manic depression, and other problems, one key to the full cause has been missing.

Some scientists now think that bacteria and viruses may be the final piece to the puzzle. It has been thought, and in some cases proven, that heart disease, cancer, and ulcers have an infectious origin. Researchers at the University of California at Irvine and elsewhere believe the same could be true of some mental illnesses.

Pencil In ...

The Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, a federal agency created to protect workers' pensions, has established an internet address (<http://search.pbgc.gov>) to locate nearly 10,000 workers who are owed about \$19 million in pension benefits.




Running short on money for Christmas shopping? Take time now to start a **Christmas Club or savings program** for next year!



Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday! Governor Underwood is allowing State employees to have **Friday, November 26 as an additional day off**. As always, this action does not create a legal holiday within the *WV Code* and does not affect the Legislature, private business, or local governments. These entities must make their own decisions on this issue.



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