

February 21, 2006

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is written to update you on the parking changes that have been occurring in downtown Natick.

As you may know, a section of the Middlesex Avenue Parking Garage buckled on January 25, 2006. As a safety precaution, the Town closed the Garage and began an intensive structural analysis of the facility to determine the extent of the problems and the most appropriate remedy for the situation.

The Town immediately instituted an emergency parking plan. We communicated this to people through the newspaper, the Town's website (www.natickma.org), through maps placed on the windshields of cars parked downtown and through maps distributed to businesses by the Town and Natick Center Associates. This plan has been changed and updated over the past month to address the needs of residents and businesses in our downtown. To that end, I am enclosing the most up-to-date parking map for holders of brown Downtown Parking Permits.

All of the parking spaces marked in green in the attached map are available for holders of the brown Downtown Parking Permit. Parking spaces not marked on this map remain metered or otherwise limited. Please park only in the spaces designated in the enclosed map; our downtown businesses, cultural, religious and social service agencies need the other parking spaces for customer use. Permit holders who park in non-permit spaces will be ticketed once they exceed the time limits on these spaces.

The enclosed map contains two changes from the prior map distributed by the Town. First, a small number of parking meters on North Main Street and Park Street have been returned to metered usage. We suspended parking enforcement at these spaces for some time to allow people to adjust to these changes. Parking enforcement has resumed, however, and I ask that you please review this map carefully to ensure you avoid receiving a parking ticket.

The parking spaces on West Central Street have been removed from this map to avoid confusion. These spaces were not intended for your use as a holder of a brown Downtown Parking Permit.

Please note that sections of Walnut and Washington Streets are reserved for holders of Downtown Parking Permits and that parking has been available there each day since January 25, 2006. While the enclosed map makes the walk appear long, in reality is it rather brief and quite pleasant. The Town has also instituted a shuttle bus service on these streets to assist those who may not wish to walk. Please consider parking in these streets to ensure you do not receive a parking ticket.

The Town wishes to apologize for the inconvenience caused to you by the failure of the Garage, and also to thank you for your patience as we work to resolve our immediate and long-term parking problems. It is our hope that the Town will be able to re-open a portion of the Garage in the next few weeks.

The Town's website will always have the most up-to-date information posted on it, so if you have any questions, please log on to www.natickma.org and click on the link "Middlesex Garage and Alternative Parking". You can e-mail us directly from that site and can also view the most up-to-date parking maps and notifications.

Thank you again for your patience as we work to resolve this difficult situation. Should you require any assistance or wish to provide the Town feedback, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (508) 647-6410.

Natick Center Associates is also collecting comments and feedback regarding the ongoing parking difficulties downtown. It is important that the parking hardships facing Natick Center be documented to help inform the Town as we seek to resolve our parking problem. Please feel free to contact Natick Center Associates at (508) 650-8848, or email your thoughts and concerns to info@natickcenter.org.

Sincerely,

Philip E. Lemnios
Town Administrator