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Norwalk Parking Authority Celebrates Webster Lot Improvements and Compare Foods Opening with “Tailgate Party”

Norwalk, CT (September 24, 2010) - - The Norwalk Parking Authority celebrated the completion of the changes to its Webster Street Lot and successful transition when city officials gathered for a tailgate party on Friday, September 24th at 3:00 pm. The event was also an official welcome of the new Compare Foods at its Washington Street location, adjacent to the Webster Parking Lot. Compare Foods grand opening to the public is scheduled for early October.

Speakers included Norwalk Mayor Richard Moccia, Parking Authority Chairman John Federici, Carlos Pena, Manager with Compare Foods, and Ed Musante, President of the Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. The event was attended by about 70 local dignitaries, Norwalk city officials and area businesses.

Over the summer, the Parking Authority made a number of improvements to the Webster Street Lot including:

- Removal of the entry gates and the addition of more convenient, solar powered pay-by-space stations accepting cash and credit cards
- Customer service ambassadors for assistance
- 15-minute FREE parking in specified areas adjacent to stores.
- Vehicle license plate recognition system in place of physical access cards for permit parking customers
- An information kiosk providing information on parking and SoNo attractions

Norwalk Parking Authority Chairman John Federici said the Authority has been working not only at Webster Lot but also at our other facilities in Norwalk to improve people’s parking experience. “We’re improving security, enhancing the experience and physical environment and getting greener.” He went on to thank Mayor Moccia, the Common Council and the Zoning Commission for helping to push through our initiatives.”

“Improvements in parking are more important than many people realize to making Norwalk a better place to live, work and visit,” says Mayor, Richard Moccia. “If parking is safe, easy to navigate and reasonably priced, people are going to want to come to Norwalk and spend more time here, benefiting local businesses, retail and entertainment establishments. We are also excited about the new Compare Foods – which brings a much needed full service grocery store to South Norwalk.”

Carlos Pena Manager with Compare Foods says he is excited about the new store in Norwalk. “South Norwalk to us was a perfect location as it was underserved by a grocery store of our type. We received wonderful support from many people in the city which we greatly appreciate.”

The Norwalk Parking Authority is a financially self-sustaining organization responsible for the operation and maintenance of the municipal parking system in Norwalk. The Authority is committed to collaborating with community organizations while providing exceptional customer service to parking customers. The Norwalk Parking Authority can be reached at (203) 831-9063 or at the website: www.norwalkpark.org

Compare Foods is a supermarket chain run by the Peña family that provides quality products, exceptional service and low prices to the community. The Peña’s opened their first store in 1978 in Woodside, Queens. After the success of this first store, the family expanded in the supermarket business. Today, the family operates stores in New York City, Long Island, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and North Carolina. For more information visit: www.comparesupermarkets.com

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South Norwalk Haviland Lot New Height Restrictions Go Into Effect

Norwalk, CT (September 3, 2010) – Earlier this week, the Norwalk Parking Authority installed a height restriction bar in South Norwalk’s Haviland parking lot on the upper deck.

The bar will keep delivery trucks from entering the parking lot, blocking access to car parkers and damaging the parking deck with heavy equipment loads. Delivery vehicles taller than the restriction bar will now be able to use two new loading zones on Haviland Street. The height restriction bar also serves as a decorative sign welcoming parkers to Norwalk.

“This bar will alleviate an issue we’ve been having with traffic flow – providing more space and easier access to our parking customers as well as protecting a valuable city parking structure used by the entire community,” says John Federici, Chairman of the Norwalk Parking Authority.

The Parking Authority will also be installing a customer service booth on the lower level and installing additional security cameras throughout the upper deck.

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Norwalk Parking Authority and City Carting Team Up to Clean Up South Norwalk's Webster Lot:

New Consolidated Waste Compactor to Replace Individual Dumpsters

Norwalk, CT (August 4, 2010) - In an effort to enhance the surrounding areas where disposable materials are stored in South Norwalk's Webster Lot, The Norwalk Parking Authority has announced plans to install a consolidated waste compactor. The compactor is to be used by some of the businesses along the North Main Street corridor and will be located in the Webster lot, adjacent to the Bank of America building, The compactor will replace the dumpsters now in the white fenced area. City Carting will be operating the compactor and managing trash disposal in the surrounding area.

A new policy outlines how this change will affect businesses in the area:

- The Parking Authority will no longer allow individual dumpsters to be installed in the Webster lot without specific authorization from the NPA
- Dumpsters placed on any Parking Authority assigned property without prior authorization will be removed

"The Parking Authority's partnership with City Carting is a major step toward cleaning up the Webster Lot," says John Federici, Chairman of the Norwalk Parking Authority. "The new compactor will consolidate all the disposable materials from area businesses into one, aesthetically pleasing area."

The new compactor will be put into use in late September 2010.

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Changes to South Norwalk's Webster Lot Ease Congestion and Make Parking Easier

Changes to Take Place August 1, 2010

Norwalk, CT (July 21, 2010) - The Norwalk Parking Authority is pleased to announce several changes to South Norwalk's Webster Lot as of August 1, 2010. The following changes will make parking easier for both permit and non-permit parkers:

- Removal of the gate and the addition of more convenient pay-by-space stations to alleviate crowding at peak times.
- New solar powered pay stations will accept both credit cards and cash.
- 15 minute free parking will be available in specified areas.
- Access cards for permit parkers will no longer be necessary, thanks to a new license plate recognition system.
- Customer service ambassadors will be available to help parkers.

"The new changes to the Webster lot will make for a much more efficient parking experience," says John Federici, Chairman of the Norwalk Parking Authority. "Our hope is that the public will appreciate the changes and that surrounding businesses will benefit from increased traffic to South Norwalk."

The Webster Lot's grand re-opening is scheduled for September when an information kiosk will provide information on parking and South Norwalk attractions.

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Parking Made Simpler in the South Norwalk Haviland Lot

New Height Restrictions and Loading Zones for Delivery Trucks

Norwalk, CT (July 15, 2010) The Norwalk Parking Authority recently announced plans to install a height restriction bar in South Norwalk's Haviland parking lot on the upper deck.

The 7 foot bar will alleviate the ongoing issue of delivery trucks blocking cars from entering and exiting the lot. Delivery vehicles taller than 7 feet are invited to use two new loading zones on Haviland Street.

"The new height restriction bar in the Haviland lot will keep traffic flowing to and from the lot," says John Federici, Chairman of the Norwalk Parking Authority. "Our goal is to make parking in Norwalk easier, and the new bar will accomplish that. Business owners and the public will benefit from the new ease in parking."

The height restriction bar will also serve as a decorative sign welcoming parkers to Norwalk. Additionally, damage to the parking deck from deliveries will be minimized.

Construction of the height restriction bar will be completed in mid August 2010.

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Norwalk Parking Authority Launches New Web Site

Norwalk, CT (June 29, 2010) - As part of its new public service campaign, the Norwalk Parking Authority recently launched a new web site at www.norwalkpark.org. The new site reflects the Parking Authority's recent efforts to make it easier for those who visit Norwalk's urban core to find and use parking facilities.

Among the site's new features is an interactive map of the city powered by Google Maps. The new map not only helps visitors to find locations and information on the best places to park in town, but also to locate common points of interest, search for nearby restaurants and stores and even get directions.

Additionally, parking tickets can be paid and parking permits can be purchased and renewed on the new Norwalk Parking Authority web site. Site visitors can even sign up for e-mail alerts with up-to-the-minute parking availability at the South Norwalk train station.

"Our goal is to make parking in Norwalk easier and perhaps even more fun and our new web site is an extension of that goal," says John Federici, Chairman of the Norwalk Parking Authority. "City residents and visitors alike will find the new web site user friendly and very handy."

The new web site is just one piece of Norwalk's recent public service campaign, entitled "Parking Around Town is Getting a lot Friendlier." The campaign uses a universal symbol of parking, the parking meter, as a friendly icon. The parking meter character is featured prominently on the new web site.

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