

August 23, 2022

Dear Downtown Business Owners, Merchants, Managers, and Property Owners,

The past few years have seen unprecedented business conditions due to COVID-19 and related issues. For all of our business owners the stresses, hardships of keeping doors open, and staff employed were profound. During that time, Village government tried to assist retailers and restaurants by allowing outdoor and on-street dining, pick-up lanes, and by identifying parking spaces specifically for retail and restaurant customers. Things are better now, but it is important that we continue to do all we can to enhance the business environment by ensuring there is adequate and convenient parking especially in the core Village.

While not a perfect solution, the designation of special parking spaces for retailers and restaurants has been helpful. Therefore, the Village Council has decided to continue and improve that program, effective immediately. In the next two weeks, permanent and revised signage will be installed in the core Village in twenty-two (22) parking spaces. That is less than ten percent of the total spaces in the core Village. The location of these spaces has been selected in order to provide designated parking on each of our three main streets. We are asking you as a business owner, merchant, manager, or property owner to embrace this parking effort by requiring your employees and tenants to not park in front of business locations or in the newly marked spaces. There is plenty of available parking for staff in the public lots near the Pine Crest Inn, Tufts Park and The Maples Building lot. Please see the attached map, and note that staff parking is no more than a three-minute walk to Village businesses.

By cooperating with this simple and logical request, you will be supporting your own business as well as that of your business neighbor. That effort will assure that businesses in the core Village will prosper. Thank you for your assistance in implementing and supporting this parking plan. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Respectfully,

John Strickland, Mayor jstrickland@vopnc.org

Lydia Boesch, Treasurer Patrick Pizzella, Mayor Pro-Tem Jane Hogeman, Councilmember Jeff Morgan, Councilmember

John C. Thickland

