

# Handicapped Parking: Don't Put Yourself In Their Place

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Not a parking place in sight, you're in a hurry, and it looks like it might rain. Wait. There's an empty spot right in front of the supermarket. You pull into it, run into the store, take care of your business, and you're back in your car as the first raindrops hit your windshield.

You look into your rearview mirror as you get ready to back out of your parking spot, and you notice someone starting the trek from the far corner of the parking lot in a wheelchair. This prompts you to check. And, sure enough, there's a sign with one of those little wheelchair symbols right in front of the parking place you used.

Embarrassed, you pull out quickly and drive away. Imagining the person in the wheelchair struggling back across that lot in the rain with a bag or two of groceries, you feel like the biggest heel in the world.

You make up your mind you'll never use a "handicapped-only" parking place again in your life. After that humbling experience, you probably won't... unless, someday, you need handicapped parking yourself.

Most people who don't need handicapped parking places—but occasionally use them anyway—have never had an experience like this. Perhaps they don't even understand why handicapped people require special places to park their cars. There are even a few odd souls in this world who resent what they see as a "special privilege" for

disabled people. A handicapped parking place isn't a special privilege, though, for a disabled person. It's not even a convenience. It's a necessity.

Before I explain why that's so, let me stress that the Disabled American Veterans is not asking for sympathy. Handicapped people don't want or need any pity. But they do want a little understanding about things like handicapped parking zones.

So, why are signs with that little wheelchair figure—the international access symbol—used to reserve the best spots in many parking lots?

First of all, people whose disabilities make it tough for them to get around—who have "mobility impairments"—need to park close to where they want to go. It may be a pain in the neck for an able-bodied person to walk a much longer distance with a loaded shopping bag in each hand.

But think about someone carrying a heavy load over that same distance on artificial legs. That can cause serious pain, perhaps even bleeding. And a person wearing prosthetic legs is more susceptible to falling than an able-bodied person.

Second, people with wheelchairs, walkers, leg braces or artificial limbs need ramped curbs near their parking places so they can get to the sidewalk. Just as very few able-bodied people have the physical prowess of a football superstar, very few handicapped people are like the wheelchair athletes you've seen on television or read

about in magazines. They don't "pop wheelies" with their chairs, pole vault with their crutches, or skip over obstacles with their canes.

Third, you can't squeeze your car in right next to another car in a tight parking spot if you have to juggle a wheelchair out of the backseat and set it up on the ground before leaving your car. You need room alongside your automobile to get all that done. People with crutches, walkers and similar devices need that room too.

That's why handicapped parking places are set up with extra space on either side of the automobile. When someone parks too close to a wheelchair-bound person's car, the person in the wheelchair could be stuck until the other driver returns. The same holds true for those who use walkers, crutches, prosthetic legs, and other mobility aids.

Fourth, there are safety considerations. People who suffer mobility impairments cannot move as quickly as able-bodied people. They can't just jump out of the paths of negligent parking lot drivers. Nor can they avoid other hazards as easily as able-bodied pedestrians.

Finally, mobility-impaired people are stuck with their automobiles as their only form of transportation, and they have to get around just like everyone else. They have to go to the store. They need entertainment, social life, and everything else that all of us need.

They don't want to be prisoners in their own homes any more than you

would want to be. But they can't just get up and walk any place they want to go. Further, nearly all bus and subway systems, regardless of the law, are not set up to accommodate people who can't walk up steps.

Handicapped people need their cars, and they need specially adapted parking places when they get where they're going.

I come from New York City, where parking can be a trying experience for anyone. Competition for an open parking spot where I live can be as grueling as the challenge for a world-class sporting title. But I've seen nondisabled people using parking spots reserved for the handicapped in other towns and cities all over the United States.

That's why the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has designated October as Handicapped Parking Awareness Month. And the DAV has asked governors and mayors across the country to support this educational effort by proclamation of Handicapped Parking Awareness Month in their states and cities.

We hope you'll catch the DAV public service announcements we've sent to 680 television stations and 5,200 radio stations across the country. And you may see disabled veterans in your neighborhood, placing reminders on the windshields of cars parked in handicapped parking places when they aren't properly identified as cars driven by disabled people.

Again, the DAV is not asking anyone to feel sorry for disabled veterans and other handicapped people.

We're simply asking for some thoughtfulness and courtesy.

Handicapped parking places are for handicapped people. Please—don't put yourself in their place.

## Motion Sickness

Motion sickness can turn a holiday car trip into a miserable excursion. The North Carolina Medical Society reminds you that motion sickness can be prevented.

Before taking a vacation, ask your doctor to recommend one of the medicines designed to prevent a queasy stomach. In the meantime, you can take steps to avoid motion sickness. First—don't eat heavy foods before leaving on a trip. For carsickness, try sitting in the front seat. Roll down the window and breathe fresh air.

In a boat or plane, sit as close to the middle of the craft as possible. If you want to read while flying, sit away from the plane window. If motion sickness continues, lie down, keep your head still, and breathe deeply.

Once you're on steady ground, your uneasy stomach will settle down. Motion sickness is a miserable experience, but it will go away as soon as the motion does.

## News Brief

**RALEIGH**—The past few years have seen more and more people become do-it-yourselfers; and the reason may not be to save money. Small repairs of remodeling of homes gives homeowners a sense of pride and satisfaction. Large jobs, such as adding a room or a new roof, however, usually require professional help. Maintenance or home improvement projects can become costly. Last year Americans spent \$31.1 billion for professional home improvement and remodeling so the North Carolina Association of CPAs advised you to plan thoroughly, keeping your budget and financing in mind.

To protect your investment choose the proper contractor. Make sure he or she can handle the work you want done, has past job references, and provides a guarantee of satisfaction and a year warranty on materials and labor.

CPAs suggest you obtain written estimates from several contractors before choosing one. Because home improvements might encounter unforeseen and costly construction problems, provisions should be made in the contract for cost overruns. Make sure sizeable differences in the expense, such as any amount over \$100, are agreed to by both parties in writing.

The contract should spell out financial responsibility for materials and any related cost of the project. For example, a contractor should obtain building permits for the job, but the homeowner is responsible for those fees. If a contractor fails to bet the permit, the homeowner can be held liable for the penalty. To avoid this payment, you might insert a clause placing responsibility for the penalty with the contractor.

Review a sample contract for details and note what a contractor agrees to do. Who is responsible for clean-up after the work is finished? Is there an additional charge for this service?

After you are satisfied with the contract, set up a payment schedule with the contractor. Early payments should allow a company enough money to buy materials and pay workers and subcontractors. Withhold enough of the total amount as leverage against completion of the job. If your total estimated cost is \$5,000, you might pay 10 to 20 per cent once the contract is signed and spread out the remaining money in even payments.

CPAs urge you to check the financial stability of the contractor and ask for past references of his work. The Better Business Bureau or Department of Consumer Affairs can help you check the past performance of a contractor.

There are tax benefits to be gained from home improvements and repairs that are part of a general improvement plan or the result of casualty, CPAs say. So don't forget to calculate the tax effects of work you do or have done. For example, if you buy the materials yourself, you can deduct the sales tax even if the amount exceeds the standard sales tax deduction. But, be aware that a contractor might be able to buy materials for less so the sales tax deduction might be negligible.

Capital improvements you make, such as adding a room or installing central air conditioning, can increase the cost basis of your residence, and decrease the amount of gain you make on a later sale. Be sure to keep records of all costs involved, because this tax benefit might not be realized for many years.

Finally, don't forget that by increasing the value of your residence, you might be increasing your property tax. Be prepared for an increased assessment, CPAs advise.

## NEW LISTINGS

- BELLA VISTA DRIVE**—Waterfront brick ranch, 3 Bdrms., 2½ Baths, L.R., D.R., Fam. Room with fireplace, screened porch, 1 acre lot, two car garage. 9 per cent assumable loan. \$82,000.
- HOME IN THE COUNTRY**—On acre of land, large L.R., d. rm., kitchen, two bedrooms, central heat and air. Workshop, many extras. 8 per cent assumable. \$32,000.
- WATERFRONT**—Sandy drive, 3 bd., home, screen porch, deck, beautiful yard, sandy beach. \$60,000.
- HISTORIC DISTRICT**—Ornate Victorian home on quiet street, seven bedrooms. \$60,000.
- FANTASTIC BUY!**—Country Club area. Owner must sell. 4 BR brick ranch. Over 2000 sq. ft. ½ acre, fenced lot. Garage, family room with fireplace, 9½ per cent assumption. Drastically reduced to \$59,500.
- CHOWAN BEACH**—House on 2 lots. 2 BR, 1 bath, screened porch, 1 outbuilding. Priced to sell \$18,500.
- HISTORIC DISTRICT**—Lovely 2-story frame house. Large country kitchen, family dining room, 3 BR, 2 baths, 2 fireplaces. \$60,000.
- MORGAN PARK**—Lovely 3 BR brick ranch in excellent condition, central heat and air, built-in, 9½ per cent assumption. \$65,000.
- HOME IN THE COUNTRY**—Lg. livingroom, kitchen w-bar, attached den w-wood stove, 2 full baths, 2 BRs, 2 car garage, large lot, furnished. \$37,000.
- NEAR TOWN**—Attractive brick veneer home on ½ acre wooded lot, 3 BR, L.R., den, dining area, 1½ baths. 10 per cent APR owner financing. \$39,500.
- 4 BEDROOM HOME**—On 2 acre lot. Convenient to town, 2 full baths, L.R., family room w-woodstove, central air and oil furnace, 3 yrs. old, outbuildings. 10 per cent APR owner financing. \$42,000.
- BRICK HOME**—Three BD, 2 baths, large livingroom with fireplace, dining room, kitchen. Well insulated. Central heat and air. Two car garage and workshop. 12 per cent owner financing. \$49,500.
- SNUG HARBOR**—Two bedroom frame house. \$18,500.
- BRICK RANCH**—4 bedrooms, living room, den with fireplace, well equipped kitchen, dining room, utility room, 2½ baths, rec. room, in-ground swimming pool. 12 per cent owner financing. \$80,000.
- CAPE COLONY**—3 bedroom home, eat in kitchen, living room with fireplace, workshop on the water. 10 per cent owner financing. \$39,000.
- SMALL HOUSE IN COUNTRY**—1 year old. \$14,400.
- TWO BEDROOM HOME**—In town, living room w-fireplace, bath, eat-in kitchen, screened porch, fenced backyard. \$32,500.
- WATERFRONT**—Custom built cedar home. 3 BR, 2½ baths, recreation room, great room with cathedral ceiling, 2 car garage, bulkheading with sandy beach on the Albemarle Sound. \$80,000.
- HISTORIC DISTRICT**—Spacious 2½ story home with large, beautifully landscaped yard, 6 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, 2 car garage, workshop, guest house, recreation room, water view. \$24,000.
- APARTMENT HOUSE**—Good location in town, 5 apartments, 3 lots. \$40,000.
- ALBEMARLE SOUND**—Beautiful wooded lots over one acre in size on the water. Prices starting at an unbelievable \$24,000.
- WATERFRONT**—Albemarle Sound, charming 2 BD house, deck, bulkhead, 10 per cent owner financing.
- 10 PERCENT ASSUMABLE LOAN**—Payments of 304. per month buys this like new 3 bedroom home in the country with ¼ acre lot. Call for further details. Low down payment.
- INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY**—Apartment house with eight apartments. Excellent income in prime location. 9½ per cent assumption.
- HALF ACRE LOT**—Just \$60 per month buys your own half acre lot with septic tank, water and electricity, perfect for mobile home. Low down payment.
- PRICE REDUCED**—Log Cabin, beautiful inside and out. Large fireplace, 2 bedrooms and loft. Maintenance free, energy efficient. \$38,000.
- ACREAGE**—Three lovely acres in a choice location, privacy. 12 per cent owner financing. \$10,000.
- SNUG HARBOR**—Partially furnished mobile home on a well landscaped lot. Large workshop, room addition, and deck. 10 per cent owner financing. \$15,000.
- WATERFRONT**—Elegant home in a spectacular setting on the Albemarle Sound, featuring, foyer, great room, 3 or 4 bedrooms, Florida room, 2 full baths and 2 half baths. Plus 3 bdrm guest house. 1.1 acres with sandy beach. 12 per cent owner financing.
- COMMERCIAL BUILDING**—On 2.6 acres with 365' of highway frontage - 12 per cent owner financing. \$65,000.
- COMMERCIAL BUILDING**—Highway frontage on 2.8 acres. \$65,000. make an offer.
- HISTORIC DISTRICT**—Charming 4 BD home with 2 full baths, eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, L.R., den, and utility room. Beautiful yard! Price reduced to \$46,000.
- CAPE COLONY**—Charming 2 bedroom home, 1½ baths, eat-in kitchen, 1½ carport, large utility rm. Beautiful setting. Many extra features. \$46,000.
- Waterfront Lots**—Snug Harbor and Arrowhead. Other Lots and Acreage For Sale.

# T.G. & Y. family centers

## EDENTON-VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER

T.G. & Y. policy is to always have advertised merchandise in adequate supply in our stores. In the event the advertised merchandise is not available due to unforeseen reasons, T.G. & Y. will provide a Rain Check upon request. Regular Sale Prices may vary market by market, but the sale price will always be as advertised. We will be happy to refund your money if you are not satisfied with your purchase. VISA and MasterCard accepted.

# Pre-Christmas TOY SALE

LAYAWAY NOW WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

## Lay Away Now \$1 Down On All Toys

**Huffy Boys' BMX 24 Motorcross Bicycle**  
Tear up the tracks with this dirt bike! It has an arctic white finish with blue rims and handle bars. Sporty tubular fork and racing saddle. 26x2.25" blue-gumwall tires. No. 2034-2. Reg. \$7.88.

**Huffy Girls' Sweet Thunder 20" Bike Set** the pace with this sturdy bike! Pink and white color with cross brace handlebars. Light weight fenders, number plate, coaster brake and knobby tires. She'll love it! No. 2934-2. Reg. \$7.88.

**\$7.88**

**Hasbro**

Hasbro Life Brite Insert color glow pegs and outline a picture! 400 pegs, peg plate and 25 wall bulb.

**\$9.96**

**Tommy Pocket Pac Man** A miniature version of your favorite video game! Ages 3 and up.

**\$1.43**

**Ohio Arts Etch A Sketch** A toy favorite for years! Soote values never change!

**\$5.87**

**Milton Bradley Operation Game** A game of skill for 1 or more players, ages 6-14. Try to complete a successful operation. Be there's sold separately.

**\$6.96**

**Ideal Rabbit's Cube** Join the confusion and rine the 1 true solution! Age 8 to adult. Limit 3.

**\$3.96**

**Schaper 4x4 Stomper Car** These offroad operated 4 wheel drive cars go like crazy! Headlights work. too!

**\$5.47**

**Mattel Hot Wheels Cars** A variety of hotwheels and color! Reg. 1.18.

**86¢** Limit 6. **SAVE 27%**