New parking, traffic pattern on south side of campus

By Ashley Cole
Asst. PW Executive Editor
Nick Phillips
Editor

Students returned this fall to a revamped parking lot and a safer traffic pattern on the south side of campus.

Construction on the parking lot and West Third Street, which began in June by the Department of Transportation, will make it safer for drivers and pedestrians alike.

One of the most noticeable changes is the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Lowry Street and West Third Street. The traffic lights have not been put into effect as of Aug. 30.

In addition to the traffic lights, concrete medians have been built to keep traffic moving smoothly and safely.

The project was slated to be completed by Aug. 5. Changes were made to the designs of the parking lot that will give cars more space for parking and make it easier to navigate; however, no parking spaces were lost in the changes.

“I think that by eliminating some of the ever growing need for a parking space that people won’t feel so rushed and will therefore be more aware of pedestrians,” junior Dustin Moore said.

Old Main Drive, which contains faculty and staff parking, also got a safety renovation. A roundabout was built at the intersection of Old Main Drive and Faculty Row, near the Livermore Library. In front of Oxendine Science Building, parking spaces now face the railroad tracks instead of facing the building.

The improvements will be a couple of changes students will notice.

First, there is a crosswalk located at the traffic lights to cross Third Street that will also have a crossing light installed to create a safer way for the students to get to McDonald’s and Mighty’s by foot.

For those traveling by car, the traffic islands now require vehicles traveling west on Third Street will have to turn onto Lowry Street before turning into either establishment. A turn lane has also been added to turn into the Commuter Lots on both sides of the road.

The project was projected to cost $900,279, according to DOT project manager Donavan Hunt.

Students now have more meal plan options, extra munch money

By Ashley Williams
Staff Writer

Resident students and commuter students now have more meal plan options.

According to Jim Halcombe, general manager of Dining Services, the new meal plans offer more flexibility to dine in “residential locations.”

New options

The new meal plans for freshmen and upperclassmen resident students are:

• Carte Blanche with $25 of munch money
• 9 meals per week with $475 of munch money
• 12 meals per week with $250 or $375 of munch money
• 14 meals per week with $125 or $250 of munch money

According to Halcombe, Carte Blanche means that a student can come into the cafeteria as many times as they want to.

Upperclass options

Upperclassmen resident students can also choose a meal plan with eight meals per week and $200 of munch money or 10 meals per week with $125 of munch money.

Halcombe said that the munch money can be used in Bert’s, Star-bucks, Fuel and Simply to Go.

Simply to Go is located in the Oxendine Science Building. Fuel is a smoothie bar that is located in the Chavis University Center where the Starbucks was originally located.

“I believe the new set of meal plans are better than those that were offered last year,” student Josh Wheeler said.

“I like having the money for meals in between the regular cafeteria hours. I have over three times as much money as I did in my account than last year, I’m sure I can make it last easily,” he added.

Halcombe said that students told him that there wasn’t enough munch money to go along with their meal plans.

Before there were only three available meal plans to students; now there are double the choices for students to choose from.

This also includes two separate meal plans for upperclassmen staying on campus only.

The old meal plans were 14 meals per week with $75 of munch money, 19 meals per week with $250 of munch money and 10 meals per week with $125 of munch money.

The new meal plans don’t include the 19 meals per week plan.

Extra money

According to Halcombe, the munch money with some of the new meal plans has been doubled or tripled compared to the old meal plans. He said that students would have to add their own money after they spend their munch money.

According to Halcombe, the cafeteria also offers black meals for commuter students. A commuter student can get 50 meals per semester with $500 of munch money.

The prices themselves have not increased but the number of meals a student can have a week including the additional munch money to spend at Bert’s, Starbucks, Fuel and Simply to Go has changed.

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