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New parking permit stickers ease application, improve enforcement efforts

Drivers who purchase a parking permit for the first quarter of 2009 will see a new look and new instructions for how to display the decal on their vehicles, changes that should make the sticker easier for motorists to apply and for parking enforcement officers to see.

"The purpose of the new parking permit decals is twofold," said Interim Parking Manager Cara Pavlicek. "We wanted to make the decals more visible for parking enforcement officers to reduce the chances of an improper ticket. But we also wanted to make it easier for drivers to affix the decal to the window."

Other than the look of the new permit, what current permit holders are most likely to notice as the biggest change from previous quarters is that the new permit decals are to be applied to the outside of the vehicle's rear window on the driver's side, rather than the inside.

Motorists often have said the inside decals were difficult to install in many cars, sometimes meaning that new stickers were applied without removing the old, which can create driver visibility issues. In addition, decals applied inside can interfere with rear window defrosters and be difficult for parking enforcement officers to see through tinted glass.

Officials say the new permit decals have an added benefit to the Village – they are cheaper to produce because they will be printed at Village Hall as needed using a special printer and paper. Each permit will include a unique barcode that links the permit to specific information about the vehicle and help streamline future renewals. Parking enforcement officers also will be able to use their handheld scanners for real-time access to information about the vehicle.

"The new permit decal is another step toward a more automated process that eventually will reduce or even eliminate the need for parking permit applicants to come to Village Hall," Pavlicek said, noting that online renewals were introduced last quarter.

For more information on the new parking permit stickers, call 708.358.PARK or e-mail parking@oak-park.us.

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