

Adams Brown Counties in Transit

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From the desk of the Mobility Manager

Welcome

Welcome to the third monthly newsletter from the Adams Brown Mobility Manager.

Each month we will feature educational articles, safety tips, upcoming events, and activities. If at any time you wish to unsubscribe, please contact the Mobility Manager, by sending an e-mail to jfrancis@abcap.net or by calling (937) 378-6041 EXT. 310.

Governor DeWine has recommended a \$1.2 billion gas tax increase

Last month, Gov. Mike DeWine's administration recommended increasing the state gas tax by 18 cents a gallon beginning July 1 and annually adjusting that tax for inflation to provide sufficient funding for maintenance of roads and bridges. The Ohio General Assembly will decide to raise the tax and by how much, but they only have until March 31st to decide.



A local Cincinnati newspaper put together a calculator to help calculate how much the gas tax is costing you now and how much it will cost you if it is increased. [Click Here.](#)

Don't be a pothole victim

Temperatures have gone from sub-zero temperatures to highs near 60 degrees in parts of Ohio last month. Mix in some rain and snow and conditions are perfect for the formation of potholes.

Potholes are a common nuisance, particularly during the winter season when the freeze and thaw cycle weakens the pavement. This happens when water seeps into cracks in the pavement, then expands as it freezes. When temperatures warm up, and the ice melts, the pavement contracts, allowing even more moisture in to freeze and thaw. Add traffic on top and the pavement will eventually

fail, creating a pothole. Roadways with a high volume of traffic are particularly prone to pothole formation.

The statistics on damage to cars from potholes across the US are staggering: a 2016 study from the AAA Auto Club found that American motorists shell out \$3 billion each year to repair tires and vehicles that hit rough pavement.



That works out to an average cost of \$300 per repair. But what's worse,

AAA says that car drivers have three incidents of pothole damage per year. Those costs add up.

Not only should drivers be extra alert for potholes, but also crews working to fill them.

"Our crews have been working around the clock to ensure our roads are as safe as possible," said Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Director Jack Marchbanks. "When they aren't spending 12 hours in a truck plowing snow, they're working on the roadway patching potholes."

Already this winter, ODOT has used 2,574 tons of asphalt to repair potholes. That's up from 1,892 tons at the same time last year. Crews have spent more than 39,000 hours patching potholes this winter. Potholes on ODOT-maintained roadways, which include state and U.S. routes outside of municipalities and all interstates, can be reported by filling out a form on their website. [Click Here.](#) Potholes on local roadways should be reported to the agency responsible for their maintenance.

Potholes found on county roads can be reported to the County Engineer's office. The Adams County Engineer's office can be reached at (937) 544-2943. The Brown County Engineer's Office can be reached at (937) 378-6456.

Five facts you probably didn't know about handicap accessible parking

Parking limitations cause major challenges for wheelchair users. One study indicates that lack of understanding about handicap accessible parking on the part of other drivers may be the underlying issue. BraunAbility, the world's



leading manufacturer of wheelchair accessible vehicles and wheelchair lifts, released this data as part of their Save My Spot campaign to help educate the public about the meaning and importance of handicap accessible parking.

To bring awareness to the challenges wheelchair users face, here are five facts you probably didn't know about handicap accessible parking.

- The striped lines next to a handicap accessible parking space have a specific purpose.

Striped lines next to a handicap accessible parking space primarily indicate it is reserved for a wheelchair-accessible vehicle, yet 42 percent of respondents were unaware of this purpose. 15 percent were unaware that the lines had a specific meaning at all.

- There is a difference between handicap accessible parking for cars and wheelchair-accessible vans.

Many handicap accessible parking spaces are reserved for people with a disability who are not driving a wheelchair accessible vehicle. However, when the parking sign says, "Accessible Vans," it is reserved for wheelchair accessible vehicles only.

"People with disabilities need much more room when they arrive in a wheelchair accessible van," said Chris Carlisle, Vice President of Marketing at BraunAbility. "Van accessible spaces are wider than regular handicap accessible parking spaces, offering room for people to lower their ramp and enter and exit their vehicle. In our survey, we asked able-bodied people what they would do if a car parked too close to them, and 75 percent said they would climb through a window or opposite door to get in. Wheelchair users don't have this option and need the extra space."

- Van accessible spaces are easily identified by a blue-striped access aisle on the passenger side.

Some people have "hidden disabilities" that may not look like they need a handicap accessible spot, but they do.

Twenty-seven percent of survey participants did not know handicap accessible parking spots were also designated for hidden disabilities like deafness or a recent knee injury.

"There are no visible supports such as a cane or wheelchair for hidden disabilities, but that doesn't mean the person parking there is misusing the spot," Carlisle said.

- Businesses are required to have a certain number of handicap accessible spots.

The number of handicap accessible parking spaces required depends on the total number of parking spaces in the lot, but at least one in every six handicap accessible spaces must be van accessible, according to the American Disabilities Act.

- Wheelchairs continue to increase in size requiring more room to maneuver in and out of vehicles.

"Chairs continue to get bigger, which can result in maneuverability challenges for chair users as they try to get in and out of vehicles," Carlisle said.

Handicap accessible parking plays a critical role in giving chair users independence and mobility, making it important to understand the rules of the parking lot. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Local Happenings

The 2019 Adams County Coordinated Public Plan meetings will be held on May 14th, August 13th, and October 8th at 2 PM at the Adams County Job and Family Services building, located at 482 Rice Dr., West Union, OH 45693.

The 2019 Brown County Coordinated Public Plan meetings will be held on May 15th, August 14th, and October 9th at 2 PM at the Adams Brown Community Action Partnership building, located at 406 West Plum Street, Georgetown, Ohio, 45122.



SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT RESPONSIBLE PARKING

around wheelchair accessible vehicle spaces!



1 of 6 accessible parking spaces must be van-accessible.



FACTS*

- 74% of people have seen a handicap accessible parking space improperly used.
- 42% of people do not know the stripes represent space to deploy a wheelchair ramp.
- 75% of able-bodied people said if a car parked too close to them, they would use another door or window to climb in. Chair users do not have that option.

* Statistics from 2018 Save My Spot Survey

Even if you have a handicap parking placard, please don't park in the striped spaces! This space allows room to deploy a ramp. If you park here, the wheelchair user is blocked from entering his or her vehicle!

The striped area provides an extra car-width of space to allow someone in a wheelchair accessible vehicle room to deploy a ramp and safely enter or exit his or her vehicle.



Join the conversation!
 f t i
 #savemySpot

