Parking & Transportation Exhibit

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Parking at WKU has always been a hot topic among faculty, staff and students.

A new exhibit provides both history and perspective on the parking situation as Amy Bingham explains in this week’s View from the Hill.

“Parking: Past and Present at WKU” is the name of an exhibit on display at the Kentucky Museum (with even more in depth articles on line. ) The exhibit shows as WKU has grown, so have the parking opportunities.

“It’s a lot of fun to take a look at how campus has changed.”

Parking and Transportation Director Jennifer Tougas is seeing the parking exhibit for the first time.

“I love the parking game they have. It’s quite creative.”

It’s a topic that appears to be timeless.   
“I think it shows the frustration students have when they can’t find parking and I don’t know if that’s changed (laughs).”

With the help of Archeology student Beth Sutherland, University Archivist Suellyn Lathrop created a time line of WKU parking.

“photographs, documents, articles from the Herald, the parking manual, all kinds of things.”

Reminders of details like who used to issue parking tickets.

“It’s also fun to see that in the early days the tickets were issued by the police officers carrying guns. We’re not carrying guns when we’re issuing parking citations anymore.”

And photos of places like Diddle Arena and Van Meter Hall surrounded by vehicles.

“The earliest item in the exhibit is the 1930’s photo of parking outside Van Meter. All the model t’s or model A’s out there . Really great photo.”

Today, structures have helped ease the parking strain, including a brand new one that opened this spring.

“In addition to meeting peek demand in the fall, it’s also gonna help us as the campus continues to change.”

As campus parking has evolved, Tougis is proud of what WKU has to offer.

“When you compare us to bench mark universities, even in Kentucky, we have very reasonable parking fees.”

The exhibit is currently at the Kentucky Museum but will be moved to Helm Library in August.

The entire on-line exhibit can be viewed at digitalcommons.wku.edu SLASH wku (UNDERSCORE) parking.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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