



# ACCESS

## *granted*

A Quarterly Publication by Republic Parking for the  
City of Houston Convention & Entertainment Facilities Department

### A word from Mario Ariza



By now you probably have heard that parking rates will go up effective Jan. 1, the first increase in more than five years. The contract rate will go from \$125 to \$145 per month, and reserved parking will increase from \$200 to \$225 per month,

including tax. The daily parking rate will stay at \$2.77 per hour.

We have worked hard to keep our rates as low as possible. In fact, they remain comparable to the rates of other parking facilities nearby.

Why is this necessary? We just completed a \$3 million-plus project to protect our facilities from a major flood. We installed flood doors and gates that are designed to protect not only our garage but the tunnel system. We are well prepared.

This month's issue of Access Granted gets us ready for the holidays. Be sure to watch out for theater-goers heading to matinee performances of holiday shows in the Theater District, and for the holiday trams that shuttle folks to the theater entrances in the garages.

And make time this holiday season to go to a few shows yourself. Remember, you already have a reserved parking space for the theater!

Meanwhile, thank you again for everyone's e-mails and notes. Feel free to contact me at [Mario.Ariza@cityofhouston.net](mailto:Mario.Ariza@cityofhouston.net). Happy holidays!

*Mario Ariza is deputy director for the Theater District Division of the City of Houston Convention & Entertainment Facilities Department.*

## Holidays mean extra traffic, extra caution in garages



Holiday trams will shuttle theater-goers again this season.

The holiday season is upon us, with matinees of shows and other activities throughout the Theater District between now and January.

In other words, it's not the best time to drive away from the garage for lunch.

This year, "The Nutcracker" makes its traditional holiday season return, and a new show called "The Jersey Boys" plays the Hobby Center with two midweek Thursday matinees on Jan. 24 and Feb. 7.

During matinee shows, the Civic Center garage in particular will be virtually full.

Be sure to watch out for more pedestrian traffic, too, particularly senior citizens and parents with young children who may be walking through the garages or riding one of three special holiday trams. Remember, the speed limit is 10 mph in the garages.

The trams, decorated for the holidays, will shuttle theater-goers to both matinee and evening performances to the theaters' tunnel entrances.

The parking staff appreciates your patience, cooperation and safe driving habits during the holidays.

# What's Happening in the Theater District

Here are a few of the many events happening in December and January:

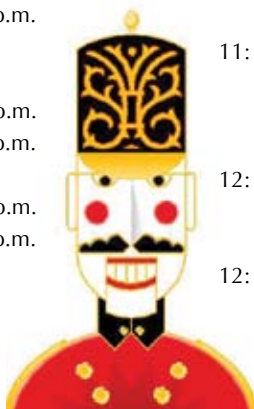
## IN DECEMBER:

- 1: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Romeo and Juliet Plus Glennie**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 2: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Romeo and Juliet Plus Glennie**, Jones Hall, 2:30 p.m.  
**A Conversation with Dame Julie Andrews**, Jones Hall, 7 p.m.
- 5: **A Little Day Music**, Wortham Center/Grand Foyer, Noon
- 6: **A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.
- 7: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**The Irish Tenors Christmas Special**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 8: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**'Twas the Night Before Christmas**, Jones Hall, 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.  
**Houston Tidelanders**, Wortham Center/Cullen Theater, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
- 9: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 11: **A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.
- 12: **A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.
- 13: **A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.
- 14: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.  
**Messiah**, Wortham Center/Cullen Theater, 8 p.m.  
**Very Merry Pops**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 15: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 2:30 & 8 p.m.  
**Very Merry Pops**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 16: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Very Merry Pops**, Jones Hall, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- 18: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Echoes of the Season**, Jones Hall, 7:30 p.m.  
**A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.
- 19: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.
- 20: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.

- 21: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.  
**Messiah**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 22: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 2 & 8 p.m.  
**Messiah**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 23: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Wonderful Life**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Messiah**, Jones Hall, 2:30 p.m.
- 24: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 p.m.
- 26: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Something That You Told Me**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 27: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Something That You Told Me**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 28: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Something That You Told Me**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 29: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Something That You Told Me**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 30: **The Nutcracker**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Clandestine Classics**, Hobby Center/Zilkha Hall, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Something That You Told Me**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.

## IN JANUARY:

- 4: **Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 5: **Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.  
**A Christmas Carol**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.
- 6: **Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway**, Jones Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 10: **Graf's Mozart and Haydn**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.  
**See Me**, Wortham Center/Cullen Theater, 8 p.m.
- 11: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 8 p.m.  
**The 5 Browns**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.  
**See Me**, Wortham Center/Cullen Theater, 8 p.m.  
**Opposites Attract**, Hobby Center/Zilkha Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 12: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 8 p.m.  
**Graf's Mozart and Haydn**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.  
**Ira Glass**, Wortham Center/Cullen Theater, 8 p.m.
- 12: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.





## Cell phone signal improves underground

Ever enter a parking garage while you're on your cell phone and lose the connection? Those days should soon be over. The cell phone signal has been boosted in the Tranquillity garages, and by the first quarter of 2008 the Civic Center garages will have improved service as well.

- Graf's Mozart and Haydn**, Jones Hall, 2:30 p.m.
- 15: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.
- 16: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.
- 17: **Love Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.
- 18: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.  
**The Abduction from the Seraglio**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 7:30 p.m.  
**Strauss' Alpine Symphony**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 19: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 8 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 2 & 8 p.m.  
**Urban Bush Women**, Wortham Center/Cullen Theater, 8 p.m.  
**Strauss' Alpine Symphony**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.
- 20: **Love Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**The Abduction from the Seraglio**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 p.m.  
**Strauss' Alpine Symphony**, Jones Hall, 2:30 p.m.
- 21: **Vikram Chandra & Mayra Montero**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.
- 22: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.
- 23: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.
- 24: **Love Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.  
**Mozart and Brahms**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.  
**Dreamworlds**, Wortham Center/Cullen Theater, 8 p.m.
- 25: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.  
**The Magic Flute**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 7:30 p.m.  
**Steve Tyrell**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.  
**The Lieutenant of Inishmore**, Alley Theatre/Neuhaus Stage, 8 p.m.
- 26: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 8 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 2 & 8 p.m.  
**The Abduction from the Seraglio**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 7:30 p.m.  
**Mozart and Brahms**, Jones Hall, 8 p.m.  
**Dance Houston Winter Formal**, Wortham Center/Cullen Theater, 7:30 p.m.  
**The Lieutenant of Inishmore**, Alley Theatre/Neuhaus Stage, 2:30 & 8 p.m.
- 27: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
**The Magic Flute**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 2 p.m.

- Mozart and Brahms**, Jones Hall, 2:30 p.m.
- The Lieutenant of Inishmore**, Alley Theatre/Neuhaus Stage, 7:30 p.m.
- 29: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.  
**The Lieutenant of Inishmore**, Alley Theatre/Neuhaus Stage, 7:30 p.m.
- 30: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.  
**The Abduction from the Seraglio**, Wortham Center/Brown Theater, 7:30 p.m.  
**The Lieutenant of Inishmore**, Alley Theatre/Neuhaus Stage, 7:30 p.m.
- 31: **Love, Janis**, Alley Theatre/Hubbard Stage, 7:30 p.m.  
**Jersey Boys**, Hobby Center/Sarofim Hall, 8 p.m.  
**The Lieutenant of Inishmore**, Alley Theatre/Neuhaus Stage, 7:30 p.m.



## PARKERS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the parkers of the month for September and October. Their names were randomly selected by the department director to win a reserved parking space for a month. The September winner was Caitlin Weidig (left), who works at Bank of America. Valencia Fletcher, who works at the Federal Building, was the winner for October.

# Frequently Asked Questions About Parking

**Q** I have a couple of questions and frustrations. Many parkers don't use the Small Tranquillity garage because it's inconvenient to get in and out, and inconvenient to our office. Also, it's frustrating to search for a parking space these days after you leave and return, when in/out privileges and the ability to find a quick parking space should be a big appeal of contract parking. In addition, there seems to be a line to get in every morning recently, specifically at the Capitol Street entrance, and there is a line to get out almost every day regardless of what exit you use. Perhaps you could consider more contract parking only exits and/or entrances.

**A** You are correct that Theater District garages, and in particular, the Civic Center garage (where you prefer to park) fills to capacity by 9:30 a.m. Downtown parking space is at a premium, and we are no longer issuing new contract cards. When the Civic Center garage is full, usually 100 to 150 spaces are available in the Large and Small Tranquillity garages. At 8 a.m., through Entrance No. 1 on Rusk, contract parkers may park in the Civic Center garage and all daily parkers are directed to the Small Tranquillity garage. Logistically, we cannot direct daily parkers from the Texas, Prairie or Capitol entrances to the Tranquillity garage. Anyone entering after 9:30 a.m. most likely will have to park in the Tranquillity garages. Also, if you need to leave and re-enter the garage during the day, try Entrance No. 5 on Capitol, which puts you in the Small Tranquillity garage with access to the Orange Concourse Tunnel. Capitol Entrance No. 4 is the busiest of all seven entrances. Unfortunately, we have no way of speeding up the process of cards being scanned or tickets being pulled. As for exiting of the garage, there is usually no wait at Entrance No. 8 onto Prairie (on the northwest side of the garage).

**Q** What can be done about big oversized cab trucks that stick out or take up two spots? And why are security guards and others allowed to park in the visitors' spaces for the visitors' bureau?

**A** Those large dual cab trucks and Hummers are a problem. When the garage was striped, we didn't take into consideration such large vehicles. While we cannot always control where they park, we can – and do – ticket those types of vehicles when they take up more than one space. As for staff members parking in the visitors' spaces, we will remind the guards of the parking policy and ask them to strictly enforce parking in those spaces. We don't want to lose visitors to this great center.

**Q** How do you pick parker of the month? Is it just drawn from all who have parking contracts or do we have to enter to win?

**A** Here is how it works: each month the director of our department will randomly draw a name from the database of all holders of an access parking card. You do not have to sign up or enter to be a winner. Good luck!

**Q** Why do some "reserved" parking spaces never seem to have a car in them?

**A** All reserved spaces are paid for by someone. What you probably noticed were spaces paid for by the Houston Grand Opera and Houston Ballet. They have several spaces with 24/7 access for their staff members who work days, evenings and weekends, and often remain empty during business hours. The rest are contract parkers entitled to their spaces from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Because these are being paid for, we have no say whether a vehicle is parked there or not.

**Q** As wonderful as the Tranquillity Park garage is, there is one ongoing issue that you may not have the power to control - the fact that transients sometimes use the stairwells as restrooms. The nearest parking garage staffers to whom I reported these incidents were very responsive and committed to notifying management, but I also cringe to think of the poor staffer who has to clean the areas. What can be done?

**A** As you know, Houston's transient population brings challenges to downtown. Unfortunately we cannot post a security guard in every stairwell, but our cleaning staff can check the stairwells first thing in the morning, and security guards will monitor the stairwell more frequently during the night and early morning. We will also talk to our special operations police captain to see if they can assist us.



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

### City Management

Lannie Leshner - 713.236.5760  
Reginald Randolph - 713.236.5760  
FAX - 713.315.4862

### Republic Parking

Curt Jones - 713.236.5775  
FAX - 713.315.4827

### Initial Security

Office - 713.236.5797

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