

# New garage adds **SPACES**

but VUMC looks to lessen parking load

BY WAYNE WOOD



The opening of the completed Central Garage—which fills the gap between the previous VUH and TVC garages—will add 800 parking spaces to the Medical Center and will create a more convenient experience for patients with appointments in The Vanderbilt Clinic, said Gary Streaty, VUMC's director of Parking and Transportation Services.

"People with appointments at TVC will no longer be asked to park in the South Garage," said Streaty, who came to Vanderbilt last summer from UCLA.

Eight hundred parking spaces seem like a lot, but Streaty, along with Ken Browning, director of Plant Services, points out that parking continues to be a costly proposition at the Medical Center and that the new garage helps, but doesn't come close to solving the problem.

"Each new parking space we add costs about \$140 a month, based on garage construction costs, debt service, running the shuttle and other expenses," Browning said, noting that the current cost of parking to most Medical Center employees is far less: an average of \$18 a month. "If we continue down the same path, five years from now the Medical Center will be subsidizing parking nearly three times the current amount, almost \$10 million per year," Browning said. In reality, he said, that likely means that as the costs of parking rise, employees will be asked to pay more in the future than the current rates.

While the growth of the Medical Center means that construction of another garage will probably begin in the next couple of years, Browning said that encouraging employees to car pool or use other mass transit options will remain a priority.



The pedestrian bridge over 21st Avenue South connects The Village at Vanderbilt to the Central Garage, providing a more convenient connection from VUH and TVC.

It is the emphasis on mass transit that led to the change of the department name—from Traffic and Parking to Parking and Transportation Services, Streaty said.

Currently about 450 employees of the Medical Center and University combined take advantage of the free bus rides to work on MTA buses or the subsidized rates on the Music City Star commuter train. Those who want to ride the bus simply get on and swipe their employee ID and ride. Those who want to ride the train can purchase tickets on campus.

"We want to grow that to 2,000 riders a day and the sooner we get there the better it'll be," Browning said, noting that every car that isn't on campus improves air quality, preserves the campus green areas and saves on parking costs (both Vanderbilt's and the employees). It's that reality that leads the Medical Center and University to pay for employees to use mass transit.

"If you don't bring your car to work, we want to encourage you," Browning said.

#### How to save money on commuting

For complete schedule and route information about the bus, visit the MTA Web site at [www.nashvillemta.org](http://www.nashvillemta.org).

Music City Star tickets may be purchased at either of the Vanderbilt Valet offices (D-2100 MCN or the second floor of Children's Hospital) or the East Garage Central Parking Office. The fares are in the chart at the bottom of the page.

You can also save money by becoming a member of a car pool.

**For more information regarding the Medical Center's car pool, van pool, bus and train ride programs, please e-mail [vumcparkingandtransportation@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vumcparkingandtransportation@vanderbilt.edu) or call 963-0686.**

### MUSIC CITY STAR RATES

	RTA	VU	VU	VUMC	VUMC
	Monthly	Monthly	Single	Monthly	Single
Lebanon	\$ 168.00	\$ 131.93	\$ 3.30	\$ 85.93	\$ 2.15
Martha	\$ 160.00	\$ 125.65	\$ 3.14	\$ 79.65	\$ 1.99
Mt. Juliet	\$ 151.00	\$ 118.58	\$ 2.96	\$ 72.58	\$ 1.81
Hermitage	\$ 143.00	\$ 112.30	\$ 2.81	\$ 66.30	\$ 1.66
Donelson	\$ 134.00	\$ 105.23	\$ 2.63	\$ 59.23	\$ 1.48