

IN THE NEWS



The Journal News

Zagat's for cars

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How's this for an impossible goal: trying to make parking in Manhattan hassle-free?

As any Lower Hudson Valley resident who has ever driven in to see the tree in Rockefeller Center knows, there are days when it seems that all 104,768 parking spaces in all 1,113 parking garages in Manhattan are filled. There are days when paying \$33 an hour to park would seem a bargain, more than worth it, in fact, just for the chance to get out of the car. Days when the city's famously threatening signs — “Don't Even think of Parking Here” or “No Standing, No Parking, No Kidding” — seem like an invitation.

To make parking easy in that kind of environment may seem a fool's mission. But it's not. It is practically a publishing genre.

A Larchmont woman, Margot Tohn, recently published “Park It! NYC 2007,” a complete guide to parking garages in Manhattan. The guidebook, as staff writer Alison Bert noted recently, is filled with a collection of fun facts like the number of parking spots and garages, their hours, rates, discounts, and nearby attractions. It even notes the width, slope and length of some ramps that are especially challenging to navigate down or walk up after parking. For a peek, see www.parkitguides.com

But comprehensive as “Park It!” is, it's not the only, or even the first, parking guide for Manhattan.

In 2005, Erik Feder, a freelance editor from Long Beach, Long Island, published a guide to on-street parking. “The Feder Guild to Where to Park your Car in Manhattan (and Where Not to Park It!)” includes street-by-street parking regulations and listings of garages. He now has two editions out, one for downtown and one for midtown/uptown. For a sample see www.federguide.com

But no parking guide could be fool-proof, at least not in a city as notoriously anti-car as New York.

If the authors' parking strategies fail, there is another book that was just published in November that might come in handy. “Beat that Parking Ticket: a Complete Guide for New York City,” by Haskell Nussbaum, a former parking violations judge.

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Park It! Guides

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