

# Shameless Parking

*By Eydie McDaniel*

Ribbons, trophies, or certificates, mark moments of pride here at Windsor Gardens. But the most common and most obvious mark here is: “The White Badge of Shame.”

Hope lives. You can park in your garage without rubbing any paint on your car; without wearing “The White Badge of Shame.”

The relationship between how the front wheels move and how the rear wheels move presents a challenge. Rear wheels follow and pivot according to how the front wheels turn. A simple self taught demonstration will clarify. Park with your rear wheels nestled squarely beside one of our bright yellow posts. Get out and see that turning the front wheels to the opposite side of the post, followed by forward motion would smear your rear fender right into the yellow post. But, turning the front wheel to the same side followed by forward motion would swing that fender away from the bright yellow post. This relationship works with anything you park near, including garage door frames.

Should you find yourself awkwardly protruding from the garage at an extreme angle, don't panic. Just get out and take a look. If your rear axle, the center of the wheel, has passed the doorway edge, get in and turn your steering wheel toward that side so your car's rump will swing away as you slowly move forward. If your rear axle has not passed the doorway and the side is very close to the white frame paint, turn your wheels toward that side and slowly back up about 2 feet. Now stop and look to see how close your front fender and bumper are to the edge, the neighbor's car or the wall. If all is clear, you can wiggle back and forth, while going forward and backward, a foot at a time until, voila! You have your rectangle lined up with the slightly larger, target rectangle. Bravo! Be sure to get in far enough to safely close the door. No need to buy an elaborate electronic gadget that shines a red light at you when perfectly in place. Anyway, The Association frowns on personal use of our community electricity. Your sock drawer holds an easy cheap solution. Just find a lonely old gray work sock and stick a brick in it. When you have achieved a perfect parking position, simply place your homemade gadgets right against a front tire. Then carefully feel contacting it each time you park.

To avoid getting crooked in the first place, it's best to line up before crossing the portal. The distance from the next row of garages or parked cars is big enough for this careful gradual maneuver. Take your time and practice. Ignore any horns or honk back. When squarely lined up, you can happily glide into your space.

Now if you need to hurry because of private personal pressure, stop at the auditorium bathroom before your garage to eliminate it.