



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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BROOKS ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL PARKING FOR WEEKEND ZOO VISITORS

*Free near-by shuttle lot will accommodate expected attendance boost
from the new "A Step Into Africa" exhibit*

County Executive Maggie Brooks today announced that Monroe County will activate its overflow parking lot at 2100 St. Paul Street to accommodate Seneca Park Zoo visitors over the next three weekends. With the highly-anticipated opening of the Zoo's new *A Step Into Africa* exhibit on Thursday, May 17th, peak visitor attendance is expected, especially during the weekends that immediately follow. The exhibit incorporates the Zoo's African elephants, olive baboons and newly arrived lions from South Africa, in naturalistic surroundings with remarkable viewing opportunities.

"With the available parking spaces in our two on-site lots and activation of our overflow lot at 2100 St. Paul Street, visitors to our Zoo will have access to ample parking on the busy weekends following the opening of our exciting new African-themed exhibit area," said **Brooks**. *"In addition, we will be offering free shuttle bus service throughout the day for our visitors who park in the overflow lot."*

Specifically, the overflow lot and free shuttle service to-and-from the Zoo will be available to visitors on May 19th, 20th, 26th, 27th, 28th and June 3rd. The Zoo will be closed on June 2nd for the preparation of the annual Zoobilation fundraising event that evening, which is held each year on the first Saturday in June. The overflow lot is convenient and located less than one mile from the Zoo entrance.

Additionally, the Monroe County Department of Parks announced that lower Seneca Park will be closed to vehicle traffic on May 19th, 20th, 26th, 27th, 28th and June 3rd, as well. Walkers and bicyclists will still be able to access the park as normal.

"In order to prevent damage from haphazard off-road parking by visitors attempting to have quick and easy access to the Zoo, we will be closing the lower Park to vehicles on these dates," said Larry Staub, Director of Parks. *"Our past experience on dates which draw peak visitor attendance at the Zoo confirms that this is a prudent course of action. Preserving the entire Park as a treasured asset for visitors, throughout the year, is an important priority for all of us."*

Monroe County's Seneca Park Zoo welcomes visitors daily. Admission gates are open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visitors are permitted to remain on Zoo grounds until 5:00 p.m.

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