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VIRGINIA



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HPD: Expect Heavy Traffic for JMU Graduation

Harrisonburg, Va. With James Madison University commencement scheduled for May 9th and 10th, the Harrisonburg Police Department reminds citizens to expect significant traffic delays, congestion, and an increase in pedestrian traffic throughout the week. According to JMU officials, approximately 3,600 students will graduate this weekend, and motorists will experience an increase in vehicle and pedestrian activity throughout the commencement period.

"The areas that traditionally see a large increase in traffic volume and congestion will be places the casual motorist will want to avoid," says HPD Traffic Officer Greg Deeds. "Port Republic Road, University Boulevard, Reservoir Street, and South Main Street near the Quad, will be very busy, and, we will probably expect back-ups at the I-81 ramps, and heavy activity along East Market Street around Burgess Road at Harrisonburg Crossing," added Deeds.

Most notably traffic-wise will be the graduation ceremony at 3 pm. on Friday at Bridgeforth Stadium, and Saturday throughout the campus starting at 9 am. HPD, JMU and surrounding agencies will be out in force directing traffic, overseeing graduation parking, and monitoring roads and intersections for congestion issues.

Also a reminder to residents living in restricted parking zone areas in and around JMU, graduation weekend is an exception to permit zone enforcement, so traffic in these neighborhoods will also likely be heavy.

HPD reminds motorists to please be cautious when driving in Harrisonburg this week, and throughout the summer, and as always, drive safely, be alert, and minimize distractions when behind the wheel.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2014!

For more information please visit www.jmu.edu/commencement or tune to AM 1610.