

328 Center St.
Neenah WI, 54956

To: The Director of Public Works
1900 Grand Chute Blvd.
Appleton, WI 54913

Dear Director of Public Works,

Back in the beginning of winter, Jennifer Brahm and myself had requested use of the Washington Street parking ramp for a first-time event. Our event was a car meet by the name of Top Shelf Official Meet. After attending many city council meetings and bringing more information and resources each time, our request to use the ramp on July 26th, 2014 was thankfully approved. From there, we proceeded to make a Facebook event page so as to get the word out about our event and to gather an idea of the amount of people that would attend. The final count of people that had RSVP'd on the page was 993. We weren't expecting it to be something that so many people would be excited about. Knowing we would have limited space, Jennifer and I counted the spots in the portion of the ramp we were allowed for our meet. We counted 400 with just a little more left over. We announced on the Facebook page that we were limited to 400 spaces, along with the fact that we would have two DJ's, five vendors, raffles and wristbands from Luna and Brau Haus, gift certificates from Timeless Tattoos, and Jimmy John's even supplied free subs along with a few more gift cards to raffle off. We also asked for event goers to bring canned goods and non-perishables for us to donate to the local food pantry.

The responses we received on the Facebook event page were astounding! Many people were looking forward to having a car meet in such a unique place, and it even got the attention of people from as far as two to three hours away. We weren't quite sure what to expect on the day of the event, but it all went very smooth: in the morning, we set up the vendors and DJ's, we put out boxes for food donations, and dispersed garbage cans throughout the section of the ramp we were given. Then around 3:00, people started showing up. The time of our highest volume was around 6:00 and we had more than 400 cars come out to the event with even more attendants that rode in the cars or didn't park their cars in the meet. Throughout the day, we received many food donations, we saw quite a few attendants walking around with food from restaurants located on College Avenue, and mostly everybody was being very respectful and throwing their garbage in the bins we had provided throughout the event.

The feedback throughout the day was astonishing! We were being congratulated left and right for our success on such a phenomenal event. Everybody was having a good time, and we heard many times that it had been the best meet people have gone to all summer. They loved the idea that it was in a ramp, as well as the fact that we had DJ's, vendors, and it was so close to many different styles of restaurants.

The food donations also brought to people's attentions that we care about our community and we want to help. Since the meet, we've been asked to help with charities for child starvation, as well as a car meet in a different location who's proceeds will go to supporting cancer patients, survivors, and the families of the people we have lost to cancer. Our meet seems to have opened more doors than we had ever thought it might, and we hope to continue to be invited to participate in events such as the ones we had been asked.

All-in-all, the first Top Shelf Official Meet was a very successful one. We had many people exclaiming that they wanted us to put on another meet the next month! We won't be having another Top Shelf meet so soon, but we do hope to have another during the summer of 2015 as this one was such a success and we have heard from many people that they plan to attend next year, and many people who did not attend have also told us that they will be attending next year. Top Shelf seems as though it has the potential to grow into something very successful, and we sincerely hope for this to be the case.

In conclusion, Jennifer Brahm and I just want to say thank you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for allowing us to use the ramp for our first Official Top Shelf Meet. The outcome was better than we had expected, and we sincerely hope we will be able to have the meet in the Washington Street parking ramp again next summer.

Sincerely,

Lydia Schmalz and Jennifer Brahm