

Former Macy's parking garage will get a facelift with new management

BY LAINIE MAZZULLO

Claims of mismanagement have brought a change in the operation of the former Macy's parking garage at the corner of Market and William. Standard Parking, a Kansas City-based management firm, managed the garage for four years. Before that it was run by Weigand-Omega Management Inc. On Dec. 31, Standard Parking ended its contract, and Weigand-Omega again took over.

Standard Parking also manages the Bank of America Center garage at Douglas and Broadway and the Broadway Auto Park garage and First and Broadway.

The Market and William garage is used by businesses in several area buildings, including the Finney State Office Building, Sutton Place and 110 S. Main, including the Wichita Business Journal.

While officials with Standard Parking and Weigand-Omega say that maintenance and security in the garage has fallen off in the past few years, they disagree on why.

Weigand-Omega Management Inc.
Address: 333 S. Broadway, Wichita, Kan., 67202.
Phone: (316) 263-2215.



Wattenbarger

But Ray Wattenbarger, Weigand-Omega's regional property manager, says it was up to Standard Parking to take care of maintenance. He says he was asked by the building owners to take it over.

Bismarck Brackett, owner of Main and Market LLC, could not be reached for comment.

Wattenbarger says something needed to change in the garage, which consistently has blown light bulbs, broken gates and crumbling concrete. He says he will replace lights and do light renovations. He also says there's a possibility that he will put an attendant at the gate instead of the scanning device that's used now.

"You'll see a big difference," he says. "It's not the quality we want in a parking garage."

John Adams, vice president for business relations at Visual Solutions & Design Concepts, located at 110 S. Main, says he's happy to have a garage to park in, but is glad to hear that its maintenance might improve.

"I'll be pleased when there's not urine in the elevators, broken lightbulbs and when it's not a total embarrassment to have a client in there," Adams says. "It definitely could use some improvement."

Merrilyn Schulz, facility manager for Standard Parking in Wichita, says the property owner — Main and Market LLC — didn't spend the necessary time and money on upkeep of the building.

"As far as I'm concerned, the thing needs to be exploded down," she says.

But Ray Wattenbarger,

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