

# BAR CODE



# IMPROVES RESIDENT Parking

**B**ar-code technology is making parking lot management easier for apartment communities' onsite operations and safer for residents. Milestone Management discovered this by installing a bar-code system at one of its newer properties, Parkside @So7 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The programmable bar-code sticker, which adheres near the windshield inside the car, is scanned upon passing through an entry-gate booth.

The stickers cost Milestone \$5.15 apiece and are issued to residents at their time of leasing.

This system keeps unwanted cars, such as those driven by non-residents, out of what could become a crowded lot.

"If we suspect that someone followed a resident's car into the lot, we can know right away based on whether they have the sticker," Jodi Spurrell, CAPS, Senior Regional Manager, Milestone Management, Arlington, Texas, says. "If they don't, we can tow them right away."

Spurrell says another benefit to the bar codes is that they don't have the name of the community written on them, and the property manager doesn't have to collect them when residents move out.

Spurrell says that a few residents commented that they did not like having the sticker on their window. "We just explained to them that there are safety benefits to including it," she says.

Milestone hired Austin-based Compound Security to install the system. They are more easily constructed and more affordable when incorporated with new development, but they can work with a retro-fit or renovation project.

The market price for the bar-code reading device is \$8,500 to \$12,000, depending on the property's infrastructure or design. Additional costs could come from needing to dig the existing pavement or repositioning landscaping to fit the machine.

Again, it depends on the location of the wiring infrastructure and where it needs to be installed, Compound Security says. Costs for a standard, 24-foot private pathway construction or relocating conduit/cabling through private pathways could run between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The type of driveway also could play into the overall construction cost. ■■

—Paul R. Bergeron III, NAA

