

7. Communauto Flex car sharing. (February, 2023, Informer)



MOWEST WELCOMES COMMUNAUTO FLEX CAR SHARING

I'm pleased to announce that the car sharing service, **Communauto**, is extending its "Flex" service into MoWest making it much more attractive for residents to start car sharing!

What does Communauto offer?

Communauto offers two types of service: reserved vehicles (that must be picked up and dropped off at a fixed location) and Flex vehicles (which require no reservation and can be picked up anywhere and dropped off anywhere within the company's service area). Up to now, Communauto has only had two spots for reserved vehicles in the Westminster public parking lot. And these spots served our 100 local members. Now that we are part of their "Flex zone" residents will have much more access to vehicles and more leeway in how they use them.



Why use Communauto?

Most MoWesters who currently use the service do so in lieu of owning a car, or purchasing an additional family car. It's certainly a lot more economical and sustainable for those who don't have a daily commute, but still want the convenience of a car occasionally.

Communauto has several levels of membership. For the very occasional user their "Liberte" plans do not require a membership fee. For regular users, their "Econometique" plans require a membership fee and security deposit but offer quite moderate rates per hour (or \$/km) – certainly cheaper than owning a car.

Under the Flex system, MoWest users are now able to pick up a car steps

from their location, use it to run errands, etc., and leave it in Town – ready for the next person to use it.

The Flex cars must adhere to all local parking regulations but will be given dispensation from our overnight and four hour parking limitations.

Think you might want to give it a try? They have over 1000 designated Flex vehicles to take you where you want to go. Check out their website: <https://montreal.communauto.com/how-it-works/?lang=en>

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8. Council meetings & Councillors. Councillors on social media. (February, 2024, Informer)

CONTACT US



One of the nice things about living in a small town is the access residents have to the high-level managers providing services and local elected officials. Personally, I probably do half my job chatting with people about their concerns while walking the dog around town or during recreation events and frequently in my aquafit or exercise classes. Like all my fellow council members, I'm very accessible.

But one place you're not likely to engage managers and council members is via social media. Unfortunately, this realm, while handy to relate simple factual info, is generally not the place for conversations about complex issues. The discourse often rewards sound bites over nuanced sentiment. It becomes a forum for cheer leading or outrage with little to anchor these heightened feelings – beyond a previous incendiary comment.

Some council members, myself included, do occasionally weigh in briefly on online discussions, when setting the record straight can be done simply to avoid the spread of misinformation.

But I want to urge you to take full advantage of your residency in MoWest. Contact us directly via email or the Town website. Come to a council meeting. Stop us on the street. We're not in these jobs for the glamour. We're in these jobs to listen, to inform and to ensure – to the best of our ability – that the Town is well run.