

New Capitola parking lot will open Friday

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CAPITOLA — The city's first public parking lot in Capitola Village will open Friday morning.

The 232-space lot is behind City Hall on the upper level of what formerly was Pacific Cove Mobile Home Park. It's a short walk from downtown Capitola.

The city purchased the 83-space mobile home park last October for \$1.5 million, and has been buying coaches and relocating residents from the upper level of the park to the lower level ever since. City Manager Steve Burrell estimated that the city spent some \$2.2 million.

The lot's hours will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, including holidays. The 232 spaces will be metered — with the same 50-cents per hour rate that is now charged for on-street parking in downtown Capitola.

The difference between the new lot parking and on-street parking, however, will be the no-restricted time limit in the new lot. The lot will have 12-hour meters, meaning motorists arriving at 8 a.m. may feed the meters for the entire day. On-street meters in the village have a two-hour limit.

The no-restricted meters open the lot to visitors who spend the entire day in Capitola.

Entrance to the lot will be from both Capitola and Monterey avenues. Motorists must exit from Monterey Avenue, where a new four-way stop will be installed.

Public Works Director Larry Perlin said the restricted exit will encourage motorists to return to Highway 1 on Park Avenue, which is more desirable than the already-busy Bay Avenue interchange.

Two pedestrian paths from the lot down onto Capitola Avenue still needs to be completed, said Perlin.

One path will traverse the hillside adjacent to City Hall, coming out around the Capitola Mu-

seum. The other, which will be handicapped accessible, will lead to the elevators on the second floor of City Hall. The pathways are expected to be completed within three months, added Perlin.

The city paid some \$300,000 to construct the lot, said Burrell. Another \$300,000 was used to buy coaches and relocate park residents, and \$40,000 to build the pedestrian pathways.

Capitola Village merchants are contributing \$25,000 a year for the next 10 to 15 years in the form of parking fees. An owner of a 1,000-square-foot business will pay \$210 a year.