

Free parking ends Monday in Capitola Village

Pay parking goes into effect in Capitola Village Monday.

Code enforcement officers will begin issuing citations to anyone who parks a car in the commercial areas of Capitola if they don't first buy a parking "ticket" from one of nine vending machines located throughout the Village, or who parks in the Village for longer than two hours.

The city's code enforcement officers — the "quad squad" — have been passing out informational leaflets to Village parkers, explaining the new program.

But on Monday, said deputy police chief Tom Hanna, the code enforcement officers will be issuing real tickets to violators.

It will cost 50 cents an hour to park in the Village from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets authorizing a car to be parked in the pay parking areas will show the day, date and the time the ticket is good to. The pay parking zone includes Capitola Avenue from Blue Gum to Monterey Avenue, all of the Esplanade, Stockton Avenue from Capitola Avenue to bridge, Monterey Avenue from the Esplanade to Park Place, and the City Hall parking lot.

San Jose Avenue is not in the

pay parking area.

Village residents with parking stickers will still be able to park in their neighborhoods.

Hanna said, without fear of being cited.

The pay parking program is the cornerstone of an ambitious city council program to alleviate the village's chronic parking problem by the purchase of the Pacific Cove Mobile Home Park and the eventual conversion of a portion of the park to a 200-space Village parking lot, the purchase of 4.65 acres on McGregor Drive near the entrance to New Brighton Beach state park for use as a Village shuttle bus parking lot, and the continued operation of the shuttle bus.

The City Council decided to purchase the centralized parking banks instead of individual parking meters at each parking stall to settle a long-standing controversy over the aesthetics of the conventional parking meters.

The European-made "parking banks" cost approximately \$10,000 each.