

VCF CABRILLO 1990-

# Cabrillo begins charging visitors for parking at Aptos campus lots

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Visitors to Cabrillo College be forewarned: Starting next week it's going to cost you \$1 to park on campus.

Declining revenues and increased maintenance costs have forced Cabrillo officials to start charging visitors a parking fee at all eight student-parking lots. It is the first time the college has charged for visitor parking, said John Barker, campus chief of police. Another seven parking lots are designated for staff and neither students nor visitors are allowed on these lots.

A ticket machine will be placed at each of the eight student-parking lots, Barker said. Visitors will be able to purchase a ticket from the machines and place it on the dash of the cars. The ticket is good for the entire day.

Cost of the machines and postings signs alerting drivers of the new fee will be around \$19,000, Barker said. But he hopes the machines will be able to pay for themselves in about two years.

The state, Barker said, doesn't provide community colleges funds for parking-lot maintenance. These funds must come from student fees.

Cabrillo students must pay a mandatory parking fee of \$17.50 if they are taking less than six units or \$35 for those taking more than six units.

Barker said many drivers use the parking lot but don't pay. The new fee is a way for these drivers to "share" in the cost of maintaining the parking lots, he said.

Some of the parking lots, Barker said, have needed upkeep for quite some time, but there has been no money to make these repairs. Some lots, he said, "are starting to turn into fields."

Barker hopes the new parking fees will not reduce the number of people coming to Cabrillo to make inquiries about the school. He said special machines will be installed in the visitors' parking lot, which is by the campus library. Drivers will be able to park in that lot for as short a period as half an hour for only 25 cents.

The police department will continue to issue special visitor parking passes, Barker said. But these free passes will be issued mostly to those who have official business at the college. In the past, the police department has issued between six to eight of these passes daily upon request.

Barker said other area community colleges have had a similar visitor-parking fee systems in place for years.

At Hartnell College in Salinas, all students, regardless of the amount of units they are taking, pay \$25 per semester for on-campus parking.

Hartnell has seven ticket machines and parking is 50 cents a day.

At Monterey Peninsula College, all students pay a mandatory parking fee of \$30 for semester. Daily parking is 75 cents.