

Neighborhood permit parking approved by Capitola Council

CAPITOLA — An expanded neighborhood parking permit area was given final approval by the City Council Thursday night, in anticipation of parking problems in areas close to downtown once pay parking is instituted next month.

The new permit-parking-only zones involve portions of the Jewel Box neighborhood, Riverview Terrace and Fanmar Way. Depot Hill neighborhoods had already been included in the plan. (See shaded portions of map at right for affected neighborhoods.)

Public parking will be prohibited on

certain streets in those neighborhoods on weekends and holidays. Only residents or visitors with special permits will be allowed to park on streets there between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The restrictions are expected to get under way by Aug. 1. Pay parking will be charged beginning in mid-August, and visitors are expected to flood residential neighborhoods close to the village looking for free parking. Residents will be issued free permits, which will allow them to park their cars in front of their homes. Any vehicles without permits displayed on

windshields will be ticketed.

Council members reiterated that the permit parking program was only experimental. It will run through Sept. 15.

City Manager Steve Burrell noted permit zones may be expanded "depending on what problems occur where."

At one point, Councilman Bob Bucher joked that the city is getting so crowded with visitors on weekends that they should extend the permit parking zone citywide. "Nobody could get off the freeway without a permit," he joked.