

Mixed reaction to pay parking

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Pay parking went into effect Monday in Capitola Village.

Reaction seemed to be mixed.

Village streets, normally filled with parked cars during the breakfast and mid-morning hours, were nearly empty until the noon lunch hour.

The Village did fill up for the luncheon trade.

The Capitola Beach, a favorite destination for sun lovers, was nearly deserted Monday morning despite a warm sun and cool breezes. A half dozen sunbathers found a hoard of seagulls to be the only ones wanting to share the sand with them Monday morning.

Employees in Village stores kept their cars off the street, parking in the Capitola Theatre parking lot.

Most people who did park in the Village paid 50 cents an hour without much protest and seemed to regard the experience of purchasing a "parking ticket" an interesting novelty.

Others, however, questioned the necessity for the city to install the computerized parking meters.

E.M. Beaty of Capitola, for example, asked why the city hadn't installed parking meters in front of each parking space, and why the city needed the additional parking that revenue from the meters will allow the city to buy?

Some 40 others chose to ignore the signs Monday and not buy the 50-cent-an-hour

tickets. They were issued \$12 citations by the city's code enforcement officers.

Pay parking is in force in Capitola Village, seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Code enforcement officers will be enforcing both the pay-to-park and a two-hour parking limit.

Streets inside the pay-to-park zone include: Capitola Avenue from Monterey to Blue Gum Avenue; San Jose Avenue between Capitola Avenue and the Esplanade, Monterey Avenue from the Esplanade to Park Place, Stockton Avenue from Capitola Avenue to the creek, The Esplanade and City Hall parking lot.

(The Green Sheet reported erroneous information provided by the Capitola police department last week that San Jose Avenue was not inside the pay-to-park zone and that pay parking would not be enforced until 9 a.m. each morning.)

Village residents with the green Capitola Village parking stickers on their cars will be allowed to park in the Village without paying.

Parking restrictions on Depot Hill, the Jewel Box, Fanmar Terrace and the Beulah-Pilgrim tract will remain in effect on weekends until Jan. 1.

The council directed City Manager Steve Burrell to prepare a report for the council on the cost of the neighborhood parking enforcement program.