

Council to mull future of pay parking in Village

Plans to relocate several of the controversial parking banks in Capitola Village will be presented Thursday night to the Capitola City Council.

The council will be discussing the future of the Village pay-to-park system Thursday night.

City Manager Steve Burrell said Tuesday morning that architect Richard Petersen, who designed the Capitola Esplanade park, was still working on the plans.

The council ordered the parking meters turned off Nov. 15 to provide free parking for Village merchants. The computerized parking meters are now scheduled to be turned on again Jan. 1.

The council will also be asked approve an agreement with the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District to jointly develop the 4.65 acre McGregor Drive property purchased last fall by the city.

The transit district has a \$220,000 federal grant to develop a Park-and-Ride parking lot in the Capitola area.

Burrell said Tuesday that a survey and preliminary devel-

opment plans are now being prepared by the city's engineers, Bowman and Williams of Santa Cruz. But the city still needs to prepare an environmental assessment on the project and obtain permission from the state Coastal Commission for the project.

Burrell believes the parking lot can be open to the public in May if all approvals are obtained this winter.

With the transit district participating in the construction of the lot, year-round shuttle bus service between Capitola Village and the lot would be provided, allowing Village merchants and their employees to park outside the heavily congested Village area.

The City Council also will hold five public hearings Thursday night. The hearings include:

- ✓ An appeal by the city council of the Planning Commission's approval of a permit to remove a large pine tree at 404 Monterey Ave.

- ✓ A public hearing on a proposal to build curbs and gutters on eight lots in the Jewel Box-Fairview Drive tract. The lots are located at 1580 45th Ave., 4530 Crystal St., 4610 Crystal St., 4550 Crystal St., 4575 Crystal St., 4595 Crystal St., 4705 Emerald St. and 4775 Emerald St.

- ✓ Approval of a "Street-scape" plan for the 1500 block of Wharf Road leading to the Capitola Wharf. The project calls for widening sidewalks approaching the wharf, the creation of new pedestrian crossings and new landscaping and street trees.

Construction would start in late spring.

- ✓ The rezoning of a 1.3 acre parcel on the northeast corner of Brommer Street and 38th Avenue from Community Commercial (CC) to high density multiple family residential (RM-H) that would allow 20 units per acre. A group of investors, represented by architect Doug Messini, say they want to build 21 apartments on the land — a density of 15 units per acre.

- ✓ A public hearing on the proposal to repeal an ordinance regulating street vending in the Village.