

# Here are some tips if you park downtown

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Finding a parking space in the core of the downtown

**Rapid City** business district isn't easy.

The 600 and 700 blocks of Main and St. Joseph streets are where most parking tickets are issued, parking-enforcement officers said. Street-level businesses and clients compete with employees and business patrons of second-floor offices for limited spaces.

If that is your destination, it is easier to park on a side street or a few blocks away and walk than to try to find a parking spot near the business.

■ Rapid City welcomes people traveling in recreational vehicles. Law enforcement officers encourage RVers visiting downtown to park on the edge of the core area, such as First and Second streets or other side streets, Lt. Dick Gilbert of the Rapid City Police Department said. RV drivers have to pay for parking meters at each space they use.

■ If your car breaks down and can't be started and moved, the city will give you some leeway if you contact police with the license-plate number, the make of car and where it is parked. Then,

make arrangements to move the vehicle as soon as possible, Mike Booher, assistant city attorney, said.

■ If you disagree with a parking ticket, don't just avoid paying it. Booher conducts sessions on parking disputes on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. If a person shows up for a hearing, any late fees for the ticket are waived.

■ If you think a parking meter is running fast, raise that issue with the city attorney's office. They will have the meter checked, and if it is malfunctioning will waive the parking fine.

■ Construction workers can get a temporary permit so they can keep equipment and tools near the work site. The temporary permit is available from the police department's traffic division in the basement of the Public Safety Building. There is a minimal fee for the permit, parking officials said.

■ Drivers of extended-cab pickups that stick out into the street can pull the front wheels up on the sidewalk along wider downtown sidewalks.

Otherwise, the rear of the truck can block the lane and cause traffic backups, parking-enforcement officers said, and can result in a ticket for blocking traffic.