

City aims at downtown car-shuffling

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By Paulette Tobin
Journal Staff Writer

The Rapid City Common Council approved a law Monday night that is intended to open up more parking spots for downtown shoppers. It will take effect this fall.

The downtown parking ordinance is aimed at people who get around the two-hour parking limit by moving their vehicles a few parking stalls down the street every two hours.

The ordinance prohibits parking on either side of the street within the same city block for more than two hours continuously. Continuous parking is defined as parking not interrupted by more than 30 consecutive minutes.

That means if you are parked in the block in front of — for instance — the Rapid City Journal, you must move your vehicle after two hours. You cannot repark your vehicle anywhere

else on either side of the block in front of the Journal until at least 30 minutes have passed.

That rule will apply between 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. (The ordinance will not be in effect on Sundays or holidays.)

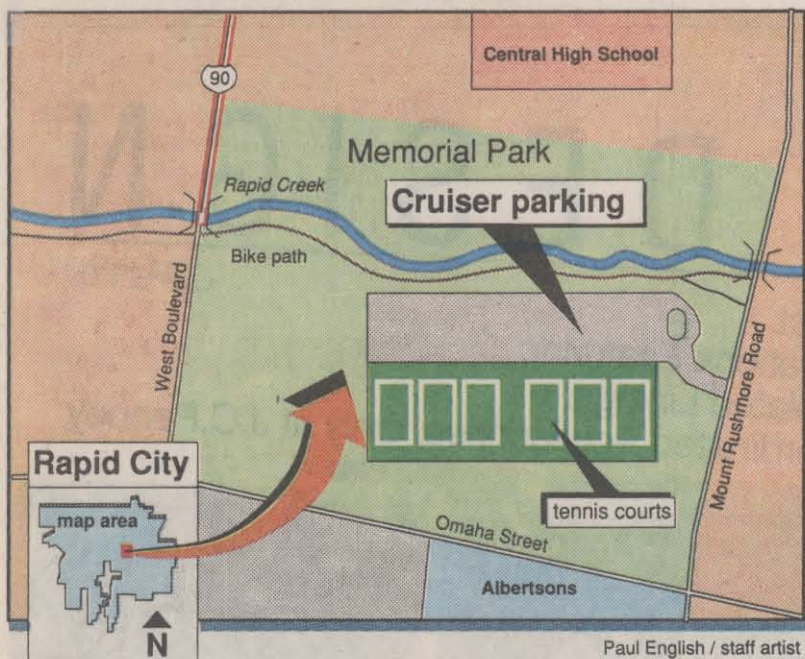
Other provisions of the new parking ordinance:

■ If you don't pay your parking tickets and a warrant is issued, you can be fined from \$15 to \$50. The amount of the fine previously was \$5 to \$15.

■ If you have five or more outstanding parking tickets, the city can put a mechanical "boot" on your car to prevent you from driving it. Currently, the city can't boot a car unless there are 10 outstanding tickets.

■ To have the boot removed, you must pay all outstanding tickets, plus a \$35 boot charge.

The new ordinance takes effect 20 days after it is published in the Journal, which should make it about the end of September.



Don't cruise it, park it: Rapid City will open this parking lot near the tennis courts in Memorial Park to cruisers who like to drive up and down Mount Rushmore Road. The city wants to encourage cruisers to stay out of residential neighborhoods where the noise and activity of cruising upsets homeowners. Assistant City Attorney Kent Hagg said the city would keep Memorial Park open to midnight, and would allow "garage bands," vendors and other activities in the parking lot for the cruisers. Call Hagg at the attorney's office, 394-4140, with any questions.