

# Off-delayed parking lots get top priority

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City engineer Jerry Foster said parking lots topped his list of Rapid City municipal construction projects for 1987.

With a note of relief in his voice, Foster said that the much-delayed downtown parking lot at St. Joseph and Sixth streets would be completed this spring.

The lot originally was delayed by a debate over whether to build a parking garage or surface parking. Then a court fight over land acquisition held up construction. Finally, nature played one last, cruel joke in the form of an early snowstorm that halted construction.

The city was able to open half the unpaved lot this winter. Early this spring, contractors will complete the \$171,000 project.

The half-percent sales tax approved by voters in 1984 will pay for the lot. (Since 1985 the city has spent approximately \$1 million on downtown parking, most of it in land acquisition.)

When complete, the block-long parking lot will provide 70 leased spaces. The Alex Johnson Hotel will lease another 29 spaces. At the west end of the lot, 43 metered spaces will provide two- and four-hour parking for 25 cents per two hours.

As of early February, work was continuing on the new Rushmore Plaza Civic Center parking lot at New York and Fifth streets.

The 500-car lot will cost \$198,000. Lighting is expected to cost another \$47,000.

The city will install a street light at

New York and Fifth streets to help pedestrians get to and from the civic center and to aid in traffic control after civic center events. Access to the new lot will be from New York Street.

Cost of the street light: \$55,000.

Foster said the new lot also would

●Turning lanes will be constructed at the intersection of Sheridan Lake Road and Canyon Lake Drive, to the relief of west side, rush-hour motorists. Cost: \$20,000.

●Water system improvements for southwest Rapid City will cost about \$650,000. They will include construc-

tion of a reservoir near Westview Estates and water lines from Park Ridge subdivision to Corral Drive.

●Expansion of the Girl Scout Water Gallery, a system of shallow wells that provide water to Rapid City, will cost approximately \$350,000.

●An airport water line from St. Patrick Street to Longview Drive will

be constructed during the reconstruction of Highway 44. Cost: \$300,000.

Foster said the city also was hoping for a late fall bid on phase one of a project to rebuild Sheridan Lake Road.

The first phase would include about 2,000 feet of highway near Arrowhead Country Club, including a dangerous curve just west of the club. Money for the project would come from the state's High Hazard Road Fund.

Looking back on 1986, Foster said there were no major road construction projects in Rapid City — at least none comparable to the LaCrosse Street and St. Patrick Street projects of 1985.

The city did reconstruct Sedivy Lane from Highway 44 to St. Patrick Street.

The city also completed a \$1-million Robbinsdale interceptor sewer line that connects much of south Rapid City directly with the wastewater treatment plant. The line bypasses two pumping stations.

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*The long-delayed downtown parking lot at St. Joseph and Sixth streets should be completed this spring. The lot was delayed first by a debate over the merits of parking garage vs. surface parking, then by a court fight over land acquisition, and finally, by an early snowstorm that halted construction.*

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sport a couple of basketball hoops and benches along the south side for bike path users.

The big street project for 1987 is the reconstruction of Haines Avenue from Interstate 90 to Anamosa Street.

The \$1.3 million project is under way now and should be complete by October, Foster said. Meanwhile, traffic on part of Haines Avenue will be rerouted east to Wood Avenue.

Also in 1987:

●An executive, 9-hole golf course north of the bike path and east of Black Hills Packing Company will open June 15.

The city constructed the course, which was paid for by user fees from Meadowbrook Golf course. The course earns its "executive" designation by virtue of two par-four holes.

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