

RV parking enforcement may be having an impact

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A dramatic reduction in the number of RVs and unhitched trailers on downtown streets near Crescent City's waterfront suggests stepped-up enforcement of new parking regulations is having an impact.

The city enacted an ordinance in July that bans unhitched trailers entirely. In addition, it limits parking to a maximum of eight hours for oversized vehicles exceeding 22 feet, or that are 7 feet tall and 7 feet wide.

"We don't expect to cite a lot (of violators) because the community will be responsive once they're aware of this," Chief of Police Ivan Minsal told the City Council on Aug. 19.

"Some of the folks will have to make arrangements for larger vehicles for storage. We've reached out over the last six or eight weeks to folks with large RVs that this was coming and to start preparing for it."

New signage has gone up on Howe Drive along Beachfront Park, and on B Street along the dirt culvert areas, Minsal said.

As for documenting the illegally parked vehicles, said Minsal, "A couple of court cases have said don't physically touch vehicles. So there will be no more chalking of tires like in the old days."

Instead, officers will use measuring tapes, digital cameras and their cell phones to document violations before leaving a warning notice.

Forms will be filed in the department's case-management system to track repeat offenders and chronic complainers "so we have better ways to serve the public and advise those people in violation of parking ordinances," he said.