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MANITOU SPRINGS IMPLEMENTS PARKING MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR PROGRAM

MANITOU SPRINGS (June 4, 2018) - The City of Manitou Springs and parking management company SP+ are rolling out a program that will put Parking Coordinators at public lots starting on Friday, June 8.

The program is an effort to reduce traffic congestion and visitor frustration related to find a parking space during the busiest times of the summer season. Coordinators will provide assistance to visitors and monitor the capacity of each lot from 10am to 4pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer. Information communicated by radio to a manager, will update variable message boards stationed at critical points in the City and the new parking website, also being launched Friday. The signs and website information will help direct visitors to available parking and reduce time spent circling and looking for a place to put their vehicle.

Manitou Springs' Transportation and Parking Board spent several months looking at parking identification technology to automate the search for available parking spaces. However, due to implementation costs and the seasonal nature of the highest demand for public parking, SP+ instead proposed hiring people to be at each lot. The Metropolitan Parking District, which owns the Wichita Lot (708 Manitou Avenue) and the Smischny Lot (1134 Manitou Avenue), already hires its own seasonal attendants and will participate in the data collection system being put in place. The SP+ Parking Coordinators will, at a much lower cost than installing technology, gather and communicate lot data and help visitors with everything from how to use the payment kiosks to what's going on in town that day. Higher tech may be in the City's future, but for now Manitou Springs City Council unanimously backed the idea to provide a more personal touch to parking.

In addition to putting Parking Coordinators in place, SP+ has also been working on a new website serving the City's parking and transportation needs. ParkManitou.com will be available starting June 8 as well, but won't be completely finished for several months as information is added and refined, particularly regarding alternative modes of transportation, just as biking and walking.

The SP+ Parking Coordinators will be at Manitou Springs parking lots starting at 10am on June 8 and will have free coffee and donuts for visitors that morning. Look for the SP+ tents and people in the tie-dyed t-shirts!

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SP+ is a national corporation that specializes in parking management and has operated Manitou Springs' paid parking program for the last five years.