

Aptos sheriff's center ready to open

By DONNA KIMURA

Sentinel staff writer

APTOS — Sheriff's deputies will have closer ties to Aptos when a community service center opens in town next week.

Sgt. Dave Deverell said he expects to soon move into the center at 7000 Soquel Drive, Suite 7. It is just south of the Aptos/La Selva Fire Protection District station.

It is the third community office in Sheriff Mark Tracy's program of getting into the neighborhoods patrolled by his department. The Sheriff's Office wide-ranging jurisdiction spreads from Davenport on the North Coast to Corralitos in the south.

Deverell, a Mid-County resident, will command the Aptos center.

"Our goal isn't just to give them law enforcement in a can," Dever-

ell said. "We're hoping to customize our services to the needs of our community."

The center will be open to take some crime reports, provide information about crime prevention and neighborhood watch programs and to provide referral services.

Deverell said he expects the center's role in Aptos to evolve over time. Initially, the hours of operation will be flexible.

"All of the communities have slightly different dynamics," he said. "Our goal is to meet the needs of community we put the centers in."

Service centers are established in San Lorenzo Valley and Freedom. The Live Oak center is in a temporary location.

Abandoned vehicles and graffiti

seem to be common neighborhood problems that the centers have tried to solve, according to Deverell.

In addition to Deverell, a 20-year veteran of the force, the center will rely on volunteers to help staff the office. The department is still looking for volunteer assistance.

Residents and businesses have donated funds to pay for the rent through the current budget year, ending in June. They then hope the center will be funded in the 1996-97 county budget.

The center, 7000 Soquel Drive, Suite 7, Aptos is expected to open during the first week of March. The phone number is 662-0690. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for April 24 between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.