

Aptos chamber honors nine in village cleanup

APTOS — Nine volunteers were honored Thursday for their efforts to spruce up Aptos Village.

All have been volunteering with the Aptos Village Project, an effort to clean and beautify the historic village.

"These are people who gave their time, their energy and their money to makes Aptos Village a much better-looking place," said Karen Hibble, the Chamber of Commerce director.

Presented with awards at the Aptos chamber's monthly breakfast meeting were: Gwen Kaplan; David Urbanic; Don Griffin; Walt Symons; Jack Metzger; Jim Hamlin; Stevie Westman; Michael Arnone; Nigel Belton; and members of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce.

Since September, the volunteers have been cutting weeds, hauling

trash, removing outdated signs, painting, pruning trees and negotiating with Southern Pacific to remove a set of abandoned railroad tracks.

Southern Pacific has given the Village Project permission to remove the old tracks, but the group will have to provide its own labor for the hefty job, said Hibble. The project needs more volunteers to help move the track, some of which will be used in a future landscaping project. The project also needs wildflower seeds for a planned spring planting. Meanwhile, the chamber announced its plans to sponsor the village's first official Christmas tree at the entrance to Aptos Creek Park. The tree will be decorated and illuminated some time after Thanksgiving, said Hibble. Chamber members raised \$100 toward the purchase of lights for the tree.