

County News

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

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Public input urged at forum

Tomorrow night's meeting of the Aptos Urban Design Committee is the last scheduled "community forum" before the study will be finalized.

Members of the community wishing to voice concerns or make suggestions are urged to attend the meeting, which will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Room 514 of the Business Building at Cabrillo College. (Use parking lot E, F, or G.)

Consultant Richard Peterson, who has been working closely with the Committee in preparing the final study, says now is the time for citizen input, while there's still time to make some modifications.

Peterson's presentation tomorrow will be a refinement of a land use pattern for the village itself, with a restatement of the traffic/pedestrian circulation system already proposed.

Only one, or possibly two, meetings of the Committee with Peterson are scheduled before the report is to be issued in its final form.

Aptos Board concludes 'we need better P.R.' --Community agrees

Many of the people present at the Aptos Fire District's meeting last week agreed that Aptos has an efficient, well-trained fire department.

And almost everybody, including the Fire Board, concluded they need improvement in their public relations.

The need for improvement came suddenly to the surface when a team of firemen led by Fire Captain Bob Thompson invaded the cloistered area of the Poor Clares convent while making a safety inspection.

This entrance into what the sisters consider their private home and the changes requested by the fire department as a result of the inspection, including discontinuing the use of lighted candles in their processions, brought the Aptos community out in numbers to the fire district meeting not witnessed in years.

Objection to the newly adopted fire code was also an issue, some feeling it is overly strict. Members of the

board pointed out that the adoption of the code had been done properly with duly noticed public hearings, and that the complete fire code had been published in the newspaper at the fire district's expense and had brought little comment at the time.

The largest number of objections came, however, to the manner in which the new code is being enforced. Former Fire Board candidate O'Brian Riordan summed up "I find the Chief professional, but personally abrasive."

Candidate for the Aptos Supervisorial seat Glenn

Specht termed the department's action "rude" and proclaimed "they wouldn't force their way into my house."

Caretaker Charlie Brown of Poor Clares explained it would be breaking their vows for the sisters to appear at the meeting, and it is not in the nature of their order to protest the intrusion, when it happened, or after the fact.

Brown stated that the event was "a serious violation of the cloistered order. We can't have four or five inspections a year of a convent."