

Aptos Neighbors honors good works

APTOS — The Hospice Caring Project and Aptos Center were honored with the Aptos Neighbors Association's first community spirit awards Wednesday night.

The awards were presented by association Chairman Peter Smithey as part of the organization's continuing efforts to "promote a stronger sense of community."

Smithey said, "We want to recognize important contributions to physical and social-cultural enhancement in the Aptos community."

The Hospice Caring Project, which is based in Aptos at 6851 Soquel Drive, won in the social-cultural enhancement award. The newly renovated Aptos Center at Soquel and State Park drives was honored for physically enhancing the area.

The Hospice Caring Project helps terminally ill patients and their families. At any one time, up to 30 patients and their families are being served by the local agency, said administrator Joann Siemsen.

The hospice movement, which originated in England, now has more than 1,500 locations in every state, Siemsen said. The project provides help and support for those in the last stages of incurable diseases, such as cancer and AIDS, so they can live as fully and comfortably as possible.

The 26,000-square-foot Aptos Center was renovated and expanded last year by the Lomak Property Group in Capitola. Main tenants include Kelly's French Bakery and Continental Delicatessen and Cheese.

Doug Kaplan, one of Lomak's partners, showed community involvement by donating more than a dozen 20-year-old camellia bushes that were destined for destruction during the shopping center's renovation. The bushes were given a new home at Valencia School in Aptos.

In other business, Kate Minott, Mary Reed and Clayton Ross were elected to two-year terms as association directors. Maggie Barr and Peter Carr were re-elected.