

Making Live Oak liveable

Community plan aims to shape inviting region

By DENISE FRANKLIN
Sentinel staff writer

LIVE OAK — They want to shop near their homes, gather in outdoor spaces for a cup of coffee or a chat, build a community center, revitalize aging roads, and stop the proliferation of high-density housing.

In short, residents here want to make Live Oak a more inviting place.

That's the premise of the Live Oak Community Plan, a document being put together to reflect the desires of this community of 26,500, which lies between the cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola and stretches from the bay to the limits of Santa Cruz Gardens.

A series of community meetings have gathered ideas about the area's future. When complete, it will become the Live Oak General Plan, outlining potential development in the years ahead.

"I would certainly like to see shopping that would take care of the residents' needs so they don't have to go elsewhere," said Alan Simpkins, who lives on Schwan Lake Drive.

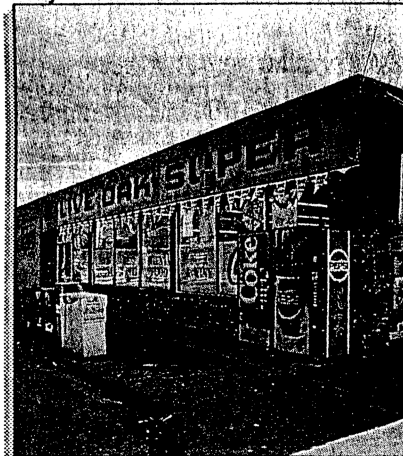
The community plan pinpoints three potential spots for retail shops: Skyview Drive-in and Flea Market on Soquel Drive, Live Oak Supermarket at 17th Avenue and Capitola Road, and the Ledyard Co. at 17th Avenue and Brommer Street.

But just because these sites may be labeled for retail development doesn't mean they will develop that way. As Live Oak planning commissioner Rob

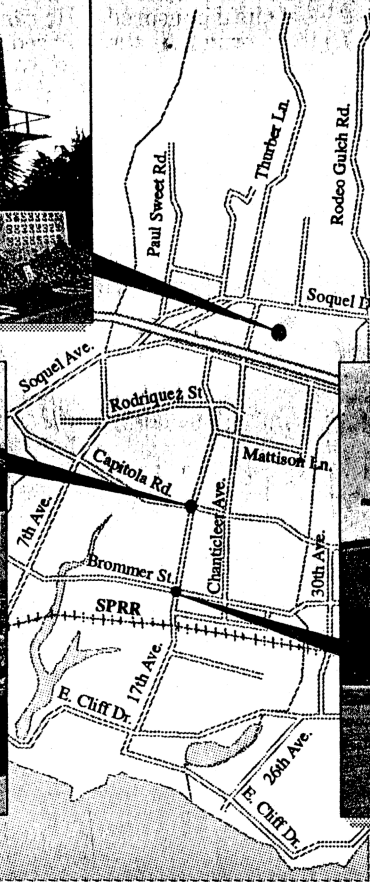
More shopping in Live Oak?



Skyview Drive-in

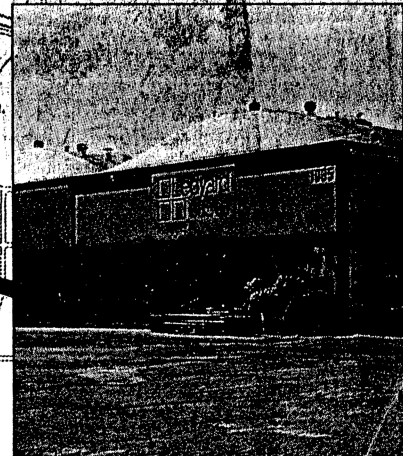


Live Oak Supermarket



In outlining the potential for future development in Live Oak, county planners have pinpointed three spots as sites for retail shops:

Skyview Drive-in and Flea Market on Soquel Drive, Live Oak Supermarket at 17th Avenue and Capitola Road, and Ledyard Co. at 17th Avenue and Brommer Street. Development of these sites is up to the owners of these properties, planners say.



Ledyard

Bremner put it, "This is a plan for the future. If the owner doesn't want to sell (or redevelop) the property, it will stay as it is."

The Skyview Drive-in and Flea Market is designated for high-density residential development, something many Live Oak resi-

dents believe their community already has too much of. Under the new community plan, it would be redesignated for retail commercial use.

Three and a half years ago, when the county looked into developing an auto sales plaza there, an uproar was heard from

vendors who make their living at the site and residents who frequented the weekend flea market.

Those who love the drive-in and flea market still have little to worry about with the plan to designate the site for stores.

Please see LIVE OAK — BACK PAGE

Dan Coyro/Chris Carothers/Sentinel