

Aptos honorees selected

Man, Women of Year among Aptos chamber awards

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STAFF WRITER

APTOS — This year's Aptos Chamber of Commerce honorees are to be the focus of the chamber's 68th annual dinner Friday at the Seascape Resort.

Awards for the Man, Women, Business, and Organization of the Year, along with the Community Recognition Award, will be presented at the 6 p.m. dinner to benefit the Aptos Museum and Visitors' Center.

The Aptos Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year is Doug Kaplan of Lomax Properties, a company which develops buildings in Santa Cruz County. He and his wife Gwen, who works with him at Lomax, have two daughters. Kaplan earned a B.A. from UC-Santa Cruz in 1974.

Kaplan is in his fourth year as a trustee on the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board and continues efforts to form the Aptos Unified School District. He has served on the UCSC Alumni Council and donated time to serving on a number of the school's committees.

His development accomplishments include being a member of the Temple Beth El Building Committee and helping to bring the Jewish Community Center next to Cabrillo College. Kaplan also serves on the statewide advisory board of Municipal Officials for Redevelopment Reform.

"It's scary," said Kaplan of his new title, "because now it means I'll have to behave."

The Woman of the Year title is shared by two women who have collaborated on the same project. Pat Manning and Carol Trengove have generated extensive effort in restoring and preserving Aptos' historic Valencia Hall, Post Office, and General Store, buildings that have stood in Aptos since the 1880s.

Manning, originally from Fresno and graduating from Fresno State University, settled in Aptos in 1977 with her husband Ed and their four children. She began volunteering at Valencia School, and went on to serve as president of the Valencia Home and School Club.



Kaplan



Trengove



Manning

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In 1980, Manning became the Day Valley 4-H Community Club Leader, and rallied the county to reopen Valencia Hall as a meeting place. She also spent four years as 4-H camp director, served on the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury, is an active member of the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee, and was president of the Aptos Neighbors Association.

Carol Trengove attended local schools in Santa Cruz, where she lives today with her husband Norman and their daughter. She was a project leader for 11 years with the Day Valley 4-H, where she began a 4-H drama program in Valencia Hall.

Trengove has served on the Central Water District Board and the Pajaro Valley Arts Council board. Her experience in education includes helping to institute the first bilingual education program in the Pajaro Valley School District. She works as a photographer.

Said Trengove of her community involvement, "I believe that we must give back to the community what we get. Communities must work together, and when you grab a hand, you must extend it again."

The three historic buildings,

which were deemed unsafe after the 1989 earthquake, are now being brought back to life. The Post Office and General Store will open as museums by next year.

The Business of the Year is Spoiled Rotten, a full service beauty salon that will soon expand to a new location on Soquel Drive in Aptos.

The Organization of the Year is the Aptos Community Alliance, a group which has dedicated its efforts to making Aptos safe and to reduce crime in the area.

This year's Community Recognition Award will be given to Larry Biggam. Biggam was president of the Aptos Soccer Club from 1991 to 1995, during which time the membership of the club grew from 400 to over 800 boys and girls. The club currently has 1,100 members. He owns Soccer Central, an indoor soccer arena in Watsonville.

Biggam moved to Aptos in 1974 with his wife Theresa and five children. He has degrees from Santa Clara University and Northwestern University Law School, and has been the county's chief public defender for 24 years. He is also involved with the Santa Cruz Criminal Justice Council, the Santa Cruz County Domestic Violence Commission, the Santa Cruz County Teen Court Program, and the Aptos High School Mock Trial competition team.

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