

BINGO, BRIDGE AND FUN



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Members of the board of the Mid-County Senior Center, from left, Mary Reed, Richard Palasik, Alice Crawford, Vicky Howell, Nancy Dixon, Jim Bowman and Noreen Santaluce look through the centers scrapbooks in preparation for their 35th anniversary celebration.

Senior Center turns 35

By RAMONA TURNER

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CAPITOLA — When the builders of the Mid-County Senior Center held a groundbreaking ceremony for the site near the old disco on Bay Avenue in the early 1970s, organizers joked that so many people brought shovels they could have built the foundation.

There were so many shovels there because the town's elders were excited to finally have a meeting place.

In the years prior, they held their gatherings at a church before it closed, then in area grange halls and members' homes, even in mobile home parks, said Noreen Santaluce, the center's spokeswoman.

The center opened Feb. 10, 1974.

Today, the center will celebrate 35 years at its location tucked behind Woodworm Party Store and across a fence from Longs Drugs and Nob Hill.

Alice Crawford has been coming to the center since 1987.

"It was the best decision I ever made," she said.

Crawford now serves on the center's board. She said going there got her out of the house, since her husband wasn't into those types of things.

"I learned how to dance," she said. "My husband didn't dance."

Now she runs the Ballroom Dancing program every Friday night.



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Isabel Shaffer plays bridge with Dick Bien, Fritzie Bock and Leo Wilson at the Mid-County Senior Center.

IF YOU GO

35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

WHEN: 1-3 p.m. today

WHERE: Mid-County Senior Center, 829 Bay Ave., Capitola, CA 95010

WHAT TO EXPECT: Exhibits featuring all the programs the center offers; a '50s, '60s, and '70s genre musical act; and refreshments

COST: Free

INFORMATION: 476-4711 or www.mid-county-center.org

Today's event, which runs from 1-3 p.m., will feature exhibits explaining all the activities the center offers. Those include yoga, bingo, card games, the World Famous Ranch Breakfast, the garden, dance classes and more.

There also will be a section dedicated to the cen-

ter's history. Two tables will hold scrapbooks with newspaper clippings dating back to its beginnings.

The musical group Side by Side will perform oldies but goodies from the '50s, '60s and '70s. Refreshments also will be served.

With its 500 members, the senior center is self-sufficient, using donations to pay for the upkeep of the facility.

Membership costs a suggested donation of \$30 annually. However, membership is not required to attend classes and functions. But there is a slight donation request.

While the center is a place for adults age 50 and beyond to hang out, activities, such as the popular pastime of playing bingo, is open to anyone who's 18 and up.

Bingo, by the way, is played 1-3:30 p.m. every Tuesday.