

Aptos 'auto flea market' assailed

By CAROLYN
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The Aptos Chamber of Commerce once again assumed its role as community watchdog Thursday morning when directors voted to seek action against the "car flea market," that has developed near the intersection of Soquel Drive and Freedom Blvd.

Rio del Mar resident Barbara Moser stopped by on her way to work and appealed to the chamber to help stop the situation which she said has created an increasing eyesore for the Aptos community.

The practice of parking cars with "for sale" signs along the road is illegal and owners can be fined, Mrs. Moser said. She has contacted the county six times in as many months, and there has been no response, she said.

"These cars are supposed to be towed away," she said. "But nothing has happened. Now there are garage sale ads and 'for rent' signs tacked to the telephone poles there."

The chamber directors were eager to provide assistance. Director Glenn Specht noted that a number of unofficial used car lots have appeared in the area. She has also heard about some people selling cars at these sites on a regular basis as a kind of business.

Director Lucile Aldrich recalled the chamber's past

effectiveness in similar situations. Several years ago, she said, the Aptos group successfully lobbied for an ordinance that allows removal of cars parked or abandoned on private property.

The chamber agreed to contact the county and the California Highway Patrol to ask that signs be posted and the law be enforced to have the cars removed.

In another action Thursday, the chamber decided to study how much money and work will be needed to have the road

Departments.

"I'm beginning to think we should go the way we did with construction of the park building with the Lions Club and the chamber," he said. "I suggest we engender a committee here to see about getting the road paved."

Burns was then appointed to do the preliminary engineering study and to gather information about the projected costs and county specifications for the road. He will also check into possible sources of funding, and ask

chamber meeting, when Mrs. Specht reported that she had been told by Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat that Aptos already had more than its fair share of parks and services.

"However, the chamber feels our revenue-sharing requests are valid, and it's been a long time since the county has provided us with anything," Mrs. Specht said. "Most of what we do have was obtained through our own community efforts."

Mrs. Aldrich emphasized the importance of paving the park road for automobile access at a time when development has begun in the village. The construction is eliminating the sites that were previously available for parking and use during the annual Aptos Fourth of July Parade.

Because of the park road's condition, the Aptos Fire Department and CHP have ruled out use of the site for booths at the annual parade this year, Mrs. Aldrich said. The road as it is does not allow access for emergency vehicles.

The conditions of the parade permit have forced the chamber to change its route for the July 4 event. The parade will begin at the Village Square and continue down Soquel Drive to Trout

Gulch, and then up to Cathedral Drive near the Aptos Post Office. The booths will be set up in the lot off Granite Way.

The chamber gave a special recognition to one of its members at the early morning session. Ted Colten, former chamber president, submitted a letter of resignation to which the board of directors responded by extending him a lifetime membership.

Colten said he had chosen to resign because his other activities, particularly the United Way campaign, demanded the time he had previously given to chamber activities. But in a unanimous vote, the directors agreed to bestow upon him the lifetime membership as an honor that has been given to only one other member in the chamber's history.

The chamber also decided it wants to hear from supervisory candidates Robley Levy and Doug James on issues of specific interest to the chamber's membership. Both will be asked to appear at an evening forum discussion to be sponsored by the chamber in late September or early October.

Larry Wrathall, chamber president, said the group's membership drive will be a chief emphasis this summer.

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paved to the Aptos Village Park.

The study will be a project of Chamber member Bruce Burns, a civil engineer who volunteered to do the initial work. He suggested the chamber investigate the possibility of having the paving done as a community effort, since it appears there will be no funding forthcoming from the county.

Burns said he was told there is no money available from the County Public Works or the Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services

other organizations if they are interested in providing assistance.

Mrs. Specht said that such an action by the chamber only illustrates that Aptos is forced to provide for its own needs.

"This just points out the sad fact that while we pay taxes to the county, we still have to provide for our own services," she said. "If something needs to be done, we have to do it ourselves."

The decision to assume responsibility to begin the road improvements for the park came out of an earlier discussion during the

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