

# Deer Park center inches along

Construction is proceeding slowly on the Deer Park shopping center in Rio del Mar as builders and architects continue to work their way through a maze of governmental agencies.

Although concrete walls are being poured this week on the market and pharmacy buildings, final building permits for those structures have not been issued by the county, architect Jim Ellmore told the Rio del Mar Improvement Association directors Monday.

A lease has been signed with the Bank of America for its 8,500-square-foot office at the center, and final drawings are awaiting approval from a bank subsidiary, Continental Service Corp.

Preliminary drawings have been completed for the Security Savings and Loan building, Ellmore said.

The restaurant — the old Deer Park Inn — may be operated by the Carl Swenson Co., Ellmore said. The company already operates the Plateau 7 restaurant in San Jose.

The county, Ellmore said, has issued permits allowing the concrete foundation and walls to be erected for the market and pharmacy, nothing more. "We don't have a building permit, but I've got boxes and boxes of files.

Meetings were held Tuesday with Swenson representatives, the county planning department, and the Aptos fire department.

County planner John Warren said Tuesday afternoon that there are two major stumbling blocks to the issuance of the final building permits.

"We are waiting for clearance from the Aptos fire department.

"And we have been waiting on barn stabilization plans. It is requirement of the use permit to maintain the barn and refurbish it."

The county now has a work schedule calling for barn stabilization plans to be ready in mid-March.

Aptos Asst. Fire Chief Nick Baumgartener said the fire department hasn't approved the project because no plans were submitted to it.

"I've been in contact with Mr. Warren," Baumgartener said Wednesday. "He wanted a set of approved plans from us, but we've never received any plans."

But following the Tuesday meeting with Swenson, Baumgartener said the fire district "gave Swenson a letter saying we would approve everything up to the framing stage.

"If they sprinkler the buildings in com-

pliance with the Aptos fire code and NFPA Pamphlet 13 (national sprinkler system standards), there won't be any problems."

Ellmore told the RDM directors Monday that an inspection had recently been carried out on the barn. "The lumber is solid," he reported. "It will be an open air structure, available for movable displays, community events in conjunction with the amphitheater, or an open air cafe."

What's the opening time schedule, Ellmore was asked.

"I don't know. I've a very strong feeling that it will be done this year. Maybe this summer or maybe this fall."

How would you describe the architectural style? "Our early intent was to pick something that was characteristic of Rio del Mar.

"What you won't see is a lack of planting. You won't see the final effect in the first year or even five years, but it is to be something of an estate. You get just a glimpse of the buildings."

A minor land division will be considered by the county zoning administrator this morning, splitting off two small parcels from the main shopping center land mass.

And the county board of supervisors will be considering a rezoning request next Tuesday.



Buildings are taking shape at the Deer Park site. Builders are aiming at a late summer opening.