

✓ Aptos' future imagined

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APTOS — Gaze into a crystal ball and see Aptos in the year 2010.

Electric cars may carry people to historic Aptos Village, according to a vision of Assistant County Planning Director Jeff Loux.

The village will be more of an entertainment center than a shopping area, he told members of the Aptos Neighbors Association on-

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Wednesday.

It will not become New Orleans' French Market, but it may have some of its festival flavor, he said.

"It will always be a quaint, historic, pedestrian-oriented place," Loux said.

Shopping, he dreamed, will be different 18 years from now, with people ordering merchandise by computer.

So instead of more stores, Aptos Village will have more crowds at more coffee shops, he said.

Loux used both expertise and imagination to make his predictions. He stressed that he was not speaking as a county official, and that his comments were subject to a shrug of the shoulders.

"I don't think anyone can be right or wrong about the future," agreed Clayton Rost, president of the neighbors association, which follows land-use issues in the Aptos area.

Rost, however, said he supported many of Loux's ideas.

"I thought some of the visions Jeff had for the future were things we could hope to see fulfilled — areas such as multi-use develop-

ments for residents, shops and work places to cut down on traffic," he said.

About 35 people attended the meeting at the Aptos Library.

A recent poll of the association's members showed that traffic was their biggest concern, Rost said.

Loux said he believed the freeways will be more crowded, even if they are expanded to six lanes.

Electric cars will be a reality, and car pools will be common, he said.

Loux does not see any dramatic changes in Aptos, but believes the neighborhoods will "fill in" with development.

During his discussion, Loux also touched on possible changes in the environment around Aptos.

He said he believes the water supply in the area will be running out by 2010.

"Water conservation will not be something for the drought, but something you just do," he said.

Loux, however, was optimistic about the condition of local beaches and streams.

He said he believes the coast and beaches will look largely the same as in 1992.