

Bottle Village is for sale

Grandma Prisbrey's nationally famous bottle village is going on the auction block.

John "Ski" Tynsky, a local real estate agent, Monday announced plans to sell the local landmark built from thousands of bottles and located at Tapo and Cochran streets.

Bottle Village became the focus of nationwide media attention a few years ago when the land was to be purchased for construction of apartments.

Tynsky bought it so it wouldn't be torn down.

"It needs a lot of help or it will

deteriorate. I just don't have the money to maintain it and I can't afford the monthly payments," Tynsky said Monday.

(Related photo, Pg. 6)

Tynsky said he hopes that anyone purchasing the property would maintain it in its present use. He notified City Attorney Verne Tindell of his decision to sell Monday morning.

The city has the first right of refusal regarding purchase of the property. Tindell said the matter would be brought before the city council.

"It will probably be discussed with the council. We have the first right of refusal, but it doesn't mean that we have to buy it," Tindell said.

The council could decide to buy the landmark, or could try to encourage a buyer to maintain it. A third option would be to seek grant funding from a historical group, Tindell said.

However, the city has been reluctant to make purchases outside the realm of city services. Last year, when it was announced that the Santa Susana Airport was up for sale, the council decided not to get into the airport business. And at a

time when city employees groups are on strike for wages and benefits, and the police officers' association has complained about city financing for a lake at the new government building, purchase of Bottle Village is considered questionable.

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