

Belardi Memorial Library Fails To Gain Revenue Sharing Funds

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The Faye G. Belardi Memorial library building in Felton will have to wait — again — if it expects any help from the county in shoring up its faltering foundation.

For the second time, the Belardi Memorial building failed to get \$3,000 from the county, which had been asked by its board of trustees to help pay for the \$8,000 worth of new

foundation work the building needs this summer.

Supervisors Friday bypassed the county administrator's recommendation that the Belardi Memorial be provided the \$3,000 from revenue sharing funds during hearings in which \$1,451,622 was allocated for community service programs.

Previously, the Belard application had been approved for Community Development Act funding, but the funds

failed to materialize.

The county board did set aside \$250,000 in a revolving fund for acquisition and preservation, however the only amount that was earmarked was \$5,000 to be put into the City of Santa Cruz historic structures restoration fund.

It was stated that projects such as the Belardi Memorial Building and Scotts House restoration in Scotts Valley should reapply for funds from the revolving fund.

The board of Belardi Memorial learned in January that the building's foundation, put down in 1893 when the structure was built as a Presbyterian church, required an \$8,000 repair to preserve the building.

Only \$4,000 was in the Belardi board's treasury — saved up over a period of renting the building to the county library system — and other funds would have to be donated, or received from government agencies.

The Felton community has come up with donations of about \$3,000, with the Felton Volunteer Fire Department con-

tributing over \$1,000 and the new County Bank in Felton contributing \$1,000 at its grand opening.

The board also learned that on top of the \$8,000 bill, the building should be fumigated to protect it from termites and that it is time to paint the historic structure.

Going into Friday, and expecting the county would share \$3,000 of its revenue to preserve the structure, the board had believed that it could use the \$3,000 in community donations, \$2,000 from its treasury and \$3,000 in county donations.

Dean Chase, spokesman at the two county hearings as a member of the Belardi board, said, "It's just such a boondoggle down there; it's demeaning to have to go back time after time asking for funds."

Receiving \$18,000 in direct funding — not to be taken from the \$250,000 revolving fund — was a project to begin acquisition for a permanent senior center in the San Lorenzo valley.

