

## COUNTY NEWS

## Community Raises Money for Library...

by Mark Adams

County Supervisor Robley Levy (Second District) is calling it a "neighborhood success story." The La Selva Beach Community has succeeded in raising \$25,000 to expand its public library, she announced April 29 at a press conference.

The county will contribute \$75,000 toward the project, she noted.

"Essentially, I think that what we are talking about today is a neighborhood success story," Levy said. "La Selva Beach has a very small library, but it is very warmly loved by the community who uses it."

The library, presently covering 1,200 square feet, will be expanded to 2,000 square feet. The addition will provide space for a larger children's section, more staff workspace and better conditions for book storage.

The project was made possible, Levy explained, through a partnership between private and public sectors.

"I was able to get the county to commit \$75,000 for the expansion," Levy told community members during the press conference.

It was then left to residents to raise an additional \$25,000. The La Selva Beach Recreation Department and the La Selva Home Improvement Association each contributed \$5,000. The rest was donated by individual residents.

The largest of those donations was \$3,000 from resident Jim Fairbanks.

"I've lived here on and off since 1927," Fairbanks said. "And this community has backed me in so many ways, I wanted to give something back."

Five-year-old Chase Fraser also made a contribution. His totaled three dollars.

The community also held several fundraisers. A Saint Patrick's Day dinner/parade and a golf tournament were among their efforts.

However, the greatest success story, Levy suggested, is the very existence of the library at La Selva Beach. In 1982 the state made significant cuts in library budgets. At the time, decreased funding threatened to shut down the library, but it was kept open with the help of volunteer workers.

That same year the head librarian Harriet French retired. But she decided to stay with the library and help train volunteers.

"The library paid me for my 14 years [of service] and I volunteered three years," she said. Today, she is enjoying her retirement and is enthused about the expansion project.



Supervisor Robley Levy tells of community efforts to support the La Selva Beach Library expansion project. Residents raised slightly more than \$25,000.

## ...While Road Work Moves Ahead

The library is owned by the La Selva Beach Recreation Department and leased to the County Library System. Bids for the project have not gone out yet, Levy said, but the recreation department hopes construction can begin sometime this summer. □

They've been planning road improvements in the Mid-County for years. Now that funds are available—and the season is right—the county has begun work on several projects in the Aptos area.

During the early 1980s, after several years of spending cuts, and after a number of natural disasters, the county began collecting road fees from developers, Supervisor Robley Levy explained.

But those fees came in slowly. Only recently has the county had the funds to start proposed improvements for some Mid-County roads.

"It is really coming together for the urban needs of the county... Especially the part I hold dear, the Aptos area," Levy said.

Here is an update on the projects:

### Soquel Drive

Work is being done between the railroad trestle and State Park Drive in front of the Rancho Del Mar shopping center in Aptos.

"The whole corridor is being widened," Senior Design Engineer of the Public Works Department Bill Williamson said.

The county has contracted Granite Construction of Watsonville to install gutters, sidewalks and curbs along this road. A signal also is being revised at the Soquel Drive/State Park Drive intersection. In addition to new lighting, the existing left turn lane is being expanded into two lanes.

The construction costs of this project are set at \$687,000. Safeway, in the Rancho Del Mar shopping center, is paying \$200,000 of this cost in transportation fees.

Work is expected to be finished some time in July.

"We hope to have the projects completed before the seasonal flow of traffic begins," Williamson said.

### Aptos Village

Two earthquake-damaged roads in the Aptos Village are being resurfaced. They are Trout Gulch Road from Soquel Drive to Valencia Street, and Soquel Drive near the Aptos creek bridge to the trestle at south end of the village.

Construction costs for the Trout Gulch Road project are estimated at \$175,000. For the Soquel Drive project, the cost is around \$51,000. This work was also contracted to Granite Construction. It is expected to be completed at the end of May.

Money for these improvements will come from Measure E funds, Williamson noted.

### Treasure Island Drive

The installation of sidewalks along Treasure Island Drive is nearly complete. Construction cost for this project totaled \$46,000, Williamson said.

### Center Street (Live Oak)

"Center Street is having curbs, gutters and sidewalks, and a drainage system installed," Williamson explained.

This project was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on April 28. He estimates the total cost for this project to be around \$295,000.

Work will be done in two phases. Phase One involves roadwork from State Park Drive to Santa Clara Avenue. Phase Two involves completing road improvements into Spreckles in Aptos. □



Workers are widening parts of Soquel Drive.