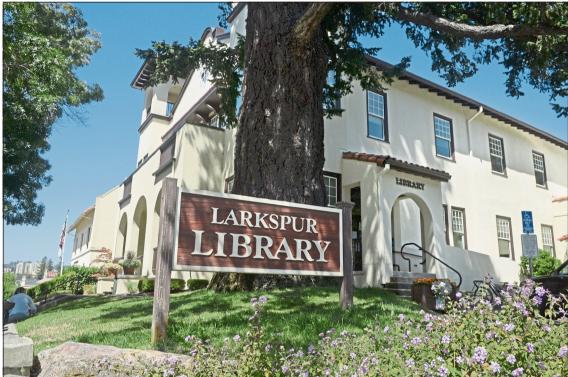
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AGING INSTITUTION

Fundraising campaigns for Larkspur Library gain steam



Fundraising campaigns have been launched to rebuild the aging Larkspur Library.

By Adrian Rodriguez

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Supporters of the Larkspur Library have teamed up to launch a pair of aggressive fundraising campaigns to rebuild the aging city institution.

Joe Jennings, president of the Commons Foundation, a nonprofit created to be the fundraising arm for the city project, announced a \$1 million challenge this month. Residents Lori Lerner and Terry Berkemeier have pledged to match donations of \$50,000 or more through December, Jennings said.

Additionally, the Larkspur Library Foundation is offering a

\$100,000 matching grant for cash said the state has not yet issued donations to the Commons Foundation received by Feb. 28, Jennings said.

The two efforts will put the city project in a good position to receive a matching state grant for library projects, he said.

"If the state does a 50-50 match, \$200,000 raised would now be worth \$400,000," he said. "This is one of those unique times in fundraising where you can increase the value of your gift four times by making it now before the city puts in the application.'

The City Council helped form the Commons Foundation for the project fundraising.

City Manager Dan Schwarz

a guidelines or set a deadline for the application. The deadline is expected to be in February.

Watching the council's vision come to fruition is very exciting for staff," Schwarz said. "This current push feels like we finally have the momentum to make this project happen.'

The council is considering a move to the vacant Rose Lane parcel because its 108-year-old City Hall at 400 Magnolia Ave., which houses the library, is in need of a \$10 million to \$12 million renovation.

Schwarz said the state library infrastructure fund has \$439 mil-

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lion to distribute in matching grants for library proj-

While key project details million. remain unresolved, the to leverage dollars to sup- and \$200,000 in matchport the project, rather than ing funds to date. The cou-

include a new library, but volunteer and then a partit's unclear whether city of- time children's librarian for fices will be part of the fi- several years.

nal plan.

Preliminary estimates for a new 5,000-squarefoot library come to about \$5 million. A new City Hall building equal in size would cost the same, bringing the total estimate to about \$10

The Lerner-Berkemeier relying solely on city funds. ple have lived in Larkspur The project will certainly since 1994. Lerner was a

"I think if you could give Foundation board of direcback anything to the comabout the apex," Lerner

Berkemeier said there is a sense of urgency with the state grant deadline approaching.

"A thing like a library is a matching grant has been campaigns has raised core for the community," he identified as an opportunity \$200,000 in new pledges said. "Supporting things lo- lion in cash and pledges

of the Larkspur Library of this year. Foundation, said the founbrary for 45 years.

"The Larkspur Library spur.org.

tors is excited to assist the munity, a library is just Commons Foundation and the city of Larkspur achieve their funding goal for the library at Rose Lane," he said.

The matching funds in this campaign amount to \$126,000.

The Commons Foundation has raised \$2.5 milcally, I think is important." as of Dec. 31. The goal is to Larry Lanctot, president raise \$5 million by the end

More information about dation has supported the li- the fundraising campaigns is at the common satlark-