

Home repair program nets grant from Council

Not for low-income only; deadline for home repair applications Feb. 15

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Tapping into an affordable housing fund started by the City of Calistoga in 1982, the Calistoga City Council Tuesday night approved a \$10,000 grant that helps jump start a program started by Calistoga Affordable Housing to help local homeowners make repairs and improvements to their homes.

Homeowners need not be low-income to apply for the help.

With contributions from the City of Calistoga and other contributors — including the Gasser Foundation and the DeLong Foundation — CAH hopes to use the program to bring the community together to improve local housing.

“We are wanting to restart a program similar to the Christmas in April home repair program once run by the Napa County Housing Authority that was very popular,” said Calistoga Affordable Housing CEO Erica Sklar. “Since Napa County is no longer involved in that program we wanted to bring it back.”

The program, “Rebuilding Calistoga,” encourages homeowners and the community to come together to improve living conditions in their Calistoga homes.

“The program benefits anyone who feels they have a need but cannot address it alone,” Sklar said. “Either they can’t afford it, or they’re physically unable or there is some issue there that we can work together as a community to make it better.”

Sklar said CAH will be approaching local service organizations for volunteers who can help get the work done.

“We’ve also seen enthusiasm from others who want to help, including Home Depot, who is willing to donate some of the funds to help, but they also want to donate materials,” Sklar said. “Central Valley (Builders Supply) in St. Helena, has also stepped up, and wants to donate material and provide some of the delivery of materials for the various projects.”

The basic concepts are that the community comes together to perform the needed repairs, then celebrates the work accomplished together, Sklar said.

“This is really about the community realizing what they can accomplish by working hard together,” she said.

CAH is organizing the day-to-day operation of the project, recruiting the volunteers and finding the funding and materials.

“This will only be successful if we all participate in this as a community effort,” Sklar said.

Homeowner applications and volunteer forms will be available at Calistoga City Hall, the Calistoga Family Center and at the offices of Calistoga’s mobile home parks.

The program is for owner-occupied homes, not rental facilities.

A committee is being set up by CAH to screen applications. CAH will also pay for building permits.

Applications must be submitted to Calistoga Affordable Housing, 1332 Lincoln Ave., by Feb. 15. The program timeline requires projects to be selected by Feb. 20 and construction to begin no later than April 24.

Information on the program is available at the CAH office, by calling CAH at 942-5920, or by visiting the Web site at www.calistogaaffordablehousing.org.