

\$40K will pave the way for readers in San Jose

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On Wednesday the Copper Queen Library received a \$40,000 grant from Freeport McMoRan. Pictured at the Bisbee Library is, from left, Robert Smith Bisbee city manager, Robert Quintinar, Freeport McMoRan property manager, Jessica Knowlton, community development with Freeport McMoRan, and Jason Macoviak, Copper Queen Library manager

Photo by Mark Levy, Herald/Review

BISBEE – Thanks to Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold, Copper Queen Branch, children and adults in the San Jose district of Bisbee will soon have a satellite library.

Representatives from the company presented a \$40,000 check to the Copper Queen Public Library for the new San Jose Literacy Outreach Program.

The satellite library will be housed at the old Middle School on Melody Lane.

The library will be a smaller version of the Copper Queen Library with children's, youth, teens and adult sections. There also will be computers available for patrons.

San Jose residents may not be able to make it to the Copper Queen Library due to transportation issues, said Alison Williams, assistant program coordinator at the library.

“We found that our lowest amount of patrons come from San Jose,” Williams said. “They can't get to us, so we need to get the resources to them.”

The main goal of the program is to reach parents of San Jose children, an unserved population, to help the children ready for Kindergarten by offering early childhood reading books that will entice toddlers and pre-Kindergarten children to learn to read, Williams said. That gives children a better chance at exceling when they enter school.

Williams expects to offer a Fun with Math and Science program to make the subjects more amenable to young and older minds alike.

While the effort is aimed at San Jose, Williams expects that parents and students from Briggs, Tin Town, Naco, Palominas and even Hereford can benefit from the new location.

“Step-up Bisbee/Naco is working with us and so are Bisbee Bloomers, the Bisbee Foundation, First Things First and Rural Arizona Innovation Network to get the library ready,” Williams said.

Bisbee Unified School District, which moved the administration offices from Lowell junior high school, is giving the library space and utilities for free.

Williams and library manager Jason Macoviak worked together on the grant.

“We are happy to be supporting this program,” said Quintanar. “Other communities have proved this to be successful. And it's a great use of the building.”

It will take some time to get the rooms ready and all the shelves, books, movies, tables, chairs and computers in place, so a grand opening is not expected until sometime in September.

“We'll have some soft openings to bring in the San Jose community to see what we are doing and to get volunteers. We'll need a lot of volunteers,” Williams said.

Anyone wishing to help the effort or who would like to be a volunteer may call the Copper Queen Public Library at 520-432-4232.



Jessica Knowlton, left, community development with Freeport McMoRan, chats with Copper Queen Library Program Coordinator Alison Williams Wednesday in Bisbee. Freeport McMoRan gave a grant to the library for \$40,000. Photo by Mark Levy, Herald/Review



Gathered at the Copper Queen Library Wednesday for a grant presentation from Freeport McMoRan are from left, Robert Quintinar, Freeport McMoRan property manager, Jessica Knowlton, community development with Freeport McMoRan, Fernando Alday, Freeport McMoRan environmental engineer, Copper Queen Library Program Coordinator Alison Williams, Jason Macoviak, Copper Queen Library manager, and Bisbee City Manager Robert Smith. Photo by Mark Levy, Herald/Review