

Copper Queen Library holds fair to attract helping hands

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MARK LEVY/HERALD REVIEW

A non-profit volunteer fair was held at the Copper Queen Library Tuesday evening in Bisbee. Friends of the Copper Queen Library members Sara Curtis and James Coull chat with Barbara Bruno, right, during the event.

BISBEE — In an effort to help Bisbee's nonprofits, the Copper Queen Public Library held the second annual Volunteer Fair on Tuesday.

Alison Williams, assistant program coordinator, explained the effort started last year as a way to introduce residents who may have some free time to the volunteer needs of nonprofits like Step Up Bisbee/Naco, Bisbee Bloomers, Bisbee Community Chorus, KBRP radio, the Muheim House and more.

"December is about giving and how we as a community think about giving at this time of year," she said. "Though we live in a high-poverty community and may have fewer resources than larger cities, Bisbee is powered by its people.

"Bisbee is successful in part because people give their time and support for the greater good."

The fair gives residents the opportunity to talk with representatives of the various organizations and see what makes a good fit for them, she added.

Tom Carlton, president and executive director of Naco Wellness Initiative, was happy to talk about the strides made since its inception in 2004.

The organization strives to help the people of Naco, Sonora, and provides dental, medical and nutritional services through its program activities in the new 2,100-square-foot facility funded with help from the Legacy Foundation. NWI also focuses on nutrition through community gardens, and has included schools in the endeavor to grow healthy foods.

Step Up Bisbee/Naco is a volunteer program to help low-income, elderly and handicapped residents take care of their homes.

Each year, volunteers spend one day to reroof homes, repair decks and steps, fix plumbing and electrical problems, paint indoors and out, and perform major household and yard cleanup. Individuals and businesses donate supplies for the event, and many residents attend the annual fundraiser at Café Roca.

University of Arizona's WaterWise has an active presence in Bisbee, and offers numerous workshops on water conservation, harvesting and reuse, and xeriscaping. Volunteers give tours to homes throughout the year so visitors can see first-hand the techniques in action.

The library, too, needs volunteers, especially as the grand opening of the Copper Queen Library Annex in the old middle school in San Jose is approaching. People who love books are needed to help staff both facilities, said Williams.

Three years ago, library manager Jason Macoviak and Williams established a program for people to repay their overdue fines with a can or box of food counting as one dollar off the fine. The food is then donated to the Bisbee Fire Department (BFD) for the annual Christmas Toy and Food Drive.

People who want to donate food to the fire department can drop nonperishable goods at the main library.

Thanks to Friends of the Library, every child on the BFD list will get a gift-wrapped book targeted for his or her age, said Williams.

"We're going to have a wrapping party at the annex this year," Williams added.

Another way of handling overdue fines is the Secret Santa program. Through it, Secret Santas can pay off overdue fines of children, continued Williams.

“Kids can lose books easily, and it’s hard for parents to pay off fines. This is a way for the community to help get them back on track. We want to get these children back in the library and reading,” noted Williams.

Donors can pick titles they like and pay off the fines, which range from \$5 to \$40.

Macoviak said, “It’s a win-win for everybody.”

“We love this library,” stated Williams with a smile. “We’re caretakers of a library that has been open for 137 years.”

“It’s very special,” added Macoviak.

They recognize the need in the community and take thinking of all to heart, even those who may just need a warm corner on a cold day.

“We’re here for everyone in the community,” said Williams.

More Information

Copper Queen Library info

6 Main St., above the post office in Old Bisbee

Phone: 520-432-4232

Hours

Monday to Tuesday: noon to 7 p.m.

Wednesday to Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m to 2 p.m

Sunday: closed

For information, visit the website at www.bisbeeaz.gov/2155/Copper-Queen-Library

Grand opening

Copper Queen Library Annex

519 Melody Lane (old middle school)

Friday, Dec. 7. 2 to 4 p.m.

Concert

Friends Holiday Party & Bisbee Community Chorus concert

Tuesday, Dec. 18

Party at 3:30 p.m., concert begins at 5 p.m.

Public invited



MARK LEVY/HERALD REVIEW
 University of Arizona Water Wise Youth Program Coordinator Rebecca Dailous prepares for interested volunteers at Tuesday's fair in Bisbee.



MARK LEVY/HERALD REVIEW
 Prospective volunteers make the rounds at Tuesday's non-profit fair at the Copper Queen Library



MARK LEVY/HERALD REVIEW
 Ashley Tyler interacts while sitting next to the Bisbee Community Chorus station at Tuesday's volunteer fair in Bisbee.