

# Copper Queen Library annex opens

By Shar Porier

Saturday, December 8, 2018

The downpour Friday did not stop dozens of people from joining in the celebration of the grand opening of the Copper Queen Library San Jose Annex at the old middle school.

The small library was made possible thanks to the community support it received, as well as funds from Freeport McMoRan Copper and Gold Foundation, the Women's and Children's Hope Foundation, Bisbee Rotary and the state library system, said Alison Williams, assistant program coordinator.

Step-up Bisbee/Naco and the Bisbee High School Career Technical Education class built the bookshelves and installed lighting in the annex, she added. The city, residents, the Bisbee Foundation and the Friends of the Library showed great support for the project.

The San Jose Annex is located in a classroom of the reclaimed old middle school, which now houses the Bisbee Unified School District administration.

The mission of the annex is to support the Copper Queen Library's initiative of providing early literacy experiences to Bisbee's youngest, connecting with parents and caregivers, and developing school-age readers and lifelong learners throughout the city. It also gives the San Jose community the same vital library services, including public computing with free internet access, as the downtown library does.

Councilman Bill Higgins, the council liaison to the city's Library Advisory Board, was pleased with the annex and its design. "This is a wonderful space, bright and cheerful. We needed this in San Jose to serve this community. It's a real asset."

Elder Daniel Hall, a 10-year-old fourth-grader being home-schooled, plopped down in a chair and began reading a book. "This is great. I like the old library, but this has a pretty good kid's selection."

Hall's mother Rose is a volunteer at the Copper Queen Library in Old Bisbee.

Holly Haley, state library director, said, "This is beautiful. I'm glad to be a part of it. The state likes to promote early childhood education. It gets kids ready for school."

Haley is a fan of the Copper Queen Library and said, "It is the oldest continually operated library in the state."

Williams noted, "The people present today are representatives of the committed effort to making the annex. We had a seed of an idea two years ago about serving the San Jose community."

Tom Woody, Bisbee Unified School District superintendent, told the gathering, “Early-childhood reading is the most important thing we can do for our children. It’s unfortunate the state doesn’t recognize it. We were happy to partner with the city to make this happen.”

Just before the ribbon-cutting, Mayor David Smith stated, “This is Bisbee. A small town with a big heart. I see people from all districts here today.”

Smith also recognized former Councilman Doug Dunn, with the Bisbee Foundation, for his unwavering dedication to establish the annex. “He pushed every step of the way to get this done.”

A look around the children’s and teens section, books with stuffed animals hold the attention of the younger children. “Splat the Cat,” “Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus,” “I Spy Fly” and more had cute, little cuddly critters for children to hold as they read.

Though the annex has books and DVDs, it also boasts a computer and free Wi-Fi.

A list of volunteer positions was posted on the board. It takes a number of people to run the annex, and paying someone is just not a viable option right now. The annex needs a coordinator, a library assistant, a library clerk, a library greeter, a program leader and program assistant. Bilingual volunteers are a plus.

Williams pointed out library cards are free. To get one, go to the Old Bisbee location with proof of address like utility bills, said Williams. Once a card is approved, the person can go into any of the public libraries in the county for reading, listening or watching materials.

Now that the annex is open, Williams hopes the San Jose community will explore the world waiting for them just inside the doors.

### **Copper Queen Library San Jose Annex**

519 Melody Lane (the old middle school), Bisbee

Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For info, contact early literacy outreach coordinator Heather Wiechert at 520-432-5381, ext. 3213 or email to [hwiechert@bisbeeaz.gov](mailto:hwiechert@bisbeeaz.gov).

### **Activities for kids up to 5**

Little Book Club at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) Club, 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays