

## Food for Fines at Copper Queen Library benefits fire department food drive

By Monique Brand  
December 15, 2016



BISBEE — The Copper Queen Library announced on Wednesday that more than 200 food items have been collected in the second week of its Food for Fines drive. The charity effort runs through Dec. 19.

During the Friends of the Library Christmas celebration that afternoon, staff members presented boxes and baskets of food to members of the Bisbee Fire Department.

The department will use the proceeds for its Christmas Food Basket Drive, an effort focused on feeding Bisbee families during the holiday season.

“It’s wonderful to see organizations such as the library wanting to partner with our efforts,” said Fire Chief Marc Burneleit. “All of the donations we receive go solely towards Bisbee families in need. That is what we take pride in with this drive.”

Jason Macoviak, the library’s manager, said Wednesday is just one of many donation drop-offs this month through the Food for Fines program.

“Being this is our inaugural year, the community support and output is wonderful,” Macoviak said. “With that type of support and outreach, Bisbee families in need will receive a blessing this holiday season. We would like this partnership to continue for a long time.”

The Food for Fines drive benefits in two ways. Residents have a chance to get out of debt — at least when it comes to overdue books. Each donated can or box of nonperishable food equals \$1 toward the individual's fees.

One hundred percent of the donations will go toward Bisbee Fire Department's Christmas food basket drive.

Macoviak added that anyone — whether or not they have late library fees — can participate.

"We had to modify the city's charter to account for each person paying their library fines using their donations. We thank our city government for their support of this effort and the fire department for building this beautiful partnership," said library program director Alison Williams. "We are Bisbee and we would do anything to help our fellow neighbor."

Items or monetary donations will be accepted through Dec. 19. For more information, call 520-432-4232.



Bisbee Fire Department members, from left, Capt. Robert Cline, Fire Chief Marc Burneleit, and Capt Brandon Davey, load their truck after receiving donations from Copper Queen Library Food for Fines charity drive on Wednesday.

# **Bisbee High CTE construction class honored**

Another guest of honor during the Friends of the Copper Queen Library Christmas party was Bisbee High School Career and Technical Education's construction class.

The group of 10 students was involved in building 11 bookshelves for the Friends of the Library bookstore. Instructor Jason McCutcheon said all the students are part of the course's advance curriculum.

"All of them have been with me at least a year and have shown great interest in the craft and one of the examples can be seen inside the bookstore," McCutcheon said.

According to library program director Alison Williams, the project began at the beginning of the semester. The students partnered with retired workshop teacher Doyle Chambers, who had taught for 38 years. Chambers was in charge of drawing the plans.

"Majority of the planning and building was in-class, with the last leg of the project the final touches here at the library," she said. "These kids are quite extraordinary."

Each student registered for a library card at the beginning of the year. On Wednesday, in front of a crowd of 50 people including city staff and first responders, they were given a library card along with a certificate of appreciation.

"We are so thankful for your work and wanted you guys to know it didn't go unnoticed," Macoviak said.

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