

Bisbee receives grant for San Jose library annex

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BISBEE — Another \$25,595 will go toward the Copper Queen Library (CQL) annex in San Jose at the former Bisbee Middle School.

Alison Williams, assistant program director at the library, presented the city council with the details at the Tuesday meeting. Arizona State Libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act is providing the grant money. The city council accepted the grant.

The funds will be used to further the new annex and provide reading areas for children and adults, a public computer lab and a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) lab, she said. In addition, the WiFi Hotspot Program will be enhanced, an outdoor book drop added, along with furniture and books and materials for the permanent collection.

People who want to return books from any of the libraries in Cochise County can drop them off at the book drop, she added. In fact, the county is going to a one-card system so a member can borrow books from any of the municipal and rural libraries.

The satellite library was set in motion in March when Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold, Inc., Copper Queen Branch, endorsed the project to improve literacy through reading programs with a \$40,000 donation to kick things off. It provided a part-time position at the annex, which went to Heather Green.

The main goal of the annex is to reach San Jose parents, toddlers and preschool-age children by offering early childhood reading books so they learn to read, giving them a better chance at excelling when they do enter school, said Williams at the time.

Since few patrons from San Jose make use of the library in Old Bisbee, Williams and Jason Makoviac, CQL manager, worked with Bisbee Unified School District officials and the board of directors to get a spot at the old middle school.

Though 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.

Williams told the council there would be a public opening soon, but did not provide a date.