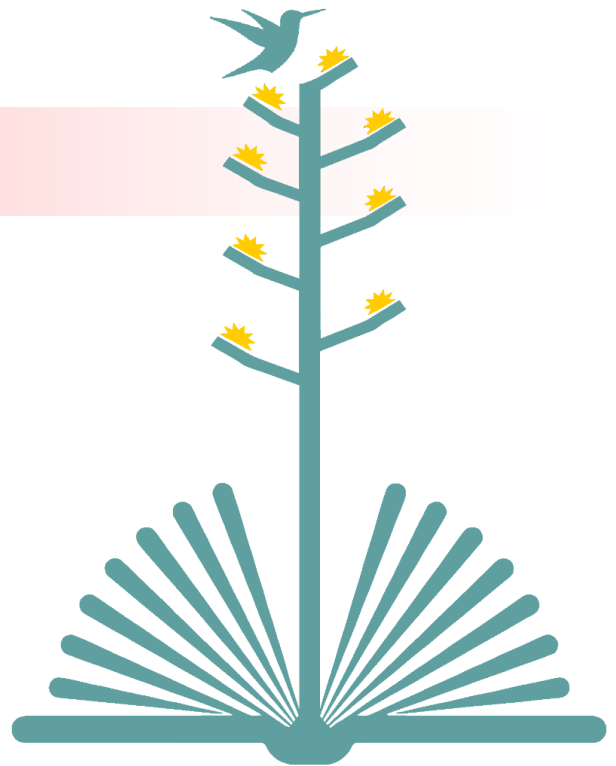


# FRIENDS *of the* COCHISE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

*Spring/Summer 2023 Newsletter*

## Thank you for being a Friend!

Over the last year, your support has enabled the Friends to support summer reading programs at libraries countywide, provide free books to summer reading participants at the rural libraries, and support the Free Book Box program in rural parts of Cochise County. Read on for news and highlights from the Library District and more good news from the Friends.



*A little treasure hunter in Elfrida,  
summer 2022*

## Summer reading success

The theme for the 2022 summer reading program was Oceans of Possibilities, and libraries across Cochise County offered a boatload of fun and educational events. Families in Elfrida enjoyed a pirate treasure hunt in the park, kids in Sunsites painted an ocean-themed mural in the meeting room, and across the rural branches 164 readers of all ages logged more than 2,500 hours of reading.

The Friends of the Library District provided one free book per week for kids and teens who participated in summer reading programs in Bowie, Elfrida, Portal, Sunizona, and Sunsites. With your help, we will offer even more fun books in 2023!

# A new home for the Library District

*by Library Director Amadee Ricketts*

From 1982 to 2021, the Library District was housed at the Old Bisbee High School on Clawson Avenue. The building was beautiful and historic but expensive and difficult to maintain. Cochise County considered selling the building for years, and the issue became urgent when the boiler that provided heat to the second floor (home to the library) died in December 2020.

Finding a new location proved tricky, and the best option turned out to be the former Facilities warehouse at the Cochise County complex on Melody Lane.

The new space is roughly 3,100 square feet, compared to nearly 9,000 square feet at the Old High School. This called for some creative thinking, and library staff found that they could make it work with compact shelving (the kind that moves on tracks).

Staff relocated to the new offices at Melody Lane in November 2021... and then the pandemic delays kicked in.

Office furniture arrived in March 2022, and the new compact shelving was completed in June (a full six months late!) A bid for the Old High School was accepted in the spring, so the 18,000 or so books stored there had to move to Melody Lane in May, before the shelving was fully installed.

That was enough moving-related excitement for one lifetime, but all's well that ends well. The new location has heat and parking, and the compact shelving is very slick. If you are in the neighborhood, feel free to come say hello at 1415 W. Melody Lane, Building C.



## The scoop on Sustainable Shelves



Have you ever wondered what happens to books that are withdrawn from the library, or donated books that are not added to the collection? The books belong to the Friends of the Library District, but the Friends have not held a book

*Continued on next page*



### *Sustainable Shelves, continued*

sale in many years. So, what becomes of the books?

Some books, especially children's titles, bilingual books, and popular fiction, are used to stock Free Book Boxes around the county. With the Friends' blessing, the Library District has also provided withdrawn books to teachers to stock classroom libraries, and to the Cochise County Jail and the Douglas Prison Complex for use by inmates.

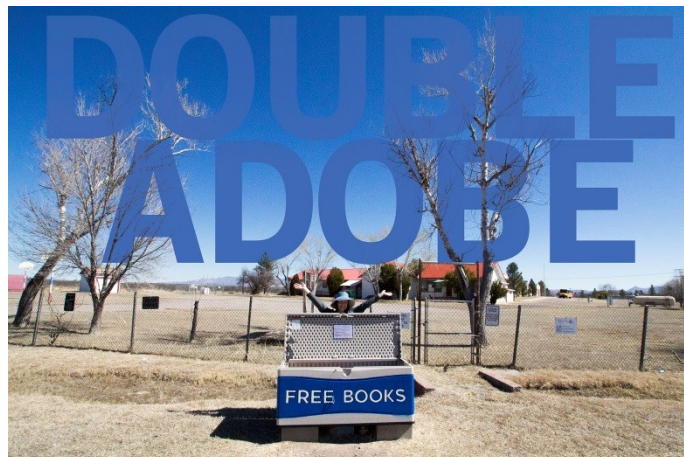


*Withdrawn books headed for Sustainable Shelves*

The remaining books go to a program called Sustainable Shelves, from book wholesaler Baker & Taylor. This program allows library staff to send boxes of withdrawn books to Baker & Taylor at no cost to the Library District or the Friends. Baker & Taylor purchases some of the books for resale, and the Library District receives credit to buy more books. Titles that are not eligible for purchase are donated to charities or responsibly recycled.

Since joining the Sustainable Shelves program in 2021, the Library District has earned more than \$2,300 in credit, and used it to purchase summer reading giveaway books on behalf of the Friends. Thanks, Friends!

## **New Book Boxes for Naco and Double Adobe**



The Friends provided funds to purchase new Free Book Boxes for Naco and Double Adobe, replacing older book boxes that had worn out. Library staff placed the new boxes in March and they are getting lots of use.



*Young readers in Elfrida (left) and reading with Henry the Therapy Dog in Sunsites (right)*

## What's ahead in 2023?



@cochiselibrary.org

In 2023, the Friends will continue supporting countywide summer reading programs and providing free books for young readers at the rural libraries to build their home library collections. This fall, the Friends will sponsor a new 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program ([1000booksbeforekindergarten.org](https://1000booksbeforekindergarten.org)) to promote early literacy all year round. As always, your support makes these programs possible.

## Friends of the Cochise County Library District • Membership Renewal or Donation

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Individual / Family
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Business / Organization
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other donation

*Thank you for  
being a Friend!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to Friends of the Cochise County Library District,  
1415 W Melody Lane, Building C, Bisbee, AZ 85603. Thank you!*