Community 'steps up'



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Volunteers catalog donated books to be placed in the new Six Mile Library that is expected to open in late October. Brenda Rippy, top right, committee chairman of the Community Library for Six Mile, said new books are also needed.

Volunteers making Six Mile Library a reality

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

SIX MILE — The Six Mile community may be small in population but when it comes to heart and a willingness to work together to make dreams become reality, few stand taller.

That is what local Realtor Brenda Rippy first discovered when she moved into the community several years ago, working with local residents on a cookbook with the proceeds going to benefit Helping Hands. Now, her energies are devoted to opening the Six Mile Library.

"The mayor (John Wade) had sent out a survey several years ago asking the community what they wanted to see come to Six Mile," Rippy said. "More than 300 out of 568 responded to the survey and named a grocery store, more restaurants and a library in the top three."

'My heart is touched by how many people want to see it succeed.'

Brenda Rippy
Six Mile Realtor

As a result, Rippy and a group of volunteers decided to take on the library project. Since last September, the nonprofit public library with a 501(c)3 status has collected 5,000 books with 2,000 already in their computer system. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, a group of eight volunteers catalogs books while additional volunteers spend Saturdays painting and performing other work at the future home of the new library.

The new library will be in an old store at the intersection of S.C. 137 and S.C. 183, just below L&L Feed Store.

"My heart is touched by how many people want to see it succeed," Rippy said.

Rippy added that monetary donations are needed to pay the $225 per month rent on the 1,167-square foot building as well as utilities, Internet and DSL service just to name a few.

Before the library can open its doors in late October, Rippy said there is a need for donated indoor/outdoor carpet, shelving for a 31 x 38-foot building, bookends, a large wooden study table for students, a small table and chairs for children and a few computers.

"We're also looking for volunteers who could donate a few hours to helping us put books on the shelves and keep our library open," she said.

Rippy said the library also needs landscaping through materials,

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preferably donated, to build boxes for trees and shrubs for the front of the building and plant materials for the side of the building.

Eventually, Rippy would like to move the library closer to town and has even approached Pickens County Council about taking over the library and including it in the county's library system.

After making a formal presentation to council several months ago, she was initially informed that the council would first have to address library needs in the Dacusville community and was later told that the current budget situation wouldn't allow it.

But Rippy said she's fine with first making the library a reality, adding that the project has provided a tremendous lift to the community.

"I think the community needed something to believe in and they've really stepped up," Rippy said.

For more information on how to become a volunteer for the library project, call Rippy at (864) 506-0225 or e-mail brendarippyreal@bellsouth.net. Anyone who wants to donate plants, plant materials and planters or volunteer to help with the landscaping can call Diane Palmer at (864) 868-9695 or e-mail palmer.diance@gmail.com.

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