

TEMPORARY LIBRARY COMING TO SAHUARITA

SAHUARITA, AZ (June 25, 2008) – For those who have been wondering what will become of the modular office buildings that the Sahuarita town offices once occupied, part of the answer can be found in the pages of a book. OK, more like hundreds of books. The Pima County Library District has finalized an agreement with the Town of Sahuarita and Rancho Sahuarita to temporarily occupy one of the vacant buildings at 725 W. Via Rancho Sahuarita. Rancho Sahuarita, which owns the land, is leasing the building to Pima County for the library purposes for \$1 per year.

“The temporary library has been the result of a collaboration between the Pima County Public Library, the Town of Sahuarita and Rancho Sahuarita,” said Nancy Ledebouer, Library Director. She continued, “We look forward to serving the residents of Sahuarita by providing a rotating collection of books, story times and homework help for youth and computers to access databases, reference resources and the Internet. The modular building that used to house Town Hall will provide a temporary location until we have support for a full service permanent library.”

Once the library staff determines what renovations are necessary, it will take approximately 4-8 weeks of remodeling and organizing before the 3,000 square foot library is ready to open. Amber Mathewson, who is currently Branch Manager of the Joyner Green Valley Library, will serve as Acting Supervisor of the new facility.

“A pedestrian friendly town center where people of all ages and interests can live, learn, work, play, and shop has always been part of Rancho Sahuarita’s vision,” said Robert Sharpe, Managing Partner for Rancho Sahuarita. He added, “Along with a Main Street, Central Park, Town Hall, Post Office and retail shops, a public library is an important part of that vision and we’re very proud to have been a part of a public/private partnership that has made this temporary library happen.”

To establish a permanent home for a full service branch library within the town center, Rancho Sahuarita has recently offered to donate a Public Library site, located on the main street. This exceptional parcel is adjacent to a proposed town park that could include a band shell, interactive “kids” fountains, gardens, a river walk, picnic areas, and other amenities. A permanent library would help make “Downtown Sahuarita” one of the most exciting destinations in Southern Arizona.

Tom Murphy, Community Liaison for Rancho Sahuarita, said, “A Public Library will be an important resource for all the residents of Sahuarita to enjoy. This type of cooperative effort during these tough economic times is a perfect example of the kind of partnerships that can prove vital as the Town continues to grow. We’re looking forward to developing more of these collaborations to take advantage of opportunities that can provide a better quality of life for our residents.”

Rancho Sahuarita, represented by Cort Chalfant, Kathy Ward, Economic Development Manager of the Town of Sahuarita and David Bailey, a Rancho Sahuarita resident, have led a 15 month effort to bring a public library to the Town of Sahuarita.

About Rancho Sahuarita

Situated just south of Tucson, Rancho Sahuarita is southern Arizona’s best master-planned community. With a total of 573 new home sales during 2007, Rancho Sahuarita was the 11th fastest selling master planned community in the country, according to Robert Charles Lesser, the renowned, national consulting firm. It features a 15-acre lake park, miles of paved trails that weave throughout the community, neighborhood parks with pools, and Club Rancho Sahuarita, with the largest private water park in the metro area. Surrounded by the beauty of pristine desert, mountain ranges and pecan groves, Rancho Sahuarita offers many neighborhoods by a variety of quality builders and single-family homes, priced from the 150s to the high 600s.