

Tool lending library to open in Carbondale

- MARILYN HALSTEAD *THE SOUTHERN*

Where does one go when they have a task that requires a tool they do not own? After April 30, that tool may be available from the new Carbondale Tool Lending library.

According to organizers Jessica Allee and Ari Jihan, a tool library works a lot like a traditional library, except patrons check out tools.

Allee, who is originally from California, has wanted to start a tool lending library for a few years. She found a group of people in Carbondale who were interested in helping her start one.

“My background is in architecture. I build a lot of things myself, make a lot of things. So I can appreciate how difficult it is to have all the tools you need to complete a project around your home. For me it feels very natural, like something that is going to take off and is a no-brainer,” Allee said.

Ari Jihan said Flyover Infospace had some tools, and they had thrown around the the idea of a lending library. Jihan and Allee met, and Carbondale Tool Lending Library was born.

Membership is open to residents from towns 20 miles or less from the library, which will operate out of Flyover Infoshop at 214 N. Washington St. in Carbondale.

To register, patrons must provide proof of address, contact information and sign the tool use policy and liability waiver. Checking out tools is completely free to members.

“We’re looking for tool and financial donations as well as people to donate their time working and teaching workshops on home improvement topics. We also need people to join our team to help make sure the tool library is successful,” Jihan said.

Education will be a priority. Monthly workshops from local experts on home improvement, as well as a library of books, will be available to the public.

Allee said organizers just recently began to put out fliers. They have had some contribution.

“I find that a lot of people are saying they want to donate tools, so now we need to call all those people,” Allee said. “We are getting the kind of response that I expected.”

Organizers also will accept cash donations for the library.

Carbondale Tool Lending Library's grand opening will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 30 at 214 N. Washington St., between Town Square Market and WDBX in Carbondale. The event will include workshops, drawings for prizes, tool-related games, and a membership drive. Refreshments will be provided.

“Now we have mostly construction tools, home improvement, craft and garden tools. Our long-term goal is to expand beyond those and add kitchen tools like a Kitchen-Aid mixer, honey extractor or canning tools,” Allee said.

Allee hopes to have a garden tiller in the future, and maybe find room for party supplies, such as extra plates and glasses.

“It is a big part of a culture of a shared economy. It has economic advantages, but it also has environmental advantages. That’s something we try to embody in philosophy. We are not only saving people money and providing economic opportunity, we are saving our planet’s resources,” Jihan said.

As the tool library expands, Allee and Jihan hope to provide access to a greater geographical area.

Lending will begin April 30.

For more information or to volunteer or make a donation, call Jihan at 207-505-2090 or emailcarbondaletoollibrary@gmail.com.

Where does one go when they have a task that requires a tool they do not own? After April 30, that tool may be available from the new Carbondale Tool Lending library.

According to organizers Jessica Allee and Ari Jihan, a tool library works a lot like a traditional library, except patrons check out tools.

Allee, who is originally from California, has wanted to start a tool lending library for a few years. She found a group of people in Carbondale who were interested in helping her start one.

“My background is in architecture. I build a lot of things myself, make a lot of things. So I can appreciate how difficult it is to have all the tools you need to complete a project around your home. For me it feels very natural, like something that is going to take off and is a no-brainer,” Allee said.

Ari Jihan said Flyover Infospace had some tools, and they had thrown around the the idea of a lending library. Jihan and Allee met, and Carbondale Tool Lending Library was born.

Membership is open to residents from towns 20 miles or less from the library, which will operate out of Flyover Infoshop at 214 N. Washington St. in Carbondale.

To register, patrons must provide proof of address, contact information and sign the tool use policy and liability waiver. Checking out tools is completely free to members.

“We’re looking for tool and financial donations as well as people to donate their time working and teaching workshops on home improvement topics. We also need people to join our team to help make sure the tool library is successful,” Jihan said.

Education will be a priority. Monthly workshops from local experts on home improvement, as well as a library of books, will be available to the public.

Allee said organizers just recently began to put out fliers. They have had some contribution.



“I find that a lot of people are saying they want to donate tools, so now we need to call all those people,” Allee said. “We are getting the kind of response that I expected.”

