

The Bisbee Observer

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Success of the Pride

By Virginia F. Hodge
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People walking around Old Bisbee last weekend for the third annual Bisbee Pride celebration couldn't help but notice the sponsoring organization's latest community project: the green wall in Grassy Park.

Labels chalked on sidewalks directed visitors through the park to the street fair on Subway Street, to music in City Park, barbecue at the hotel pool, dances, parties.

Bisbee Pride Inc., an organization focusing on Bisbee's LGBT culture – lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender – made a three-year commitment to deal with the graffiti at Grassy Park, according to director Adam Lamb.

"We wanted to take the proceeds of the Pride and put it back into the community," Lamb said. It appears this year's proceeds will far exceed last year's.

Painting the retaining wall was no quick thing.

"It took a number of months to figure out who owned the wall," Lamb said. The city

couldn't tell him if it was public or private property, but public works told him if he could get owner permission, they would paint it.

The primary owner turned out to be John Jeffrey, whose family owns the property above the wall. He gave permission.

Why dark green?

Lamb said several colors were considered, colors you see when you stand across the street and look into Grassy Park.

There was green of the trees and grass, red of the bricks, he said, "and that big graffiti wall in blocks of different shades of gray where the graffiti has been painted out." Bisbee's community development director suggested a third color be considered, a neutral, sandy hue.

"We made swatches of the three colors and asked businesses to vote," Lamb said, but results were 50-50, so the Pride board decided to go with forest green and public works painted over the concrete the weekend

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Many visitors in town for the third annual Bisbee Pride weekend took advantage of the barbecue pool party option Saturday afternoon at the Copper Queen Hotel.

PRIDE

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after Memorial Day.

Throughout the year Pride volunteers have helped with other community projects such as B-mountain repairs and the coaster race, and last year they gave \$555 for arts in the public schools. Lamb said they're working on

their 501(c)(3) so they can become a non-profit.

He said the Bisbee Pride celebration was "a very big success" this year. Merchants appeared to do better and many people commented on what a good mix the crowd was.

"But no matter what we as a small group do," he added, "it wouldn't be here without the support of the community."