

Little Free Libraries popping up around Cape Island

By **RACHEL SHUBIN**
Special to the Star and Wave

Libraries are popping up in small wooden boxes across Cape May County and library cards are not needed.

Little Free Libraries (LFL) are not typical libraries but community-organized free book exchanges.

Little Free Libraries is a 501(c)3 nonprofit literacy-outreach organization founded in 2009 to encourage reading via free community book exchanges. Its motto is "Take a book, leave a book."

LFL thrive in Cape May, where a sense of community is abundant. They have popped up in North Cape May, West Cape May and Cape May. Most recently, new LFL can be found at the Capri Motel and the Nature Center of Cape May.

Those about town may stumble upon the little libraries, but LFL can be found on a map at littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap. LFL can be registered with an official charter plaque, providing a unique code to officially identify the library. Caretakers of the libraries, called stewards, can add their library to a world map so the public can locate them.

Located at 1600 Delaware Ave., the Nature Center of Cape May has recently installed an LFL. Visitors can park in the lot and find the blue box's door facing away from the harbor.

"We purposely put the door on the opposite side," sanctuary Director Gretchen Whitman said. "We didn't want the door facing out on the road; we get really ham-



Rachel Shubin/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

The Little Free Library at the Nature Center of Cape May was made and donated by a volunteer. The hope is it will be stocked with nature-themed books.

pered by the storms on the harbor."

While the LFL organization sells pre-made libraries online, many stewards opt to build their own.

"We have a gentleman, Martin, who is a veteran and he stopped in one day with a Little Free Library for us," Whitman said. "I didn't ask for it, it just happened. I had thought about getting one before."

The Nature Center's box

is made of scrap lumber from job sites. The LFL was painted blue to resemble the iconic watchtower of the Nature Center.

"Martin donates different things for us, such as bat and bird houses we sell for fundraising," Whitman said. "We installed the library in the spring and registered it on the website."

Not new, but still popular, is the LFL that proudly stands at the Colonial House at 653 1/2



Rachel Shubin/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

The Little Free Library at the Capri Motel was made from a former fire extinguisher box. The LFL will be open even when the motel closes for the winter.

Washington St. The box was built by a local craftsman, who had also worked on the Colonial House. The LFL was created to match the historic home. The benches near the LFL provide the perfect setting for readers who want to take a rest before continuing their walk into town.

Any genre of books can be accepted in an LFL, from beach reads to historic novels. The Nature Center is hoping to attract books for

all ages, especially ones centered around nature.

"The idea is to have Nature Center patrons, or anyone in town, feel like they can come take a book and leave a book, to replenish it," Nature Center naturalist Brendan Schaffer said. "We'd love it to have a nature feel with educational or children's books, about nature and being outside."

Whitman said the LFL will be open in the winter,

even when the Nature Center closes.

Reading isn't just a summer activity, but a year-round one. This mindset was the starting point for the LFL belonging to the Capri Motel.

Located at 1033 Beach Ave. in front of the Capri Motel, a blue box waits for beachgoers to stop by and pick up or leave a novel.

"I have seen [LFL] before and I thought it would be super cool," owner Patty Schmucker said. "I Googled it and our staff came up with the idea of constructing it out of old fire extinguisher boxes from our building, which my father built 30 or 40 years ago."

The fire extinguisher boxes were attached to motel walls until this winter, when the Capri had a siding project completed.

"I went online and realized you could be a charter member," Schmucker said. "Our corner of Beach Drive is highly trafficked by pedestrians and I thought it was great to put it out there."

When the box is low, Schmucker goes to the local library to buy books for a quarter to restock. She prefers to shop local rather than purchase books online.

"I saw an older gentleman putting books in one day," Schmucker said.

Residents and visitors both stop by the box to look for their next great beach read.

"Even when we close, the library will be open," Schmucker said. "You don't only read in the summer, you read in the winter as well."

LFL will continue to thrive if people are willing to read, take a book and leave a book.

TIDES : Sept. 4-11, 2019

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
4	12:15	12:52	6:18	6:59
5	1:13	1:52	7:14	8:03
6	2:17	2:55	8:13	9:09
7	3:25	3:59	9:15	10:13
8	4:31	4:58	10:16	11:12
9	5:30	5:51	1:12	
10	6:21	6:38	12:04	12:03
11	7:05	7:19	12:48	12:49

MOON PHASES

First quarter, Sept. 6 • full moon, Sept. 14

Point accepts bid for Lake Lily walkway project

By **RACHEL SHUBIN**
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Borough Commission accepted an \$85,000 bid from West Bay Construction for the Lake Lily Park walkway project.

"No one could anticipate what the cost would be because we've never done this before," Administrator Steve O'Connor said. "Doing the numbers, it's within the budget."

A county Open Space grant

provided \$426,800 toward the project, according to O'Connor. The projected cost for engineering and other fees is \$200,000. Additional funding for bulkhead expansion, concrete for benches and parking spots, sprinkler system and engineer fees brings the total cost to \$624,240, O'Connor said.

"The concrete is probably 40 percent of the cost of the walkway," Commissioner Bob Mullock said. "We had a good meeting and good suggestions on that."

The project is labor intensive and the concrete must be mixed on site.

"We can't just have a concrete truck deliver the materials," Mullock said. "The cost of the product is \$8 a square foot and it is 3,000 square feet, coming out to \$24,000."

Mullock said the commission considered rebids to try to save money.

"We could probably look at rebids to save money and cut back \$10,000 or some amount," Mullock said. "But

we only got the one bid and after all the advertising, it is costly to do a second bid and take that time."

The landscaping timeline for the Lake Lily project was another consideration for a second bid.

"We feel obligated to get it done this fall, so to save what might be \$5,000 to \$7,500 after looking at the cost of rebidding, we should accept this bid," Mullock said. "It is within the amount we have budgeted for the project and I'm really happy about that."

Public Works will be doing the irrigation for the project, Mullock said.

"I think it's going to look wonderful," Deputy Mayor Anita vanHeeswyk said. "This is a far better product for us and I'm in favor."

O'Connor said they wanted as much of the project done by October as possible. Mullock added he wanted the landscaping in the ground before the first frost.

Dune Day plans were discussed.

"I've walked the beach and

there is a constant concern when the dune grass starts to move toward the water," vanHeeswyk said. "If we plant anything in that area and increase the ability of the dune to grow around the dune grass, it shortens up what our DEP engineers call blanket/towel area."

VanHeeswyk said Stone Harbor had to ask for more sand and was told it was not supposed to plant toward the water.

"My concern is that the people on dunes stay well behind any stray dune grass popping up on the runners and keep it landward not seaward," vanHeeswyk said. "We want to keep building up what we have."

Mayor Bob Moffatt said there have been more police cars going through Cape May Point and he had received two complaints from locals who got tickets.

"As far as people putting trash out early, there are multiple citations going up," Moffatt said. "You might have seen green signs taped on doors. Repeat offenders have had summonses issued."

The borough has a new pedestrian sign on Lincoln Avenue.

"We have received very positive reports for the stop for the pedestrian sign on Lincoln," Moffatt said. "We got a negative response to the Cape Avenue speed sign, but it was recommended by the Planning Board and the subcommittee had it in the works for over two years."

Moffatt said the commission is waiting for feedback for traffic-calming measures on Cape Avenue but has not heard anything back yet.

"There was a memo which went around about decorating the speed sign," vanHeeswyk said. "I'm against that, except maybe planting something. It's the county right of way and I think it's fine the way it is. We need it and it should stay the way it is; it will age gracefully."

Borough Commission passed a resolution in support of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities' petition for the rulemaking to amend the uniform construction code.

"There was a change to the uniform code so you didn't need permits for several things and have come to find a lot of really bad workmanship has been done because people didn't have permits," vanHeeswyk said. "The league has asked for municipalities to turn it around back to the way it was and I feel very strongly we should follow their lead."

In other news, Mullock encouraged Cape May Point residents to attend and support the hearing on the Sunset Boulevard bike lane project. The hearing will be held at the West Cape May fire hall and the date will be on the Point's website.

The annual beach cleanup is scheduled for Sept. 21.

It's our 100th Birthday and the celebration is all about you!

We are highlighting this milestone with a **FREE** event packed with family fun!

We are grateful to you, our customers. You are the driving force behind our success.



SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

CRESTIVAL

5PM TO 8PM

FREE ADMISSION

MEET CRESTY : MAGIC SHOW
FACE PAINTING : BALLOON ARTIST
BOUNCY HOUSE : AIRBRUSH TATOOS
CARNIVAL GAMES : CARICATURE ARTIST
& much more!

BYRNE PLAZA | 3400 PACIFIC AVE | DOWNTOWN WILDWOOD
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT CRESTSAVINGS100.COM



Big Bank Products • Community Bank Service 609.522.5115 • crestsavings.bank

Cape May Star & Wave

CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE (ISSN 519-020)
Volume 165 Number 35

Published weekly by Sample Media, Inc.,
801 Asbury Ave., #310, Ocean City, N.J. 08226

Published Weekly (52 times a year)

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: By mail for \$42 a year; \$75 for two years; \$22 for six months.
Periodical Postage at Cape May Court House, N.J. and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to the Cape May Star and Wave,
P.O. Box 2427, Cape May, N.J. 08204.

165 Years Old • 1854-2019



GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$29 for 1 year (6 issues)

\$49 for 2 years (save 15%)

609-898-4500

capemaymag.com/sub