



Neighbors, Town Departments Work Together on Little Libraries Project: Launch Parties To Be Held in May

The Little Libraries Project has brought together neighbors from various areas of Milford as well as town employees.

Each of the three new Little Libraries, sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Public Library, have been constructed by interested Little Libraries Committee members and will have stewards, responsible for overseeing it and checking on its stock of books.

The Gulf Beach Little Library is a product of neighbors. It was built by Pat Simon, who lives near Beth Hanson, a member of the Friends of Milford Library's public relations committee. Simon taught and coached in the Milford school system until his retirement a few years ago. He was assisted by his young grandsons Julian and Tristan. Neighbor Cathy Collins, an art teacher in Milford and member of the Milford Arts Council, provided artistic talent and a sea creature design.

Milford resident Jack Button built the Little Library that will be located at the Milford YMCA. Jack (*at right*) has also constructed the third Little Library, with help from his wife Lois, which will be located at the Firehouse Gallery, run by the Milford Arts Council.



Milford Librarian Christine Angeli and Parks and Recreation Director Paul Piscitelli, along with the Milford Department of Public Works, have been instrumental in working with the Friends of the Milford Library to bring the Little Libraries project into being. These newly built Little Libraries will join the Books for Commuters, which the Friends opened in December in the waiting room at the Milford Train Station.

Little Libraries Committee Chair Lisa Thornell-

You Can Bid to Win a 6-Night African Safari for Two

We are planning a silent auction fundraiser featuring a South African Safari for Two valued at \$5,950. Dollars raised will support the Milford Library and Milford Arts Council. Proceeds will be split between Friends of the Milford Library in support of library programs and The Milford Arts Council to restore Milford's WPA mural that will eventually hang in the Library. More details to come...

Gargiulo announced that three Launch Parties will be held in May for the new Little Libraries at the Milford YMCA, the Firehouse Gallery, and Gulf Beach. "We are excited," said Thornell-Gargiulo, "to unveil these gathering places where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. With its tagline, 'take a book, return a book', each newly built box of free books will be open 24/7. Everyone is encouraged to bring a gently used book to donate to start the Library off. I invite everybody to stop by to find out more about the project." Events will be held rain or shine.



Books for Commuters at the Milford Train Station

Mark These Dates and Join Us:

Little Library Launches:

Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. at the Milford YMCA, 631 Orange Avenue. Located off of the parking lot, near the ball fields.

Thursday, May 28, 6:00 p.m. at the Firehouse Art Gallery, 81 Naugatuck Avenue, Walnut Beach. Stop by the exhibition opening, *Abstractions*, at Firehouse Art Gallery.

Friday, May 29, 6:00 p.m. at Gulf Beach on Gulf Street.

Other Friends' Events:

Monday, June 8, 6:00 p.m. High School Book Award Reception, Milford Library.

Friday, June 19 10-11:30 a.m. Friday with Friends event

Saturday, August 15 Oyster Festival Book Sale, Milford Bank Main Office parking lot, Broad St.

New Volunteer Opportunities

Adopt a Library Shelf. Be responsible for keeping one of the library's bookshelves neat and organized. Work on your own schedule, at your own pace.

Fridays With Friends. Help plan and set up scheduled coffee hours.

Oyster Festival Book Sale. Assist in organizing, setting up and manning the Friends' Book Sale.

Contact Us:

Email: milfordlib.friends@gmail.com

On Facebook: [facebook.com/FriendsofMilfordLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMilfordLibrary)

Friends of the Milford Library page on the Library website

Three New Friends' Programs Underway

Welcome to Milford: Volunteers have recently met to assemble "Welcome to Milford bags" which will be given to Milford newcomers when they apply for a Milford Library card. Included in the new blue and yellow Friends Welcome bags are the brand new Milford Chamber of Commerce Guide, Environmental Concerns Commission's Milford Favorite Walks Booklet, Milford Living Magazine, information about the Library and Friends' programs, and bookmarks.

Oral History Project: Volunteer Barbara Cairney is the new chair of the Oral History Project. Students at Foran High School and adult volunteers have begun interviewing and videotaping artists represented in the City's Permanent Art Collection.

Bill Meddick, founder of the Milford Arts Council and the first artist interviewed for the Oral History Project.



Friends Table in the Downstairs Lobby: Friendly volunteers welcome Library patrons, accept book donations and give out information about Friends activities. The table is staffed 'most days' from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. by 18 devoted volunteers, including Peggy Bolger, Jeannie Young Bump, Fran Cappelli, Cheryl Cappiali, Carmella DeVito, Martha Farrington, Zazu Gray, Ellie Kopnick, John Livi, Ro Muscatelli, Flo Munz, Patricia Onofreo, Carol Sahutsky, Judy Salemme, Rhea Spiegel, Carol Ann Stankiewicz and Carol Tavella.

If you want to join in any of these new activities, please email us.

Did You Know That...

*You can donate to the Friends (at no cost to you) just by making purchases on Amazon Smile? List the Friends of the Milford Library as your non-profit of choice and a percentage of every purchase will go directly to us.

* You can now pay for your Friends' membership and make donations online?

* You can purchase items for the Library from their Wishlist? Look for us on the Library's website and follow the directions.

Many Thanks...

- ◆ For their generous contributions to the Friends: *Corporate donors* Barrett Outdoor Communications, Inc., Orange Research Inc., Duffner Family Fund; *Patrons* Mrs. Ray Litchman, Edward Pierce, Anne Bolin; *Sponsors* Martha Chutjian and Eric Jenkins.
- ◆ Peggy Bolger for donating postage and mailing out our membership renewals.
- ◆ Jack and Lois Button for donating time, materials and expertise to the Little Libraries project.
- ◆ Beth Hanson for taking and printing all the wonderful photographs of our events.
- ◆ Carol Sahutsky for coordinating the refreshments we all enjoy at our programs.
- ◆ Jeff Bouvier for the generous donation of 175 books for our book fair.
- ◆ Student volunteers from Foran High School who have helped us with our meetings and programs—they have manned the door, set up chairs and tables and done it all with smiling faces.
- ◆ Wonderful Friends volunteers who, in February and March alone, logged in over 300 hours on our volunteer time sheets.

Friends to Hold Book Sale at Milford Bank during Oyster Festival

Amy Bringardner, Vice President Membership and Chairperson for Book Sales, announced that the Friends will be sponsoring a Book Sale at the Oyster Festival on Saturday, August 15.

"We are delighted", said Amy, "to work with the Milford Bank on our inaugural Book Sale at the Oyster Festival. We will set up in the Milford Bank's Broad Street parking lot. While the Friends sell books every day in the downstairs lobby of the Library, our presence at the Oyster Festival will introduce us to a new group of book lovers."

"We invite everybody to visit our Oyster Festival Book Sale and go home with some really great buys. In the meantime, if you have books you would like to donate please email us (milfordlib.friends@gmail.com)."

Five Milford High School Students to Receive First Annual FOML Book Award on June 8

This year, the Friends of the Milford Library have instituted a new High School Book Award program. Led by FOML committee members Peggy Bolger, Carrie Bryant, and Judy Salemme, and working with school personnel in all five of Milford's high schools, the Friends will recognize one student per school who has exhibited outstanding personal character, made a positive impact on their school or community, and demonstrated a strong and consistent love of reading. Each award winner will receive a book and a duplicate copy of that book will be given to the student's school library with a bookplate commemorating the student's achievement. The Friends will hold a reception for all five students, their families, friends and school officials on Monday, June 8 at 6 p.m. All are welcome.