

Coastal/Greenacres Observer

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Greenacres Celebrates First Little Free Library

By Mary Lindsey
Special to the Herald

The City of Greenacres has joined with communities across every state in America and 70 countries worldwide to share books and build friendships through the Little Free Library movement. Little Free Libraries are small book exchange boxes placed in public locations where neighbors, friends and passersby are encouraged to take a book or leave a book.

The first Little Free Library in Greenacres is a gift from the City of Lake Worth and the Lake Worth Little Free Libraries project. Michele Thompson, from Greenacres' Leisure Services Department contacted the Lake Worth Little Free Libraries project to find out how the project works and how to begin. The Greenacres Community Center with its many programs and services that serve so many neighbors seemed the ideal location to introduce Little Free Libraries.



Pulling the Ribbon: (l to r) Greenacres Mayor Joel Flores, Deputy Mayor Paula Bousquet, City Manager Andrea McCue, Juan Ruiz, Assistant City Manager Lake Worth, Lake Worth Vice Mayor Scott Maxwell, Greenacres Leisure Services Director Michelle Thompson. VM Maxwell picked a youngster from the crowd to help pull the ribbon.

The "Greenacres" Little Free Library was painted to reflect the beautiful city logo and placed on a rolling

stand built by that city's Public Works Department. The Little Library will be rolled out during the day

and taken in at night but will also travel to other events in the city.

According to the Greenacres website, "Many officials were present for the ribbon cutting: Greenacres Mayor Joel Flores, Deputy Mayor Paula Bousquet, and City Manager Andrea McCue. City of Lake Worth Vice Mayor Scott Maxwell, and Assistant City Manager Juan Ruiz also participated in the ribbon cutting. Several City staff members and community partners were also present: Leisure Services Director Michele Thompson and her staff, Public Works Director Carlos Ceden (whose staff built the base to the library to allow it to be portable), City Clerk/PIO Joanna Cunningham, and Helping Hands Staff. The Palm Beach County Library Systems Library Director of the Greenacres Branch, Mr. Jim Lynch, also attended and showed his support of the mini libraries. Children in summer camp were present to be the first ones to use the new library."

LCS Officers Recognized with 'Drug Busters' Award

On July 18, 2017 Officers Chris Fisher and Troy Petruzzi were on patrol in the area of Forest Hill Blvd. when they observed a disabled vehicle by the railroad tracks west of I-95 and stopped to assist the motorist. Following procedure, they ran the license plate. The plate came back stolen and the officers were now conducting a criminal investigation.

Making contact with the subjects in the vehicle, the officers observed a strong odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle. This gave the officers the right to conduct a lawful search of the vehicle. This search yielded what would become Lake Clarke Shores largest drug bust in the Town's history. Packaged for sale the officers were able to take almost 39 grams of Heroin as well as almost 29 grams of cocaine off the streets. The odor of marijuana was from the 29.5 grams of the substance also found in the car.



Lake Clarke Shores Officers Chris Fisher (l) and Troy Petruzzi (r) flank LCS Chief of Police Wes Smith with the 'Drug Buster' awards they received for their work on a large drug bust.

Both subjects have past legal troubles, one had an active warrant for their arrest, and the other was on

probation.

Because of the efforts of both officers I would like to commend them and recom-

mend them for the "Drug Buster" award given out to officers who make significant narcotics arrests.

Overdose Awareness Day Proclaimed

Recognizing addiction is an American Medical Association defined disease and the stigma associated with it must be addressed so that no one feels shame or disgrace over a legal or illegal drug poisoning the Lake Worth City Commission issued a proclamation to the Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates (SEFRA) setting August 31, 2017 as Overdose Awareness Day in Lake Worth.

Drug poisoning is the number one cause of injury deaths in the nation with an accidental drug overdose death occurring every 11 minutes, surpassing deaths from motor vehicle accidents or gun homicides.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 52,404 people died in the United States as

a result of a drug poisoning or 144 per day during 2015, the most current reporting year. According to the Florida Medical Examiners Commission, there were 2,191 accidental deaths in the State of Florida during 2015 caused by a prescription drug poisoning and according to Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, there were 4,926 hospital patients admitted for prescription opioid or heroin drug poisoning during just the first six months of 2016 in all of Florida, including 421 patients in Broward County, 562 in Palm Beach County, and 284 in Miami-Dade County.

By acknowledging all those who have been affected by prescription drug poisoning, we help the general public understand its effects on the community.

PS Council Activity

During the August 10 Village Council meeting the Council approved the preliminary plat for a new Wawa on the Southeast corner of 10th Avenue North and Military Trail.

Council approved sign variances for TE Bank on 10th Avenue North to allow signage visible from the Wal-Mart shopping center.

JP Morgan Chase gained Council approval for a free-standing bank building with two drive up ATM's on the Northwest corner of 10th Ave North and Florida Mango Rd.

Oxygen Development requested and was granted a temporary use permit for off site parking to facilitate employee overflow. The satellite lot will accommodate eighty two spaces.

Pulte Home Company requested a temporary permit to allow a temporary sales center and parking lot to be installed/constructed on the 18.92 acres that is currently being developed as the Preston Square residential town home project. The sales trailer will allow Pulte to begin the sales process.

PS Budget Workshop

The Village of Palm Springs Council held a budget workshop prior to the regular council meeting. Village Manager Richard Reade presented the proposed budget and explained the General Fund the 22 percent increase in property taxes will represent approximately 200 million dollars. Employees represent 58 percent of the General Fund expenses or approximately 12 million dollars.

Reade also pointed out since 2014 the millage rate has fallen from 4.77 to 4.00 or three quarters of a mil.

Reade listed some items staff is requesting for the next budget. They included four new police positions, one for each shift, one code enforcement officer, six new crossing guards which Chief Ceccarelli is looking for grants to cover and a merit increase of two percent for all employees.

Palm Springs Library to be Closed Sept. 1-4 for Termite Tenting

The Village of Palm Springs Library will be closed September 1 and will re-open on September 5. The Library

closing is to facilitate the treatment for termites. The Library will be tented during the process.