



Friends of the
Cape Coral Library



January 21, 2023, General Meeting

PROGRAM:

Friends of the Cape Coral Library Celebrates 50th Anniversary



Friends of the
Cape Coral Library



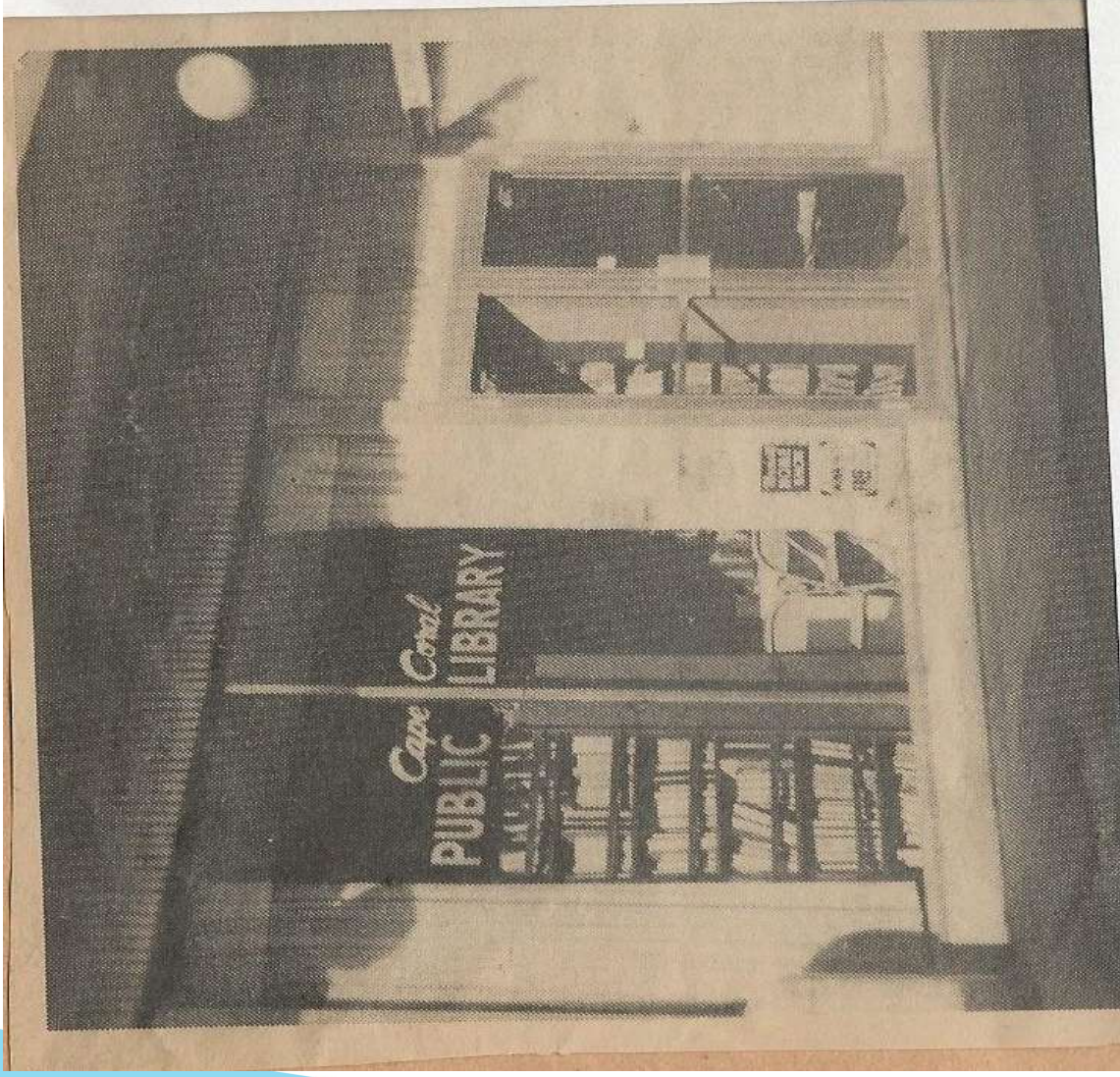
A Brief History of the Cape Coral Library and Little Acorns Friends of the Cape Coral Li

Intro: November 2022 marked the 50th anniversary of the Friends. So many dedicated members and enthusiastic volunteers have made our organization a success over the years and the Cape Coral Library has benefited from our efforts. Also, in November 1962, the first library in Cape Coral opened 60 years ago. Both the library and the Friends have a notable history, this is our collective story!

The FIRST Library in Cape Coral 1962 - 1965

1962:

- Population: approximately 1,100
- Founded by 2 civic-minded women
- Raised funds and volunteer help
- civic meetings; canvassed for books
- Homemade shelves, 700 donated books
- Opened with team of 30 volunteers
- working as “Friends of the Library”
- make new space a cultural center

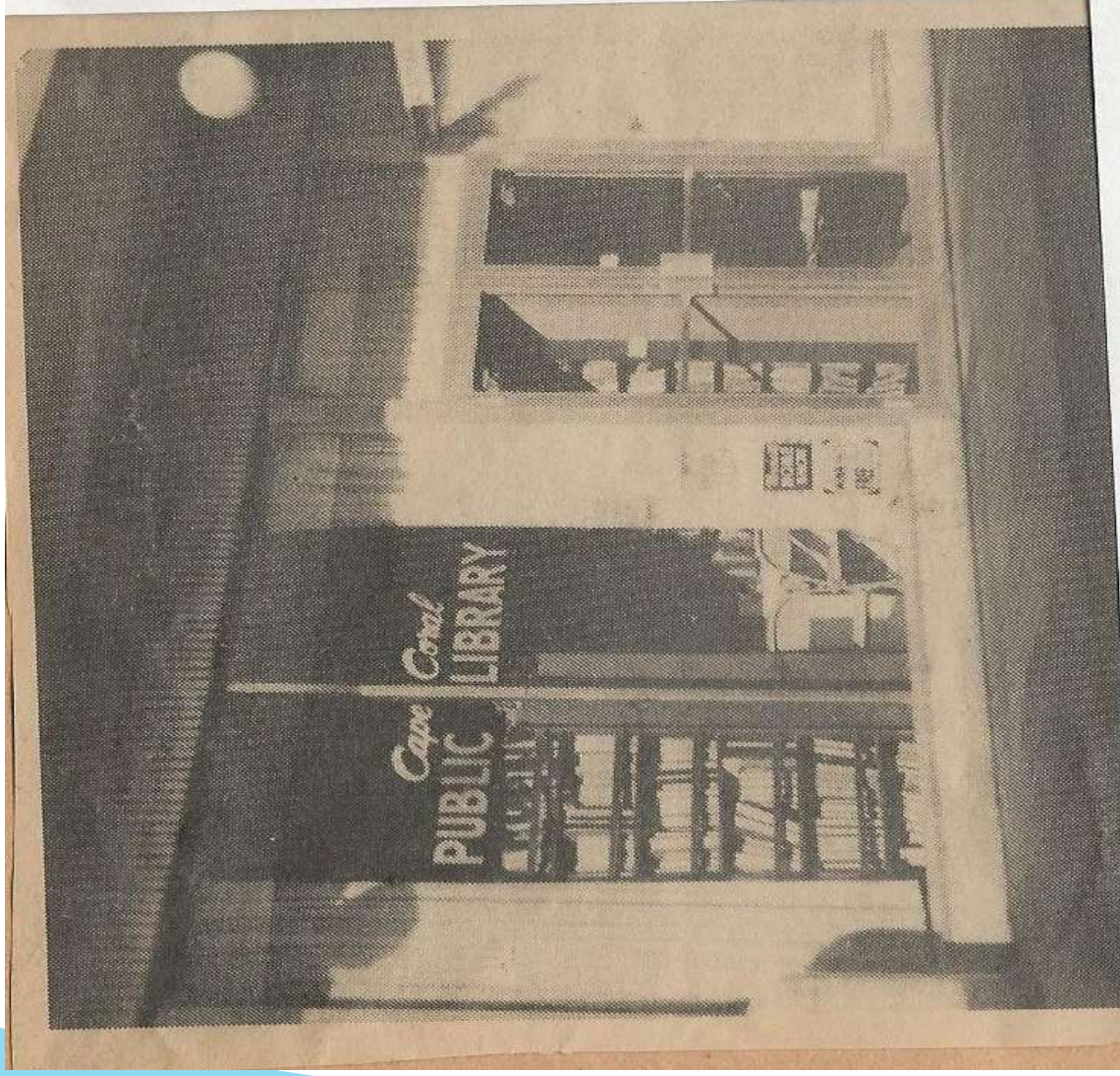


Located in a small shop in the Cape Coral Shopping Plaza.

The FIRST Library in Cape Coral 1962 - 1965

1963:

- Lee County referendum established county-wide library system
- Library received funding for book purchases, continued to be staffed by volunteers with local financial support
- Fundraising activities unique to the area and place - home tours, bake sales, card parties, fees from out-of-town library patrons



Today, shopping center known as Big John
Town Center

The FIRST Library in Cape Coral 1962 - 1965

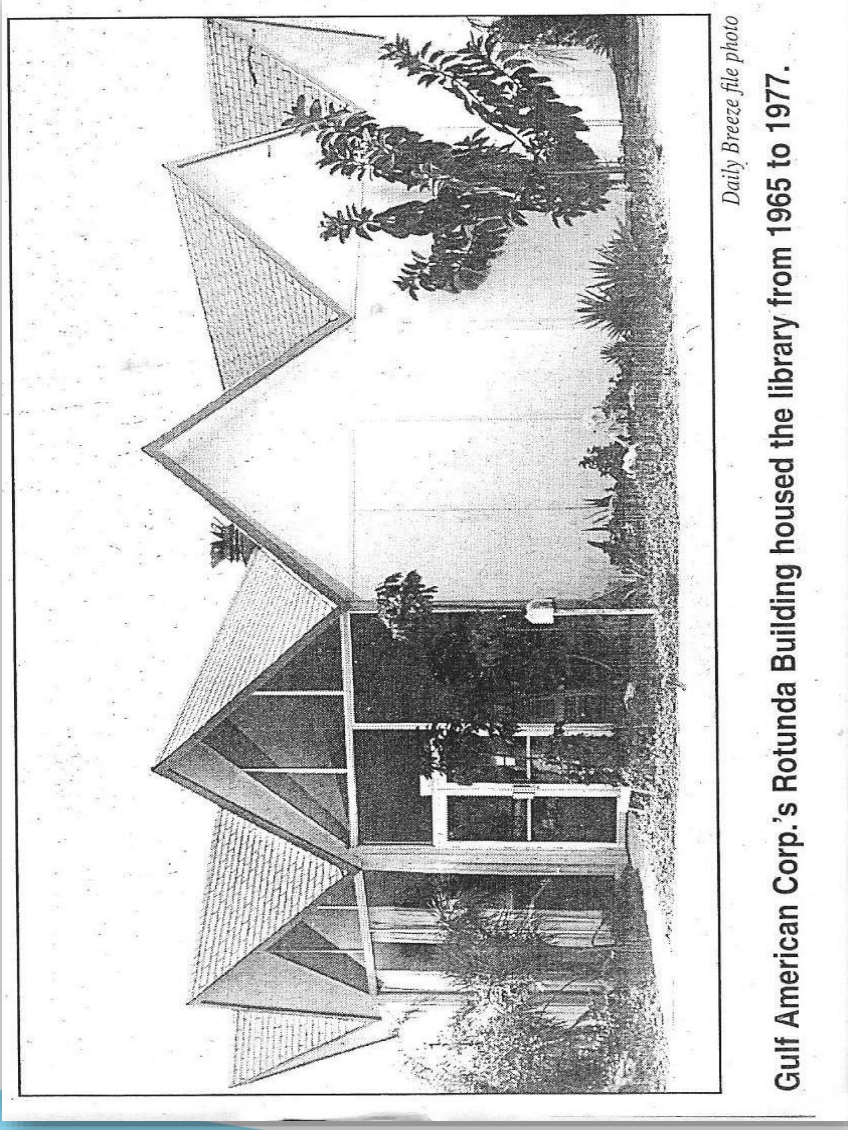
1964:

- 5 women established non-profit Cape Coral Library Association to run library
- Local businessman deeded land used for new library
- Gulf American Land Co. donated 10,000 square foot building
- Local architect donated services to move and remodel building



It didn't take long to outgrow this space!

Cape Coral Public Library 1965 - 1977



- 1965 building moved to Coronado; new building opened in October with 1,100 books, 10 tables and 2 carts
- 1969 First paid employee full-time; 1971 Clerk hired
- By 1972 Cape Coral Incorporated population 11,000; library circulation 11,000; cardholders 4,200
- Quickly outgrowing the Rotunda
- 1972 CCLA, city and civic groups formed for expansion

Today, building is a Cape Coral Recreation Facility, part of the Cape Coral Art Center

Little Acorns Inc. & Betsy Zeiss

1972



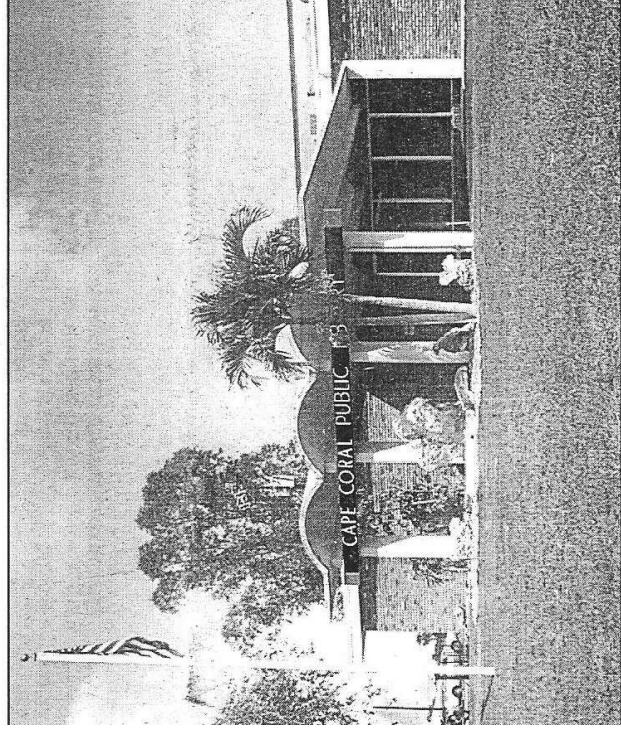
- New non-profit formed to focus on fundraising
- Legend: name based on belief that its members would help the library grow into mighty oak
- Betsy Zeiss founding member and first president of Little Acorns while also serving as CCLA Building Committee Chair
- Author THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER c.1986
- Betsy died in 2020 at age 98, bequeathed Little Acorns \$5,000; used to fund enhancements in the Children's Section



Little Acorns and the Library

1973 - 1977

- From 1973 to 1976 Betsy instrumental in selling the Rotunda, buying and renovating medical clinic next door
- July 1977 team of volunteers packed, moved and unpacked all books
- October 1977 new library dedicated
- 3rd location in 15 years
- Today this building also part of the Cape Coral Art Center

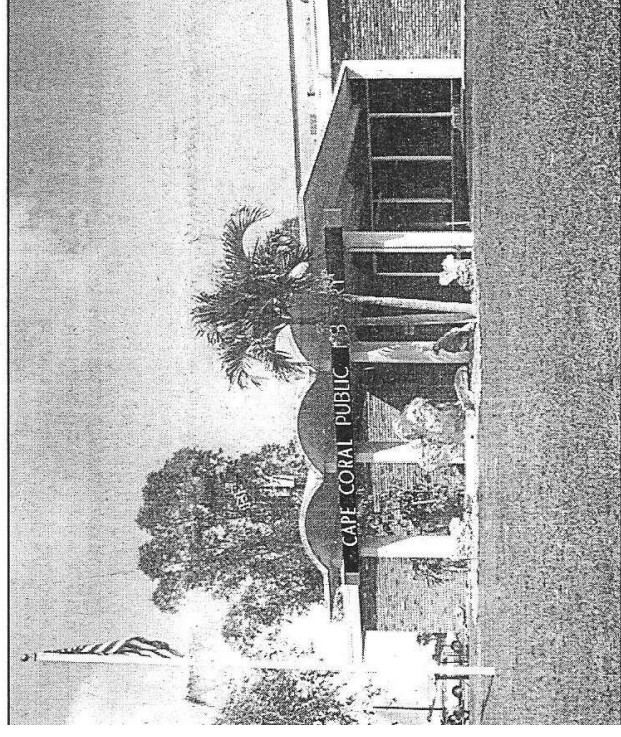


This version of the Cape Library opened in a renovated

Little Acorns and the Library

1977 - 1987

- 1979 Little Acorns asked to fund new addition for reading room, cost \$20,000; dedicated Jan. 1981
- By 1983 Little Acorns provided over \$100,000 to the library for building, books, equipment, supplies and art pictures
- By 1983 circulation was 24,000 with 18,000 cardholders
- City and County officials agreed larger library was needed

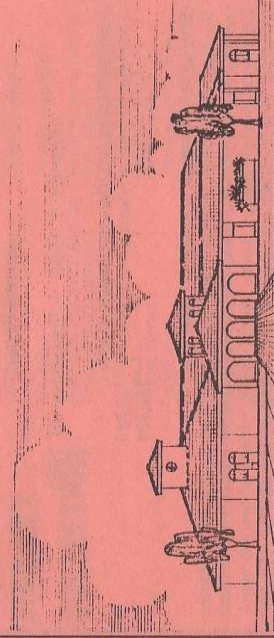


This version of the Cape Library opened in a renovated

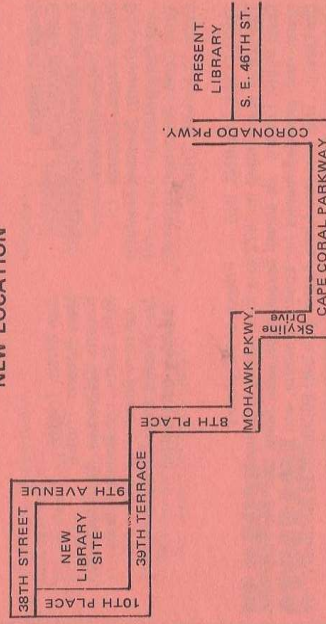
NEW LIBRARY Announce

- 1985 Library Annual Report announced design location of new building on 10.6 acres granted to city; all assets to be transferred to Lee County
- CCLA member volunteers recognized for past “staffed circulation desk, shelved books, and many other capacities for the benefit of the
- Little Acorns Friends of the Library recognized over \$6,300 to library in 1985; “its annual book sales, home tours and other fund raisers have monies for books, furniture and equipment to the new library”

PROPOSED CAPE CORAL PUBLIC LIBRARY



NEW LOCATION



Present Location

4537 Coronado Parkway
Cape Coral, Florida 33904
(813) 542-3953

Carolyn McKinney, Librarian

CHANGE OF HOURS — March 3, 1986

Monday - Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Wednesday - Friday - Saturday
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

MEMBER OF THE LEE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

NEW LIBRARY Unveiled

- New state of the art building dedicated on **1987**
- Dedication ceremony included over 10 speeches, ribbon cutting and Open House in new library complete with refreshments and live music
- Event hosted by CCLA volunteers
- Legend: this time volunteers were older and they hired professional movers for move from Coronado Pkwy to 39th Terrace



Fun Facts from that Event

- In March 1988, CCLA volunteers worked 100 hours to issue new cards, field questions and give directions to new location (over 2,200 received). Children's librarian hired raising library's profile.
- By late 1989 computers installed, began barcoding books and patron's cards
- Mid-1990 card catalogue replaced by computer catalogue accessed by 4 computer terminals
- From 1988 to 1994 paid staff doubled to 10



By 1994...

- Dwindling work for CCLA volunteers along with declining membership; voted to disband, merged with Little Acorns
- Little Acorns does business as Friends of the Cape Coral Library (new logo created after 2005)
- By 1997 this branch busiest in county and bursting at the seams
- August 1997 Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved expansion project DOUBLING size of library



This is how the "new" Cape Coral Library looked in 1994.

1997-2001

Little Acorns committed to raising substantial funds for 3 enhancements and long-held dreams:

- comfortable, quiet reading room
- outside patio garden with seating
- art gallery joining 2 main portions of library

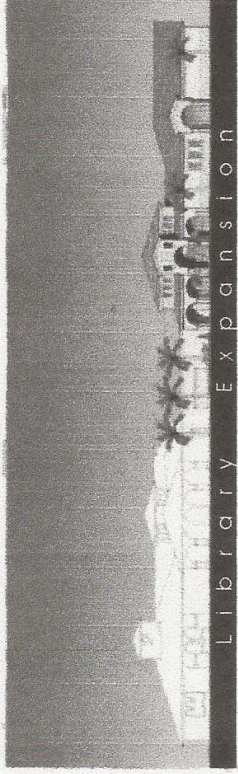
Fundraising in form of book sales, book mending and other special programs



This is how the "new" Cape Coral Library looked in 1994.

Expansion Details

- Cape Coral still busiest library in LCLS; July 2001 circulation 49,650 items
- Expansion doubles size to 38,500 sq.ft., large within LCLS
- Add more than 50,000 new volumes and 60 new computers; existing area fully renovated
- Addition space for adult resources, computer lab and large meeting room



LIBRARY EXPANSION

Ground Breaking

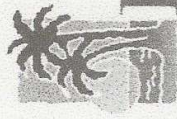
Ceremony

for the

Cape Coral-Lee County
Public Library Expansion

Friday, March 16, 2001
1:00 p.m.

921 SW 39th Terrace
Cape Coral, Florida 33914
(941) 542-3953



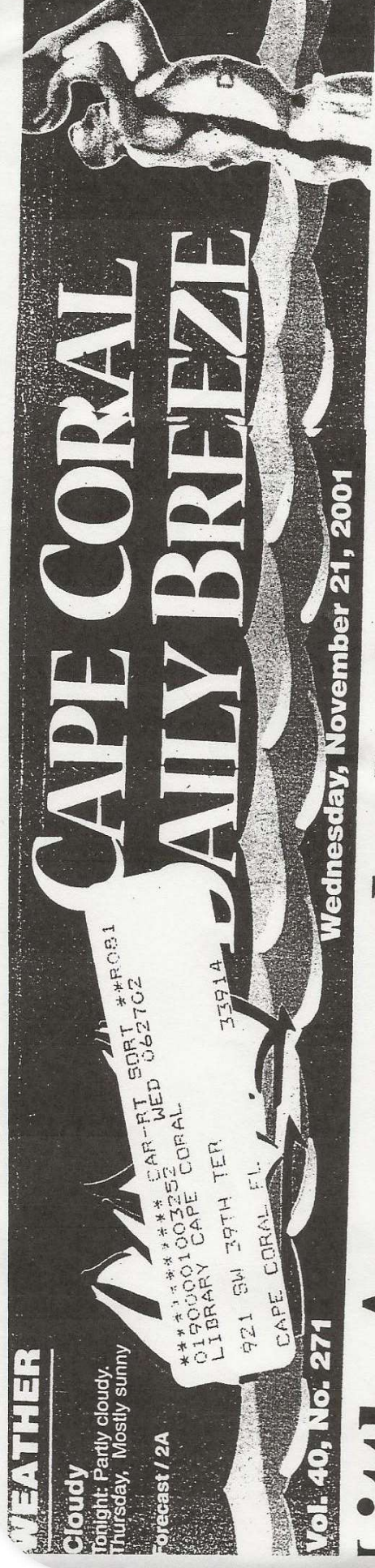
Lee County

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Little Acorns Keep Dreaming



In November 2001, Beverly Woodburn, president of Little Acorns, presented check for \$81,356 to BOCC for the 3 "dream enhancements". What an exciting time for the Friends!



Little Acorns make hefty library donation

Volunteer group donates \$81,356 for expansion project

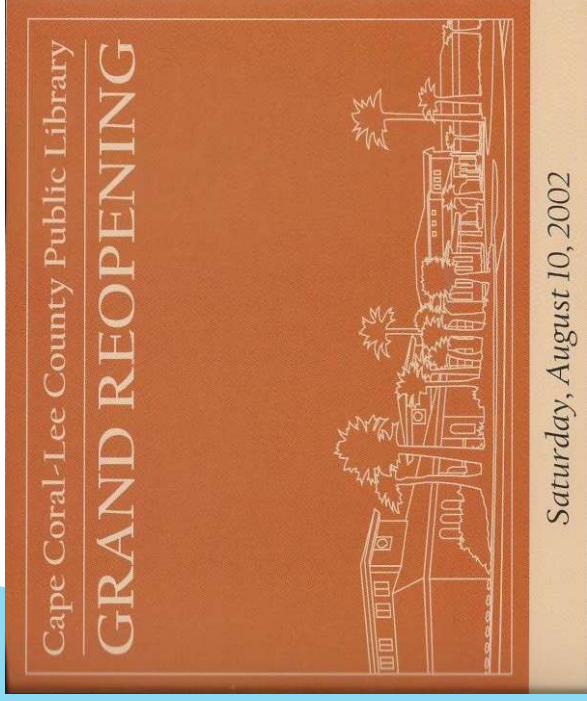
KEVIN DUFFY
 Breeze Staff Writer

for \$81,356.40 during the weekly commission meeting in downtown Fort Myers. The money will be used to construct additional wing. Once complete, the 13-year-old facility will more than double in size, from 18,500 to almost 40,000 square feet.

"We've been given thousands of dollars over the years," said Woodburn. "I feel it will be very classy."

meetings. "It involves purchasing," she said. "The department is responsible for the construction of the wing."

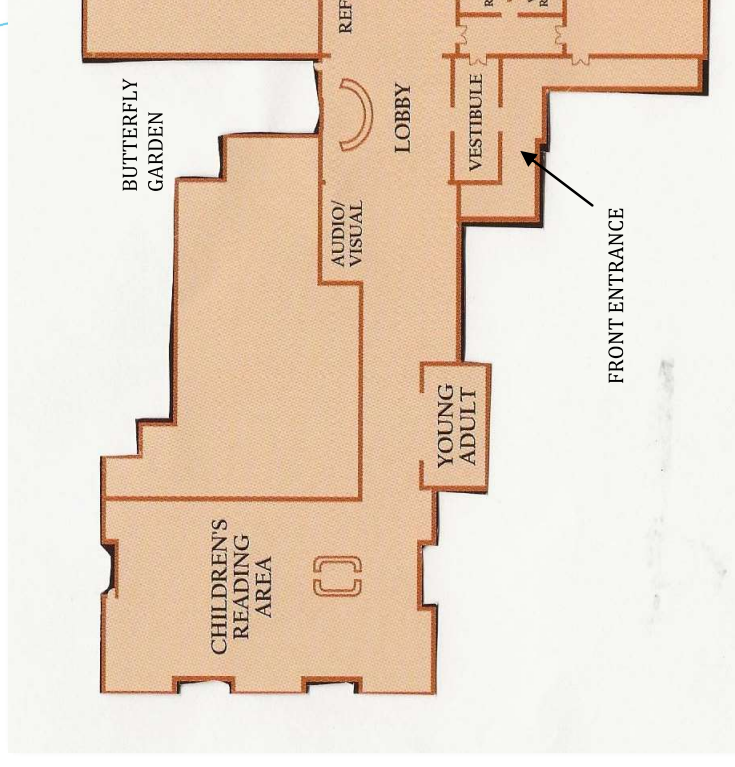
Living the Dream



- Construction took 15 months and cost approximately million
- Double in size to include new children's wing and "first floor" LCLS: large meeting room with A/V system and separate adult room

Saturday, August 10, 2002

- Little Acorns recognized for contribution toward 3 dream enhancements: outdoor reading area with butterfly garden; indoor quiet reading area with comfy chairs; art gallery dedication in near future (all LCLS "firsts")
- This library unique for its time; the founders would be amazed!



More Good News!

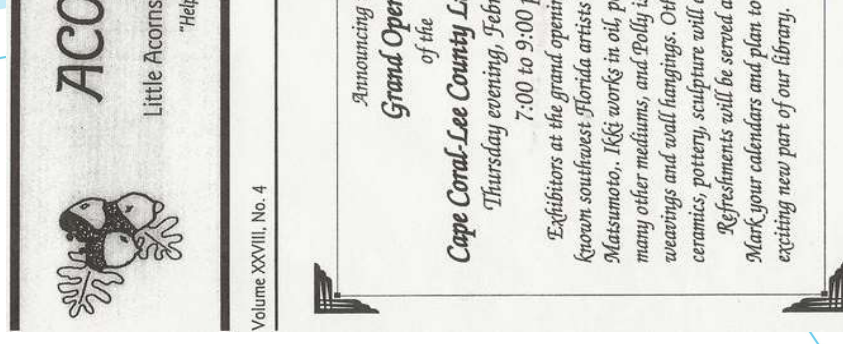


2002: Little Acorns received Florida Library Association's Citation Award for Special Projects

2002: Cape Coral Garden Club volunteers planted certified butterfly garden; their work continues with all costs funded by Little Acorns Friends of the Cape Coral Library



2003: Art Gallery Grand Opening featured artwork of Ikki and Polly Matsumoto, both well-known SWFL artists



Cape Coral - Lee County Public Library Today



Friends of the
Cape Coral Library

Let's Save the Florida Scrub-Jay!

17TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL ART CONTEST



The Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library

and the Friends of Cape Coral Library invite children ages 5-12 years to participate in the 17th Annual Children's Environmental Art Contest Coloring the Earth. The theme is Save the Florida Scrub-Jay! To enter the contest, create an original painting or drawing that shows how we can protect this precious species from habitat loss and other main threats.

Prizes & Awards

Winners will be selected from four age categories: 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. There will be five awards for each age group with certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, as well as for two honorable mentions. Awarded artwork will be exhibited at the library until June 29 and displayed on www.CapeFriends.org under "Art Gallery" tab. A wildlife expert will be our keynote speaker at the awards ceremony to be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at the Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library.

Contest Rules

- Open to ages 5-12 years. Submit one entry only.
- Entries should be on a flat, medium- to heavy-weight art paper, size 8.5" by 11". Watercolor, crayons, pencils, color markers and/or any other preferred material may be used.
- Visit the following website to learn more about ways we can help save the Florida Scrub-Jay!
<https://bit.ly/FL-ScrubJay>

- Artwork will be viewed and voted on by three recognized local artists, a wildlife specialist and a representative of The News-Press. Entries will be judged based on originality and quality of art. Winners will be notified by phone the first week of May 2023.

- Neither the Library nor the FOCCL are responsible for lost or damaged artwork. Artwork on display, as well as other artwork entries, will be returned by directly contacting Alessia Leathers at alessialeathers@yahoo.com

Deadline: To participate in the contest all artwork must be received by noon **Saturday, April 29, 2023.** The Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library will have a designated box in the children's area to receive entries. Questions? Contact Alessia Leathers at alessialeathers@yahoo.com

Environmental Art Contest Celebrates 17 Years!

Today the Gallery Committee not only co provide changing exhibits featuring talented artists, but it also provides funding and support for the Children's Environmental Art Contest its 17th year -- led by the same person.

Now that's a labor of love.



CAPE CORAL-LEE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
921 S.W. 39th Terrace, Cape Coral
239-479-4636

Cape Coral - Lee County Public Library Today



Friends of the
Cape Coral Library



- One of 6 regional libraries with 14-branch Lee County Library System
- Paid staff totals 22
- Ranking within LCLS:
 - #2 for circulation approx. 432,000
 - #2 for cardholders at nearly 38,000
 - #3 in size at 38,500 sq.ft.
- Unique in Lee County - butterfly garden, art gallery



FOCCL Today



Board of Directors May 2022



Book Sale Volunteers November 2022

- Still going strong with 269 members and 60 active volunteers
- Continue mission of supporting and enhancing resources of this library branch; advocate for the county
- Primary fundraising activity is selling donated books; raised over \$355,000 in past 22 years
- Books sold 3 ways: everyday in library (First Tuesday), online store on eBay (CCFLbooks), 2 book sales each year



FOCCL Funding Ongoing

Where does the money go?

Our current annual commitment to the library totals \$13,000. This pays for:

- In-house programming for adults, teens and children - fees for authors, entertainers and presenters; contest awards & prizes; general supplies; craft supplies (e.g., painted wineglass, beading & slime time); and refreshments where offered (e.g., Art Contest, English Café)
- Summer Reading Program for readers of all ages - books for kids/teens, grab'n go kits, contest prizes, fees for outside presenters (e.g., magic & science shows, fishing & dancing workshops), activity booklets
- Book Page monthly magazine, supplies for Art Gallery & Butterfly Garden
- Sponsorship SWFL Reading Festival



FOCCL Funding Enhancements



Friends of the
Cape Coral Library

In recent years FOCCL has contributed \$90,000 for one-time enhancements.

2022/2023: Children's section interactive play walls	\$ 5,000
2022/2023: Butterfly Garden shaded seating	\$ 8,000
2018: Meeting & conference room tables	\$20,000
2017: Children's section modular furniture	\$ 5,000
2014: A/V system upgrades meeting & story-time rooms	\$23,000
2010: Automated Material Handling (exterior drop-off)	\$20,000
2008: Check-in Kiosks	\$ 9,000





Friends of the
Cape Coral Library



A Brief History of the Cape Coral Library and Little Acorns Friends of the Cape Coral Library

Closing: The Friends' success and longevity are due to the many caring and sharing people who consider the Cape Coral Library a valuable community asset and important cultural center. The Friends are proud to have contributed **over half a million dollars** to the library in span of 50 years. We hope to be a part of this wonderful library's history for many years to come.

Prepared by Dawn LaVacque, January 2023