

**Fwd: Ridgeway Little Free Library**

1 message

**Marj Riniker** <admins@ridgewaywi.gov>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 12:31 PM

To: Lori Phelan &lt;clerk@ridgewaywi.gov&gt;

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Maggie Johnson** <johnsonmd19@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Apr 6, 2026 at 9:14 AM

Subject: Re: Ridgeway Little Free Library

To: Marj Riniker &lt;admins@ridgewaywi.gov&gt;

Cc: Vickie Stangel &lt;vlrstangel@gmail.com&gt;, Rae Ann Butteris &lt;timnrae@hotmail.com&gt;, Deb Weier &lt;wiesedeb@gmail.com&gt;

Hi Marj,

Thanks for getting on the board agenda and mentioning it to park and rec. We have some concerns about it going at the depot. We were originally thinking the LFL would be like an "extension" of the library where we could put donated books that are duplicates or extras. Here are our thoughts:

- The depot is not as easily accessible for us to add duplicates/extra donated books from the library. We would have to pack up the books and take them to the depot.
- If the LFL is at the depot, the library volunteers and the village office can't keep a close eye on it. Not that we need to watch it like a hawk, but if it's out of our sight, we can't see if books are getting low, if it needs maintenance, or if there is something wrong with it.
- Depending on where they put it around the depot, I worry the LFL would not be accessible in the winter. If it's along the bike path, it would be hard to get to with the snow.
- Carol worked incredibly hard for the RVL. Yes, she worked at the depot during the farmers market, but she also contributed to opening the library and its success.

I know the board will discuss this and will have the final decision, but I wanted to bring it to your attention before the meeting. I have a running document with the LFL information for the board, so I will send that to Lori this week.

Thanks,

Maggie

On Tue, Mar 31, 2026 at 11:34 AM Marj Riniker &lt;admins@ridgewaywi.gov&gt; wrote:

Hi all - I brought this up to the Park and Rec committee last night, and they all loved the idea and suggested that it go by the Depot as Carol spent a lot of time there, and did readings for them there, and hung out at the park a lot. There are benches there for people to sit at after they grab a book, too.

I talked to Bruce and he said he would be able to get permission if it were to go on the DNR portion of the land there.

I have asked Lori to put in on the agenda for you or someone to come talk about it at the meeting April 14.

On Mon, Mar 30, 2026 at 3:14 PM Maggie Johnson &lt;johnsonmd19@gmail.com&gt; wrote:

I can't make it to the meeting tonight, but if you need anything from me, I'll be in the library around 4:15pm.

Maggie

On Mon, Mar 30, 2026 at 3:00 PM Marj Riniker &lt;admins@ridgewaywi.gov&gt; wrote:

Ok - I will let Lori know to put you on the agenda for that. I do actually have a 'Library programs' item on the agenda for tonight's Park & Rec meeting if you want to come and do a quick presentation and get a feel for it and then we could do the recommendation, but I realize it is very short notice.

On Mon, Mar 30, 2026 at 2:35 PM Maggie Johnson &lt;johnsonmd19@gmail.com&gt; wrote:

Sure, that would be great to be put on the board agenda. Is that the April 14th meeting?

Maggie

On Mon, Mar 30, 2026 at 9:34 AM Marj Riniker <[admins@ridgewaywi.gov](mailto:admins@ridgewaywi.gov)> wrote:

Great idea, but it is too late to get on the P&R agenda for tonight's meeting. However, since it would be placed somewhere in the village, it would be best to just go straight to the board and ask to be on their agenda next week.

On Thu, Mar 26, 2026 at 9:52 AM Maggie Johnson <[johnsonmd19@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonmd19@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Marj and Lori,

I have been working with Vickie Stangel, Rae Ann Butteris, and Deb Weier on starting a Little Free Library in memory of Carol Murphy. Since Carol worked for the Ridgeway Volunteer Library through the Dodgeville Public Library and was born and raised in Ridgeway, we would like to do this to keep her memory alive.

If you haven't heard of Little Free Libraries, they are "take a book, share a book" structures throughout communities. You can find more information on their [website](#) if you are interested. Many of the surrounding communities have them thanks to Southwest Tech, but Ridgeway doesn't.

Since little free libraries are community-based, we were thinking ours could be put outside the Ridgeway Community Center. The community center gets a lot of foot traffic, we can easily monitor it, and it will allow us to put extra donated books into it. We have monetary donations and Mark Weier will build it, so we would basically need guidelines on what the village wants, where we should put it, and official approval for the project. With that said, I'm assuming this will need to go through the Park and Rec. committee and then to the Board of Trustees meeting. If so, can we be added to the next Park and Rec meeting?

Let me know if you have any questions. We appreciate your help.

Thank you!

Maggie Johnson

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**Marj Riniker**

**Village of Ridgeway**

Admin Services/Deputy Clerk

608-924-5881

[admins@ridgewaywi.gov](mailto:admins@ridgewaywi.gov)

*I'd rather look back on my past and be able to say 'I cant believe I did that' rather than say 'I wish I had done that'*

--

**Marj Riniker**

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## Project owners:

Maggie Johnson, Vickie Stangel, Rae Ann Butteris, and Deb Weier.

## Project overview:

We would like to start a [Little Free Library](#) (LFL) in memory of Carol McSherry Murphy. Carol was born and raised in Ridgeway and she was instrumental to the opening and success of the Ridgeway Volunteer Library. Carol passed away in August 2025. She spent a lot of time at the farmers' market/depot, helping with events, and working in our library.

The LFL would act as an “extension” of the library. Our library gets a lot of donations and unfortunately, we can't keep all of them. We would like to put some books we don't keep or the ones we weed from our collection into the LFL. Users are also welcome to “take a book, leave a book” as well.

## LFL details:

- The LFL project will be funded by donations
- Mark and Deb Weier will build the LFL structure

## LFL appearance:

- Neutral color: Red, brown, or woodtone
- See-through doors
- Will have at least 2-3 shelves
- Will have a LFL plaque with the charter # and a plaque that says “In Memory of Carol McSherry Murphy”

## LFL design inspiration:



## Proposed location:

We propose placing the LFL at the Ridgeway Community Center for the following reasons:

- We can easily take books from the library and put them into the LFL
- The LFL should help encourage patrons to use the Ridgeway Volunteer Library
- Carol enjoyed working at the Ridgeway Volunteer Library and spent a lot of time there

Below are three location options. We realize that VOR employees will need to mow, trim, and shovel near or around the structure. We want to make it accessible for users, but also in a suitable spot for village employees.



## Questions for VOR Board of Trustees:

Q: Can village employees help with installation?

- Will need holes drilled into the ground and the posts will need to be cemented in.

Q: Who should be the LFL “steward?”

- The steward will own the online account, monitor the LFL, and make sure repairs are done as needed. The time commitment should be minimal.
- Will the village office want to be the steward since it will be on VOR property?
  - If not, Maggie Johnson would be willing.

Q: Once it’s finished, can we have an “opening ceremony?”

- We would love to have an official opening ceremony where we invite her family, people who donated, and the community.
- *IF* it’s built and ready to go, we were thinking June 17th because that was Carol’s birthday.