LIBRARY **TIMELINE**

2026

State of Florida grant, Barker Library Fund, Friends, and City funded renovations to the existing library began. Improvements included new HVAC systems, LED lighting, shelving, furniture, carpet, paint, and glass doors on the old kids' room to create a new learning lab.

2025

For the **library's 60th anniversary**, the library and recreation departments hosted a community-wide "60 Years of Stories" celebration. Events included a literary-themed dinner honoring member of the Library Advisory Board, the Friends Board, and City Commissioner; a storybook parade featuring children's book floats and an evening concert in the park.

2024

The November **grand opening of the library youth wing** welcomed hundreds of residents to the new facility. Families enjoyed a visit from the Cat in the Hat, games, arts and crafts, prizes, a wildlife show, and a free book for each child. The program was supported by the Friends of the Library and City. The addition of the youth wing brought the library's total square footage to 9,700.

In coordination with library staff and the Friends of the Library, teen resident Rocco Marese installed a Little Free Library in Frank McDonough Park as his Eagle Scout project.

LIBRARY **TIMELINE**

2023

City of Lighthouse Point Mayor Kyle Van Buskirk, Broward County Mayor Lamar Fisher, Florida State Representative Chip LaMarca and the City Commission joined library staff, boards, and patrons for the **ground breaking of the new 1,800 square foot youth wing.**

2021

To promote early literacy, physical activity, and family time in nature, the library partnered with the Friends of the Library and the recreation department to host the **first StoryWalk in a City park (DeGroff).**

2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all City and County buildings were closed to visitors. Lighthouse Point Library staff worked on site but shifted services. During this time over 5,500 print materials were picked up through takeout, 3,000 phone reference questions were answered, over 100 digital programs were offered, and tons of grab and go crafts were given out.

Library staff, the Friends of the Library, and teen resident Makena Vargo received the **Florida Library Association Special Projects Award** for the first Little Free Library in a City Park (Dan Witt).

2018

Over 65% of Lighthouse Point residents voted to approve a **$16.5 million-dollar General Obligation Bond for multiple City enhancements.** The G.O. Bond included funding for library expansion.

Library staff and the Friends of the Library were **awarded the Florida Library Association's Special Project Award** for “The 1965 Society”, a new year-round fundraising campaign named in honor of the library’s founding year.

LIBRARY **TIMELINE**

2017 – **The Barker eLibrary** was established, offering digital newspapers, magazines, databases, and digital educational programs to all patrons.

2015 – **The library celebrated its 50th Anniversary** with book talks by three New York Times bestselling authors, a Kids Are Wild About The Library day, and the Party Like It's 1965! gala. A new branding logo for the library was unveiled, and each library volunteer received the President's Volunteer Service Award from President Barack Obama.

The library **launched eBooks and digital audiobooks** through Overdrive/Libby.

2014 – The library was **awarded the Florida Library Association's Innovation Award** for the use of technology and outreach through its Virtual Global Story Time for K-2 Broward Public School students.

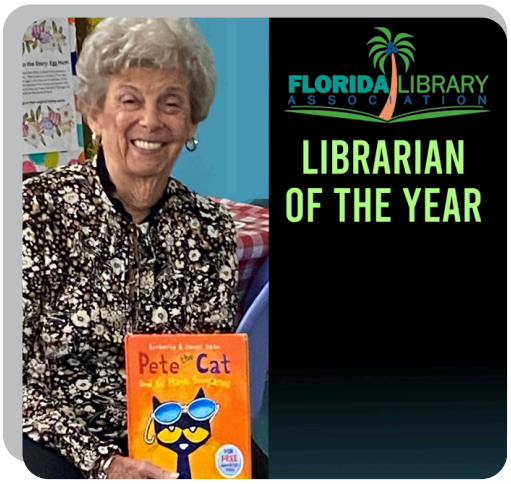
The library launched a new online catalog (Biblionix), allowing patrons to research and request books, DVDs, and audiobooks from anywhere.

The Walt and Mary Barker Library Fund was established to "provide educational enjoyment of the library by the citizens of Lighthouse Point". The $500,000 fund was bequeathed by Mary Barker, a longtime library volunteer. With approval from the City Commission, the library may use an annual percentage of the balance for special projects and educational programs.

2012 – The Mayor Fred Schorr with the consent of the City Commission **named Christy Keyes the new Director of The Doreen Gauthier Lighthouse Point Library.**

LIBRARY **TIMELINE**

2011 After over 30 years of outstanding service to the Lighthouse Point community, **Library Director Doreen Gauthier retired.**



2009 Doreen Gauthier was awarded **Librarian of the Year by the Florida Library Association.**

2007 The Mayor Fred Schorr with consent of the City Commission renamed the 7,900 square foot renovated library **"The Doreen Gauthier Lighthouse Point Library"**. This tribute honors longtime Library Director Doreen Gauthier's dedication to the library and City.

The remodeled and expanded library reopened with an additional 1,900 square feet. The $1.2 million capital project funded jointly by General Obligation bonds issued by the City of Lighthouse Point, a $285,000 State of Florida library construction grant, and most significantly the generous donations of private individuals, businesses, and service agencies in the City.

2002-06 **The library gained funding to enlarge the building's footprint** through a voter approved General Obligation Bond ($46,000), a library construction grant ($285,000), post water damage insurance funds, and generous donations from private individuals, businesses, and service agencies to the Friends of the Library.

LIBRARY **TIMELINE**

1987 **The library occupied a section (6,000 square feet) of its present location** in the City Hall Complex.

1985-87 **The library was open and active in a temporary location, a trailer**, on the grounds of Trinity Methodist Church (now Coastal Community Church) of Lighthouse Point.

1984 **Ground breaking for the shared City Hall and library building began.**

1972 **Under the leadership of Mayor Frank McDonough, the City of Lighthouse Point assumed operation of the library** making it a City department. The City provided a paid professional staff and a book budget.

1968 **The library moved to a larger storefront** in the Venetian Isles Shopping Center. The first paid staff member was a "library consultant" who ordered less than 10 new books each month and assigned Dewey Decimal Classification numbers to titles.

1965 **The Lighthouse Point Library opened the doors in July 1965 in a rented Beacon Light Center storefront.** Charitable donations and an annual charity ball chaired by Mr. & Mrs. William Solien funded the library. The first collection was less than 500 donated books and an all-volunteer staff.