

How our Pleasant Run community got its “Little Free Library”!

In June 2016 Bruce and Cindy Stenz bought a condominium home here in the Pheasant Run community. After selling their home in Brookfield and getting some upgrading completed in their new Pheasant Run home, they moved in the latter part of August. Unfortunately, after a short battle with terminal cancer, Cindy passed away in June 2018. Then in February 2020, Bruce sent a donation offer of a *Little Free Library* to the HOA Board of Directors for their consideration.

In his request to the Board, he explained that his late wife Cindy was an avid lifetime reader who also loved to share and exchange books with her friends and family. And in her memory, and because of her passion for book reading and sharing books; Bruce and his children wished to donate an original *Little Free Library* to the Pheasant Run HOA for his fellow community members to use and enjoy. It was their hope that the Pheasant Run HOA's Board of Directors would accept and approve this donation on behalf of the community. At the February 2020 Board meeting the donation was officially accepted. Then at the March 2020 Board meeting the final location was chosen and Hunt Management offered to install the new library at no cost.



In April 2020 one of Hunt Management's staff installed the new *Little Free Library* across the street from 19055 Stonehedge Drive. Then in early May 2020, Bruce distributed an “Official Opening” flyer to all of our community members for them to join in the official opening on May 30, 2020. Even though all of us were in the middle of the COVID situation, over 22 fellow homeowners showed up to officially accept and dedicate this donation to our community. During the official opening, Bruce explained his “landscaping plan” and a number of fellow homeowners subsequently donated monies toward the future landscaping plan. The monies were temporarily placed in our “reserve fund”, and the final landscaping plan was officially approved and installed during the summer of 2022. The “roman stones” used as the pathway and planting bed border were donated by Heritage Landscaping; and then the collected monies were used to pay for the pathway material, the initial bed

plantings, and the labor costs to complete the landscaping plan. Since this *Little Free Library* is a chartered library, Bruce continues to be the official community steward!

So, how does our *Little Free Library* work? If you stop and visit our community's *Little Free Library* and you should see something you would like to read, you can take it. After you've read it, you return it; or you can pass it on to a fellow Pheasant Run neighbor to read. If you have a book you'd like to donate and share with other neighborhood readers, you can leave it in the *Little Free Library*. Periodically the library and its books will be checked and rotated.

You're welcome to leave a note in the guest book. It might be the name of a good book you just finished reading, a short note about your donation to the library, or maybe a special message to your fellow neighbors. Please send an email to Bruce Stenz (bcstenz1@gmail.com) if you notice something amiss with our community library.

Enjoy this community's special amenity!