

Laundromat Library Offers Books for All Age Readers

By DENISE HERSCHEL

There are many Laundromat Libraries across the country, aimed at exposing under-served preschoolers to literacy and now the first one in Monmouth County has opened in Bradley Beach.

The laundromat is a place that many families go each week, not requiring identification or a library card. And, most recently, Bradley Beach Laundromat, 615 Park Place Ave. was chosen as a Laundromat Library giving kids books to call their own. As the only Laundromat Library in Monmouth County, owners Victor and Ursula Ayers are thrilled that their local borough laundromat was selected.

"We purchased the laundromat in April 2021. We were approached by Abigail Daly, executive/founder from Bridge of Books Foundation. This organization focuses on building community-based reading programs for preschoolers, and a library, sponsored by the foundation through a grant from the Burlington Foundation, has recently been installed in our laundromat," Ursula said.

She said a customer initially approached her about the program.

"Once our interest was established, we met with Abby Daly and later organized a meeting with various community members, Alison Zylinski from Bradley Beach Elementary School, Cynthia Becker from Bradley Beach Library and the Bradley Beach Business Community Alliance," she said.

The library was installed in October 2023 and new books are received each month through the grant.

"The program is geared toward preschoolers but we have books for all ages," she said. "Anyone can come in and use the library. Simply take a book home."

Ursula said the Bradley Beach Laundromat was chosen because of their location, large customer base and cleanliness.

"It is a library based in a laundromat. Rather than be a 'lending library' we give books away. It is a great concept aimed at exposing under-served preschoolers to literacy. We have hours that extend beyond those at the local library," Ursula said.

For more information about the Laundromat Library contact Victor Ayers at vnayers@yahoo.com.



Coaster Photo
Pictured at the Laundromat Library in Bradley Beach are (from left seated) Ursula Ayers, Reed Pisani and Sophia Ayers. Standing are Victor Ayers, Abigail Daly, Mayor Larry Fox and Jackie Jankewicz from the Bradley Beach Alliance.



Coaster Photo
Ursula Ayers organizes books at the Laundromat Library

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Laundromat Library

Reed Pisani and Sophia Ayers are pictured at the Laundromat Library in Bradley Beach.