

To The Editor:

Michael Miller's Oct. 2 article on Woodbine's new County library branch omits key facts, reported elsewhere, that would have shed light on the Freeholders' poor priorities and lack of long-term planning. The County contributed \$315,000 toward the 2,100 sq. ft. Woodbine branch, contrasted with the planned \$4.5 million expense for the new 11,000 sq. ft. Stone Harbor castle on the sand. Stone Harbor's year-round population of 1,100 is less than half Woodbine's 2,700 residents.

Also omitted from the article is the needed work to repair and upgrade the Lower, Wildwood Crest and Upper Township branches, all of which serve many more County residents than Stone Harbor's branch. The County's consultant estimated this work at roughly half a million dollars per branch. It also cited the need to demolish and rebuild the City of Cape May branch. At the Freeholder meeting of September 25, 2007, Freeholder Bakley stated that the Library Commission has no timeline and no priority order for any of this work. But they are moving forward in Stone Harbor. Voters need to know that this is how the current Freeholders manage the County.

It's time for a change. Robert Jackson and I offer voters a choice for change.  
Steve Bacher  
Democratic Candidate for Cape May County Freeholder

Oct 2 Article:

WOODBINE - The borough's new public library opened Monday, offering ready access to books, videos and the Internet in this former industrial town.

The seventh branch of the [Cape May County](#) library joins a new school library that opened last week in Woodbine Elementary. It's all part of a \$4 million expansion designed to turn the school into a social and cultural hub of the community.

The public library inside the school has 14,000 books, 600 DVDs and 150 books on CD. The wealth of new materials is a far cry from the converted recreational vehicle that brought books to town like an ice-cream vendor.

"Goodbye, bookmobile," [Mayor William Pikolycky](#) said during the ceremonial opening. Meanwhile, the adjoining school library opened last week. Three volunteers helped stock shelves with the old library's books. Boxes of new books will go on the shelves soon, school librarian [Judy Casper](#) said.

A few weeks ago, this part of the addition was dark and the shelves were bare.

"Everybody in the community has been awesome in helping us out," Casper said.

The school library has a large, plush carpet in a corner where younger children will read together, [Superintendent Lynda Anderson-Towns](#) said.

Casper said many students likely will make trips to the county library on the corner of the building on their way home from school.

Librarian Mercedes [Gaines](#), who lives in Woodbine, said she was not nervous about Monday's opening. She has worked in the library system for 20 years.

"I'm just anxious to meet the community," she said. "We have a lot to offer."

Woodbine has never had a formal public library. Gaines said she thinks gradually residents here will make the library a regular stop while running errands.

"I think so. Even those who do not have children in the school will look forward to using the branch," Gaines said.

The new library has wireless Internet access and six computers. There are separate reading areas for children and adults. While the public library is part of the school building, it will operate independently of the school.

The county is planning to rebuild the [Stone Harbor](#) branch and possibly the [Sea Isle City](#) branch, too, pending the results of a study examining the creation of an independent city library.

The public library is open Monday through Saturday.

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