



**Media Contact:**

Therese Corrigan-Bastuk 585-224-5819

[iron\\_rotary@yahoo.com](mailto:iron_rotary@yahoo.com)

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**Book Houses will be a Bloomin' in Irondequoit**  
*Irondequoit Rotary is sponsoring construction of Little Free Libraries*

The Irondequoit Rotary Club invites town residents to be part of a new program, as the club supports the construction of 10 Little Free Libraries. Little Free Libraries are hand-crafted structures filled with constantly changing collections of books donated and shared by people of all ages and backgrounds.

A Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange to help connect children to books within their own neighborhoods. Most Little Free Libraries are placed in front yards, parks, gardens and easily accessible locations. The Libraries are built to withstand weather of all kinds and hold 20-100 books. Some Libraries are located in coffee shops, in or near restaurants and community centers.

Area residents are encouraged to donate, borrow and exchange books, to keep the little libraries full of an ever-changing collection of books. "These libraries unite neighborhoods around the love of reading and literacy through free book exchanges," says Therese Corrigan-Bastuk, Irondequoit Rotary president. While some book houses already exist in the area, Irondequoit Rotary would like to see the book house population bloom throughout the town by providing building materials to town residents, businesses, civic and service organizations.

The goal is to construct ten Little Library Book Houses by June, 2017 in Irondequoit. The book houses can take on any shape, size or design, to provide a safe, dry place for books. The Rotary will provide a budget of \$300 for materials for each Little Free Library to be built in Irondequoit. Applications can be downloaded at [irondequoitrotary.org](http://irondequoitrotary.org). For more information, please call 224-5819 or email [iron\\_rotary@yahoo.com](mailto:iron_rotary@yahoo.com). The deadline to apply is January 31, 2017.

Book House Communities across the country have embraced the Little Free Library concept. The Little Free Library program help supplement main community libraries. "Little Free Library book exchanges have a unique, personal touch," Corrigan-Bastuk notes. There is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community; Little Libraries have been called "mini-town squares." In 2015, Little Free Library's work was recognized by the Library of Congress for Best Practices in Literacy.