



Community Beautification/ Improvement Project

Two Little Free Libraries were built for the East Bluff Neighborhood at a total cost of \$350.

NEWS RELEASE

DATE: April 29, 2014

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY TO BE UNVEILED

East Bluff residents will soon be able get a book to read by strolling over to an outdoor library! The city's first Little Free Library will be unveiled at 5:00 p.m. on May 7th on the grounds of the East Bluff Community Center, 512 E. Kansas St.

The Little Free Library is a nationwide program whereby donated books are stocked in a box similar to a bird house. The box is attached to a post which is securely installed at a public location. Children and parents are encouraged to take a book to read and return it for their neighbors to read. Peoria's Little Free Library was developed by residents and service providers in a coalition called East Bluff – Build it Up! East Bluff resident and coalition member Herb Gress, with assistance from AmeriCorps worker Zack Teague, built the library with funds provided by Peoria Opportunities Foundation.

For information, or to donate books, contact Jane Genzel at 309-672-5212

LOCAL & STATE

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THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014

Little Free Library makes its debut in East Bluff

Birdhouse-shaped box holds dozens of volumes available to readers

BY ZACH BERG
OF THE JOURNAL STAR

PEORIA — Unlike traditional libraries that occupy a building or a large room, the Little Free Library occupies a box in the shape of a large birdhouse in front of the East Bluff Community Center.

Painted deep blue, sharp red and bright white, the Little Free Library — unveiled to more than a dozen East Bluff residents Wednesday night — is a box that has a door with a large plastic window on it. Sitting on top of a sturdy pine pole, the all-pine box holds roughly 40 books that wait to be borrowed by anyone at any time from its perch at 511 E. Kansas St.

"It's free to anyone, and it's made so more literature



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RON JOHNSON/JOURNAL STAR

Herb Gress, who built the Little Free Library, demonstrates the use of the outdoor loaning library at the East Bluff Community Center on Wednesday. The all-pine box holds roughly 40 books that can be borrowed by anyone at any time.

is available to the neighborhood," said Jane Genzel, director of Peoria Opportunities Foundation. "And it's such a simple and easy

idea, too." The library will operate on a book lover's honor system.

Please see LIBRARY, Page B8.