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## **community news** *in brief*

### **Louisville ‘Little Free Libraries’ Coming to a Neighborhood Near You** **Library Board Partners with Local Businesses on Pilot Project**

**LOUISVILLE, CO – May 23, 2014** – For the next two weeks, a ‘Louisville Little Free Library’ will be on display in the Lobby of the big Louisville Public Library. This is one of three little libraries that is part of a service project adopted by the Library Board of Trustees this year. Two of the libraries have



already been placed: one in the Town of Superior, at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Coal Creek Drive across from Founders Park (photo at left); and the second in Louisville’s Community Park. The third will also be located in Louisville, in the vicinity of Cottonwood Park. Each will contain a mix of books—fiction and non-fiction, for all ages—drawn from donations to the Louisville Public Library Foundation.

Perhaps as a nod to the earliest days of the Louisville Public Library—when it was a few temporary shelves in the corner of a room—members of the Louisville Public Library Board of Trustees embraced this service project to build, stock, and find locations for three ‘Little Free Libraries’ in the community. Even though it was a small pilot project, finding the time and resources to bring this vision to life took the support and enthusiasm of several people—including two from local businesses.

If you’ve ever done community fundraising, you know it’s not easy to walk into a business and ask for support for your organization. When Library Board president Jeannie Schuman walked into the Louisville Home Depot store, merchandising manager A.J. Olsen didn’t hesitate to offer his own time and Home Depot materials to build the little libraries. Working from building plans obtained from the Little Free Library website (<http://littlefreelibrary.org>), A.J. constructed three little libraries, each with a door and roofing shingles. When A.J. loaded them into Board President Jeannie Schuman’s car two weeks later, he told her that Home Depot looks for and welcomes opportunities to be of service in the community.

Next, each little library needed only some pretty paint and a sign to let people know why it was in their neighborhood. While Library Board members applied paint left over from other projects from ReSource in Boulder, Andrew Gronquist, owner of Warped Imaging, Signs, and Banners in Louisville,

made and donated the lovely wooden signs with their welcoming message, “Louisville Little Free Library—Take a Book, Leave a Book.”

Schuman was quick to point out that “both of these young men were very happy to help out the Louisville Library, with few questions asked and no money exchanged!” Perhaps this Little Free Library project—along with countless others across the county—reminds us that even though libraries are always evolving to meet the changing needs of the communities they serve, it is community that serves as the heart of every library.

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