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PRESS RELEASE

Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department builds and installs five little libraries to share fire safety information in city parks

WINTER PARK, FL, an internationally recognized, award winning city with multiple accredited agencies (March 16, 2021) The City of Winter Park's Fire-Rescue Department (WPF) has joined efforts with the city's Parks & Recreation Department to build and install five little libraries in various city parks. As part of the Little Free Library initiative, these little libraries will be located in Dinky Dock Park, Howell Branch Preserve, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Phelps Park, and Shady Park. Firefighters have also worked with local Eagle Scout, Jackson Small, who built two additional little libraries to be installed in Ward Park and The Park at Orwin Manor. These seven new libraries are in addition to three libraries that are currently located in city parks.

According to WPF Chief Dan Hagedorn, "The onset of COVID-19 has reduced our ability to provide fire safety education to the public. We identified an opportunity to partner with the city's Parks & Recreation Department to bring both fire safety information and accessibility to books in a physically distanced way with the Little Free Library program."

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that builds community through neighborhood book exchanges, usually in the form of a public bookcase. According to the organization, today in the United States, more than 30 million adults cannot read or write above a third-grade level. Studies have repeatedly shown that books in the hands of children have a meaningful impact on improving literacy. The concept of "take a book, share a book" is the world's largest book-sharing program which was created to inspire readers and expand book access for readers of all ages and backgrounds. More than 90,000 public book exchanges are currently registered with the organization.

For more information regarding WPF's participation in this program, please contact lluna@cityofwinterpark.org or 407-599-3609.

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