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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Groundbreaking for Lester Public Library of Rome Building Expansion set for June 10**

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new addition to the Lester Public Library of Rome will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 10, at the present library site, 1157 Rome Center Dr. in the Town of Rome. The public is invited to attend.

The 30-minute event will include brief remarks by several speakers:

- Town Chair, Phil McLaughlin;
- Library Board of Trustees President, Jeanne Osgood;
- Nekoosa School District Administrator, Terry Whitmore;
- Library Director, Lore Ponshock

The "Let's Build It" 3-year capital campaign raised \$250,000 to date. The Friends of the Lester Public Library of Rome & the Lester Public Library of Rome Foundation together raised \$120,000 of the \$250,000. The Incourage Community Foundation has been the fiscal sponsor of the capital campaign, managing the receipt of public donations. The Town of Rome Town Board of Supervisors also committed \$250,000 for the project. The entire Rome community has contributed to the success of this campaign giving testament to the generosity and commitment to the necessity of the public library.

In 2015, the Library Board of Trustees made the decision to proceed to build with the \$500,000 raised. After the new addition is completed, the existing library building will take on some updates that will consist of a larger children's and young adult library, a study room, computers, charging stations and a library staff area with delivery entrance. The additional 4,025 square foot space will provide a community room with kitchenette, spacious reading areas surrounding a fireplace, adult book collection, a study room, computers, director's office, restrooms and new entrance. The community room will be a multi-use space offering

numerous children's and adult library activities. When not in use, the room will offer visitors a quiet workspace with wireless internet connectivity. The community room may also be used by not-for-profit groups seeking adaptable space for meetings or educational forum.

Construction is expected to begin this summer with a 6 month completion schedule. Earth Design Construction is the project's construction manager, and Arc Central Inc. is the architect. During construction there may be a block of time that the library will close while renovations take place.

"The active fundraising is nearing its end," said Jeanne Osgood, library board president. "If you haven't donated yet, now is the time." Donations of any amount will be accepted throughout construction. There are many giving options. For \$100, you may add to the sidewalk bricks with a family name. With \$1,000 or more you can honor a special person on the new Donor Wall. Naming rights begin with a donation of \$10,000 or more, you can "name" an area within the library. With coins from your pocket, you can feed the donation container at the library. All donations are used for capital expenditures for the expansion and are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

The existing library and addition will sustain the name "Lester Public Library of Rome." The public library is for everyone. We invite everyone to visit often, stay a while, learn, inspire, read, think, create and grow in this new wonderful place, your public library.

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