



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR COMMEMORATES CLOSING OF “OLD” MAIN LIBRARY

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Sept. 6, 2005 — Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton was joined today by City Council President Kevin Hyde and District City Council Member Suzanne Jenkins to mark the closing of the Haydon Burns “Old” Main Library.

During the ceremony, Mayor Peyton checked out the last book, “Fatherhood” by Bill Cosby AND “Life of Pi” by Yann Martel, and locked the front door of the facility for the final time this morning. The Main Library will be closed for service until Nov. 12, 2005. All branches libraries throughout the community will be open for service.

“This ceremony marks a bittersweet day for many in the community,” said Peyton. “Many people have great memories of this facility and it has served us well. We now look with excitement to the very near future when the new Main Library will open its doors for all.”

Over the next month, contents of the Haydon Burns facility including materials, computers, furniture, equipment and office supplies will be moved to the new Main Library.

The library materials will be packed and moved in Dewey decimal order. Upon arriving at the new Main Library, the materials will be placed on the shelves in order, leaving space on each shelf for new materials purchased by the Better Jacksonville Plan (BJP). Library staff will spend the following seven weeks inter-filing the new materials, while the building interior is completed.

The 110,000 square foot “Old” Main Library became too small to house the collection and public computers during the 1980s. The upper floors cannot support any more materials, and the building’s electrical wiring cannot support any additional public computers. Jacksonville citizens approved a new 300,000 square foot Main Library as part of the BJP on Sept. 5, 2000.

Located on Hemming Plaza in the heart of downtown Jacksonville, the new Main Library will open on Nov. 12, 2005. All six new branch libraries and 12 renovations of existing library branches funded by the BJP were completed as of Aug. 29, 2005.

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