



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR HOLDS DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR SOUTH MANDARIN BRANCH LIBRARY

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. August 8, 2005— Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton was joined today by City Council Member Sharon Copeland today to dedicate the new South Mandarin Branch Library.

"For many years, the Mandarin Branch in the Beauclerc area served this community," said Peyton. "Over the last few years, however, the area has grown considerably. This new library represents an important step in keeping up with that development."

The 25,000-square-foot library features an electronic classroom and group study rooms, a teen section and a community meeting room with capacity for 100 people. The public will have access to 28 public computers with Internet and e-mail access.

In addition, the branch features a new work of art commissioned through the Cultural Council for *Art in Public Places*. The glaze-painted stones featured on the ceramic floor tiles are entitled "Stepping Stones." Created by local artist Nofa Dixon, the stones are painted to fool the eye with a 3D effect, a technique known as "Trompe L'Oeil."

"As the member of the Jacksonville City Council representing the citizens of Mandarin, I *cannot* think of a milestone *more* enriching for our community than having this new library in our midst," said Copeland. "We all share a sense of pride in this new, important addition to our community's cultural life."

Located on San Jose Boulevard south of Orange Picker Road, the new location opened on June 18. The South Mandarin Library is one of six new branch libraries funded by the voter-approved Better Jacksonville Plan (BJP). The BJP also includes 12 renovations of existing library branches and a new 300,000-square-foot Main Library.

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