



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Holds Dedication Ceremony for University Park Branch Library

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Oct. 15, 2004—Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton dedicated the new University Park Branch Library and Library Support Services Building today with a ceremony during which he awarded "keys to the library" to Justina Road Elementary School and Resurrection Catholic School students.

"Not only do our libraries provide books, reading programs and technology, but more importantly, they also represent a community's appreciation for literacy," said Peyton. "Public libraries are the KEYS to reading, learning and literacy, and we are committed to continually improving our public library system."

The 15,000-square-foot library features nearly 62,000 books and other library materials. Additionally, the public will have access to 50 computers, a 15-person conference room and a group study room.

"Public libraries are progressing in ways that we could never have imagined years ago," said City Council Member Pat Lockett-Felder. "This branch will feature many new services that will be helpful to our citizens, such as a family reading area, as well as the traditional services our citizens have come to expect."

Located on University Boulevard North between Merrill Road and Fort Caroline Road, the \$4.9 million project opened to the public Oct. 9. The facility houses the branch library; library support services, including purchase, processing, cataloging of library materials and warehouse space; and the headquarters for Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library. The University Park Branch Library is one of six new branch libraries funded by the voter-approved Better Jacksonville Plan. The Better Jacksonville Plan also includes renovations of 12 existing library branches and a new 300,000-square-foot Main Library.

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