



PRESS RELEASE

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Mayor Tops Off New Main Library

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. June 17, 2004 - Mayor John Peyton joined Councilwoman Suzanne Jenkins in marking the completion of the new main library's roof structure in a traditional "topping off" ceremony today. In this tribute to an important construction milestone, Mayor Peyton followed custom by placing an evergreen tree in the last steel girder set into place 105 feet above Hemming Plaza.

"I am so proud of the new library," said Mayor John Peyton. "It's a vital piece of our effort to revitalize our downtown neighborhood and it is also an exciting new resource in our ongoing effort to encourage reading in Jacksonville."

The 300,000-square-foot Main Library will feature almost a million books along with other library materials. The public will have access to more than 600 computers and wireless technology will also be available on designated floors for personal laptop users.

"The new main library has so many exciting services to offer: a teen area, an expanded children's area and an African-American Collection," said Councilwoman Suzanne Jenkins. "It's really going to be a cornerstone of our library system."

Located at the corner of Laura and Monroe Streets east of Hemming Plaza, the \$95 million project is expected to open in early 2005. The new Main Library is funded by the voter-approved Better Jacksonville Plan. The Better Jacksonville Plan also includes six new branch libraries and 12 renovations of existing branch libraries.

The library program manager is Heery International and the architect is Robert A.M. Stern of New York in conjunction with the Rolland Delvalle and Bradley firm. The construction manager is a team of locally based firms: Auchter Elkins Lodestar Parris.

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