



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY HOSTS DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR MAXVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Sept. 30, 2005— A ceremony was held today to dedicate the new Maxville Branch Library and award library ambassador library cards to students from the Maxville community. Sharing the podium at the dedication were Jacksonville City Council member Warren Alvarez; Jacksonville Public Library Director Barbara Gubbin and Mrs. Rita Cannon of the Jacksonville Public Library Board of Trustees. In addition, team members from the Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) program were in attendance to highlight programs that will be implemented in this branch in November.

The 6,000-square-foot library features a meeting room with capacity for 45 people. The public will have the use of 29 computers with Internet and e-mail access, as well as group study rooms.

In addition, the branch features a new work of art commissioned through the Cultural Council for *Art in Public Places*. Created by Northeast Florida artist and avid environmentalist Allison Watson, "Haven Creek" is a 60"x36" acrylic painting depicting a forest scene typical of woodlands found in this area of Duval County.

"As our community grows and citizens move to the far reaches of the city limits, city resources are following them," said Alvarez. "The Maxville community has anxiously anticipated the opening of this facility and we believe it will be a tremendous asset."

New to Jacksonville, the R.E.A.D. dogs and team leaders will hold programs on the first three Saturdays in November at from 10 a.m. to noon at the Maxville Branch Library. The R.E.A.D. program works to improve children's literacy and communication skills by reading to special trained, registered therapy dogs.

Located on Maxville Boulevard off Normandy Boulevard /Highway 228, the Maxville Branch Library is one of six new branch libraries under the voter-approved Better Jacksonville Plan. The Better Jacksonville Plan also includes 12 branch library renovations and a new 300,000-square-foot main library.

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