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JACKSONVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY PROVES “COMMUNITIES MATTER” DURING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

City Council adopts resolution to recognize National Library Week and library’s community role

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., April 15, 2013 – Jacksonville City Council Member Ray Holt, District 11, today presented the Jacksonville Public Library with a City Council Resolution recognizing April 14-20 as National Library Week, and commending the library for the important role it plays in the community and its exceptional financial stewardship. The resolution was co-sponsored by City Council Member Warren Jones, District 9, and City Council Member John Crescimbeni, At-Large, Group 2.



“We’re very proud of our libraries and the invaluable services they provide,” said Council Member Holt. “We appreciate our hard-working, dedicated library staff and the positive influence they have on our community.”

National Library Week has been held each April since 1958, sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and observed by libraries and their customers and friends across the country. This year’s theme is “Communities matter @ your library.”

Library Director Barbara Gubbin believes that “Communities matter @ your library” is more than just a theme for this year’s event. “It’s the spirit behind everything we do, every day, year-round, at the Jacksonville Public Library,” Gubbin says.

She notes that libraries today are more than repositories for books, they are catalysts for collaboration. JPL’s many community partnerships include schools, museums, performing arts centers, nonprofit organizations, major corporations, small businesses, media outlets, and sports teams.

An economic impact study produced by the University of West Florida found that the Jacksonville Public Library provides an exceptional return on investment, returning \$4.04 for

every tax dollar received. The library also was voted winner in the “Best Use of Public Money” category in a reader survey conducted in late 2012 by Folio Weekly magazine.

JPL provides programs and services that foster youth and adult education and literacy; help individuals and small businesses achieve economic success and connect people to technology they may otherwise not be able to access. In 2012, for example:

- Nearly 4.5 million people visited JPL libraries and checked out almost 9 million items.
- Almost 219,000 people attended library programs.
- More than 13,500 customers attended job search assistance programs.
- The Center for Adult Learning (CAL) served 858 individuals. CAL provides adult literacy, GED preparation assistance, English as a Second Language, and life skills training.
- Nearly 4,500 people received help filing their tax returns.
- Community groups held 39,000 meetings at library locations at no cost to them.
- Customers used JPL’s computers more than 1 million times.
- Nearly 164,000 audiobooks were circulated to 3,671 visually and physically impaired customers.



“Service to the community has always been the focus of the library,” says Gubbin. “While this aspect has never changed, the library has continued to evolve to remain relevant in how we provide for the needs of every member of our community.”

About the Jacksonville Public Library

The Jacksonville Public Library provided more than 11,000 programs and services last year to Duval County residents at the Main Library and 20 branch locations. Nearly 4.5 million people visited Jacksonville Public Libraries and checked out almost 8.5 million items. For more information about the Jacksonville Public Library, call 630-BOOK (2665) or visit jaxpubliclibrary.org.