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Baltimore County Public Library

News Release

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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S STORYVILLE OPENS

Baltimore County Public Library's Storyville, an interactive early literacy learning center inside the Rosedale Library, 6105 Kenwood Ave., opens with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith, other officials and library staff on Thursday, February 7 at 10:30 a.m. A two-year-long project funded with money raised by the Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library, the child-sized, 2,240-square-foot village provides hands-on learning opportunities and activities for children ages birth to five years with parents or caregivers to help young children enter school ready to learn. It occupies the library wing that was previously the children's section.

Officials and guests can explore the seven museum-quality learning areas in the village that comprises a two-story house, a library, theater, store, Chesapeake Bay waterfront, baby garden and construction site for children and adults to experience together. Each area is furnished with fun and engaging age-appropriate play materials and activities that also promote vital cognitive, motor, language and social school readiness skills, depending on the age group.

Babies can engage in peek-a-boo and play with manipulative toys or look at board books in their garden; toddlers can crawl through driftwood, sit in a lighthouse and gaze up at the stars, fish, or rock in a toy boat; older children can play house in the home living area, give plays and puppet shows in the theater, shop in the store and practice building at the construction site. In the library stocked with a variety of children's books, DVDs, musical CDs, comfortable seating invites reading together. Materials and resources placed at each location are available for parents and caregivers to take home.

The architectural firm of James Bradberry and Associates designed the center that was constructed by Lynch Exhibits. The project cost of \$700,000 was paid with donations to the Foundation from private sources and individuals as well as state funds.

Storyville is open during library hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Groups need to call the library in advance at 410-887-0512 ext. 113 to make arrangements. For further information call 410-887-6196.

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