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Grand Opening Week at the New Laurel Library

Laurel, MD – The Laurel Branch of the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), located at 507 7th Street, Laurel, MD, enjoyed a robust Grand Opening week. Customers descended on the newly constructed branch in droves from the first day the doors opened to the public. Circulation checkouts totaled 1,923. With renewal transactions added, the figure jumps to 2,022. During the first week of opening, circulation for the branch was 8,315, excluding renewals. That makes the Laurel Branch one of the busiest in the county. The breakdown is presented in the chart below.

CIRCULATION BY CUSTOMER CATEGORY	
Category	Quantity of Checkouts
Adults	2,762
Teens	652
Children	4,588
Other (ex. Playaway Launchpads and TV series)	313
Total	8,315

Unique to the Laurel Branch collection are [VOX™ books](#), which had 64 checkouts opening week. PGCMLS is the first library in the state of Maryland to offer audio-enabled VOX books for young readers. The adding of audio to print reading increases comprehension by 75 percent.

Opening week also had a total of 140 attendees at four storytimes and 12 chess club participants. The 53 new computers were also winners with our customers. The Library had 1,293 computer users in the first week of which 112 were students with LINK accounts.

These record numbers opening week, November 28-December 4, 2016, speak for themselves about the excitement surrounding the opening of this newly constructed branch. The Laurel Branch Library has a dinosaur-themed children’s section with a glassed encased dinosaur fossil replica of a *Nanotyrannus* in its flooring. Other features are 53 computers, a computer lab, two

meeting rooms, multiple study rooms and WiFi. The new building is nearly double the size of the old one. It also has an emergency shelter-in-place area equipped with backup generators. Green features include: (1) roof-mounted solar panels, (2) permeable pavers in the parking lot that filter storm water run-off, (3) two charging stations for electric vehicles, and (4) a living plant wall in the Whisper (quiet study) Room. “This state-of-the-art new library branch will meet community needs now and into the future,” stated Library Chief Executive Officer Kathleen A. Teaze. Click [here](#) to view a video of the Grand Opening ceremonies.

About Prince George’s County Memorial Library System

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Lynda.com, Brainfuse’s HelpNow and JobNow, ArtistWorks for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Early literacy resources are: Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack, Playaway Launchpads and PebbleGo. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Also, enjoy Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, chess clubs and MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs) free at your library. Engage with us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Flickr](#), [Pinterest](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). Check out our [mobile apps](#)! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at www.pgcmls.info.

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