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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Munjoy Branch of the Portland Public Library Moving to East End Community School, Events Planned

Portland, Maine, July 2006:

The Munjoy Branch, one of five branches of the Portland Public Library system, opened its doors in November of 1958. On Friday, July 28 at 6:00 pm, it will close its doors at the Moody Street/Marada Adams School location to begin a new chapter.

The Munjoy Branch will re-open in the new East End Community School (195 North Street) in late August. Its new home is a shared venture with the Portland School Department. Branch Coordinator of the Portland Public Library Brian Damien explained, "Unlike the Adams School location, the new Munjoy Branch will not be in its own separate space." The Munjoy Branch and the East End School library will co-exist and even share books and materials. Steve Podgajny, Executive Director of the Portland Public Library stated, "The staff of both organizations have worked very hard to make the experience for the users – school and public – enjoyable. Our goal is to use the resources of the Library and school system seamlessly." Damien is excited to be working with the school. "This arrangement will enable both the students at the school and the public library users to have access to more materials, because we are sharing with the school. It is also a beautiful space with an incredible view."

On Friday, July 28, the branch will be open for its final day from 2:00 – 6:00pm. They will be celebrating at the Adams School (44 Moody Street, Portland) from 3:00 – 5:00 pm with cake for all patrons, and Sharon Morris will make balloon animals for kids. Watermelon will also be served both to celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Program and the move. At 4:00, the community is encouraged to pose for a group photo in front of the branch. The photo will be framed and located in the new Munjoy Branch.

The Munjoy Branch circulated over 27,000 items last year, answered 1,229 reference questions and had an annual attendance of 21,500 people. It is an active branch with a loyal community following. The neighborhood branches make up about half of the Portland Public Library's circulation and are a vital part of their individual communities.

Activities are being planned for the grand opening of the new East End Community School as well as the Munjoy Branch and will be publicized soon.

For more information on the Munjoy Branch or the Portland Public Library, visit our website at portlandlibrary.com or contact Kristi Belesca, Director of Development and Programming at 207-871-1700 ext. 759.

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