Passersby can admire the entrance of the new main branch of the Vermilion Parish Library, top photo, but 16-month-old Tyler Durke, above, takes a stroll inside Tuesday near the circulation department. Durke was visiting the new building with his grandmother.

$5M main branch draws accolades from community

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ABBEVILLE — Fifty years and approximately $5 million later, Vermilion Parish now has a main library branch the community can shout about.

“I really enjoy the new atmosphere,” said Connie Simon. “There are so many more books. A person can really study here.”

That’s exactly what Jed Simon said he intends to do at the new 28,000-square-foot library — study and catch up on the education he missed as a youth.

Want to go?
The new Vermilion Parish Library main branch is located at 405 E. St. Victor St. in downtown Abbeville. The library is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Jed Simon said the old library, which was housed in a meager 8,100 square feet, was cramped and it often was difficult to find a quiet place to read.

Simon doesn’t face the same dilemma at the new library, where he can sit in a leather easy chair near one of the many windows that pours natural light into the space.

Simon said he also liked the various sections of library. There’s a children’s area with its brightly colored and playful hues that include a set of Care Bears lining the racks. On the opposite end of the space is a more stately, classically fashioned genealogy room, where people can read about their heritage.

“It’s a great place to catch up on your reading,” Simon said. “I love it already. I’ll spend quite some time here — every day if I can, or as many days as I can come.”

Another striking attraction is the mural located near the towering, contemporary-styled awning that marks the glass-front entrance, said Jackie Chaote, library director.

See BRANCH on Page 2B