

City of Dallas News Release

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Mayor Leppert will open Bookmarks children's library June 13 at NorthPark; *The new library will provide a colorful learning atmosphere for kids ages 12 and under*

Dallas, TX – Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert and other City officials will officially open Bookmarks, a new children's library at 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 13 at NorthPark Center. The new library, for children ages 12 and under, is the first children's library in the country to be located in a shopping center.

"Bookmarks will offer an array of kid-friendly programs and activities, in a colorful and creative atmosphere," said Dallas Public Library Director Laurie Evans. "We're very grateful to NorthPark Center and the Nasher family for their generous commitment to community involvement and their support of the library's mission to create literate youth and lifelong readers."

The library will be located on the first floor of NorthPark, between XXI Forever and CenterPark; the 1,993-square-foot space will be close to specialty shops and businesses geared to children. Designed by award-winning Dallas architects Omniplan and dsqn associates, it will feature an abundance of bright colors, plenty of places to curl up with a book, and unique artwork.

The focal point of the library is a custom designed art table which will run the expanse of the space. This signature art piece creates a unique feel and look, encouraging hands-on participation and a love of art and reading. Preschool and elementary school programs and performances, made possible by a contribution from Atmos Energy, will be presented year-round, both in the library and just steps away in NorthCourt.

Besides books for children and parenting materials, toddlers through second graders can plug into the new library's Early Learning Station. Each station's inventive interface encourages exploration, and a colorful keyboard and child-size mouse complete the package.

Bookmarks will also include access to Dallas Public Library resources, including:

- Dallas After School Homework Help: This free program connects participants with tutors in English, Math, Science and Social Studies and is available every day from 3 p.m. to closing.
- Databases to help with school assignments including EBSCO KidsSearch, providing access to magazine and journal articles; and the World Book Online, an online encyclopedia.
- The new library's parenting collection will feature books and magazines of interest to parents, grandparents and caregivers, with special emphasis on important child development topics. The collection includes books on raising children and how to help children develop a love for reading.
- Daily programs will feature musicians, storytellers and puppets. The fun starts at 10:30 a.m. for newborns to six year olds, with a guest performer appearing at 11 a.m.

- Interactive programs for elementary school children will include storytellers, musicians, puppets, children's book authors and illustrators, magic shows and dancers. Children will also have the chance to participate with guest performers.

NorthPark Center is owned, managed, operated and leased by husband and wife David J. Haemisegger and Nancy A. Nasher. After a three-year, \$235 million expansion, NorthPark Center is the largest shopping center in North Texas and is projected to be one of the top five shopping destinations in the country in 2008. NorthPark is located at the intersection of North Central Expressway and Northwest Highway.

The Dallas Public Library operates the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., and 25 branch locations. A library card is free for any Dallas resident. For information on the many free programs and services available at the Dallas Public Library, go to: <http://dallaslibrary.org/home.htm>. For a schedule of the Dallas Public Library Children's Activity Series presented by Atmos Energy at NorthPark Center, visit www.northparkcenter.com.

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