City of Dallas
News Release
Public Information Office www.dallascityhall.com

For Immediate Release
May 8, 2009

For more information contact:
Miriam Rodriguez - Dallas Public Library
(214) 670-7809

Bookmarks Children's Library is Project of the Year winner;

The award was presented to the Dallas Public Library by the Northeast Texas Library System

Dallas – The Dallas Public Library's Bookmarks children's library in NorthPark Center has received the Project of the Year Award from the Northeast Texas Library System. Bookmarks, which opened June 13, 2008, is the first children's library in the country to be located in a shopping center.

"It's an honor to be chosen for this award from the Northeast Texas Library System," said Director of Libraries Laurie Evans. "We're pleased that the community has been so receptive to this new children's library, and that it has become such a vibrant part of NorthPark Center."

Bookmarks offers an array of kid-friendly programs and activities in a colorful, creative atmosphere for children age 12 and under. Preschool and elementary school programs are presented in the shopping center and inside Bookmarks. Besides books 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.

The Library also offers Dallas After School Homework Help, databases to help with school assignments such as EBSCO kidsSearch to provide access to magazine and journal articles and the World Book Online. The library's parenting collection features books and magazines for parents, grandparents and caregivers with an emphasis on child development.

Bookmarks was made possible by husband and wife David J. Haemisegger and Nancy A. Nasher who donated the space in the shopping center, and by Atmos Energy who donated $75,000 for special programming and has pledged an additional $50,000 for next year's programs. Dallas Public Library staff manages the facility. Since its opening, Bookmarks has attracted more than 30,000 children and their families and has presented programs to more than 17,000 people.

The Dallas Public Library operates the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., and 26 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, visit: **www.dallaslibrary.org**.

###