

City of Dallas News Release

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For more information contact:
Miriam Rodriguez - Dallas Public Library
(214) 670-7800

Richard Hill – Public Information Office
(214) 243-2042

Dallas Public Library to open in NorthPark Center in 2008

Bookmarks: A Dallas Public Library at NorthPark will serve children from zero to age 12

Dallas, TX - The first children's library in the country to open in a shopping center will be in the City of Dallas. Bookmarks: a Dallas Public Library is expected to open in early 2008, and will be located on the first floor of the NorthPark Shopping Center, between XXI Forever and La Duni Latin Kitchen, close to specialty shops and businesses geared to children.

The new library is a one-of-kind creation designed by award-winning Dallas architects dsgn associates, and will be a "kid-friendly" space, with an abundance of bright colors, plenty of places to curl up with a book, and unique artwork," said Dallas Public Library Facilities and Capital Projects Manager David Darnell.

A large, cylindrical aquarium, donated by Aquarium Environments, will be located at one end of the story time area. The focal point of the library is a custom designed table which will run the expanse of the space. This signature art piece will create a unique feel and look, encouraging participation and a love of art and reading.

Preschool and elementary school programs and performances, made possible by a generous contribution from Atmos Energy, will be presented year-round, both in the library and in the garden center, located just steps away in the shopping center's presentation gardens. The 1,993 square-foot library will be for children ages zero to 12, according to Dallas Public Library Director Laurie Evans.

"We believe that Bookmarks will be a gateway to the Dallas Public Library, and a showcase for the entire library system," Evans said. "We're very grateful to NorthPark Center and to 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."

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:

- more -

- Dallas After School Homework Help (DASH): This free program connects participants with free, one-to-one live tutors in English, Math, Science and Social Studies. DASH is available every day from 3 to 10 p.m.
- 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.
- Wednesday *Read and Learn* - 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.
- *Saturday Smiles* - 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 is the largest shopping center in North Texas, and is projected to be one of the top five shopping destinations in the country. The Center 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>.

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