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Mayor Leppert to announce 2010 Summer Reading Program on May 27; “Readers are Leaders” is theme of this year’s program, which begins May 29

Dallas, TX – Mayor Tom Leppert will officially launch the 2010 Mayor’s Summer Reading Program “Readers are Leaders” at a press conference at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 27 at the Central Library, 1515 Young St.

“Children have so many choices for summer entertainment, but my goal is to make sure that kids make reading a part of their summer fun,” said Leppert. “Our City’s summer reading program is creating a generation of children who love to read and will continue to love books throughout their lives.”

All Dallas area children ages 0-18 are encouraged to participate in the program, and can register at any Dallas Public Library location. Throughout the summer, children and teens will be encouraged to read every week for at least five hours and visit the library weekly for prizes and programs. Prizes will be given out on a weekly basis and even children who can’t read themselves can participate if someone reads to them or by attending a library story time.

“Summer reading increases the ability of children to perform well in the coming school year by expanding their vocabularies and helping them become better students,” said Dallas Public Library Director Laurie Evans. “The time that children spend reading or being read to is so important because it helps children maintain and improve the reading skills they work so hard to develop during the school year.”

The Dallas Public Library has offered an annual summer reading program for more than 40 years. In 1997 it became known as the *Mayor’s Summer Reading Program* because of the support of the Mayor’s office. Since that time, more than 185,000 kids have participated in the program. Each year, the Mayor’s Summer Reading Program enrolls more than 16,000 children who, in turn, read almost 400,000 hours. The program will begin May 29 and conclude Aug. 7. The End of Summer Reading Party sponsored by Atmos Energy will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 14 at the Central Library.

For more information on the Mayor’s Summer Reading program, go to <http://dallaslibrary.org/summerReadingProgram/index.php>.

The Dallas Public Library operates the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., 25 branch locations, Bookmarks in NorthPark Center and two Bookmobiles. 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.

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