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## **Director of Libraries Joyce Baumbach to Retire January 31, 2010**

Plano City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck has announced the retirement of Joyce Baumbach, Director of Libraries, effective January 31, 2010.

“The Plano Public Library System has always been a vital part of our community, reflecting and responding to the information and literacy needs of our citizenry through unrivaled service and programming,” said Mr. Muehlenbeck. “To enjoy the legacy Joyce has nurtured over her 22-years of service to our Plano citizens, one only has to walk through the doors of any of our five all-star Plano public library facilities.”

After entering the Plano Public Library System on May 23, 1988, Ms. Baumbach was promoted to Library Systems Administrator in March 1994, Technical Services Manager in February 1996 and assumed the position of Director of Libraries in February 1999.

“Joyce capably oversaw the construction of both Maribelle M. Davis and Christopher A. Parr Libraries as well as numerous expansions and remodels at our other three library facilities,” said Mr. Muehlenbeck. “She has responded to the needs of our community by employing an enthusiastic and customer-service oriented staff and introducing relevant children, teen and adult programming and technology access into our library system.”

Under her leadership, Harrington, Schimelpfenig, Haggard, Davis and Parr libraries continue to be prime sources for community and regional information. Patron visits are rapidly approaching the 2 million mark annually and the loan and distribution of materials has surpassed 3 million items annually. Exciting and relevant informational, educational and social programming reaches all ages, from infant to teens to seniors, with a broad slate of bi-lingual and literacy programming also enhancing library services.

Under Ms. Baumbach's guidance, technology has become a major element in library programming meeting both the need and demand for public access to computerized services and desktop program access. Her development of a 1995 Internet Policy relating to public Internet access from library computers was quickly identified as groundbreaking, leading to national attention and emulation. The library Web site continues to top the "most popular" list of municipal departmental pages and the expansion of online catalogs, databases and various self-service online features enables patrons to perform a multitude of functions.

"Joyce has been visionary in her development of library programming and in the identification of grant funding as well as the use of volunteers to expand services to the community we otherwise would not be able to provide," said Mr. Muehlenbeck. "She has been steadfast in her commitment of devoting library resources to meeting the needs of Plano residents and other users."

Ms. Baumbach has represented the City of Plano and the library system through her long-standing service as a member of the Texas Library Association, chairing numerous task forces and committees. She has served as President of both the Public Library Administrators of North Texas and the Texas Library Directors Association. She has also served as the Library Representative on the Texas Municipal League Board of Directors.

Ms. Baumbach named Harrington Library Manager Cathy Ziegler as Deputy Director August 3, 2009. Ms. Ziegler, who has been working directly with Ms. Baumbach since that time, joined the City of Plano team as a Library Page in December 1994 becoming Davis Library Manager in 2001 and Harrington Library Manager in 2009. She will assume her duties as Director of Libraries February 1, 2010.

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