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HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY UNVEILS REMODELED YOUTH  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT JUNE 11  
Community Invited For Celebration

When the Highland Park Public Library opens the remodeled Youth Services Department on Sunday, June 11, children and their parents will find plenty that's new and exciting. While there's still a great collection of books and audiovisual materials to be found, the new space includes much more. For a first look, the community is invited to stop by on Sunday, June 11 from 1 – 5 p.m. as the Library celebrates with an afternoon of family fun. The festivities will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony and will feature entertainment, refreshments and chances to win prizes.

The debut of the new Youth Services department marks the end of a six month long project to expand and enhance services for young readers. Funded in part by a generous donation from the Rotary Club of Highland Park, the remodeled department features an early literacy activity center full of hands-on activities designed to promote language, reading and writing development. "Because of Rotary's commitment to literacy, we were able to develop a wonderful space for our youngest patrons," explains Jane Conway, the Library's executive director.

Kids can act out dramas in a new puppet theater and explore an interactive mural featuring favorite storybook characters. New custom designed sorting boxes will allow children to learn shapes and colors, work on recognition and association and improve fine motor skills. All of these activities enhance early literacy skills, which help children become proficient readers over time.

Explains Youth Services director Linda Wicher, “The new space allows for children and parents to actively engage in learning with hands–on activities.” Providing an interactive learning experience, notes Wicher, is a trend that libraries are embracing.

There’s plenty new for older children, too. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders will find a new lounge area for reading and studying. Teens will discover a new lounge area as well. The department will also feature an expanded collection of DVDs and CDs.

The Highland Park Public Library strives to provide the highest quality Library services to community members for life-long learning, cultural enrichment, and enjoyment. The Highland Park Public Library is located at 494 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park. The Library is open Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, please call (847) 432-0216.

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