



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Longtime City of Melissa Librarian Retires and Melissa Library Enters New Era with New Facility**

Melissa, TX – Many of you who have visited the all new Melissa Public Library may have noticed the absence of a familiar face. Longtime City Librarian, Jan Clark officially retired from the City of Melissa after almost sixteen years of service. Mrs. Clark, affectionately known as Ms. Jan to library patrons over the years had been a part of the Melissa Library since its inception. Under her direction, the Melissa Public Library grew to service almost 3500 library card holders. Among her accolades Ms. Jan was named the Northeast Texas Library System Library Director of the Year in 2001.

“The City appreciates Jan’s long commitment to the Melissa Public Library and the citizens of Melissa.” Stated Jason Little, City Administrator. “It is because her hard work and dedication that the Melissa Public Library is where it is today. We wish her nothing but the best as she enjoys her well deserved retirement.”

With Mrs. Clark’s retirement, the City has appointed Melissa resident Lorelei Perkins as the Interim Library Director. Mrs. Perkins comes to the City with 8 years of experience as an educator and librarian and holds a Master of Education with a Certificate in Library Science from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

If you have not yet been by the all new Melissa Public Library at the Melissa City Hall Facility, make sure to come by for a visit and get your library card. The new facility offers approximately three times the space as the old facility. “We are very excited about the new space and additional opportunities that it provides for serving the community.” Said Mr. Little. “Since we have opened we have issued an additional 200 library cards and it has been great to see the community excited about the library.”

Remember, your library card gives you access to over 50 free computer databases filled with reference materials, as well as access to a set of free encyclopedias – all at your fingertips. The Library now offers complimentary WiFi to all library card holders as well.

“We have our summer reading program, “Lift off to Reading” going until August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and have appreciated the 200+ book donations that have come in.” Voiced Mrs. Perkins. “Story time will resume in mid-August, so watch for information on the City of Melissa website and the local newspaper. Please feel free to come see what YOU have in YOUR library.”

Are you interested in volunteering to serve the Library and citizens of Melissa? There are various opportunities to do so. Currently the City has two vacancies on the Melissa Public Library Advisory Board and the Library is always looking for volunteers to help with projects and programs too. Come join the Friends of the Melissa Public Library to assist in keeping reading and libraries alive in our community.

For hours and information please visit the website at:  
[www.cityofmelissa.com/departments/library/index.html](http://www.cityofmelissa.com/departments/library/index.html).

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