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ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY
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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CITY AND DISTRICT LIBRARY ARE HONORED WITH NATIONAL 2009 VOICE OF THE PEOPLE AWARD

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Nov. 16, 2009 — For the second year in a row, The Ann Arbor District Library and City of Ann Arbor recreation services are the winners of the national Voice of the People Awards for Excellence, presented by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the National Research Center (NRC) at its annual national conference on Sept. 13, 2009. Other jurisdictions accepting the 2009 Voice of the People Awards for Excellence are: Bettendorf, Iowa; Crested Butte, Colo.; Decatur, Ga.; Highland Park, Ill.; Lebanon, N.H.; Needham, Mass.; Novi, Mich.; Oakland Township, Mich.; Palo Alto, Calif.; Park Ridge, Ill.; Plano, Texas; Suwanee, Ga.; and Williamsburg, Va.

The award honors the jurisdictions nationwide with the highest rated services among all The National Citizen Survey™ 2008 participants. To win for excellence, the rating for service quality must be one of the top three among all eligible jurisdictions and must reside in the top 10 percent among the over 500 jurisdictions in the NRC database of citizen surveys.

The award is a result of positive responses from nearly 1,000 Ann Arbor residents (a 32-percent response rate), who shared their opinions of local services and amenities when ICMA and NRC conducted the 2008 National Citizens Survey™. With 92 percent of responses rating quality of life as “excellent” or “good”, City of Ann Arbor recreation services and the Ann Arbor District Library were especially commended for excellence.

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Offering recreation opportunities for every interest, age and ability is a likely reason the city's recreation services received high marks and are being recognized as among the best in the country. The city's parks and recreation services staff appreciate the importance for the city's recreation offerings be as diverse as the needs of its residents. The City of Ann Arbor has 157 parks and over 2,088 acres of parkland. Some of the more unique recreation features include:

- Canoe liveries
- Indoor and outdoor pools
- Indoor and outdoor ice arenas
- Dog parks
- Dirt bike track
- Disc golf course
- Farmers market
- Nationally recognized golf courses

The rapidly rising library use by individuals at all library locations illustrates the importance of the Ann Arbor District to the community. With increased convenience in accessing its many materials and services as a primary objective, the Library has seen material circulation continue to rise at a rate 13 percent over the last fiscal year to an unprecedented record of over 9 million items circulated. Books, DVD's, CD's and other popular material for all ages are currently being checked out at unparalleled rate.

Visits to every library building in the system and attendance at the many and varied library events also have skyrocketed. Many more consumers are also visiting the library online at www.aadl.org. The website logged over 50 million page views last year.

The City of Ann Arbor 2008 National Citizen Survey™ results can be viewed at www.a2gov.org/government/city_administration/communicationsoffice/Pages/CityofAnnArbor2008CitizenSurvey.aspx. For more information about NRC, visit www.n-r-c.com/services/nationalcitizensurvey.html.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named the No. 1 Healthiest Hometown in the U.S. by AARP The Magazine in 2008. Other notable recognitions include: No. 27 of the top 100 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2008, as well as the fourth smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

From the 1866 founding of the Ladies' Library Association to the 2008 opening of the new Traverwood Branch, the Ann Arbor District Library has provided a multitude of collections, services and programs to the community. The existence of the Ann Arbor District Library assures public ownership of print collections, digital resources, and gathering spaces for the citizens of the library district. We are committed to sustaining the value of public library services for the greater Ann Arbor community through the use of traditional and innovative technologies.

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