



Open house on Monday to launch computer center

Lied Imperial Public Library received 10 new computers and one ADA work station through the Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities project.

The computers are installed and ready for use by the public. The computers can be used free of charge to access court records, find health information, take advantage of educational opportunities, hunt for jobs, explore small business options, etc.

The computers, equipment and furnishings are valued at \$15,988.

“New technologies have helped all libraries but have been especially important in our many rural communities,” said Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director. “Public libraries are the most commonly used place (outside the home or office) for accessing the Internet,” he said.

“The broadband technology grant presents an unprecedented opportunity for many Nebraska public libraries to upgrade their public computing capacity for serving community residents,” said Wagner.

“Technology enhancements will result in measurable increases in use of library computers for E-Government, learning, employment information and more. The ultimate benefit goes to the many Nebraskans who will have greater access to library computers and high-speed connectivity networks for personal, education, and job-related needs,” he concluded.

Library Director Beth Falla said the Public Computer Center is an exciting addition to the community.

“We provide free access to the Internet along with some training for many levels of users,” she said.

“For example, those seeking new computer skills, looking for a job, or researching health information can learn here. Over the summer, training sessions were offered in the center and we plan to offer more,” Falla said.

The public is invited to join the library staff and a representative of the Nebraska Library Commission in celebrating the launch of the Public Computer Center. An open house on Monday, July 29, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. is a good way for everyone in the community to check out the public computer center, Falla said.

This library project was supported in part by the Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Falla said full cost of the computer upgrades came from the grant funds.