# B'ville Library awarded grant

## New services target job seekers, small business owners, senior citizens

**Staff reports**

The Baldwinsville Public Library was recently awarded a $244,517 Public Computer Center grant as part of the Broadbandexpress@your library project from the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Baldwinsville Public Library was one of 30 libraries across New York State to receive this federal stimulus grant through the New York State Library. The grant will provide more than 860 computers in 30 libraries and five mobile training centers across 41 upstate New York counties.

✔ The Baldwinsville Public Library will use funding from this two-year grant to:

✔ Expand the existing computer services by adding more computers;

✔ Offer one-on-one and classroom instruction on a variety of topics geared specifically to job seekers, small business owners and senior citizens;

✔ Purchase books and DVDs for loan and make software programs available for job seekers and small business

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owners; and

✔ Purchase video-conferencing equipment, which will be available for use to public and not-for-profit organizations.

**As a part of this** grant, the library has already expanded hours to open at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday. Nancy Howe has been hired full-time to oversee this grant. Howe comes to the library from the Central New York Library Resources Council where her responsibilities included grant administration and training library staff in a four-county region. This is the first of three positions that will be created at Baldwinsville Public Library with this federal stimulus funding.

"This grant will provide wonderful opportunities for the Baldwinsville community, especially as it comes to us during a time of economic stress," said Baldwinsville Public Library Board President Barbara Aikten. "Job seekers, senior citizens and small business owners will have greater access to computers and to programs specifically tailored to their needs. While the Baldwinsville Public Library has always focused its resources on the needs of the community, this grant enables us to extend our outreach to many more Baldwinsville patrons."