

# SOCIETY

NEWS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY



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- **WHO:** Anne Calos
- **CONTACTS:** 439-9222, ext. 6239 or [anne.calos@lockportjournal.com](mailto:anne.calos@lockportjournal.com)
- **NEWS:** All items should be submitted at least five days before the desired publication date.

## GO AND DO IT

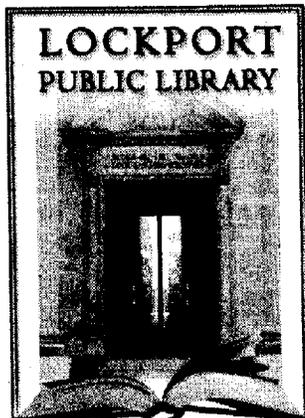
- Concordia Church from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in Beebe Road, Newfar on week, potato sala beans, ice cream su

# Library receives federal stimulus funds

BY MARIE BINDEMAN

The New York State Library, a unit of the Office of Cultural Education within the New York State Education Department, has been awarded \$9.5 million in a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration to expand computer access in public libraries across New York state. The funding is being provided through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The Lockport Public Library has been awarded a grant to participate in the two-year project as one of 30 public libraries that will facilitate workforce training. High unemployment rates, a distressed economy, and a lack of affordable public access to high-speed broadband services, education, training, and technical support have been particularly acute in geographically isolated upstate communities. The grant will enable the state library and its public library partners to purchase equipment, partner with other workforce trainers in the community



and provide access to training and resources. This grant cannot be used for existing operational expenses.

New York State Education Commissioner David Steiner said, "Libraries are vital to our communities and our economy. The increased broadband capacity, training and online resources funded through this grant will provide New Yorkers with access to essential online information for work, healthcare, education and citizenship as well as electronic government resources."

State Librarian Bernard Margolis said, "What librarians and libraries do every day is vitally important work ... This grant will enable our

libraries to continue to do critically important work and to expand the opportunities, education and services that high speed Internet provides to the unserved and underserved in our communities. The Public Computing Centers, funded and supported under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, are designed to bring the fruits of high speed connectivity to everyone. Many parts of New York State will for the first time be able to experience the bounty of communications and content available on-line. The Public Computing Centers are a primary outpost for free public access to a wide array of broadband services. As part of a highly effective network, the PCCs and the libraries of which they are a part, will continue their critical role as a hub for community life and service."

More information on project details will be forthcoming as the library moves into the implementation process.

You can still celebrate summer at the library!

There is still time to register to win! Our adult summer reading program is

titled, "Water Your Mind ... Read." Read an inspirational title by Aug. 31 and then register to enter a prize raffle. This is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

More than 1,000 children from pre-readers through grade six have registered for the library's 2010 Summer Reading Program, "Make Waves — Read!" that features story times, crafts, book clubs, movies, prizes and our popular Front Porch Family Night program series at 7 p.m. Wednesdays. All programs for both the teen and children's summer reading programs are near capacity. The grand finale of the program will feature crowd favorite Glenn Colton at 7 p.m. Aug. 18 on the library's front porch.

To check out images detailing the library's summer events or find out more about upcoming events or available services, go to [www.lockportlibrary.org](http://www.lockportlibrary.org), the library's Facebook page, or call the library at 433-5935, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday or from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

*Marie Bindeman is director of the Lockport Public Library.*