

Library Line

Main Library

323 Broad St.

(860) 285-1910

Gaye Rizzo,

Director

Wilson Branch

365 Windsor Ave.

(860) 247-8960

Amy McCue,

Branch Manager

Laura Rossignol, Editor

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Lives up to Its Name

by Gaye Rizzo

Computers have become an intrinsic part of library services. From automated check-out and reference databases to the use of public PCs to wireless access to downloadable materials to on-line classes to visits and interaction with the webpage, computers are clearly here to stay.

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving acknowledged this important new role by awarding each of the 28 libraries in the capitol region with a \$30,000 technology grant. In Windsor, funds were used to purchase 20 public PCs, 3 laptops, a portable projector and cart. Next, we hired two adult teachers for two-on-one classes and two teens for one-on-one tutoring sessions.

Recognizing the need to help bridge a growing “digital divide” in the community, the goal was to teach at least 50 senior citizens how to use the computer equipment that is available to them free of charge at their public library. From October 2010 to August 2011 basic computer classes and tutoring were provided to 67 senior citizens. They learned to log on and use a public PC as well as a laptop.

Remaining grant funds were used to respond to requests from senior citizens for downloadable catalog training. In addition to accessing on-line databases and learning fun applications like “skype,” seniors learned how to download other types of materials onto their electronic devices. Simple training connected the library’s audio, video and ebooks with patrons’ Kindles, Nooks, BookReaders, iPads, iPods, and MP3s.

Feedback from the project has been resoundingly positive. Some senior citizens with little or no previous computer experience have become regular users of the library’s PCs. Others used what they learned to decide whether to purchase a laptop or PC for home.

After working with teen tutors for several months, another more subtle yet equally important benefit has been an improved attitude between the senior citizens and teens. As an example, seniors are now more likely to ask a teen sitting next to them at a library PC for help with a computer application and teens seem to like the fact that seniors appreciate their level of expertise. A few have even gone so far as to “friend” one another on Facebook.

Thanks to the gift of Hartford Foundation and its commitment to public giving, this project has been successful in bridging not only an informational but a generational divide.

Need a Notary?

The Main Library and Wilson Branch offer notary services

\$2 per page

Please bring picture I.D. and witnesses (if needed)

To make an appointment, call:

285-1912 at the Main Library or 285-1931 at the Wilson Branch

Received a New eBook Reader as a Gift?

Take advantage of one more of your library’s resources and learn how to download ebooks, as well as audiobooks and video for FREE from our Overdrive downloadable catalog. Our ebook and audio collection include fiction and nonfiction titles, books for children and teens, bestsellers and classics, history and humor, business and self help – you will find them all. Our video collection includes comedy, documentary, and feature films.

Come to one of our instructional classes on the following dates : 12/29, 1/4, and 1/12 at 11 am and 7 pm at the Main Library. On 1/7 at 1 pm, a class will be held at the Wilson Branch Library.

Just remember to bring your library card with you!



Kids Corner

Don't let the winter doldrums get you down. Relax in a warm, sunny spot and listen to a good children's audiobook. Why an audiobook? Because you can listen while doing other things such as baking cookies, making crafts, putting together a puzzle or riding in the car. Most audiobooks are read by talented actors who use their voices to create mood and atmosphere. Many, such as Jim Dale on the Harry Potter audios, change their voices and accents to represent different characters. Some audiobooks have more than one reader; the Kane Chronicles series by Rick Riordan has a male and a female reader for the two main characters, Sadie and Carter. The recording of The Golden Compass has an entire cast of characters so the experience is almost like attending the theater.

Our audiobooks are available in many formats so you can choose the one that suits you best. We have books on CD, books on cassette, and books on tiny MP3 players called Playaways, for which you only need a set of headphones or earbuds. Younger children can enjoy book & CD or book & tape sets, which allow them to follow along in the book while listening to the story.

Windsor Library has an ever expanding collection of audiobooks, including many of your favorites such as Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Dork Diaries, Magic Tree House, and Stink.

Come in and check one out, then relax and let yourself be entertained.

Do It Yourself



From our webpage, windsorlibrary.com, click on "Online Resources" and then "Databases" to access a comprehensive collection of automobile, small engine, and home improvement information. The databases are all from EBSCO, the leader in online database services. They are all available for free with your Windsor Public Library card.

EBSCO Auto Repair Reference Center: Find repair procedures, service bulletins and recalls, wiring diagrams and more. All of the content in this database has been created by ASE certified techs.

EBSCO Small Engine Repair Reference Center: This database covers ATVs, snow blowers, motorcycles, tractors, generators, tillers and more. There is information for more than 25 years of many engine models. More than 80,000 repairs are covered. You will find routine maintenance information on topics such as tune-ups and brake service. Plus, instructions are available for extensive repairs involving engine and transmission disassembly.

EBSCO Home Improvement Reference Center: Detailed, user-friendly "how to" information on home improvements, repairs, maintenance, remodeling, electrical work, plumbing, wood projects, outdoor improvements and decorating for your home & garden. Instructional videos and detailed pictures are included for most projects.



Wilson Branch

Wilson Branch Library has always been a bit of a "safe haven" to the folks who are regular users, but this fall we had the opportunity to be another sort of haven – one with power, heat, and Internet access during a time when Windsor had very little of all three. During the week(s) of power outages following the October storm, we were able to re-open earlier than most other town buildings and saw more of the town's citizens than ever before. We had people coming in to charge their telephones, check their email, contact their families, and finally find that hot cup of coffee they had been looking for. In addition, we saw people greet old friends, re-connect with their neighbors, and enjoy our library's many offerings – many for the first time. We traded stories of how we were surviving without power, how many trees had fallen in our yards, and which authors were must-reads. People told us about the last time they were in our building (30 years ago) and their memories of the library as a child. Others complimented us on our updates and changes, appreciating our bright, sunny windows and new children's area. They used the library as a way to find an escape, some just looking for somewhere to go besides their own homes, and many checking out books and magazines to help fill the time normally spent watching TV or playing computer games. Many new visitors complimented us on our collection, surprised we had so many sought-after items with another great library branch just up the street. Others appreciated the cheerful, helpful staff members, who were always willing to find another electric outlet, provide a laptop cord, or help locate the latest in storm closing information (not to mention helping to find the books!) While the storm itself was a hardship for many, the staff at the Wilson Branch appreciated the opportunity to share a little bit of the library with people who might never have made the time to travel down to see us. We hope we've made some new friends and strengthened the bonds we had with our regular patrons as we all made it through that week together. All we know is that being one of the first buildings open after the storm helped make the Windsor community feel a little closer and a little smaller - two things that the Wilson Branch has always been known for!

Teen Talk

What a great fall we had! We had a lot of additions to our teen space (check it out downstairs if you haven't been there in a while), including 4 brand new computers, a wall you can write on, a ton of original artwork, and new comfy furniture. We also had new materials coming in constantly, including new manga, fiction, and most everyone's favorite – video games. In the near future, our teens can look forward to even more new, comfy furniture, new technology, and more artistic touches from our very own teens. You'll have to come back to see what I mean! As for events, this winter and spring, we are looking forward to starting a brand new book club, continuing with our creative writing group, and doing more exciting things on Teen Tuesdays. Plus, look out for extra exciting events like our Madden 2012 Tournament, a tribute to the Hunger Games, and much more. Stop by our space anytime or visit us at facebook.com/windsorpubliclibraryteens.