Library expands programs

By Sarah Moses
Staff writer

The Baldwinsville Public Library will be expanding its workshops for jobseekers thanks to a grant.

The library was awarded a BroadbandExpress Public Computer Center grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and has already started to expand its services to job hunters. The library has increased the number of computers available to the public, as well as, provided more training sessions and workshops for job hunters, senior citizens and small business owners.

Baldwinsville's Jobseekers' Lifeline series will continue, presenting a different job-related topic every other Friday at 10 a.m.

On Friday, librarian Julia Schult will present "Tips & Tricks for Online Applications." Many workplaces now require online job applications, and people who find themselves job-hunting after working for years may never have had to apply for a job that way. Reference librarians in all the county libraries have been helping people with online job applications as well as fielding the usual job search questions about resumes and how to find job openings.

On Oct. 26, the Jobseekers' Lifeline topic will be "Finding the Right Job Opening For You."

On Fridays when there is no formal workshop, job-hunters can meet at a Job Club to swap job tips, ask for advice on their resumes or cover letters, and generally support each other during the job hunt process. The Job Club will meet at 10 a.m. on Oct. 15 and 29 in the library's Story Time Room.

Money from the grant will also be used to provide more public access to computers and to provide training and one-on-one assistance to the targeted populations. A full-time librarian, Nancy Howe, has been hired to oversee the grant. She will be holding focus groups to determine the best ways to meet local needs of the three target populations: jobseekers, small businesses and senior citizens.

Participants interested in the focus groups can sign up for one of two sessions: noon to 1 p.m. on Oct. 15 or 1 to 2 p.m. on Oct. 19. Anyone interested in participating in the BroadbandExpress Focus Groups can register at the Baldwinsville Public Library, or by calling 635-5631.