

16 Alice Baker Library gets new learning program

By AMY NIXON

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The Alice Baker Library recently received a \$2,500 grant from the R.A. Stevens Family Foundation of Genesee Depot in order to implement a cutting-edge, interactive learning program called Tutor.com Learning Suite. Alice Baker Library is one of just three libraries in the state to offer the program.

Library Director Alli Chase said she has been researching the program for three years but didn't think the library could purchase the program because it was so expensive. This year, however, the company came out with different pricing and told Chase she needed just \$2,500 to start the program.

In a letter written by Chase to provide background information on her grant request, she said Alice Baker Library staff members had identified the need to increase online services available for students and adults.

"I identified the need two or three years ago," said Chase. "People are coming in looking for work or have to go back to school to retrain, and they're looking for resources."

Not only did Chase see a need for adult learning resources, but she also

identified the need to work with local students to provide an extra tool for learning.

She said she spoke with local school officials to discuss the need for an online homework service. She hopes the schools will be able to refer students to the library to use the program.

About the program

The computer program offers help to students in grades K-12, college students and adults. The program offers two types of help. The first is a work session in which users can choose from a variety of options. They can receive live homework help or live tutoring help of any kind. For instance, students can enter a session and get live math homework help using a shared white board that uses graphs, formulas and more in such a way that the student can actually write out their math problem on the screen, the tutor can view it and then provide help. The two can then communicate in an online chat format.

Adult users can upload their resume, for instance. The live tutor can then view that resume and provide helpful tips for improvement.

These interactive sessions also allow users to upload documents to be proofread.

There are also features to

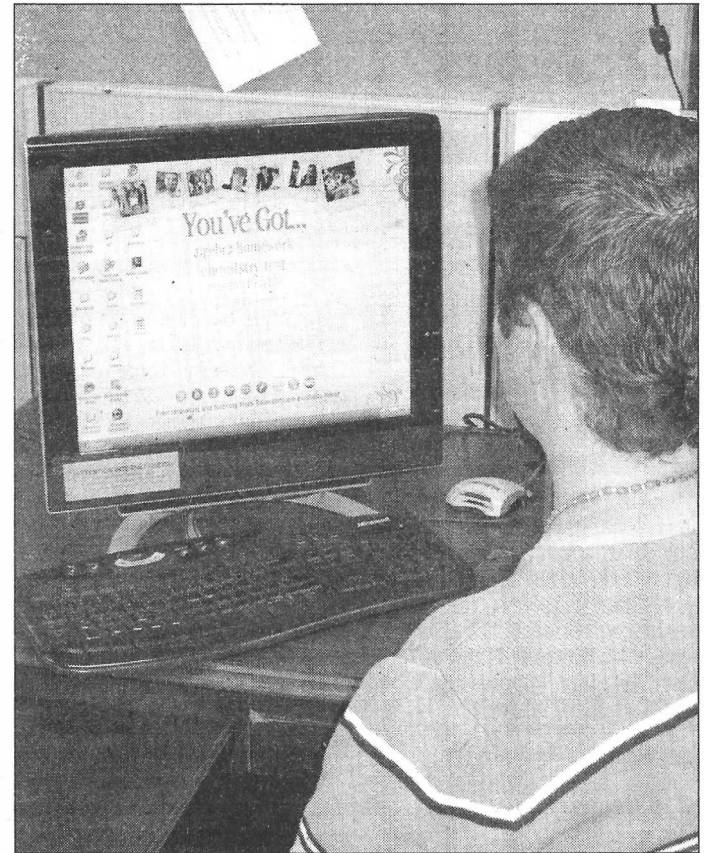
help with job searching, interview preparation, GED preparation and much more.

The second side to the program is the Skills Center Resource Library that can be used anytime and does not count as a session. The skills center offers worksheets, study guides, tutorials and more.

Need for additional funding

Tutor.com estimated the Alice Baker Library would need to purchase about 400 sessions at a cost of \$4,000 a year, based upon expected customer library usage and community population size, although only \$2,500 and 250 sessions were required to start the program.

Chase said each session costs about \$10. Chase hopes to be able to work with the schools to continue the program's funding in future years and said that any tax-deductible donations made to the Friends of the Library will help purchase additional sessions. More funding will also allow Chase to set up the program to be used remotely. Since the program has just been implemented, potential users must go to the library and speak to a librarian before being approved for a session. Chase can then monitor which groups of people are using the program and for



AMY NIXON/PHOTOGRAPHER

TUTOR.COM – Alice Baker Library Director Alli Chase demonstrates the library's new computer learning program, Tutor.com Learning Suite.

what purposes, which will help with planning.

Expectations

According to Chase, students using the program

will be able to complete homework assignments faster and more accurately. Adults will be able to craft more effective resumes and cover letters and will be able to get help if they are pursuing college degrees or working toward their GEDs. The program will also help adults involved in basic education studies and will allow the library and the Palmyra-Eagle School District to work closely with one another to expand students' access to learning resources.

Alice Baker Memorial Library

(262) 594-2800

Library hours change

As of Sept. 12, the library will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Online Book Club

The library Online Book Club has relocated to Good Reads. To join, set up a free account at goodreads.com, then search for Alice Baker Library. The next reading selection is "The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie," by Alan Bradley. Copies will be available at the library.

Cooperating Libraries Holds

Alice Baker Library/CAFÉ System of Cooperating

Libraries holds can be placed on items owned by any of the CAFÉ System libraries, and daily transit among the libraries delivers requested items. Books and other items checked out from any CAFÉ library may be returned at Alice Baker Library.

Computer classes

The library is planning computer-Internet classes for fall, and public input is needed. Call the library with learning needs and preferred times.

Baby Lapsit Storytime

Lynette Carpenter will present the next Baby Lapsit Storytime at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday,

Sept. 15. This brief story session is planned for babies two years of age and under. No registration is needed; siblings are always welcome.

Homework help

Tutor.com is now available on Alice Baker Library computers during library hours. To get started, ask a librarian to enter a password on a public-access computer. Alice Baker Library's participation in Tutor.com is funded by the R.A. Stevens Family Foundation.

Live Homework Help is one-to-one tutoring that is available from 2 to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 2 to 5 p.m.

Friday. Professionally trained and experienced tutors can help students in K-12th grades. They can also assist adult learners with GED requirements, adult education courses, grammar, resume prep, work-related projects, and more.

Reminder

Preschool Storytime returns, 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9. Maria Hinnens will present stories, music, and other activities especially for

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Mukwonago Community Library

(262) 363-6411

Saturday hours

Starting Sept. 12, Saturday hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. These hours will remain in effect until Memorial Day weekend, 2010.

Movie release party

The "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" movie release party is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12. Drop in; no registration necessary.

Family Film Night

Family Film Night movie is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29. Bring a snack, wear your pj's and a pillow or bean bag and watch the classic animated fairytale of a young woman mistreated by her stepfamily. Rated G.

Library book bags available

The new Mukwonago Community Library book bags are available in a

Alice Baker Library news

Holiday hours

Alice Baker Library will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day.

Wii bowling for adults

The library presents Wii Bowling for adults from 11 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Sept.

8. This event immediately follows Eagle Park and Recreation Bingo.

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Beyond the Books

Why drive to a big box store for printing and copying? Alice Baker Library is pleased to provide desktop publishing, scanning, copying and printing services. Black and white printing and copying is 15 cents and color is 50 cents.

Baby Lapsit Storytime

Lynette Carpenter offers Baby Lapsit Storytime at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13. This program of stories and music is geared for babies 2 years of age and under. No registration is necessary and siblings are always welcome.

Wii Bowling for Adults

Wii Bowling begins at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13, immediately following Eagle Park and Recreation Bingo.

Friday Night at the Movies

Enjoy a movie at the library

at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16. The film is rated PG and popcorn will be provided.

Flu Shot Clinic

ProHealth Oconomowoc will staff a flu shot clinic at the library from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17. Flu shots will be \$30 and pneumonia shots \$40. H1N1 immunizations will not be available at this clinic.

Location, Hours, and Contact Information

Alice Baker Library is located at 820 E. Main St. in Eagle. It is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Memorial Day. The library phone number is 262-594-2800 and its Web site is www.alicebaker.lib.wi.us. For interlibrary loan, call the library or e-mail kboucher@eagle.lib.wi.us.

Preschool story time

Preschool story time returns at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 9. Maria Hinners will present stories, music and other activities especially for preschoolers age 2 and older, along with their caregivers. Siblings are welcome and no registration is needed.

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September 4th
2009