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For Immediate Release

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Goes Wireless

Free Wireless Internet Access Available at All Library Locations

(PITTSBURGH, PA – December 5, 2007) Library customers are no longer constrained to using traditional PCs when using the Internet. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) has added free unlimited wireless fidelity (WiFi) Internet access to all of its 18 neighborhood locations. The convenience and mobility of WiFi allows customers to work anywhere in the library – taking their work directly to resources they need and making it easier for CLP’s specialized librarians to assist with questions. Customers with WiFi enabled devices such as laptop computers, game consoles, cell phones, MP3 players, or PDAs are able to access the Internet and search the Library’s online catalog without ever having to sit down at a computer.

The Library first introduced wireless access in 2006 as a pilot program at six locations, including the Main Library in Oakland. “The feedback we received from customers was incredible,” said Mike Nangia, Director of Information Technology, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. “Now more than ever, people expect information on-the-go.” The expansion of wireless to all locations was partially funded with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds administered by the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

“Our customers have been asking for WiFi, and we’re very pleased to be able to offer it,” says Charmaine Mozlak, manager CLP-East Liberty. “We see more and more people each week coming in with their own laptops. They are accessing it in both the adult areas and the children’s areas.”

At CLP-Homewood, manager Denise Graham agrees that wireless users come from all walks of life. “Not a day goes by without someone logging into the new wireless network. I know there is one gentleman who comes every day and uses the WiFi for business. Another is taking online courses and is studying in the library. And we have moms helping kids with homework.”

“The library’s role in the Internet age is more important than ever,” Nangia explains. “In 2006, CLP gave away more than 23 million minutes of free computer access. In today’s world of information overload, librarians have the ability to cut through the clutter – locate the right information and make personal connections with customers.” As new technology emerges libraries must meet the information needs of their customers. I think we can expect to see more libraries embracing wireless networks, downloadable materials and podcasts.”

Customers wishing to utilize the Library’s free WiFi service will need to bring their library card and a laptop computer or other portable device equipped with built-in wireless capabilities to any Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh location. Instructions are available at each location to walk customers through the initial sign-on process.

For more information about CLP’s wireless capabilities, WiFi requirements and internet troubleshooting, visit www.carnegielibrary.org/help/wireless.

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About Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Building Communities, Enriching Lives

Established as a public trust in 1895, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh serves the citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County with a distinguished history of leadership among the country's great public libraries. Through its 19 neighborhood locations, including Main Library and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most visited asset. Each year the Library provides more than 8,000 free programs, classes and other learning and training opportunities that are tailored to meet the dynamic and diverse needs of people living in Western Pennsylvania.