

# NEWS



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## **SUNNYVALE LIBRARY TURNS UP TECH WITH 1 Gbps BROADBAND**

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – The Sunnyvale Public Library has turned up the dial on its public computer and Wi-Fi network with a new 1 gigabit-per-second (Gbps) high speed connection to the Internet. The new connection provides the public significantly better access to the Library’s range of online services and programs. In addition, the Library upgraded all of the PC computers in its Technology Center and, in February, will be testing out in-house use of the “Maker PC,” which is a computer loaded with the full Adobe Creative Suite, including Photoshop and Illustrator.

The upgraded equipment and connection speed vastly improve Library patrons’ access to online services such as hoopla for streaming video, music and audio books; enable much faster transfer of files from Cloud storage; and enhance the overall quality of Library programs dependent on high speed streaming such as video chats with authors and online tutoring services. Liz Hickok, the librarian leading the upgrade project, noted that “technology has changed traditional library services in truly notable ways, making improved connection speeds an essential ingredient.” Where author talks once had to be held in person, the Library now uses video chats to bring authors from all over the country to Sunnyvale virtually through *The Library Talks* series. Recently, author Andy Weir charmed the audience with his anecdotal accounts of writing his best-selling novel *The Martian* while his cat napped in the background and patrons tweeted their questions to him from the Library’s program room.

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“Sunnyvale Public Library continually evolves to meet the changing needs of our community and leverages the capabilities offered by technology,” Hickok said. “We’ve long been a technology hub for our residents, and this new high speed connection will only strengthen our ability to reach new patrons and keep our programs on the cutting edge.”

The broadband enhancement was made possible by an initiative from Governor Brown’s Office that is being administered by the State Library. The State Library partnered with the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), a non-profit organization with the goal of advancing education and research throughout California. The Library connected to CENIC’s CalREN network which is the high-capacity fiber network that serves public school systems, universities, community colleges and now, for the first time, public libraries, in California at reduced cost. The Library also received grant funding from the state to offset the costs of initial equipment installation, network upgrades and the ongoing broadband service.

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