

For Immediate Release

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**Montclair Public Library to Create Dedicated Space for Senior Services  
Awarded \$20,000 from INFOLINK, Eastern NJ Regional Library Cooperative**

(Montclair, N.J., June 11, 2009) The Montclair Public Library has received a \$20,000 contract award to enhance the services and programs for older adults within the Library. The Senior Spaces award is provided by INFOLINK, the Eastern New Jersey Regional Library Cooperative. The Montclair Public Library Foundation is contributing an additional \$5,000 towards the project cost.

This award will allow the Library to dedicate a portion of its first floor to materials and technology suitable for older adults. The Montclair Public Library Seniors Technology and Reading Space (STARS) will include comfortable reading chairs nestled around a coffee table for reading or for quiet socializing. Senior-specific literature, including a selection of large- and regular-print books, periodicals and audiovisual material focusing on health, finance and retirement will be housed in this space. The award also provides funding for the Library to purchase additional large-print books.

Technology is another component of the STARS program. The Library will purchase two workstations dedicated for senior use in the STARS area. Both will feature extra-large monitors for easy viewing. One will be dedicated to accessing the Audiovision Internet Streaming Service, which converts recorded newspapers and special interest programs from the Audiovision Radio Reading Service to a Windows Media Streaming format. The Library will also purchase four portable handheld magnifiers that patrons can use anywhere within the building.

Additionally, the STARS space will be home to some of the Library's existing assistive technology: a CCTV table top enlarger, which magnifies text; an adaptive Internet workstation equipped with special software; and a reader scanner, which scans print and reads text out loud.

"We are delighted to be able to offer this space for our older patrons, who are dedicated users of our Library," said Montclair Public Library Director David Hinkley. "With this award from INFOLINK, we will be able to house a separate space in the Library to serve these residents. Our goals are to make it easy for older adults to use the Library, transform an area of the Library into a community gathering space for senior residents, and enhance the programs we provide to these patrons."

The Library has a long history of providing services to older community members. In 2002, the Montclair Public Library received the Bessie Boehm Moore-Thorndike Press Award, which is presented annually to a library organization that has developed an outstanding and creative program for library service to the aging.

"The Montclair Public Library Foundation is proud to be a supporter of this program," said Elizabeth Campbell, executive director of the MPL Foundation. "Our mission is to support special Library projects that meet the needs of Montclair residents, and STARS will dramatically bolster the Library's ability to serve older adults."

The enhanced programming will include Tai chi, as well as seminars and workshops in art, music and drama.

Information Specialist Marilyn Kahn is spearheading the STARS initiative. Ms. Kahn prepared the award application with Ms. Campbell.

“Montclair is ideally suited to implement the STARS program because it has such an active and engaged population of older adults,” said Ms. Kahn. “Montclair is a culturally rich community, and we want to ensure that the Library continues to meet the needs of this group.”

The Library is in the midst of planning the senior area on the first floor. An announcement of the “grand-opening” celebration date will be made later this summer.

INFOLINK Regional Library Cooperative and its services are funded by the New Jersey State Library, which is responsible for the coordination, promotion and funding of the New Jersey Library Network.