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Oconee libraries to showcase Wi-Fi, other upgrades

Officials to roll out new technology with start of 'Connect @ Your Library'

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SENECA — Oconee County Public Library (OCPL) officials are inviting the public to bring their laptops and other wireless devices to any branch Tuesday and try out the library system's newly installed Wi-Fi.

To celebrate the advent of the new technology upgrades, each OCPL branch will have refreshments after 4 p.m.

Library officials also are inviting the public to be on hand for the kick off of the "Connect @ Your Library" campaign at OCPL's main branch in Walhalla at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

OCPL Director Sue Baldwin said the roll out of the new technological features available system-wide could not have come at a better time with the start of the new school year. She said the time could not be better for students to become more Internet savvy and prepare for upcoming research demands of school projects and assignments.

Patrons without personal laptops may access OCPL's new computers to get online through a faster Metro-E connection with more bandwidth. The faster speed allows users to get more out of their allotted session on a computer if there are others waiting their turn.

During the more than year-long downturn in the economy, many unemployed workers have turned to the library's Internet access to search for job opportunities and fill out applications online.

Baldwin said many area employers require job seekers to apply online.

"Improving online research skills at the library is a great way for school and university students to cut through aimless Internet surfing and find exactly what they need," Baldwin said.