



# MEDIA RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **All Saint Paul Public Libraries Now Offer Free Wireless Internet Service (Wi-Fi)**

As a free service to the community, people with laptop computers now have wireless access to the Internet ("Wi-Fi") and Web-based library resources at the Saint Paul Public Library's Central Library and all 12 branches. The Library is the first City department to offer free Wi-Fi in all its facilities.

With public demand for the Library's 129 computers at an all-time high, the library implemented Wi-Fi to provide greater and more convenient Internet access to the 2.5 million people who use the library annually.

"Providing Wi-Fi access points revolutionizes our ability to serve our community," said Melanie Huggins, Library Director. "Far more people now have free Internet access. When people use their own laptops, more of our computers are available to patrons who must rely on library equipment for Internet access. Additionally, we are now able to use library-owned laptops to offer computer classes in libraries where space and computers limited."

The program began in September 2006 as a pilot project in the Rondo Community Outreach Library and was a success with the public. The Library then began an ambitious expansion of the service to all facilities and just completed the project. Outfitting all 13 libraries citywide with Wi-Fi was supported by the Saint Paul City Council who identified this service as cost effective and a great tool to serve the community's demands.

The Saint Paul Public Library's Central Library, 12 branch libraries and Bookmobile, offer more than one million books and media and state-of-the-art technology to provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning. For further information visit the Library's Web site at [www.sppl.org](http://www.sppl.org).

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