

July 16, 2010

Wi-fi access site to open in Siverly

The Siverly Hot Spot, a wi-fi access site, will open Tuesday in the Free Methodist Church fellowship hall at the corner of Plum and Willow streets.

It is being sponsored by Oil City's Weed-and-Seed program and the Oil City Area School District.

In addition to free wireless Internet access, the Siverly Hot Spot will offer four computers for public use, activities for children, space to do homework and an "environment that promotes camaraderie and community wellbeing," according to the Weed-and-Seed program coordinators.

Guests invited to the opening are representatives from Venango Campus, Lifelong

Learning Programs and Venango Technology Center.

Starting next week, the Siverly Hot Spot will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays. The hours may change based on demand. The services are open to all ages.

The Oil City Weed-and-Seed initiative is directed by volunteers who will focus their efforts in three target neighborhoods: the East End, Siverly and the North Side residential area.

Oil City was chosen last year as one of two Pennsylvania communities to take on a full-scale Weed-and-Seed project. The five-year designation comes with annual funding at \$40,000. Funding has been re-

ceived for two years.

In addition, another \$15,000 in cash and in-kind contributions have been pledged in the community and the Venango County district attorney's office has pledged \$10,000 over the next five years.

Kristin Arendash was hired last spring to serve as site coordinator. Hank Johnson, an Oil City police officer, is the community police liaison.

The state-funded project develops an action plan to weed out crime and blight and seed in safety and revitalization programs in specific neighborhoods. Bob Wenner, Oil City police chief, is chairman of the Weed-and-Seed committee.

The Weed-and-Seed initiative involves volunteers from a wide assortment of organizations, including the school district, city, social service agencies, law enforcement groups and others. The aim is to integrate those services in such a way as to revitalize a neighborhood.

Goals listed for the targeted Oil City neighborhoods include: reduce drug traffic and increase arrests; prevent juvenile delinquency; improve referral processes between police and social service agencies to better respond to immediate needs; develop cooperative relationships between police and the public; and reduce neighborhood blight.