

# Following two years of planning, input from community, Terryville library's Maker Space has opened

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@brianjohnsonBP

PLYMOUTH – Terryville Public Library’s Maker Space has opened, offering residents access to 3-D printers, sewing machines and other tools to facilitate their personal projects.

Located on the upper floor at the library at 238 Main St., the Maker Space opened last Thursday following two years of planning and seeking input from the community and other maker spaces in the state. Anyone can access the Maker Space as long as they have a library card.

Terryville Public Library Director Gretchen DelCegno thanked all those who helped to fund and support the project as well as residents and educators who responded to surveys and helped the library to prioritize its initial purchases.

“It’s off to a good start,” DelCegno said. “Given the challenges our group has faced, we’re very happy with the response we’ve seen so far. When folks learn what’s available to them, they become excited about getting involved.”

DelCegno said the “fledgling” maker space is off to a very promising start and has “just started tapping its potential.”

“It’s constantly being assessed and changing,” she said. “We will be listening to users to see where their interests are and to ensure that we can be responsive and reflective of those needs.”

DelCegno said residents who responded to the community surveys were most interested in gardening, traditional and paper crafting, knitting, sewing and 3-D printers.

“We have two 3-D printers which our teens have been using to make fun stuff like figurines,” she said. “They can also be used to make gifts of product prototypes. We had one gentleman create a fin for his car and another create an insignia with his initials. We started off having drop-in use for the 3-D printers, but we’ve since seen an increase in interest. We now have a schedule for people to sign-up in advance.”

For craft projects, the Maker Space also has two Cricut machines, a Cricut Maker and a Cricut Joy, and laptops set up with design software to use with them. The Cricut Maker, DelCegno said, can cut 300 types of materials including paper, foam, cardboard, leather and balsa wood. The Cricut Joy is mostly used for cutting paper and vinyl materials.



A sewing machine at the Maker Space at Terryville Library - Terryville Public Library Director Gretchen DelCegno

The Maker Space also received a grant from the Main Street Community Foundation to hire a sewing instructor to lead classes at the Maker Space. There are six sewing machines at the space available to use.

“The classes will help people learn different techniques to get started with sewing and using the machines outside of the program,” DelCegno said. “The classes are a targeted outreach for people seeking familiar instruction. But the Maker Space is available for anyone to come in and explore on their own. If they know how to sew and don’t have a machine at home, the space can be a resource for them. We want to help people understand how to use the machines so that they can come in on their own schedule and complete personal projects of interest to them.”

DelCegno said one resident has come in with their own materials to create a quilted table runner using the sewing machines.

In addition, the library received a district grant from the Rotary Club of Terryville to get three Lego robotics kits for the Maker Space as well as additional expansion sets and materials.

“These kits will help patrons with projects focused on programming, coding, electronics and circuitry,” DelCegno said.

As for the gardening component, the library is currently seeking donations of heritage seeds to create a “seed library.”

For more information about the Maker Space, call 860-582-3121 or visit [terryvillepl.info](http://terryvillepl.info).

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-973-1806 or [bjohnson@bristolpress.com](mailto:bjohnson@bristolpress.com).