



Area towns to get digital boost

Brandon Canevari Staff writer

Posted: 05/27/2010 03:44:07 PM EDT

ARLINGTON/SUNDERLAND - The towns of Arlington and Sunderland have received grants from e-Vermont - a part of the Vermont Council on Rural Development - that will provide greater technical resources to the communities.

The grants will be responsible for a number of technological improvements, according to Gordon Woodrow, the chairman of the Sunderland School Board. Certain grades in Arlington - with the help of partner Digital Wish - will receive laptops for each of their students. The Martha Canfield Library - with the assistance of the Vermont Department of Libraries, another partner - will receive computer upgrades and e-services. The Burdett Commons is also expected to receive some upgrades and Woodrow said one idea is to outfit it as an e-learning center for community members interested in learning about new online technology. Woodrow also said that Vermont State Colleges - another partner - would be providing students with assistance through direct seminars on how to use the Internet effectively.

The grants will be available for other uses as well.

"We're going to be able to have the resources to be able to build a Web site for Sunderland," Woodrow said. "Arlington and Sandgate have very nice Web sites now, but we can sync these up and create a Web site that's going to help people get the information they need for the local government

services."

Woodrow said that he had received about a dozen letters in support of the grants, many of them from local business

owners who were interested in creating Web sites, creating marketing opportunities locally to improve tourism in the area and improving Web sites.

According to e-Vermont Program Director for the Vermont Council on Rural Development, Helen Labun Jordan, the towns will be setting project goals and priorities in terms of what they would like to accomplish in the next year and VCRD would provide services to help them achieve those goals. There were a couple of main factors included in the criteria for a town to be considered for the grant. One was that towns had to access to broadband because the grant was about utilizing broadband and the other was a degree of community involvement, Labun Jordan said.

Community participation could mean a variety of things - including civic work, participation by schools and business development, among others, according to Labun Jordan.

This is the first year the grant has been awarded and Labun Jordan said when they evaluated all the applications they found that there was a need in many towns throughout the state - something that pleased the organization.

"Our goal is geographical coverage throughout the state and we were fortunate that that's how it worked [out]," she said.

Woodrow said he heard about the grant through Digital Wish and then brought it before the

Advertisement

PROTECT YOUR HOME
FREE Home Security System!
\$850 Value!

CALL NOW and receive a **FREE** wireless remote control with **PANIC BUTTON!**

1-877-246-7519
 Mon-Fri 9am - 10pm - Sat 9am-7pm - Sun 11am - 6pm EST



At no cost to you for parts and activation with only a \$99 installation fee and the purchase of alarm monitoring services. Terms & Conditions apply.

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

Sunderland School Board.

"It was on a very fast track so I went to the Vermont Rural Development Council's Web site and downloaded their application and Hart Bort approved going for this grant," he said.

E-Vermont is currently working with 12 towns throughout the state and expect to work with 24 communities over the course of two years.

Advertisement



SAVE up to **64%**
Plus, get
3 FREE Gifts



Special Code: 45069ZWN

To Order: www.OmahaSteaks.com/print71 or call 1-877-586-4455

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™