



Middlesex Selected as e-Vermont Community

Middlesex has been selected as one of a dozen Vermont communities to pilot the new e-Vermont Community Broadband Project. These communities will benefit from the expertise and resources of e-Vermont's statewide partners, to develop ways to take full advantage of the Internet for improving local communication, increasing civic involvement, providing social services, as well as fostering educational and economic innovation.

More details will be available early this summer, and a Middlesex e-Vermont Steering Committee will be formed to guide the process in our town. All Middlesex residents will be invited to help shape the project.

Middlesex's grant proposal was coordinated by the Town Meeting Solutions Committee. It was backed by letters of support from dozens of Middlesex citizens as well as key committees including the Selectboard, Rumney School, Historical Society, and organizations serving Middlesex's vulnerable populations.

The Vermont Council on Rural Development is overseeing e-Vermont, and more information is available at their website, www.vtrural.org.

As a VCRD press release notes, "e-Vermont is not stringing cable or fiber, but is working to make better use of broadband where it is available." Middlesex organizers hope to make computers and internet available in public places such as Rumney School for residents who may not have access to these resources at home.

Another key priority in the Middlesex proposal is the creation of a town-wide moderated email list-serve, so that citizens can communicate more easily about community topics. Several other areas of Vermont now use the simple "Front Porch Forum" list-serve successfully.

If you are interested in helping with the Middlesex e-Vermont Steering Committee or want to learn more about e-Vermont in Middlesex, please contact