



e-VT Cambridge 2010-2011 Re-Cap

The e-Vermont Community Broadband Project is a partnership between seven statewide organizations and leaders in two dozen Vermont towns to help close the digital divide. Initiatives in Cambridge were spearheaded by a diverse cross-section of the community's artists and businesses – Cambridge Artists and Entrepreneurs (CAE) – as well as representatives from the school, library and local government. In one short year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Cambridge:

- Fifty netbook packages for Cambridge Elementary School (additional 2 purchased by CES) including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, 3-in-1 printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridges, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 to help ensure that every one of the students in grade 5 receives a 21st century education;
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grade 5;
- A free online neighborhood forum called Front Porch Forum that 493 subscribers (33% take-rate, 229 forums, 1216 posts from June 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) in Cambridge are using to buy and trade household items, learn about events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, discuss local issues and support area businesses;
- Three Acer desktops with monitors, one HP laptop, four optical mice, a Brother color laser printer, two barcode scanners with 5 year service plans, 12,000 collection barcodes and 3000 patron barcodes to improve Varnum Memorial Library services and to help more community members and visitors access the Internet, find social services and jobs, and connect to research and educational opportunities;
- Three workshops on the topics of *Basic Computer Skills*, *Internet Safety Basics*, *Health Care Information on the Web* conducted by Vermont State Colleges' instructors at Cambridge Elementary School for Cambridge residents;
- Various VtSBDC community outreach with the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, Cambridge Artists and Entrepreneurs, and with several local businesses to establish websites and/or online marketing strategies;
- The Snelling Center for Government municipal website template, Clearbearing web hosting for 2 years, domain name registration for 2 years and Epson Artisan Wireless InkJet / All-In-One printer, scanner, copier
- Financial support to build the CAE Cambridge Vermont Community Portal <http://cambridgevt.org/>
- Technical assistance and support for creation of the first Cambridge Municipal Website

While Cambridge's e-Vermont year is over, e-Vermont's impact in Cambridge is not. In the coming months, Cambridge can expect to see:

- Full, hard launch of the Cambridge Municipal Website
- A new platform for the Front Porch Forum e-newsletter that will include a comprehensive web-based community calendar, synthesizing all community events into one central place and displaying them on multiple sites;
- For teachers, a complete program of lesson and unit plans, worksheets, Internet links, advice, instruction, and video tutorials, so that cutting edge classroom education can continue in 2011-2012 and beyond;
- Webinars for businesses and individuals throughout the coming year, including three sessions on “Social Media Marketing Do's and Don'ts” in late July 2011;
- A tool kit of case studies, lessons learned, and best practices to be shared at e4vt.org;
- Regional workshops, a statewide conference, and continuing programs of e-Vermont partner organizations.

e-Vermont congratulates the Cambridge team for its collaboration and accomplishments over the past year and wishes them well in continuing to close the digital divide, use Internet tools to advance local goals, and serve as a model for rural towns all over Vermont and across the United States.

July 15, 2011

Phil Petty, e-Vermont Community Director

phil@vtrural.org / 802-223-6098