



e-VT Ludlow 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 Ludlow were spearheaded by representatives from the library, school, public service organizations, town government and local businesses. In one short year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Ludlow:

- Fifty-two netbook packages for Ludlow Elementary School 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 grades 4, 5 and 6 receives a 21st century education;
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grades 4-6;
- A free online neighborhood forum called Front Porch Forum that 103 subscribers (11% take-rate, 100 forums, 264 posts from June 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) in Ludlow are using to buy and trade household items, learn about events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, discuss local issues and support area businesses;
- Five iPads, 2 D-Link Wi-Fi routers and 3 hours of set-up service to improve Fletcher 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;
- Four workshops on the topics of *Basic Computer Skills*, *Social Media for Beginners*, *Web-Based Communication Tools and Evaluating Information on the Web* conducted by Vermont State Colleges' instructors at Fletcher Memorial Library for Ludlow area residents;
- Two workshops on the topics of *Getting Your Business Online* and *Social Media Marketing* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center at Fletcher Memorial Library for Ludlow businesses and entrepreneurs;
- Various VtSBDC outreach efforts to review and establish websites and to develop online marketing strategies for Ludlow businesses;
- Three Canon HF M32 64GB Camcorder Kits to support LPCTV's efforts to provide multi-media resources to a wide variety of municipal and nonprofit organizations as well as individuals in the community. The camcorders, LPCTV's training & consultation services and media transmission equipment provide Ludlow residents the ability to produce multi-media content for both cable TV and Internet subscribers.

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

- Creation of Wireless Ludlow, a free, public Wi-Fi zone for visitors, tourists and others to access the Internet; and a network portal template (including a CMS for portal construction and maintenance) that will provide valuable information about the town as well as promote the Ludlow community.
- 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 Ludlow 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.

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