



e-VT Middlesex 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 through innovative use of Internet tools and training. Initiatives in Middlesex were spearheaded by the Town Meeting Solutions Committee in conjunction with the Rumney School, town government, and other organizations. In one short year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Middlesex:

- Forty-six netbook packages for Middlesex's Rumney School, including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridge, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 to ensure that every student in grades 5 and 6 receives a 21st century education;
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grades 5 and 6;
- A free community e-newsletter at frontporchforum.com that 562 subscribers in Middlesex have used more than 2000 times to buy and trade household items, promote local events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, and recommend local businesses – this number is particularly impressive considering there are only 690 households in Middlesex;
- Four workshops on the topics of *Web-based Communication Tools*, *Social Media for Beginners*, *Evaluating Information on the Web*, and *Learning to Go (distance education for adults)*;
- Three workshops on the topics of *Getting Your Business Online*, *Social Media Marketing*, and *Google Tools for Small Business* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center at the Rumney School for business owners and entrepreneurs;
- One-on-one assistance from the Vermont Small Business Development Center for Middlesex businesses undertaking website redesigns;
- Support for the Town Hall, Food Shelf, and Rumney School in establishing three public access hot spots for Middlesex residents who lack computer equipment, Internet access, and/or comfort navigating the Internet.

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

- A new municipal website with an easy-to-use Content Management System and video camera to facilitate the creation of new content and fresh visuals;
- 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 freely

allowing them to be displayed on multiple websites (including any of Middlesex's municipal sites, school sites, social service agency sites, and church or civic organization 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;
- 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 Middlesex 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.

Please stay posted on the above developments and more by visiting e-Vermont at www.e4vt.org and by following e-Vermont on Facebook (e-Vermont) and Twitter (eVermont).

-Seán Sheehan, e-Vermont Community Director
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