



e-VT Newport 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 Newport were spearheaded by representatives of the Newport City Renaissance Corporation, City of Newport, Goodrich Memorial Library, North Country Supervisory Union, United Christian Academy, Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Northeast Kingdom Community Action, and other business and non-profit sector organizations. In one short year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Newport:

- Thirty-nine netbook packages for Newport's United Christian Academy, including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridge, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 to ensure that every student 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, 5, and 6;
- A showcase of student-produced digital projects at ucaeducation.org/grammarhome.cfm;
- A free community e-newsletter at frontporchforum.com that 95 subscribers in Newport are using to buy and trade household items, learn about local volunteer needs and Parks & Recreation Department events, share wildlife sightings, and support area businesses;
- A new server and laptops at Goodrich Memorial Library 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 *Free Stuff on the Web*, *Basic Computer Skills*, and *Healthcare Information Online* conducted by Vermont State Colleges instructors at CCV-Newport for Newport residents;
- Two workshops on the topics of *Getting Your Business Online* and *Social Media Marketing* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center at a local restaurant for Newport business owners and entrepreneurs;
- Support for the Newport City Renaissance Corporation in establishing a new downtown tourism website, discovernewportvt.com, and developing a business directory and sustainability plan for the site.

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

- A video camera, hard drive, and additional equipment to allow the Newport Parks & Recreation Department to shoot and store large amounts of video and photos to be displayed on the new

Newportrecreation.org website to educate and entertain Newport residents and to promote local events and opportunities;

- 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 them on multiple websites (including any of Newport'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, including three sessions on *Basic Facebook Marketing* during the last week of 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 Newport 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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