



e-VT Poultney 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 Poultney were spearheaded by the Poultney Broadband Committee, a team comprised of the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union, town government, Poultney Public Library, local businesses, and Green Mountain College. In one short year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Poultney:

- Fifty-two netbook packages for Poultney Elementary 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 (the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union then leveraged other resources to expand the program with even more netbooks);
- 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 85 subscribers in Poultney are using to buy and trade household items, learn about local events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, and support area businesses;
- Six new laptops and a laptop storage unit for the Poultney Public Library to help more community members and visitors access the Internet, find social services and jobs, and connect to research and educational opportunities;
- Two workshops on the topics of *Job Hunting on the Web* and *Internet Safety* conducted by Vermont State Colleges instructors for Poultney residents;
- Two workshops on the topics of *Getting Your Business Online* and *Social Media Marketing* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center for Poultney business owners and entrepreneurs;
- One-on-one assistance from the Vermont Small Business Development Center to Poultney businesses to get their websites up-and-running.

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

- A public access Wi-Fi zone stretching from the Poultney Public Library down Main Street where residents and visitors will be able to freely access the Internet from their laptops and handheld devices;

- A new town portal site to be connected to the Wi-Fi zone that will feature local restaurants, shopping, events, and town services;
- 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 Poultney's municipal sites, school sites, social service agency sites, and church or civic organization sites);
- A new municipal website built on the govoffice.com template;
- A new library website;
- 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 Poultney 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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