



e-VT Brighton 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 Brighton were spearheaded by representatives from the North Country Supervisory Union, Brighton Elementary School, Town of Brighton, Island Pond Public Library, Island Pond Chamber of Commerce, and local business and non-profit organizations. In one year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Brighton:

- Forty-three netbook packages for Brighton Elementary, 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 free community e-newsletter at frontporchforum.com that 59 subscribers in Brighton and the UTGs are using to buy and trade household items, learn about local events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, and support area businesses;
- A new laptop to help more community members and visitors access the Internet at the Island Pond Public Library, along with a multifunction printer to help anchor the library's new focus on programming and services for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and job seekers;
- Three workshops on the topics of *Shopping for a Computer*, *Basic Computer Skills*, and *Learning to Go (distance education for adults)* conducted by Vermont State Colleges instructors for Brighton residents;
- Community outreach with the Island Pond Chamber of Commerce to raise awareness of Small Business Development Center services.

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

- A new municipal website with an easy-to-use Content Management System to facilitate the creation of up-to-date content;
- 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 Brighton'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, along with archived recordings at e4vt.org;
- 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 Brighton 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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