



## e-VT Bridgewater 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 Bridgewater were spearheaded by the Bridgewater Historical Society in conjunction with the Bridgewater Village School, town government, and other organizations. In just over a year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Bridgewater:

- Thirty-six netbook packages for Bridgewater Village School, including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridges, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 to ensure that every student in grades 4, 5 and 6 receives a 21<sup>st</sup> century education;
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grades 4, 5 and 6;
- For teachers, a complete program of lesson and unit plans, worksheets, Internet links, advice, instruction, video tutorials, and grant writing resources so that cutting edge classroom education can continue in 2012-2013 and beyond;
- A free online neighborhood forum at [frontporchforum.com](http://frontporchforum.com) that 84 subscribers in Bridgewater (out of 430 households in town) have used more than 173 times to buy and trade household items, promote local events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, and recommend local businesses;
- A new platform for the Front Porch Forum e-newsletter that includes a comprehensive web-based community calendar, synthesizing all community events into one central place and freely allowing them to be displayed on local websites;
- A Gateway DX4860 desktop computer, a DELL ST2220 21.5 inch widescreen LED monitor, an Epson Perfection 500V Photo Flatbed Scanner, an HP Pavillion g7-1365dx 17 inch laptop, a Cisco Linksys E2500 dual-band router, two copies of Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010 from Tech Soup, and a Comcast, free, two-year, standard Internet connection to support the digital history projects, digital literacy and other community workshops at the Bridgewater Historical Society's Red Brick Schoolhouse;
- Two half-day genealogy workshops for Bridgewater residents (coming –up in June);
- Professional consulting services for the Bridgewater Historical Society to evaluate the historical society's collection, to advise on collection cataloguing and management, to provide guidance

on digitization and storing photographs and documents, to offer suggestions for best ways to share Bridgewater's history online, and to give hands-on assistance with developing an online index to the Bridgewater town history book;

- A Comcast, free, two-year standard Internet connection at the Bridgewater Grange ;
- Community outreach with local businesses to raise awareness of the Vermont Small Business Development Center's services through e-Vermont and beyond;
- A new printer/scanner/fax machine for the municipal offices;
- Development of Bridgewater's first ever municipal website – a govoffice.com site that will include a community calendar and a widget for the Bridgewater Flood Response Facebook Group;
- Ongoing webinars for businesses and individuals, available at [e4vt.org](http://e4vt.org);
- A tool kit of case studies, lessons learned, and best practices, available at [e4vt.org](http://e4vt.org);
- Regional workshops, a statewide conference, and continuing programs of e-Vermont partner organizations.

e-Vermont congratulates the Bridgewater 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 future developments by visiting e-Vermont at [www.e4vt.org](http://www.e4vt.org) and by following e-Vermont on Facebook (e-Vermont).

-Philip Petty, e-Vermont Community Director  
May 30, 2012