



e-VT Middletown Springs 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 Middletown Springs were spearheaded by the Middletown Springs Public Library along with Middletown Springs Elementary School, town government, and other individuals and organizations. In just over a year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Middletown Springs:

- Thirty-seven netbook packages for Middletown Springs 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 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;
- An after-school program for 15 to 20 Middletown Springs Elementary School and two high school mentors learning how to use the Kodu game building tool and Expression website development tool;
- A free online community forum at frontporchforum.com that 213 subscribers in Middletown Springs (out of 320 households in the towns) have used more than 580 times to buy and trade household items, promote local events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, and recommend local businesses;
- A new municipal website, accessible at middletownsprings.vt.gov;
- Two laptops, two desktops, and one netbook with extended warranties, Microsoft Office, and Deep Freeze, as well as an iPad and a Kindle Touch, to help more residents and visitors access the Internet, find social services and jobs, and connect to research and educational opportunities;
- A “Tech Night” at the Middletown Springs Public Library to help residents get the most out of their digital gadgets, create a space for enthusiasts to share their favorite apps, and show the next generation how they can plug into the creative economy;
- Workshops on the topics of *Social Media Marketing* and *Google Tools for Small Businesses* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center for Middletown Springs business owners and entrepreneurs;
- One-on-one assistance from the Vermont Small Business Development Center for Middletown Springs businesses establishing websites and developing online marketing strategies;

- A workshop on the topic of *Social Media* conducted by the Vermont State Colleges for nine residents of Middletown Springs;
- 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 the new Middletown Springs website and other local websites;
- 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;
- An after school program, run by Digital Wish, in which 20 students developed their own digital games in April and May 2012;
- Ongoing webinars for businesses and individuals, available at e4vt.org;
- A tool kit of case studies, lessons learned, and best practices, available at e4vt.org;
- Regional workshops, a statewide conference, and continuing programs of e-Vermont partner organizations.

e-Vermont congratulates the Middletown Springs 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 and by following e-Vermont on Facebook (e-Vermont).

-Seán Sheehan, e-Vermont Community Director
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