



e-VT Fairfield 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 Fairfield were spearheaded by the Bent Northrop Library, town government, and other individuals and organizations. In just over a year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Fairfield:

- Fifty netbook packages for Fairfield Center School, including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridge, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 – plus an additional six netbook packages purchased by the school – to ensure that every student in grades 4 and 5 receives a 21st century education;
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grades 4 and 5;
- A free community e-newsletter at frontporchforum.com that 218 subscribers in Fairfield (out of 720 households in town) have used more than 600 times to buy and trade household items, promote local events and volunteer needs, celebrate birthdays, share wildlife sightings, and recommend local businesses;
- A promotional campaign to entice residents to opt to receive the electronic version of the *Our Town* community newsletter – check it out at www.tinyurl.com/fairfieldenews -- resulted in 85 people making the switch;
- An enhanced and expanded municipal website that uses the e-Vermont template can be accessed at www.fairfieldvermont.us;
- One iPad, one MacBook Air, extended warranties, and a travel suitcase and Airport Extreme base station for the Bent Northrop Memorial Library's new mobile lab to help more residents and migrant workers access the Internet, find social services and jobs, and connect to research and educational opportunities;
- A "Tech Team" of volunteers coordinated by the Bent Northrop Memorial Library to assist residents with small (and maybe large) digital challenges;
- An improved platform for Fairfield's online farmers market which allows for more localized information, easier navigation, product photos, and EBT purchases – check it out at www.yourfarmstand.com;

- A workshop on the topics of *Getting Your Business Online* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center for business owners and entrepreneurs, with plans for a second workshop on *Using Social Networking*;
- 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 Fairfielddowntown.com 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 Fairfield 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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