



e-VT Bristol 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. Initiatives in Bristol were spearheaded by a small, but very productive team representing town government, local businesses, library, non-profits, schools, and public access television. In one short year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Bristol:

- Forty-six netbook packages for Bristol Elementary School including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, 3-in-1 printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridges, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 to help ensure that every one of the students in grade 5 receives a 21st century education;
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grade 5;
- A free community e-newsletter called Front Porch Forum that 767 subscribers (48% take-rate, 302 forums, 1590 posts from June 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) in Bristol are using to buy and trade household items, learn about events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, discuss local issues and support area businesses;
- Three Apple iPads (16GB, Wi-Fi models), 5 Asus eee PC netbooks with two-year accidental damage protection, 5 optical wireless, mobile mice, 12 plug surge protector, laptop storage unit and a Vermont Online Library 2011 license to improve Lawrence Memorial Library services and to help more community members and visitors access the Internet, find social services and jobs, and connect to research and educational opportunities;
- Three workshops on the topics of *Basic Computer Skills*, *Free Stuff on the Web*, *Health Care Information Online* conducted by Vermont State Colleges' instructors at Mt. Abraham Union High School for Bristol residents;
- Two workshops on the topics of *Getting Your Business Online* and *Social Media Marketing* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center at Mt. Abraham Union High School for Bristol businesses and entrepreneurs;
- VtSBDC community outreach with the Bristol Downtown Community Partnership, and with several local businesses and non-profits to establish websites and/or online marketing strategies;
- The Snelling Center for Government municipal website template, Clearbearing web hosting for 2 years, domain name registration for 2 years and contractor time to transfer content to the new Bristol Municipal website;
- An Apple Mac Pro desktop to facilitate NEATV's plan to produce multi-media content for both cable TV and Internet subscribers;

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

- Full, hard launch of the revamped Bristol Municipal Website
- Creation of Wireless Bristol, a free, public Wi-Fi zone for visitors, tourists and others to access the Internet, including a network portal that promotes the Bristol community;
- Greater access and assistance for navigating online platforms which offer government services. Utilizing Lawrence Memorial Library's mobile computer lab and the increased clarity at the state level about programs and available resources; Bristol will begin to implement, this fall, the Access to Services goals outlined in their April 26th community meeting. e-Vermont Director Helen Labun Jordan will continue to work with Bristol over the next year on this project.
- 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 displaying them on multiple 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, including three sessions on *Social Media Marketing Do's and Don'ts* in late July 2011;
- 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 Bristol 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.

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