



# Commerce Connection

*Business Is Good*

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January 2019

## Happy New Year



## New Year, New Legislature and the New Super Majority

The 2019 legislative session will convene on January 9. Many proposals from last session are expected to reappear, including renewed attempts to implement a minimum wage increase, mandated paid family leave,

additional environmental regulation, and reforms to Act 250. While much has been made of the new Democratic super majority, the leadership, the direction and the priorities will remain the same with the conflict arising on issues that will cost Vermonters more money. That's due to Governor Phil Scott's continued agenda addressing the affordability issues for Vermonters and Vermont businesses. With the Democratic power in both the House and the Senate, it's anticipated that there will be more interest in finding common ground than last year, especially around some of the issues that resulted in a gubernatorial veto. Even with those areas of conflict, expect the Legislature and the Administration to work together on many issues, including addressing the need for more workers, tourism marketing, clean water funding and support for existing government programs. The Vermont Chamber's core mission is to promote economic growth and we will work toward promoting a

business agenda in the upcoming legislative session with our four-person [lobbying team](#).

## How's Your Economy? Take Our Survey

To better understand Vermont business owners' perception of the state's fiscal climate, Davis & Hodgdon Associates CPAs and the Vermont Chamber are asking for input from small-to-medium businesses. Please take a few minutes to participate in the Economic Survey.



[Take the Survey](#)



## Give Us Your Best

Nominate an exceptional innkeeper, general manager, restaurateur, chef or tourism partner that is a leader in Vermont's tourism industry. [Nominations](#) are being accepted.

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce will announce the 2019 Hospitality Awards at the [36th Annual Vermont Tourism Summit](#), April 4-5, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington Hotel. This summit draws one of the largest gatherings of tourism professionals in the

state, including owners, managers and employees.

## HIRE Vets Medallion Program

The U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) recently announced the HIRE Vets Medallion Program to recognize organizations that have invested in employing and retaining veterans. Get involved today by checking out [HIREVETS.gov](#).



## Nominate Your Business

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce and Vermont Business Magazine are accepting [nominations](#) for the Deane C. Davis Outstanding Business of the Year Award. This special award is presented to a Vermont business that has exhibited outstanding accomplishments in sales, community involvement, employee relations, and recognition of its place in our environment.



Nominate your company today



## Say "I do"

Say "I do" to the upcoming wedding section in the Official Vermont Vacation Guides.

Get your slice of the cake! Contact [Marc](#) or [Megan](#) to be included.



## Vermont Chamber Teams with Vermont Panurgy to Bridge the Skills Gap

To help address Vermont's workforce skills gap and advance entry-level employees

into mid and upper level positions, [Vermont Panurgy](#), a leader in IT and training services, is teaming with the Vermont Chamber to provide members with a 20% savings on courses for: PC Applications, Graphic Design, Web Technologies, and Talent and Leadership Development. Contact Vermont Panurgy.

## ServSafe® Certification Class + Exam

ServSafe® is a food and beverage safety training and certificate program administered by the National Restaurant Association.



Who should attend: Managers, Cooks, Chefs, Waitstaff, Bartenders, Supervisors, Owners, Culinary Teachers, Dietary Aides, Caterers and anyone who prepares, handles, or serves food to the public. [Registration information](#) is available for February and March classes.

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### Welcome New Chamber Members

[Citrefine North America](#)  
[Lake Bomoseen Lodge Taproom](#)  
[Lake Bomoseen Lodge](#)  
[Mt. Norris Counseling & Wellness, LLC](#)  
[Sugarbush Soaring Association](#)  
[Westwood International](#)  
[Richmond Dental, Inc.](#)  
[Bossy Filmworks](#)

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### Member Spotlight

#### eDOC INNOVATIONS

eDOC Innovations is an e-commerce software development company specializing in mobile enterprise digital transaction management. [Contact](#) them today.

2017 Vermont Chamber member.

To learn more about how you can be our featured member of the month, contact [Beverly Gittelson](#). It's just one of the numerous benefits of being a member of the [Vermont Chamber of Commerce](#).

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#LetsGrowVT

[NuHarbor Security Named One of the 'Best Entrepreneurial Companies in America'](#)

[Consolidated Communications Partners with SimpliSafe](#)

[Norwich University Signs Agreement with Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center](#)

This section features news about growing Vermont companies. Add [news@vtchamber.com](mailto:news@vtchamber.com) to your distribution list.

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### In Other News:

[Duffy: Rutland City Continues Positive Momentum in 2018](#)

[Vermont Named Craft Beer Capital of U.S.](#)

[Vermont Electric Co-op Offering New Incentives for 2019](#)

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### Save the Date:

[Vermont Tourism Summit - April 4-5 2019](#)

[Vermont Tech Spring Internship and Career Fair - March 6, 2019](#)

[Concepts NREC 2019 Professional Development Courses - April, May, September and October](#)

[Manufacturing Summit - September 26, 2019](#)

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