Commerce Connection

Business Is Good

December 2017

Commerce Connection is the statewide newsletter from the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, reaching nearly 7,500 business people.

This edition is sponsored by:





2018 Spring Career Fair at Norwich University

Wednesday, March 28, 2018
8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Registration



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Free energy walk-throughs now available to all businesses

At Efficiency Vermont, we help businesses of all sizes reduce operational costs through more efficient energy use. We are always impressed by how much businesses are already doing to save energy, from LED lighting to shutdown schedules and major system overhauls.

Even for the most energy-efficient businesses, there are sometimes more financial savings to be found. Because we work with thousands of partners, contractors, building owners, tenants and facility managers across the state, we can leverage that experience to help identify additional saving opportunities at your business.

If you're interested in finding out how much more you could save, free energy walk-throughs are available to all Vermont-based businesses. And for a limited time, you can also take advantage of a 20% bonus when you apply online for commercial lighting, refrigeration or HVAC rebates. Call us to get started at (888) 921-5990 or learn more.

Economic Conference - Register Now

Join us at the Vermont Economic Conference on Friday, January 5, 2018 at the Hilton Burlington Hotel to understand national and global perspectives combined with state economic trends impacting the year

Attention DoD, GSA and NASA Contractors ...Are you ready for December 31?

By December 31, 2017 manufacturers holding contracts with DoD, GSA or NASA and process Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) must be compliant with defined Cyber-security requirements or they risk the loss of their business contracts. Questions? Contact **Robynn Albert**.



Survey - Cost of doing business in Vermont.

Please take the opportunity to complete our two-minute **survey**.

Give Us Your Input on Energy Costs or Telecom Service

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has asked the Vermont Chamber for input on the areas of PUC jurisdiction which includes oversight of rates, quality of service, and financial management of public utilities: electric, gas, telecommunications and the Energy Efficiency Utility Program.

Let us be your voice

Contact Ashley Romeo-Boles or call 802-262-2130 with your concerns, questions and observations regarding energy costs and telecommunications prior to the December 11, 2017 meeting.



ServSafe®

ahead. The Vermont Futures Project will also present data showcasing strategic growth targets for Vermont beyond 2018. Over lunch, futurist Matt Thornhill from the Institute for Tomorrow will provide a provocative look into the demographic, societal and cultural changes that will create "winning places of tomorrow" in Vermont.



This event sold out last year; do not miss your opportunity to register! Registration Deadline: Friday, December 29, 2017.

Technical Bulletins Available for Public Comments

The Department of Taxes recently announced that a 30-day public comment period will be standard before finalizing their technical bulletins. This process change is a direct result of the Vermont Chamber's advocacy and input not only during the Department's small business listening tour but also stems from a proposal made by the Vermont Chamber five years ago. Having a responsive government that encourages transparency is lauded by the Vermont Chamber. There currently are three bulletins open for comment: the solar investment tax credit, the rooms and meals tax for colleges and the nexus between business and corporate income.

Choosing a Location for your Business?

Ask yourself: Is it served by municipal water and sewer? That beautiful old farmhouse may seem like a perfect place to run a business, but if it's not on municipal water and sewer, your business will also be operating a wastewater system and public drinking water supply. Many businesses generate "high strength" wastewater that can easily overwhelm septic systems, requiring extensive upgrades and operator training. Using an on-site well or spring to serve employees or visitors can require you to register as a public water supply and regularly test and report water quality. Would you rather focus on making great products? Locate in an area with municipal services.
For more information on environmental permits and state permits needed for your proposed location, contact:

Rick Oberkirch, 802-282-6488, Addison, Rutland, Bennington, Windsor, and Windham.
Jeff McMahon, 802-477-2241, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle
Pete Kopsco, 802-505-5367, Washington, Lamoille, Orleans, Essex, Caledonia, and Orange.

Vermont Chamber Welcomes New Addition to Events Team

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that

Certification Class + Exam

January 10, 2018
8:30 - 5 pm at Stowe Mountain Resort
Details and Registration

ServSafe
National Restaurant Association

New England Food Show

Register today for the New England Food Show 2018
McCormick Place, Chicago
May 19-22, 2018

NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

#LetsGrowVT

Two Vermont startups get boost from Oprah Winfrey

A Sweet (And Savory) Endeavor: Vermont Baker Launches New Food Network Show

Vermont Tech boasts 98 percent placement rate

TD Bank awards $100K grant to Housing Vermont for home ownership

Darn Tough adds more muscle to Southeast with new sales team

In Other News

Kahler: Vermont's workforce dilemma

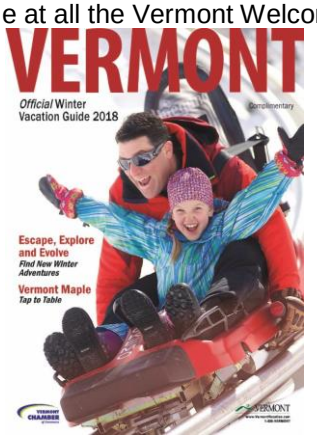
Vermont PBS to hold community forums for strategic planning



Ariel Bertenshaw has joined the Vermont Chamber as Events Assistant. Ariel joins the Vermont Chamber with 10 years of conference and event experience. With a strong belief in creating and fostering positive relationship in the community, she is excited to now serve the members of the Vermont Chamber as well as business owners throughout the state of Vermont during her new career. She graduated with a degree in Travel/Tourism and Hospitality and Hotel/Restaurant Management. Ariel also has a passion for traveling the world and has been to many countries. In her personal time, Ariel believes in giving back to the community. She is a CAPPA certified labor doula for Central Vermont Hospital, the founder of Share's Caring Hearts (a pregnancy and infant loss support group that serves the Central Vermont Families), and a mother to four amazing children.

Official Winter Vacation Guide

Now available at all the Vermont Welcome Centers



Help your guests get the most our of their Vermont vacation.
Request FREE copies of the Guide or view it **online** today.

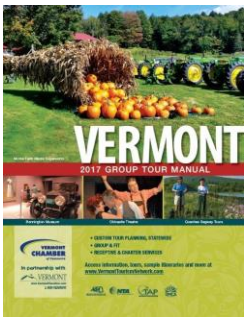
Annual Member Survey Response Request

Every year legislation is introduced at the state and federal levels that influences employers' workplace policies and costs of doing business. As a Vermont Chamber of Commerce member, your input shapes our positions and helps sharpen our advocacy on your behalf.

This year, we broke our survey into sections and asked you to complete one-and two-minute surveys on a variety of topics. If you have not already completed all the sections sent over the past several weeks in our newsletters, we would greatly appreciate you completing the below survey, with all the sections combined, to help guide our legislative agenda for the upcoming legislative session. Thank you for your time and participation. If you have any questions or comments on issues not addressed, please contact Government Affairs.

Member Spotlight and Welcome New Members

Vermont meets the group tour industry



More than 50 tour operators/planners and group leaders learned details about 100+ Vermont group destinations (members of the Chamber's group tour program Vermont Tourism Network) at Boomers in Groups in Daytona Beach and Ontario Motorcoach Association Marketplace in Toronto in October.

Program Manager, Karen Ballard actively promotes Vermont destinations to operators and planners with a goal of developing more group visits and inclusion of destinations on their itineraries in 2018 and beyond.

RSG
the science of insight

Resource Systems Group creatively applies state-of-the-art data modeling and analytics to transportation planning, market strategy, environment management, and customer software development, helping organizations make critical decisions with confidence. Learn more about Resource Systems Group, which has been a Vermont Chamber member since January 2017.

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

Welcome New Members:

Lincoln's
Orion Global Talent
Vermont Systems, Inc.
Hen House Media, LLC
JHW & Associates, CPAs, PLLC
Insights LLC
New England Metal Finishing, Inc.

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ABOUT US

In business since 1912, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce is a private, not-for-profit business organization with 1,500 members employing 45,000 people and representing all sectors of the state's economy. Our mission is to create an economic climate conducive to business growth and preservation of the Vermont quality of life.

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