



Commerce Connection

Business Is Good

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June 2019



Workforce & Talent Summit Recap

Thanks to all who attended our first ever Workforce & Talent Summit. We've heard a lot of great feedback and we are glad to have had so many join in on the conversation focused on promoting the long-term economic health of Vermont. The [agenda](#) included 48 speakers, and 20 seminars. Some of the key takeaways came from our Keynote Speaker, [Brooks Harper](#) who spoke about re-energizing leadership and staff and using an attitude of gratitude to provide more passionate performance in the workplace.

Green Mountain Power Receives 2018 Deane C. Davis Award

[Vermont Business Magazine](#) and the Vermont Chamber of Commerce awarded [Green Mountain Power](#) with the prestigious 2018 Deane C. Davis Outstanding Business of the Year Award. This award annually honors a Vermont business that shows an outstanding history of sustained growth while displaying an acute awareness of what makes Vermont unique.



Green Mountain Power serves residential and business customers in Vermont and is partnering with them to improve lives and transform communities. They are focusing on a new way of doing business to meet the needs of customers with integrated energy services that help people use less energy and save money, while continuing to generate clean, cost-effective and reliable power in Vermont.



Nominations Open for Citizen of the Year Award

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce awarded the O'Brien brothers for the Citizen of the Year Award in 2018 for their extensive community leadership and continual devotion to the betterment of Vermont. For over six

decades, Leo and Dan have been prominent member of the Vermont business and civic communities. With strong roots in Vermont agriculture, public service and real estate development, the O'Brien brothers have led varied careers that have at their core kept the needs of Vermont at the forefront.

- Has made major contributions to the betterment of Vermont;
- Has been distinguished through outstanding service to his/her community and region; and
- Typifies the true spirit of service and self-sacrifice in representing the finest ideals of Vermont citizenship.

[Nominate](#)

Legislative Session Overview

After an unconventional adjournment process filled with constitutional intrigue, both Chambers have concluded their business until January without passing their top priorities of paid family leave and minimum wage. Considering the Democrats' [much-heralded supermajority](#) gained in the 2018 election, it was a strange ending to a session that started [amid high expectations](#).



Legislators introduced a record number of bills in 2019, some focused on high profile issues like gun restrictions, marijuana regulations and abortion access, while others targeted updating policy around land use and Act 250 permitting, income tax treatment and workforce development. They also found funding for clean water, childcare and relocation efforts.

While the House and Senate adjourned on separate days for the first time ever, the promises to work together to pass their priorities next year have already begun. The [Vermont Chamber's four-person lobbying team](#) is already expecting renewed debate on these issues when legislators return in 2020.



Vermont Chamber Welcomes Amy Spear

[The Vermont Chamber](#) recognizes that connecting members for greater economic vitality is a top priority. Hiring Amy Spear as the new VP of Tourism we are working to help members build positive brand recognition, gain greater exposure and connect to a wider network.

Amy has served as the Executive Director of the Stowe Area Association, Stowe's destination marketing organization, since 2016. During her tenure she led the re-imagining of the organization and enhanced partnerships which have yielded growth for the organization. Amy is a member of the State of Vermont's Travel & Recreation Council, serves as the Vermont Association of Chamber of Commerce Executive's President, and is a member of the Stowe Vibrancy Board of Directors. She is an avid mountain biker and volunteers with her local mountain bike chapter.

Manufacturing Summit Watch this Video: Top Reasons to Exhibit

See how the largest B2B supply chain trade show in Northern New England is bringing OEMs, subcontractors and manufacturers together and develop business for contacts, new business opportunities and contracts.

Exhibitor Registration - Space is limited, last year we sold out in advance of the show.

[Register to exhibit.](#)



Tour Groups Love Vermont!

Vermont Tourism Network (VTN), the Vermont Chamber's group travel program, in partnership with the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing, promotes more than 100 partner destinations statewide that welcome group tours.



Group travel consists of 35-50 people arriving by motorcoaches to enjoy Vermont attractions. Through the Group Tour Manual, VermontTourismNetwork.com, face-to-face meetings with 300 tour operators, planners, and direct referrals, the VTN program works to enhance visitation.

To capture your share of this market, contact [Karen Ballard](#).

Welcome New Chamber Members

[Jonal Industries, INC.](#)
[Speeder & Earl's Inc.](#)
[Essex High School](#)
[Capture 3D](#)
[Liberty Intercept](#)
[ACMT - Aerospace Components Manufacturers](#)
[Benchmark Space Systems](#)
[LionsGate Inn](#)
[Shelburne Sugarworks, LLC](#)
[Inn on the Green](#)

Member Spotlight



Nortrax is your John Deere construction and forestry equipment dealer. We sell, service, and support John Deere's full line up of construction equipment, from large production class dozers, excavators, wheel loaders and articulated dump trucks, to small skid steers and compact track loaders and excavators. We are proud to represent John Deere in the forest industry. We offer the most comprehensive line of forestry equipment for road building, harvesting, extraction, loading and reforestation. Nortrax is also a dealer of Hitachi construction equipment. Hitachi produces world-class products for the mining and construction industry.

Vermont Chamber member since 2018.

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](#).

#LetsGrowVT

[GW Plastics expands again in Royalton](#)

[Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman Realty Opens Office in Vergennes](#)

[The Biggest Bear of All: William Shouldice IV and Vermont Teddy Bear](#)

[Mascoma Bank's Samantha Pause: Being a B Corp 'helps give us focus'](#)

This section features news about growing Vermont companies. Add news@vtchamber.com to your distribution list.

In Other News:

[Sugarbush Receives Golden Eagle Climate Change Impact Award from NSAA](#)

[National Life calls 2018 its Most Successful Year Ever](#)

[CVHHH's Hospice Program Receives State's Highest Marks](#)

[Burlington Accounting Firm Named Vermont Minority-Owned Business of the Year](#)

Save the Date:

[2019 SBA Awards](#)

[VEOC Annual Conference -June 12](#)

[Vermont Tech College - Randolph Center Campus -July 7-12](#)

[40th Quechee Hot Air Balloon Festival Takes Off June 14](#)

[Manufacturing Summit - September 26](#)

Want great exposure for your business? Sponsoring the statewide Chamber newsletter is an affordable and effective way to reach your target customers. Email [Sally Cooper](#) for pricing and more information.

