



Commerce Connection

Business Is Good

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April 2018



This edition of the Vermont Chamber's monthly newsletter is sponsored by:

FirstLight

A leading provider of high speed data, internet, data center, cloud and voice services to enterprise and carrier customers in VT, NY, NH, MA, and ME over the

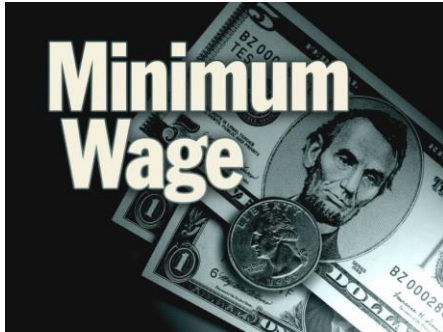
company's own fiber optic network.

Last Call - Business Expo Exhibit Space

Don't miss your chance to exhibit at the Vermont Chamber Business Expo, the largest B2B networking trade show and business conference this spring. Exhibit space is over 80% booked; reserve a space on the trade show floor to ensure your business is visible. Remember, only exhibitors can promote their business products or services on the trade show floor. Your investment in a booth space gains access to potential clients and contacts.



On Thursday, May 24, the Vermont Chamber Business Expo returns to the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel Burlington (formerly known as the Sheraton) for one full day of business-focused seminars, 150 exhibitors showcasing the latest in business services and products to grow your business, and a not-to-be-missed statewide networking after party. Check out the current exhibitors and [book your booth now](#).



Work Continues on Minimum Wage

The House General, Housing and Military Affairs Committee will continue work on the Senate-passed proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2024. Business groups have lined up on both sides of the issue with several in support and several opposed. The Vermont Chamber will testify in support for an annual

increase based on the consumer price index, consistent with current law. However, we will share concerns about the accelerated pace of this minimum wage proposal. We endorse the concept of decoupling tip wage from the minimum wage and maintaining the student wage, with further clarification.

The Committee will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 5, 2018 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The hearing will take place in Room 11, located on the first floor of the State House, near the main entrance. Witnesses can start signing up to speak at 5:00 pm. Witness testimony will be limited to only two or three minutes. The Committee will also accept written testimony. For information about this event, or to submit written testimony, please call 802-828-3559 or e-mail rwild@leg.state.vt.us



Green Mountain Power Partners with Businesses to Save Money While Reducing Fossil Fuel Use

Green Mountain Power is partnering with customers to help them save money and go green through its Business Innovation Program, which makes available financial incentives to reduce fossil fuels and improve operations.

Every business customer is different, so GMP works directly with organizations to determine the best path forward for their individual operation, ranging from equipment upgrades to helping access the electric grid, often with financial incentives tied to the amount of fossil fuel reduction.

Start today! Interested in learning how your home or business could reduce its carbon footprint? Please reach out to Green Mountain Power at 888-835-4672 or contact the GMP Business Innovations team lead [Jeff Monder](#) at 802-770-3392 to learn more about GMP Business Innovations opportunities.



2018 Vermont Chamber of Commerce Hospitality Awards



Join the Vermont Chamber and Vermont's tourism community at the award ceremony on April 11th during the [Vermont Tourism Summit](#) as these 2018 award winners, are celebrated for their outstanding contribution to Vermont's tourism industry.

Tourism Partner of the Year, Cindy Roberts, [Vermont Welcome Centers](#)
Borden E. Avery Innkeeper of the Year, Patti Clark, [Green Mountain Inn](#)
Restaurateur of the Year, Fred Bashara III, [J. Morgan's Steakhouse](#)
Chef of the Year, Sigal Rocklin, [The Reluctant Panther Inn and Restaurant](#)

Attract more visitors to your business with our Vermont Tourism Marketing Program



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 April, May and June classes.

Welcome New Chamber Members

[Myer's Bagels](#)
[Lendio of Northern VT](#)
[Hildt Aviation Bennington, LLC](#)
[IPInfoSec](#)
[Northern Benefits](#)
[The Abbey Pub and Restaurant](#)
[PCM Innovation USA, Inc. dba Lucas Industries](#)
[Landshapes](#)
[Booksa Worldwide Movers](#)
[AMK Welding, Inc.](#)
[Burlington Country Club Corp](#)

[AGH Fulfillment Service](#)
[Lyft](#)
[Maria's Bagels](#)
[Greene Mountain Nutrition](#)
[Burlington Fitness Inc.](#)
[ETS, Inc.](#)



Member Spotlight

Northeast Delta Dental is the region's most trusted name in dental insurance for companies of all sizes, individuals, and families in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, administering dental benefits for more than 835,000 people. To learn more about our products and how we can keep you smiling, visit [here](#).

Vermont Chamber member since 1999.

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

#LetsGrowVT

[VSC Inducts Six Into Hall of Fame, Raises Nearly \\$100,000 in Scholarship Funds](#)

[Vermont State Colleges to Give Tuition Break to Returning Vermont Natives](#)

[Big Military Contract Brings New Tech Jobs to VT. Company](#)

[Vermont's Oldest Sporting Camp to Begin 125th Year Under New Ownership](#)

[VTrans and ACCD Award Grants to Danville, Enosburgh and Hyde Park](#)

[Hodgson Appointed as New Executive Director at NECCA](#)

[University of Vermont Wins Workplace Wellness Award for Second Straight Year](#)

[Consolidated Communications Expands Fiber Network](#)

[GlobalFoundries Vermont Wins Environmental Award](#)

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

Business Resources:

[Economic Census - Three Dates to Remember](#)

[April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#)

[Understanding Taxation of Chips and Soft Drinks in Vermont](#)

[Web Trends by: Dave Gibson](#)

Save the Date:

[FirstLight Cloud Connect Summit May 16, 2018 - Echo Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, Burlington](#) *Vermont Chamber members can waive the \$150 fee by entering registration code: Vtchamber

[Tax Reform Q&A Sessions](#)

[Season Passes are Now on Sale --Take Advantage of the Best Prices, Spring Access and Other Perks!](#)

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

