



Commerce Connection

Business Is Good

In This Issue

Learn about our upcoming legislative webinars, the future of telecommuting in Vermont, Chamber members in the news, and more in our August edition of Commerce Connection. We also welcome our newest members and spotlight our member Thomas Hirschak Company.

August 2020

Chamber News

Vermont Chamber Hosting Legislative Webinars

Help the Vermont Chamber prepare to fight for what you need during upcoming State budget discussions by attending our webinar, Directing Relief: Legislative Updates, on **August 11** or **August 13**. Our four-person lobbying team will also help you understand current legislative issues. This event is for Vermont Chamber members only.

COVID-19 Relief Spending



Register to attend Aug. 11 or Aug. 13 webinar



Apply Now for Recovery Grants

Applications for Vermont Economic Recovery Grants are still available, and we are encouraging businesses and nonprofits to apply now. This week, *expanded eligibility* criteria was announced.

Learn more and apply before funding runs out

Recovery Passport Continues Into August

The Vermont Chamber's Passport to Recovery will continue to run into August, by request and due to high visitation. The passport features timely economic, sales and marketing, health, and workforce webinars.



[Explore the passport](#)



Chris Carrigan Wins SBA Award

Our Vice President of Business Development Chris Carrigan is the 2020 recipient of the Vermont SBA Award of Distinction. Chris has been a strong partner in increasing the government contracting of small businesses in Vermont and has also helped businesses export through programs supported by SBA's State Trade Expansion Program.

[Read more in Vermont Business Magazine](#)



“ Our ethos is doing everything we can to welcome people back. ”

*Vermont Chamber Vice President of Tourism
Amy Spear in The Wall Street Journal*



VP of Tourism in The Wall Street Journal

Our Vice President of Tourism Amy Spear was featured in The Wall Street Journal promoting safe tourism to Vermont this summer.

[Read report](#)



Future of Remote Work in Vermont

Vermont Chamber President Betsy Bishop and Sarah Teachout with member Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont were featured in a recent WCAJ-TV report on the future of telecommuting.

[Watch](#)

“ We are very happy to support the Chamber — no matter how things develop. You all are doing good work for us all, and I want to support as best we can. ”

Libby Harden with Bennington Potters North



Thank You for Supporting the Chamber

The most important thing we can ask is that you continue to support the Vermont Chamber of Commerce as we support you and your fellow businesses across Vermont. It is critical that Vermont's businesses are well-represented so that we can weather approaching storms, small and large. We are in this together.

How the Chamber is supporting recovery

Member News



Members Among Best Places to Work 2020

Congratulations to the many Vermont Chamber members honored in the 2020 Best Places to Work in Vermont awards: Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman, Co-operative Insurance Companies, Gallagher, Flynn & Company, LLP, Heritage Aviation, Instrumart, Liquid Measurement Systems, Inc., Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer PC, ReArch Company, Inc., Chroma Technology Corporation, DEW Construction Corp., Hickok & Boardman

Insurance Group, NorthCountry Federal Credit Union, SymQuest, The Richards Group, Union Mutual, Vermont Systems Inc., Comcast, Green Mountain Power, King Arthur Baking Company, Mascoma Bank, Parker-LORD, Vermont Mutual Insurance Group, and VHB.

[Watch the award ceremony](#)

Stay Safe to Stay Open

Masks are now *mandatory* in public spaces across Vermont. Wearing a mask will help protect Vermonters and help our state stay open.

[Access Dept. of Health toolkit with messaging and posters for your business](#)



Vermont Businesses Helping Communities

We are adding content regularly to our page, [How Vermont Businesses Are Helping Our Communities](#).

Recent additions include Vermont Chamber member [RunVermont holding a Get Out, Give Back virtual run/walk three-race series](#)

[supporting Vermont non-profits](#), member [Lake Champlain Chocolates teaming up with Vermont Creamery for a sweet collaboration to raise money for the Vermont Foodbank](#), members [Vermont State Colleges and Vermont Electric Power Company partnering to offer free Wi-Fi to the general public on campuses](#), and more.

[Read](#)

Staples Discount for Chamber Members

Staples is offering Vermont Chamber of Commerce members an exclusive discount of 10% off in-store purchase of regular priced items and 20% off in-store orders of \$50 or more on print and marketing services, valid through October.



[Email Megan Bullard for this coupon](#)



Member Spotlight

This month's Member Spotlight is [Thomas Hirchak Company](#).

They are your auction solution

for Vermont. They are auction and liquidation specialists in vehicles, antiques, collectibles, art, heavy equipment, personal property, business assets, and real estate.

They concentrate their efforts to obtain the highest price for you, the client, and design aggressive marketing programs to give your property maximum exposure. The [Thomas Hirchak Company](#) brings buyers and properties together for a competitive sale to achieve the best results.

2020 Annual Meeting: Official Notice to Membership

In accordance with the bylaws of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, Article III, Section 5, this shall serve as notification of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting, which shall take place virtually on September 9, 2020 from 11:15 to 11:30 a.m. The [slate of nominees](#) to the 2021 Board of Directors will be presented and voted on at the Annual Meeting.



WELCOME NEW VERMONT CHAMBER MEMBERS

- Northeast Legacy, LLC
- Vermont Evaporator Company



Learn about [Northeast Legacy, LLC](#), and [Vermont Evaporator Company](#).

Visit the [Vermont Chamber membership](#) page for benefits and staff contacts.

Save The Date

- [Aug. 11 - Directing Relief: Legislative Update with the Vermont Chamber](#)
- [Aug. 13 - Directing Relief: Legislative Update with the Vermont Chamber](#)
- [Sept. 17 & 24 - A Virtual Supply Chain Summit: The Future of Sourcing for Manufacturing](#)

These upcoming free events are for Vermont Chamber members only.

For more information about the manufacturing summit, please [email Chris Carrigan](#).

To learn about Vermont Chamber membership, please [email Erica Canada](#).

#ThinkVermont

- [CCV Announces New Pathway to Manufacturing Jobs](#)
- [It's Summer at Hildene](#)
- [Farrell Distributing: A Spirited Response Part II](#)
- [King Arthur Flour Changes Name After 230 Years](#)

This section features good news about Vermont Chamber members.

Email news@vtchamber.com with your good news.

In Other News

- [Retail Businesses Can Open To Half-Capacity](#)
 - [Gov. Scott Announces Front-Line Employees Hazard Pay Grant Program](#)
 - [Weekly Unemployment Claims Fall, Total Now Under 40,000](#)
 - [Restarting Stowe in a Pandemic: Impact, Update](#)
-

This Edition Sponsored By FirstLight



Want great exposure for your business? Sponsoring the statewide Vermont Chamber newsletter is an affordable and effective way to reach your target customers. Email news@vtchamber.com for pricing and more information.

